

18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker WA
Denton County - 7-12-73 12.7 mi w of Denton and 1.7
m N of US 380.

GREGG RANCH

DARIUS GREGG (1804-70), WHO CAME
TO TEXAS FROM TENNESSEE IN 1827,
AND FOUGHT IN THE TEXAS WAR FOR
INDEPENDENCE, ACCUMULATED ABOUT
20,000 ACRES IN THIS AREA IN THE
EARLY 1850s. GREGG, A SURVEYOR AND
HOUSTON REALTOR, SPENT SEVERAL
SUMMERS HERE BEFORE HIS DEATH.

HIS SON, WILLIAM BOWEN GREGG
(1849-89), MOVED FROM HOUSTON AND
OPERATED THE RANCH IN 1870s AND
EARLY 1880s. NOTORIOUS OUTLAW
SAM BASS WORKED ON THE RANCH,
AND A FREQUENT SUMMER VISITOR
WAS ROBERT SWIFT, OF THE WELL-
KNOWN MEAT PACKING FAMILY.

OF THE ORIGINAL RANCH, 750 ACRES
ARE STILL OWNED BY A GREGG HEIR.

(1973)

Very little is known of Darius Gregg in Texas. My Grandfather, William Bowen Gregg died when my mother, Susan Speed Gregg, was only four years of age. She was the oldest of three children of William Bowen Gregg. The three children were the Grand children of Darius Gregg and were: Susan Speed Gregg, Mary ~~G~~^aatherine Gregg, and William Bowen Gregg

My appreciation goes to my Aunt, Mrs. W. G. Langley (Mary ~~K~~^aatherine Gregg) of 5001 Drexel Drive, Dallas, Texas. She is a member of the Charles S. Taylor Chapter of the DRT in Dallas, Texas. She saved a small portion of the papers from being burned and destroyed when the attic in the family home in Denton, Texas, was being cleaned in 1900. Colored help was carrying the old papers out to be burned when she recognized her Grandfather's name on the papers. She saved them.

Darius Gregg was born Nov. 8, 1804 in Nicholasville, Kentucky in Jessamine County. He was the son of Darius Gregg who had married Martha Jane Pougue according to Perrin's HISTORY OF KENTUCKY. They came from Halifax County, Va. and located four miles ^{from} Lexington, Kentucky. This statement was written in 1887 and stated that the Greggs came to Kentucky "many years ago". Darius Gregg and Martha Jane Pougue Gregg were the parents of seven children: Samuel, David, Harvey, Darius, Sallsy, Mary, and James. James was born in Fayette County, Kentucky in 1791 and died Jan. 7, 1834 in Jessemine County, Kentucky. Page 792- Perrin's HISTORY OF KENTUCKY.

Darius Gregg arrived in Texas in 1827. Was a member of Stephen F. Austin's Second Colony and is listed in Austin's Application Book as single, 25 years old, and from Kentucky, Dec. 31, 1829. He was granted certificate no. 130-136-186. His trip from Kentucky to Texas is described in "AN AMERICAN FAMILY" by Edward N. Clopper.

Mr. Gregg was issued 1/4 league of land in Grimes County, Texas, from the Mexican Government on April 6, 1837. On Feb. 1, 1838 the Board of Land Commissioners of Harrisburg County (now Harris) issued him as a single man, a head-right of 1/3 league less 1/4 league, the amount he had already received from Mexico, and located in Harris County. From the Republic of Texas Darius Gregg received 540 acres of land in Falls County for eight months service in the Texas Army, from Oct. 5, 1835, to June 5, 1836, and 640 acres in Polk County for having fought at Bexar from Dec. 5 to Dec. 10, 1835. He was a member of Captain John York's Company. This is recorded in the General Land Office in Austin, Texas.

Darius Gregg married Susan Speed Bowen on April 30, 1840 in Grimes County, Texas. She was the Daughter of William Russell Bowen who died in Grimes County in 1855. She was the Great Granddaughter of Gen. William Russell who was in Washington's Grand Army. He was from Culpepper County, Va., and died in Rockingham Co., Va., in 1793.

Susan Speed Bowen Gregg and Darius Gregg had five children: Caroline, Benjamin Milam, Samuel Otto, Susan Mary, and William Bowen. The only one of these children reaching adulthood was William Bowen Gregg who was my Grandfather and who is buried in Glenwood Cemetery beside his father, Darius Gregg. He died in Houston on June 1, 1889.

Darius Gregg was a very religious man and gave freely of his time and money for the Methodists in Texas as well as in the City of Houston. He is mentioned in the poem "Reminiscences of Shearn Church" in the HISTORY OF SHEARN CHURCH (1837-1907), by Mrs. I.M.E. Blandin. On April 16, 1860, while living in Houston, Mr. Gregg gave J. L. Lovejoy of Denton, Texas, power of attorney to sell 640 acres of land in Denton County and to give \$500.00 out of the sale to erect a Methodist Church in Denton. He gave land to the Methodist Church in Conroe, Texas. I believe very strongly that "Gregg Chapel" in Houston was named for Darius Gregg. Enclosed xerox copy of letter written to William Bowen Gregg in Denton, Texas, ^{states} ~~stating~~ ^{as a fact,} this. This letter is dated 1883.

On record in Houston we find that Darius Gregg gave ^{some} ~~the~~ land for an orphanage to be erected in Baytown, Texas.

Mr. Gregg's name appears in the "Early History of Grimes County" written by E. L. Blair MA, Supt. of Schools, Trinity, Texas. He was a charter member of the Grand Lodge of Texas in Houston.

Old papers show that Darius Gregg (his signature was D. Gregg) was ^a surveyor in Houston. Dates on these papers show the dates 1858-1867. Signed as DSHC. ^{From} 1862-1863 he was ^a surveyor ^{for} the Buffalo Bayou and Colorado RR. Co.

Mr. Gregg was a partner of Mr. Noble from 1874-1875. I believe this friendship carried through to William Bowen Gregg (D. Gregg's son) as there is a bill of sale showing purchase of horses from Mr. Noble in Houston.

My records show that Mr. Gregg had between fifteen and twenty thousand acres of land in Denton, County, Texas in 1868. He states that he has had this land for about fifteen years. He advertises it for sale for \$2.00 an acre. Part of this ranch has been handed down for three generations. My Aunt, Mrs. W. G. Langley, (Mary Katherine Gregg) still owns part of her inherited share.

In 1854 Darius Gregg was given power of attorney to sell the Clopper lands in Harris County.

Darius Gregg died in Houston March 28, 1870 and is buried in Glenwood Cemetery beside his wife, son, and grand children.

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From the book "LOTS OF LAND" by Curtis Bishop we quote the following:
"Commissioner Borden despatched Darius Gregg to collect the titles of the East Texas Colonies with these instructions: You will proceed to Nacogdoches where you will employ a small wagon and team sufficient to convey the archives of the different land offices east of the Trinity, together with that of Milam's colony now at San Augustine".

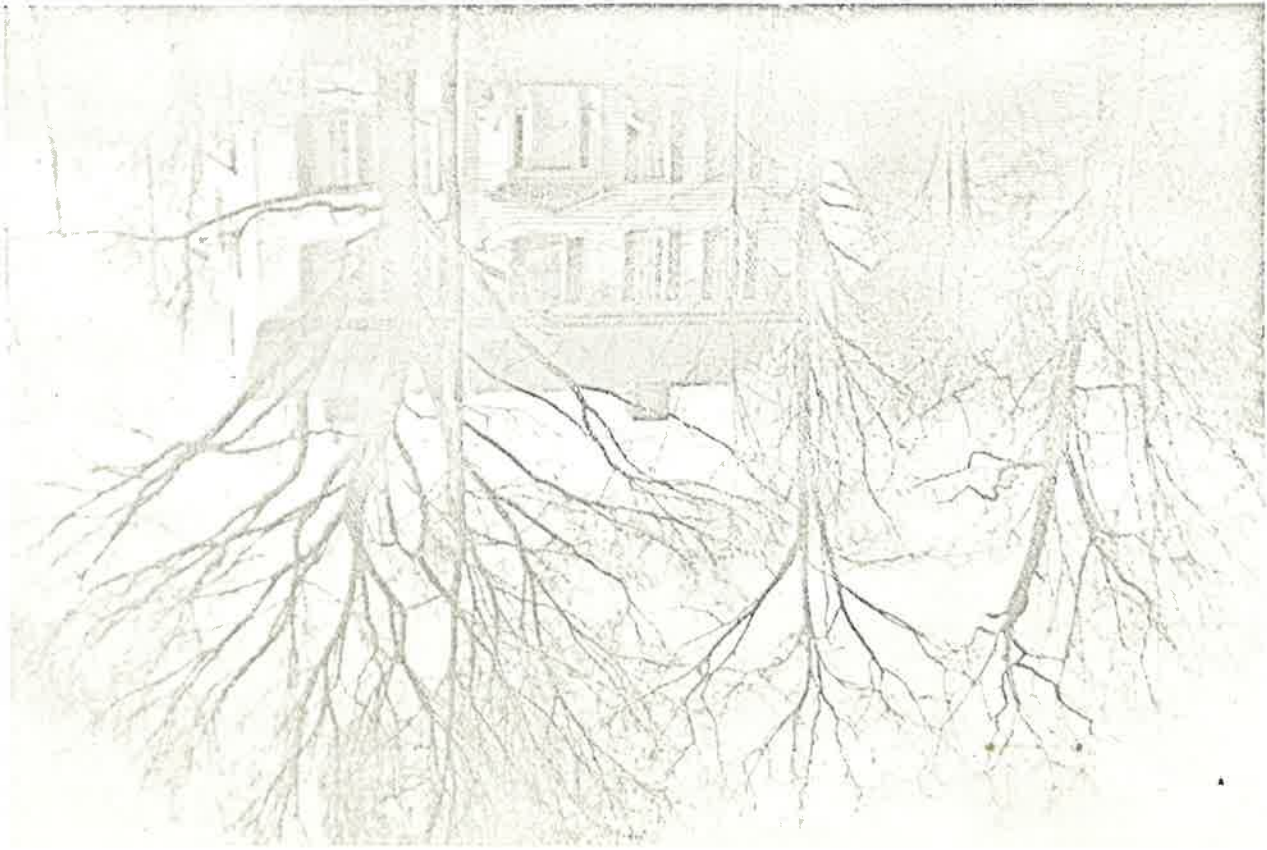
Mrs. Charles A. Hall (Susan Jane Simmons)
Pres. Alamo Mission Chapter-Daughters of
the Republic of Texas
7515 Bridgewater
San Antonio, Texas

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"An
American Family--

Its Ups and Downs through Eight Generations
in New Amsterdam, New York, Pennsylvania,
Maryland, Ohio, and Texas
from 1650 to 1880

By
EDWARD NICHOLAS CLOPPER, Ph. D.
1950



Photographed by E. N. C., April, 1942

BEECHWOOD

Home of the Clopper Family in Cincinnati since 1830.

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ON TO TEXAS AND TO FORTUNE!

NICHOLAS now proposed a more ambitious business venture in Texas and associated his three sons and three other men—Capt. James Lindsay, Dr. George M. Patrick, and Darius Gregg—with himself in the undertaking. Five of these seven hopefuls went down the river from Cincinnati in November of 1827, and the two others joined them at Louisville, both Edward and Joseph keeping journals of the voyage. The invoice of goods shipped shows boxes of utensils and other hardware, baskets and barrels of miscellany: dry goods, clothing, shoes, brushes, combs, paper, books, medicine, camphor, spices, tobacco, snuff, cider, gin, brandy, whisky, wine, gunpowder. These were put on board S. B. Ben Franklin, the 10,300 lbs. of freight @ 12½¢ costing \$12.90 to Louisville where it was transshipped to S. B. Amazon. Passage from Cincinnati to Louisville cost the party \$4 each.

In New Orleans on the first of December the stockholders in this new corporation, called the Texas Trading Association, held a meeting, adopted a constitution, elected officers: president, Nicholas Clopper; cashier, George M. Patrick; and clerk, Edward N. Clopper; fixed the capital stock at \$10,000, provided that each subscriber to the constitution should become a stockholder upon payment of \$150, empowered the officers to act as a "board of agency" or executive committee, and authorized this board to take in money at any time at from six to ten per cent. The association's purposes were set forth as the engaging in agriculture and grazing, the making of sugar and salt, and the carrying on of mercantile business—a program varied and comprehensive enough to satisfy even Nicholas. The seven sanguine men subscribed to these articles.

The manifest of goods on board the schooner "Little Zoe" shipped from New Orleans to Galveston for "Clopper & Co." as the Texas Trading Association was conveniently (and accurately) termed, bears the date of December 21, 1827, and includes whisky, wine, tobacco, powder, hardware, tinware, glassware, nails, beans, flour, mackerel, soap, and candles, among other items. A shipment destined for Harrisburg, Texas, included dry goods, clothing, shoes, table utensils, lamps, hardware, tools, tomahawks, powder, and books; another for San Felipe was made up of blankets, stockings, gloves, reticules, buckles, spectacles, brushes, combs, mirrors, scales, tumblers, snuff-boxes, spices, writing paper, and medicine, in addition to items already mentioned.

At Harrisburg, a village on Buffalo Bayou about sixteen miles from its mouth, the seven paid in \$150 each early in January, making \$1,050; in addition to his \$150, Nicholas had disbursed \$1,409 for goods; and the company also owed Lindsay \$95 and Patrick \$3.62, as well as Johnson Hunter from whom they had borrowed \$80. Several meetings were held in March at Harrisburg. Patrick, Lindsay, and Joseph C. Clopper were appointed as a committee to buy real property for the company's business and shortly afterwards recommended the purchase of the league near the San Jacinto's mouth, called Orange Grove or Point Lookout, which Nicholas had acquired from Hunter, with the exception of the one *labor* retained by him; the minutes of the meeting refer to this tract as No. 1, valued at \$2,000. Number 2 in the committee's recommendation also belonged to Nicholas and was his half league on Buffalo Bayou near Harrisburg, valued at \$500. The acquiring of these tracts was approved but all was not well, for Darius Gregg wished to withdraw from the company and, as the constitution made no provision for such an emergency, the board promptly met and considered the problem. Four days later this body convened again and then settled with Gregg by giving him a note for \$100 payable in six months and another for the same amount payable in eight months, both to draw ten per cent interest; by this transaction Gregg ceased to be a member of the corporation.

On March 14th an agreement was entered into at Harrisburg, Province of Texas, Jurisdiction of Austin, whereby Nicholas sold to the association the two tracts mentioned for \$2,500 and the association bound itself to pay Nicholas's two notes, one for \$650 and the other for \$800, which he had given to Johnson Hunter in payment for the league at the San Jacinto's mouth two years before, and the balance of \$1,050 to himself with interest at 10 per cent "as soon as practicable". To this agreement there was added in June a notation that Nicholas, having sold to Martin Allen 200 acres of his half league on Buffalo Bayou opposite Harrisburg, should give Allen a deed to the same and to the association a deed to the residue, by virtue of an understanding had. Nicholas's *sitio* or head-right of 4,428 acres near San Felipe, which had been granted to him by Stephen F. Austin, was not involved; it will be remembered that Austin, as *empresario* for the establishment of three hundred families on the ten border leagues along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico between the San Jacinto and La Vaca Rivers, had been commissioned by the Coahuila-and-Texas government to distribute lands to his colonists.

One day in March a raft was loaded at Harrisburg with articles to be floated down to Clopper's Point or Point Lookout, as it was sometimes called. From the mouth of Buffalo Bayou the distance to the Point was about eight miles. The cargo consisted of tools, nails, hinges, ropes and blocks, plough, log chain, grindstone, buckets, seed, ink, powder, shot, cooking utensils, bacon, corn meal, mackerel, lard, whisky, and soap.

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J. C. CLOPPER'S JOURNAL⁵⁰

&

BOOK OF MEMORANDA FOR 1828

PROVINCE OF TEXAS

Nov. 10th 1827—Departed Cincinnati on this evening on board the Steam boat Franklin for Louisville—Company for the same destination Messrs. N. Clopper, A. M. Clopper, E. N. Clopper, Capt. Lyndsay—for this night's darksome series of conflicting emotions, why the spirit slumbered not & the heart was ill at ease, vide: the records of Memory:—

Nov. 11th Sunday morning arrived at Louisville; met Dr. G. M. Patrick & Mr. Gregg of Ky. who connected themselves with us under the firm of the Texas Trading Association. Remained here three days awaiting the departure of a steam boat—pleased with the town's commercial appearance, the picturesque wildness & grandeur of the falls & spirit of enterprize discoverable in the progress of the canal around them—wrote four letters, three to Cincinnati, two of which remain not at Woodlawn of the Mound.

Nov. 14 This morning departed for N. Orleans on board the splendid Boat Amazon—our compy seven in all. Had a delightful passage down as far as St. Helena on the Mississippi where the boat broke her shaft—the border & island scenery of the different rivers & streams generally undiversified, occasionally picturesque & beautiful. At the last named place were taken in tow by the La Fayette with a keel lashed to her opposite side, presenting such a wide front to the waters our progress was very slow affording sufficient time for the eye to delight itself with the prospective loveliness of the border country which increases in interest as we approach the great southern depot—reached the city on the 28th instant.

Purchased a large flat as a depository for our freight & boarding house—father's residence at the Western Hotel—first night's supper oysters & oyster soup—A vast number of shipping in port, say three hundred sail, from most of the principal commercial countries. City stands on a flat plane secured from inundation by the river by a levee of sand & shells extending many miles up & down the river continually kept in repair within the corporation by hirelings slaves & criminals—streets unseemly and inconveniently narrow tho' mostly laid off at right angles—there are several streets of handsome breadth ornamented with trees

& some fine brick buildings, tho' the greater part of the city is constituted of frame & these mostly very low houses about one & half story. The public square fronting the river with the Cathedral at its rear presents a very beautiful view rendered more picturesque as the building externally has much the stamp of antiquity, awakening the eye of the mind to rest upon the time-stricken ruins of a castle of romance. There are many handsome public buildings such as the new theatre, exchange, the several banks &c. Population variant according to the periodical seasons when health or sickness most prevails, supposed in all, migratory & stationary, "from snowy white to sooty", to be between 40 & fifty thousand souls at this time; composed apparently of all tongues & kindred & people. The French language still prevails tho' the Americans (as in contradistinction those citizens who speak the English tongue are termed) are fast gaining the ascendancy in manners, customs, style & the general character of a city or people. New Orleans has a small artificial basin on the west side connected with lake Pontchartrain by a canal which will admit coasting vessels freighting one hundred tons. The Sabbath is distinguished more as a day of amusements, balls, dances, excellencies & variety of the markets, than as a day of sanctity & rest—very few stores are closed & drays & carts run without intermission. The french soldiery attend mass in the morning in full uniform & the rest of the day in parading & exercise at the guns. Walked down with three or four of our compy to the battle ground, five miles below the corporation—charmed with the elegance of taste displayed by gentlemen residents at their different mansions on the river—the eye rests with rapture on the beautiful groves & hedges of the orange tree in its survey of the fascination scenery enriched by the profuse variety of fruits & shrubbery skillfully arranged & intermingled one with the other—reached the field of carnage, now covered with stalks of sugar cane & corn—the plan is here about one mile in breadth, perfectly level & widening with the course of the river—the only vestige of that day's glorious triumph of *Freedom* is the intrenchment extending from the shore of the Mississippi to an impassable swamp, being about one mile in length—this trench is about 10 or 12 feet in width but 4 or 5 in depth, in many places nearly filled—here then I stood & silently surveyed the scene, for this was a *wide field* of meditation: at this point the gallant foe was found in heaps slain, here "blood burst & smoked around", here the cries & groans of the wounded & expiring were heard "as when a thousand ghosts shriek at once upon the hollow wind", there the British chiefs fell & yonder stand the two lonely trees where his remains were embalmed as a sad solace for the afflictions of kindred spirits in the a foreign land—at a distance of one hundred & fifty yards in the rear of the entrenchment is the beautiful seat whence Gen'l Jackson viewed the battle raging, a spectator of the deeds of arms while Fame was weaving around his brow a chaplet of immortality too dazzling alas! for the visions of thousands boasting

this time our whole raft is under water except the two ends where boards were piled—next day by hard labour against a strong wind, reach the San Jacinto, 1 mile from where we were overtaken—at this place is kept a ferry by Mr Lynch, very hospitable & kind Yankees & acquaintances of Mr Loring of Cin. Here the surrounding country is very flat & void of timber immediately on the waters—we make our raft fast to a drifted tree & get into a yawl, make for the landing & go to cooking supper—a heavy S. E. gale springs up—the tide rises several feet in a very short time & carries away our raft—waves are rolling 3 or 4 ft. in height—we all 5 in number man our boat & come up with the raft driving rapidly before the wind—we jump on board—waves dashing 2 or 3 feet over it—a number of our logs are torn loose—are unable to get her ashore, our oars become unmanageable but one—are driven into old river—succeed in getting her behind a small point—by this time it is dark twilight—drive up close to an island of water flags—Lindsay & myself with the cable in hand jump in to the boat, make to the flags—thinking to leap on dry ground I spring out, am up to the middle in water, a deep mud bottom thick set with rushes—am follow'd by Lindsay—drag our boat but find no diminution of depth—have some apprehensions of alligation, seen here from 10 to 12 feet in length—run a pole into the mud & make fast—get on board again—beds & utensils in the meanwhile put into the yawl by the balance of the crew—here we lay tossing all night in continual expectation of our raft going to pieces—toward midnight the whole heavens are wrapt in darkness—never did I witness so awful a scene—the thunders rolled & the forked lightnings glaring through the gloom over us, but hideous—thick “darkness visible”—the cloud burst over us, already drenched, we scarce heeded the descending torrents—about break of day the wind veered round to the N. West & then the billows struck us if aught more furiously—we knew this would soon blow out the tide & unless we escape soon our labours would be all lost—to work we went with poles, our raft which drew about 4½ ft. water dragging over the mud, lifted & dropped alternately by the waves—almost despairing to get her out we redoubled our exertions—Cap't Lindsay falls overboard—the sudden immersion into the cold water angrily dashing around him nearly proved fatal to him—I reach him my pole & gets aboard & to work again—we get round the point in a shattered condition & reach the San Jacinto—wind & tide fair we construct a sail & pass on without breakfast or change of raiment. I should have mentioned that after being *cast away* & making the harbour above, we felt nearly exhausted & wanted our suppers from which we had been so unfortunately driven about 1 mile—I agreed for one to venture the wind, darkness & the tide after it—poor Patrick who was nearly spent & sick with fatigue, agreed to go as steersman—leaving Lindsay & Edw'd to watch, I & Frank manned the oars—after turning the point & meeting the full force of wind & tide, we pulled our utmost for 10 minutes or more without any apparent

gain—but persevering we got under the opposite shore & reached the goal of our wishes—taking a hearty glass & full rations we loaded & embarked again, taking our faithful dog along who had trustfully watched over the provisions during our absence. To continue, we past on prosperously down the San Jacinto for about five miles when we struck on a bar, two or three jumping overboard to their necks & the balance with poles, we get off—our sail still up we pass briskly down—we enter a small bay at the river's mouth about 1 mile in breadth & several in length—here the wind having greater scope, a strong current & tide setting out & the waves rolling higher than any we have yet passed through, we are apprehensive of two dangers: the one of being dashed to pieces, the other of being carried out into the broad expanse of the Trinity Bay—however, not yet daunted we succeed by means of our sail & oars in reaching our destined port an hour before sun-set after a voyage of one week precisely from Harrisburg. We landed at Hunter's point about the last of March, and many an hour's talk & lively jest has this voyage afforded us—young men who had thought themselves *brought up*, thus to find that they in fact had “come down on a raft”—it was no small matter for lively reflection & humorous sallies on the comparative merits of past & present situations—our descriptions were to father rare food for merriment. Father & Gregg who had travelled down by land, meet us on the beach—we accompany them up to Doct'r Hunter's & spend the night.

Turn to making improvements, get our houses out of the water, establish ourselves in a small cabin about 10 ft. square open all round, admitting a free circulation of sea breezes—con-tinue here about six weeks during which time we are hard labourers, living on coarse fare & subject to many inconveniences—we clear off about an acre of woods & briers—fence in about two acres, plough, dig & plant it in corn, potatoes & garden vegetables—and finish putting up & roofing a fine warehouse. The Rights of Man arrives—Gregg & Patrick return to Harrisburg. Lyndsay & I remain a few days longer—here I receive my first letters from the States, four at once—am quite another person—such joys come not oft to gild the darksome days of the wayworn traveller. One evening about an hour before sunset the Cap't & I load a small canoe with our little household matters, fix up a sail, take our dog Gunner aboard & set out for Harrisburg—we had not more than half crossed the little bay before spoken of, before a stiff southerly breeze springs—the white caps begin to foam angrily around us & once pitched over the bow of our frail little bark—I had command of helm & sail. Cap'n sitting in the bow—breeze driving us along so as to create some apprehensions—lose my steering oar—fortunately find another in the boat—night overtakes us—the breeze still brisk & lively—see some swan & a flamingo, the most beautiful of birds that float on water—deer also on the little islands that beautify the lovely San Jacinto—driving on at the rate of six knots, we several times narrowly

of masculine vigour yet moving with a grace that is truly & wholly feminine—her countenance tho' not expressive of the fire of genius nor the striking energies of more than ordinarily effective talents yet is highly interesting—her features are regular—her aspect smiling—her eyes sparkling—her tongue not too pliant for a female, being kept in admirable subjection to her excellent understanding—almost ever pouring forth the vivifying humours of her lively spirit & consequently very engaging in all her conversations—as she will now command all your sympathies in an artless & moving detail of personal privations & sufferings such as the hearer is ready to believe few such frames ever encountered & lived under—now she will fascinate her auditors by the ease & fluency with which she can descend upon general topics—addressed by the beau, the fop or gallant, he does not find her out of her *forte*—a gay widow of about 35 she is agreeable where & when & as the manner & disposition of her company requires. She has one daughter—a beautiful little girl of about 12 or 13. Mrs. Long is now residing with her brother in law, Majr Calvit at the mouth of the Brassos. The most respectable portion of the male society consists of about eight or ten, married, bachelors & young men, four or five of whom are lawyers. Col. Austin is a small spare little old bachelor without any remarkable intellectual qualifications, of rather a dry & reserved disposition tho' possessed of excellent common sense & considerable general information; altogether well qualified to be the founder of a Colony.

Mr. Gregg withdraws from the Co & connects himself with some connexions of his on the Guadalupe. We purchase thirty odd beeves & make preparations all of us, except Andw who remains at Harrisburg, to drive them to San Antonio market—are prevented by the rise of the Brassos from crossing them. I volunteer to return to the mouth of the San Jacinto for necessary articles that had been neglected. Young Eaton from Chillicothe Ohio accompanies me as far as Harrisburg. We have a large Bayou to cross, at this time filled by back water from the river & widened 100 yds, he plunges in & 30 steps from shore he & his horse become entangled—he swims out & with great difficulty the horse is saved—presently there come up a couple of Spaniards, we construct a small raft of brush &c to bear our saddles, baggage &c, drive in our horses & swim over. These Spaniards were soldiers of Genl Teranne's (Teràn's) escort, commissioner of the Mexican Republic, to meet at Natchitoches the United States' commissioner for the purpose of determining the dividing line between the two governments. This Genl's escort consisted of 35 soldiers & a number of attendant mechanics & servants, also a botanist & astronomer—they were several weeks at Sanfelipe. The Genl's coach was a remarkably curious construction, after the fashion of the capital city—what that fashion is or was cannot be understood without a view of the indescribable machine—suffice it to say that the long vista which

discovers to the mind's eye the gradual advancement of civilization, arts & sciences show'd me the unseemly vehicle standing in its proper place—a splendid specimen of the ingenuity & cunning workmanship of man when the last shades of the darkness were vanishing from before the dawning of the intellectual world. It was of a prodigious size, two or three feet wider than ours—constructed of huge pieces of timber much carved inlaid & plated with silver—the hinder wheels larger than those of Cin. & those before little superior to that of a wheel-barrow. But to our journey—we travel on wet & cold as night approaches roads very muddy, drop down in the midst of the Grand Prairie, spread our blankets & slumber the night away—next evening reach Harrisburg after a complete soaking from a heavy shower—next day pass on alone—have another bayou to swim—reach the Point—vegetables & peas we had planted, flourishing finely—had a long search thro' the cedar groves after a small pocket book supposed to have been dropped by me & which for i &c &c thought invaluable—find it not. Next day Dr Hunt accompanies me, swim again the Bayou, a large Alligator floating near, a very invigorating circumstance—travel on till we reach the bayou near the Brassos—here we have to raft & swim again—push on a new track thro' the Brassos bottom—darkness overtakes us—never was I in such a dismal place—nothing but a small horse path—the large cane meeting above our heads form one continual arch—the eyes kept mostly closed & bent forward to force a passage—reach the river almost famished find it swollen to an unusual height & far extending over the lowlands, by means of a canoe the ferryman takes us to his little hut surrounded by water—gives us some supper—in the morning enter Sanfelipe having rode 160 miles.

About the middle of June the river has fallen & the bottom becomes passable, Captn Lindsay, Dr. Patrick & hirelings cross over to collect our beeves—weather very hot & oppressive—great difficulty in driving cattle thro' the bottoms—get but a few over at one time, the others escaping & getting back—I am taken down with the fever—company return for the cattle Edward in company—they drive them 20 miles up the river cross—my fever continues, have shakes or chills—am visited by Mrs. Calvit & Mrs. Long in our Hall of Bachelors—our feelings for such kindness were indescribable—the first female I had seen from the first attack—am considerably restored it & in a few days after walking about—cattle are most of the brot over. In course of a week I set out with the Captn to hunt the remainder, we get lost in the bottom, finally get out & discover the cattle—set out again & in one day ride 50 miles thro the scorching, treeless prairies, & two days in the dismal wilds of the Brassos bottom—at length get all our cattle over the river. Dr. Patrick has a slight attack & recovers—about the 1st of July my dear brother E- & I are attacked with the fever brot. on by our extreme exposures & fatigues—on the 5

on thro prairie land five miles to Scull-creek, so called from a murder there committed 6 or 7 years since—find no water—a dismal savage looking place—turn my head round & see an Indian with his rifle close up behind father—tell him of it—he turns round & salutes him—find him to be a Tonkaway hunter—he soon strikes off into the woods & we pass on through a country thinly covered with post oak—find no water till we have travelled 17 miles from Beeson's—this is the first branch of the Navidad (nativity)—here we unpack, turn out our horses, strike up a fire, cook our breakfast & dinner—rest about three hours—start again—cross the main branch of the Navidad, a small branch at this distance from the gulph into which it empties—good timber on it—continue on through a post oak country, soil generally thin & sandy tho' well clothed with grass, reach the main branch of the rio La Vaca (cow river) this is also a mere branch & forms the western boundary of Austin's Colony, a dividing line between him & DeWitt—cross it & ascend a high & extensive prairie—the view here is almost boundless, the breeze is strong, bracing & delightfully exhilarating—Father fancied he could almost taste its sweetness—the eye is charmed with the loveliness and grandeur of the prospect that here so opens on it—the deer & wild horses playing before us—the latter more especially with arched necks, lofty heads, their manes & tails given to the winds, the regularity of their movements with a sudden wheel like thought, & the wild terror issuing from their nostrils, all tending to remind us of Job's war horse "clothed in thunder & swallowing up the ground" these give an animation & liveliness to the scenery that makes the whole superior far to description—these prairies are interspersed with what are termed islands of timber charmingly variegating & destroying what would otherwise be a monotony of undulations in the prairie—we cross a second branch of the last named stream—a mile further & we camp at the third fork—we lie under a large tree with a fire, the wolves keeping a terrific howling around us throughout the night—this is the principal Indian range—many have been robbed of money & horses—in the morning have a strong pot of coffee & start—this day travel thro' the loveliest country I have ever seen—the greatest stretch of my imagination never pictured a scene to be compared with this—we cross 4th & fifth branch of the La Vaca—the last of which stands deep pools of the purest sweetest clearest water I ever beheld, stood on the bank & on the clean white rock about 10 ft below the surface I could have seen a pin—these pools are full of trout sunfish—it is a most pleasing and grateful thing to contemplate them, throwing in little matter to them & seeing them start about thro the amber-like fluid—art has had nothing to do here. Nature seems to have chosen this region for her most fanciful pleasure works.

After passing this last branch of the La Vaca we ascend a very high prairie—the scenery here as much surpassed the

former day's as that did any I had before seen. I will not attempt to describe but only say that there are in Cin. about half a dozen young persons, ladies & gentlemen, whom I then wished with me—they are lovers of the sublime & the beautiful & with such, how delightful would have been the pictures of that day, as they seemed freshly touched by the inimitable hand of Nature. We ride on about 9 miles thro this high prairie land when we enter post oak woods which continue on to Gonzales on the rio Guadalupe—we arrive at Peach Creek within 8 miles of Gonzales, here we find 6 or 7 men from San Felipe come to this place purposely to search for the bones of Early—our company had found part of his clothes in said creek as they passed on—we stop & get coffee & venison—these men had found a skull bone but nothing more—we saddle up & go on over a stony piece of ground for several miles, then thro' a most lovely post oak woods open, green with long grass & abounding with deer—by sunset reach Gonzalez—find Capt'n Lindsay & Dr. Patrick lying prostrate with raging fevers—they had been there in that situation nearly a week—the Capt'n was lying on a scaffold in a little arbor of trees, the Doctr on the loft of a miserable hut burning up with the sun & fever. Father continues with them a couple of days, is much recruited & starts on with a traveller after the cattle which a few days previous had been driven on by Mr. Gregg & hirelings. I remain to nurse the sick—Doctr more particularly becomes fearfully alarmed—after two weeks Mr. Urban's goods come on—we get the Capt'n into one waggon—the Dr. is sufficiently recovered to ride on horseback in Co with the waggons. I start—have a wild animal to ride, a pack to manage & the sick to attend to, but the fatigues, the exposures, privations of natural rest that I was compelled to undergo is past & will not be attempted here in detail—we were seven days from Gonzales to San Antonio—distance 76 miles—the country between these two places is principally a wild sandy broken woodland country indifferently watered, commencing with the Guadalupe—a narrow but deep & rapid stream of great length & pure limpid waters—Gonzales stands on its banks, the capital of De Witt's Colony, composed of 6 or 7 log pens—two leagues westward of the Guadalupe runs De Witt's western boundary line, making the whole Colony between 40 & 50 miles in breadth & 100 in length, running down to within 10 leagues of the sea coast—it contains a great deal of beautiful country, high, rolling & healthy tho' but a comparatively small portion is of great fertility. On the river St. Marks, which empties into the Guadalupe 3 miles above Gonzales, there are many great mill seats the water power being very great—this Colony contains but few settlers nor can it be expected to flourish under its present Empresario, Col. De Witt. This man has been raised among the pioneers of the Western states, is well acquainted with Indian manners, customs & modes of warfare—his has ever been an unre-

strained life with regard to morals & religion—his situations have necessarily exposed & as it were compelled him to class & associate with those bold independent & but too loose & dissipated tho' brave & dauntless sons of Liberty, introducers of civilization. Yet has the Col. been much in refined society—his education is considerable & his natural powers of intellect strong & vigorous, sufficiently so to render him well qualified for his station—but alas, dissipation, neglectful indolence have destroyed his energies & are rendering in a great measure abortive the efforts of his colonizing assistants—he is tho' much of a gentleman & like his most excellent Lady is very kind & hospitable to strangers. To our journey—we come to no more streams till we reach the Sewully (Buffalo river) [Cibolo] fifty miles from the Guadalupe—what water lies between is only that which is found standing in deep holes formed by drains or sluices by which the superabundant waters are carried off in rainy seasons—these holes are 12, 13 & 16 miles apart—between the two last named rivers the country is high & mostly sandy & thinly wooded—there is one stretch of 8 or 9 miles which seems to be one immense hill of the finest unmixed sand—I could compare our march thro' it to nothing but a slow journeying thro' a deep dry frosty snow, tho' widely differing in several respects—the excessive labour & fatigue to our animals & the suffocating stinkies are unclouded & the sun's powerfully reflected heat was preserved unchanged in temperature by the stunted growth of post oak, black Jack & hickory that stands low, bushy but thinly over this great scorching sand bank—I really think the burning wastes of Africa would be but little more intolerable to the thirsty traveller, were it not for the grassy verdure which I found to my astonishment every where growing in luxurious bunches out of this seemingly sterile unproductive portion of the earth—these bunches spring up at distances of 1, 2 & 4 ft so that when the eye is placed near to the earth the whole country seems one compact surface of the most beautiful green—we were nearly a whole day getting thro' this *fluid earth*, admitting the term, for the sake of expression. It was in this dreary region I feared we should have to bury Capt'n Lindsay & such were the Dr's apprehensions would be his own fate—were also & every additional day seemed to prove to me that my own constitution had undergone a radical revolution, for notwithstanding my weakness at Gonzales & labours daily & nightly, my copious perspirations, I seemed daily & almost hourly to strengthen & even to fatten—these causes, tho' much more gently operative, ever produced contrary effects in the summer seasons in the more northern latitude where I resided—upon the whole, as a result, I really feel myself already acclimated to, not yet wedded to Texas.

We lie two days at the Seawully—this stream has but little water in the Summer or dry seasons, its valley extends to a

considerable distance on each side, is rich in soil & no doubt a healthy country—it is entirely unsettled. My patients experience a change greatly for the better—I take the Dr. into the river, in the height of his fever & give him a complete bathing. Start on again—meet some of the drivers of our cattle from S. Antonio—inform us of Mr. Gregg's extremely low state & that on the banks of the Seawully they expected to dig his grave—from this stream on about 10 miles we pass over a lovely country abounding with deer, bear, mustangs &c—we then traverse a barren broken country for five or six miles, when we enter upon what is here called Musquite prairie—this is a very thin soil producing a short delicate nutritious grass—the musquite tree seems to be a species of the honey locust, bearing a resemblance in the leaf & producing a long delicate thorn, also a sweet pod in shape like that of the small black-eyed pea—the trunk & growth of the branches are more after the form & appearance of the peach, & indeed at a distance the whole prairie or country seems like one immense peach orchard, now on the decline having outlived Earth's giant race who strode over this region dropping a seed at every 10-yard stride. The first appearance of this tree in travelling westward from the States is at Peach Creek near Gonzales. We cross the Salou (Salado) a small stream within five miles of San Antonio—musquite prairie continues—the earth here is covered with small smooth grey flint stones from an ounce to two or three pounds in size—the land is ascending for a couple of miles when we are on an exceeding high country—two miles further & we come to a Spanish fort & magazine commenced some years since & left unfinished—this stands on the summit of the circular ridge within one mile of San Antonio, commanding a view of the town & the vast plain on which it stands—from this spot San Antonio has a very striking resemblance to one of Uncle Sam's handsomest & largest country villages—the curious traveller feels stimulated to urge on his jaded steed, satisfied from this *first blush* that he shall be transported with a nearer view of its proportions, its lofty domes, its elegant simplicity & natural beauties—he hurriedly descends the eminence in a fever of body & mind, comes to a little canal which he beholds with rapture extending itself abroad o'er the thirsty land & watering beautifully verdant & flourishing fields of corn—enters a regular avenue of huge cotton wood trees—thinks of the grand avenue leading to U. Sam's house—asks who it was who so slandered this people by saying that they are but little superior to the lowest grade of the human family—surely the labour & utility of these canals, the beauty & taste displayed in the planting of this avenue is a flat contradiction to it all—he passes on thro' the midst of this friendly shade—on the right stands a massy pile of ruins—for what purpose were these stones piled one upon another & why were they thrown down—this he discovers was one of the strongholds of Popish delusion, in which the Royalists in

1810-11 sought refuge from the avenging fury of the Patriots who battered down the mighty walls with their cannon—it is now a garrison—a few yds before him he sees the exceedingly serpentine San Antonio coming winding around the town & gliding by as if hurried with important despatches to the Gulph of Mexico—he looks with mortification & disgust at the order of architecture which suddenly presents itself on his left—he crosses the little river & beholds the same wigwam style of building which constitutes the principal part of the town—he proceeds on, finds that the streets intersect each other very irregularly, presently enters the public Square, this is laid off at right angles being about 150 by 300 yards, in the centre of which stands the Church, a large clumsy stone building that seems to have been standing for centuries. It has a steeple of the same materials, very well modelled of octagonal form—in this is hung 2 bells kettle-toned & of different sizes—these have their tongues tied with ropes & are made to bellow most horribly by two barbarous boys who stand close by & jirk these engines of torture to the utter dismay & confusion of the astounded stranger perhaps 40 times per diem—this Church has also a sky light dome at the opposite end. In the midst of this Square the traveller stands & contemplates the buildings around him—he had before entering been disgusted with their dwellings that first met [his eye]—being formed of branches of the Musquite tree set up end ways in all the zigzag varieties of their growth, having the interstices daubed with mud—these *hollow squares* are thatched over with the swamp flag & stand ready to receive their inhabitants who carry in a few chests, a palate or two & some dried skins & the mansion is furnished. But the public square presents to the strangers eye a more solemn picture, each side is formed of one unbroken solid wall except where the streets pass through—these walls have doors at neighbourly or family distances, opening into what may more properly be termed cells than rooms, as few of them have windows, none indeed have sashes nor is there a pane of glass in the town—they seem more like port holes than windows, having bars like a prison grate, or dark shutters—these walls show no roof above them but seem to stand as we may suppose do the ruins of an earth-shaken or sacked & burnt city after the buildings had been battered down to the last story by a destroying & victorious enemy—these walls are about 18 or 20 ft in height, the roof is invisible from the outside, is formed of huge cedar logs as rafters on which are laid small boards—these beams have a descending inclination from the back walls outwardly so as to rest upon the front walls about 2 1/2 ft below their height—the roof is then covered with a cement from 8 inches to a foot in thickness from off which the rain is conducted by wooden troughs passing thro' the walls & projecting 3 or 4 ft. into the square. Thro' this square & the heart of the town runs a canal for the purpose of watering the garden lots, as the water by small out-

lets may be conducted from this to all parts of the place—the traveller hears around him a confusion of unknown tongues, the red natives of the forests in their different guttural dialects, the swarthy Spaniard of a scarce brighter hue, the voluble Frenchman, a small number of the sons of Green Erin, & a goodly few of Uncle Sam's Nephews or half expatriated sons—he feels himself now for the first time in his life a stranger truly in a foreign land and enters a door for a short residence that he may discover something more of this people—but what he has seen we will let him make known in his own proper person.—I find that Father has obtained a house & opened his goods—Mr. Gregg is convalescent, tho' like Lyndsay & Patrick, continues in a very debilitated state—business tolerably brisk, profits moderate—some difficulty in dealing with the Mexicans, not understanding their language—form an acquaintance with two or three families—become somewhat a favourite with our landlady who has two pretty daughters—accompany them several times to the fandangos—waltzes & reels the principal forms of dance among them—always performed in the streets—Men do not select their partners—this is more gallantly left to the ladies—the former placing themselves in a line on the floor & when the latter arise & face the object of their choice, it sometimes happens that two or more make the same selection & then there is a good deal of elbowing among the fair ones—there are always managers to regulate matters. Often solicited but never participate in the intricacies & mazes of their figures. Delicacy forms but a small part of female character in San Antonio—their very language seems almost to forbid the cultivation of this most beautiful of the Graces—unmarried girls are very vigilantly kept from all intercourse whatever with the other sex unless one of the parents be present—soon as married they are scarcely the same creatures, giving the freest indulgence to their naturally gay & enthusiastic dispositions as if liberated from all moral restraint. The complexion of the native Mexican is a shade brighter than that of the aborigines of the country—the men are not generally well formed in feature or person—are extremely ignorant in all the advanced arts of civilization, the majority not being able to read—they are astonishingly expert in the management of horses, not surpassed perhaps by any other people on the Globe. They are completely the slaves of Popish superstition & despotism—distinguished for their knavery & breach of faith. The softer sex are generally handsome in person & regular in feature & of rather a brighter hue than the men—eyes black, sparkling, holding most intelligent converse when disposed in the still language of the affections—wear long black hair handsomely adjusted into curls & puffs on public occasions—they are remarkably addicted to dress & jewelry & on festal occasions appear as richly arrayed as any females I have ever seen, exhibiting no small degree of taste & are certainly among the vainest of their sex—but all this show lasts

ie. Kitty T and her children are going to Philad on a visit last of this week . . . Mary [Hurley, Kitty's niece] has been here for some months. We shall be looking out for Caroline this Winter . . ."

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XXIV

HOPEFUL STRUGGLING IN TEXAS

THE records do not make it clear that the Texas Trading Association gave up trading, first at San Felipe de Austin and then at Harrisburg, opening a store at New Washington instead, but one infers from certain statements that this was the action taken. In mid-March of 1829 a list of items and their prices indicates that goods were shipped from Harrisburg to Point Lookout or New Washington; among these items are a fine castor hat valued at \$5 and an American spring seat saddle with plated crown stirrups valued at \$18.50. On June 7th an inventory of the company's assets shows: wagon and chains \$140; two yoke of oxen \$140; bay horse and a mule \$100; horse Prince \$75; horse Paddy \$23; dun mare \$20; ploughs, axes, hatchets, horse collars, bridle, hames, hoes, mattocks, spades, pots, kettle, spiders, grindstones, tub, buckets, provisions, corn mill, planks, and a boat (valued at \$120), \$1,909.50; debts due the company and cattle on hand \$1,038.50.

Nicholas, his son Andrew, Dr. Patrick, and James Lindsay, as stockholders of the Texas Trading Association, met at Point Lookout at the mouth of the San Jacinto, on June 8, 1829. Edward was dead, Joseph had returned to Cincinnati, and Gregg had withdrawn. Nicholas was re-elected president, and Patrick cashier, while Andrew was chosen as clerk to succeed his late brother Edward. Four days later another meeting was held in the same place. The minutes record the passing of Edward "whose years were few, but whose worth was great, he died at San Felipe de Austin July 1828. While we cherish his memory let us imitate his virtues." The board having bought out Darius Gregg, the Association is reduced to five members and six shares, Nicholas holding his deceased son's share. The company's real estate is estimated to be worth \$6,000 and stock on hand \$2,692, total assets \$8,692; its debts amount to \$3,245.98 (to Nicholas \$2,370.98, to James Lindsay \$75, to Johnson Hunter \$800); the balance in its favor being \$5,446.02. In their complacent way they add this hopeful comment: "there are some unsettled accounts pro & con which suppose will be about equal or nearly so"! The company's real estate consists of (1) a league of land, except one *labor*, on San Jacinto, called Point Lookout alias Orange Grove, 4,250 acres; (2) a half-league, except 200 acres, opposite Harrisburg on tide water, 2,000 acres; and (3) three leagues on Buffalo Bayou above Harrisburg on tide, 13,330 acres; total

bought from Meredith Duncan of Liberty County, 200 acres of land on the west bank of Cedar Bayou for \$125. Elizabeth died in 1843. On September 11, 1860, Mary (Este) Clopper gave the deed to this land to Darius Gregg who declared it was worth \$10 an acre because the railroad ran through it, with the request that he sell it for her.

Writing at Highland Cottage on September 16, 1844, to his brother Joseph near Cincinnati, Andrew says he received Joseph's letter of July 10th at Houston on September 11th. He had written to Joseph in June and Charles Lawrence, who was going to Illinois, carried the letter and may have put it "in the office at Orleans." He received the clothing and letter sent by William Badger who returned from Galveston on the boat that had brought him. "The act of Limitation here was pass'd 5th Feby, 1841, the time on a note is 4 yrs, & it will be out next Feby 5th & you state that you know not how to send the note or notes on Sherman. Judge Briscoe told me a way that he never knew to fail, do you get some respectable merchant in Cincinnati of your acquaintance to send them to his correspondent in Orleans, with directions to forward it on to some respectable Merchant at Galveston if he has a correspondent there, (if not) to get a friend of his who has, directing him not to send them to me without a safe opportunity, & do you start them immediately on the receipt of this—I saw Judge Burnet yesterday, & he told me that you had better take a copy of the note or notes with a certificate at the bottom, with some good person to see you enclose the note or notes directed to me, & to see you seal them, & put them into the office, or your friends hands, & he will sign the certificate, perhaps two would be better, perhaps it would be necessary for them to give the certificate under oath, in case the note might be lost, & he thinks that certificate would be good against Sherman for the Balance. State to me the full amount due with the interest,—perhaps Sherman might not be willing to renew the note, so that I could bring suit & recover; if the 4 yrs runs out, I could not get a cent, if he should plead the Limitation act, he could then force me to make him a Deed, so that there is no time to be lost. Mr. Burnet & family are well . . ."

Joseph followed his brother's advice in the matter of sending Sherman's notes, as attested by a certificate of James T. Irwin and S. Langdon, dated December 11, 1844, setting forth that copies of Sidney Sherman's original notes for \$1,000, \$90, and \$60 in favor of Andrew M. Clopper, N. Clopper, and N. Clopper, respectively, are true copies and that they were sent to Thomas Sloo, merchant in New Orleans, from Cincinnati by Joseph C. Clopper. There are also memoranda of interest paid by Col. Sherman.

Rebecca wrote to her brother Andrew about two weeks before she died and told him of the trip which she and Joseph had taken to Pennsylvania in April. It was a long time before

Andrew heard of her death and, on July 20, 1845, more than a month after it had occurred, he wrote to her from Highland Cottage. He is sorry to hear of Joseph's illness reported in Rebecca's letter of June 2nd, and is glad that he is recovered. He is glad, too, that their "Uncle Edward" in Greensburg family are well; and that most of their friends in Pittsburgh escaped loss by the dreadful fire there. James Badger received a letter from William urging him to hurry to Orleans as he was dying at the point of death; James went on and told Andrew that he might continue on to Cincinnati. "You charge me being very remiss in not attending to the property at Harboursburgh, which I think you had no right to do. Swaine promised to write me before he would do any thing, & the land was before I knew it—Swaine told me it just cover'd the debt, which was about 400 Dollars, perhaps a little more with costs he also told me that Lovell lives in Morriss Town, state of New Jersey, perhaps Joseph thought he still resided in Orleans when he wrote. Swaine also told me that he had sent all the paper on to Lovell & that Lovell would return the land by having money paid. there was some land adjoining it, with good improvements, sold for 37½ cts p. acre which was less than went for. Land wont bring scarcely any thing at present, & Calves can be bought now for 5 Dollars when some yrs. back they were from 10 to 12, times are very hard here, I am sure they will soon be better. there is no doubt in my mind but what we will be annex'd [to the United States] shortly, the Members of Congress were in favour of annexation (some one) & he would not vote. Lawyer Wynnes told me yesterday that he receiv'd a letter from a gentleman in the Convention stating that they have not done any thing as yet, more than to organiz'd. it is thought that they will not set over six weeks. Genl Rusk is President of the Convention. 'tis useless to of my assisting you in a pecuniary manner, as it's impossible to get money without a great sacrifice. I think I have wondered to get the estate [their father's] settled up, & to have the taxes paid up, which is as much as I am able to do. I had not been able to get me a Barrel of Flour since Caroline here. if I was able to pay you a visit I would do so with pleasure, but the means is wanting. I thought you were going to send me Father's speck's I should like very much to have more, my Eyesight is failing. Bailey told me a year ago more that whenever Joseph comes out he will settle up with fairly & honestly, I think I wrote to Joseph of this before you wish to know what I done with those notes of Col. Sherman. I had a Settlement with him & gave him Cr for what he & I now hold his note for Six hundred & odd Dollars, I had settled them all in one. Genl Sherman talks of going to States shortly & he will call & see you, & he wishes to know what has become of the other \$1000, Dollar note & of those that Certificates each \$1000 Dollars Sabine stock, I could give

no information of them, as Father took them away with him—well Caroline that Mrs. Sherman & Mrs. Lee wish very much to see her out here as they think a great deal of her. I do wish that some one of you would come as I am very lonesome. I shall have but a poor crop of corn & potatoes this year, owing to the season. Upon reflection, I have given up the idea of addressing Miss V. M. wholly on account of her age, as I do not think any couple could be happy with so great a difference in their ages; I shall have to look further. Joseph has been a long time getting here, I hope he will be able to finish the trip this fall. . . . Joseph left Beechwood for Texas on November 26th and arrived back at home on the 26th of the following May.

On December 29, 1845, Texas was admitted to the Union. The Anti-slavery party in the North had been opposed to its annexation because, according to the terms of the Missouri Compromise, it would be a slave-state and strengthen the South's power in Congress; so the question of its admission had stirred up a great political controversy. James Russell Lowell's poem, "The Present Crisis", reflects the Anti-slavery party's feeling on the matter.

David G. Burnet had served as the Texas Republic's first president in 1836 and was elected to the vice-presidency in 1838. Two years later, because of President Lamar's illness, he again served as president. Then, in 1846, he became secretary of state in the new state administration and when its term expired he went back to his farm.

Joseph, writing at Highland Cottage on February 22, 1846, to the "Ladies of the Mill Creek Missionary Society" in Cumminsville, refers to the death of Josephine (Dunlop) Ludlow and to the dispersal of her children—"the old 'Station' deserted!"; also to the deaths of Mary (Bates) Montgomery and of his two sisters; and then continues: ". . . I am now at my Brother's on an Jacinto Bay, six miles below the battle ground which insured the independence of Texas. This is truly a beautiful country and, judging from the astonishing influx of emigration, daily almost from the U. States & Europe, destined ere long to take an elevated rank among the Sister States of the great Republic; the North. Galveston City has a very imposing appearance from the gulph—although there are four churches, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Methodist & R Catholic, & these all pretty well attended; yet there is much recklessness & desecration of the Sabbath. I called on Mr. Henderson, Pastor & founder of the Methodist Ch., a talented & agreeable man. He has been seven years on the Island. With him I left a number of tracts on the missionary enterprise which he received very gladly as their Missionary Soc. was to meet the next week. There is a considerable degree of wealth & fashion in Galveston. Here also was introduced to several of the prominent citizens of Texas gleaned much interesting information. I have also visited Houston, the second city of the State of Texas. This is a pretty

town & seems to be proportionately more under religious & moral influences than Galveston. Here are also several churches. I formed no acquaintance with any of the clergy. The Methodist Conference was in session, presided over by the venerable Bishop Soule. I heard read their report on the state of their ch. in Texas for the last year—It was very favorable, having had an increase of nearly 500—in relation to the division of their Body in the States they were quite unanimous in siding with the 'Methodist Church South'. Houston is at the head of navigation on the Buffalo Bayou, one of the most lovely streams in the world & so narrow for the first fifteen miles below the town that steam boats cannot pass. It empties into the San Jacinto. It was near their junction the celebrated victory was won. Not long since I went about five miles up Buffalo Bayou in a row boat with Ex President Burnet who pointed out to me the cabin in which was discussed & drawn up the first treaty ever made by the Young Republic. It was when Burnet was President & was signed by Santa Anna, one of the parties & then a prisoner on the opposite side of the river—the cabin is one story & about 12 feet square, standing immediately upon the bank & overtopped by a cluster of cedars & pines, having a small clearing around it. I observed to Mr. B---- that he should have a sketch of it taken & published in some standard history of the rise & establishment of the Republic of Texas—the idea pleased him. The view of this cabin, connected with the knowledge of its having been the counsel house of the Cabinet of a nation, conveyed at once to my mind more vividly than any language could depict, not only the extremity to which the young Republic was reduced but the indomitable perseverance of those who instrumentally guided her destinies, & who were themselves sustained by the invincible democracy of the people."

Joseph wrote in January of 1846 "Lines to Darius Gregg on the death of his infant son Benjn Milam Gregg who died on Buffalo Bayou, Texas, aged five weeks".

On May 1st, 1846, Hannah (Este) Burnet was alone, as her husband, David G. Burnet, had gone to Austin and their little son was just leaving for Cincinnati, probably with Joseph, so Joseph sought to ease her maternal concern by addressing several stanzas to her.

Joseph was trying to straighten out some of the complicated real estate matters in Texas. For instance, his father had joined one J. B. Bailey in a dairy and gardening venture at Galveston and, as the joint undertaking had come to an end, a little money was due to Nicholas's estate in settlement; so, on May 15, 1846, at Galveston Bailey paid the balance of \$50 to Joseph who was the estate's administrator. Joseph must have been on the point of leaving Texas for Cincinnati, as he arrived at Beechwood eleven days later.

Edward E. Este's will was filed and recorded at Houston (Record of Deeds, Book K, pp. 283-4) on April 18, 1846; as

ood cow pen. At the end of the term, if the parties disagreed, they were to submit the matter in dispute to two disinterested persons who might appoint an umpire if needful, and bound themselves to abide by their decision.

In the following year Andrew made an exchange of property with Melancthon S. Wade of Cincinnati whereby Wade took Highland Cottage and a quarter-league (1,107 acres) on Galveston and San Jacinto Bays with some of the cattle for \$5,000 and, on May 30, gave Andrew deeds to lot 5 in the subdivision of the heirs of David Wade, fronting 25 feet on Central Avenue and David Street in Cincinnati; also to a 32-foot lot on Everett Street between Linn and Jones Streets; and to lots 5, 6, and 38, each with a frontage of 25 feet, in Wade's Subdivision on Harrison Pike.

Andrew must have transacted this business in haste in his eagerness to be with his brother and sisters in Cincinnati, for he did not take the trouble to make sure that all the owners of the Everett Street property signed the deed, and he must not have looked at the lots on Harrison Pike or he would not have become their owner—for they were merely a very steep hillside. Four years after Andrew's death his brother and sisters had to pay \$100 to parties in Shelby County, Indiana, for their interest in the Everett Street property which had a double cottage. This real estate was sold in 1889 by my mother for \$5,500. Year after year the Harrison Pike lots were entered in our tax bill during the lifetime of my parents and were finally imposed of by myself, out of sheer weariness, for their assessed valuation.

Andrew, being in Texas, gave his brother Joseph a power-of-attorney to collect the rents for the Central Avenue and Everett Street houses—and copied some verses which he admired, about saying joyfully, for he seems to have had a premonition of what came to pass only four months afterwards.

When Joseph was in Texas, early in 1854, he sold Andrew's cattle. Part of the herd had been included in the deal with Wade and the rest had been reserved; so, in settlement with Wade, Joseph returned to him on January 22, 1855, the note which he had given to Andrew at the time of the exchange of property. Although Andrew was shy, wary, meek, and dilatory, nevertheless he was constant in his devotion to the soil of Texas and did not take steps to return north until he had been left alone and was past his prime. His was not a dominating nature and he held back from the making of momentous decisions—he almost got married, but never got beyond the stage of thinking about it. The last letter of his which has been preserved is an unconscious self-portrayal; it was written at his residence, Highland Cottage, on June 14, 1847, and was addressed to his brother Joseph and his two surviving sisters. After mentioning the brought and his inability to plant because of it, he continues: 'You say that my speaking of selling out & returning to Ohio

was the most gratifying news to you of any, yes my dear Brother and Sisters, it is my intention to do so if possible, if I have to sacrifice, as it is too far to ride to Houston to attend church. the day I receiv'd your & Aunt Ann's letters I heard two Sermons in the Presbyterian Church [in Houston] by Mr. Limber which were very good, & one in the Baptist Church at night by Mr. Tryon & there is a Methodist preacher a Mr. Addison who preaches in our neighbourhood once every three weeks, he has preach'd twice at Mr. Brinsons, he does tolerable well. I have not seen Sarah yet, when I was in Houston I did not go there, I scarcely know whether to do so or not. I have not shewn Morgan a copy of the account he gave Father yet, I will follow your directions. Aunt Ann & all the family are well, she advises me to go to Maryland for a wife & to go & live with my Sisters . . . Genl Sherman resides at Harrisburg now, & Mrs. Sherman and the balance of the family have gone to Kentucky, Cornelius also, I suppose he will call & see you. Gregg & his Lady have also gone, I heard her say she would like to call on you, I suppose they will do so, & Mrs. Burnet has gone on . . . I told him [Sherman] your situation, he told me he thought he would be able to pay you before long, I wish to see him also very much—I suppose he will be back [from New Orleans] in the course of two or 3 weeks. Tanner is still with me, he is not able to do any thing like work, he strains the milk & cooks & washes up the Dishes for his board, his lungs had been affected, he does not breathe very well yet, I think he will never get strong & hearty again. Money is so scarce in Texas, I am afraid it will be hard to sell out. Col Washington has purchas'd 50 acres of Land from Mr. White, which is a part of the land I sold Sherman, by his consent I made Washington a deed to it, or rather to his Sister Mary Beasley, she is a widow. this 50 acres contains the buildings. Sherman told me in the presence of Col. Washington that I need not fear of getting the land back, as he intends paying the balance due us as soon as he possibly can. I understand that he & some others have purchas'd Harrisburg & intend making a town of it, by that I think he will be able to pay us, he has purchas'd Judge Briscoe's place in Harrisburg & has made him the first payment as I understand. I hope you will not blame me for making a deed to it [the 50 acres], Col. Washington & his Sister will move up this fall, he is much of a Gentleman. Mr. Miller our Preacher has gone to the General Assembly [of the Presbyterian Church], it is held in Richmond, Virginia, it is thought he will not be back before October. I dont hear any news of our war lately, the last account I heard Genl Scott was within 70 or 80 miles of the City of Mexico . . .

On January 1, 1849, Andrew leased his plantation on San Jacinto Bay to George E. Long and shortly afterwards the following curious document was signed by H. Washington who, presumably, was the Col. Washington who had bought the fifty

November 21, 1851, an interesting ceremony was held in the burning of notes whereby certain debts were forgiven—three notes against Joseph aggregating \$1,961.62 and one against Andrew for \$753.48 were thus cancelled by agreement with their sisters. At the same time and also with their sisters' approval, a note for \$70.19 against William Mount was given to Joseph. It was found that a note against J. and B. Reed for \$168 was void because the land for which it had been given had been relinquished and, similarly, one against William Badger for \$132.32 had been cancelled by a deed for lands. J. B. Bailey had settled the Galveston dairy and garden business by paying \$50. Timothy Kirby of Cumminsville had bought Nicholas's note to Mahard & Brother, and \$382.05 was paid to him in settlement of this; likewise \$56 was paid in settlement of a note to Compton. Andrew's account against the estate was \$1,106 and this was settled, with others, up to November of 1853, two months after Andrew's death.

The endless struggle with Sidney Sherman to induce him to keep his promises to pay, brought about some progress—at the expense of the Cloppers, as usual; three notes against him amounting to \$1,449.83 were "settled" in 1854 by his paying \$768 in cash and giving another note for \$232, the two items totalling only one thousand dollars, which must have been a compromise—and this included Andrew's claim against him, too! Sidney had paid \$25 in cash in 1846, and \$136 had been paid in settlement of John Myers's note with him, as the account solemnly sets forth. In January of 1866 Edward N. Clopper (Joseph's son) finally settled with General Sidney Sherman for \$100 cash in full at 25 per cent discount of all claims—after 28 years!

Joseph made out his expenses as administrator, showing \$21.25 paid for his father's funeral; \$6.87 for letters of administration, appraisal, and advertising; \$115 for travel to Texas and return in 1845-6; \$13.93 paid on a judgment against his father in favor of John S. Olmstead—even in death Nicholas was pursued by judgments!; \$81.20 as his commission for settling notes and claims; and in July of 1854 he calculated that a balance of \$186.50 was due to him as administrator and his sisters paid this sum to him in cash. At the same time he and his sisters paid off their note to Dr. Mount for \$200.

The family still owned land in Texas and, acting for them, Darius Gregg sold 400 acres of the Harrisburg tract in 1859 at \$5 an acre and sent \$663 cash in November, the balance to be paid in three installments. In the same month Gregg sold 300 acres of the same tract at \$4 an acre and sent \$300 cash, the balance to be made up in three payments. In January of 1866 Edward N. Clopper sold 700 acres of this tract at \$3 an acre for \$2,100 cash, and also received \$1,800 from Darius Gregg as the balance due from the sale in 1859 of the two other parcels totalling 700 acres.

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Nicholas's "City of Portland" speculation yielded more trouble than money. It was launched in 1841, a few months before Nicholas died; and now, eighteen years later, it raises its head to mock its promoter's memory and to plague his children. In 1841 Nicholas and Joseph gave W. M. and T. P. Corry of Cincinnati one twenty-second part of the northern half of League No. 7 in Texas in exchange for 41 acres of land in Hamilton County, Ohio, and also sold them four other shares in this real estate venture conditionally; Nicholas died that year and nothing was ever done to carry out the enterprise, nor was anything ever paid on those four other shares; Joseph sold the parcel of Hamilton County land for \$8 an acre. Now, on August 14, 1859, at Cincinnati, T. F. Corry writes to Joseph at Beechwood, offering to take a warranty deed for 500 acres of League No. 7, or the money with six per cent interest which Joseph had received for the Hamilton County parcel. A week later Joseph answered declaring that he was not under obligation to buy out the Corrys any more than they were to buy him out—that they had no just claim against him and he wished to dissolve the partnership in the half of League No. 7; why should he give them either what he had received for the Hamilton County land or several times the amount of Texas land which they had bargained for? Joseph states that in travel, taxes, and redemption fees he had spent \$200 on League No. 7, and he offers to make Corry in Cincinnati and to submit his counter proposition.

Apparently, however, Joseph did agree to give him a deed for 500 acres, as Corry, in a letter dated September 15th, refers to Joseph's acceptance of this suggestion and wishes to have ten acres and bounds specified in the deed; or, if Joseph will pay \$300 to Corry he may have Corry's bonds for the deed. If Joseph prefers to give the deed he must leave off a strip of 200 acres of the 2,200 in the northern half of League No. 7, then divide the 2,000 into four parcels, each of 500 acres fronting on the river, and Corry will draw one of them. Or, as Joseph believes the land to be worth more than Corry does, Corry will take \$500 and the whole affair will be closed. On this missive's envelope Mary wrote, "All sold in 1877."

In the middle of the nineteenth century one of Cumminsville's well-known residents was Jacob Hoffner whose home Hamilton Pike and Blue Rock Street (its site is now a playground) was remarkable for the overcrowding of its yard with statuary. The stone lions which guarded one of its entrances are now on watch at the doorway of McMicken Hall of University of Cincinnati, and the eagles which guarded another are now in Eden Park. Jacob was born in Pennsylvania 1799 and was taken to Cincinnati when six years of age his parents, both of whom had been born in the Keystone State. A monument was erected in Spring Grove Cemetery in 1871 to the memory of his first wife and their four children, 18 years after they had passed away. His second wife, Sarah, met de-

country & of course our prospect of selling is very dull . . . Am glad Dr. Oliver is moving somewhat in the cause of religion . . . we are gratified to know of his active concern to have the gospel preached at Cumminsville: Good old Mrs. Langland is a pattern in giving & if her zeal & christian desires for the gospel in their midst was more felt by others there would be no difficulty in obtaining regular preaching & my absence in such matters would be but little felt . . . Edward is now at his lessons, & by & by, I suppose, will be at the ducks which are still very numerous . . . The Judge & Hannah are well & pleased to hear from you. They are nicely fixed & living very comfortably . . . The Dr and I spent a day at Gen! Sherman's, he was not at home, being at Austin busied about the Rail-Road. It is finished 20 miles & pays expenses they say, tho' it runs but twice a week. Mrs. Sherman was very friendly & wanted to know if Carrie wrote to her. Says she hopes to visit her. Parents before a great while; & if she does will call at Beechwood . . . This I do not believe, yet is a beautiful building & handsomely furnished . . . They have been keeping a select boarding house & have now three very intelligent gentlemen concerned about the Rail Road boarding with them. She refused pay from us. Neither Harrisburg nor Houston have grown of any consequence. I have no doubt at some future year Harrisburg will be the place, & Houston must decline. I met Gregg in the street who insisted on the Dr and I making his house our home—he lives alone 1 1/2 miles down the Bayou—we did so, walking to town every day—he is not yet married, but matrimony is one of his particular themes of conversation—the same may be said of old Morgan who makes himself, they say, very ridiculous, & who seems to be, tho' this world is forever shut out from his vision, equally blind to the glorious realities of the world which no mortal eye hath ever seen. I travelled with the Dr over our Harrisburg tract on foot thro' the dense forests & find it more heavily timbered than I expected. There have been no *timber-thieves* upon it within the last three years as far as I could discover. Tho' I have met with very little encouragement in the way of selling lands, still I think I will be able to dispose of this tract, if no more . . .

Mary added a page, writing of their son Edward's duck shooting and continuing: "We sew *all* the time, it takes a great deal of sewing for the Blacks, & Edward keeps me mending, he tears his clothes to pieces with brush & briars in hunting & c . . ." She despairs of selling land this Winter and says their expenses have been heavy; "if we can have enough to return to Ohio, will be glad—hope I can get boarders when I get back. The Dr. is well; he is making his observations—does not tell *all he thinks* . . ."

At Oakland on February 15th Joseph wrote to his sisters, saying "We are catching any number of fish & turtle, big &

little—the geese & ducks are beginning to leave for the North . . . The Dr does not seem to think very favorably of Texas & believe has no idea of purchasing lands here . . . As to organizing a church at Cumminsville I expressed my views fully to several of the members there. They are unaltered, and I think we had better have no part in doing so unwise a thing . . . He is glad to hear that Isaac and Amelia are contented and careful of the stock at Beechwood. "I think you did well in letting Mary Ann have for a year, tho' the rent should have been \$75." He refers to "the great Avenue" as a probable speculative venture and suggests that Caroline sell her Rosencrantz lot, reserve a right-of-way across the creek to the road; he says the house and lot are worth \$1,000. "I have heard but three sermons since we left N. Orleans & neither of them from a Presbyterial tho' good after their kind." Mary added: ". . . this slave system, I do not like, although these in this family are unusual . . . last Sabbath we rode 3 miles in an ox-cart to hear very poor discourse—even that was refreshing . . ."

Joseph liked to draw as well as to write and to play the flute. He was neither gifted nor imaginative with the brush but pictured objects as he saw them. His drawings of butterflies and blossoms in some of the albums are rigid but colorful. Here in Texas he put on paper his view of David G. Burnes home, and Mary has noted below it: "A pencil sketch taken setting in a boat on the Bay by my dear Husband of Sister Hannah Burnets house and grounds—when we were visiting February 17th, 1854—Oakland near San Jacinto, Harris County Texas."

In a letter written at Oakland on February 25th to aunts at Beechwood, Edward expresses his opinion of a city which he was destined to occupy a prominent position: "Houston is a tolerable pretty place but nothing to brag about, it is built mostly on prairie . . ." He writes of ducks and of fishing—the San Jacinto River he, his father, and his cousin caught the catfish "as long as my arm" and a dozen more "about as long as from my elbow up to my shoulder"; also two soft-shell turtles. He shot a gar, about five feet long, in a small bay near his Uncle Burnet's place. His mother adds that his father is complaining of his old dyspepsia pains and that she dreaded the illness of the Spring season.

Edward shot a pelican, then measured it, and the bird's dimensions were recorded—from wing-tip to wing-tip overspread eight feet, nine inches. Killing the creature may have been in response to a primitive urge to slaughter and would think that the gentle Joseph might properly have repudiated him—instead, he seems to have glowed with pride in his son's exploit.

In her memoranda Mary has declared that March 8th Oakland was "a sad day"; one wonders why, for she does not tell us. She had also set down that January 17, 1853, v

Joseph added two pagefuls, sympathizing with Isaac and Amelia McMichael at Beechwood who, it appears, had lost a child. He is glad that "you got your lumber out in time" and approves the engaging of oak posts from Parker. He and his family will try to start for home by the middle of April; "we all, Dr included, are pretty tolerably homesick." He was in Houston last week and had Andrew's will probated and recorded. He has sold the cattle which Andrew had reserved when he sold out to General Wade, getting \$137.50 for them. He has arranged with Gregg to act as agent in efforts to sell land. He went to Harrisburg and met Sherman but did not have time to conclude the business with him, so will go again; settlement with him will likely mean the taking back of 680 acres of the 1,000 sold to him. "The Harrisburg tract is the only one from which we may hope to realize anything for years to come." He and Edward went down to Mrs. Morris's on horseback and there found Andrew's grave neatly and substantially enclosed with cedar posts and paling; "we gathered some mementoes from the enclosure & shelly beach . . . I thought something like this would be appropriate [for inscription on tombstone]: 'In memory of A. M. Clopper, a Texan Pioneer of 1822, died Sept. 16, 1853, aged 62 years' . . . I believe young Wade & Luckett were both very well pleased with Highland Cottage, especially with the extensive & splendid scenery . . ."

On April 12th the party started on the way back to Cincinnati. The Burnets went with them as far as Colonel Washington's where the Cloppers boarded the steamboat "Eclipse" bound for Galveston; arrived here, they took breakfast at the Tremont, dined with Mr. Ayers, and rode around the city and along the beach. Mary has recorded: "April 30, Arrived at home from Texas" and that on June 25th Joseph "took the cholera".

Among the souvenirs of this journey at Beechwood is a copy of John Abercrombie's *Philosophy of the Moral Feelings*, 1839, containing this presentation note: "From Aunt Hannah Burnet to Edward N. Clopper, April 11th, 1854, at Oakland, Texas."

XLII

LAST YEARS OF THE BURNETS

DAVID G. and Hannah (Este) Burnet centered their affection and hopes in their son, William Este Burnet, and gave him every opportunity for education within reach of the means. William was born in 1833 and spent part of his boyhood in the neighborhood of Cincinnati, attending school, and may have been tutored part of the time at Beechwood by his Uncle Joseph. Returning to his home in Texas in the Autumn of 1849, he wrote when on board the steamboat "Bunker Hill", New Orleans on October 14th to his uncle, saying that he had arrived in the Crescent City the day before, after having changed boats at Cairo, and intended to leave for Galveston on the following day on board the "Galveston". Continuing, he said, "The Yellow fever is here, though not very bad, the last report was 30 deaths in a day . . . There were several gamblers on board [the Bunker Hill] but they did not trouble me any . . ." Evidently Joseph had warned him to beware of "sharps".

William was to come again to Beechwood, attend school and be helped in his studies by his Aunt Mary and his Uncle Joseph—on April 28, 1853, he arrived and stayed on after Aunt and Uncle had gone to Texas for their visit to his parents. He was twenty years of age now and, as so often happens this period, his parents learned to their dismay that his expenses exceeded their estimates; so, presumably with their knowledge and consent, he borrowed from Caroline and Mary Ann—according to Caroline's memoranda he gave her at one time his note for \$32, then in September of 1854 she lent him \$200 and February of 1855 fifty dollars. The Burnets were long embarrassed by this unexpected indebtedness; David sent Caroline \$100 in 1855 and practised even greater economy at home in order to save enough for another payment.

William was in Frankfort, Kentucky, in October of 1854 for Joseph sent a parcel to him there by Adams Express Company. He was attending the Kentucky Military Institute which at that time was located six miles south of Frankfort and conducted by Col. Robert Allen, and was graduated in June of 1855 with the degrees of A.B. and C.E.

His mother, Hannah (Este) Burnet, writing on January 1858, at her home, Oakland, in Texas, to her sister Mary Beechwood, says "The old year has passed away, one month the new one gone, and we are still the spared monuments

seems likely that Arthur, knowing he could not live, left instructions for the forwarding of his few possessions to Mary Caroline and the Confederate officer carried them out when conditions permitted. Her daguerreotype, as well as one of himself, is now at Beechwood. His body was brought to Cincinnati and buried in the Booth family's lot in Spring Grove Cemetery, and from time to time in the next half century Mary Caroline visited his grave; she never laid flowers upon it—that would have been unlike her—but would stand, looking at it for a few moments, a wistful expression in her eyes.

In 1863 William and Eliza McClintock with their family were back in Cincinnati, keeping house at 80 West Seventh Street, and probably had a boarder or two. It was late in this year that a new store was opened at 131 West Fifth Street and its sign bore the names "Maxon & Clopper". Mary Caroline told me that her mother went into this store to buy victuals and was waited upon by Edward N. Clopper. Eliza and Edward, both being genial and friendly, liked each other from the first. Perhaps Edward began to eat lunch at the McClintock table, perhaps Eliza had Mary Caroline with her some day when she went to the store—however this may be, Edward and Mary Caroline became acquainted. Both had lost their loves by death, it both were young and loved life, too. Mary Caroline was attracted by Edward's heartiness and sincerity, while her winning ways and "her witching smile that caught his youthful eye" did not fail to make a strong appeal to him. It was in 1863 that her portrait was painted by L. Schnabel.

Edward quit the store in the Spring of 1864 and served during most of the year's remainder in the Commissary Department of the army at Chattanooga. Then, on January 25, 1865, and Mary Caroline were wedded in Christ Episcopal Church Fourth Street. Edward's Aunt Caroline had bought a new peep for herself for the occasion and some silver salt scoops for the bride—two of these are still at Beechwood. So Mary Caroline—Mary Carrie, as Aunt Caroline called her—came to live in Beechwood. It was an ordeal for her, this attempting to settle down with her husband and three elderly women into the routine of a long-established home—not because of any friction with Aunt Caroline and Aunt Mary Ann, for they were friendly and considerate, but because of the instant antipathy of Edward's mother and herself for each other, an antipathy which was inevitable, given the natures of these two women, and which opened with the passing of the years. As Mary Caroline saw Edward's mother "put on airs" and was domineering in her manner towards his two aunts who were meek and submissive towards her. It was not in Mary Caroline's make-up to be submissive, so the two clashed. Edward and his aunts did their best to keep peace in the old home but it was an impossible task and in less than three years, Edward and Mary Caroline took their residence in "the cottage in the yard", only a hundred

feet or so from the main house. Here, too, they lived three years—the happiest years of her married life, Mary Caroline afterwards declared—then moved to a house which they had bought in Cumminsville.

Early in 1865 Edward still kept accounts for the store and commission business which he had been connected with—the winding up of its affairs—and the name of I. M. Watters stands prominently in them. Again he was examined in eighteen subjects and another male principal's certificate for Cincinnati schools was issued to him, this one dated October 13, 1865, and valid for three years—but he was given no school at this time. The next day Mary Caroline gave birth to their first child, Augustus, whose span of life was but a few hours; Aunt Tad gave Edward ten dollars.

The family's holdings of land in Texas were a burden because of the taxes and trespassing. For many years attempts had been made to dispose of them but sales at long distance are difficult to negotiate; then the Civil War intervened; and now that the war was over, Edward determined to make an effort on the ground, so he left Beechwood for Texas on November 24, 1865—and Aunt Tad gave him five dollars. In December she gave Mary Carrie ten dollars.

As an instance of their Texas real estate troubles, Darius Gregg says in a letter written on January 31, 1861, at Houston to Joseph (who, unknown to him, had been dead for more than three weeks) that Reuben Barrow claims Mary (Este) Clopper's 200 acres on Cedar Bayou but his deed is not recorded in Harris County and that time and a lawyer's fee will regain the land; Barrow has sold timber off it to the railroad which has reached it and will reach Houston by March 1st. Continuing, he says that land is valued at \$10 an acre but would not bring \$2.50 cash now; most of the people have stopped payment for want of means. He requests a power-of-attorney to sell, make title, or sue for the 200 acres on the southwestern side of Cedar Bayou in Harris County which were sold by Meredith Duncan to Elizabeth J. Este on December 20, 1841, and bequeathed by her husband, Edward E. Este, to Mary (Este) Clopper in his will dated October 25, 1842. Mary had the power-of-attorney drawn by her nephew, Edward Mills of Cincinnati, acknowledged it before Samuel S. Carpenter, the commissioner appointed by the Governor of Texas to take acknowledgments in Ohio of deeds and other instruments relating to Texas, and sent it to Gregg on February 14, 1861.

Writing at Houston to his mother on the day after Christmas, Edward told her that he had looked at her Cedar Bayou tract and that it ought to be valuable but "there is no sale for lands now". He had rendered all Clopper lands in Texas for assessment and would pay the taxes before returning home. He hopes to sell the remainder of the Harrisburg tract and intends to leave for Cincinnati on January 2nd. He had arrived in

Like his grandfather, Edward pinned his faith on real estate as a basis of wealth but, unlike him, he was not a reckless plunger. He bought small pieces and paid for them as soon as he could. In April of 1874 he acquired some lots in Indianapolis from William S. Hubbard, husband of a cousin of his, who lived there, and paid \$214 of the price; it seems that his second payment was \$232.69 including taxes and was made in March of 1875; his third \$253.70 including taxes, a year later; and his final one \$239.18 including taxes and interest, in March of 1878. He also bought a thirty-foot lot but where it was located his records do not disclose—he may have got it from William Thomson in Cumminsville—at any rate, in April of 1876 he paid \$470.33 and “lifted” his first note given in connection with its transfer.

He paid weekly dues of \$2.50 to a building association from 1869 and monthly interest of \$6.60 from 1871 to 1876. In 1872 he paid interest to both of his aunts; later, instead of paying the money to them direct, he had necessary repairs made at his expense upon Beechwood and “the cottage in the yard”—and these came to more than the interest he owed. Having inherited from his Aunt Caroline her “Rose Cottage” and one-acre lot on the north bank of Mill Creek, he placed a mortgage on it in July of 1876 as security for a loan of \$500 from William R. Williamson. Then, in May of 1877, he had the mill lot subdivided and paid \$30 for a plat, hoping that people would buy the lots and build houses on them—but almost no one ever did.

Texas land still held out a faint promise of money to be realised—and made an ever-recurring demand for taxes. Writing at Houston on June 25, 1866, to Mary (Este) Clopper, Darius Gregg reported that he could find no sale for lands then; indeed, they could not be sold as well then as when Edward was there. He intended to start for Kentucky in a few days but his wife would not go with him. If he should go to Cincinnati he would spend a few days at Beechwood. He has just paid taxes on land except on the 714 acres in the Brown League which Dr. Hesters bought.

Then came three letters written at Houston in 1870 by J. E. Foster and addressed to Edward. On April 4th Foster says he has been offered 75c an acre for the M. Duncan 200 acres on Cedar Bayou; that the Clopper lands in Harris County had been sold for taxes a short time before, and that he had bought them in for the family, paying \$12. On August 8th he reports having sold the Cedar Bayou land for one dollar, silver, an acre; and asks whether he should send the silver or sell it for currency. Then, on December 10th, he apologises for having failed to send the proceeds of the Cedar Bayou land sale earlier and encloses a draft for \$125, retaining \$61 with which to settle up taxes on other lands, mentioning Matagorda, Fort Bend, Bexar, and Harris Counties: “I have a great deal of trouble about payment of taxes since the war as so many incompetent and irresponsible men are made assessors & collectors.” This last statement refers, apparently, to “carpet-baggers”.

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Texas land was, for owners so far away, such a care and expense that Edward disposed of all that he could. On April 4, 1877 D. E. Braman at Matagorda wrote to Edward saying that Joseph and Mary (Este) Clopper had sold to Thomas F. Corry 500 acres off the northern part of the Clopper League (No. 7) for \$500, hence 1,714 acres of the upper half of this league were left for him; that he had offered these 1,714 acres of Edward's at 75c an acre to Jonathan E. Pierce who refused to give this price, declaring that 50c an acre was enough; and that Abel H. Pierce had offered 33c cash which was declined, as 65c is enough. Then, on May 6th, A. H. Pierce wrote at Indianola, Texas, to Edward offering 50c an acre; Edward answered that he would take \$1,000 cash and on June 4th Pierce wrote agreeing to give this and asked Edward to learn whether James Esbur of Cincinnati owned a quarter of the R. R. Royal League in Jackson County which he also wished to buy. The Pierces were cattlemen and stock raisers, according to their letter-head. On July 30th a draft for \$990 was sent to Edward by an Indianola bank, being the \$1,000 collected from A. H. and J. E. Pierce less one per cent commission and exchange. Edward complied with A. H. Pierce's request and arranged the purchase of the Esbur land for him. Shortly afterwards Pierce bought the southern half of League No. 7 from the Ludlow family and then owned all of the league except Corry's 500 acres which also he sought to get. So, after many years, League No. 7 in Matagorda County passed out of the Clopper family's possession altogether and Nicholas's child-like faith in its future was never justified.

In August Edward went to Texas and a memorandum which tells us that he spent \$122.20 for fare, taxes, hotel etc. When on board the steamer “St. Mary” in the Gulf of Mexico bound for Texas, he wrote on August 12th to Mary Carrie saying that in New Orleans he saw her brother, Samuel E. McClintock who had plenty of work and good wages, and was rooming alone that he himself likes the French coffee and “takes kindly to his rations”; and that he expects to arrive in Galveston this day. Five days later, at Houston, he again wrote to Mary Carrie: “Would you believe it, I am about to have offered to me the superintendency of the public schools of this city! The Mayor is waiting for me to make up my mind about it. There is no superintendent and the schools are just being organized for the first time to open on the 1st Monday in October. Salary Supt't is \$2,000 for only 8 months in the year. . . . Capt. [J. E.] Foster is interesting himself largely in my behalf and I have been introduced to many leading educational men here. The city is double the size of what it was in 1865 and has a population of nearly 30,000. How would you like to come here to live? . . . Say *nothing* to anyone about my prospective offer of the Superintendency of Schools, because it has not been officially offered to me as yet. I am well satisfied, however, that all I have to do is to say that I will accept it. It is a *big thing* & a fine oppo-

Dear Mr. Watson,

As of your letter to Dr. E. Dale Odam, Chairman, Denton County Historical Survey Committee on March 9, 1973 in regards to the history of Gregg Ranch in Denton County.

Mr. Odam suggested that I write directly to you in answer to your questions. I am sorry that my answers have to be only what has been handed down to me by my parents and relatives in many instances. However, I am enclosing zerox copies of a few of W. B. Gregg's 1 papers. These have been saved by Mrs. Langley.

I will refer you to Darius Gregg's file in your office. This will help with Darius Gregg. TSH SC (JS) 3/5/73. A marker is being placed at his grave in Harris County. Located in Glenwood Cemetery, 2525 Washington Ave. Houston, Texas.

Darius Gregg was interested in the cattle business in Texas when he first arrived in 1827. He was twenty-three years old at this time. Zerox copies: "AN AMERICAN FAMILY" by Edward Clopper. He acquired this land in payment for his survey work for the Buffalo Bayou, Brazos and Colorado Railway Co. He selected this particular land because it was ideal for growing crops and for ranching. He took his survey party from Houston and did his own survey in Denton County. This survey was done circa 1850-'53. Again may I refer you to the Gregg (Darius) already on file in your office for this reference. Darius Gregg gave Houston as his address but like ~~his~~ his son they went to Denton County to escape the heat of Houston during the summer. However, W. B. Gregg did move to Denton with his first wife and there he conducted his ranching. He met his first wife, Patty Anderson, while attending college in Nashville, Tenn. She died at the ranch but was buried in Houston.

I am sorry that I am unable to tell the type of cattle raised on the ranch by Darius and W. B. 1 but do know that W. B. Gregg raised Herefords.

After his first wife's death Mr. Robert Swift of the Swift packing family visited Mr. Gregg and stayed all summer. They had roomed together in college. Mr. Swift's health wasn't too good and the climate helped him so much that he spent many summers there. He fell in love with the climate.

When my grandmother, Emma Bell Mounts, married Mr. Gregg and they lived on the ranch she was noted for her musical talents. She played both the piano and guitar. She has told me stories about sitting around the campfire and playing the guitar with all the cowboys joining in the singing. Mr. Gregg and his wife entertained with dances. Denton people were invited out. The watermelons were kept cold by placing them in the cold spring waters of the ranch.

The bandit, Sam Bass, at one time worked on the Gregg Ranch. He also forked for

the father-in-law of W.B. Gregg 1, Mr. William Mounts Mr/ Gregg married Emma Bell Mounts after the death of his first wife. My parents have told me many stories about Sam Bass hiding on her part of the ranch (Susan Speed Gregg Simmons) and leaving part of his "loot" there between robberies. Zerox copies: "A SKETCH OF SAM BASS" by Charles L. Martin.

During the late 1870's and '80's there was a race track in Denton and heavy bets were placed on the horses running. It was at this time that W. B. Gregg 1 raised registered horses on Gregg Ranch.

I have many papers concerning the buying and selling of part of Darius Gregg's survey in Denton County. Out of the original land that Darius Gregg had in Denton County (about twenty thousand acres) in 1853 there were a little over ten thousand acres left at W. B. Gregg's 1 death. In Darius Gregg's will he left land from this ranch and other tracts in Denton County to his nephew, Darius Gregg in Missouri and to his second wife, Mary Gregg of Houston. His nephew in Missouri wanted no part of this land in Texas because there were Indians camping on it. He sold it back to W. B. Gregg 1.

Upon the death of W. B. Gregg 1 the Gregg Estate was managed by Mr. Gregg' appointed executor, Dr. Curvier Lipscomb. He later married Mr. W. B. Greggs widow. All of Mr. Gregg's children were quite young at this time. My mother was the oldest at this time and she was only four years of age.

The three Gregg heirs were ^{W.B. Gregg (2)} Susan Speed Gregg-deceased- (Mrs. James Wiley Simmons of Denton), Mary Catherine Gregg (Mrs. William G. Langley of Dallas, Texas) Mrs. W. G. Langley is the only living child and the only one of the Greggs who still owns a part of her share of the ranch. This consists of 750 acres.

Susan Speed Gregg (Mrs. Simmons) and Mary Catherine Gregg (Mrs. Langley) turned their ranches into farms when they became of age. This was in 1904. However, W. B. Gregg 11 continued his as a working ranch. He received more land in the division of the estate as it was felt that this land was better for cattle. Mrs. Simmons and Mrs. Langley grew cotton and wheat as their main crops. Mrs. Simmons did raise Shropshire sheep for a number of years.

Mr. W. B. Gregg 11 lived in the old ranch house until it burned in about 1912. After the death of W. B. Gregg 1 Dr. Lipscomb made Robert Noble Mounts manager of the ranch and he continued to manage it until the children became of age. Mr. Mounts was a brother of Mrs. W. B. Gregg 1.

The marker will be placed in front of the present ranch house of Mrs. W. G. Langley which is just about a mile and a half north off US380 and about 12.1 miles west of Denton. To my knowledge this road had never been named. The executor of the Gregg Estate gave a road completely surrounding the ten

3.

ten thousand acres in about 1885-7. This particular road on which Mrs. Langley's house faces is the road that she and Mrs. Simmons gave to the county also. It divided Mrs. Simmons' and Mrs. Langley's ranch. This was given about 19 16 -17,

I hope that I have answered all your questions. Please contact me if you need any more information.

Thank you,

Mrs. Charles A. Hall (Susan Jane Simmons)

7515 Bridgewater

San Antonio, Texas

78209

After finishing this I called my Aunt, Mrs. Langley, in Dallas and did find out the following information about the marker location. The road that you turn north on at 12.1 miles west of the Denton County Court House on the US 380 is commonly called the Plainview-Slidell Road. After turning north on this road the marker is to be placed in front of the gate of the house of Mrs. Langleys. This is 1.7 miles north from US 380. The house is located on the left hand side of the road going north.

tel. 824-4176

3945

Houston July 18 1883

Mr W B Gregg
Houston Tex

3945

Dear Sir

I have this day drawn on you for One hundred (\$100.) Dollars payable the 12th day of August, as per instruction of Jack Hopson who told me you would give that amount payable at that time for the benefit of our new Church. We now have the building up and ready for the walls painting and finishing inside and hope to be able have it opened and dedicated for service by the 12th of August. We have agreed on the name "Rev. Gregg Chapman" by which to perpetuate your Masters name and good deeds which are so well remembered by the old members of the Community.

I hope the liberty we have taken
in this matter will meet your
Cordial approval, as it will
be a most timely assistance to us
and bind us under lasting obli-
gations to you as a friend
and Patron of our worthy Cause

With sincere good wishes
for yourself and Lady, Mr Glegg,
I am Truly Yours

A. H. H. H.

To my friend D. Gregory 3945
on the death of his only child - Henry Milan Gray

"O years have flown since last we met!" -

Again we meet to part
With more than Friendship's fond regret
Pond'ring thy bleeding heart.

We met - and in thy dandling arms
I saw thy only child -
Thy rapture, when with cherub charms,
It looked on thee and smiled.

We part - but ah! before I go
Behold that infant's grave! -
And where is now that overflow
Of joy its smilings gave! -

I will not say, refrain thy tears,
Tho' with the child 'tis well;
'Tis nature's boon, and thus appears
Like oil on tempest's swell.

Perhaps it lay too near thy heart,

And so was tak'n away.

That grace might now perform its part
Enabling thee to say:

3945

"The dearest idol I have known,
What else that idol be;
Help me to tear it from thy shrine,
And worship only Thee."

J. O. P.

R. W. Boyce
Jan 12th 1845

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Denton County is 180 miles
from Bryan on the Elm
forks of Trinity River
The Cross Timbers Passes

Throug the center of the
County the Timber Land
is generally poor the soil
is very rich indeed
I have 15 or 20 thousand
acres of choice Land I
will rent at \$2 per acre
1/2 in hand the balance
in 12 months being rented
at 10 per centum premium
The Galveston & Kansas
Rail Road is located
a few miles East of Denton
and will be built in a
few years my land is not
good than one tenth timber
corn & beef and very
cheap from 1 to 2 cents per lb
no better County for cattle. Ho

3945

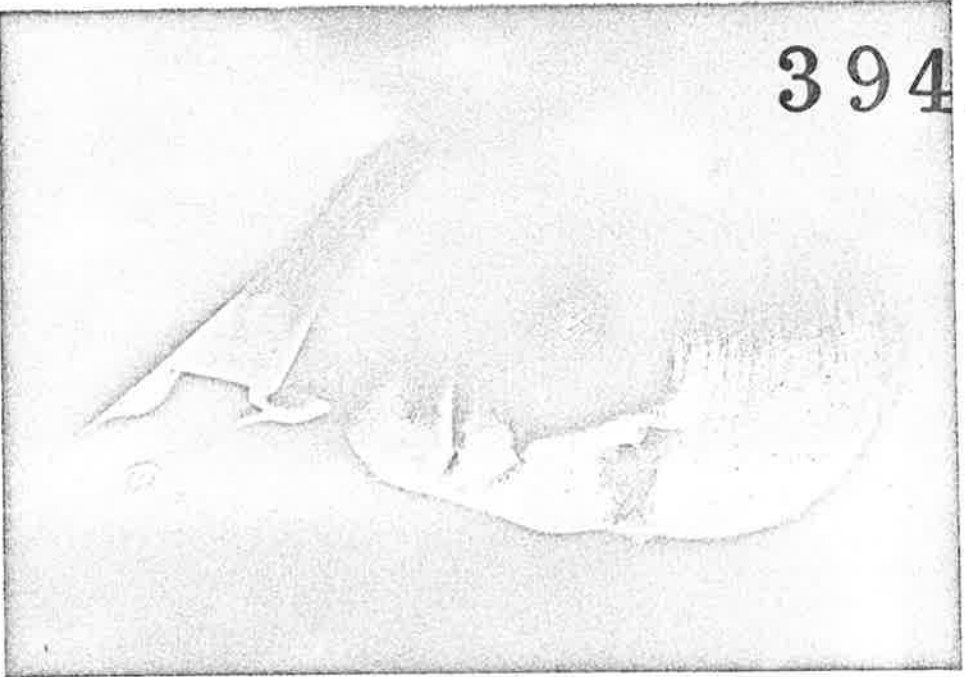
Horses, & Sheep in the state
notwithstanding grain growing country
I selected these Lands in
person some 15 years since
when the most of the Lands
was vacant, and I consider
them choice Lands I did not
get much timber because
there is a great abundance
of timber in the County
and the timber Lands are
generally from Surveyors fees
some \$12 per section of 3600 acres
Cows & Calves one worth from
\$5. to 10 per pair as to
Quality oxen from \$23, to 40
per pair Horses from 23, to 100
Houses from 25 to 150

D. H. Pegg.

Maps of Lands are
worth from 53, to 8 per map
according to size at auction
in General Land Office

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MACUM PHELAN

A HISTORY

of

THE EXPANSION OF
METHODISM IN TEXAS

1867—1902

Being a continuation of the
History of Early Methodism in Texas,
by the same Author.

BY

MACUM PHELAN

21602
A stylized logo consisting of three overlapping triangles forming a larger triangular shape, with the letters 'M' and 'V' integrated into the design.

MATHIS, VAN NORT & CO.,
BOOK PUBLISHERS
DALLAS TEXAS

Station.' The second church was also known as Houston Station. It was never officially named, though there was some discussion as to the name. The building committee agreed that it should be named for the oldest member of the committee, but Mr. Shearn objected, and no name was officially given. When the third church was built it was suggested that it should be called 'Charles Shearn Memorial,' and a resolution was introduced probably in quarterly conference to that effect. After much debate the resolution was adopted, but the name was not recognized until 1890, when, at the request of the quarterly conference of the church, it was entered on the Conference minutes as 'Charles Shearn Memorial'."

There must be some misapprehension on this point, as we find, by examining the annual conference minutes, that as far back as 1873 the name of Shearn was applied to this appointment. Prior to that year the minutes simply show Houston, or Houston station. After 1873 it sometimes appears as Shearn Chapel and sometimes as Shearn Church, until in the 80's following the completion of the new building, the appointment is shown invariably as Shearn Church. Certainly no bishop would read out this name for more than fifteen years, prior to 1890, unless there had been a general understanding and acceptance of the fact.

In 1869 a Houston city mission was projected, with Homer S. Thrall in charge. In 1873 F. T. Mitchell was sent to the mission, and the Washington Street church was organized and a church house built. In 1882 a McKee Street church was organized by Alexander Hinkle, a local preacher (formerly an itinerant). In 1883 B. F. Johnson was appointed to this work, and a church was erected. In 1890 E. W.

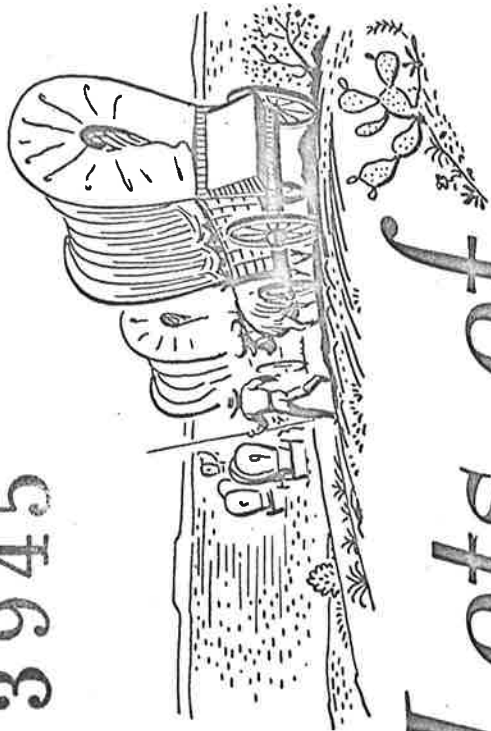
3945

Solomon, pastor at Shearn Church, began preaching and organized a Sunday school in a grove near the corner of German and Buffalo streets. Lots were bought, and Mr. S. M. McAshan built a chapel. About 75 members from Shearn Church transferred to the chapel. Thus, by the early 90's, Houston Methodism was represented by four appointments — Shearn, Washington Street, McKee Street, and McAshan.

Methodism was of slow growth in San Antonio in the early days, quite in contrast with its development there in modern times. The first church was organized by John W. DeVilbiss in 1846. A rock church building was begun, on Soledad street, in 1852, and finished in 1853. It was of two stories or of one story and a basement above ground, the upper story used for services, and the lower for school purposes. This church was called Paine Chapel, though never so designated in the appointments — the appointment being simply "San Antonio." In 1883 a lot was secured on Travis street, diagonally opposite Travis Park, and a stone building was begun, under the patronage of W. J. Young. This was the beginning of Travis Park Church, and a new era for Methodism in San Antonio. Travis Park Church became the hive, so to speak, from which several other important churches in the city later swarmed.

The exact date of the organization of the first Methodist church in Fort Worth is not known, there being no record of the fact discoverable by this writer. Since both the Fort Worth district and the Fort Worth mission appeared in the minutes as early as 1856, and since Methodist preachers had preached at that point even earlier, some sort of organization must have been effected there about 1855 or 1856. The first house of worship, a frame building, valued in the conference reports variously at

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Lots of Land

FROM MATERIAL COMPILED UNDER THE
DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF
THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE OF TEXAS

BASCOM GILES

WRITTEN BY CURTIS BISHOP

DECORATIONS BY WARREN HUNTER

The Steck Company • Austin

original settlers for that matter, any more patient with the fumbling efforts of the new government.

The General Land Office was opened for business in February as directed, and the first commissioner was John Petit Borden, a veteran of the revolutionary army. He was Houston's appointee and the most logical man for the office. Even while Congress was enacting the land legislation over the President's veto, John Borden was engaged in indexing and perfecting the records of Stephen F. Austin's colony and, with his brother, Gail, Jr., was completing the first extensive and most comprehensive map of Texas. Borden had been sent to San Antonio to learn the Spanish language at Stephen F. Austin's expense; he could translate the Spanish documents.

He was inadequate for the task thrust upon him, of course; any man would have been. The only boundary line to his domain of which he was at all certain was the strip of coastline studded with a few would-be seaports such as Matagorda, Velasco, and Galveston. No map existed to show the limits of the various Mexican states of Coahuila, Tamaulipas, and Chihuahua except the one he had partially completed with his brother. He did not know where United States territory left off and Texas soil began, for Jackson claimed land past what Texans believed to be the limits of the United States under the Louisiana purchase. (An uprising in 1827 by settlers who believed themselves living in Texas and resisted for a time the efforts of Federal representatives to collect taxes has already been noted.)

Some unknown thousands of settlers, as well as the veterans of Sam Houston's army, were entitled to headright certificates and possession of their land. Certainly Houston had been wise in recommending postponement of a land office until the various records had been gathered and the land surveyed and platted. Then the Republic of Texas could have known just what land it had to give away and where it was. But Texans would not wait. Young John Borden bravely faced an impossible task.

Congress had ordered "all *empresarios*, political chiefs, alcaldes, and other persons to deliver to the general land office all titles, books, surveys, papers, documents, or other things in their possession, or charge," but this was easier said than done.

The Republic had had six seats of government in less than a year. The Mexicans had captured and burned all *ayuntamientos* seats except two.

Commissioner Borden dispatched Darius Gregg to collect the titles of the East Texas colonies with these instructions: "You will proceed to Nacogdoches where you will employ a small wagon and team sufficient to convey the archives of the different land offices east of the Trinity, together with that of Milam's colony now at San Augustine. . . ."

To San Antonio, Borden sent George W. Fulton with a letter authorizing him to "procure the facilities for the safe conveyance of the archives" with the admonition to be "particularly careful not to get them wet under any circumstances."

Some idea of the difficulties that the Commissioner and his agents had to cope with is illustrated by this complaint from George A. Nixon of Nacogdoches, dated October 4, 1837:

Some time ago Mr. Gregg presented me with a Letter addressed to Captain A. Hogkiss [Hotchkiss] requested him to Sand Down or to Deliver the Archeves on Land Papers Belonging to Zavala, Vehllein and Burnets colloney. At the time I was sick and partly confined to my Bad and taking Medecar, and I Remained unwell up to this time and am Now hardley abel to attend to Buissness. Too I have had 4 yong men employed in wrighting and taking an account of the papers and myself. I have Been at much Expance and troubel and Princebally owing to my Sickness and I am so week that I can hardley wright. . . .

Borden reported to Congress on October 7, 1837, that he had succeeded in getting the records of only four of the land offices. "The collection of all the archives," he wrote, "has been and is yet attended with difficulties greater . . . than was contemplated by the former members of congress; otherwise there would certainly have been some provisions made by which persons might be employed for that purpose for I am fully convinced that they did not expect men to engage in the business for the mere honor there would be attached to it. . . ."

In this report Borden stated that the records of the De León colony at Victoria had been destroyed by the Mexicans. In his next report he amended this statement, saying that the Texan

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A HISTORY
OF
EARLY METHODISM IN TEXAS

1817-1866

BY
MACUM PHELAN

COKESBURY PRESS
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DALLAS :: SAN FRANCISCO

this populous city numbers 14, joined by letter. Bro. Stringfellow was appointed class-leader & Bro. Fisher class steward. This I presume is the first Methodist class ever organized in the city; if one had been previously formed I think I should have heard something of it, having canvassed the city from center to circumference in the distribution of tracts." Although Hord does not say in so many words that he organized this church, the fact is made plain in the journal of another early preacher in Houston. From "Allen's Reminiscences of Texas" we have the following: "Just a year after my first preaching in Houston [this would make it, according to previous entries, March 31, 1839] organized the Presbyterian Church, the first Church in the city, ten members. . . . During the winter and spring of 1839, many ministers of different denominations appeared in Houston. . . . The first Methodist Church was organized soon after the Presbyterian by a Bro. Hord, as also the Protestant Episcopal, all within a month or six weeks." The fact then is, according to these concurrent testimonies, that Hord organized a Methodist Church in Houston in April, 1839, with fourteen members. Whether this organization disintegrated or suspended its activities is another matter. The historian of Houston Methodism thinks it did, and credits Mr. Summers, as above, with giving Methodism a permanent existence in Houston. The same writer adds: "As there was no church building in Houston, and the capital had been removed to Austin, and the old capitol converted into storehouses, Mr. Summers preached in a room over a store on Capitol Avenue, between Milam and Louisiana Streets."

Among the earliest members of the church in Houston were Charles Shearn, Alexander McGowen, Mrs. Winn (daughter of Dr. Ruter), Capt. Mosely Baker, Darius Gregg, Dr. John L. Bryan and wife, Francis Moore

² S-W Historical Quarterly, XVIII, 303.

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CHAPTER XIII

THE YEAR 1841-1842

THE years 1841-42 were fruitful ones for the Church in Texas, and witnessed the spread of the work into many hitherto unoccupied localities. On the southwestern border the Victoria country, which had called so loudly the year before for a preacher, was covered in 1841 by J. P. Sneed, who succeeded in organizing churches in Victoria, Gonzales, Port Lavaca and Seguin. The statistics returned for that section in the fall showed 64 white members and 24 colored. On the northwest frontier, covered by Austin circuit, embracing all the upper Colorado, John Haynie reported at the close of the year 1841, 147 white members and 11 colored. From the new Harrison circuit, which was rapidly forming the connecting link between Texas proper and the Red River territory, a membership of 334 white and 24 colored was shown at the end of the year.

The year 1841 saw the organization of the first permanent Methodist Church in Houston, under the pastorate of Thomas O. Summers, according to Mrs. Blandin, a local church historian.¹ "Previous to Mr. Summers' arrival in Houston," says this author, "Mr. Alexander had organized a class of fourteen; but the first permanent organization was made in 1841 by Mr. Summers." Jesse Hord, who included Houston in his circuit in 1838-39, records in his journal in April, 1839, the following item relating to a church in Houston: "Our church or class in

¹ History of Shearn Church, p. 23.

(mayor in 1843), and G. S. Hardcastle. Charles Shearn came from England and settled in Texas in 1834. In 1837 he located in Houston and entered business. Religiously he was described as "an old fashioned Methodist, loyal to the doctrines, faithful to duty, and generous with his time and money in the interest of the church." He was one of Houston's first class-leaders, and was on the first board of stewards, filling both places in his church for more than thirty years. We shall have occasion to note more in detail his services to the church in Houston and to the Church at large in Texas in after years.

Alexander McGowen was a true fellow-laborer with Shearn in Houston. A native of North Carolina, he came to Houston in 1839. He became prominently identified with public affairs in the city and state, serving for three terms as mayor of Houston, and taking a prominent part as a member of the constitutional convention of 1845. He was converted in Houston, and joined in the organization of the first church. He served as trustee of his church for fifty-odd years and for many years as steward. Mr. McGowen died in 1892, and his funeral service was held at Shearn Church, conducted by Dr. G. C. Rankin, then pastor.

Darius Gregg and G. S. Hardcastle were both among the earliest settlers of Houston; both successful in business affairs, and both were among the first officials and loyal supporters of the first Methodist church in Houston.

Like the Roman centurion, who "loves our nation and hath built us a synagogue," the name of T. W. House holds an honorable place in Methodist annals in Houston, though he was never a member of the church. Mr. House, who was a native of England, located in Houston in 1837 and entered business, his first venture being a bakery and confectionery. After a few years he founded a bank and established the largest wholesale dry goods

and grocery house in the state. He became prominently connected with many other interests and succeeded in amassing a large fortune. Mr. House married the only daughter of Charles Shearn, and this relation, together with his early formed friendship for Dr. Summers—both being Englishmen—led him to devote much interest and means toward church building in Houston. He was a trustee of the Methodist church until his death in 1880, and after his death a son, T. W. House, Jr., succeeded to that office, so that for sixty-five years the name of T. W. House appears on the records of Shearn Church as a trustee. Col. Edward M. House, of recent international note, is another son of T. W. House.

Mr. Summers's work in Houston and Galveston in 1841-42 resulted in getting under way church buildings in both cities. The church in Galveston was erected in 1841-42 and was named Ryland Chapel, in honor of the Rev. Wm. Ryland, of Washington, D. C., who contributed liberally to its cost. The first church building in Houston was launched at a quarterly meeting held there in March, 1842, by Robert Alexander. The building committee was composed of Charles Shearn, T. W. House, D. Gregg, A. McGowen and G. S. Hardcastle. The building, thirty-five by sixty feet, with a sixteen foot annex, and galleries for colored people, was erected of brick, and was the first brick church in Texas. It was not completed or used until 1844.

From various sources we have a few glimpses of how the work was going on here and there in the interior of the country during this period. A contributor to the *Texas Wesleyan Banner* in 1850 remembers the following:

On the 4th of July, 1841, a Sunday school was organized in Yellow Prairie, then Milam county, Texas, by Brothers Alexander Thompson and D. W. Wright. It was well attended and much interest manifested, and while some who attended that

3945

the defeated Mexicans beyond the Rio Grande according to the articles of capitulation. The joy of the Texas army was subdued by the death of Ben Milam. General Edward Burleson reported that "the Masonic fraternity then present took charge of his body, and, with a proper detail of troops, he was buried in the yard-east-side of the Veramendi house with military honors."⁶⁶ The following is a list of Masons who took part in the siege of San Antonio de Béxar:

Alley, William A., Jr.	Deen, Caloway
Alsbury, Horatio A.	Dunlavy, William T.
Amsler, Carl C.	English, George
Anderson, B. W.	Fannin, James W.
Austin, Stephen F.	Golightly, Thomas J.
Austin, W. T.	Gregg, Darius
Baker, D. Davis D.	Hardeman, William P.
Belden, John	Hill, William G.
Bennet, Valentine	Holman, W. W.
Black, John S.	Hoxey, Asa
Bowie, James	Jack, Patrick C.
Brookfield, William	Jones, Augustus
Brown, R. R.	Lubbock, Thomas S.
Buffington, Anderson	Menchaca, Antonio
Burleson, Edward	Milam, Benjamin R.
Burleson, James	McCrocklin, J. L.
Calder, Robert J.	McFarland, Thomas S.
Cameron, John	Neill, J. C.
Chenoweth, John	Parrott, Thomas F. L.
Cooke, William G.	Patton, William H.
Cronican, Michael	Ralph, Samuel
Cruse, Squire	Richardson, Stephen
Cullen, Ezekiel W.	Robison, Joel W.
Davis, George W.	Russell, William J.

⁶⁶ *Texas Grand Lodge Magazine*, XVII, 42; Frank W. Johnson, *Texas and Texans*, I, 356.

Seguin, Juan N.	Tumlinson, John J.
Smithwick, Noah	Turner, Amasa
Snell, Martin K.	Wade, Nathan
Stivers, Samuel	Wallace, J. W. E.
Swearington, V. W.	Ward, Thomas W.
Taylor, Creed	White, Francis M.
Teal, Henry	White, John M.
Tom, John Files	York, James A. ⁶⁷

On December 20, 1835, the citizens of Goliad in a mass meeting ratified and ninety-one signed the Goliad Declaration of Independence. The document was drafted by Ira Ingram and signed by several other Masons as follows: William G. Hill, William E. Howth, Dugald McFarlane, J. M. J. Carbajal, Thomas Hanson, and John Johnson.⁶⁸

The declaration was presented to the General Council on December 30, and caused that body considerable embarrassment because it was then engaged in negotiations with José Antonio Mexía regarding assistance from Mexican liberals in reestablishing the Constitution of 1824. The declaration anticipated Austin's pronouncement for independence by seventy-two days and the Texas Declaration of Independence by seventy-two days. The chief significance of the document is that it alienated the possible support of many Mexican Federalists from the Texans.

By the end of 1835, not a Mexican garrison remained in Texas but an even greater threat hung over the land. Not only had individualism created initiative and self-reliance in Texans but its exercise in frontier society had developed these qualities to such an extent that many individuals possessed an overweening confidence in their abilities. In some instances these

⁶⁷ Determined by comparing a list of Masons with a list of participants compiled from general bibliography.

⁶⁸ Determined by comparing a list of Masons with the signers as listed by Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, I, 820 and biographical sketches in Webb and Carroll, *Handbook of Texas*, I and II.

Master Holland for a charter for a lodge in their community. The moving spirit was John Gillespie, a native of Ireland. He seems to have travelled over the world for the sheer love of adventure. In the course of his wanderings, he found himself in prison in Mexico. After some time he was tried by a Mexican court and condemned to death, and in due time led out to be shot. During his imprisonment, it had not occurred to him to make himself known as a Mason. But at the very last moment, as he was kneeling blindfolded at the head of the grave he had been forced to dig and waiting for the fatal order to fire, he gave the signal of a Mason in distress. Fortunately for him, the officer in charge of the firing squad was a Mason and recognized the sign. The execution was stayed, the soldiers dismissed, and, after a brief conference, the Mexican officer gave him a purse containing thirty dollars and assisted him out of the country. After settling in San Augustine, Gillespie's first wish was to establish a Masonic lodge. He found the requisite number of like-minded Masons and, while on a business trip to New Orleans, secured a dispensation (August 13, 1837) from the Grand Lodge of Louisiana. On his return to San Augustine, Gillespie organized McFarland Lodge No. 41, in regular form as the special deputy of Grand Master Holland.¹⁷ The charter, arriving later, was dated on September 22, 1837, the same date as that for Milam Lodge No. 40, at Nacogdoches.

These three lodges in Texas did not long maintain their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of Louisiana. On December 20, 1837, their representatives met in convention in the city of Houston and resolved to establish the Grand Lodge of Texas. The convention elected Anson Jones the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas, a committee was appointed to draw up a constitution, and the first meeting of the Grand Lodge of Texas was called to meet at Houston on April 16, 1838, at which

¹⁷ G. L. Crockett, *Two Centuries in East Texas*, 315-316; *Texas Freemason*, VI, 1.

time the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana was ended.¹⁸

3945 The original members of the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas were as follows:

Bache, Richard	Jones, Anson
Black, John S.	Mathews, Henry
Burton, Isaac W.	Millard, Henry
Cooke, William G.	Miller, Ben
Dart, Christopher	Neil, Andrew
Douglass, Kelsey H.	Rusk, Thomas J.
Ewing, Alexander	Shea, John
Fisher, George	Sterne, Adolphus
Fitchett, Daniel T.	Taylor, Charles S.
Fowler, Littleton	Thurston, A. S.
Gray, William F.	Tucker, Edmund
Gregg, Darius	Underwood, W. L.
Hardeman, Thomas J.	Western, Thomas G.
Houston, Samuel	Wright, Jefferson ¹⁹

Other Masons admitted to Grand Lodge membership at an early date included:

Archer, Branch T.	Gazley, Thomas J.
Brigham, Asa	Ingram, Seth
Call, Isaiah	McGee, James M.
Chamberlain, Charles	Russell, Alexander
Crosby, Josiah J.	Wallace, J. W. E.
Fulton, George W.	Williams, Samuel M. ²⁰
Gazley, Abram	

Of this group of forty-one Masons, only seven failed to achieve prominence in the politics or army of Texas; two of these seven

¹⁸ Henry L. Stillson (editor), *History of the Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons*, 344.

¹⁹ A. S. Ruthven, Reprint, *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Texas*, II, 832.

²⁰ Grand Lodge Ledger A, 1838-1845, p. 1, Archives of the Grand Lodge of Texas, Waco, Texas.

The State of Texas }
County of Harris }

3945

Know all men by these presents that
I W. Chapman of the County and State above
written in consideration of the kind regard, and good
feeling of Friendship I have for the Members of
the Methodist Church South and the Education
of the Rising Generation. I give and donate to
to R. G. Rawley, J. W. Davis, M. Mehan, E. A. Sticking
and J. Gregg, and their Successors in office Trustees
in Trust for the Methodist Episcopal Church South
The following described Property (viz: $\frac{2}{3}$ of a Block of
Land (Block No. 2) Beginning at a Stake in the Prairie 30 feet
East of my West line Thence East 220 feet cor. in
Thence South 200 feet cor. in prairie Thence West 220 feet
cor. in prairie Thence North 200 feet to beginning cor.
Including all the Pin Oak Grove said Land is part
of the Beadright of J. Gregg about 2 miles N.E. of
the Court House in the City of Houston

together with all the rights and privileges appurtenances
and hereditaments to the same belonging to have and
to hold the said property to the said Trustees in
Trust for the sole use of the Methodist Episcopal
Church, South. to be used for Church and
School purposes and I hereby agree to warrant
and for ever defend the title herein conveyed against
all claims whatsoever Witness my hand and seal this
the day of January eight hundred and sixty three

William Chapman 

The state of Texas } Before me John McMillan
Harris County } Clerk of the County Court

of Harris County this day came and personally appeared
William Chapman of the County aforesaid to me personally

known, who acknowledged the execution of the foregoing
deed dated the 6th day of February 1863 and declared
the same as his binding act and deed for the purposes
and consideration therein set forth and contained,

Witness my hand and the seal of the County Court
of Harris County this 6th day of February

1863 John McMillan
J. G. Sewell

W. Chapman

Jo sud of Court

North Court Clerk

South of Court

J. G. Sewell

the 6th 1863

J. G. Sewell

John McMillan

J. G. Sewell

The State of Texas
Harris County

3945

The annexed and foregoing
deed was filed for record February 6, 1883 at 5
o'clock P.M. and recorded the next day at
11 o'clock A.M. in Book 3 pages 576 & 577.

Witness my hand and the seal of the County
Court of Harris County this 7th day
of February A.D. 1883

Small Millan, clerk

By J. S. Hunt, deputy clerk.

REMINISCENCES OF DHEARN CHURCH

When Houston was a village small,
With houses few and tents for all,
When vice and crime stalked boldly around,
And "ants and Methodists" did abound,
A.C. Allen, who owned a city site,
Gave to these Me#thodists a plot of ground
On which the fires of Methodism to light,
To dispel the darkness of the region round-
Then the first brick church on Texas soil
Was built with great effort and much toil.
Dr. Summers the cornerstone did lay
On eighth Texas Independence Day.
Thither the people came from far and near
To worship God and the Gospel to hear.
The history of this church is woven of many strands-
Here assembled exiles from many lands;
The high and low, the rich and poor,
The sad and gay, belles and beaux galore,
All assembled in this Bethel of peace
From sorrow and folly to find release.
Once a week the members in "class" did meet,
And with each other held communion sweet;
Once a quarter the Elder came around,
Then the faithful in "love feast" were found.
In this assembly of many races,
The negroe held accustomed places;
For long it was the Methodist way
To preach to them each Sabbath day.
The "preachers in charge" of this thriving hive,
For seventy-seven years numbered thirty five.
Some were eloquent, saintly and wise,
Apt to teach, and many schemes devise
The powers of evil to overthrow,
And the Gospel truth widely sow;
Some "all round" men versed in "affairs" and books,
Some skilled fishers of men with various hooks.
In spite of hindrances and blunders not a few,
The work increased and the membership grew.
The old brick church looked shabby and small,
Beside the new churches handsome and tall.
The need of a new church was plain to all,
But the means in hand all too small.
The preachers in charge raised the hue and cry,
"Sell the place and another try."
But dear to the hearts of the old congregation,
Were the memories clinging to the old location.
The storm -wracked building became a pile of clay,
And the raing of war caused another delay.
When the war clouds had passed
And business was increasing fast,
"A new church we must have," said Charles Shearn.
Some who promptly answered to this call, we learn,
Were T.W. House, A. McGowen, D. Gregg,
G.S. Hardcastle; they a forlorn hope led.

The enterprise was vigorously pushed along;
 Soon there arose the voice of prayer and song
 At the same old stand, the same old place,
 Where the saints gone before had found grace.
 Planned for years, scarce a dozen had flown,
 When this house also far too small had grown.
 The multitude worshiped here every Sunday;
 The stranger, the wayfarer, the young and gay;
 Scoffers came to mock and remained to pray;
 And so continued, just that way,
 Until rebuilding would not admit of longer delay;
 And the pastor, S.H. Werlein, did the task essay.
 Nobly and well did he this task discharge,
 No church in the city so handsome and large.
 This church must soon have a name,
 And J.F. Dumble thought the same.
 Charles Shearn Memorial, he said,
 And the discussion stoutly led.
 To spread Scripture holiness through the land
 Was ever Methodist purpose and plan.
 Of this purpose Shearn never lost sight,
 But established missions, by day, by night.
 From this church Methodism spread far and wide,
 Until impossible her light to hide.
 Like Cornelia of old, Shearn can proudly say,
 As she looks around about every day,
 And sees the prosperous state of daughters nine,
 "These my jewels are; gems my crown entwine."
 Alas, alas, in this changin world below,
 By fate's decree churches come, churches go.
 Now th fiat~~is~~, is, Shearn must abdicate
 The scene of triumph; this sacred spot vacate.
 A beacon light, a Bethel no longer,
 Just one of the crowd, no more, no stronger,
 Records may be lost, memory fade and die,
 The work done is known beyond the sky.
 And now, rewell, a loving, last farewell,
 To the scene far dearer than pen can tell.
 They may sell, scatter the bricks around if they will,
 But the odor of sanctity will cling round it still;
 Avarice and pride may tear the church away,
 And answer for the deed at the Judgment Day,
 But never can soothe the grief of the the hearts
 So cruelly pierced by their ruthless darts.
 Nor did love of the "cause" dictate the measure,
 But love of mammon, vanity and selfish pleasure.
 "Can the wick that is wasted continue to burn?"
 Can the joys that is wasted continue to return?
 Not while in these frail houses of clay,
 Mid earth's pomps and vanities we stay.
 But when we meet in Shearn above
 Our Saviour and friends we'll rapturously greet,
 And sing the same old songs in harmony sweet.

LIVING DESCENDANTS OF DARIUS GREGG

3945

Mrs. W.G. Langley (Mary Katherine Gregg)
(Grand Daughter of Darius Gregg)
5001 Drexel Drive Dallas, Texas 78255

Her Daughter:

Mrs. Richard Bumb (Mary Gregg Langley)
(Great Grand Daughter of Darius Gregg)
Same address as Mrs. W. G. Langley

Her children are:

Mrs. Douglas Smith (Mary Katherine Bumb)

Mrs. Griffen (Ann Gregg Bumb)

Mrs. James Riley (Katherine Gregg)
10636 Estates Lane Dallas, Texas
Great Grand daughter of Darius Gregg)

Her children are:

Mr. William Donald Riley

Miss Margaret Riley

Mrs. Charles A. Hall (Susan Jane Simmons)
Great Grand Daughter of Darius Gregg)
7515 Bridgewater San Antonio, Texas 78209

Her children are:

Charles Northen Hall

Mr. William Gregg Simmons
310 Sunset Corpus Christi, Texas

Mr. James Albert Simmons
(Great Grand Son of Darius Gregg)

Twin Lakes

Lake Park Georgia 31636

His children are:

Mr. James Gregg Simmons

Mr. William Bowen Simmons

FOR VALUE RECEIVED, the **Buffalo Bayou, Brazos and Colorado Railway Company,** hereby assign and transfer to

and his lawful representatives and assigns the following described **Land Scrip,** bearing date the 23d day of September A. D. 1853, and issued to said Company from the General Land Office of the State of Texas in accordance with "an act to amend the act to incorporate the Buffalo Bayou, Brazos and Colorado Railway Company" approved 28th January 1853, viz.

Certificate Numbered *Fifteen (15) Sixteen (16) Eighteen (18) Twenty one (21) Twenty eight (28) & thirty nine (39)*

Witness the hand of their President, and the impress of their Common Seal this *12th*

day of *April* A. D. 1854.

Jonathan F. Barrett
Pres

THE STATE OF TEXAS,
HARRIS COUNTY.

Apr 12th 1854, Before me this day personally appeared Jonathan F. Barrett, President of the above named Railway Co. to me personally known and declared that he executed the foregoing assignment for the purposes and considerations therein expressed and that the same was his free act and deed in his said capacity.

Witness my hand and the impress of my official seal the day and year above written.

J. W. Clinton Harris
J. W. Clinton Harris

The State of Texas,

COUNTY OF Denton

Know all Men by these Presents:

THAT I, W. J. Baker

of the County of Denton

and State of Texas

, for and in consideration of

Thirty Two

Hundred and Eleven

(\$ 3211⁰⁰)

DOLLARS, to

me Cash in hand paid

by

W. B. Gregg of the County of Denton

State of Texas

the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have Bargained, Sold and Delivered, and do by these presents Bargain, Sell and Deliver, unto the said

W. B. Gregg

his heirs, legal representatives and assigns

the following stock Cattle, to-wit:

- 16 Head Branded A J , 4 Head Branded H V
- 3 Head Branded D S , 1 Head Branded W F
- 1 Branded J C , 1 Branded A X
- 10 Head Branded T B , 1 Branded Q
- 1 Branded O O on left side hip

30 calves unbranded, also about 100 Head of Stock Cattle branded I on the left side

also 1 Cow Branded X B on left side

1 Cow Branded H, making in all

One Hundred and Sixty nine Head of Stock Cattle

Inventory of the

No. and Part		When Purchased	
363	483	1856	30
904	1315	do	
1019	865	1855	31
2343	231	1856	60
<hr/>			
	818	1856	30
125	819	do	30
18	877	do	1
22	878	do	2
135	821	do	2
130	820	do	2
131	807	do	1
50	806	do	0
157	804	do	1
158	803	do	
135	784	do	
149	793	do	
45	802	do	0
21	805	do	
136	794	do	1
142	790	do	1
134	786	do	
134	795	do	
49	791	do	

G. M. ...
247 3/4 11

Estimate of Contents of...

Situated	Original Grantee	Abstract No	No Acres
Clow Co	John B. Crawford	128	1476 ✓
do	W. J. & C. Donald	4404	640 ✓
do	W. J. Williams	4449	640 ✓
do	W. J. Green	124	640 ✓
do	J. J. Jeff	4402	640 ✓
do	B. B. & C. J. Co		640 ✓
do	do		640 ✓
do	do		640 ✓
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do	do		640 ✓
do	do		640 ✓
do	do		320 ✓
do	do		320 ✓
do	do		320 ✓

... County, being ...
 ...

I W. B. Gregg do
Solemnly swear that I will faith-
-fully and impartially discharge
and perform all the duties in-
-cumbent upon me as Deputy
Sheriff for Linton County according
to the best of my skill & ability
agreeable to the Constitution and
Laws of the United States and
of this State, and I do further
solemnly swear that since the
adoption of the Constitution
of this state I being a citizen
of this state have not fought
a duel with deadly weapons
within this state nor out of it
nor have I sent or accepted a
challenge, to fight a duel with
deadly weapons nor have I
acted as second in carrying
a challenge or aided or abetted or
assisted any person thus offending
and I further more solemnly swear
that I have not directly nor
indirectly paid off or promised
to pay any contribution nor promises

\$ 25

Denton, Texas,

188

EXCHANGE BANK, PAID TO BEARER, TWENTY DOLLARS.

Pay to R M Dilworth

Twenty Five Dollars

No.

CHAMPION COOK STOVE THE BEST.

Denton, Texas, 1886

Wm. H. Gregg

Bought of E. K. FRIZLEN,

Hardware, Stoves, Crockery, Tinware, Etc.

All bills due 1st each month.

SOUTH SIDE SQUARE.

DR. 40.00 To 2 fine fire irons

July 3 " 5 # marks

July 6 " 3 # marks

July 6 " 2 # marks

July 6 " 1 # marks

July 6 " 1 # marks

July 6 " 1 # marks

July 6 " 1 # marks

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12346678901234

OFFICE UP

D. Hume & Son,

Dealers

Farm & Machinery, Buggies and Springs & Wagons.

Also Farm and Garden Seeds.

Received of W. B. Gregg
Denton, Texas, June 2nd 1888
Forty Eight \$3.100 Dollars
for Wire.

James & Son

\$48.50

NO. 1173 D. C. 99

PAID TO J. H. Hume & Son

Twenty Dollars

OR BEARER'S

\$ 22.50

Denton, Texas, May 20 1888

WILLIAMS MECHANICAL BANKS

The State of Texas,
Denton Co

Know all men by these presents
that for and in consideration
of the sum of Five Hundred
Dollars (\$500.00) in hand the
receipt of which is hereby
acknowledged and confessed
I have this day sold &
delivered to W. B. Gregg
of said State & County
the following described
stock of Cattle, viz:

- Pen (10) cow brand 10
- one (1) " " H.
- Two (2) " " "
- Seven (7) Young Calves.
- Pen (10) one y^r old Steer
- Three (3) " " "
- Two (2) " " Heifer
- Five (5) " " Steer



List of lands in Denton County, Texas to
D. Gregg ap. of H. M. P. & C. H. M. Co.

our No	Abstr. No	Acres	Where Situated
8	1112	136	640 on Stewart Co about 18 miles S.E. from Denton
9	1109	134	320 16 miles S.E. from Denton
10	1108	142	640 14 " S.E. " " on Elmer's flats
11	75	49	320 7 " S.W. " " on Hickory
12	1110	134	320 14 " S.E. " " on Elm flats
18	1118	18	640 on Grand Prairie between Hickory & Denton Co
19	(93)	(48)	640 on Hickory Co (belongs to Gregg)
20	1114	80	640 " " "
21	95	122	640 " " "
22	78	135	640 " " "
23	85	127	640 " " "
24		128	640 " " " north of Elm flats
25	83	130	640 " " " S. Fork
26	77	131	640 " " "
28	(113)	(138)	640 " " " (belongs to Gregg)
29	1114	151	640 " " "
30	91	21	640 " " "
32	76	49	320 " " "
15	138	53	1470 14 miles north little north from Denton
16	1164	640	on Hickory 4 or 5 miles S.W. back side
17	643	160	3 1/2 miles S.E. from Denton
		135	640 13 1/2 S.E. from Denton
		1385	

The State of Texas
County of Denton } This agreement, made
and entered into this the 19th day of March
A. D. 1880, between W. B. Gregg of the County
of Denton and State of Texas, of the first
part, and B. C. Evans, H. B. Evans, & L. B. Evans
of the second part, witnesseth: That the
said W. B. Gregg has this day rented and
leased, and do hereby rent and lease unto the
said B. C. - H. B. & L. B. Evans about Sixty acres
of land, said Sixty acres being a part of the
farm owned by said W. B. Gregg situated
in said Denton County about two miles west
of the town of Denton, for the Consideration
and upon the terms and conditions that
follows: said Sixty acres of land to be used
for the purpose of making crops thereon,
the said land to be worked and cultivated,
and said crops to be raised and gathered
in a good, farmer like manner, of which
said Sixty acres of land, Fifty acres are to
be planted in Cotton and 10 acres in Corn.

Houston Nov 24th 1885

In consideration of the sum of Two Hundred
fifty dollars in hand the receipt thereof which
is hereby acknowledged & Confessed, have this
day sold to J. M. B. Gregg my one third or all the
interest I have to the following described horses
and mare known as "Roseleaf". one mare
known as Bettie J. one three yr old stud known
as "Aurelius", one two yr old mare known as
"Mamie", one yr old stud known as "Con. W"
one bay mare & yearling known as Mollie J &
Mrs B. Little to same I fully guarantee
as to my interest.

L. M. Noble.

Jim Murphy's Narrative

all the evening.
Carruth, two
see those two
king out for a
let me alone,
ou, and go to
they rode off
'What would
all the gold I
s too late now
father's advice
company; but
ow. It all goes
old banker pay
thing!' By this
Jackson's camp
ily, I want Old
give him up. 'I
said he. 'Can't
e him. Here's
se. Frank said,
'I went, then,
horse, and told
John 'kicked' a
s, it's no use to
ur business.' We
out how the boys
if they had ten
st to hear them
Medlin's Point,
when we rested
steal in the night
Mounts, in the

suburbs of Denton. While here the boys told many fine stories about their adventures. Bass at length said: 'Well, boys, what do you reckon old Bill Mounts will say! I would like to be hid somewhere near, though I know what he will say as well as if I were there. The old rascal will walk out in the morning and find his horse and saddle gone. He will go back to the house with his lips hung down, and his face as long as h—ll. Well, old lady, my fine horse and saddle are gone. I just know that Sam Bass has got them. I wish I had never got that long-range gun. He said that he would make it cost me \$10 every time I shot it. What shall I do! My horse is gone. I'll bet Jim Murphy told him about it. Jim, they'll give you h—ll over this thing; but that don't make any difference, for you have turned loose now anyhow.' I replied, 'That's all right; we'll just rob them all alike whenever we strike them.' 'That's the idea, Jim. That is what I have argued all the time. We had just as well rob one as another, for they are all after us, anyhow.'

"By this time it was about twelve o'clock. 'Let's be going, boys,' said Bass, 'we must pull Bill Mounts' horse.' So we mounted and rode to Mounts' house, stopping in front of his gate. I was left to guard while Sam went in and got a horse which he supposed to be Mounts', but it belonged to a traveler; he got Mounts' saddle. We then went east, passing through Denton, to Elm bottom, where we arrived just before sun-up. We were very tired, and stopped and slept about fifteen minutes. We then rode across Big Elm and stopped for breakfast, when we rested two or three hours. Seeing several men pass the road, Sam said, 'Boys, we'd better get away from here. Old Dad Eagan might be on our trail, and if he is, he will give us h—ll, for they are mad as h—ll. I guess we'll ride.' So we started east,

1825
D. C.

W

v. T.
by E.

A. S.
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JACK HARDY.

THIS celebrated race horse, JACK HARDY, was bred at Spring Hill Farm, Kentucky, and was foaled in 1872. He is a beautiful bay, sixteen hands high, possessing great bone substance and power, and is a half-brother to Ten Broeck and King Alfonso :

PEDIGREE :

JACK HARDY was sired by Imp. Phaeton.
 First Dam, Mollie Rogers by Imp. Sovereign.
 Second Dam by Boston.
 Third Dam by Gray Medoc.
 Fourth Dam by Imp. Dion.
 Fifth Dam by Imp. Speculator
 Sixth Dam by Imp. Alderman.
 Seventh Dam by Hart's Medley.

Will stand this season, 1886, at my farm, three miles west of Ferris, Ellis county, Texas, at \$50.00 the season, with the privilege of returning the mare next season, in case she fails to foal. The season commences February 15th, and ends July 1st, 1886.

I have a good pasture free of charge. Grain fed at moderate rates.

H. T. BATCHLER.

Denton, Dec 2, 1881.

*This is to certify that for and
 consideration of two hundred dollars in
 hand the receipt which is
 hereby acknowledged & confessed
 that this Gray mare to w/sd.
 Gregg one spare black horse
 2 mules one of them
 branded HC - The mules is
 known as the Coates 2 mules,
 It is distinctly understood that
 I hereby retain a lien upon
 said mules for fifty dollars.*

*Witness
 R. W. Kountz*

HORSE SHOW CROWD.

List of the Winners Announced in the Horse Show Division.

That the success of the first show was so great as to make it wise to make it an annual or, better, a semi-annual feature, is the general opinion of those who have attended the horse show Thursday in conjunction with the trades day. Not alone were the spectators pleased at the entertainment and instruction into the horse business given, but the owners who lost and the owners who won were so interested that it will be very much easier to make subsequent attempts a success than it was for the first. Handicapped by the muddy ring and the somewhat raw weather, the crowd at the forenoon show Thursday was good and it grew constantly until when the last show ring was closed the grandstand was comfortably filled and the crowd circled around the show ring.

In the afternoon the crowd was almost twice as large as that in the forenoon. The baseball grandstand was crowded, the bleachers were full, and the other vantage points carried their full quota of spectators interested to see their first horse show. Those who had seen horse shows under more favorable conditions, were more than pleased. They patted the promoters of the show on the back, told them it must be held over again next year and many promised to have entries in one or more classes that didn't even think of entering their horses in this year's competition.

The prize winners as announced by the officials seemed to coincide usually with the opinion of the less expert, and there was frequent applause at the close of the class show.

The awards are given out Thursday evening, together with the entries in all the events, follow:

Two-gaited saddle ponies, one entry—Capt Grant, first.

Two-gaited ponies, four entries: Mrs. J. N. Rayzor, Miss Mary Gregg, Mrs. John Rose and Miss Winnie Sears—Miss Mary Gregg, first; Mrs. J. N. Rayzor, second.

Road horses, pacing class, two entries: W. C. Grant and John Underwood—W. C. Grant, first; John Underwood, second.

Three-gaited saddle horses, four

The prize showing of the forenoon, however, was the roadster class in which no less than eight beautiful driving horses were entered. Spectators who have seen the Dallas and Fort Worth horse shows say that in this class nothing superior has been seen in Texas. The entries were those of Miss Mary Gregg, John Underwood, S. W. Fritz, J. W. Skiles, Doc Jackson, Will Gregg, J. T. Alrod and W. C. Grant. The judges awarded the first prize to Miss Mary Gregg's handsome bay and the second to John Underwood's bay, but it was difficult to make a pick between some of the entries.

This afternoon is given over to the other classes and the competition in some of them promises to be very keen.

Will Williams acted as judge, A. C. Rayzor as secretary and Crow Wright as ring-master. The judges in the breeders' show Wednesday were Will Williams for the stallions and E. Coanougher, G. P. Davis and Delo Matthews for the mules, jacks, etc.

Tomorrow will be livestock day with entries of hogs, cattle, sheep, etc., from a number of breeders.

Four-gaited horses, five entries: W. F. Woodward, Crow Wright, A. C. Rayzor and W. C. Grant—Crow Wright, first; W. F. Woodward, second.

Single-gaited horses, three entries: Doc Jackson's, Doc Jackson's and W. C. Grant's—Doc Jackson's, first; Doc Jackson's, second.

Five-gaited horses, five entries: W. F. Woodward, Crow Wright, W. C. Grant, Cape Grant and W. F. Woodward—W. F. Woodward, first; Crow Wright, second.

Single-gaited horses, ladies' riding class, two entries: Miss Mary Gregg, Miss Woodward Woodward, Mrs. S. A. Rayzor—Miss Woodward Woodward, first; Miss Mary Gregg, second.

Colored team, four entries: Doc Price, John Underwood, L. F. Portney, W. F. Woodward—John Underwood, first; Doc Price, second.

Four-gaited horses, two entries: John Underwood, Mrs. Joe Price—Mrs. Joe Price, first.

A feature of the afternoon not shown in the program was a parade around the ring of two Percheron and one German Coach stallions.



Wentworth April 27. 1855

In consideration of the sum of
Five hundred & Ninety Seven
dollars in hand the receipt of
which is hereby acknowledged
& confessed have this day sold
& delivered to H. B. Gregg the
following described cattle: To
wit:

- 9 one year old Steers hand. J. B.
- 2 one " " " " J. C. F.
- 1 one " " " " V.
- 1 one " " " " W. S. H.
- 2 " " " " C. L.
- 12 " " " " N. H.
- 11 Two " " " " N. E.
- 2 " " " " J. B.
- 1 " " " " C. L.
- 8 " " " " L. S. H.
- 1 Three " " " " L. S. H.

The cattle to remain daily

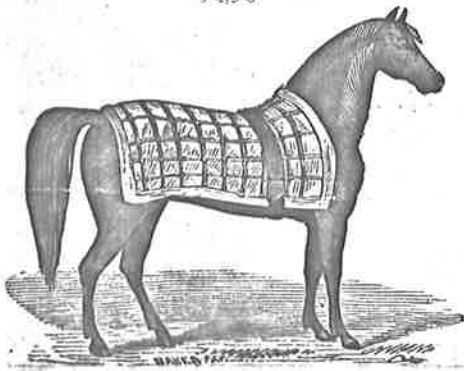
The receipt of the sum of one hundred and
 fifty dollars in good the receipt which is
 hereby acknowledged and confessed, & has
 this day sold to H. B. Gregg one cow
 brown from Stead to the farm to
 Grant and country brood thus -
 which title, & fully guaranteed and
 signed.
 H. B. Gregg
 The Colby's mark
 H. B. Gregg
 W. S. H.

Wentworth March 18th 1855

The State of Texas } This instrument witnesses
County of Waller } that I Robt Key for
and in consideration of
the sum of Two Thousand Dollars to
me cash in hand paid by W B
Gregg, receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged,
do hereby contract and agree to deliver
to said W B Gregg, at Denton in the
County of Denton State of Texas by
the 14th day of June 1879, four
hundred (400) head of cattle of
the following grades, to wit, two hundred
(200) head of yearlings, and two hundred
(200) head of two year olds, at least,
one half of each kind to be
steers, and to be of an average
grade of cattle.

And in consideration of the above
we J C Ralston and Haveman do
do hereby guarantee the faithful
fulfillment by the said Robt
Key of the above contract, and
agree to be responsible to the said
Gregg for all damages he may
sustain, in account of the failure
of said Key to deliver said
cattle as agreed by him herein.
Witness our hands this May 8th 1879

Robert Key
Haveman & Co
J. C. Ralston



SHAIN & BOYD,

Livery, Feed & Sale Stable,

STABLE OPPOSITE FOOTE HOUSE,

McKinney, Texas, June 7 1887

W B Gray

Yours blood ... will
take care to keep until
after the first ... you
to allow me \$10 per month
to cover feed ...
and to bear all other
expense and you to
pay one third of any
money the may win
I will sign a contract
and have a good responsible
man sign it as security
whereby I agree to take good
care of him and return him
to you all right unavoidable
accidents but immediately
after the ...

State of Texas
Harris County

Know all men by these presents, that for and in consideration of One hundred and Twenty five Dollars that I have this day sold to Will. B. Gregg two saddle geldings branded thus 12 on left shoulder, the same conveyed to me by Bill of sale dated July 18th 1877 by J. Baird of Houston, the title of which I warrant and defend against all persons lawfully claiming the same
this July 20th 1877
H. Roberts

Transfer for
my true best and raised by A
P Block of Andrew Work from
Louisiana No was folded April 8th 1855
& was sold by transfer N^o 3059 to
by the grand imported Purchase Station
Bismarck N^o 411 who was sold at
same time by same party about whole
Stephen Bonaparte N^o 334 + Equina N^o 802
he being a typical Draft Station - transfer
Haw Princess Louisa N^o 834 being a full
Sister to my grand breeding Purchase
Station Gaston N^o 680 She being by Prof E
Stephen Bonaparte N^o 334 + out of brood E
Equina N^o 802 - transfer's Haw Betty
Mickell a full bred Purchase mare a large
man of feet power & mile high about 1500 or
more ~~brood~~ & was sold by Gaston N^o 680
her Haw Miller Mickell a few large & active
said to be 1/2 Purchase but by me & others

The State of Texas

County of Denton } This is to certify

that for value in consideration
of the sum of Sixteen ^(\$16.50)
Dollars the receipt which is
herby acknowledged and
Confirmed have this day
sold and delivered to ^{W.B. Gage}
one team Buckskin three year
old weight eye out no brand
written. Value to said I
freely give in payment

Denton Jan 5/1889

Wm. Gage

Know all men by these presents, that for
and in consideration of the sum of
Ten Hundred & Thirty (\$1030⁰⁰) dollars to me
in hand the receipt which is hereby
acknowledged & confessed have this
day sold to W. B. Gregg of Denton County
the following described stocks of cattle
branded Begs. Begs Begs - & marked
crop & under half crop in right & crop &
under bit in left ear. viz: Twenty Seven
Cows, Twenty Seven calves, Seven barren
Cows, Sixteen two year old steers,
Fifteen two year old heifers, Six
yearling steers & five yearling heifers.
The title to same, I hereby warrant
defending against all claims may come
against said cattle.

J. W. Hall

Wise County May 26th 1881. John B. Biggs

Witness

~~to W. B. Biggs~~

L. W. Richardson

J. B. Biggs

→ HOSKINS & BATTIS, ←

MANUFACTURERS OF AND JOBBERS IN

Saddlery and Saddlery Hardware, Harness,

LEATHER AND SHOE FINDINGS.

Denton Bowie, Texas, April 7th 1883

This is to certify that for and in consideration of the sum of One hundred & Eighty nine dollars in hand paid the receipt which is hereby acknowledged & Confessed, have this day sold, and delivered to W.B. Gregg of Denton County One Hundred & Three head of cattle in half each P & S-H and in further consideration of Fifty dollars paid in hand I hereby sell & Convey to said W.B. Gregg all the cattle in said brands. The title to same I fully guarantee warrant defend against any one claiming the same. Witness our hands this the 7th day of April ad 1883.

Jesse Hoskins
S. H. Hoskins

Denton Sept. 16th 1881

Know all men by these presents that for
and in consideration of the sum of
(\$117.50) one hundred & Seventeen 5/10
dollars that I have this day
sold. W. B. Gregg of Denton County
the following described stock,
viz:

(3) Three (2) yrs olds steers banded
W.R. + 2nd + (4) Four 1 yr olds
steers banded W.R. + two (2)
yr olds steers I thus banded
(1) one yearling banded I +
(2) two 1 yr olds steers banded SU on
hip the title to same I fully
guarantee warrant, & defend
against any one claiming the same
Witness my hand this 16th
day of Sept at Denton 1881.

J. J. Green

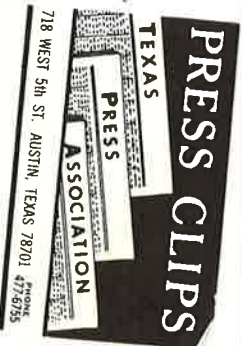
Witness

R. N. Mounts

Dutton July 13th 1882

This is to certify that for and consideration
of Six Hundred & Eighty dollars in
hand paid by W. B. Gregg the receipt
of which is hereby acknowledged &
Confirmed have this day sold to
him the said Gregg the following
described lot of cattle.

(58) Fifty-Eight head of mixed
cattle branded as follows.



Record-Chronicle
Denton, Texas

MAR 14 1976

Ranch Eclipses Days Of Texas Founders

By MRS. CHARLES A. HALL
and E. DALE ODOM

An official Texas Historical Commission marker will be placed at the Gregg Ranch, one of the oldest in Denton County, at 2 p.m. Sunday.

The ranch, now opened by Mrs. W. G. Langley of Dallas, was started between 1860 and 1863 by Darius Gregg, Mrs. Langley's grandfather and one of the founders of the Republic of Texas.

Gregg, a surveyor for the Buffalo Bayou, Brazos and Colorado Railroad Co., was given the Denton County land in return for survey work done for the company in the Houston area.

Gregg describes his land and Denton County in a letter of Oct. 25, 1868:

"Denton County is 180 miles from Bryan in the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. The cross timber passes through the center of the county. The timber land is generally poor. The prairie is very rich soil.

"I HAVE BETWEEN fifteen and twenty thousand acres of choice lands I will consider selling for \$2.00 an acre, one-half in hand, the balance in 12 months bearing an interest of 10 per cent per annum.

"The Galveston and Kansas Railroad is located a few miles east of Denton and will be built in a few years. My land is not more than one-tenth timber. Corn and beef are very cheap. From 1 to 2 cents per pound. No better country for cattle, hogs, horses and sheep in the state, no better grain-growing country.

"I selected these lands in person some fifteen years ago when most of the land was vacant and I consider it choice land. I did not get much timber land because there is a great abundance of timber in the county and the timber lands are generally poor. Surveyors fees were \$12.00 per section of 640 acres.

"COWS AND CALVES are worth from \$5 to \$10 per pair as to the quality. Oxen from \$25.00 to \$40.00 per pair, horses from \$25.00 to \$100.00."

Darius Gregg was born Nov. 8, 1804 in Nicholasville, Ken. He died in Houston, on March 28, 1870. An historical marker has been placed at his grave in Houston by the Texas Historical Commission.

He arrived in Texas in 1827 and was a member of a cattle and mercantile company called the Texas Trading Association. He made several trips into Mexico to buy cattle for the company.

In 1840, Darius Gregg married Susan Speed Bowen. Ultimately he was a landowner in Denton, Grimes, Polk and Harris counties.



He was a very religious man and gave freely of his time and money for Methodism in Texas. In 1860, for example, he gave J. L. Lovejoy power of attorney to sell 640 acres of land in the Denton county ranch to build a church (Methodist) in Denton. He is written up in Blandin's History of Shearn Church, in Houston, as one of the founders of that church. Gregg Chapel in Houston is named for him. He was a charter member of the Grand Old Lodge, the first Masonic Lodge in Texas.

GREGG TOOK his survey party from Houston and did his own surveying of the land he obtained in Denton County from the Buffalo Bayou, Brazos and Colorado Railroad Co. He used Houston as his address throughout his lifetime, but often went to Denton to escape the heat and humidity of Houston. J. L. Lovejoy, Denton attorney, managed the ranch for Gregg during the winter months.

Gregg's only child, William Bowen Gregg (1849-1889), after graduating from college in Nashville, Tenn., and marrying his first wife, moved to Denton to manage the ranch. W. B. Gregg inherited most of his father's Denton County land in 1870, and continued to manage the ranch until his death in 1889.

On July 4, 1883, he married his second wife, Emma Bell Mounts of Denton. The second Mrs. Gregg was noted for her beauty and musical ability, and often played the guitar for the cowboys on the ranch during the evenings. They also entertained with many parties and dances at the ranch.

DENTON'S INFAMOUS Sam Bass knew the Gregg Ranch well. He worked for William Mounts, father-in-law of W. B. Gregg, as well as on the Gregg Ranch.

During the late 1870s and 1880s Gregg raised registered race horses on the ranch. Some of them ran at the well-known track in the city of Denton, but many raced at more famous tracks. Perhaps the best-known of all the Gregg horses was Conn Noble.

Robert Swift, of the famous meat packing family, was a frequent summer visitor on the ranch during those days.

At the death of William Bowen Gregg, there was only about 10,000 acres left of the ranch. The estate was handled by Dr. Cuvier Lipscomb until the children became of age; the oldest, Susan Speed Gregg, was only four when she died. Dr. Lipscomb later married the widow of W. B. Gregg. Mrs. Gregg's brother, Robert Mounts, actually managed the ranch.

The three Gregg heirs were Susan Speed Gregg-deceased (Mrs. James W. Simmons of Denton), Mary Catherine Gregg (Mrs. W. G. Langley of Dallas), and William Bowen Gregg-II-deceased.

Mrs. Langley is the only child remaining alive and the only Gregg heir who still owns a part of the ranch. Her farm consists of about 700 acres and is the place on which the marker will be placed Sunday.

MRS. LANGLEY is a member of the First Christian Church of Denton, and of many other organizations. When she was 22 years old she gave a pipe organ to the First Christian Church on West Hickory Street in Denton. It was ordered from St. Louis, Mo. and when it arrived in Denton, no one here could install it. She had to pay the expenses for a man from Missouri to come and install it.

Like her father and grandfather, Mrs. Langley was always interested in horses. An old clipping (circa 1900) from the Denton Record and Chronicle tells of a capacity crowd at the Denton Horse Show. Mr. Will Williams was judge, R. E. Rayzor, secretary, and Crow Wright, ring master. Lady Riders: Miss Mary Gregg placed first and Mrs. J. N. Rayzor second. Single harness horses: Ladies driving: Miss Winnetred Woodward first and Miss Mary Gregg second.

WHEN SHE graduated from college she received a graduation gift of a trip to Europe. She was accompanied on the trip by Miss Euallalie Wright.

Mrs. Langley and Mrs. Simmons turned their part of the ranch they inherited into farms growing cotton and wheat as the main crops, although Mrs. Simmons also raised Shropshire sheep on her place for many years. W. B. Gregg II continued his land as a working ranch for many years, since he received a larger share of the land because his part was better suited for ranching.

W. B. Gregg II married Katherine Bass of Denton and their only child was Mrs. James Riley of Dallas.

PRESS CLIPS

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Record-Chronicle
Denton, Texas

MAR 15 1976



Staff Photo By LON COOPER

Marker Dedication

A group of history-minded area residents listen as Dr. E. Dale Odom, chairman of the Denton County Historical Commission, tells of the history of the Gregg Ranch. Located 12 miles west of Denton, the ranch site is now marked by a Texas State Historical Marker, which was unveiled during the ceremonies Sunday. At left, Mrs. W. G. Langley, current owner of a portion of the original ranch, talks with a guest. She is the granddaughter of Darius Gregg, who accumulated about 20,000 acres to make up the original ranch in the 1850s.