

Alice and William raised eighteen bales of cotton. They made enough money to buy forty acres of land at Pine Valley and bought forty more the next year.

William was converted to the Congregational Methodist Church about 1918 and became a circuit horse riding preacher. His first meeting was at Helmic, then at Pine Valley Church. He rode as far as fifty miles to preach. It has been said that he continually shared what food and beef he had with the people that were in need. In 1925 William David died at forty eight of pneumonia. He left a wife and eleven children, of which one was my father, Willard E. Forsythe. Willard E. married Roberta Ella Franklin. He became a machinist at Lufkin Foundry and a preacher who organized a lot of churches in East and some Central Texas towns. He had six boys, Richard, Kenneth, Robert, Raymond, Willie W.,-(myself) and Peyton C. Forsythe. We are very proud of our ancestors and our mother and father because of the good that they have accomplished.

By: *Willie Winston Forsythe*

## JAMES FOSTER

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Second son of William James and Jane Stone Frazer Foster, James (Jim) lived to be 102 years of age.

He married Minnie and their three children include: Elsie who married Ernest Wickersham of Los Angeles, Ca.; Melvin who never married; and Solon who married Mary and lived in Bishop, Ca.

After his wife's death, Jim Foster joined his son in California. At age 95, Jim Foster returned to Crockett by bus and celebrated his birthday anniversary with a party at the John R. Foster home. Crockett's Mayor T.D. Craddock attended and saluted Mr. Jim as one of the oldest and most outstanding citizens.

Jim Foster was invited to participate in the ground breaking ceremony for the annex of the First Methodist Church. As oldest member of First Methodist Church, he lifted first spade of dirt.

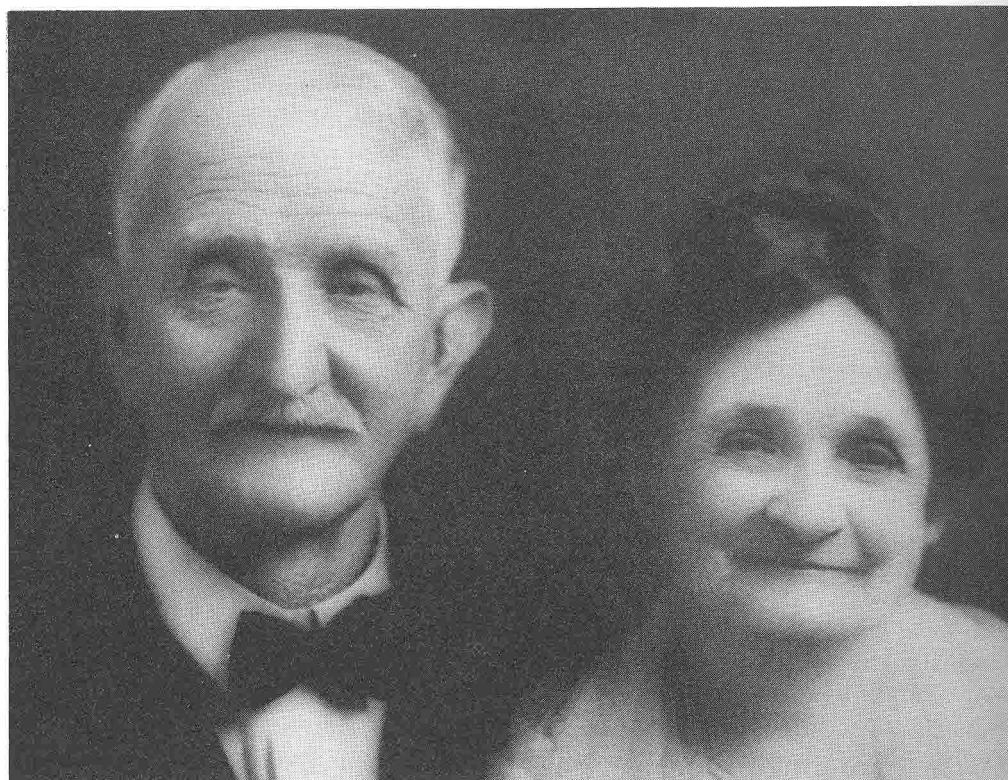
James (Jim) Foster died in Monrovia, CA., at 102 years.

By: *Eliza Bishop*

## JOHN ROBERT FOSTER AND ALICE ALMIRA BARBEE

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John Robert (Jno. R.) Foster and Alice Almira Barbee were united in marriage, December 1882, in the home of the Brides' Parents, the late Col. N.B. Barbee, at the well known "Barbee Heights" in North Crockett, Texas, Houston County. The large Social Affair was in the days of what was known as "Infare"-the Wedding



John Robert Foster and Alice Almira Barbee Foster at their Golden Wedding Anniversary 1882-1932

Feasts-when the celebration lasted for three days. Instead of just the one wedding gown, the bride's trousseau included, first and second day dresses. The parents of both the bride and groom gave a large party where all friends were invited. It is remembered that the Fosters barbecued for several days to prepare for the "Town Barbecue!"

Both Alice and John were born, reared and educated in Crockett, Texas. Their union was the culmination of life time "Sweethearts" as they both attended, together, the Crockett Academy which was operated, taught and well disciplined by the late W.B. Page and Mrs. A.R. Spence.

This happy union was blessed with nine happy, healthy children: Margaret (Miss Maggie--Lady Margaret)--deceased 1965, married Jacob Dudley Woodson of Crockett, Texas, (deceased 1962), Son--Jacob Dudley Woodson Jr. Home-Crockett, Texas. John Robert Foster Jr. married---Duena Hardin of Crockett, Texas--(deceased-1963), Four children -Alfred Lee Foster (deceased-1970), Frank Daniel Foster (Dan), Clara Margaret Foster Nesbit, John Robert Foster III, married---Irene Paul of Edna, Texas Son--Robert Kyle Foster--(deceased-1957) Home-Houston, Texas. Lee Hickey Foster--(deceased 1977) married---Fannie May long of Lovelady, Texas--(deceased-1970) No children, Home-Crockett, Texas. Edward Downes Foster, married---Leila Cannon of Palestine, Texas--(deceased-1975) Daughter--Jean Foster Thomas, Home-Houston, Texas. Alline Foster (deceased 1979), married Charles Peyton Jones of Houston, Texas--(deceased-1964) Two daughters--

Alice Sue Jones Brown, Margaret Ann Jones Mitchell, Home-Houston, Texas. Virginia May (Totsy) Foster married---Hickman Meeker Corley of Fullerton, Louisiana Daughter--Virginia Corley Hamblett Son--Hickman Corley Jr. Home-Houston, Texas. Frank Edmiston Foster married---May Robinson of Mobile, Alabama (deceased-1953) Son--Frank Edmiston Foster Jr. Home-Houston, Texas. Alice Almira Foster Retired Houston, Texas Teacher, Home-Crockett, Texas. Marian Foster, Retired Houston, Texas Teacher, Home-Crockett, Texas.

Twelve grand children, 30 great grand children, 39 great, great, grand children, and 1 great, great, great grand child, to perpetuate this happy family line.

Eight of these children and 4 grand children were born in Crockett. Six of the children and 2 grand children were born in the Foster home--Rocked in the same old treasured, traditional cradle.

All 9 children and 4 grand children attended and graduated from the Crockett High School.

Three of the children were married in the First Methodist Church with the late Rev. S.F. Tenny officiating who had performed the wedding ceremony for their parents in 1882.

Together, Alice and John worked diligently. On the side line, they opened and operated an Ice Cream Parlor on the corner of where "Polk's Store now stands in Crockett - North 6th and Houston Avenue. Alice made the Ice Cream in the day time while John was at work. Together, they sold it at night.



Loyal Texans all the way--field of bluebonnets L-R: Virginia Corley (Hamblet) granddaughter; Marian Foster, daughter; Alice Sue Jones (Brown, granddaughter; Mrs. Alice Almira Barbee Foster; Hickman M. Corley, Jr., grandson; and daughter Alice Almira Foster.

Thus, Alice established her fame in the culinary Arts in which she was widely known and always excelled throughout her life. Her established traditional Sunday dinner is still enjoyed in the Foster Home. Marian, following closely in her mother's footsteps, takes great pride in preparing the famous Foster Vegetable Soup, fried chicken and "freezer turned" boiled custard ice cream each Sunday. The barrel of "Miss Alice's famous pickles" that sat on the side porch is still recalled, wished for, and never equaled.

At the time of the marriage, John kept books for the late Jim Downes and was working in the Mercantile Business with the late Mr. Dan McIntosh Murchison. At Mr. Murchison's death, John, and his brother Jim, moved to Gainesville, Texas, and opened a Merchantile Business for a short period of time. In about 1885, John moved his small family into Grapeland, Texas, Houston, County, and went into the Merchantile Business with his close friend, the late Jim Downes.

John soon bought out the partnership and continued a thriving business with George E. Darsey to whom he sold the business some time later. This business still stands.

With his growing family, John moved back into his beloved native Crockett and opened the Buggy-Carriage-Vehicle Business. This thriving business was well established, operated and widely known from Texarkana, Texas down to Galveston, Texas. The well recalled and most popular Buggy was the "Banner Buggy", sold by

the Banner Buggy Co., St. Louis, Mo. The Moon Buggy, which he also sold, was the "Cadillac of that day". So active and prosperous was this business, that John was widely known and endeared as "Jno. R. Foster, the Buggy Man".

John was also interested in and greatly involved in Real Estate. He owned and operated large tracts of land in Houston County.

He opened up what was known as Bruner Addition in North East Crockett.

He also opened up the Barbee heights Addition for the colored people. His son, Edward Downes Foster, joined him as they sold out these lots for homes. It was in this addition that Lee H. Foster and Sam Arledge opened up Crockett's first "Swimming Pool".

John was also interested in farming and fishing. He bought a tract of land 2 1/2 miles out on the "Old Rusk Road". Here, he built two log cabins (a kitchen across from a Bed Room area) near his man built lake, where his family could enjoy a country home. A relaxing "get away" from his business. Though this country home was privately owned, this place will be remembered as the first "Country Club" of this kind in Crockett. It was greatly enjoyed by his family and the many Crockett friends--remembered as Fostoria or Franon Lake. So carefully, John, himself, supervised the building of the Dam to his lake that still stands as the only one in this area that has never broken or given away.

John and Alice chose for their home a square--two blocks from the town square

bordered by 6th and 7th streets--Milam and Montgomery, now 303 N. 7th St.

The old frame five room house was one of Crockett's oldest. John purchased it from Alice's aunt (the late Virginia and Ben Frymier) around 1884. In 1900, John remodeled the House and added a second story. He also rounded the front of the home with large rounding porches, making it the true architecture of this period--white with red trim. Keen observation, and broad insight, with clear thinking, caused him to let his home face East in the residential section on 7th Street with his business facing North 6th St. A large garden spot was made between the backs of the buildings, with a busy path between the two buildings.

In front of the Business hung a large bell which the faithful colored, Ed Gibson (deceased), who was always kept busy with "tire setting"--rang to call his Boss back from town when needed. When business became less active, John gave this bell to a country church.

This large white framed two story home has always held the "Open Door Policy" that was constantly found in the Foster Home. The Welcome sign always prevailed making the home widely known and greatly enjoyed by everyone as a constant center for all social groups, friends, and relatives alike. The Foster Family remain a closely knit family that always included their friends and relatives.

John and Alice were always most interested and active in their citizenship involvements - in helping Crockett grow into the big city we now know. John was responsible in bringing the "water works" into Crockett.

Their Church - the First Methodist, was always of foremost importance in their lives and in the rearing of their large family. John was Supt. of the Sunday School for many years like his Father, W.J. Foster.

Alice was most actively and constantly involved in the women's circles of the church-suppers-sewing circles, etc.-serving consistently on many and various committees.

Years come and go, but as Alice wished and prayed, she and John lived to see all of their nine children grown and self sustaining. The shared together 64 years of a full, happy married life, filling each day with unbound love and care for their large family, who cherish Beautiful Memories.

Alice and John followed each other closely in death. John R. Foster - deceased February 14, 1946. Alice Almira Barbee Foster - August 2, 1947.

By: Alice & Marian Foster

