

# CROSS TIMBERS POST

CTGS Newsletter –  
Cross Timbers Post,  
October 2018

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## EDITORS' CORNER

Happy Fall, Y'all!

Goodness, what a wet and damp autumn we've all endured. Of course if it were dry and hot, I suppose we would grumble about that too. But in the end I suppose we should be grateful for the heavenly rains, especially in Texas!

Once again, I apologize for the long time lapses between newsletters. Appreciate your patience and want to invite each of you to attend the next meeting on Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. Also save the date for December 3<sup>rd</sup>. See details to the right. We have a very fun event planned shortly after our delicious meal!

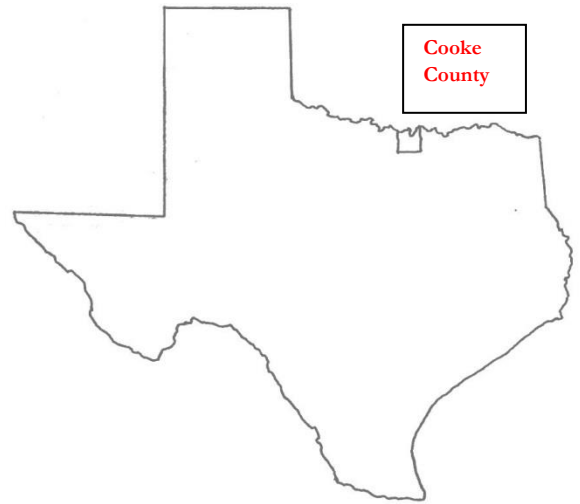
Until then, warm Autumn blessings to you and your loved ones.

*Colleen Clark Carri*

Another very special thank-you to all the story contributors in this issue, Ronnie Howser and Norman Newton.



Hope you have much success in searching for your ancestors. Don't give up on our past!



## LET'S GET TOGETHER

Mark your calendars.

Cross Timbers Genealogical Society meets at **6:00pm** on the 1st Monday of each month (no meetings in January or July) at the Landmark Bank Conference room, Gainesville, Texas, unless change indicated below.

**November 5<sup>th</sup>** – Landmark Bank

**December 3rd** – Landmark Bank (Pot Luck Christmas Dinner & Surprise event!)



Please contact Ronnie Howser at 940.665.4430 for meal sign-up volunteers.

**2019**

**February 4<sup>th</sup>** – Landmark Bank

**March 4<sup>th</sup>** – Landmark Bank

Special thanks and kudos to these guest speakers!

Ronnie Howser – April 2018  
Linda Robertson – May 2018  
Shana Powell – June 2018  
Sally Poker – August 2018  
Patti Gillespie –Sept. 2018  
Kimberly Wells – Oct. 2018

Please contact Ronnie Howser if you would like to be a guest speaker at one of our meetings. 940-665-4430



## Following the Ancestor Trail

Research material and research locations in Cooke County

**MUENSTER LIBRARY,**  
418 No. Elm, Muenster, TX  
<http://www.muensterlibrary.com>

**COOKE COUNTY LIBRARY**  
200 South Weaver St., Gainesville, Texas  
Newspapers, family history, county history, various states, and counties

**COOKE COUNTY-COUNTY CLERK**  
100 South Dixon, Gainesville, Texas (courthouse)  
\*Death, Birth, Marriage records available.  
\*You can look up most records yourself.  
Copies are \$1.00 per page  
[http://www.co.cooke.tx.us/default.aspx?Cooke County/County. Clerk](http://www.co.cooke.tx.us/default.aspx?Cooke%20County/County.Clerk)

**MORTON MUSEUM of COOKE COUNTY**  
210 South Dixon, Gainesville, Texas  
E-mail: [mortonmuseum@att.net](mailto:mortonmuseum@att.net)  
Historical people in Cooke County, various books

**NCTC LIBRARY**—1525 W. California St., Gainesville

<http://www.nctc.edu/NCTC-Library>

Various genealogy magazines, papers, family information, obits

### Churches in Gainesville with Libraries and Archives

#### First Christian Church

401 No. Dixon 940-665-2053  
Started May 10, 1874 Open Daily  
Web site: <http://www.fccgainesville.com/>

#### St. Paul's Episcopal Church

415 E. California St. 940-665-4705  
Started August 6, 1885  
Open 9 A.M. to 12 Noon Only Look-up's

#### First United Methodist Church

214 So. Dixon 940-665-3926  
Started 1852  
Web site: <http://www.firstumcgainesvilletx.com/>

#### First Presbyterian Church

401 So. Denton 940-665-5153  
Started 1878 Archives Web site: [www.fpcgainesville.net](http://www.fpcgainesville.net)  
There is a section called Genealogy Room which has listings from the Session minutes from the 1920s through the 1940s.

#### St. Mary's Catholic Church

825 No. Weaver 940-665-5395  
Started 1879  
Web site: <http://stmaryscatholic.com/>

#### Red River Historian, Robin Jett

<http://www.redriverhistorian.com/>

This site is devoted to discoveries of the history of the "Old Southwest" – where the South meets the West: Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana.



*The editor sincerely welcomes any corrections or additions to these locations, contact information, links, etc. Thank you!*



## Eureka! A Greek word meaning “I have found it!”

At our recent October meeting, we were very fortunate to have Kimberly Wells from the Emily Fowler Central Library in Denton, Texas as our guest speaker. She gave a very interesting presentation about major epidemics and plagues during the past two centuries and how those difficult times affected genealogical research today. All of us were grateful for better hygiene and health standards, with the hope that continues in the future.

But here’s my “Eureka” moment...In addition to her presentation, Kimberly shared information about **The Legacy Lab** at Emily Fowler Library. It is a self-service digital archiving and conversion lab that provides you with the tools and the training to digitize your family’s memories. I may have to take a tent and live in Denton for a few weeks! 😊

You can scan, access, or convert:

- Documents up to 11”x17”
- VHS Tapes and other camcorder cassette tapes
- Photo prints, negatives, and 35 mm slides
- 8mm or Super 8 film
- Audio Cassettes
- 3.5" floppy disks

### What You Need To Know

- The equipment is available on a first come, first served basis. We strongly recommend making a reservation beforehand to guarantee equipment availability. You may submit a reservation by going to their website [https://library.cityofdenton.com/screens/sc\\_legacylab.html](https://library.cityofdenton.com/screens/sc_legacylab.html), call (940) 349-8752 to make an appointment, or send email to [genealogy@cityofdenton.com](mailto:genealogy@cityofdenton.com).
- The Legacy Lab is self-serve. The first time you use the equipment library staff will provide an overview of use and how to access the training materials. After that, you will convert all of your own materials.
- Information and instructions for the equipment can be found on the "Equipment" page.
- Customers must have a valid Denton Public Library card or technology card and complete a Legacy Lab Borrower Responsibility Agreement at the time of use.
- Your initial session time to use the equipment will be three hours. Your session can be renewed if no one is waiting to use the equipment. Customers must be at least 10 years old to use the equipment.
- The Legacy Lab is to be used for the purpose of digitizing personal/family collections and materials of a civic, cultural, or educational nature. Copyright law prohibits copying commercial works.
- When transferring from analog, such as VHS or audio cassette to digital formats, media will be captured in real time. Be prepared to stay with your material to monitor the conversion.
- Check out the "Getting Ready" page for tips on preparing your items for scanning.
- **\*\*\* Please bring your own portable media storage such as a USB drive, SD card, external hard drive, or writable (W or RW) CDs or DVDs. \*\*\***

**BONUS:** The Special Collections research area is also located in this library. Included in these collections are more than 10,000 books, family histories, microfilms, scrapbooks, yearbooks, city directories, photographs, maps and oral histories that focus on local and state history, and genealogy.



## *The Aunt No One Knew*

**Baby Elizabeth Carri**  
Born March 29, 1928  
Died October 15, 1929  
New York City, NY

Last year as we prepared to sell my dear mother-in-law's Fort Worth home, we found an old photograph album that belonged to Keith's (my husband) deceased father. There were many old treasured photos that no one had ever seen, including a very small 2-inch by 2.5 inch – quite faded photo of a grave (upper left). We were stunned to find this picture and wondered where did this Carri child fit in the family tree. As the lovely grave marker stated, her name was Elizabeth Carri, born in March of 1928 and died in October 1929. Why had no one ever spoken her name? Who was she? Why was a photo of her gravesite in an old photo album that belonged to my late father-in-law?

What we did know...Keith's paternal Italian grandparents and great-grandparents arrived at Ellis Island, New York Harbor in 1901. Residing for several years in New York City, they moved to and from Vermont a couple of times and by the mid-1930's they had permanently moved to Vermont. When we asked Keith's cousins now living in Vermont and New Hampshire, no one knew anything about baby Elizabeth.

As we began our search for her, the puzzle pieces slowly connected and we established that she was Keith's aunt and she died ten days before his father was born. Cannot even imagine the grief and despair of the Carri family in 1929...Keith's grandmother about to give birth to a son and losing her baby girl at the age of 18 months! And of course, our astonishment that we never knew she existed. It made us very sad and we were resolved to locate the cemetery where she is buried and planned a trip to the northeast for September 2018.

Through Ancestry, we found her birth information in Vermont and death date in New York City, but could not find the cemetery where she was buried in either state. Since she died in NYC, we assumed she was buried there and earlier this year we wrote to the Department of Archives/ Office of Vital Records with all the bits of information we had, including a copy of the grave photo. Several weeks later, we received a copy of the death certificate which contained the name of the cemetery. After a lengthy phone call, we now had the gravesite location.

Keith and I arrived in New York City in September and traveled to the cemetery. It was quite an adventure finding her gravesite, even with the section and plot identified, as the Calvary Cemetery spans 365 acres with almost 3 million graves. We were overwhelmed with joy and sorrow at the same time to find her resting place and laid flowers in front of it, just as someone had done in the older photograph. As far as we know, it has been almost ninety years since anyone has visited this baby's grave. We have since shared the story of baby Elizabeth with all of the Carri family. Rest in peace, sweet baby Elizabeth... we will never forget you.

Keith & Colleen Carri  
Calvary Cemetery in Woodside-  
Queens, New York City  
September 2018



### **Chicken Thief Hits Cooke County Man on Head with Chicken and Makes Escape**

Tuesday Jan. 2, 1923

The weight of two fat hens and a rooster held on the human hand and driven by the strength of a muscular arm makes an effective weapon if the blow is properly placed. At least that was the hasty conclusion of a chicken thief that visited the henery of the **George Ware** farm last Sunday night and who made his escape after knocking down his would be captor.

**J. S. Foster**, who conducts the chicken ranch, had been visiting at Mr. Ware's home. When he started to return to his own home nearby, Foster noted that his dog was unduly excited. The animal would run to the chicken house then back to Foster endeavoring as best he could to inform his master something was wrong. This was repeated in rapid succession several times. When Foster neared the chicken house he heard some commotion, but concluded it was only the chickens crowding each other on the roost. Noticing a door open that he was positive he had closed just a short time before, Foster approached the opening and stuck his head inside to determine what was wrong. Just as he did so, he was met full in the face with a broadside of hens and rooster, the blow knocking him to the ground. Another instant and Foster was used as a door mat by the thief, who made a hasty exit from the building.

Recovering his electrified senses, Foster hastened to his home for a weapon. As he came from the house, he saw two white men running toward the timber. Foster emptied a shotgun and pistol at the fleeing forms, but has not yet learned whether the bullets found their mark. Officers have a good description of the thieves and have hopes of making an arrest in the case soon.

### **Texas U. Has a Collection of Birds From Cooke County** Wednesday Jan. 3, 1923

Austin, Texas, Jan. 3 – A collection of two hundred different kinds of birds collected between 1876 and 1880 by **George H. Ragsdale** of Gainesville, Texas, is being used by the University of Texas in the teaching of zoology.

All of the birds were gathered in northeast Texas, most of them coming from Cooke County. None of the skins are mounted. They are held in proper form with cotton so that they may be more easily examined by the students.

The remarkable fact about the skins is their age. It was very difficult to keep bird skins for a long period because of certain insects and the collection has been damaged several times despite efforts to preserve it through the use of germicides and disinfectants.

So valuable is the collection that it has been studied by many internationally known ornithologists and zoologists. There are some 620 varieties of birds in Texas.

### **Aid Schools Are Being Inspected** Saturday Jan. 6, 1923

Mr. **Conn**, inspector of state aid schools from the State Department of Education in company with **John S. Hardy**, county superintendent, is inspecting the state aid schools of Cooke County this week. Wednesday Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> the following schools were inspected: Rock Creek, Liberty Hill, Hibbett, Dexter, and Bethlehem; Thursday's itinerary was as follows:

Whaley Chapel, Spring Grove, Nelson Grove, Oak Valley, Downard, Mt. Olive, Mountain Springs and Oak Hill. All schools so far inspected have met all requirements for state aid, but the inspector finds most every school is in an over-crowded condition. Friday the schools at Spring Creek, Valley View, Era, Flat Creek and

Leo were inspected.

The twenty six state aid schools of this county applied for \$9,150, but owing to the great reduction in the amount appropriated for state aid this year, Cooke County was conditionally granted only \$5,000. The inspector and the county superintendent are met by the trustees of most every school. They insist that all trustees be on hand to show their needs clearly and the amount applied for is actually essential.

Note that the total appropriation for special aid to rural schools for this term is \$1,000,000. This is a fifty per cent reduction on the former appropriation of \$2,000,000 per year. Cooke County will receive about one-half the amount applied for – the maximum limit being \$300.

The following schools are yet to be inspected: Monday Jan 8: Hood, Rosston, Prairie Point and Myra; Tuesday, Jan 9: Valley Creek, Center, Mt. Hope and Hickman.

The inspector, after estimating the needs, will distribute the appropriations justly and impartially among the schools eligible for state aid in proportion to their relative need and in accordance with the law.

### **Cal Lance Fights Ten-Round Match at Palm Beach, FL Saturday Jan. 6, 1923**

**Cal (Country Boy) Lance**, well known light weight pugilist of this city, who left last week for Palm Beach, Fla to spend the winter, fought his first match in that city Tuesday night, having as his opponent, **Red Herring** of Louisville, Ky. The Palm Beach newspaper which termed the bout “ten stubborn, hard fought rounds” stated Herring out-boxed Lance.

Herring is a well-known boxer, having at one time fought **Benny Leonard**, the lightweight champion, knocking Benny down for the count of nine, at that time losing the championship of the world by one second. He has also scored knockouts on a dozen or more other celebrities of the fistic ring. The match last Tuesday was the main bout of an athletic show staged by the American Legion of the city. Lance will fight **Jimmy Finley** next week.

The Palm Beach newspaper had the following to say concerning the match:

Red Herring of Louisville, KY out-boxed Cal (Country Boy) Lance of Gainesville, Texas in ten stubborn hard fought rounds in the main bout of the Legion show last night. Lance forced the fighting from the third round to the finish, but his hay making wallop hit Red where he wasn't. In the meantime Rebel Red was shooting in a continuous shower of left jabs and right hooks and most of them went home.

Herring scored on the infighting and his footwork and ring technique marked him as a past master in the art of fisticuffs.

A capacity crowd packed the arena and howled with delight when the Texas wild cat kept boring right in, taking a terrific lacing to the head.

### **High School Pupils Endanger Lives by Using Santa Fe as Pathway to School**

Saturday Jan. 13, 1923

The critical danger of death or perhaps injury that will make cripples for life of Gainesville children who use the Santa Fe tracks as a route to the High school in the south part of the city, was pointed out by Santa Fe employees and officials at the regular monthly safety meeting held at the courthouse Friday. The press of the city is requested to call the matter to the attention of parents of the children in the hope that they will warn the boys and girls of the great risk they incur in the hazardous practice of walking down the railroad tracks instead of going one block further west and traveling Lindsay Street to school.

Complaint was first made by engineers who declare some of the children appear to take delight in remaining within the danger zone of a moving locomotive until the train is almost upon them before they step aside. The railroad right of way is private property and further use of Santa Fe tracks is likely to result in prosecution according to reliable authority.

### **Remodeling of Business Houses and Erection of New Business Has Begun in**

The spring building campaign has begun in earnest in Gainesville during the past few weeks and in every section of the city new residences are rapidly nearing completion, while older buildings are being made up-to-date and attractive by remodeling and new coats of paint. The business section had also succumbed to the commercial siege of improvements now prevalent and over \$10,000 has been invested in new business buildings and repairs on other structures.

One of the most attractive buildings in the business district in Gainesville which is nearing completion and will be occupied the latter part of the present week is the up-to-date oil and gas filling station erected by Ross Brothers on their property at the southwest corner of the square. The station was built at a cost of \$3,000 and is modern in all of its appointments. The Burch Motor Company will have charge of it for business Friday or Saturday.

The Texas Oil Company is making extensive improvements on its property near the Santa Fe railroad on East Scott Street, erecting a number of buildings on account of the large volume of business they are now doing in the city. A warehouse is the largest structure being erected and the other improvements consist of a modern pump house, two garages for housing trucks used in the delivery of their products, and a 30-foot oil storage tank. According to manager **Scott**, who came here recently from Sherman, succeeding **Jim Burch**, the cost of the new building amounts to \$3,500.

**R. S. Cernal** has temporarily moved his stock of saddles and harness into the building just south of his shop on North Commerce Street, and is having his building completely remodeled and a new brick front placed on the structure. The cost of the work is \$2,500. When the job is completed the building will be one of the most attractive in the business district.

Contractor **Ry Barrett** has the contract for the remodeling of the building occupied by the Ladies Shop for the owner of the property on Moran street. The building will be completely remodeled and a new front placed on the structure at a cost of \$1,250.

In the residential section **H. V. Tanner** is having a modern bungalow erected on his property in Gribble Street at a cost of \$1,200.

Contractor **D. Blanton** has completed the work of removing the debris from the lot formerly occupied by the house of **J. W. Allen** on South Grand avenue which was destroyed by fire several weeks ago and will soon commence the erection of a modern bungalow for Mr. Allen.

### **Dr. E. D. Hughes, an Old Timer, Tells an Interesting Story** (Collinsville Times)

Tuesday Feb. 27, 1923

**Dr. E. D. Hughes** called on the Times Saturday to get his figures straight on the books and we enjoyed meeting him very much. Dr. Hughes settled here in the early days, when there were no church houses and few houses of any description, and with his pill bags astride his trusty saddle horse, put in about twenty years riding day and night, waiting on and administering to the sick. His record shows that during his practice he assisted the stork in delivering 1,536 babies to the mothers of the community. It was on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of October 1882 that he landed here, and if he lives until the 18<sup>th</sup> of April, Dr. Hughes will be 80 years of age. Mr. Hughes was 79 years old last Saturday. Dr. Hughes says he has voted for every president since he was 21 years old except Woodrow Wilson and when he failed he fell down on the job, for we consider him the best one that ever run or was ever elected. The doctor said Collinsville was the only voting box in Grayson County to vote dry in the county and he was proud that he helped carry it dry.

### **Gainesville Man Has Shotgun One Hundred Years Old; Tells Story of Shooting Wild**

**Geese with Ramrod** Monday Mar. 12, 1923

A muzzle loading shotgun, believed to be at least 100 years old, is the property of **T. W. Gill**, Santa Fe

yardmaster in Gainesville. This aged weapon was the property of **Marcus Gill**, grandfather of T. W. and was used by the former to kill deer in the Kentucky mountains several score years ago. The grandfather moved from Bowling Green, KY to the vicinity of Kansas City, Mo in 1843.

Reminiscences were revived only recently when fire at the home of **George Myers** destroyed most of his household property and damaged the gun that was being kept there, he being a relative of Mr. Gill.

The Santa Fe yardmaster says the old muzzle loader was the first gun he ever shot and at least one incident connected with the firearm is indelibly impressed on his mind. Having been forbidden to take the gun from its accustomed place over the door of the log cabin that served as the family house, says Mr. Gill, temptation to shoot a flock of geese was stronger than his fear of a flogging at the hands of his parents. He disobeyed instructions, stealthily removed the gun and powder horn, put in the powder, shots was made, tamped the load briskly with the wooden ramrod, and crawled to the spot where the geese were grazing on a wheat patch. Exceedingly nervous lest he frighten his prey, he forgot to remove the ramrod from the gun. "Bang" went the old trusty with a roar that echoed and re-echoed over the surrounding country. The hunter sprawled backward from the rebound of the gun, but down came a gander.

Rushing forward with all the vigor that his 14 years in the open had given him, he dropped the gun to the ground and attempted to seize the wild fowl. The ramrod had broken the gander's wing but otherwise the bird was not injured. Infuriated at the injury, the gander attacked the young hunter and chased him across the wheat field. Mr. Gill declares he got the gander alright, but declines to confirm the suggestion that he ran it to death endeavoring to escape from it.

### **Local Man Purchases Brick Plant and Will Operate It at Full Capacity in Future**

Monday Mar. 12, 1923

One of the biggest deals locally that has been transacted in some months is the sale of the plant of the Gainesville Brick Co. by the Staniforth heirs to **Henry Bier, Joe Curtis, and George Brown**, well known Gainesville businessmen. While the consideration has not been made public, the deal involves a sizable amount, the company being capitalized at \$75,000, divided into 750 shares equally, the remaining 45 shares being owned by a party in California.

Stripping of the pit and operation of the plant at full capacity within the next few days is planned by the new owners who hope to manufacture one million building bricks monthly. Approximately forty people will be given employment and the payroll will be \$2,500 per week. Most of the present force will be retained, it is stated.

In speaking of the purchase of the plant, Joe Curtis declared it is the intention of the company to spend about \$12,000 in stripping the pit; in other words, removing the surface earth in order to obtain the deposits that lie underneath and from which the brick are made. The shale deposits at the plant have been declared by experts the best in Texas and the supply is practically inexhaustible. The new owners intend to produce a building brick second to none in Texas and plan to put traveling salesman on the road to dispose of the output. The plant will specialize in what is known to the trade as "commons". The Gainesville company is a member of the Texas Brick Manufacturers Association.

Henry Bier, president and general manager; George Brown, vice president and treasurer, and Joe Curtis, secretary is the list of officers for the new corporation.

The Gainesville brick plant is located along the Katy railroad track about one mile southeast of the city limits. It has been in operation many years and was under the management of **M. W. Staniforth** until his death recently.

### **Retail Merchants Elect Officers** Friday Mar. 14, 1923

Directors of the Retail Merchants Association, where nominations were announced at the annual banquet of the association Thursday evening, met at the Chamber of Commerce Friday morning and elected the following



officers: **Overton Clack**, president; **Albert Herrman**, vice president; Mrs. **F. W. Blackburn**, secretary.

The directors are as follows: **A. Teague, J. O. Patterson, C. D. Hutchens, W. C. Westbrook, Leo Kuehn, Mrs. M. A. Morgan, William Merzbacher, Buck Y. Lewis, O. F. Powers.**

It was decided to adopt the new custom of holding quarterly conferences and the first of such meetings is scheduled for March 29.

### **Old Hangman's Tree on Indian Creek Is Still Here** Monday Apr. 9, 1923

Valley View, Texas Special to the Register – Ever hear of Hangman's Grove? No doubt you have. Old timers in Cooke County remember when cattle thieves were hung to the nearest tree and there is standing today on Indian creek a few miles west of this place, a tree that has held the dangling forms of at least a dozen cattle rustlers.

The old tree is located in a low land and stands out prominently from the other trees of the grove. It carries today the name of Hangman's Tree and the strip of low woodland is referred to as Hangman's Grove.

The tree is a massive one standing, a bit drooping and marked with mysterious cuttings and designs. It is said by some that at night white human-looking objects have been seen running noiselessly to and fro in the darkness. The old tree is one of tragedy and if it could only talk, could tell some startling stories. In the spring the birds build their nests in its boughs, and the wild flowers bloom underneath, and the tree itself is a mass of velvet greenery; but still it carries with it that gruesome name.

### **Rural Districts of County in Favor of Improved Schools** Thursday 19 Apr 1923

Signs of the growing popularity of education in the rural section of Cooke County are seen in the readiness with which certain districts are increasing taxes to provide better school houses and more teachers and still other communities are asking the privilege of voting extra school taxes.

The Hays district has voted a 75 cent school tax, expects to add another teacher to the faculty, and make the institution a school of ten grades.

Rosston will vote on \$1.00 tax next Saturday and expects to establish a ten grade school in that district.

The people of Leo are enthusiastic about a good school and are planning to add extra room and also establish a higher grade school.

The Dye community carried out a petition this week to increase the tax from 50 cents to \$1 and the trustees there think they will probably be able to build a modern two room school building.

The school districts at Black Jack and Mount Hope have recently carried out petitions for \$1 tax in their districts.

Downard two weeks ago voted a \$1 tax by a majority of 17 to 1.

### **Mrs. Edna Ellis Is First Woman Trustee in County** Thursday Apr. 19, 1923

Mrs. **Edna Ellis** of Hemming has the distinction of being the first woman in Cooke County to be elected a school trustee. Mrs. Ellis was made trustee at an election held in Hemming on Saturday April 17.

### **Delaware Bend School Burned** Friday Apr. 20, 1923

According to information received at the sheriff's office this morning the schoolhouse at Delaware Bend, twenty five miles from Gainesville in the extreme northeast corner of the county was destroyed by fire some time Thursday night. No details concerning the damage done were relayed. Sheriff Elliott left this morning to investigate the blaze.

### **Dexter News** Thursday Apr. 26, 1923

The Riverside school, 10 miles north of Dexter was destroyed by fire last Thursday night about 11:30. The origin of the blaze is unknown.

### **Santa Fe Railroad Will Build New Stock Pen in Gainesville Yards, to Take Care of 60 Cars of Livestock** Tuesday May 15, 1923

The Santa Fe railroad company will at an early date begin razing the present stock pen in the company yards in Gainesville in order to re-build and enlarge the facilities for the use of livestock men transporting shipments over the Santa Fe line. The capacity of the present pen, which was built a number of years ago, is only 27 cars. The new pen will be strictly modern in every respect and sufficient to feed and care for 60 car loads of stock. This information was given to the Register by **Dan Caldwell** of Fort Worth in charge of the Livestock Department of the Santa Fe lines in Texas.

### **Mountain Springs is Said to Be the First Town Established in the County; Fine Residence Now Unoccupied Ruin** Saturday May 26, 1923

Valley View May 26 – Nestling among the scrubby post oak of the cross timber belt a few miles east of this place is Mountain Springs, the first town established in Cooke County. At one time in the early days this was the only town west of Sherman and headquarters for cattlemen in this section. The school was at one time the largest in the county and had one of the county's first and largest cotton gins.

At one time Mountain Springs had a dozen or more good stores that did a thriving business and it is said that a good hotel was located there. **Sam Bass**, the bandit, paid many visits to the town during his days of activity in this section.

Years before the establishment of Mountain Springs the Indians in this section settlement discovered a cool ever-flowing spring on the side of a little hill or midget mountain; and from this took its name.

At one time this town boasted of the finest residence to be found in Cooke County. It was constructed by Dr. **Riley**, a second cousin of **James Whitcomb Riley**. The lumber was hauled by ox team from Jefferson situated down in the pine woods of southeast Texas. The house is a two-story structure and is standing today, although it is unoccupied and is very ancient. Dr. Riley was one of the county's first doctors and always rode on horseback. He was 101 years old when he died.

Mountain Springs has only one store doing business within its borders now, but there are some that still have faith in the future. They say oil will someday put the town back in first place. Captain **Rayzer** runs the only business in the town today, although there is a blacksmith shop that is open part of the time.

Other towns have sprung up near this pioneer settlement and have gone forward and prospered, but they all owe a portion of their success to the pathfinder town of Mountain Springs.

### **Cemetery Association Will Endeavor to Make New Record of All Graves in Fairview, Many Mounds Now Unmarked** Thursday May 31, 1923

At a record meeting of the Cemetery Association, composed of a number of prominent Gainesville women, a movement was started for all graves in Fairview cemetery. The only record of the charter now in existence is incomplete and in a state of deterioration. Many persons are buried in Fairview for which no record is available and for that reason; all trace of identity has been lost. The ladies of the association request the people of Cooke county who have relatives buried in Fairview or who have accurate knowledge of persons buried there many years ago to bring or send such information to the Gainesville Chamber of Commerce, that it may be included in the new Grave Registration Book that will be kept at the Chamber of Commerce and be available to all persons at all times. It is believed that the older inhabitants of the county can render a valuable service in this work. The new record will be kept up to date from this time forward. Mrs. **R. S. Rose** and Mrs. **Roy Potter** are in charge of this laudable undertaking.

The association is determined to put a stop to the unpardonable practice of persons stealing flowers, vases, water faucets, and all other portable objects from graves in Fairview cemetery, and offers a reward of \$5 for the apprehension of any person caught in the act of committing such deeds. Every law-abiding citizen should lend encouragement to this movement in order to punish vandals who rob the final resting place of the dead.

Mrs. **Gus McKemie** and Mrs. **Patchell** were appointed to see about having a hedge planted and cared for. The last Friday in March was selected as regular annual meeting day of the Association on which date new officers will be elected.

The following officers were selected for the evening year: Mrs. **J. L. Simpson**, president; Mrs. Patchell, vice president; Mrs. **Roy Potter**, secretary; Mrs. McKemie, treasurer. Mrs. **A. H. Conson** and Mrs. **W. E. Murphy** along with the active officers were elected to the board of directors.

### **Several School Elections Ordered; County Commissioners Court Is in Session This Week** Tuesday Jun 12, 1923

The Commissioners Court convened Monday for its regular monthly session. The first day was spent in considering petitions calling for school elections of various kinds. All of the petitions were granted.

Petitions from Winterfield School District No.92 and Brushy Elm District No. 62 ask for an election for the purpose of determining whether or not the district should be consolidated and one school built for both districts. This school would be built a site selected by three uninterested parties, after the districts have been surveyed. The election was ordered to be held in the two districts on June 30, **J. H. Embry** being appointed presiding officer at Brushy Mound and **W. P. Griffin** at Winterfield.

An election to decide whether or not the school tax should be increased 50 cents on the \$100 valuation, was asked for in a petition from residents of Hood School District No. 83, and the election was ordered held on June 30 with **H. P. Purcell** presiding.

School District 6 asked for an election for the issuance of \$1,500 in bonds, there to be 15 bonds of \$100 denomination, interest at the rate of 6 per cent. The election was ordered held on June 30, and **J. P. Clark** was appointed to preside.

### **School Election Returns Revealed** Thursday Jun 14, 1923

School election returns occupied the attention of the Commissioners Court today, and the reports were approved in all cases. The election for the consolidation of districts 89 and 78 failed to carry. In District 89 the election to increase school taxes also failed.

In District 13 the citizens voted to increase the school taxes 50 cents on the \$100 valuation. In District No 22 a similar election failed to carry. In District No 6 the election to raise the school tax to not exceed \$1 on \$100 valuation carried. A similar election failed to carry in Dist. No. 78. The reports of the librarian, sheriff, and district clerk were received and filed and county assessor **John Cox** was advanced \$200.

### **Thirty one Pioneers Entered the Contest Conducted by This Paper to Find County's Oldest Citizen** Thursday Jun 21, 1923

| name                     | born                                      |
|--------------------------|---|
| Thornt Graham, City      | Nov. 21, 1850, age 73, years in county 73 |
| H. C. Green, Dexter      | Sep. 12, 1849, age 73, years in county 46 |
| M. B. Garrett, City      | June 27, 1847, age 75, years in county 54 |
| J. M. Neely, Valley View | Feb. 21, 1835, age 88, years in county 75 |
| H. C. Pace, Sivells Bend | Feb. 28, 1849, age 79, years in county 68 |
| Mrs. M. L. Parmley, City | May 25, 1870, age 53, years in county 53  |
| Mrs. H. M. South, City   | July 22, 1830, age 92, years in county 42 |

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| J. J. Mathews, Coesfield            | Jan. 15, 1854, age 69, years in county 69       |
| S. S. Turner, Union Hill            | Feb. 1, 1849, age 74, years in county 74        |
| Mrs. L. V. Mathews, Route 4         | Jan. 1, 1846, age 77, years in county 72        |
| H. Schiff, City                     | July 5, 1836, age 86, years in county 57        |
| Mrs. J. W. Jenkins, City            | Nov 26, 1858, age 64, years in county 63        |
| Howard White, City                  | Aug. 5, 1846, age 76, years in county 61        |
| J. M. Estes, City                   | Aug. 13, 1849, age 73, years in county 70       |
| Mrs. A. M. Morris, Marysville       | June 15, 1836, age 86, years in county 53       |
| H. L. Aston, Valley View            | Nov. 18, 1839, age 83, years in county 30       |
| C. E. Fallis, Fish Creek            | May 20, 1848, age 75, years in county 53        |
| M. F. Ragsdale, Delaware Bend       | Mar. 5, 1856, age 67, years in county 65        |
| D. B. Ozment, City                  | June 3, 1853, age 74, years in county 70        |
| R. J. Patrick, City                 | Feb. 10, 1844, age 78, years in county 52       |
| F. B. Welch, City                   | Oct. 28, 1844, age 78, about 70 years in county |
| Mrs. Angela Flint, City             | Sep. 17, 1830, age 92, years in county 42       |
| A. M. Dove, Collinsville            | Mar. 10, 1863, age 60, years in county 54       |
| James Dozier, City                  | 1847, age 76, years in county 74                |
| Mrs. R. S. Wilson, Era              | Aug. 29, 1844, age 78, years in county 49       |
| Bob Scott (negro), City             | Aug. 10, 1825, age 97, years in county 70       |
| Sam Booth (negro), City             | Oct. 1, 1838, age 83, years in county 40        |
| Mrs. C. Overshiner, Valley View     | no date, age 71, years in county 51             |
| Mrs. M. E. Jones, Rt 2, Pilot Point | Mar. 22, 1840, age 83, years in county 64       |
| O. C. Brewer (no address)           | Dec. 9, 1831, age 91, years in county 43        |

### **Old Time Picture of Local People** Wednesday July 2, 1923

A picture taken at the twenty third annual convention of the Texas Press Association held at Gainesville in May 1902 appeared in the Monday morning edition of the Dallas News. The picture was taken in the conservatory of Mrs. Dr. **Cutter**, better known as **Flordina**, a noted singer of Texas at that time. Mrs. Cutter is now Mrs. **Fischer**, and her husband was with the American Embassy in Italy when last heard from.

Other people appearing in the picture were **J. T. Leonard**, who was Mayor of Gainesville at the time, **Fred B. Robinson** of Waco, president of the Association, Dr. Cutter, **Albert Worthham**, **George T. Yates**, **Jim Rudolph**, **H. D. Caldwell** and the following young ladies: Misses **Belle Howeth**, **Josie Field**, **Ethel Comegys**, **Bevie Bass**, **Frankenberger**, **Bonnie O'Farrell** and **Pearl Moon**, all of whom resided here.

### **Black Jack School to Have New Building** Thursday July 5, 1923

The people of Black Jack community in the northeast part of Cooke County voted unanimously last Saturday on the proposal to issue \$1,000 in bonds for the purpose of erecting and furnishing a new school building there. Of the 18 votes cast all favored the bond issue indicating the sincere desire of the voters to furnish educational facilities for their children.

### **Wolves Are Killing Farmer's Turkeys** Thursday July 5, 1923

Reports from the Bloomfield community are to the effect that wolves are playing havoc with young turkeys in that section of the county. Quite a number of valuable birds have been killed by wolves on the farm of **John Ware** near Woodbine last week.

### **Hobos Frequent Rail Road Yards** Saturday July 21, 1923

The local railroad yards are being frequented by scores of hobos daily according to State Ranger **Charles Cochran**, who is stationed here to guard the yards, and from ten to fifteen hobos are aboard every freight train which passes through Gainesville. Even women are found riding freight trains by Cochran on his rounds through the yards. "The only thing I can do is to make them move on," Cochran says, "as the county and city jails are unable to take care of the huge number which would be arrested should a drive on the tramps be made. Women are often found aboard trains, and only Friday I discovered several women hiding in the yards."

### **Sivells Bend Man Kills a Big Snake** Friday Sep. 28, 1923

One of the largest snakes ever seen in Marietta was on exhibit at Townsend's wagon yard Wednesday. The snake was a diamond rattler and was killed by **A. I. Dugger** of Sivells Bend. Mr. Dugger had been in the Jordan community visiting his son and was enroute to Marietta in a wagon when he saw the snake cross the road ahead of him near **Arch Robinson's** place two miles east of town. The snake was five feet and six inches long and had fourteen rattlers and a button. Many people visited the wagon yard to see the snake and all expressed the opinion that it was the largest rattlesnake ever seen by them except in a show. Marietta Monitor

### **Gila Monster on Display in City** Tuesday Oct. 2, 1923

A Gila monster about 18 inches long, which was captured in Arizona, will be on display in the show window of Cunningham Brothers Drugstore for the next few days. The animal was caught by **Alton Smith**, nephew of **Wilson Gilbert** of this city, who is here visiting his uncle. Smith has spent several years in Arizona and is well acquainted with this very poisonous animal and its characteristics.

The Gila monster is one of the most poisonous creatures known, its bite meaning sure death within 10 to 15 minutes, Smith says. After a person dies from the bite of the monster, the body turns quickly black within a few hours. The animal now on exhibit, was captured by the young man and according to his statement carried in his hands 16 miles while driving an automobile.

The monster is of the alligator family and sometimes grows to a length of more than three feet. It has the appearance of an alligator and its body looks very beady displaying several colors. It was brought to Gainesville in a small box over a distance of 900 miles by Smith.

### **Schools Closed In Respect to Dead** Wednesday Oct. 30, 1923

The public schools in Gainesville closed at 2:30 o'clock Tuesday afternoon for the remainder of the day, and flags were flown at half-mast today in respect to Mrs. **B. Mac Staton**, teacher in the East School, and Miss **Cora Allen**, teacher in the high school, deaths having occurred in the families of both.

Judge **T. W. Staton**, husband of Mrs. Staton, who teaches first grade at the East School, died Monday afternoon and was buried this afternoon, while Miss **Mary Frances Allen**, sister of Miss Cora Allen died in Houston Sunday and was buried here this afternoon.

### **Former Citizen of Cooke County Is Visitor in the City** Monday Nov. 5, 1923

**D. Q. (Quill) Moster** and wife of Grapevine, Texas, are here the guests of his brother, **J. L. Moster** and family, having come to attend the reunion of the Moster family, which took place today.

Quill was one of the early pioneers of Cooke County and resided here many years before he removed to Lawton, Oklahoma some twenty years ago. While a citizen of Gainesville, Mr. Moster served on the police force for several years and also was street commissioner for some time. He is a jolly fellow and fine old scout and has many friends in Gainesville whom he met today and who were glad to see him and extend the hand of fraternal greetings.

#### **Cooke County Illiteracy** Thursday Nov. 8, 1923

In a recent report on illiteracy in Texas furnished by the State Bureau of Education the statistics of that condition as found in Cooke County are given as follows:

Number of illiterates, 484; percent of total population, 2.5

Number of native born white illiterates, 305; percent of native born white illiterates, 1.7

Number of foreign born, 41; percent of foreign born white illiterates, 7.7

Number of negro illiterates, 138; percent of negro illiterates, 12.2

#### **D. H. Reeves Sells Printing Office** Friday Nov. 16, 1923

**D. H. Reeves** who has conducted a job printing under the name of Reeves Printing Company on East California street upstairs over the Register office for the past year, has sold his business interests to Messrs. **Gay Eaves** of Corpus Christi and **C. E. Miller** of Corsicana. Mr. Reeves expects to leave about December 1 for Kaufman where he and his family will reside.

Messrs. Eaves and Miller have been in the printing business for a number of years, the former having been manager of the Gulf Coast Printing Company at Corpus Christi, and the latter having conducted a printing office at Corsicana. They are expert printers and know the business well. Gainesville welcomes these new citizens and trust that they will become real Gainesville boosters. They took charge of the office this morning.

#### **Many Relics Are Exhibited at the Pioneer Life Show** Friday Nov. 16, 1923

The following list describes briefly the relics that were exhibited at the Pioneer Life Show, conducted here last week by the Daughters of the Confederacy, and the names of those who loaned the relic:

Spinning wheel on which she spun several broaches of thread – Mrs. Nancy Smith

Knitted rug – Mrs. Summers

Spoon, over 100 years old – Mrs. Mary Spurlock

Coverlet, over 60 years old – Mrs. John Maupin

Brass candle sticks, coverlet and homespun woolen cloth, Mrs. E. C. Mead

Gun – Dick Lucas

Pack saddle, used by Villa in Mexico, captured by Capt. Tom Hickman – loaned by Charles Cochran

Gold pin and old sample – Mrs. Ada Downard

Weavers stay and shuttle for weaving carpets – Sam Stevens

Civil War cavalry saber and army rifle – Ed White

Pistol – Pat Ware

Sugar bowl and salt seller over 100 years old – Mrs. J. N. Nislar

Old papers and stone Indian hatchet – Mrs. Sager

Hand-painted vase brought from New Orleans for her wedding present over 50 years ago – Mrs. A. Y. Gunter

Coverlet, worn over sixty years ago by Mrs. M. M. Bassinger

Gun, carried by Lt. Thomas I. Crews under Gen. Bedford Forrest - loaned by grandson, J. B. Haynes

Brass candle stick and book of Confederate flags - H. L. Edwards

Old wooden bread tray, made in Mississippi 62 years ago and stolen from the battlefield at Antietam and Chancellorsville – J. T. Hall

Pistol – W. A. Payne  
 Gun – W. E. King  
 Table cloth – Mrs. W. U. Lewis  
 Picture of Confederate reunion – Mrs. R. L. Kendall  
 Gun that once belonged to Chauncey Depew – Charles Stevens  
 Gun – M. M. Mitchell  
 Cut glass decanter – Mrs. Hugh Hamilton  
 Saber, carried by his father in the Mexican war - Owen Saunders  
 Book, used by her father – Mrs. Ed Blackburn  
 Rose velvet Masonic regalia, over 100 years old and a doilee crocheted out of a homespun thread – Mrs. M. L. Teague  
 Bullet molds, used by J. L. Hendricks of St. Jo – Mrs. N. B. Durham  
 Homespun blanket, woven 125 years ago by Sara Button, grandmother of Joe Whitaker - loaned by J. A. Whitaker  
 Old newspapers and almanac – F. M. Erwin  
 Cane made of Mexican cactus, \$20 gold piece 75 years old – Mrs. S. H. Bills  
 Blue back speller, McDuffey's 3<sup>rd</sup> reader, carved ivory shawl pin, iron stake pin, saddle bags, cannon ball brought from the Alabama battlefield, a spider or griddle for open fireplace cooking, two banding irons – H. J. Day of Fairview  
 Coverlet, over 100 years old – Mrs. W. J. Scott  
 Quilt, pieced from homespun scraps; blue and white homespun coverlet, appliqued quilt of very fine workmanship, eight pieces of very old china, homemade rawhide bottom chair, iron dinner pot, cap and lace veil of her mother's, pistol of her father's, Confederate money, old spectacles, roster of Captain Dougherty's Civil War company, flower wreath made of feathers, candle molds, Old Godey's ladies books – Mrs. Laura Hamilton  
 Spread – Mrs. A. E. Robertson  
 Jug and spread over 200 years old – Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Bell  
 Key to the first Cooke county jail, made by J. G. Moss – loaned by his grandson, Alex Murrell  
 White satin and kid shoes of her mother's – loaned by Mrs. Blewett  
 Brass tea kettle – Letch Morter  
 Old Bible, given to her mother by her cousin, Bishop Lem Burch – Mrs. Chester Robb  
 Whiskey jug, owned by five generations of the Charles  
 Carved ivory chess men, brought from France fifty years ago and owned by Miss Lillian Gunter, her father's dimit from Quitman Masonic lodge in 1866 and the first poll tax receipt issued in Cooke County to a woman  
 Two Venetian glass decanters – Mrs. G. G. Houston  
 Pistols – J. D. Haynes  
 Pistol – George Newberry  
 Quilt, 122 years old – Mrs. Emma Finnie Messick  
 Canteen, carried through the Civil War by B. V. Wheeler  
 Piece of Mrs. Florella Wheeler's wedding dress who married April 2, 1829  
 Petticoat, five yards in circumference; pieces of homespun cloth and blankets – Miss Douglas Bomar  
 Pewter candle sticks and tea pot

### **From the Museum**

The following articles were loaned by the Cooke county museum to which to which they were given by persons whose names follow the articles.

Buffalo horns – W. A. Gedgers, W. H. Nichols and W. A. Payne  
 Deer antlers – Belwood Smith  
 Antelope horns – B. T. Davidson  
 One pound brass cannon ball, picked up in the Civil War – Burrus Buddie Free  
 Bows and arrows or spearhead – William Dallas Leuter

Bullet molds – William Flowers and Jack Beasley  
 Homespun cloth – Mrs. M. M. Duffey  
 Indian mill – Charles Ussery  
 Her father's gun – Mrs. Ed Blackburn  
 Confederate gun and canteen – Mrs. Hattie Bartlett  
 Photograph of “Old Gainesville” - James Goben and G. O. Breeding  
 Shaving pot, belonged to her great grandfather – Miss Douglas Bomar  
 Gun and powder horn, carried in the Civil War by her husband; pot hooks and skillet for fireplace cooking – Mrs. Robert Dillard Sr.  
 Candle molds and powder horn - William Ellison  
 Table castors – Mrs. P. T. Klepper  
 First model sewing machine, purchased in 1869 – Miss Belle Sebastian  
 Ox yoke, used by father in coming to Texas – Milton Thomason  
 Single ox yoke – Mr. Allen, west of Callisburg  
 Mexican spurs, handmade hames – Dick Cearnal  
 Confederate money – Wayne and Willie Lee Martin and others  
 Republic of Texas money – William Heare of Austin  
 Cotton rolls – Mrs. L. B. Martin  
 Scrap book about Cooke county soldiers in the late war – Miss Lillian Gunter, XLI club and Mrs. Patton  
 Sword, pike and machete captured in the Spanish American war – Mr. Pendleton  
 Home-knit stockings – Mrs. Stobaugh  
 Powder flask and arrow heads – Casper Meyers  
 Books by the following Cooke county authors: Mrs. W. E. Calhoun, S. J. Kennerly, Clarence Sharp, J. S. Riley, W. T. G. Weaver, Dr. Barrett  
 Old time delineator, 1885 – Mrs. B. F. Mitchell  
 Homespun jeans – Mrs. L. V. Matthews

To carry out the motive of the Pioneer Life Show, rolls were carded and spread spun weaving was done, candles were molded and bullets made.

**BACK TRAILING—53 Years Ago  
(Contributed by Ronnie Howser)**

**Methodists Discover Documents of Much Interest to Local Families** Wednesday Mar 19, 1965

In wrecking the building at the corner of Denton and Main Sts., which for several years has served as Youth Chapel of First Methodist Church, the cornerstone revealed some keepsakes.

Two buildings are being wrecked there. The corner formerly housed the Presbyterian Church South. For years it has been owned by First Church.

The cornerstone was laid in May of 1907 and found in it was a Bible, a Catechism, Constitution of the Presbyterian Church, and a Louisville, KY newspaper, May 15, 1907. These items were laid on a piece of tin, but no other protection in the stone and cement. Therefore they are practically dust.

However, of interest to many local families are names in the annual report for the year ending March 31, 1909. Members of the session were: **John V. McCall**, pastor; **R. S. Rose**; **S. R. Anderson**, **P. S. Lockard**, **J. P. Critz**, **J. C. Lewis**, **A. Van Meter**, ruling elders; **W. L. Blanton**, **J. H. Sullivan**, **E. S. Goodner**, **W. C. Briscoe**, **James R. Bell**, **F. H. Neal**, deacons; **P. S. Lockard**, church treasurer; Mrs. **E. S. Goodner**, church organist.



Services were held every Sunday morning and second and fourth Sunday evenings. That year one member was received by examination, six by letter, one adult baptism, one infant baptism and a total membership of 116.

Total money raised for mission work, pastor's salary, and congregational expense was \$2,277.39.

The Mirriams, led by Mrs. Goodner, had a membership of seven and met second and fourth Sundays. The Willing Workers, also guided by Mrs. Goodner, had a membership of 16 and met the same days. Officers in this were: **Lomo Ferguson**, president; Mrs. Critz, vice-president; Mrs. **Kay Hassell**, secretary and Mrs. **A. E. Sims**, treasurer. Gifts of the society that year were \$45.55.

There was also a Women's Aid Society which met the Monday after second and fourth Sundays and had a membership of 14. Mrs. **Mary Wayland** was president; Mrs. **E. H. Carlson**, vice-president; Mrs. McCall, secretary, and Miss **Bessie Briscoe**, treasurer. Their disbursement that year was \$121.05.

**J. P. Critz** was superintendent of the Sunday School and teachers were **J. C. Lewis**, Mr. and Mrs. McCall, Mrs. **M. S. Grow**, Miss **Christine Alderman** and Miss **Pauline Gess**. Mrs. McCall was also superintendent of the home department.

### **Numbers Are Memoirs to Gainesville Resident** by Richard Harp Wednesday Mar 17, 1965

To most people numbers are cold and impersonal. Not so to **John Schmitz** of Gainesville, who has a penchant for a certain number.

Last week he registered his Chevy II and was issued license plate no. FFS-428. This warmed his heart, for 50 years ago he registered his 1915 Dodge and drew the identical numbers only minus the prefix letters. However, Schmitz quickly points out that the similarity ends with the same numbers. His shiny, black and white 1965 tags, mass produced in perfection, bear little resemblance to his 1915 license plate. And there is little difference in the registration prices he paid. "All a person had to do in 1915 was to go to the Courthouse and tell them that you owned an automobile," Schmitz grins. "They would then give you a number free and good for two years."

The affable retired farmer who resides with his son **Johnny Schmitz** at 1207 Fair Ave., explains that the cost of the license plate – and only one was required – depended upon the taste and purse of the car owner. "Lots of folks tacked their numbers on a shingle or animal skin," he recalls, "and they could be any size they desired."

Schmitz says he wanted something fancy for his new touring car and designed his own tag. First he visited Duke and Ayres Variety Store in the 100 block of W. California St. and purchased his three numbers. They were made of tin four inches high and cost five cents each. Next, Schmitz went to Bill Woods' Saddle Shop in the 100 block of S. Commerce St. and ordered the numbers bradded to a prime piece of leather. The leather, 8 x 13 inches and hand-tooled, cost \$2 including the bradding.

Total cost of the hand-made tag ran \$2.15 and was good for two years. Today the leather license is in perfect condition except for a few spots that have become discolored over the years.

Schmitz says that he had to remove his home-made tag in 1917, when the state started the registration system. He is not sure, but he believes he paid \$2 for registering his car for one year. A check with Tax Collector Mrs. **Jo Hillis** discloses that state motor vehicle registration fees were first levied in 1917 under an act passed by the 35<sup>th</sup> Legislature.

### **C. E. Hogan Retires After 38 Years With Katy** Thursday April 1, 1965

**C. E. Hogan** didn't write the song that goes "I've been working on the railroad..." but he certainly can sing it with truth.

Hogan marked his 38<sup>th</sup> year with Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad Co. recently. All 38 of these railroad years were spent as a section crewman headquartered in Gainesville.

The Cooke County native retired at 4:30 pm Wednesday and at 4:31 pm he was talking with a Register reporter and section foreman **J. B. Cason**, reminiscing after 38 years of work.

"What major changes have you noted since you started work for Katy?" the question was asked. "The main change is the distance of my territory. In 1926, when I started work for Katy, I covered three and a half miles. Today I cover an area of 60 miles. The difference has been the type of car used by the section crew; in those days (1926) all the cars were run by hand, and today they are all motor cars. The area covered by Cason and Hogan ranges from Pottsboro to Saint Jo.

The first foreman under which Hogan worked was **W. H. Ellison**. Others have been **T. J. Savage**, **Cecil Shiflet** and Cason. Hogan and Cason have worked a total of 80 years in Cooke County.

Hogan and his wife reside at 1426 Truelove St. Their daughter Mrs. **W. M. Ward** lives in Ft. Worth.

### **M. E. Webb Retires After 46 Years on Santa Fe Railroad** Thursday April 8, 1965

**M. E. Webb** gets his mail at two addresses now. One is 1102 N. Clements St. and the other is Lake Texoma. One of the area's most ardent fishing and hunting enthusiasts, Webb is now able to devote full time to his favorite pastimes.

Webb retired Thursday from Santa Fe Railway Co. after 46 years of railroad service. He has been an engineer on the Super Chief for the past four years. The long-time Gainesville resident started out as a fireman with Oklahoma, New Mexico and Pacific Railroad in Ardmore, Okla., in 1919. The ON & P later merged with Santa Fe.

Webb was promoted from fireman to engineer on Feb 11, 1927. His last run on the Super Chief was from Gainesville to Dallas on March 30.

Webb and his wife Ruth have three children. A son, **R. E. Webb** of 1202 Magnolia St. also works with Santa Fe. The couple has six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

### **Picked Up Passing By** by Jack Joyce Friday April 23, 1965

Employees of the Gainesville plant of the National Supply Division of Armco Steel Corp. will observe Founders Day here Saturday with a good deed for the community. The plant employees built the swing sets on their own time and will also donate their time to install them in the park.

The Founder's Day observance is held annually in memory of **George M. Verity**, founder of Armco. Its purpose is to give employees of the company an opportunity to perform a voluntary good deed for the community.

It's a wonderful gesture by the National employees – one that will be greatly appreciated by youngsters for many years to come.

### **Property Auctioned Saturday** Monday May 17, 1965

The Gainesville Sanitarium property on Lindsay St. was sold in spirited bidding in auction sales Saturday. **H. L. Case** of Gainesville purchased the Sanitarium laundry building and land with a high bid of \$6,650. The equipment was sold in 70 different lots and bought at various prices.

The Sanitarium has been vacant for several months. After completion of Gainesville Memorial Hospital, Hospital Authority members closed the old familiar landmark and transferred all permits to the new facility.

### **Free Shows Saturday 3 Nights of Fair** Friday August 20, 1965

“Fun-tier” programs for the first three nights of the Cooke County Fair promise to provide several new kinds of variety for this year's audience. This marks the second year for the presentation of free shows. The shows will begin at 8 o'clock each evening at Locke Field in Fair Park.

Monday night's program will feature a variety show with top performers from cities and communities all over Texas and Oklahoma making appearances.

Tuesdays' show will be a hymn sing featuring quartet singing Gospel singers, and quartets from North Texas and Southern Oklahoma will participate in the show.

World champion fiddler “Texas Shorty” will be on hand Wednesday as a judge in that night's featured show – The Old Fiddler's Contest.

Miss **Carolyn Harten**, age 14, Arlington contortionist, will also be on Monday night's big show.

Other talent set to perform Monday include **Francine Northcutt** and **Linda McCarroll**, popular Oklahoma comedy team; Miss **Charlotte Wolfe** of Muenster, featuring the “Goldfinger Dance”; Miss **Susan Hale** of Ardmore, vocalist and Miss **Lorna Anderson** of Gainesville, accompanist; The Missticks,” a Saint Jo combo; **Robert Davis** and his Cross Timbers Boys; and the Red Gordon Band.

**Red Gordon** is in charge of the program for the second straight year. Gordon supervised last year's free shows, which were attended by large crowds each night. Mrs. **Betty Stephenson** is secretary.

Program assistants include **Kermit Brown**, **Cecil Ward**, **Roy Wilson**, **Charles Compton**, **Lynn Cole**, **W. L. Favors**, **W. C. (Sport) Mowell**, **Mike Gentry**, **Norman Compton**, **Benny Cash**, and **L. T. Gunter**.

Candidates for the title of 1965 Cooke County Rodeo Queen will be introduced at each night of the performances.

Any resident interested in participating in the hymn sing or fiddlers contest should contact Gordon as soon as possible.

## **Valley View Bank Organized in 1914** Monday August 30, 1965

The Valley View National Bank has served residents for more than 51 years. Organized as the First Guaranty State Bank in 1914, the bank was converted to a national bank in 1924.

First officers of the bank were **A. J. Hudspeth**, president inactive; **A. J. Welch**, executive vice-president; **J. E. Martin** and **Ed Williams**, vice-presidents inactive. The first board of directors included Hudspeth, Martin, Williams, **J. R. Stevens**, **C. H. McCuiston** and **T. F. Rodgers**. Other executive officers have been **W. C. Wright**, two terms; **T. J. Price**, **L. C. Sebastian**, **George Hudspeth**, **C. M. Moore**, **C. B. Johnson** and **T. R. Couch**, who currently serves as president.

Present active officers are Couch, president; Miss **Claudine Harris**, cashier; Mrs. **Betty King**, assistant cashier; and Mrs. **Mildred Seyler**, assistant to the cashier. Directors are Couch, **C. B. Dickson**, **Otis N. Williams**, **Kenneth Couch** and Miss Harris.

The Valley View National Bank took over deposits of the First National Bank on April 19, 1948 and moved into the First National's building on the southeast corner of the square, its present location. The sale marked an end of 45 years service by the town's first bank. It was opened as the Citizens Bank in 1903 and was chartered as the First National in 1905 with capital accounts of \$10,000. That figure has grown to \$149,000 in capital stock and surplus and involved property according to the statement of June 30, 1965.

Couch started to work at the Valley View National Bank in 1923. He became cashier of the institution in 1939. Miss Harris started to work in 1942. Mrs. King and Mrs. Seyler became associated with the bank in 1949 and 1952 respectively.

## **Picked Up Passing By** by Jack Joyce Tuesday Sep 7, 1965

**Casey Deckard** who was reared in Whitesboro and was graduated from high school there in 1950 has been named vice president of Fess Parker's Fespar Production Co., producers of the Daniel Boone series on NBC-TV. Deckard will also appear as an actor in the weekly show from time to time.

Deckard and Parker tour the country, making appearances at rodeos and fairs when not involved in the production of the television series.

Deckard is the son of **C. D. Deckard**, who recently moved from Whitesboro to Fort Worth. His grandfather **G. B. Deckard**, resides in Whitesboro.

## **Picked Up Passing By** by Jack Joyce Thursday Sep 9, 1965

The Myra School has become a victim of economics. The school which held classes from the first through the eighth grade, has been closed and the students have enrolled in other Cooke County schools. Most of the student body – 20 at best count – were attending classes at Era School. One of the two teachers – Mrs. **Audrey Williams** – is teaching the third grade at Era. The other displaced teacher – Mrs. **Jim Christian** – is now seeking a teaching position.

## **Cynthia Ann Parker, Daughter to Be Reunited in Burial Plot** Wednesday Sep 18, 1965

Tyler, Tex – Descendants are going to see that **Cynthia Ann Parker**, the white woman who became an Indian chief's wife, and her small daughter are reunited in an Oklahoma burial plot. Both died more than a century ago.

A great grandnephew of the mother, **Eugene O'Quinn** of Tyler, told Tuesday of plans to disinter the daughter, **Prairie Flower**, and move the remains Oct. 1 to the military cemetery at Ft. Sill, Okla.

Attacking Comanche Indians massacred the defenders at old Ft. Parker on May 19, 1836. Among them was Cynthia Ann's father, **Silas Parker**, who commanded the First Corps of Texas Rangers.

The little girl, blonde and blue-eyed, grew up in captivity and married **Chief Noconne**. They became the parents of sons – Quanah, later a famed chieftain and Pecos and a daughter Prairie Flower.

While Noconne was buffalo hunting in Oklahoma, Texas Rangers attacked a Comanche camp Dec. 18, 1860 near Crowell, Tex. They captured Cynthia Ann and her daughter. Her two sons escaped. Cynthia Ann and Prairie Flower, then two years of age, were taken to live at the East Texas town of the mother's younger brother, **Silas Parker Jr.** in Van Zandt County.

Accounts of the grief at not knowing what had become of her husband and sons have been widely retold. “As far as she was concerned,” said O’Quinn, “she had lost her identity as she considered herself a full-blooded Comanche and a prisoner.”

It was three years after Cynthia Ann’s return to her family that Prairie Flower became ill and died Dec. 15, 1863. She was buried at Asbury Cemetery beside the grave of **Phoebe Parker Anglin**, a sister of Cynthia Ann’s father, and near another relative, **Margaret O’Quinn**.

Sorrowing Cynthia Ann, only 37, died the following October at the East Texas home of her sister, **Orlena Parker**, in Anderson County. She was buried in the Foster Cemetery, near Poyner in Henderson County.

Chief Quanah saw to it that the remains of his mother were transferred to Oklahoma in 1910. He was buried beside her later.

In the presence of their descendants, a Tyler mortuary will disinter the remains of Prairie Flower on Oct. 1. They will be at the funeral home here overnight to let East Texans pay respects.

Texas Rangers and highway patrolmen will escort the remains next day through Nocona, a Texas town named for Prairie Flower’s father, and across the Red River to Ft. Sill. Another burial service will be held there Oct. 3.

### **Picked Up Passing** by Jack Joyce Wednesday Sep 22, 1965

**Portis and Mary Sims** of Gainesville are show business veterans – but they’ll be watching Hollywood Palace on ABC-TV Saturday night with all the enthusiasm of a couple of youngsters. One of the featured sets on the popular show (seen locally at 8:30 pm on Channel 8) will be Sims Liberty Ponies.

The couple has shown their ponies and famous jockey dogs in almost all the 50 states and all the Canadian provinces – but the nationwide television appearance is the all-time high for them. “Our ponies and dogs have appeared in all the big shrine circuses and other big time shows,” Mary enthused, “But the Hollywood telecast is our greatest show business thrill.”

**Bing Crosby** is host for the pre-taped show and other headliners appearing on the same bill with Sims’ ponies are **Phil Harris** and **Louis Armstrong**.

Portis and Mary got a big kick out of doing the show which is filmed on a huge stage with beautiful props and a live audience. “They told us the two color cameras used to film the production cost \$87,000 each, and the telecast cost \$50,000 a minute,” they report.

Crosby, Harris and Armstrong were “just wonderful” Mary says. “I told Bing: “It’s a real honor to be on the show with you, Mr. Crosby.” He laughed and said: “Well, it’s an honor to have you Mrs. Sims – you have some mighty beautiful ponies.”

### **History Dates Back to 1850 County Clerk’s Office Storehouse of Information** Tuesday Oct 12, 1965

County Clerk **J. H. Riley**’s office is a storehouse of information – history dating back to 1850 is available for public use. Like a never ending novel, the history books are growing each day. Activity increases each day and storage space decreases with the filing of each document. “Space is a major problem,” according to Riley. Volumes upon volumes of records are stored in the first floor courthouse office, and additional storage room is almost full.

But filing records isn’t the county’s only duty. The office receives 25 to 30 letters each day from persons seeking information on birth, death, and other items. These have to be handled individually, and all take the precious time of deputies.

Riley employs four deputies in his office. They are Mrs. **Eula Wilcox**, who has been in the office since 1955; Mrs. **Evelyn Walterscheid**, a seven year veteran of the office; Miss **Lou Sutton**, who has been working for Riley for two and one-half years; and Mrs. **Patty Marion**, a one year employee.

A Photostat machine replaced one deputy in the office. Prior to 1957 all documents filed had to be type-written. “We were always behind in our filing,” Riley related. “Since we installed the Photostat; however, we can keep up from day to day.”

Besides the information requested through letters, Riley and his staff have numerous visitors each day. They are all seeking some type of information. Some visitors, however, are familiar with the office and are capable of looking up their own information, but he admits he is “not convinced it is best for the county.” “We need more storage space, and the microfilm would take care of that” he said. “But it’s easier to look in books for information.”

The first document filed in Cooke County is dated Aug. 19, 1850. The original book is not available and the deed

written to the State of Texas is type written. A total of 475 volumes have deed records of the county. Additional volumes handle the oil and gas leases. There are books full of marriage license information, criminal records and deeds of trust. All are open to the public.

As county clerk, Riley also serves as an ex-officio member of the commissioner's court. It is his duty to see that minutes of court meetings are typed into the official record. He also is clerk of the county court.

Mrs. Wilcox handles all criminal cases as well as the probate docket. Her fine collections more than pay the expense of that department.

### **Voters Urged to See 200-Year-Old Flag** Monday Oct 18, 1965

An American Colonies flag will be on exhibit at Cooke County Junior College Tuesday for inspection by visitors who might like to tour the campus after voting in the college gymnasium.

Made of wool spun from a spinning wheel more than 200 years ago, the flag has only 13 stars, representing the original states which formed the United States. The stars are made of flax linen.

The idea of bringing the flag for display at the entrance to the college library occurred to Mrs. **Geanne Umburger**, while she listened to a lecture by Mrs. **Cora Staniforth**, chairman of the CCJC social sciences department. Mrs. Umburger who commutes to CCJC from her home at 704 Park Blvd., Sherman, has owned the flag since 1937, when she discovered it had been placed inadvertently into a garbage can in Salt Lake City. "My mother always taught me to revere flags and Bibles, and it just didn't look respectable seeing a flag in a garbage can," Mrs. Umburger explains. "One time I tried to get the flag framed, in order to preserve it, and the picture framer knew better. He said you are not supposed to frame an American flag."

A representative from the Smithsonian Institute, Washington D.C. examined the flag several years ago and offered \$500 for it to be placed on permanent exhibit. "I decided to keep the flag because I later learned that it is the same flag that was used on my great-great-grandfather's casket at his funeral. Also the date on the flag July 5, 1862, is the date of my grandfather's burial." Mrs. Umburger added.

Mrs. Umburger is interested in becoming an elementary teacher. She enrolled in English, American History, and Reading Improvement, all of which meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays at CCJC. She works as a licensed vocational nurse at Wilson N. Jones Hospital in Sherman.

**Mark Burrowes**, CCJC librarian, says the flag will remain on exhibit until Nov. 1.

### **Picked Up Passing** by Jack Joyce Friday Oct 22, 1965

**Sam Kennerly Bird** of Sarasota, Fla, has been a guest in the home of Mr. and Mrs. **Curtis M. Greek**, Callisburg Rd. for several days and is also visiting other relatives here. He retired from the Marine Corps as a brigadier general after serving some 33 years.

General Bird is a son of the late **Will Bird** and the grandson of **George Y. Bird**, prominent pioneer Cooke County resident and the first mayor of Gainesville. He was reared at Davis, Okla., is a cousin of Mrs. Greek, and he is the namesake of her late father. He is also related to Mrs. **R. H. Young** and Miss **Cora Bird**, both of Gainesville.



If history and genealogy interest you, please contact one of our officers and/or members who would love to speak to you. We love to share history!

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Note: The Editor of the Cross Timbers Post is not responsible for the accuracy of material printed herein since no proof is required.

**Cross Timbers Genealogical Society** was organized in 1977 to provide a forum for those interested in genealogical research and preserving records for the future generations.

Funds raised by the CTGS are used to research, preserve and publish records relating to Cooke County family histories. As a service to other researchers, CTGS has published several books which are for sale. For more or additional information, please contact any of the officers listed on this page.

The *Cross Timbers Post* is generally published four times a year: March, June, September and December. However, based on schedules and content, it may be reduced to three times yearly. Subscription is by membership in the Society. Annual membership dues are \$15.00 yearly per household. Memberships run from June 1<sup>st</sup> to May 30<sup>th</sup> the following year.

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