

**Ties to Ellis County, Texas
(1900-1920)**

Marie Stephens White

2013

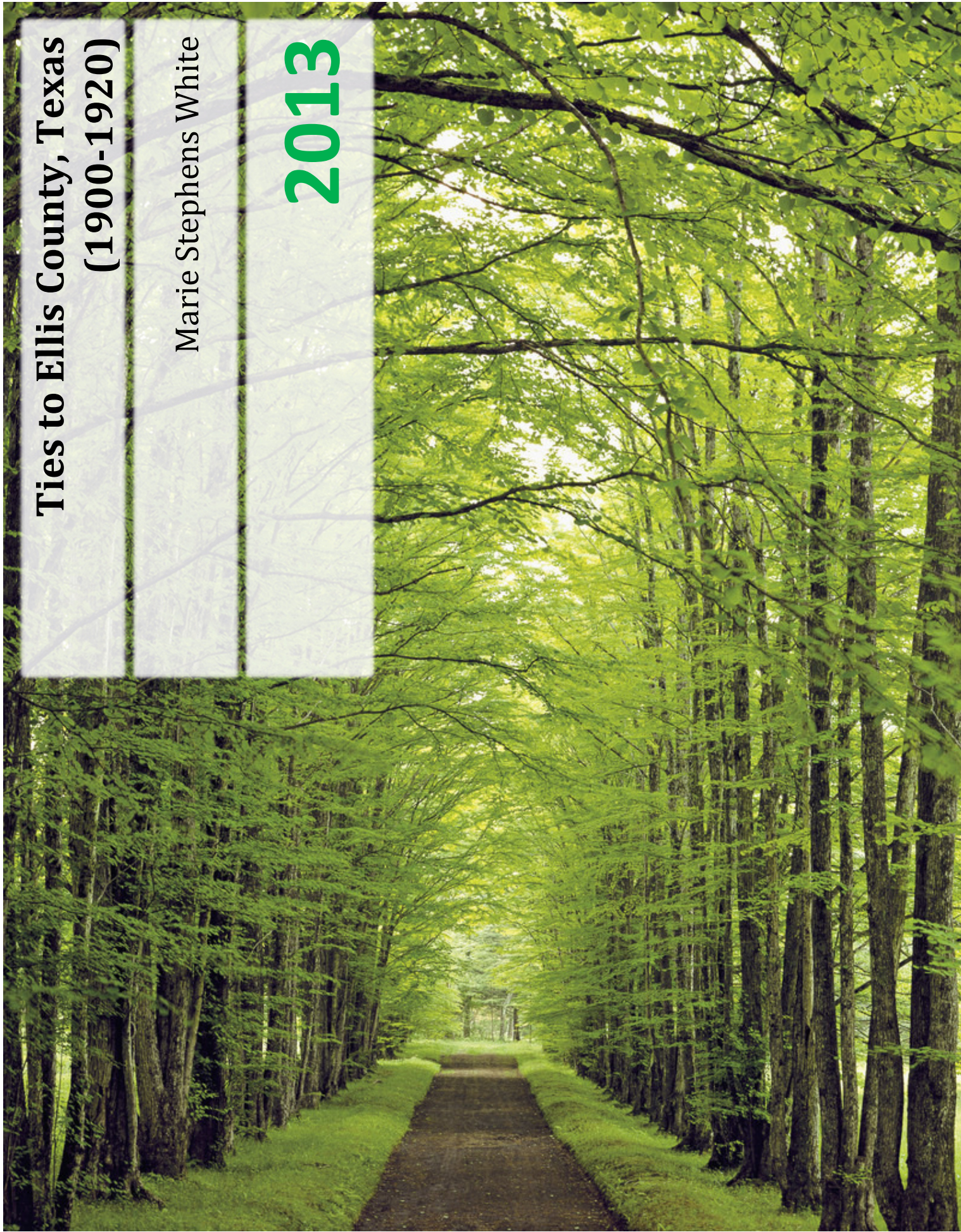


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FOREWORD

My efforts to trace the Stephens line of my family tree have brought me to cousins that I did not know I had, have given me new insight into the lives of my ancestors, and have been met with challenges. Currently, I can trace my Stephens ancestry back to George Washington Stephens, born in Tennessee in about 1854. I do not know who his parents were or where he passed. Because there are so many Stephens and Stephens variants, I may never know. However, that will not stop me from searching. Many of the photos I have included show people with surnames that have familial ties to my Stephens line, but often I have not been able to confirm their placement in our tree. If you have any information, no matter how small, regarding any of the people contained within, please contact me. Your help in my search is sincerely appreciated.

I give special thanks for my new found cousin, Patricia Crim Dietlein.

Marie Stephens White
tcusuperfrog@gmail.com

STEPHENS HISTORY

NEBRASKA FOX (b: 1857 Benton, Lucas County, Iowa, d: unknown, daughter of LEVI FOX and SARAH TEAS HARTLEY) married GEORGE WASHINGTON STEPHENS (b: 1854 Tennessee, d: unknown, mother born in Tennessee), in Lucas County, Iowa in 1876. They had two sons who were JOHN HENRY STEPHENS (b: 1878 Iowa, d: 1964 Big Spring, Howard County, Texas) and THOMAS "EMERY" STEPHENS (b: 1880 Kentucky, d: 1961 Abilene, Taylor County, Texas). The last census containing all four members of this family was the June **1880** Federal Census. It listed the family as living in Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee. George was a brakeman for the railroad, and Nebraska was home with the children - John was two and Emery was one month old. I believe Nebraska may have passed shortly after this time, but I have no evidence. Also living in Chattanooga was Nebraska's brother, LEVI FOX, JR. with his wife, SOPHIA COMMELIA RAY.

In **1885**, the Stephens sons, John and Emery, are listed in an Iowa State Census as living with an older couple in Iowa, GEORGE and CHARITY ROUNDS. The Rounds and Fox families of Iowa have familial ties. I have included a photograph (Figure 2) that shows George Washington Stephens with his sons in Comanche, Texas. I am guessing that John looks to be eight years old and Emery six years old. That would make the year roughly 1886. After this time, I cannot find any more about George Washington Stephens.

In **1900**, John Henry, twenty-two years of age, is living as a boarder with WILLIAM and NAOMA COUNTS and their son EDD in Ellis County, Texas and is working as a farm laborer. In 1900, Emery is also a farm laborer in Ellis County, Texas, living as a boarder with JOHN R. and MARY E. RAY and their three children: CINA, WILLIE I. and OPAL BLANCH. John R. Ray is related to Aunt Sophia Commelia Ray. Sophia and Levi Fox, Jr. are also in Ellis County during this time with their children. The two Stephens sons are at least partially raised by this Fox family. Later, Levi Fox, Jr. would move his family to Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama and settle there. Emery Stephens would remain very close to this Fox family.

In about **1902**, John Henry marries ANNIE RANKIN PIERCE (b: 1884 Texas, d: 1905, Ellis County, Texas, daughter of WILLIAM LEE PIERCE and MARGURITE ELLEN "MAGGIE" SOUTHARD). They have two sons, ROBBIE LORRAINE (b: 1902 Ellis County, Texas, d: 1981 Ralls, Crosby County, Texas) and BASCOM "DUPREE" (b: 1905 Ellis County, Texas, d: 1957 Lubbock County, Texas). Annie Rankin dies after the birth of Dupree and is buried with her parents in Elm Branch Cemetery in Bardwell, Ellis County, Texas.

By the **1910** Federal Census, John Henry is living in Waxahachie, working as a machinist in a bicycle shop, is remarried to SALLIE A. STEVENS(?) of Cherokee County, Texas, and has a new son, JACK STEPHENS. John Henry serves in Company A, 2nd Volunteer Texas Regiment ("Mabry Guards") during the Spanish American War. He eventually moves to Ralls, Crosby County, Texas where he is a farmer and bicycle repairman. His third wife is EULA LEE SANDS. Emery never marries, but travels greatly, enlists in World War I in Indiana, settles in Abilene, Texas and owns/runs a café and hotel. Both Stephens sons were highly active in the Church of Christ.

I am the great-granddaughter of Robbie Lorraine Stephens, the eldest son of John Henry Stephens. Robbie Lorraine married ANNIE MAE ROBERTSON (b: 1904 Denton County, Texas, d: 1973 Ralls, Crosby County, Texas, daughter of JAMES FRANK ROBERTSON AND LOU DELLA WATSON). They had two sons, ROBBIE LORRAINE "BOB" STEPHENS, JR. (b: 1923 Ralls, Crosby County, Texas, d: 2010 Tyler, Smith County, Texas) and ROBBIE "LEON" STEPHENS (b: 1925 Wichita Falls, Wichita County, Texas, d: 1925 Wichita Falls, Wichita County, Texas).

Robbie Lorraine "Bob" Stephens, Jr. married HELEN RAYE CORRY (b: 1927 Rockwall, Rockwall County, Texas, d: 2004 Tyler, Smith County, Texas, daughter of JAMES RAYMOND CORRY and HELEN ELLA BOEHLE of Rockwall, Texas). Bob Stephens was the first Stephens in our line to earn a college degree. He completed his degree in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Texas with the GI Bill upon returning from World War II, in which he served as an infantryman in Patton's 3rd Army during the "Battle of the Bulge." He would later become Vice President of Research and Development of Lennox Air Conditioning in Carrollton, Texas. Bob and Helen had three sons (the last Stephens generation); the two youngest are living. I am the daughter of the eldest, ROBBIE "ROB" DALE STEPHENS (b: 1954 Fort Worth, Tarrant, Texas, d: 1986 Indianapolis, Marion, Indiana). I have one other, female cousin.

PHOTO FILES

The majority of the photos I have included are identified on the front as to where they were taken. Most are clearly identifiable as being from Ellis County. Some are not marked with a location or a name, but were found with the other photos from Ellis County. Where I could identify the persons in the photos, I have done so; otherwise, I have speculated when appropriate. All of these photos belonged to either John Henry or Emery Stephens. They were passed from Annie Mae Robertson Stephens to her son, Robbie Lorraine "Bob" Stephens, Jr. (John Henry's Grandson and my Grandfather). I have included a picture that shows the box that kept the photos (Figure 1). It is labeled "Pink," which was a nickname for my grandfather given to him by his mother. When I recently began my attempt to trace our Stephens tree, one of my uncles loaned this box to me.



Figure 1 – "Pink" Box

NAMED, IDENTIFIED PHOTOS

The named photos I have included are all from Ellis County or of people I know lived in Ellis County roughly between 1890 and 1920.

Format (Figure # - File name: Info written on back, as it appears on photo)



Figure 2 - George Washington Stephens: G.W. Stephens and Johnnie and Emery



Figure 3 - John Henry Stephens:



Figure 4 - Thomas Emery Stephens:



Figure 5 - Thomas Emery Stephens and Henry Muirhead (right):

(Henry Muirhead, right, married Lena Ray)



Figure 6 - Ben Gray 1899: Ben Gray 1899



Figure 7 - Surface: T or F (faded name) Surface

(Possibly boy pictured in Figure 27 based on resemblance alone.)



Figure 8 - Carroll Hotel: Feb 10 1900



Figure 9 - Perry and Alex Southard: Perry & Alex Southard/ Taken June 4, 1890

(Probable relations of Maggie Southard Pierce.)



Figure 10 - Ephraim Wright: Ephraim Wright/ Jan 15th 1897



Figure 11 - Harry Rankin: Harry Rankin Rankin, Tex (pen); Harry Rankin/ Taken Fall of 1886 (pencil)



Figure 12 - Allen Stagner: Allen Stagner/ Comanche Texas



Figure 13 - Mary Anderson: Miss Mary Anderson/ White Print(?)/ Comanche Tex



Figure 14 - Mrs. Annie Stephens or Fred Wilson: Mrs. Annie Stephens/ Fred Wilson

UNNAMED, UNIDENTIFIED PHOTOS

I have nineteen unidentified photos in all from Ellis County or people I believe lived in Ellis County roughly between 1890 and 1920.

Format (Figure # - File name: Info written on back, as it appears on photo)



Figure 15 - Unnamed 1: That is my sister with the cross over her head the rest is my cousins That is me standing up with the beads on.



Figure 16 - Unnamed 2:

(Possibly a Brownlow or an Abernathy based on resemblance to an earlier photograph provided by Richard Davis.)



Figure 17 - Unnamed 3:

(Possibly John Henry Stephens based on resemblance alone.)



Figure 18 - Unnamed 4:

(Possibly woman pictured in Figure 28 based on resemblance alone.)



Figure 19 - Unnamed 5: Devenport/ the Photographer/ Waxahachie



Figure 20 - Unnamed 6:



Figure 21 - Unnamed 7:



Figure 22 - Unnamed 8:

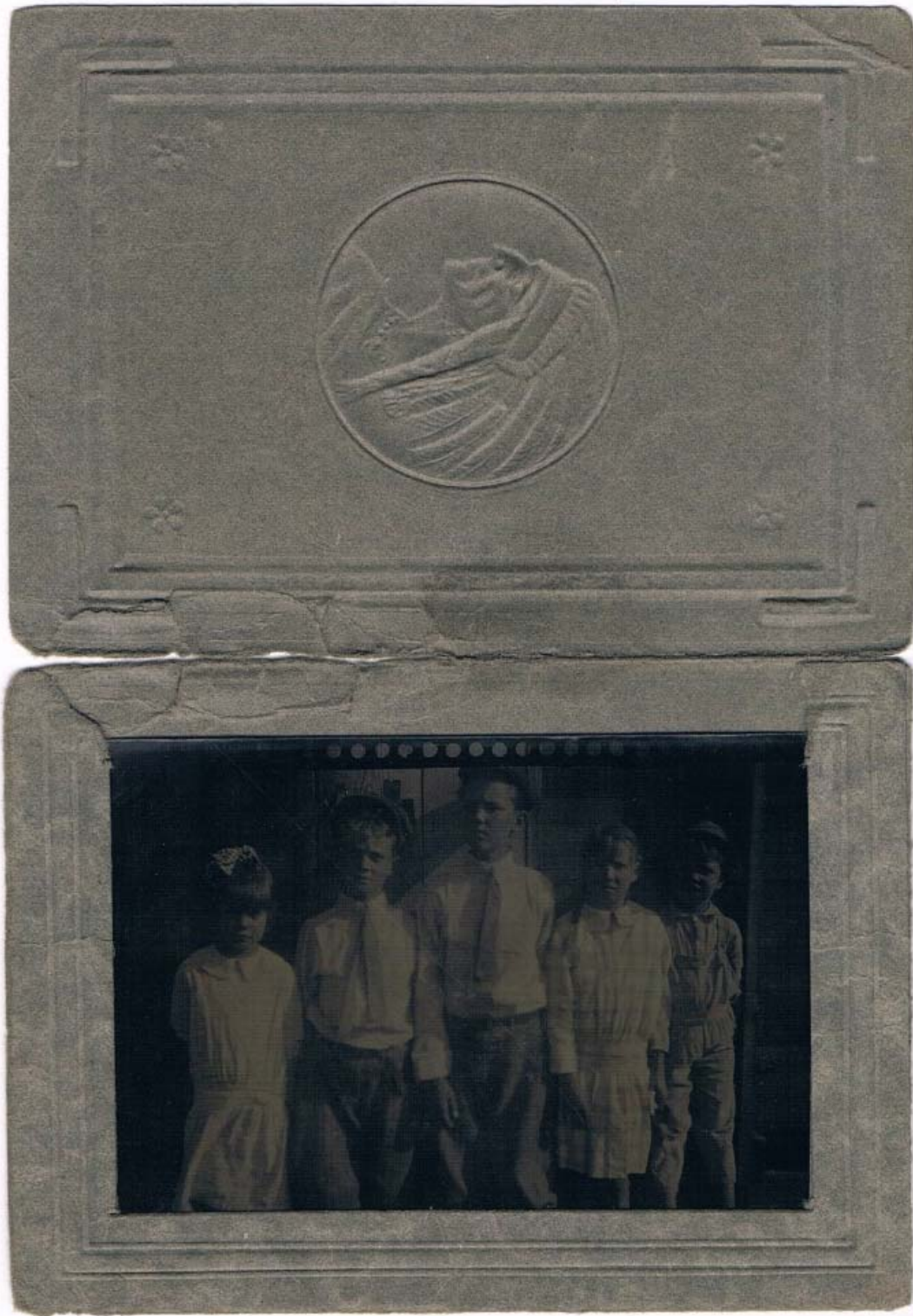


Figure 23 - Unnamed 9:

(The two boys with ties may be Robbie Lorraine and Bascom Dupree Stephens based on family resemblance alone.)



Figure 24 - Unnamed 10:



Figure 25 - Unnamed 11:



Figure 26 - Unnamed 12:



Figure 27 - Unnamed 13:

(Boy possibly man pictured in Figure 7 based on resemblance alone.)



Figure 28 - Unnamed 14:

(Possibly woman pictured in Figure 18 based on resemblance alone.)



Figure 29 - Unnamed 15:



Figure 30 - Unnamed 16:



Figure 31 - Unnamed 17:



Figure 32 - Unnamed 18:

(Possibly John Henry Stephens based on resemblance alone.)



Figure 33 - Unnamed 19:

(Possibly George Washington Stephens based on family resemblance alone.)

SURNAMES

Anderson

Boehle

Carroll

Corry

Counts

Fox

Gray

Hartley

Pierce

Rankin

Ray

Robertson

Rounds

Sands

Southard

Stagner

Stephens

Stevens

Surface

Teas

Watson

Wilson

Wright