

HISTORY OF
HOUSTON COUNTY, TEXAS

1687 -- 1979

compiled and edited
History Book Committee
of

Houston County Historical Commission
Third Floor, Court House
Crockett, Texas

Heritage Publishing Company
Tulsa, Okla.

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Published by Heritage Publishing Company, Tulsa, Okla.

Houston County's Past on Canvas, Dottie Knox

Houston County Platt Map, frontispiece

Houston County Historical Sites Map, inside back cover

Jerrus, and Moisselle Jones, daughter of Dora Calvert McManners. Austin Calvert, his daughter, Helen Chandler, her son Leon and his children, Mike, Jeff and Paula make four generations of Calverts still living in Houston County.

*By: Lee Williams and
Faye Calvert Chandler*

JESSE C. CAMPBELL

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Jesse C. Campbell came to Houston County, Texas shortly after the Civil War. On arrival in Crockett he paid 2,000 Gold Dollars for land Across from the present Houston County Airport and still known as Campbell's Hill. Later in 1872 he bought 250 acres of land from a Mr. O'Dell for 1250 gold dollars.

Jesse was born in South Carolina about 1821. He married Rebecca McMakin December 14, 1846, who came to the United States as a small child, fleeing the Potato famine in Ireland.

After their children Juliana, born November 2, 1847 and Flemminge born December 30, 1848 and Died July 20, 1850 they moved to Alabama by way of Georgia. Mary Lane was born in Georgia. Settling in Uniontown, Marengo County, Alabama their two sons Andrew Jackson, born February 14, 1854 and Died September 29, 1928. and William born November 18, 1856 and Died October 20, 1862. Rebecca Died August 2, 1859. Jesse died 1876 in Houston County.

When moving to Texas, Jesse bought with him his Overseer, Floyd Stanton and an Irish Immigrant, Owen Brady born in County Cavis, Ireland. He later married Mary Lane Campbell born July 13, 1851.

Juliana married first William Farris and had one Son, William, Jr. After his death she married Andy Fair. Legand says that he was an Indian. They moved around over Texas following the Oil Field Boom. The Campbell Hill Farm was sold in 1906.

Andrew Jackson married Mary M. Trammel, born March 15, 1861 and died April 10, 1943, daughter of another early Houston County family. They settled on a farm at Hagerville, near Ratcliff where their children was born. Some of their ten children married several families in Houston and surrounding Counties, including the Walker, Burran, Gates, Elkins Woods and Key Families. Most of the descendants of this family are buried at Ivy or Helton Cemeteries.

Columbus Eugene (Chum) Campbell was born May 15, 1885 to Andrew Jackson

Campbell was the daughter of George Washington Elkins and Sarah H. Key.

Jesse Allen Campbell, born December 30, 1909. Second son in a family of ten boys and one girl. He married October 24, 1931 to Laudya Mae Powell, daughter of Zack Powell and Mary Jeanettie (Nettie) Pruitt. To them was born one son, Jay Allen Campbell, born June 11, 1938.

*By: Jesse Allen Campbell
Great Grandson of Jesse C. Campbell*

BECKHAM-CARTWRIGHT- BAYNE FAMILIES

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My grandmother, Maurine (Beckham) Cartwright, is from Houston County. She had four sisters and twin brothers:

1. Della Harriet Beckham b. 3-1-1889 in Crockett-d. 1-21-1955 Conroe, Tx. Single

2. Hula Hardin Beckham b. 4-6-1893-Crockett-d. 4-16-1972 in Conroe-married Walter H. McLean

3. Johnnie Beckham b. 9-5-1895 in Crockett-d. 9-11-1965 in Conroe and married John Thomas Simpson

4. Twin boys-born and died in Crockett in infancy

5. Willie Irene Beckham (Bill) b. 9-20-1900-Crockett-d. 7-9-1958-Single

6. Maurine Virginia Beckham b. 8-17-1905 in Crockett-married Ja. 10, 1926 Rexford Harry Cartwright in Conroe, Texas.

Their parents are John William Beckham (b. 12-25-1865 in Crockett-d. 10-3-1938 in Conroe) and Virginia Lucrecia Bayne, both of Houston County. They were married 16 Dec. 1887. John had three sisters: Minie who married --Smith, Lucy, and Della Beckham, all born in Crockett, Texas.

John's parents are Frank A. Beckham of Louisiana (b. ca. 1834) and Nancy McHenry (b. ca. 1848). Both died in Crockett. He is a veteran of the Civil War. His pension number is 10078, listed in Book #2.

Frank's father is from Georgia; his mother from Mississippi, according to the 1870 or 1880 census of Houston County, Texas.

Virginia's parents are Grafton Hardin Bayne, Sr. (b. 1819 ?) and Lucinda Kinley (b. 1821) both of Kentucky. I understand the Baynes were very active in Houston County politics.

Virginia was the ninth child in her family all of whom were born and died in Crockett except Virginia, who died in Conroe, Texas. The children are:

1. Susan Bayne b. 1842

2. William H. Bayne b. 1844 d. 1912

3. Harvey Bayne b. 1847

9. Rachel Harris Bayne b. 1855
6. Thomas Harvey Bayne b. 7-31-1856-
d. 2-9-1948 married Sarah A.--b.
11-25-1882-d. 7-31-1932

7. David H. Bayne b. 12-31-1861- d.
11-5-1932 buried in Lovelady, Tx. his wife
"Mrs., David H. Bayne;" is buried in
Lovelady with Death date only: 6-11-1921

8. Ned Bayne b. 1859

9. Virginia Lucrecia b. 1-16-1864-d.
9-21-1951-m. John Beckham 12-16-1887

10. Lucinda Bayne b. 1868

11. Studie Bayne b. 1873

*By: Keith Cartwright
2204 North Frazier St.
Conroe, Tx. 77301*

A SHORT SKETCH OF WILLIAM WYLIE CASKEY'S LIFE

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Wylie Caskey was born Nov. 20, 1821 - in Giles Co. Tenn. Wylie Caskey married Peninah Thompson, Sept. 5-1841 in Giles Co. Tenn. She was born Dec. 11, 1822- in Giles Co. Tenn. They left Giles Co. and went too Madison Co. near Jackson Tenn. When the Kentucky Wagon Train came thru in 1851. Wylie Caskey got in with it. He had two Ox wagons.

When the wagon train got to Tex. Most of it went to Grayson Co. and Wylie Caskey went near Grapeland Tex. and settled 5 miles North, and latter pre- Empted some land from the State of Tex.

Wylie Caskey was a hog raiser. He kept the woods full of hogs. He brought the old Caskey hog mark with him. It was like this, (Crop - Split - Under Bit In Left Ear) (Swallow Fork In Right Ear). He also brought 3 real good methods of curing meat. When he killed out a bunch of hogs, he would salt the hams down and cover them with hickory ashes. Anywhere from 6 months to a year. Another way was make a strong barrel of brine and put the meat in it for 2 months and take it out and hang it with bear grass and smoke it for a few days, or until it dried. And the other way was just salt it down for 2 months. He made lots of sausage, stuffed them in sacks and smoked for a long time. He also made hog head cheese. He made lots of ash hopper soap. Filled kegs & barrels. Wylie hauled his meat to the rivers an sold to the river boats.

When the Civil War broke out he sold lots of meat to the Government. A horse to ride to look after his hogs & get his Oxens out of the woods. He was breaking his horse to ride and it was a bad horse. So it pawed and tramped him to death. This happened the 3rd day of March in 1879. Wylie Caskey & his wife are both buried in Parker

Cemetery. The Caskeys came from Scotland to the U.S.A. in 1768.

By: *Wayne Caskey*
812 Cedar Bayon Rd.
Baytown Tex.

CHAFFIN FAMILY

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John Eli Chaffin (b. Oct. 1803 in England - d. prior to 1847) married **Lavena Lackey** (b. Apr. 19, 1808 in Ky. - d. May 7, 1892). After the death of John Eli Chaffin, Lavena married **James W. Parker** April 27, 1847. (She may be Mrs. L.E. Parker in Chaffin Cemetery north of Grapeland.)

Children of Lavena Lackey and John Eli Chaffin were: **William Joseph Chaffin** (b. Aug. 28, 1829 in Ill. - d. Sept. 11, 1908 in Houston County - buried in Chaffin Graveyard of Grapeland; married Aug. 5, 1848 (1) **Rebecca Parker**, granddaughter of Daniel Parker. She died Jan. 14, 1901. Her tombstone is in Old Chaffin Cemetery north of Grapeland; m. (2) **Lela Neal**. **John Ellis Chaffin** b. 1831 in Ill. d. 1870; m. **Sara Lavonia Crist** in 1854. **Lucy Chaffin** b. 1837 in Ill. married **M. Ellisor**. **Christopher C. Chaffin** b. Dec. 26, 1836 in Ill. m. **Marion Self**; d. Feb. 6, 1924.

Children of William Joseph and Rebecca Chaffin. William Joseph was the first treasurer of the Masonic Lodge in Grapeland. **Mary L. Chaffin** b. Sept. 1848; m. **Joe Caskey** in Houston Co., Texas. **John Elexander Chaffin** b. Dec. 26, 1852 - d. March 29, 1902 m. **Arabell Collins** in 1882. She died Jan. 18, 1893, and he married (2) **Miss Henry**. (Mrs. Mosely's mother was a daughter of **Nora Chaffin Lively**, who was a daughter of **John E. Chaffin** and **Arabell Collins Chaffin**.) **Rose Chaffin** b. 1855 married **Mr. Holcomb**. **William Joseph Chaffin Jr. (Buck)** b. Sept. 5, 1857 m. (1) **Martha Anabell Hodges** and (2) **Susie Harrison**. **Theodocia Chaffin** married **E.W. (Doc) Clark** in 1860. **Vonnie Chaffin** m. **Will Duckworth**; died Jan. 9, 1944. **Christopher C. Chaffin** b. 1866 m. **Rena Mosley**. Died Jan. 9, 1943. **George Nathan Chaffin** b. 1871 m. **Rhoda Fuller** -Died Dec. 3, 1943. **Carl Chaffin** (no record).

Sources of Information: Abridged Compendium of American Genealogy--Vol. IX; Grapeland Messenger Sept. 11, 1908; Anderson Co. Marriage records, Census 1850, 1860, 1870 of Houston and Anderson Cos.; Tombstones; Information of Ora Chaffin Harrison, age 82; Foy Walline, grandson of William Joseph Chaffin, Jr.

By: *Aida Lively Mosley*



Hugh Hamilton Chandler (1863-1930)



Amanda T. Callaway Chandler (1873-1962)

H.H. CHANDLER FAMILY

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Hugh Hamilton Chandler was born in Houston County May 27, 1863. He died Feb. 28, 1930 and is buried in Antioch Cemetery west of Lovelady, Texas. He married **Amanda Teresa Callaway** Oct. 1, 1890.

Amanda Teresa Callaway was born June 18, 1873 in Houston County to **E.H. Callaway** (b. Aug. 28, 1836 -d. Dec. 6, 1915) and **Joe Anna Tucker** (b. Nov. 13, 1835-d. Oct. 14, 1925). Both parents are buried in Antioch Cemetery.

Amanda Teresa (Callaway) Tucker died Nov. 8, 1962 and is interred in Antioch Cemetery.

Children of Hugh Hamilton and Amanda Teresa Chandler are: **Stella Chandler** m. **Arthur Davis** and had 2 daughters: **Hazel** and **Alma**. The latter married **Claude Elliot**. **Hazel** m. (1) **Aubrey Williams**- 2 child.

Butler and had 3 children: **Florine** m. **Vincent Spear**; **Norman** m. **Faye Calvert**; **Nelma** m. **Finis Jeffus**. **Hollie** m. (2) **Bertha Swan**. No issue. **Grace Chandler** m. **John Davis**, brother of **Arthur**. They have two children: **Carnel** and **Doris** m. **Denny Peterson**. **Moody Chandler** died in infancy. **Icie Chandler** who is deaf and lives with her sister **Grace Davis**. **Arvin Chandler** died in infancy. **Benjamin Hamilton Chandler** m. **Virgie Pyle** and has a son **Hamilton A. Carl Chandler** m. **Helen Calvert**, dau. of **Austin Calvert**. They have 2 daus. **Melba** m. **Clifford Barefield**; **Linda** m. **David Martin**; and a son **Leon**.

By: *Mrs. Virgie E. Pyle Chandler*

JOHN FRANCIS CHEAIRS

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In 1816 **John Cheairs** and his bride of four years **Eleanor (Biddix)** moved from Central Tennessee to the town of Washington in the present day Hempstead County Arkansas. They traveled by keel boat up the Mississippi and ultimately the Red to Fulton. After this long trek they might have been content to stay there except that about 1830 the town of Washington became the headquarters of freebooters and others planning to liberate the State of Texas from Spain's Mexican Colony. Among those there at this time were **Sam Houston** and **Jim Bowie**. It must have been evident that such men would realize their dreams. The forbears of **John Cheairs** had been prominent in the development of the Eastern Shore of the Colony of Maryland when **Jan de la Chere** went there as a Huguenot refugee from France via England, changing his name en route to **John Cheairs**. **Jan's** sons and grandsons had moved with the tide of America after the Revolution and had been early settlers in central North Carolina and later middle Tennessee. The cousins of **John F. Cheairs** were even then pioneering the settlement of Alabama and Mississippi and one would move on to northern Florida where upon his death he was judged to be the wealthiest man in the southeastern United States. **Eleanor's** Dutch ancestors had also infused her with the pioneer's vision and courage so, in 1832 **John** led his family and in-laws to the town of **Nacogdoches** on Spain's eastern frontier with France in America. He received **Naturalization Certificate No. 782** and a league of land as a "stockraiser" with family.

Soon Mexico declared its independence from Spain and the die was cast for Texas to choose whether it would peacefully become