

CRISWELL FAMILY AMONG EARLY SETTLERS
AND HEROES OF TEXAS HISTORY

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CRISWELL FAMILY AMONG EARLY SETTLERS
AND HEROES OF TEXAS HISTORY

(Documented by Raleigh R. Criswell & Martha Criswell Bailey)

John Yancy Criswell, Sr. (b. 1786) and his wife, Eleanor Vannoy (b. 1795), with their eight children (ranging in age from 16 to 1 year) emigrated from Barbourville, Knox County, Kentucky in 1829. Traveling overland by wagon by way of the Missouri State, evidently intending to settle there, but not liking that part of the country moved on to Texas as members of Stephen F. Austin's Third Colony. They crossed the Sabine River into Texas November 29, 1830 and arrived in the township of Matagorda, Texas in early 1831. Upon their arrival, John Yancy Criswell, Sr. purchased town lots and in June 1831, the Mexican government issued him Land Grant #11, containing one league on the West Bank of the Colorado River, Matagorda County, Texas. Land grants to new settlers of Stephen F. Austin's Colonies were made available by the Mexican government to encourage colonist to settle their country. After living on the land the required three years, the family moved on in December 1834 to Fayette County, Texas. They settled in a community on Woods Prairie near the Colorado River where in early 1835, Eleanor Vannoy Criswell passed away and was buried on the homesite. (The property was later deeded to the Old Plum Grove Baptist Church & Cemetery on Criswell Creek, near West Point, Texas on Highway #71, across the Colorado River from La Grange, Texas.) The settlement was protected from Indians by a fort (Woods Fort) built by Zadock Wood who had also moved from Matagorda, Texas at an earlier date.

There were some twenty thousand settlers in Texas by 1830, mostly Americans who had emigrated into the country since 1820. The Mexican government became fearful the colonists would try to join the United States of America and considered closing their borders. To discourage further settlers, the Mexican government imposed import and export taxes and increased their militia to control the activities of the settlers and also encouraged the various Indian tribes to harass them.

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CRISWELL FAMILY

As a result, some military events took place -- Battle of Nacogdoches, August 2, 1832 and Battle of Fort Velasco, June 26, 1832 -- both won by the settlers. Stephen F. Austin went to Mexico to try to convince the government that the colonists did not wish to join the United States, but was unsuccessful and imprisoned for two years. Mexico had a revolutionary change in its government and came under the control of a tyrant dictator by the name of Santa Anna. In June 1835, Col. Travis took the Mexican Garrison at Anahuac, Texas. Upon his release, Austin returned and began to form an army as he knew the Mexican dictatorial government could not be dealt with.

At this time in history (1835), John Yancy Criswell, Sr. was widowed with eight children ranging in age from twenty-two to six years. (Leroy Vannoy 22; William Vannoy 20; Candace Ann 19; Mary Jane 18; James Henry 13; John Yancy, Jr. 11; Joseph Eve 8; and Andrew Jackson 6.) They lived in an area harassed by the Commanche Indians and Tehuacana Indians and on many occasions were called upon to provision members for the Texas Volunteer Army. In July, 1835, John Yancy, Sr. joined Col. John H. Moore to go to the aid of Capt. R. M. Coleman's Company which was being attacked by Indians as they were on a mission of peace with the Tehuacana Indians near Parkers Fort. They pursued the Indians as far as the forks of the Trinity River and then down the Brazos River. They failed to locate the escaping Indians but did have encounters with several roving bands, killing and capturing a few.

On September 28, 1835, Leroy Vannoy Criswell (22) and William Vannoy Criswell (20) enlisted in the Texas Volunteer Army and went directly to Gonzales, Texas where they were assigned under the command of Col. J. C. Neill's Artillery Company as privates. They were engaged in protecting a little cannon furnished the Gonzaleans by the Mexicans at an earlier date to protect themselves against hostile Indians. The Mexican militia sent from Bexar (San Antonio) now demanded its return, however the Texans interpreted the request as an attempt to disarm them of both large and small fire arms. Their answer was delayed until

CRISWELL FAMILY

reinforcements arrived and then they erected a flag saying, "COME AND TAKE IT". The battle that followed on October 2, 1835 was considered as the opening of "hostilities" against the Mexican dictatorial government, and the Mexican militia was soundly defeated. Stephen F. Austin arrived from his headquarters at San Felipe and took charge and reorganized the army with intentions of driving the Mexicans back across the Rio Grande River. Leroy and William Criswell accompanied their command to Camp Near Bexar (San Antonio) to lay siege to that city. On October 9, 1835, Goliad was captured by Capt. Collingsworth and Bowie and Fannin defeated four hundred fifty Mexicans at the Battle of Conception, near Bexar. On November 3, 1835, Adjutant Westover captured Lipantitan (near Corpus Christi). The Grass Fight, near Bexar -- four hundred Mexicans retreated from two hundred Texans on November 8, 1835. The Mexican militia under command of Gen. Cos, was well entrenched in its fortifications at Bexar -- they were fourteen hundred in number. The Texans withheld their assault for fear of having too many casualties. Stephen F. Austin returned to San Felipe to care for pressing government affairs and the Texans became weary of waiting to attack -- many left to return home to care for their families. Leroy V. Criswell received his honorable discharge November 24, 1835, however he remained at Camp Near Bexar and on December 5, 1835, he joined Col. Ben R. Milam in answer to his call of "WHO WILL GO INTO BEXAR WITH OLD BEN MILAM"! Milam's Battalion advanced down Calle de la Acequia (street) and Johnson's Battalion advanced down Calle de la Soledad, while Col. J. C. Neill's Artillery Company (of which William V. Criswell was a member) bombarded the Alamo Mission to divert the attention of the Mexican troops. The battle lasted until December 10, 1835 and is considered as one of the hardest fought during the revolution. Leroy V. Criswell witnessed the killing of Col. Ben R. Milam on December 7, 1835 at the Veramendi House. (He named his youngest son Milam Criswell in honor of his commander.) The Mexican militia was again soundly defeated and Gen. Cos surrendered unconditionally, retreating to Mexico. William V. Criswell's honorable discharge is dated December 13, 1835 and Leroy V. Criswell was later credited for serving to December 13, 1835. (On December 27, 1835, William & Leroy

CRISWELL FAMILY

Criswell issued a draft to cover expenses during this period, as follows: "The Provincial Government of Texas to Leroy and William Criswell Dr.; Sept. 1835, % 3 lbs. coffee bought of Tatum & Lee \$1.00; % 5 lbs. sugar bought of Lee -- \$1.00; Oct. 4, % 5 lbs. of sugar bought at Gonzales \$1.00; % cash paid out for sapp and corn meal at St. Antonio .75; December 27, two dollars paid a doctor at Gonzales \$2.00, Total \$5.75". (The money paid to John Y. Criswell, Sr. assignee.)

Leroy and William Criswell probably returned to their home on Woods Prairie with thoughts of peace and settling down; however, news quickly spread through the colonies that the Mexican dictator, Santa Anna, was leading a huge army to crush the revolution. General Sam Houston was elected to lead the Texas Volunteer Army but was having problems gathering and arming a sizable force. Tragic events began to happen: an expedition against Matamoros by the Texans in January, 1836, proved an entire failure; (Feb. 11, 1836, a squad of volunteers enroute to San Antonio issued the following draft in favor of John Y. Criswell, Sr.: "This is to verify that we in behalf of a Squad of Volunteers traveling to St. Antonio, being out of provisions called upon John Y. Criswell who fed us in his own house with his own provisions for the night and next morning breakfast, eight of us two meals @25 cts. Say five dollars for which the government will no doubt reimburse him. We being authorized to draw on said government for provisions. Signed M. Autry, D. W. Cloud, Agents for Squad." (These men later perished at the Alamo) The town of Bexar (San Antonio) was again taken by the Mexicans and the Texans retired to the Alamo Mission Feb. 21, 1836; Assault of the Alamo by Santa Anna -- put to the sword March 6, 1836; Mexicans defeated in first fight of Mission del Refugio by Texans under Capt. King, March 9, 1836; Second fight of Mission del Refugio, Col. Ward attacked and drove back a large body of Mexicans, March 10, 1836; Wards retreat from Mission del Refugio, March 11, 1836 -- surrendered March 24th, massacred on 28th; Defeat of Col. Fannin, with four hundred fifteen men, all massacred by Mexicans March 19, 1836. General Sam

CRISWELL FAMILY

Houston, unable to gather enough forces to meet and battle the large Mexican force, began an orderly retreat from Gonzales on March 19, 1836. Gen. Houston retreated to the east, up the La Bahia Road through Woods Prairie (The Criswell's Home) to Burnham's Crossing (La Grange) on the Colorado River. John Y. Criswell, Sr. and his family and neighbors prepared the best they could to get out of the way of the advancing Mexican Army. They crossed the Colorado River at neighbor, Wm. Barton's, place by floating families and light possessions across on inflated beef hides, but were turned back by Commanche Indians. After a few days delay, they again crossed the Colorado River at Burham's Crossing (La Grange) and followed the La Bahia Road to Washington on the Brazos and then on to Robbins Crossing on the Trinity River. They were awaiting their turn to cross the Trinity River when news was received on April 21, 1836 that the Mexican Army had been defeated at San Jacinto. (John Y. Criswell, Jr. wrote an editorial for the La Grange Journal, Vol. 9, No. 52, dated Dec. 20, 1888, under the by-line of "Thoughts of By Gone Days" in which he gives a vivid description of the Wood's Prairie Settlers escape from the Mexican Army.) Leroy V. Criswell remained with his father to help with the younger members of the family, while on March 24, 1836, William V. Criswell re-enlisted in the Texas Volunteer Army (to June 27, 1836) while Gen. Sam Houston's forces were camped at Beason's Crossing (Columbus). He was assigned to the First Regiment, Texas Volunteers as a Private in Company "C" under command of Capt. Jesse Billingsley. He remained with his command during Gen. Houston's further retreat to San Felipe, Groce's Ferry, Harrisburg, New Washington and then to San Jacinto where the Texans made a stand and defeated the Mexican Army, capturing its leader Santa Anna, thereby ending the war on April 21, 1836. (William Vannoy Criswell was declared a hero of the Texas Revolution and his body is buried in the State Cemetery at Austin, Texas.)

Once again, the Criswell Family returned to their home on Woods Prairie only to learn that the Commanche and Kiowa Indians were on the warpath, raiding and plundering various settlements. The Texas

CRISWELL FAMILY

Congress responded by creating a battalion of "mounted riflemen" known also as "rangers". John Y. Criswell, Sr. was again called upon to provision troops and was issued the following draft: (1) "This is to certify that the Ranging Corps, under the command of Col. E. Burleson, made use of three bushels of corn at one dollar and fifty cents per bushel and one bushel of potatoes at one dollar, property of J. Y. Criswell. Colorado, July 22, 1836. Signed John G. McG---, Capt. M. R. Corps." (2) "Colorado City, June 5, 1837. The Government of Texas will pay John Y. Criswell on order, four dollars and .50¢ for provisions furnished my company. Signed Wm. M. Easterland, Capt. of Rangers".

The Indian problem became acute in 1837 and Pres. Sam Houston created forces that became the foundation of the Texas Rangers. In 1838, Leroy V. Criswell (age 25) served as an Indian fighter and was issued the following discharge: "This is to certify that Leroy V. Criswell served as a private in the mounted rifle company under my command in Col. Moore's Battalion, fifty days and as such faithfully discharged his duty October 23, 1838. Signed by R. M. Williamson, Capt. thru John H. Moore Commanding."

On September 30, 1839, John Yancy Criswell, Sr. passed away and was buried on the homesite next to his wife, Eleanor Vannoy Criswell. He died of inflammation of the lungs contracted during a March 1839 trip back to Kentucky on business. He died intestate and Leroy V. Criswell was appointed administrator of the estate. (Homesite is now Old Plum Grove Cemetery.)

In 1840, the Commanche Indians gave up their claims to the lands in central Texas and retreated to the West and North. The Colt Repeater Pistol (five shots) furnished the Rangers proved to be the deciding factor.

Problems with Mexico continued to exist as Santa Anna, upon his return to Mexico, denied the Treaty of Velasco and swore to some day retake the lands claimed by the Republic of Texas. The lands between the Rio Grande, Nueces and upper San Antonio Rivers were principally settled by Mexicans and were in dispute. In March, 1842, a large Mexican force invaded the Republic of Texas and captured Golaid, Refugio, Victoria and San Antonio spreading general terror across the countryside; however, they retired back across the Rio Grande River before Texas forces could be mobilized. In September, 1842, a much larger force of fourteen hundred under Gen. Adrian Woll, a French soldier of fortune, recaptured San Antonio. Six hundred Texas Rangers, under command of John Coffee Hays, tricked the Mexicans to leave the fortifications of San Antonio and do battle at Salado Creek. The Texans killed about sixty while losing only one before the Mexicans retreated to San Antonio. When news of Woll's capture of San Antonio reached La Grange, a small relief column of fifty-five men led by Capt. N. M. Dawson marched to San Antonio. They were met and defeated by a superior force of Mexicans, losing about thirty-three men including their leader before surrendering. Those that surrendered were either executed or imprisoned in Mexico; however, a few did manage to escape prison. (See John Y. Criswell, Jr.'s article in the La Grange Journal, Vol. 10, No. 13, dated March 21, 1889, under the by-line, "A Correction" in which he gives his version of who returned among the La Grange, Texas volunteers led by Dawson.) General Woll held San Antonio about nine days before withdrawing to the border with a number of Texas prisoners in tow. News of Mexico's second invasion and the capture of San Antonio by General Woll led Pres. Sam Houston to declare a state of emergency to satisfy the outpour of public opinion. Many Texans rushed to join the army and in the fall of 1842, an expedition led by Gen. Alexander Somervell headed toward the Rio Grande. While the purpose of the expedition was to rescue the captured Texans, terror and pillage of the border was all that was accomplished as it was realized the prisoners could not be rescued. They managed to capture Larado and Guerrero, seventy miles to the south, when ordered on Dec. 19, 1842, to return to Gonzales, Texas. (Records show that Leroy V. Criswell (29),

CRISWELL FAMILY

William V. Criswell (27) and John Y. Criswell, Jr. (18) served as privates in the expedition raised for the purpose of repulsing the invasion of the Republic of Texas by the Mexicans under Gen. Aderian Woll in the fall of the year 1842. Leroy V. and John Y. Criswell, Jr. were not assigned as members of any organized company, but served from the commencement to the conclusion of the campaign. William V. Criswell's records show that he served under the command of Capt. Thomas Rabb during the expedition.) A number of Texans did not agree to disband but chose to reorganize and follow the command of Col. W. S. Fisher. A company of Texas Rangers under the command of Ben McCullough had scouted the Mexican side of the Rio Grande to Meir and discovered a large force and advised Col. Fisher to give up his plan to attack Meir. Col. Fisher and his followers scoffed at the Rangers' advice. They attacked Meir on December 23, 1842 with about two hundred and fifty men against a superior force of about three thousand Mexicans and were defeated. The survivors were ordered executed, but instead were imprisoned. Later their fate was decided by drawing beans from a small earthen mug, white bean-exemption, black bean-death. Seventeen were executed and the remainder imprisoned -- only a few escaped. Finally, on Sept. 16, 1844, a general amnesty won the release of all prisoners. (Somervell Expedition lasted from Nov. 25, 1842 to Jan. 8, 1843.)

Pres. Sam Houston disbanded the army because it was too costly to maintain; however, he kept and enlarged the Texas Ranger force to protect the borders and keep the peace with the Indians. The Rangers were especially kept busy fighting and pursuing Mexican raiders that crossed the borders and attacked various cattle ranches. The Mexican government made no effort to control the raiders -- in fact, they encouraged the practice. In 1844, James K. Polk became President of the United States -- he favored the admittance of Texas to the U.S. -- and in 1845, Texas was admitted by a joint resolution of Congress to become the 28th state of the Union. Mexico had often threatened it would declare war if the U.S. admitted Texas; however, it only broke diplomatic relations. The admittance question could have been settled without bloodshed; however, other quarrels developed. Mexico claimed

CRISWELL FAMILY

its borders to the Nueces River while Texas claimed the Rio Grande River. The Mexicans crossed the Rio Grande River in May, 1846 and made an attack upon American troops stationed near Corpus Christi under the command of Gen. Zachary Taylor. President Polk responded by declaring war on Mexico. Records show that Andrew Jackson Criswell (16), John Yancy Criswell, Jr. (21) and Joseph Eve Criswell (18) were volunteer members of P. Hansbrough Bell's Company, Texas Mounted Volunteers (Corpus Christi Rangers), composed of personnel recruited primarily at Corpus Christi, Texas, mustered into federal service on Sept. 10, 1845, reorganized on March 10, 1846, and mustered out of federal service on July 6, 1846 at Matamoras, Mexico. Joseph Eve and Andrew Jackson Criswell returned to their homes in Fayette County, Texas while John Yancy Criswell, Jr. re-enlisted in Mabry B. Gray's Company, Texas Mounted Volunteers at Matamoras, Mexico on July 21, 1846 to July 17, 1847. The Mexicans lost all battles and the Texas Rangers made a significant contribution to the campaign with their Colt revolver pistols.

The children of John Yancy Criswell, Sr. moved into the area south of Woods Prairie (West Point, Texas), married and settled on farms near such settlements as Black Jack Springs (near Muldoon), Oso (Flatonia), Praha, High Hill and Lyonsville (Schulenberg); served by the old La Bania Road. In addition to livestock, the families raised corn, cotton and their own vegetables. Wild cattle (Longhorn) roamed the Texas prairies in great numbers and thrived on the lands that would not support farming. They were not claimed by anyone and were killed only for their hides, tallow and "table meat". They had no real monetary value until it was learned that they could be driven great distances through drought-stricken areas and survive rather well. A large eastern market soon developed as the easterners had developed a taste for meat -- the "cattle drives" were on! Large herds were driven to the rail heads in Colorado and Kansas for shipment to markets and drives were also made to the grasslands and ranges of the central U. S. upon which to fatten the cattle. The grandchildren of John Yancy Criswell, Sr. were anxious to "follow the trail" and did scatter to

CRISWELL FAMILY

different parts of the state and country to get away from the hard life of farming on poor soil and drought areas. Letters from Tom Menefee Criswell to his brother, David Robert Criswell, give a vivid description of his life as a foreman for the Driskill Ranches. Other family members' letters show the everyday trials of making a living in those days.

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CRISWELL FAMILY

CHILDREN OF JOHN YANCY CRISWELL AND MARY ELEANOR VANNOY
(Six boys and two girls)

1. LEROY VANNOY CRISWELL, b.1813, d.1868, m.Elizabeth A. McMicken
2/24/1842
Children (14):

Eliza Jane	b.02/02/1843	d.02/19/1933
Mary Elander	b.06/15/1844	
John Fines	b.12/25/1845	
Waymond Wesley	b.11/23/1847	
William Milton	b.08/01/1849	d.10/28/1882
Henry Elias	b.03/22/1851	
James Harvey	b.11/22/1853	d.02/22/1952
Ruth Ragsdale	b.12/23/1855	
Thomas Menefee	b.11/05/1856	d.04/12/1886
David Robert	b.10/18/1858	d.01/02/1944
Joann E.	b.06/27/1860	
Larking	b.12/01/1862	
Leander Vannoy (Lee)	b. 1864	d.03/01/1926
Milam	b.03/18/1866	
2. WILLIAM VANNOY CRISWELL, b.4/15/1815, d.1/19/1858, m.Mary
Elizabeth McMicken 10/12/1844
Children (7):
 - Elizabeth J.
 - Martha
 - Sarah E.
 - Mary A.
 - John H.
 - Lillie M.
 - J. Yancy (Yank)
3. CANDACE ANN CRISWELL, b.1816, d.7/28/1900, (Married three times)
(1) _____ Underwood (2) L. F. Cottle (3) O. T. Fitzgerald
Children (7): (None by Underwood)
 - Ellen Cottle
 - Henry S. Cottle
 - Cordelia Cottle
 - Leander Cottle
 - Amanda Jane Fitzgerald
 - Nancy Ann Fitzgerald
 - William David Fitzgerald
4. MARY JANE CRISWELL, b.1817, d.1861/66, m.M. William Hadden
9/ /1838
Children (4):
 - David Hadden
 - Thomas Hadden
 - Virginia Hadden and twin, name unknown

CRISWELL FAMILY

5. JAMES HENRY CRISWELL, b.1822, d.(c) 1875, m.Cary Millie Harkins
1856
Children (3):
Thomas Jefferson b. 1858
Mollie L. b. 1861
Emma P. b. 1864
6. JOHN YANCY CRISWELL, JR., b.11/27/1824, d.10/7/1896, m.Mary
Rebecca O'Daniel 1847
Children (7):
Martha F.
Sophronia
Mary E.
Lucy A.
Joel Silas
Leander (Lee) H.
William John (Jack)
7. JOSEPH EVE CRISWELL, b.8/6/1827, d.(c) 1883, m.Sarah Ann McMicken
1848
Children (11):
Anderson b. 04/26/1849
Sophronia b. 12/28/1850
Amanda b. 02/06/1853
William David b. 03/25/1857
Eliza Kate b. 12/12/1858 d. 08/30/1917
Sarah Ellen b. 07/01/1860 d. 10/11/1861
Joseph Eve (Jr.) b. 07/01/1862
Dora Ellen b. 10/30/1865 d. 11/24/1875
Elias Fares (Buck) b. 09/04/1867
George Alexander b. 02/22/1869 d. 08/31/1900
Emily b. 04/20/1871 d. 03/03/1875
8. ANDREW JACKSON CRISWELL, b.1829, d.(c) 1862, m.Sarah Trimble 1847
Children (2):
James Jackson (Jack)
Sara Martha
(Andrew and Sarah divorced and Andrew moved to Louisiana,
settling near Mansfield. Indications are that he changed his
name to "Jack" Criswell. Soon after the Civil War began, he
had an occasion to meet one of his nephews at a Confederate
camp -- see write-up about Candace Ann Criswell.)

LEROY VANNOY CRISWELL

(1st child of John Yancy Criswell, Sr.)

Leroy Vannoy Criswell, b. 1813, Barboursville, Knox Co., Kentucky, emigrated to Texas 1829-30 at age 16 with parents and brothers and sisters. Settled at Matagorda, Matagorda Co., Texas and moved with family in 1835 to Woods Prairie (West Point, Tx.). Participated in opening battle of the Texas Revolution at Gonzales, Tx., Oct. 2, 1835 as member of J. C. Neill's Artillery Co., protecting a little cannon from being surrendered to a Mexican militia. Fought at the Battle of Bexar (San Antonio, Tx.) in J. C. Neill's Artillery Co.; discharged Nov. 24, 1835 and joined Col. Ben R. Milam's Battalion and witnessed the death of Col. Milam during the hardest fought battle of the revolution, Dec. 5-10, 1835. Accompanied his father and younger members of the family while "moving out of the way of the advancing Mexican Army" in March and April 1836. Served as an "Indian fighter" in Col. J. H. Moore's Mounted Rifle for fifty days through Oct. 23, 1838. Served in Somervell Expedition to repel the invasion of Texas by Mexico led by Gen. Aderian Woll, 1842-43. Married Elizabeth A. McMicken on Feb. 24, 1842. (His brothers, William V. and Joseph Eve, also married daughters of Andrew and Eliza McMicken who had emigrated from Tennessee after the Texas War for Independence.) Leroy was 29 at the time of marriage, she was 17. Immediately after the marriage, they took into the household 15 year old Joseph Eve and 13 year old Andrew Jackson (his younger brothers whose parents were dead at this time). Also, part of the household was a "Negro" girl owned by the John Y. Criswell, Sr. Estate. As administrator of his father's estate, he farmed the family land in addition to his own. Leroy and his family first settled at Black Jack Springs (near Muldoon) and his children attended the Black Jack Springs School taught by Mr. William Gorham, whose wife was a close friend to Candace Criswell Cottle. The Cottles also lived in the same area. Later, Leroy's family moved and settled near "old Flatonia" (Oso) and Praha. In his will, dated August 5, 1862, Leroy states he owns "land, Negroes, cattle, horses and tenements" to be shared equally among his children for their education.

CRISWELL FAMILY

It is believed that Elizabeth A. Criswell died after giving birth to Milam, who was born March 18, 1866 and that Leroy V. Criswell also died soon after. "The Honorable Court of Fayette County, having been solicited by the Relatives of Leroy V. Criswell to take charge of the State. I hereby make application for letters of administration of estate of Leroy V. Criswell & wife deceased at the next term of said court on this 29th day of June 1866." Wm. Boykin, husband of the eldest daughter and oldest child Eliza Jane, was appointed one of the administrators of the estate. The younger children were taken into the Boykin household. Leroy Vannoy Criswell and Elizabeth A. Criswell were buried at Duff Cemetery (also known as Mulberry Cemetery) about one-half or one mile southeast of the village of Praha. The property adjoining the cemetery was sold to a Chec or Bohemian farmer who, not realizing his actions, removed grave markers and planted grain in their place. He later replaced some markers, but many locations were lost. Leroy and Elizabeth (along with son, Larkin) had no markers on their graves.

There were fourteen (14) children born by Elizabeth A. and Leroy V. Criswell:

(1) Eliza Jane Criswell, b. Feb. 2, 1843, m. Sep. 30, 1858 to William Joseph Boykin. In 1886, the family was living in Elmendorf, Bexar Co., Texas where he farmed cotton. A daughter, Callie Boykin, wrote in 1886 that "brother Bobie has gone to the RR to work. He is doing well, has not been sick in a good time". Eliza Jane died Feb. 19, 1933 in Estelline, Hall Co., Texas.

(2) Mary Elander Criswell, b. June 15, 1844, m. March 15, 1860 to Benjamin W. Garey in Praha, Fayette Co., Texas. She died after 1880.

(3) John Fines Criswell, b. Dec. 25, 1845 at Black Jack Springs, Fayette Co., Texas, m. Feb. 5, 1868 to Margaret Rhilie Jackson in Oso, Texas. In 1881-82 he and family were living in Bandera, Bandera Co., **Tex.** He was farming, raising some cattle and trading horses and mules. Migrated to Bayard, N. M. where he died after 1918. His wife

CRISWELL FAMILY

died August 1, 1915. Children: Oliver b. 1870, James Harvey b. 1874, William Henry b. 1877, John Yancy b 1883, George Leroy b. 1886, Clarence Martin b. 1895, Eva, Etta, and Anna, daughters.

(4) Waymond Wesley Criswell, b. Nov. 23, 1847 in Black Jack Springs, Fayette Co., Texas. He served with the Confederate Forces in the Civil War and disappeared during the battle of Vicksburg; although his remains were not found, he is presumed to have died in battle.

(5) William Melton Criswell, b. Aug. 1, 1849 in Black Jack Springs, Fayette Co., Texas, m. Nov. 1, 1871 to Martha L. (Nellie) Warwick in Bastrop Co., Texas. Numerous letters from him between 1879-82 - he had some cattle, but seemed to be primarily an itinerant horse trader; two letters indicate some trouble with the law. He was **assinated in Comfort Texas by a "man named Kelly"** on Oct. 28, 1882. The widow wrote they "only charged the Irishman with manslaughter". (See E 31)

(6) Henry Elias Criswell, b. March 22, 1851 in Black Jack Springs, Fayette Co., Texas, m. April 13, 1871 to Mary E. Riffer (Rief) in Gonzales Co. He lived in De Witt Co., both in the Terryville Community and in Yoakum for nearly fifty years, and was the first Marshall of Yoakum. He held that job nearly twenty years and was elected Justice of the Peace, a position he held until his death in March 1922. The city of Yoakum named one of its streets in his honor. He died as a result of blood poisoning after having pricked his finger with an ice pick. His three children who survived him were W. H. Criswell, Mrs. B. O. Townsend and Mrs. J. D. Perkins.

(7) James Harvey Criswell, b. Nov. 12, 1853 in Black Jack Springs, Fayette Co., Texas. Upon the death of his parents, when he was about 13 or 14 years of age, he learned that his brother-in-law, Bill Boykin, was to be an administrator of his father's estate; "not liking old Bill Boykin worth a dam", he saddled his horse and left. "Went up the trail to North Dakota". Later he returned, married Melletta Jane Hester on March 14, 1872 in De Witt Co., Texas. In August 1883, he was living in

CRISWELL FAMILY

Johnson City, Blanco Co., Texas where he was engaged in farming. (He had, in fact, just won a \$20 premium for bringing in the first bale of cotton for the season.) His letter states that he is thinking of moving to Kimble Co. He died on Feb. 22, 1952, in Corpus Christi, Texas eight months before his 100th birthdate.

(8) Ruth R. Criswell, b. Dec. 23, 1855 in Fayette Co., Texas. She married twice, the first time to -- Spinks. In 1885, she was living in Gonzales, was a widow with children (who she said had been helping her pick cotton), and had a job as a cook for two old people and their two boarders; she wrote, the job gave her and the children a nice place to live and paid \$8 per month besides. She apparently later married someone named Thomas. Died in New York.

(9) Thomas Menefee Criswell, b. Nov. 5, 1856 in Fayette Co., Texas. He never married, but had "followed the trail" (the old cattle trails) by the time he was 21; he was later responsible for running the Driskill ranches in Kansas, the Dakota territory, Indian territory and Montana. Numerous letters written between 1880-85 which still exist, give a fascinating look at the old cattle empires and how they operated. In 1885, his brother, Lee, wrote brother David Robert to "come get Tom as he is in a bad fix". He died in his brother's home in Buckholts, Milam Co., Texas on April 12, 1886.

(10) David Robert Criswell, b. Oct. 18, 1858 in Fayette Co., Texas near the present day town of Flatonia. He was about 7 years of age when his parents died and was taken into the home of his brother-in-law, Bill Boykin. He "hit the cattle trails" at an early age and by the time he was 17, was a "trail boss" driving cattle from the Mesquite ranges of Southwest Texas. He worked for the Driskill range properties gathering large herds at Gonzales, on Padre Island and other points before driving them north to Colorado for delivery to markets. At the age of 22, in the year 1880, received a "Life Scholarship" from Jones Commercial College, Austin, Texas upon the completion of a prescribed business course. He married Sophronia Isabelle Secrest (Belle) on

CRISWELL FAMILY

April 14, 1881. She was the seventh child of Thomas Secrest and Maria Dismuke Secrest who migrated to Texas from Ohio and settled in Fayette Co. on Mulberry Creek near the present day Schulenberg, Texas. After their first child was born they moved north to Milam County in 1883, settling on a farm and ranch land on Lapan Creek. He taught school in Milam County for a number of years, among his first schools at North Elm to which he rode six miles horseback each way. He was also a land surveyor and in 1902 he was admitted to the Bar of Texas and practiced law at Buckholts, Texas. He served continuously as Justice of the Peace for Precinct 6 at Buckholts, Texas for a half century. Six children were born to Sophronia Isabelle (Belle) and David Robert Criswell:

1. Annie Bird Criswell, b. Jan. 22, 1882, Fayette County, Texas, m. John Taylor 19__ , two daughters, d.
 - a. Johnie Maud Taylor, m. Bill Harris, one son named Billie.
 - b. Floris Taylor
2. Dallas Vard Criswell, b. Oct. 28, 1884, d. Nov. 29, 1901, buried at North Elm Cemetary, Milam County, Texas.
3. Pearl Roy Criswell, b. Sept. 1, 1886, Milam County, Texas. Married three times: T. M. Jackson (one son, Francis M. Jackson, b. Sept. 7, 1919, m. Dorothy Kelly, two children, d. 19__). Mr. Jackson died in 1934 and Pearl also outlived her next two husbands, a Mr. Lassiter and a Mr. Hellums. She died on April 16, 1966.
4. Thomas Floris Criswell, Sr., b. April 28, 1888, d. July 21, 1970, at Cameron, Texas, m. Annie Irene Lupton on Jan. 11, 1914, four children:
 - a. Thomas Floris Criswell, Jr., b. Feb. 9, 1915, m. Dorothy Marie Maerki. (Two children: Patricia Ann, b. Feb. 7, 1940 and Jean Elizabeth, b. April 5, 1944).

CRISWELL FAMILY

- b. Dallas Lupton Criswell, b. Dec. 23, 1916, m. Muriel King. (Three sons: Rex Kirby, b. March 4, 1958, Scott Thomas, b. May 14, 1960, Glenn Dallas, b. July 13, 1963).
 - c. Ralph Munger Criswell, b. Dec. 13, 1919 (twin), d. June 27, 1983. Twice married: Olga Hendrick, (one child: Ralph Barry Criswell whose name was later changed to Borden). Second marriage to Diane Sullivan, (four children: David Sullivan, Cindy, Tracy Ann, Mark Sullivan).
 - d. Raleigh R. Criswell, b. Dec. 13, 1919 (twin), m. Gertrude Marie Glider, (one child: Carol Leigh Criswell).
5. Lennis Vannoy Criswell, b. May 30, 1890 at Buckholts, Milam County, Texas, m. Frank Nathan Craven, had two children:
- a. Frank Nathan Craven, Jr., b. May 16, 1918, m. Margie Burdett, (two children: Frank Nathan, III and a daughter).
 - b. Joyce Isabelle Craven, b. May 26, 1920, m. James Dow Huggins, (two sons)
6. Zorus Belle Criswell, b. Feb. 22, 1895, only nine months old when his mother died. Served in U. S. Navy during WWI, died Oct. 23, 1923 as a result of injuries received in an automobile wreck near his home. Was engaged to be married. Buried at Corenth Cemetery.

Sophonra Isabelle Criswell died Nov. 1, 1895 and was buried at North Elm Cemetery, Milam County, Texas. The children ranging in age from 13 years to nine months were taken in the household of Washington Hampton Secrest (Belle's oldest brother) and his wife "Aunt" Minnie, where they were kept until David Robert Criswell married.

In June, 1897, David Robert Criswell married Stelia Pollock Law, a widow of Tom Law with one daughter named Mildred. Stella was born Aug. 18, 1867 in Tallahatchie County, Mississippi. Five children were born to this marriage:

CRISWELL FAMILY

1. Naomi Lee Criswell, b. July 7, 1897, m. W. L. English on Aug. 30, 1922, d. April, 1985, buried at Moran, Texas. Two children:
 - a. Marie Joyce, m. Dallas Johnston on Aug. 7, 1948 (three daughters: Lynn, b. July 23, 1949; Lisa, b. May 21, 1951; Laurie, b. Aug. 5, 1959).
 - b. Dona Louise, m. W. S. Moore on May 23, 1951 (two children: Leslie Ann Moore, b. Oct. 9, 1953 and William Shoffner Moore, b. June 29, 1956).
2. Audrey Criswell, b. April 14, 1900, m. George Goree (no children).
3. Cecil Robert Criswell, b. July 10, 1902, m. Lula Ezzell (no children).
4. Delmar Ray Criswell, b. July 31, 1904, m. Viola Bowman on Feb. 14, 1938, two children:
 - a. David Robert Criswell, b. Aug. 16, 1940.
 - b. Martha Lynn Criswell, b. Oct. 6, 1943, twice married: ___ Bailey, (two sons: Ray Bailey and Michel Bailey). Second marriage to John M. Lee, no children, divorced 1986. Bailey name reclaimed.
5. Waymond Criswell, b. Dec. 23, 1909, d. Sept. 20, 1914 - drowned in stock tank near his home.

(11) Joann Elizabeth Criswell, b. June 27, 1860 in Fayette County, Texas. She married G. W. Izard on Nov. 8, 1877 in Fayette County. In 1880 G. W. Izard wrote from the couple's home in Schulenberg, Texas that "Joe and the children are well and that he expected a good crop of corn". In July 1882 Joe wrote from Pine Ridge, Nebraska that they had arrived safely and that "Mr. Izard was going to morrow to look at A ranch". However, by March 1883, D. R. Criswell was receiving correspondence addressing him as the administrator of the estate of G. W. Izard. Joe and her children subsequently returned to Texas.

CRISWELL FAMILY

(12) Larking Criswell, b. Dec. 11, 1862. Little is known about his brother. In 1883 T. M. Criswell wrote D. R. Criswell that he would pay for rail (fence) and headstones for Ma, Pa and brother Larkin's grave.

(13) Leander Vannoy "Lee" Criswell, b. 1864, Fayette County, Texas. Early family letters refer to him and his younger brother, Milam, as the "younguns" and that they should be in school instead of working "on the trail". The family letters, c1879-1885, refer to Lee as being in one scrape after another: getting cut up in a knife fight, being in jail in Montana, getting drunk and "busting up Nellie's furniture", etc. Evidently, he reformed in his later years for a publication (History of Motley County) refers to him as "one of our most respected founding pioneers". He married Mrs. Priscilla (King) Blackshear, a widow with eight children on Dec. 11, 1895. They had two children: Oda, m. George Birchfield and Zora Lee, m. Riley Day.

(14) Milam Criswell, b. March 18, 1866, named after his father's commanding officer in the Texas War for Independence. Little is known about Milam. In family letters, c1879-1885, he is mentioned first as a schoolboy; later, his desire to follow the trail is discussed. Several letters mention his "wasting his money on Spreeing" as soon as he earned it. No information about marriage, children, time of death, etc. is available. Was living with brother William Melton Criswell in Comfort, Kendall County, Texas in 1882 when William was assassinated by a man named Kelly. (Census of Kendall County, Tex. in 1880 gave Milams age as 14 and occupation as cattle raiser)

CRISWELL FAMILY

WILLIAM VANNOY CRISWELL

(2nd child of John Yancy Criswell, Sr.)

William Vannoy Criswell, b. April 15, 1815, Barboursville, Knox County, Kentucky. Emigrated to Texas in 1829-30 at age 14 with parents and brothers and sisters. Settled at Matagorda, Matagorda County, Texas and moved with family in 1835 to Woods Prairie (West Point, Texas). Participated in opening battle of the Texas Revolution at Gonzales, Texas on Oct. 2, 1835 as a member of J. C. Neill's Artillery Co., protecting a little cannon from being surrendered to a Mexican militia. Fought at the Battle of Bexar (San Antonio, Texas) in J. C. Neill's Artillery Co. Discharged Dec. 13, 1835. (His brother, Leroy Vannoy also served in these battles.) William Vannoy re-enlisted in the Texas Army on March 24, 1836 and was assigned to Capt. Jesse Billingsley's command as a private. He fought at the Battle of San Jacinto and was discharged June 27, 1836. (His body was later removed from a marked grave in Duff Cemetery (Mulberry Cemetery) and re-buried at the State Cemetery at Austin, Texas.) Served in the Somervell Expedition to repel the invasion of Texas by Mexico led by Gen. Aderian Woll in 1842-43. He married Mary Elizabeth McMicken on Oct. 12, 1844 and settled at Black Jack Springs, Texas. He died intestate on Jan. 19, 1858. A listing of his estate: horses, oxen, cart, wagon, hogs, one Negro man @ \$900.00, one Negro girl @ \$200.00, household furniture, farming tools, cash, cotton, 1050 acres of land - total value of \$5,536.50.

There were seven (7) children born by Mary Elizabeth and William V. Criswell:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| (1) Elizabeth J., b. | m. John C. Jones, Nov. 7, 1865. |
| (2) Martha b. | m. James Jackson, June 24, 1866. |
| (3) Sarah E. b. | m. W.H.S. Lee, Jan. 8, 1867. |
| (4) Mary A. b. | m. J.W. Lyons, June 2, 1870. |
| (5) John Henry b. 9/12/1852 | m. Lattiticia J. Jones, Sep. 2, 1875. |

CRISWELL FAMILY

John Henry Criswell and his wife were both born in Fayette County, Texas and with their family moved to Motley County in 1896, settling on a ranch at Four Corners, east of Whitflat. In 1898, they moved to Matador, Texas where they were active in the business and social life of that city. He died on Sept. 23, 1899. His death was caused by roping a cow and in dropping the coil and stopping his horse. He dropped the last coil around his neck. The cow, running at high speed, jerked him from his horse almost severing his head from his body, as the rope was tied to the horn of his saddle. His cousin Joseph Eve Criswell, Jr., realizing the great danger, ran and cut the rope. John became conscious and decided he could ride home, a distance of four miles; however, he died hours later. At the time of his death, he had land holdings in the south and southeastern section of the county, as well as his original ranch at Four Corners. His wife died in 1909. Their eight (8) children were:

- a. Alice Bertha Criswell, b. Oct. 30, 1876, d. July, 1958, twice married:
 1. Albert Sydney Johnson (one daughter - Alma Johnson, b. Jan. 6, 1908, m. Robert Hoyt (one daughter, Shirley Hoyt, b. Dec. 1, 1934, m. John E. Sheets (one daughter, Sandra Elaine Sheets, b. Oct. 29, 1960)))
 2. Homer Sheats (one daughter - Kathryn Sheats, m. Rev. Murry O. Johnson (two children: Albert Powell Johnson and Alice Mae Johnson))
- b. John Claude Criswell, b. d. m. Betty Darden
- c. Effie Olive Criswell, b. June 23, 1880, d. July 10, 1959, m. Ransom P. Moore and had five children:
 1. John Criswell Moore, b. Sept, 23, 1899, m. Lila Byrd and had two children: a) Charles Criswell Moore, m. Loletta - 4 boys, 1 girl b) William Moore, m. Nancy - 5 girls.
 2. William Rans Moore, b. 1901, m. Velma Walters and had one daughter, Billie Beth Moore.

CRISWELL FAMILY

3. Olive Ora Moore, b. Nov., 1903, m. John C. Russell and had two children: a) Olive Areene Russell, m. William Mantooth, no children b) John M. (Sunny) Russell, m. Dorothy Mae Cox - 4 children.
4. Mary Josephine Moore, b. 1908, m. John A. Hamilton - 4 children: a) Thomas Earl Hamilton, m. Jan Barton b) Richard Hamilton, m. Patty Craven - 3 children c) Harry A. Hamilton, single d) Mary Jane Hamilton, m. Carl Mack Carter.
5. Marjoria Arlene Moore, b. May 28, 1920, m. J. Merrell Harper - 2 children: a) Beverly Jean Harper, m. Virgil Dean Rutledge - 1 child, Lisa Dianne Rutledge b) Jon Criswell Harper.
6. Ray Payton Moore, b. 1922, d. March 23, 1933
 - d. Ora Maude Criswell, b. m. Roy McLain, no children.
 - e. Orlena Josephine Criswell, b. Sept. 19, 1883, d. Aug. 18, 1961, m. Luther F. Davis and had four children: a) Raymond Davis, m. Hettie Patton - 1 child, Donald b) Lena Mae Davis c) Donald Davis d) Juandell Davis.
 - f. Mary Lettitia Criswell, b. April 25, 1885, d. March 30, 1961, m. Andrew E. Herring, no children.
 - g. Albert Bertram Criswell, b. d. March 21, 1935, never married (died in Magdalena, New Mexico, buried at Matador, Texas).
 - h. Myrtle Florence Criswell, b. Sept. 5, 1894, d. m. Frank Stubblefield, d. 1943, no children.
- (6) Lillie M. Criswell, b. d. m. John P. Waddell on Oct. 4, 1875.
- (7) J. Yancy "Yank" Criswell, b. d. m. Ardela Burk on Feb. 6, 1876. **Children: Wm Thomas, L. Mary, Jessie, Bernice & Mittie.**

CRISWELL FAMILY

CANDACE ANN CRISWELL

(3rd child of John Yancy Criswell, Sr.)

Candace (Candacy-pronounced Can-day'cy) Ann Criswell, b. August 1816 in Knox County, Kentucky; d. July 28, 1900, Black Jack Springs, Texas, in the home of her niece, Bettie Criswell Jones (Mrs. John Calvin Jones), dgt. of Wm. V. Criswell. She is buried in the old BJS Cemetery beside her 3rd husband, Obediah Fitzgerald. There is another grave, unmarked, beside her that is thought to be her second husband, Leander Frederic Cottle.

In 1888, Candace's brother, John Y. Criswell, Jr. wrote a most interesting story for the La Grange Journal about the "Runaway Scrape" in which the Criswell family were participants. He tells of the attack the Indians made on the party, and names several of those who were in the group. John Y., Jr. was only 11 at the time. His brother, Wm. Vannoy Criswell, was at San Jacinto and was not in the flight. John Y., Jr. mentions Candace as Mrs. O. Fitzgerald...(she later married Obediah Fitzgerald), and her closest friend, Lucinda Kenner, whom he refers to as Mrs. Gorham, although she was Mrs. Thomas O. Berry at the time, and was Mrs. Josiah O'Daniel, the step-mother of John Y. Criswell, Jr.'s future wife, before she married Mr. William Gorham. He (Gorham) was also a veteran of San Jacinto. He also mentions Lee F. T. Cottle whom Candace married soon afterward. (He also mentions some of my kin, Faires, Karnes, and Scallorn although he was in error in saying that Wesley Scallorn was along, for Wesley too was at San Jacinto, and had been dead 46 years when the story was written. SRD)

After Thomas O. Berry died, Lucinda married Josiah O'Daniel and was the adored stepmother of Mary Rebecca O'Daniel and her brothers. Mary R. O'Daniel was married in 1847 in Lucinda's home, two years after Josiah died. Lucinda married Wm. Gorham, March 19, 1848, the first teacher in BJS who taught many of the Criswell children. Candace and Lucinda were close friends and neighbors from about 1835 when Candace went to Fayette County from Matagorda County until her death in 1900.

CRISWELL FAMILY

Candace m. (1) ---- Underwood, who died about 1836-1837. She m. (2) January 29, 1838, Plum Grove, Texas, Fayette County, Leander (Lee) Frederic Trent Cottle, b. about 1788, Vt.; d. August 8, 1845, BJS, Texas and is thought to be buried just outside the fence enclosing Candace's grave and that of her 3rd husband, Obediah Fitzgerald, in the Black Jack Springs Cemetery (now known as the Pin Oak Cemetery). When they were first married, Candace and Lee lived at Lyon's Station which was later Lyonsville, and is now Schulenburg. The day Lee took sick, he had been hunting and stopped by to visit a neighbor, Wm. B. Bridges. They gathered a large sack of peaches for him to carry home. When he arrived home, he was very warm and exhausted, and sat down to a cool place to rest and refresh himself, and becoming chilled, took pneumonia and died.

Lee was the son of Joseph Cottle and Azubah Power, and the grandson of Abigail Sherman. He was also a descendant of Edward Winslow of the Mayflower. All of Candace's and Lee's descendants are, therefore, eligible for membership in many patriotic organizations. Mrs. LaVina Ware (Candace's grand-daughter who is age 85 years, tells me that she has known as long as she can remember that Lee came to Texas in the early 1820's, and made one more trip back to Lincoln County, MO, where Joseph and Azubah were living in 1830 with another daughter, Azubah, and her husband, James Robinson, who came to Fayette County soon afterwards. LaVina's brother had a letter Joseph wrote to his son, Lee, who was in Texas, in 1827. He also had Lee's commission in the Missouri State Militia, and he still has the coat to his uniform. Lee was a Lt. Col. The old coat was homespun and handmade.

The Cottle family was a large one, and many of them came to Texas in the early 1820's and 1830's. One of them was George Washington Cottle who died at the Alamo and for whom Cottle County, Texas is named. He came to Texas from Lincoln County, MO, but the relationship between Lee and G. W. Cottle is not know at this time. There is, of course, no doubt they were closely related. Lee's older sister,

CRISWELL FAMILY

Minerva, married Zadock Woods, and their daughter, Minerva Woods, m. October 4, 1818, Wm. Harrell, all of whom came from Lincoln County, MO near Troy, to Texas, as did James Robinson and his wife, Azubah Cottle, who was a younger sister to Lee Cottle.

Lee was a surveyor, and a good fiddler. He had an old violin and he played for his neighbors and the community dances. He gave it to his son, Henry, (LaVina's father) who took it with him when he went to Louisiana during the Civil War. Lee seems to have been a much loved friend and neighbor. John Y. Criswell, Jr., named his first son, Leander (Lee) for his brother-in-law, who had died about three years before the birth of his son. Lee was on the 1840 List of Freeholders in Fayette County, along with Candace's father, John Y. Criswell, Sr., and others. He was one of the appraisers of the estate of Asa McClure (brother of my g.g. grandfather) when he died in May 1844. Candace and Lee were among the first settlers in BJS community in the early 1840's - coming from the Plum Grove area where her father's home was located. They settled on the Thomas O. Berry league of land which was known as Black Jack Springs. At the time of his death, Lee owned 460 acres of land "where he resided at the time of his death", and on which the springs were located. Candace received 200 acres and their four minor children were allowed 260 acres by the Probate Court, Fayette County. Appraisers of Lee's estate were Jackson Coffee, Carrol Smith, John E. Lewis, and Leroy V. Criswell, and consisted of cattle, horses, a rifle gun, one certificate for one league and labor of land (which shows that he was in Texas before March 12, 1836 and was a married man, as a single man in Texas before that date received 1/3 league as their headright) which was granted by the Fayette County Board of Land Commissioners. The league and labor were located by James P. Hudson, County Surveyor, Fayette County. The land was in Brazoria County and was later bought by John A. Green (brother of General Thomas Green) and Nathaniel W. Faison, both of Fayette County, for the sum of \$300.00. The present town of Alvin is located on part of this grant. Lee also owned 445 acres in Nueces County which he received for work done as a

CRISWELL FAMILY

surveyor. This land was never sold but was fenced in by the King Ranch who also paid taxes on it until it was finally owned by them. LaVina says a cousin went to see about it 45 years ago, but nothing could be done about it.

The fact that Lee's land grant was for 1 league and 1 labor may or may not mean that he was married before March 2, 1836. We know he was in Texas before that date. Since the grant was not made until after Fayette County was organized, (established by the Republic of Texas Congress in 1838) it is possible that the Board of Land Commissioners gave him a married man's allotment because he and Candace were married at the time he applied.

After Lee died, his brother-in-law, James Robinson, was appointed guardian of the 4 children, all minors. (See next page)

CRISWELL FAMILY

CHILDREN OF LEANDER (LEE) FREDERIC TRENT COTTLE
AND CANDACE ANN (CRISWELL)

- (1.) Elender (Ellen) Azubah Cottle, b. 1838, near Lyons Station, Fayette County, Texas; m. February 1, 1855, BJS, Texas, William (Bill) Shank, b. 1833, Germany, as were both of his parents; d. about 1910, Abilene Texas, and is buried there. After her father died in 1845, Ellen lived for a while with the George W. Brazeale (Brazil) family, Bill and Jim Criswell, Ellen's uncle who married in 1856, bought 50 acres of land each from J.C.C. Smith and both built their homes on this land. J.C.C. Smith was great grandfather of Joe A. Cole, Smithville, Texas, who now owns the 50 acres where Jim and his wife, Millie, lived. It is now known, as it was then, as Criswell Hill.

In 1870 Ellen and Bill Shank were living in Oso, near Flatonia, and had seven children, including a set of twins. By 1880 they had moved to Bell County where they were living next door to her brother, Henry Sherman Cottle, and had had another set of twins! They had 9 children:

- A. Candace Shank, b. 1857, Oso, Texas; d. ; m. Bascom McAda;
8 children.
- B. Charles L. Shank, b. 1859, Oso, Texas; d. (c) 1922; m.
Matilda A. Moore; --children.
- C. Abigail Bell Shank, b. 1861, Oso Texas; d. in Lubbock,
Texas; m. Richard Levy; 11 children.
- D. William Joseph Shank, b. 1864, Oso, Texas; d. 1938, Garden
City, Texas; m. Sarah Jane Wilson; 13 children.
- E. James Henry Shank (a twin), b. 1867, Oso, Texas; d. June 16,
1954; m. Emma Singleton; 4 children.
- F. Nancy Elizabeth Shank, b. 1867, Oso, Texas; d. ; m. Samuel
Matlock; 3 children.
- G. Mary Shank, b. 1869, Oso, Texas; d. ; m. Jack Wilson; 1
child.

CRISWELL FAMILY

- H. Paul Shank (a twin), b. 1874, Bell County, Texas; d. -1959, El Paso, Texas; m. Ida Gates.
- I. Silas Shank, b. 1874, Bell County, Texas; d. ; m. Mamie Gober; 3 children.

- (2.) Henry Sherman Cottle, C.S.A., b. September 27, 1839 near Lyons Station (now Schulenburg, Texas); d. January 23, 1917, Rochelle, McCulloch County, Texas; m. June 21, 1865, Lyonsville (now Schulenburg, Texas), Frances Martha Lyons, b. February 9, 1843, Lyons Station, Texas; d. December 10, 1917, Rochelle, Texas, where both are buried.

Frances was the dgt. of Seymore Clinton Lyons, b. about 1820, N.Y. or Ohio; d. early 1848, Fayette County, Texas; m. November 27, 1841, Lyons Station, Texas, Mary Bridges, b. 1825; d. December --, 1895, Bell County, Texas, and is buried at Nolansville, Nolan County, Texas. Mary Bridges was among those in the "Run-away Scrape" and was old enough to help carry some of the little children. Seymore C. Lyons was the son of James Lyons, one of the early settlers of Fayette County. He was killed by the Commanche Indians (when raiding through Fayette County) on October 15, 1837. The Indians captured his young son, Warren F. and kept him about 10 years. They told him all his family was dead except his mother. He did not want to return home but did so in 1848 shortly before his brother, Seymore died. It was not safe for a young woman with children to live alone, so Mary married again just two days before Frances' brother, James Warren Lyons, was born. On December 14, 1848, Mary Bridges Lyons married William Alexander Ranne, b. 1825, Navoo, Illinois; d. about 1900. They had a large family. One of their dgts., Laura Ranne, married Henry's younger brother, Leander (Lee) Cottle.

CRISWELL FAMILY

Mary Bridges was the dgt. of W. B. Bridges, b. 1795, North Carolina and Frances Cook, b. Ireland. The Bridges were also very early settlers as Mary was born in Texas in 1825. They lived at Lyons Station. A daughter of James Lyons also married a Bridges.

When his father died in 1845, Henry lived for a while with his first cousin, Montraville Woods, and his family. Montraville's mother was Minerva Cottle, Leander's (Lee) older sister. She had married Zadock Woods and they too lived in Lincoln County, Missouri before coming to Texas. He fell heir to his father's fiddle which he played so much in the early days to entertain his friends. Soon after the Civil War began, Henry was sent to Louisiana, just across the Sabine River, near Mansfield, where they made their camp. At night he would play for the boys. One night he and one of the boys went to a nearby house for some milk, as Henry liked people and used any excuse to become acquainted. The man asked who it was he heard playing the fiddle at night, that it sounded like one he had heard when he was a boy. It turned out that he was Jack Criswell, Henry's uncle, and that he had indeed heard the same fiddle many times when he was growing up. (Jack Criswell moved from Fayette County a few years earlier, changing his name from Andrew Jackson Criswell to Jack Criswell.)

When she first married, Henry and Frances lived in Black Jack Springs where they were living in 1870. They moved to Phillips Crossing in Bell County, near Salado, before 1847, and in December, 1882, they moved to McCulloch County. When Henry's cousin, Yancey, son of William Vannoy and Mary (Polly) Criswell, was killed there in 1888, Henry took his oldest child, William Thomas, to live with them. Henry and Frances had 7 children:

- A. James Leander Cottle, b. September 7, 1866, BJS, Texas; d. February --, 1868, BJS, Texas.
- B. William Henry Cottle, b. May 22, 1868, BJS, Texas; d. June 26, 1916, Rochelle.

CRISWELL FAMILY

- C. Joel Alexander Cottle, b. February 21, 1870, BJS, Texas; d. December 27, 1940, Rochelle.
- D. Obediah (Obe) Seymore Cottle, b. November 17, 1871, BJS, Texas; d. October 27, 1935, Rochelle.
- E. LaVina Margaret Cottle, b. April 17, 1874, Phillips Crossing on Lampasas River near Salado, Texas; m. October 22, 1893, Round Mountain community, McCulloch County, Texas to David Franklin Ware, b. December 2, 1872, Hurds Prairie, Robertson City, Texas; d. November 10, 1945, Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas. LaVina lives with a daughter, Mrs. George E. Berry, (1960), 5675 Hazen Street, Ho, Texas. They had 11 children, 3 of whom died at birth and were unnamed. One was buried in the Cowboy Cemetery in McCulloch County and the other two in Fluvanna, Scurry County, where LaVina and David lived for 30 years:
 - a. Clinton Livingston Ware, b. December 13, 1895, San Saba County, Texas; m. Margie Eunice West, had three children:
 - 1. Ray Wilsford Ware, b. August 7, 1924, Snyder, Texas; m. April 16, 1949, Elena Cantina, two children:
 - A. Kenneth Lester Ware, b. March 6, 1952, Galveston, Texas.
 - B. Alan Keith Ware, b. July 13, 1954.
 - 2. James Ronald Ware, b. August 16, 1926, Dallas, Texas; m. September 9, 1945, Dorothy Lee Baynes, three children:
 - A. Sandra Kaye Ware, b. April 15, 1947, Austin, Texas.
 - B. Linda Lee Ware, b. November 15, 1948, Beaumont, Texas.
 - C. Sherry Lynn Ware, b. June 26, 1952, Beaumont, Texas.

CRISWELL FAMILY

3. Robert Kenneth Ware, b. December 6, 1930, Dallas, Texas; m. Virginia Lee Green, one child:
 - A. James Kelly Ware, b. April 9, 1958, Austin, Texas.
 - b. William Henry Ware, b. October 19, 1897, San Saba County, Texas; m. Mrs. Irene Merchant Cruikshank, three children:
 1. Henry Emerson Ware, b. August 5, 1924, Snyder, Texas; d. October --, 1924.
 2. Mary Ruth Ware, b. October 17, 1926, Snyder, Texas; m. Louis Newman, one child:
 - A. Larry Larce Newman, b. April 24, 1949, Phoenix, Arizona.
 3. Doris Imogene Ware, b. April 6, 1930, Snyder, Texas; d. August 3, 1931.
 - c. Martha Ida Ware, b. May 16, 1899, Scurry County, Texas; m. Delbert James Cramton, four children:
 1. Helen Jean Cramton, b. March 17, 1927, Orange, Texas; m. Clifford Normont Pfeltz, two children:
 - A. Deborah Louise Pfeltz, b. November --, 1952; d. soon after.
 - B. Richard Frederic Pfeltz, b. October 2, 1958, Radford, Virginia.
 2. Kathrene June Cramton, b. September 17, 1928, Holredg, Nebraska; d. March 8, 1931.
 3. Don Orvel Cramton, b. June 23, 1931, Holredg, Nebraska; d. April 19, 1932.
 4. Thonas James Cramton, b. October 23, 1938, Chadron, Neb.
- F. Orville Lee Cottle G. Ida Cottle No information
- (3) Leander "Lee" Cottle m. Laura Ranne
- (4) Cordelia Cottle m. Sam Powell

CHILDREN OF O. T. FITZGERALD AND CANDACE ANN (CRISWELL)

(THIRD MARRIAGE) 3

1. Amanda Jane Fitzgerald
2. Nancy Ann Fitzgerald
3. William David Fitzgerald

CRISWELL FAMILY

MARY JANE CRISWELL

(4th child of John Yancy Criswell, Sr.)

Mary Jane Criswell, b. 1817 in Barboursville, Knox County, Kentucky. Migrated to Texas in 1829-1830 at the age of 12 with her parents and brothers and sister. Settled at Matagorda, Matagorda County, Texas and moved with family in 1835 to Woods Prairie (West Point, Texas). Her mother died when she was 18 and with the help of her older sister, Candace, provided the daily care of her father and brothers. She participated with other family members in evacuating the home on Woods Prairie in order "to move out of the way of the Mexican Army" in March, 1836. She married W. M. Hadden in September, 1838. She died between 1861-1866. There were four (4) children:

1. David Hadden
2. Thomas Hadden
3. Virginia Hadden
4. Twin-name unknown

JAMES HENRY CRISWELL

(5th child of John Yancy Criswell, Sr.)

James Henry Criswell, b. 1822, Barboursville, Knox County, Kentucky. Migrated to Texas in 1829-1830 at the age of 7 with his parents and brothers and sisters. The family settled at Matagorda, Matagorda County, Texas and in 1835 moved to Woods Prairie, (West Point, Texas), located in Fayette County. He married Cary Millie Harkins in 1856 and there were three (3) children. He died c1875.

1. Thomas Jefferson Criswell
2. Mollie L. Criswell
3. Emma P. Criswell

Fayette County marriage records show Thomas J. Criswell as a "Step-son" of Jim Criswell when T. J. married Francis A. McCormic in 1878. Evidently they divorced as the records show Francis A. Criswell married A. M. Karnes in 1882. Emma P. Criswell married A. D. Karnes in 1883. No record of marriage of Mollie L. Criswell.

CRISWELL FAMILY

JOHN YANCY CRISWELL, JR.

(6th child of John Yancy Criswell, Sr.)

John Yancy Criswell, Jr., b. November 27, 1824, Barbourville, Knox County, Kentucky. Emigrated to Texas in 1829-1830 at the age of 5 with his parents and brothers and sisters. Settled at Matagorda, Matagorda County, Texas and moved with his family in 1835 to Woods Prairie (West Point, Texas). Participated in family's flight from Mexican army in March 1836. His mother had died in 1835 and when his father passed away in 1839 he was taken into the household of William Scallern, a close friend and administrator of his father's estate. At the age of 18, he joined an independent company of Rangers and engaged in desultory (at random) Indian fights. In 1842-1843, served in the Somervell Expedition to repel the invasion of Texas by Mexico led by Gen. Aderian Woll. In 1845, he entered the service of the Republic of Texas and served in the company of G. H. Bell. At the breaking out of the war between the U. S. and Mexico, he joined the company of M. B. Gray of the Texas Rangers and served throughout the war, mustered out July 17, 1847. John Yancy Criswell, Jr. and Mary R. O'Daniel married December 2, 1847. He died October 7, 1896 and is buried at _____, Texas. There were **six (6)** children born by Mary R. and John Yancy Criswell, Jr.:

1. Martha F., b. _____ ; d. _____ ; m. R. P. Kirk-May 30, 1867
2. William John "Jack" b. 1855
3. Mary E., b. _____ ; d. _____ ; m. James F. Ayers-January 18, 1871
4. Lucy A., b. _____ ; d. _____ ; m. W. R. Campbell-December 2, 1875
5. Joel Silas, b. _____ ; d. _____ ; m. Mary Nickle-April 12, 1893
Children: Robert b. 1894, Owen b. 1896, Mary b. 1898,
Aucirene b. 1900, Frankie b. 1903, Ora b. 1905,
Louie b. 1907.
6. Leander "Lee" H., m. Emma Neeley (Dumont) 6 children.
Wallie Amos m. Annie Carrie (Parents of W. A. Criswell
R. P. (Pugh) m. Lena _____ of Dallas, Texas)
Grover
Daily
Joel
Mary m. Ben West

CRISWELL FAMILY

JOSEPH EVE CRISWELL

(7th child of John Yancy Criswell, Sr.)

Joseph Eve Criswell, b. August 6, 1827 in Barbourville, Knox County, Kentucky, migrated to Texas in 1829-1830 at the age of 2 with his parents and brothers and sisters. The family settled at Matagorda, Matagorda County, Texas and in 1835, moved to Woods Prairie, (West Point, Fayette County, Texas). He was with the family when it fled from the Mexican army in March, 1836. His mother died in 1835 and when his father died, he was taken into the home of his oldest brother, Leroy. He served in the war between the United States and Mexico. In 1848, he married Sarah Ann McMicken, whose two older sisters had also married Criswell brothers. He died in c1883.

There were eleven (11) children born to Sarah Ann and Joseph Eve Criswell:

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. | Anderson | b. 04/26/1849 | d. |
| 2. | Sophronia | b. 12/28/1850 | d. |
| 3. | Amanda | b. 02/06/1853 | d. |
| 4. | William David | b. 03/25/1857 | d. |
| 5. | Eliza Kate | b. 12/12/1858 | d. 08/30/1917 |
| 6. | Sarah Ellen | b. 07/01/1860 | d. 10/11/1861 |
| 7. | Joseph Eve, Jr. | b. 07/01/1862 | d. |
| 8. | Dora Ellen | b. 10/30/1865 | d. 11/24/1875 |
| 9. | Elias Fares (Buck) | b. 09/04/1867 | d. |
| 10. | George Alexander | b. 02/22/1869 | d. 08/31/1900 |
| 11. | Emily | b. 04/20/1871 | d. 03/03/1875 |

ANDREW JACKSON CRISWELL

(8th child of John Yancy Criswell, Sr.)

Andrew Jackson Criswell, b. 1829 in Barbourville, Knox County, Kentucky. Migrated to Texas in 1829-1830 with parents and brothers and sisters and settling at Matagorda, Matagorda County, Texas. In 1835,

CRISWELL FAMILY

the family moved to Woods Prairie (West Point, Texas) where his mother died soon after. He was cared for by his sisters and was with the family when it retreated to the east to "get out of the way" of the advancing Mexican Army in March of 1836. When his oldest brother, Leroy, married in 1842, he was taken into that household. He participated in the war between the United States and Mexico. In 1847, he married Sarah Trimble and they had two (2) children:

1. James Jackson Criswell
2. Sara Martha Criswell

(Andrew and Sarah divorced and Andrew moved to Louisiana, settling near Mansfield. Indications are that he changed his name to "Jack" Criswell. Soon after the Civil War began, he had an occasion to meet one of his nephews at a Confederate Camp-see write-up on Candace Ann Criswell.)

CRISWELL FAMILY

EXHIBITS

- E 1 Letter from John Y. Criswell, Sr. to Col. Stephen F. Austin dated June 18, 1831. (Original held in University of Texas Archives as part of the Austin Papers.)
- E 2 Deed information from records of Matagorda County Courthouse at Bay City, Texas. (Spanish translation and map of Matagorda County showing location of league #11 granted John Y. Criswell by the Mexican government.)
- E 3 Old Plum Grove Cemetery (also known as Criswell Cemetery) history and map of cemetery plots. Fayette Public Library, La Grange, Texas has maps.
- E 4 Map of Woods Prairie showing approximate location of families during the 1830's.
- E 5 "Notes on the Life of Col. John H. Moore" by Eli Moore Townsend as reprinted in a book on "Early Life of Fayette County" shows that John Y. Criswell, Sr. joined Col. Moore to go to the aid of Capt. R. M. Coleman who was being attacked by Indians in July, 1835.
- E 6 Copy of Discharge of Leroy V. Criswell showing service in J. C. Neill's Artillery Company from September 28, 1835 to November 24, 1835; however, Exhibits E 7 and E 8 give proof that he served to December 13, 1835.
- E 7 Copy of Pay Voucher dated February 12, 1836 to Leroy V. Criswell for service in Texas Volunteer Army from September 28, 1835 through December 13, 1835.
- E 8 "Fayette County-Past and Present" article gives evidence of Leroy V. Criswell's witnessing death of Col. Ben R. Milam as reported in "A Comprehensive History of Texas" by Wooten.
- E 9 Discharge of William V. Criswell dated December 13, 1835 showing service in J. C. Neill's Artillery Company for the period of September 28, 1835 through December 13, 1835.
- E 10 Copy of Pay Voucher to William V. Criswell for service in the Texas Volunteer Army for period of September 28, 1835 through December 13, 1835.
- E 11 Copy of Voucher #269 drawn against "The Provincial Government of Texas to Leroy and William Criswell" covering the period of September, 1835 through December 27, 1835 for supplies and payment to a doctor. Money paid to John Y. Criswell, Sr., Assignee.

EXHIBITS (continued)

- E 12 Copy of Voucher dated February 11, 1836 drawn by A. Autry and D. W. Cloud, Agents for squad of volunteers traveling to St. Antonio, payable to John Y. Criswell, Sr. for shelter and provisions. These men perished at the Alamo on March 6, 1836.
- E 13 "Thoughts of By-Gone Days", an editorial journal written for the La Grange Journal, December 20, 1888, by John Y. Criswell, Jr. gives his description of the Criswell Family escape from the Mexican army during Sam Houston's retreat.
- E 14 Certificates issued William V. Criswell for pay from March 27, 1836 to June 27, 1836 as a private in Capt. Billingsley's Company, Texas Army. (Fought at Battle of San Jacinto) John Y. Criswell, Sr., Assignee.
- E 15A J. Y. Chriswell (Sr.) one month service in Army Of Texas**
- E 15 Draft issued July 22, 1836 to J. Y. Chriswell for provisions furnished Ranger Corps under command of Col. E. Burleson.
- E 16 Draft issued June 5, 1837 to J. Y. Christwell by Wm. M. Easterland, Capt. of Rangers, for provisions four dollars & .50C.
- E 17 Discharge of Leroy V. Criswell as private in Mounted Rifle Company under command of R. M. Williamson, Capt. in Col. Moore's Battalion dated October 23, 1838.
- E 18 "A Correction" - an article written by John Y. Criswell, Jr. for the La Grange Journal, March 21, 1889, giving his version as to who returned among the La Grange, Texas volunteers led by Col. Dawson.
- E 19 Sworn Affidavits by Leroy V. Criswell, William V. Criswell and John Y. Criswell, Jr. of their service as privates in the expedition raised for the purpose of repelling the Invasion of Texas by the Mexicans under General Aderian Wall in the fall of the year 1842.
- E 20 Succession of John Y. Criswell, Sr., deceased in 1839, intestate with Leroy V. Criswell appointed as administrator. Estate took several years to settle during which period farmed the lands for the benefit of the heirs. (A transcript of John Yancy Criswell, Sr.'s land holdings before emigrating from Kentucky.)
- E 21 Records of Texas Veterans in the Mexican War, 1845-1847 showing service by John Yancy Criswell, Jr., Joseph Eve Criswell and Andrew Jackson Criswell.
- E 22 A map (maker unknown) showing where various families settled in the area South of West Point, Texas near the present day town of Muldoon.

CRISWELL FAMILY

EXHIBITS (continued)

- E 23 Criswell marriages, Fayette County, Texas, 1838-1903.
- E 24 Transcription of Leroy Vannoy Criswell will, estate records.
- E 25 Inventory of the estate of William Vannoy Criswell.
- E 26 Transcription of letters to/from members of Leroy V. Criswell family. (Thomas Menefee Criswell worked for Driskill Ranches as a foreman.)
- E 27 Certificate from Jones Commercial College, Austin, Texas certifying that David Robert Criswell completed business course.
- E 28 Pages from "Residents of Motley County 1891" showing some Criswells settling in that county.
- E 29 Letters of interest.
- E 30 The Vannoys Family.
- E 31 A Hundred Years Of Comfort in Texas
- E 32 Republic & State Settlers'. Grants
- E 33 Fayette County Brands
- E 34 Libel Suits filed against Jackson C.C. Smith by Criswells.
- E 35 MC MICKENS
- E 36 John Yancy

CRISWELL FAMILY

EXHIBITS

JOHN Y. CRISWELL TO AUSTIN

Matagorda June the 18—1831

DEAR SIR after my respects to you although an entire stranger I have moved along way into your Colony from Kentucky by Land by the way of the Missouri State and not being pleased with that country I made my way with a wife and Eight Children six sons and two daughters I made applycation at Mr. Williams office for League no 10 on the west of the Colorado Mr Wightman at that time thought it was vacant but it was entered to Mr Norton Sir if you can with any Degree of propriety Let me have the League of Land no 11 on the West of the Colorado although it was reserved by you for a Governmental town Mr Wightman thinks you mentioned to him as the Government had selected a Cite on the Labaca and at Galveston for their towns that the four reserved Leagues at the mouth of this river might be Entered, I mentioned this to Mr Williams your Secretary Mr Williams thought perhaps you might consent for me to have no 11 as you Could attach another League adjoining to No 12- 13- and 14 and Let me have League no 11 and Mr Williams Entered my name and League so it Stands for you to approve or reject and as I have Bought Some town lots in this place and will settle Here it would suit me well as I Could git timber from that by water. My trade is that of a Blacksmith and I will also observe I am not wealthy but can say to you I Came to this Country Clear of anything Debt or Bad fame and I have sold a waggon I brought with me and am prepared to pay in to your office the first installment besides settling the surveyors fees and you will much oblige me and not disoblige yourself by Letting me have the League and my settling in this country will be no disadvantage for If I am pleased with this Country a Good many more Good Citizens will emigrate from Kentucky you will be good enough to write me an answer by some safe hand so I will know what Course to pursue If I Cannot be accomodated with that League I Expect to go into Dewits Colony to be Suited in a League

JOHN Y. CRISWELL.

[Addressed:] Col^r Stephen F Austen San Philip Texas favour by Mr Wightman

Matagorda June the 14th 1931

Dear Sir after My respects to you although an
 Entire Stranger I have moved along way into a
 Colony from Kentucky by Land by the way of the
 Mississipi State and Not being pleased with that Country
 I Made my way with a wife and Eight Children
 Six Sons & two daughters I made application
 at Mr Williams office for League No 10 on the
 west of the Colorado Mr Wightman at that time
 thought it was Vacant but it was Entered to
 Mr Norton, Sir If you Can with any degree of
 propriety Let Me have the League of Land No
 11 on the west of the Colorado although it was
 reserved by you for a Governmental town Mr
 Wightman thinks you mentioned to him as the
 Government had selected a site on the Sabaco
 and at Galveston for their towns that the four
 reserved Leagues at the mouth of this river might
 be Entered, I mentioned this to Mr Williams
 your Secretary Mr Williams thought perhaps
 you might consent for me to have No
 11 as you could attach another League adjoin-
 ing to No 12-13-14 and let me have
 League No 11 and Mr Williams Entered my name
 on D League do it stands for you to Approve
 or reject and as I have Bought some town
 in this place and will settle here it would
 suit me well as I could get timber from
 that by water. My trade is that of a
 Blacksmith and I will also observe

I am not wealthy but can say to you I came
to this Country Clean of any thing Debt or
Bad fame and I have sold a waggon I
Brought with me and am prepar'd to pay into
your office the first installment besides settling
the Surveyors fees and you will much oblige
me and not disoblige your self by letting me
have the League and my settling in this Country
will be ^{no} his advantage for if I am pleas'd with
this Country a Good many more Good Citizens
will Emigrate from Kentucky you will be
Good Enough to write me an answer to this
by some safe hand so I will know what
course to pursue If I cannot be accom-
modated with that League I Expect to go into
Newt's Colony to be suited in a League

Sir I am yours with respect &c.

John B Criswell

VERY Tight Binding

CRISWELL FAMILY

DEED INFORMATION

MATAGORDA COUNTY COURT HOUSE, BAY CITY, TEXAS

INDEX TO DEEDS Reverse Volume I

Name of Grantee; John Y. Criswell

Name of Grantor: S. F. Austin

Nature of Instrument: One league of land on the Colorado River.

Date: June 16, 1831

Date filed: March 5, 1838

Book & Page: B - 225 (Spanish)

GENERAL INDEX OF DEEDS

Book Q - pages 495 thru 512, record transactions of inheritance by children of John Y. Criswell and also records sale of land by children in 1848 at a price of approx. $.89\frac{1}{2}$ per acre.

S. F. AUSTIN REGISTER OF FAMILYS

Municipality of Austin

Register of the famalies introduced by the Citizen Empresario Estevan F. Austin by virtue of the contract made to the effect with the Government which have taken the due oath prescribed by Article No. 3 of the Colonization Law of the State of Coahulia and Texas dated 25 March 1825.

NO.	Name	Age	State	Children		Profession	Orgin	Arrived
				M	F			
561	John Y. Criswell Elenor (his wife)	44 36	Married	6	2	Farmer	Ky.	Jan. 183

CONSTITUTION OF THE PROPRIETORS OF THE TOWN OF MATAGORDA

League of land originally granted Elias R. Wrightman by the Mexican Government, dated May 25, 1827, situated near the mouth of the Colorado River and on the Bay of Matagorda, East of said river, a place known by name as Matagorda -- owned by Elias R. Wrightman (1/4), Estate of James B. Austin (1/4), Stephen F. Austin (1/4), A. H. League (3/8), and Ira Ingram (1/8). Above proprietors, in order to settle the said Matagorda, hereby place their properties for sale in lots to industrious, good mechanics and labourers people. Lot owners also have voting privilege according to number of lots owned.

Signed by above individuals as

BOARD OF PROPRIETORS

Lot purchased by John Y. Criswell, Sr. in 1831 in the townsite of Matagorda on the Colorado River, Tier #2, Block #1, Lot #6 with remarks as "Conditionally".

Excessive rains in November and December 1833 and January 1834, together with successions of high water in the Colorado River, overflowing its banks from November 1833 to March 1834 made it impossible to complete the organization and settlement of Matagorda townsite until a much later date.

The Criswells moved to Fayette County in 1834.

CRISWELL FAMILY

Vol. B p. 224-225

o. 141.
Stephen F.
Austin to
John Y.
Criswell
One Lea.
Colorado
Front.
June 16, 1931.

Sello Segundo: Doce Reales. Habilitado por Estados Coahuila Y Texas para El Bienio De 1828
Williams-
Y 29, 30 y 31. Estevan F. Austin, Empresario para establecer Eréscientas Familias
Sobre las Diez Leguas Litorales en La Costa del Seno. Mexicano Entre los Rios La. Baca y
San Jacinto Y. Comissionado. Especial Del Supremo Gobierno Del Estado De Coahuila, y Texas
para de el repartimiento y posesion de tierras y expedicion de Titulos a Las Nuevas Colonias
Dentro De Los Limites de La Propia Empresa- Por Cuanto se Ha Recibido John Y. Criswell,
colona en la Empresa de Colonizacion Arriba Mencionado como, Consta al folio-- Del Libro
Becerro y. Habiendo El dicho John Y. Criswell justificado, que es Casado y. encontrarse
persona Las requisitos que previene La Ley de Colonizacion del estado de 24 de Marzo de 1828
de Conformidad Con La Ley el Contrato Y. Comision Extendido por el Gobierno del Estado en
de Julio de 1828 y. aceptado el 29 del mismo mes y de Las Instrucciones de Comisionadas
de Fecha 4, de Septiembre de 1827. y en nombre del Estado Concedo Confiero y. meto' en po
real personal de un Sitio-- de Tierra al mencionado John Y. Criswell- cuyo Terreno esta
per el agrimensor Elias R. Wightman nombrado previamente al intento y. su Situacion y.
Linderos son Las Seguintes Situado sobre La margen derecha del Rio Colorado. y Conocido
el Sitio No. 11 abajo del Sitio Concedido a' H. H. League y Cosa Iegua y media arriba
embocadura dedicho Rio y desde La esquina inferior del Sitio No. 10 Toberedtha
Del. Rio dela cual un Taisno Marcado No. 11 demora al sur U oeste siete varas distan
y un boxelder marcado No. 10 demora al norte 11° - - - - -

County and called for the express purpose, which I certify and Authenticate by Signing with assisting-witnesses and affixing the seal of office according to law.

Instrumental Witnesses:

Simon Mussina Sinclair D. Gervais C.J.
James T. Belknap & Ex-officio Notary Public,

Assisting Witness
James S. Jones

the word not on 1st. page the
word one (1) on 4th page
words town line of the on 5th
page Words thirty acre on 6th
page and words condition on 7th
page all interlined before sign-
ing.

G. W. Ward.

Assisting Witnesses
A. L. Clements.

Republic of Texas |

County of Matagorda. | Before me Thomas Harvey Clerk pro tem of the County Court of Matagorda
and Recorder for the same Personally appeared Jas. T. Belknap, who being duly sworn deposeth
and saith that he saw G. W. Ward sign the above Mortgage & acknowledged his signature as one of
the witnesses which I certify the 2nd. day of February 1838.

Rec'd for Record 1 Feby 1838.

Recorded 5th March 1838.

Thos Harvey Clerk Pro Tem & Recorder.

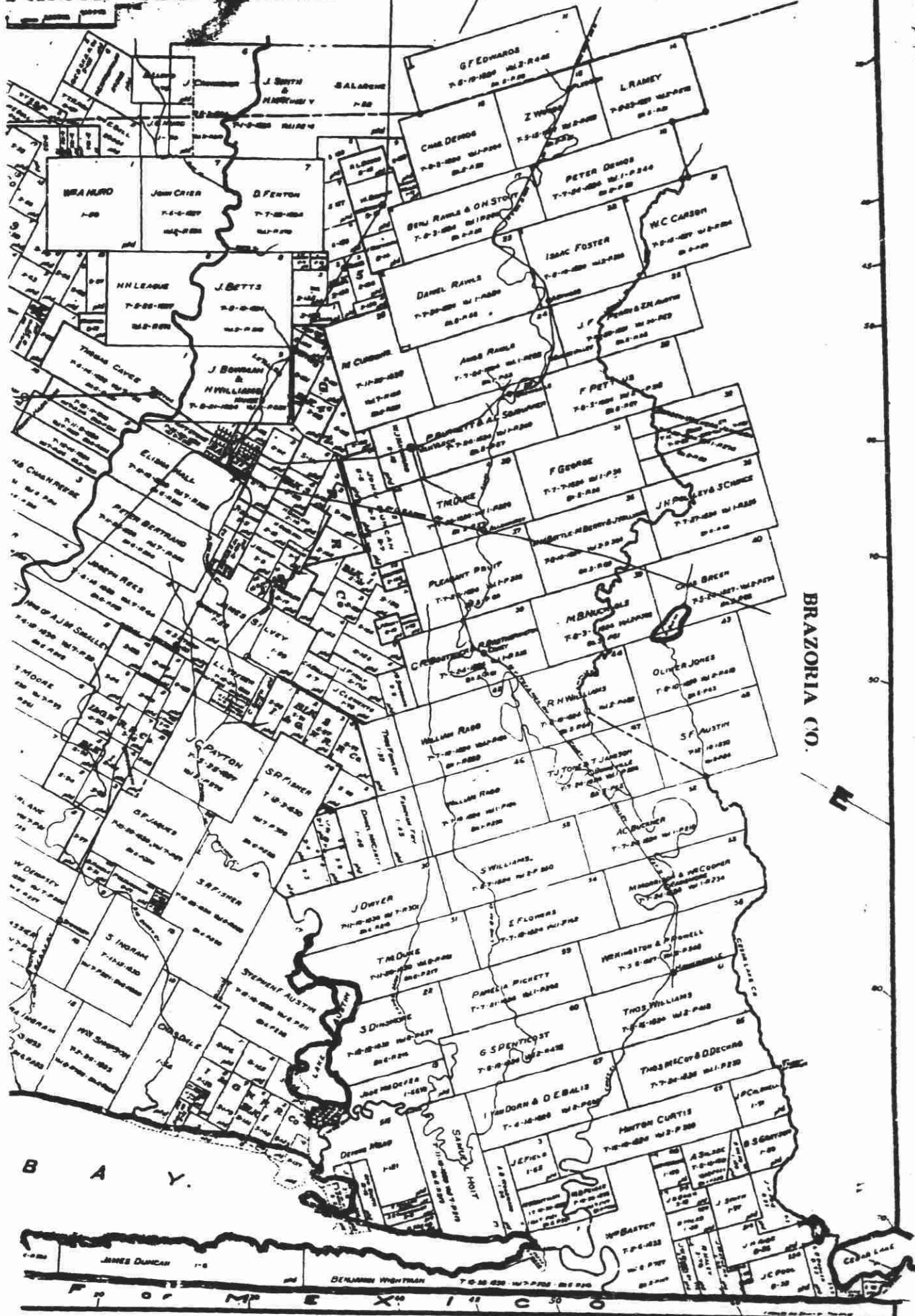
CRISWELL FAMILY

(ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF SPANISH DEED TO JOHN Y. CRISWELL)

2nd Seal: 12 quarters. Provided by the state of Coahuila and Texas for two two year terms 1828 and 29, 1830 and 31 William-Stephen F. Austin, the person selected to establish (settle) three hundred families over the 10 leagues along the Mexican shoreline between the rivers La Baca and San Jacinto. Special commissioner of the Supreme Governor of the state of Coahuila and Texas for the distribution and possession (ownership) of lands and expedition of titles to the new colonists. Within the boundary of the Proper Enterprise for how much he has received Joh Y. Criswell, as a colony in the above mentioned colonization as evident in the folio-of the book Becerro and having a justified saying John Y. Criswell, who is married and can be found in him the requirement that is contained within the law of the colonization of the state on 24 March 1825 in compliance with the law the contract and extended commission by the governor of the state on 9 July 1828 and accepted 29 July 1828 and of the instructions of the commissioners dated 4 September 1827 and in the name of this state I conceive and give my personal possession of this site- my land to the above mentioned John Y. Criswell- whichland is engaged by the surveyor Elias R. Wightman previously named in the intend and his position and boundaries are the following situated over the right margin of the Colorado River and known yb place (site) #11 below the place known as H.H. League and Cosa Iegua and half way up the mouth of said river and from the lower corner of place #10 Toberadtha- river margin of which is Taisno marked #11 bearing southeast seven yards' distance and boxelder marked #10 bearing north 11 degrees.

DA COUNTY

AUSTIN TEXAS DEC. 1920



BRAZORIA CO.

B A Y

F O R M E R L Y I N C O R P O R A T E D

CRISWELL FAMILY

OLD PLUM GROVE CEMETERY

also

Criswell Family Cemetery

The Old Plum Grove Cemetery is located in what was called Woods Prairie on the Norman Woods Survey and on the east edge of West Point, Texas, at coordinates 29°57'02"N 97°01'20"W and includes the Criswell Family Cemetery.

The cemetery was established by John Y. Criswell, Sr. as the Criswell Family Cemetery upon the burial of his wife, Eleanor, sometime between July 1835 and February 1836. (1)

The Criswell family came to Texas from Kentucky in December 1830. The family consisted of John Y. Sr., his wife, Eleanor, daughter of William and Mary Vannoy; Leroy V., age 17; William V., age 15; Candace, age 14; Mary Jane, age 13; James Henry, age 8; John Y. Jr., age 6; Joseph E., age 3 and Andrew Jackson, age 1.

The Criswells lived in Matagorda County for four years, and then, in December 1834, moved to Fayette County where they settled on Woods Prairie near Woods Fort, the fortified residence of Zaddock Woods constructed in 1829. (1) The Criswell log cabin was probably located on a rise of ground about 200 yards south of the cemetery.



There is some question as to whether Eleanor Criswell died in Matagorda County or Fayette County. The author believes she did, in fact, come to Fayette County with her family and died here. It is inconceivable that a man with eight children would pull up roots in Matagorda County, move overland more than 100 miles in ox carts or covered wagons and settle on the raw frontier in Indian country without the presence of the children's mother. In July 1835 John Y. Sr. went with Colonel John M. Moore's company on an Indian peace mission. (1) It is inconceivable that Mr. Criswell would leave his children and go on this expedition if the children's mother was not there to protect and care for them. The Runaway Scrape occurred in the Spring of 1836. Information handed down from generation to generation indicates Eleanor Criswell was not involved in this flight although some of her children were. (1) Apparently, Eleanor, born about 1794, died sometime between July 1835 and February 1836 and was the first grave in the cemetery.

The early settlers buried their dead on their own property usually on a hill in or near a grove of trees. The site theorized as the Criswell Family Cemetery is on a small hill near a grove of trees; a likely place to have been designated by John Y. as a burial ground. The author believes he buried his wife at the very peak of the low hill at Site 47.



Candace Criswell, born 1816, daughter of John Y. Criswell, Sr., first married a Mr. Underwood, first name unknown, about 1835. He was dead by late March 1836 when Candace was on the Runaway Scrape as the Widow Underwood. Candace married Lee F.T. Cottle 29 January 1838. (1) Most likely Candace buried her first husband in the Criswell Plot. Theory has it that the peak of the hill where Eleanor Criswell and Mr. Underwood were buried and the area immediately west of them was reserved for future Criswell family burials.

Drucilla Millie O'Daniel, daughter of Robert and Rebecca Maxwell, and first wife of Josiah O'Daniel, was born 27 February 1810 in Alabama. She married Josiah O'Daniel about 1827 and died 31 May 1838, the day after her fifth child, Robert W. O'Daniel was born. Rosa (Berry) Cole, granddaughter of Lucinda (Kenner) (Berry) O'Daniel, stated that Drucilla was buried near Eleanor Criswell on the site designated by John Y. Criswell as a burial ground, that Lucinda buried Josiah by her side and that the graves did not have markers. (1)



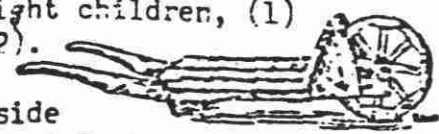
Even though there is some doubt as to who was first buried here, the author believes that all three, Eleanor Criswell, Mr. Underwood and Drucilla Millie O'Daniel are buried in the Criswell Family Cemetery.

Robert W. O'Daniel, son of Josiah and Drucilla O'Daniel, was born 30 May 1838 and died 10 August 1838. (1) No doubt he was buried next to his mother in the Criswell Plot.

Robert Maxwell, born about 1775, died in 1838 probably in Woods Prairie where he had been living. Rebecca Maxwell, Robert's wife, born about 1777, died in 1838 or in the early part of 1839. The Maxwells came to Texas from Pickens County, Alabama, sometime between 2 March 1836 and 1 October 1837. (1) Most likely both are buried in the Criswell Plot.

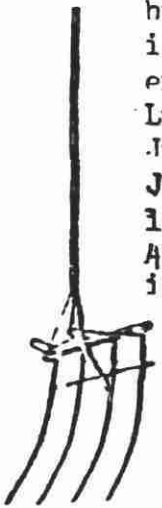
George W. Spier was named to the first Board of Land Commissioners of Fayette County. (3). He died 29 December 1838 and was survived by his wife, Rebecca J. Gilliam Spier and daughter, Miriam Spier, by his first wife. Miriam married 20 June 1839 John W. Scallorn, who was killed in the Dawson Massacre and is buried on Monument Hill. Both George and Rebecca were buried in the Criswell Plot. (1)

John Y. Criswell, Sr., born about 1786, father of eight children, (1) served on the Spring 1839 term of the Grand Jury. (2). He died 30 September 1839. (1) His children were still in the area and, no doubt, they buried him beside his wife in the family cemetery. He registered his cattle brand in February 1838 as: **C** (11)



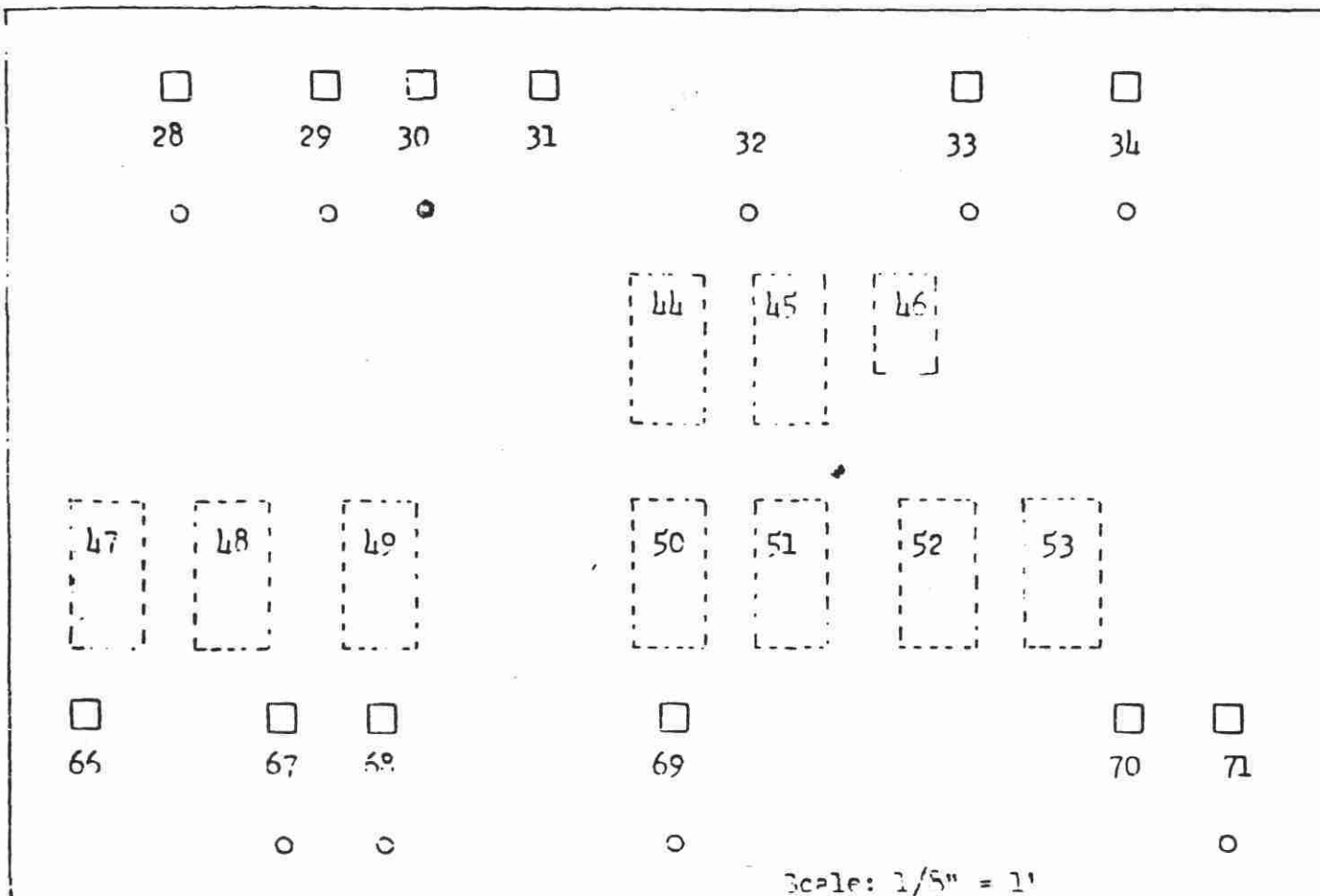
ISWELL FAMILY

Josiah O'Daniel, son of William and Mary Abercrombie, whose first husband was Benjamin Williams, O'Daniel, born 27 September 1804 in South Carolina, married Drucilla M. Maxwell about 1822 in Pickens County, Alabama. Drucilla died in 1838 and Josiah married Mrs. Lucinda (Kenner) Berry in 1839. (1) The Fall 1839 term of the Grand Jury consisted of some forty people including Josiah O'Daniel. (3) Josiah served under Colonel John H. Moore in an Indian campaign in 1840. (1) Josiah went to Black Jack Springs with his brother-in-law, Abraham Byler, on 9 December 1845 to look at some land. He left home in Woods Prairie in his shirt sleeves because the day was sunny and warm. A sudden norther blew up with cold drizzling rain and, by the time they returned to Woods Prairie, Josiah became very sick. He died of pneumonia 17 December 1845 and was buried by the side of his first wife in Plum Grove Cemetery. (1)



The Criswell Family Cemetery outdates the Hopewell or Plum Grove Baptist Church and Cemetery by one to four years depending on who was first buried on the cemetery. In the author's opinion, the Criswell Cemetery extended from a few feet east of Albert Owen Scallorn's marker, Site 68, to a few feet west of the marker on the grave of Elizabeth Karnes, Site 34 and from a few feet north of Elizabeth Karnes' marker to a few feet south of Elizabeth O'Daniel's marker, Site 66. The space is approximately 36 feet wide and 55 feet long. The 18 feet of space between the rows of graves containing the markers mentioned above is probably the burial place of some of the early settlers.

It is believed the layout of the Criswell Family Cemetery is as follows:



CRISWELL FAMILY

It is possible that Site 29, in the sketch on the previous page, is the burial place of John Y. Criswell, Sr.; the concrete foundation at this site has a 2"x24" slot to receive a flat marble headstone of the type used in the 1830s and a piece of sandstone lies on the site with the figures 76 on it which corresponds to 1786, the year of his birth. If John Y. is buried at this site, then Site 30 would be Fleanor Criswell.

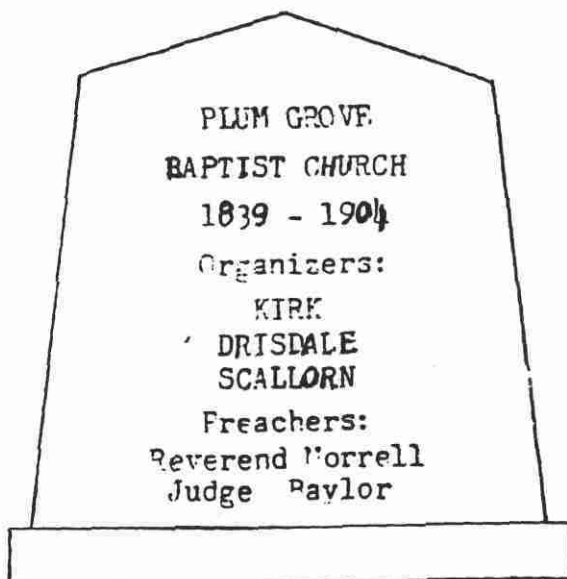
Also, it is possible Site 32 is the burial place of Josiah O'Daniel; the sandstone foot marker appears to have the letters "J.O." etched on it. If Josiah is buried here, then site 31 would be Drucilla O'Daniel and the unmarked space between the sites would be the burial place of their son, Robert W. O'Daniel.

The area in which Old Plum Grove Cemetery is situated was first referred to as Woods Prairie named after the Woods family. After discovery of the initials "J.D." on a tree in a grove of plums, the immediate area was called J.D. Grove. Later, the neighborhood was called Plum Grove and, today, the towns of West Point and Plum are very near the old J.D. Grove. (2)

The Plum Grove Baptist Church, also referred to as Hopewell Church, was named after the community. Rev. Z.N. Morrell preached his first sermon in Fayette County in the log cabin of William Scallorn during the Winter of 1838. This first service led to the organization of the church in April of 1839 with "Asiel" Danser as the first pastor. (2) The date, 1839, on the granite stone at the cemetery gate which is the nameplate of the cemetery is taken from the organization date of the congregation which is the same year the burial ground became a church cemetery. The first grave here after the organization of the church was that of Albert Owen Scallorn who died on the 11th day of August, A.D., 1839.

In early 1842 there was dissension among the members over the missionary question, the organization split, and another congregation or church was formed near the present town of Plum. Both organizations claimed to be the original church. (2)

The site of the church building at Plum is marked with a granite stone which reads as follows:



CRISWELL FAMILY

The Baptists of the Plum Grove neighborhood apparently held services in various homes until they erected a church building on land owned by John Y. Criswell, Sr. The building was probably a modest 20 x 30 feet structure of logs erected during the Winter of 1839-1840 and was situated southeast of the Criswell Family Cemetery. (1,5) In later years the cemetery expanded and extended beyond the site of the church which would place it in the approximate center of the present bounds of the cemetery.

In 1851 the land was deeded to the church by John Click shown in Deed Records as follows:

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF FAYETTE

John Click for \$1.00 paid by Willis P. Darby, one of the trustees of the Plum Grove Baptist Church, sold to William Scallorn, W.P. Darby, C. Moore, A. Fairres and T.P. Sorelle as Trustees of the Plum Grove Church situated and including the graveyard on the tract of land known as the former residence of John Y. Criswell containing 289 square rods beginning at a post oak Marked C, Thence South 17 rod to a stake, Thence West 17 rod to a stake, Thence North 17 rod to a post oak Marked C, Thence East 17 rod to the place of beginning.

28 October 1851

(1 Rod = 16.5 ft.)

John Click

(6,4/297)

The author believes that small log church buildings were erected at both sites, present West Point and Plum. The log church erected at Old Plum Grove Cemetery was probably dismantled about 1851 when the land was deeded to the church and a new, larger building was constructed with board and batten siding. This second building probably burned about 1893.

In 1894 the West Point Baptist church was constructed in the town of West Point. Mrs. Lula Thornton has a wine pitcher and two silver plated goblets inscribed: "West Point Baptist Church - 1894". (1)

The log church at present Plum was probably removed about 1870 when a larger building was erected with board and batten siding. This building was used as a barn from 1904 to 1958 when it was dismantled. (1)

Cemetery records are presented in two forms. Section I is an alphabetical listing showing names, dates of birth and death, age, and grave site. This section can be used as an index to locate each grave. Section II is a listing by grave number corresponding to numbers on the accompanying map. Section II shows the actual inscriptions, description of the grave markers and provides additional information concerning the individual buried on the site.

I. ALPHABETICAL LISTING:

NOTE: Names marked with an asterisk do not have a tombstone. Their probably burial here is based on research and theory.

NAME:	DATE OF BIRTH:	DATE OF DEATH:	AGF IN:			GRAVE SITE:
			Yrs	Mos	Dys	
Allen, Vergie G.	Unknown	Unknown				152
Aubrey, Carrie E.	23 Feb 1885	25 Jan 1914	28	11	3	171
Breeden, Elizabeth	1 Jan 1872	6 Mar 1947	75	2	6	154
James Granville	3 Dec 1870	2 Apr 1937	66	3	30	153
Browning, Bernetta, S.J.	11 Feb 1891	4 Dec 1966	75	9	24	221
James H.	8 Dec 1892					220
Bush, Bedford Forest	17 Sep 1893	24 Oct 1970	77	1	8	87
Verna-S. Everrett	13 Mar 1896	6 Oct 1976	80	6	24	88
Cain, Bessie	5 Feb 1878	11 Jun 1945	67	4	7	73
N.A.	Unknown	Unknown				76
Thomas P.	18 Nov 1905	4 May 1965	59	5	17	72
Carter, Bob C.	5 Jan 1890	19 Sep 1960	80	8	15	83
Ruby S.	28 Dec 1898					84
*Criswell, Eleanor	1794	1835	41	0	0	47
* John Y., Sr.	1786	30 Sep 1839	53	0	0	48
Collum, S.E.	1 Feb 1867	24 Aug 1889	22	6	24	92
Daniels, Claudie Mae	13 Jul 1884	21 Jul 1943	59	0	9	180
Hope Jenkins	21 Feb 1884	17 Jun 1947	63	3	27	179
Darby, Mary Ann	26 Mar 1826	17 May 1894	68	1	22	158
Willis P.	12 Aug 1821	6 Jun 1895	73	9	25	157
Dunn, R.F. (Dick)	18 Feb 1859	11 Mar 1934	75	0	24	155
Sallie	10 Mar 1866	6 Jun 1914	48	2	27	156
Fasterling, Mazie M.	24 Jun 1898	15 Sep 1900	2	2	22	192
Minerva F.	11 Aug 1864	3 Oct 1960	96	1	23	190
Robert H.	8 Apr 1863	26 Nov 1923	60	7	19	191
Faires, Ada	1 Feb 1810	19 May 1874	64	3	19	146
Ada A.	25 Feb 1851	1 Jan 1868	16	10	7	145
James W.	22 Jul 1870	10 Sep 1870	0	1	19	144
William Alexander	5 Dec 1806	22 Mar 1885	78	3	18	147
Farquhar, (infant)	30 Jan 1892	1 Feb 1892	0	0	3	56
Farris, Fliza	12 Dec 1838	9 Jun 1906	67	5	28	207
Flora, Harold E., Jr.	Unknown	27 Oct 1943				91
Folkes, F.A.	6 Feb 1883	2 Oct 1883	0	7	27	71
E.F.	22 Feb 1883	29 May 1883	0	3	8	69
Manda J.	22 Jan 1862	9 Mar 1883	21	2	18	70
Frierson, Frie	28 Jun 1916	14 May 1918	1	10	17	189
Gertrude	1888	1948	60	0	0	188
Sidney H.	1896	1938	52	0	0	187

CRISWELL FAMILY

I. Alphabetical Listing (Cont):

Gregory, Madison F.	20 Feb 1866	6 Oct 1890	24	7	17	159
Robert A.	2 Feb 1853	9 Dec 1888	35	10	8	160
H., C.P.	Unknown	Unknown				16
H., F.	Unknown	Unknown				9
H., G.M.	Unknown	Unknown				10
Hall, Albert J.	14 May 1867	19 Dec 1934	67	7	6	202
Arthur	1 Aug 1893	12 Jul 1930	36	11	12	200
Jennie	31 Mar 1874	22 Jan 1901	26	9	22	201
Mammie L.	3 Feb 1912	23 May 1912	0	3	20	205
Martha E.	3 Mar 1881	29 May 1951	70	2	27	203
Susie R.	14 May 1905	13 Aug 1909	4	3	0	206
Hamilton, Milam	Unknown	Unknown				28
Harper, L.J.	27 Dec 1823	15 Feb 1891	67	1	19	111
Hatfield, Sam	12 Jul 1894	5 Apr 1938	43	8	24	11
Hubbard, Tda P.	6 Nov 1856	26 Mar 1911	54	4	21	175
Luther E.	1872	1922	50	0	0	177
Thomas	28 Apr 1810					
Jackson, Earnest L.	2 Oct 1902	6 Jun 1903	0	8	5	5
Emma K.	4 Feb 1867	26 Aug 1938	71	6	23	3
John L.	29 Nov 1857	26 Jan 1939	81	1	28	2
Murray L.	1 Jun 1899	2 Dec 1914	15	6	2	4
Jakesch, Elvie	24 Dec 1924	26 Jun 1977	52	6	3	127
Frank	5 May 1865	28 Apr 1945	79	11	24	126
Ida	25 Jan 1884	12 Oct 1935	51	8	18	128
Johnson, (infant)	Jan 1906	Jan 1906	0	0	1	193
C.F.	17 Sep 1845	26 Jan 1921	75	4	10	186
Franklin J.	26 Oct 1840	16 Nov 1925	85	0	21	185
Henry A.	3 Dec 1908	19 Jul 1931	22	7	17	208
Lula Mae	19 Oct 1925	22 Oct 1925	0	0	4	35
Kahn, Elvira	4 Jan 1874	14 Dec 1890	16	11	11	173
Karnes, Elizabeth	1 Mar 1802	3 Feb 1868	65	11	3	34
Elizabeth S.	28 Mar 1844	8 Jul 1931	87	1	11	213
Francis F.	1 Nov 1834	10 May 1861	26	6	10	119
George W.	3 Feb 1832	30 Dec 1913	81	10	28	22
George W. Jr.	24 Jul 1862	8 Nov 1925	63	3	15	20
Bettie	20 Aug 1854	7 Mar 1856	1	6	18	33
Matilda	22 May 1836	8 Oct 1915	79	4	17	21
Mattie	28 Feb 1857	15 Oct 1869	12	7	18	23
Dr. T.C.	28 Jan 1858	19 Aug 1898	40	6	22	214
William Perry	16 Jan 1829	13 Apr 1905	76	2	28	212
W.S.	11 Feb 1855	11 Jan 1861	25	11	0	148
Kidd, Alfred S.	24 Jul 1817	18 Dec 1876	59	4	25	115
Kirk, William Simon	1803	1867	64	0	0	98
Huldah Belsha	1811	1869	58	0	0	99
Kocurek, Frances	1870	5 Oct 1904	34	0	0	24
Lewis, William H.	10 Oct 1844	19 Jan 1895	40	3	10	80
* Matilda J.	Unknown	Unknown				81

CRISWELL FAMILY

I. Alphabetical Listing (cont):

Marshall, _____	Unknown	1868					25
Marshall, _____	Unknown	1868					26
*Maxwell, Rebecca	1777	1838	61	0	0		51
* Robert	1775	1838	63	0	0		50
McDonnel, Fannie	5 May 1875	11 Jan 1896	20	8	7		94
Miller, S.	Unknown	Unknown					54
*Moore, Clark	29 Dec 1809	27 Jul 1896	86	6	29		198
* Jane	9 Sep 1813	Jul 1903	89	10	0		199
Morris, Johnie R.T.	6 Aug 1923	12 May 1955	31	9	7		103
O., J.	Unknown	Unknown					32
*O'Daniel, Drucilla M.	27 Feb 1810	31 May 1838	28	3	5		45
Elizabeth	7 Apr 1821	12 Mar 1854	32	11	6		66
James	2 May 1813	9 Dec 1885	72	7	8		65
* Josiah	27 Sep 1804	17 Dec 1845	41	2	21		44
* Robert W.	30 May 1838	10 Aug 1838	0	2	11		46
Rhem, Rev. Dr. W.R.	24 Oct 1808	1 Aug 1859	50	9	8		116
Sawyer, Lidy F.	4 Dec 1846	2 Jul 1883	36	6	29		57
Scallorn, (infant)	14 Nov 1867	16 Nov 1867	0	0	3		166
Albert Owen	30 Dec 1838	11 Aug 1839	0	7	12		68
Alice	12 Mar 1795	17 May 1881	86	1	26		162
Amanda	25 Nov 1827	17 Jan 1845	17	1	23		67
Barbara A.G.	11 Dec 1862	29 Sep 1863	0	9	19		164
Nancy A.	11 Dec 1845	30 Oct 1872	26	10	20		143
Thomas J.	10 Feb 1892	9 Jan 1971	78	10	10		82
Tom J.	23 Oct 1857	17 Sep 1933	75	10	25		85
Verna E.	31 Aug 1868	8 Dec 1952	84	3	8		86
William Madison	18 Dec 1796	1 Jan 1888	91	0	14		161
Dr. William Madison	24 Dec 1829	5 Jun 1880	50	5	12		163
William Thomas	24 Jul 1864	29 Sep 1866	2	2	6		165
Simpson, Bryan	27 Oct 1897	23 Dec 1932	35	1	27		216
Emma G.	18 Jun 1882	14 Sep 1882	0	2	27		167
James F.	1 Feb 1884	15 Nov 1885	1	9	15		168
Jimmie E.	23 Aug 1890	5 Jun 1891	0	9	13		6
Joshua G.	13 Mar 1855	9 Dec 1938	83	8	27		217
Lula K.	4 Sep 1859	25 May 1939	79	8	22		218
Solenberg, M.E.	Unknown	Unknown					178
*Spier, George W.	Unknown	29 Dec 1838					52
* Rebecca J.G.	Unknown	1868					53
Swanson, Lois K.	31 Dec 1907	24 Apr 1927	19	3	24		18

CRISWELL FAMILY

I. Alphabetical Listing (cont):

Taylor, Sarah C.	Unknown	Unknown					106
J.S.	Unknown	Unknown					105
John W.	4 Sep 1897	26 Mar 1947	59	6	23		104
John W., Jr.	1941	1941					93
Thornton, Dr. Lyle Gunn	14 Oct 1874	15 Jan 1920	45	3	2		124
Tolhirt, Cortz or Cortey	24 Sep 1857	26 Dec 1920	63	3	3		150
Cordie	12 Sep 1893	23 Sep 1894	1	1	12		112
Henry L.	25 Mar 1880	17 Sep 1935	55	5	23		215
Martha L.	8 Feb 1859	10 Apr 1944	85	2	3		151
Ruthven Champion	1890	2 May 1913	23	0	0		169
Mrs. T.	Unknown	Jul 1887					170
*Underwood, _____	Unknown	1836					49
*Williams, _____	Unknown	Unknown					43
Williams, Fredrick	12 Jun 1850	3 Feb 1895	44	7	22		42
James F.	May 1873	Sep 1874	1	4	0		41
Lucy W.	Feb 1878	Jul 1878	0	5	0		40
Walter	Jun 1878	Nov 1879	0	5	0		39
Wilson, Cy	17 Dec 1912	28 Dec 1954	42	0	12		125
Young, Elizabeth S.	3 Oct 1885	29 May 1967	81	7	27		223
Ernest R.	3 Feb 1883	1 Dec 1966	83	9	29		222
Ernest S.	19 Oct 1914	17 Dec 1970	56	1	29		224
Robert G.	26 Jan 1913	5 Dec 1915	?	10	10		1

CRISWELL FAMILY
State of Texas,

County of Fayette.) I now all men by These presents that I, John Click of of the County
and State aforesaid for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar to me in hand paid
by Willis P. Darby one of the Trustees of the Plum Grove Baptist Church of the County &
State aforesaid the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged at and before the sealing and
delivery of these presents have this day granted, bargained, sold, released & conveyed and
give by these presents doth grant, bargain, sell & Conveyed and Given unto the said William
Scallorn, W.P.Darby, C.Moore, A.Faires, & T.B.Screlle, as trustees of the Plum grove Church
and their successors for life a certain tract or parcel of land in the County and State
aforesaid situated and including the grave yard on the tract of land known as the former
residence of John G. Criswell, containing ⁽¹⁰⁾ two hundred and eighty nine square rod beginning
at a post oak marked C. Thence South 17 rod to a stake, thence West 17 rod to a stake,
thence North 17 rod to a post oak marked O. Thence East seventeen rod to the place of begin-
ning. I do hereby bind myself, my heirs and legal representatives to warrant and defend the
title of the same to the aforesaid Trustees and their successors against the lawful claim or
claims of any and every person or persons claiming the same in through or under me in any
way whatsoever. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal on this the 28th
day of October Eighteen hundred and fifty one. Signed, Sealed & delivered in presence of

Test

Nathaniel Trammell

John Click

seal

State of Texas,)

County of Fayette.) Before me the undersigned Clerk of the County Court in and for said
County personally appeared Nathaniel Trammell and made oath that John Click whose name ap-
pears to the instrument of writing hereunto attached bearing date 28th. October A.D. 1851
signed, sealed and delivered the same in his presence that he acknowledges the same to be
his act and deed for the considerations and purposes therein stated and that at the request
of said Click he signed the same as a witness. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my
hand and affixed my Official Seal, at Office in the Town of LaGrange, 15th day of November,
A.D. 1851. N. W. Faison Clerk

L.S.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the original deed filed for record
at 11 o'clock A.M. Saturday 15th November 1851 and recorded at 9 o'clock A.M. Friday 21st
November 1851

N. W. Faison C.C.F.C.

Notarized by Leona C. Giese, Deputy, for John A. Kubena, Clerk County Court, Fayette County,
Texas, June 23, 1955, La Grange, Texas.

*Wonder if the Missionary Baptist had any other
church Bldg. after the rift before the church that
burned was built.*

BASTROP COUNTY COURT HOUSE
BASTROP, TEXAS

GENERAL INDEX TO DEEDS:

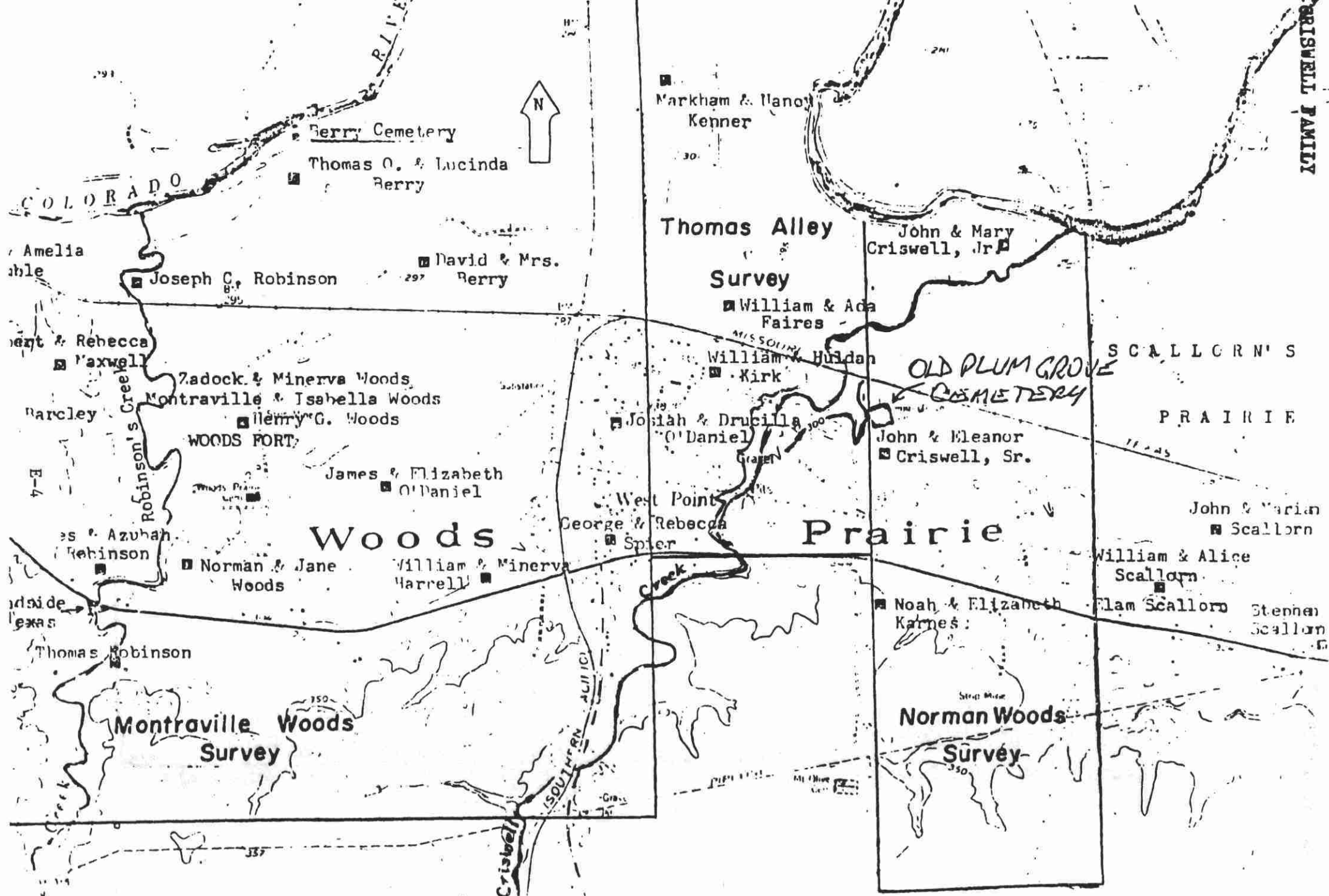
<u>Vendee</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Instrument</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>
Criswell, J.Y.	Norman Woods	Deed	4/24/1835	A	113
DEPARTMENT OF BRAZOS) 364 3/4 Acres out of Norman Woods League JURISDICTION OF MINA) situated in Austins Old Colony.					

Note: The above is the original homesite of John Yancy Criswell, Sr. and his wife, Eleanor after they migrated from Matagorda County to Fayette County, Texas in 1835.

INDEX TO CATTLE BRANDS IN BASTROP COUNTY:

	<u>Book</u>	<u>Brand</u>	<u>Page</u>
Chriswell, Jno. Y. (nonresident)	A	JC	2
Faires, Wm. A. (nonresident) (*)	A	3	10

(*) William A. Faires and his wife, Ada were neighbors to John Y. & Eleanor Criswell on Woods Prairie.



NOTE: Placements of family locations are not accurate. Names are

~~and children and several hundred horses were brought in. A few old men and women were released on the ground. Among the trophies were goods taken from Linnville. Quite a number of Moore's men were wounded, but none killed. Col. Moore doubtless felt that his ill success on the San Saba was counterbalanced by the terrible punishment inflicted by him on the Colorado."~~⁵⁸

After these defeats the Indians became submissive. When Houston succeeded Lamar he found the Indians more willing to consider peace. This fact was due, no doubt, to Lamar's aggressive methods in dealing with them.⁵⁹

That the Republic of Texas was highly appreciative of the services of Colonel Moore is shown by the following letter:

War Dept., City of Austin, Nov. 7, 1840

To Col. John H. Moore
and his volunteer Associates:

Gentlemen:

Letter from

Thomas Gales Forster thanking Colonel Moore for his services to the state in the recent Indian campaign:

"The official report of your late military achievements, has been received by this Department. Permit me as an organ of the government to hail you as citizen-soldiers; the champions of our liberty, the bulwarks of our safety; and at the same time to tender you, my cordial congratulations on your safe return.

To you, citizen-soldiers, are we indebted for the prospects of safety, and beams of peace by which our frontier is animated and enlivened.⁶⁰

⁵⁸-Brown, "History of Texas," II, 182-183.

⁵⁹-Barker, "History of Texas," 353.

⁶⁰-Eli Moore Townsend, "Notes on the Life of Colonel John H. Moore," 6-7.

In July, 1835, Captain R. M. Coleman organized an expedition of twenty-five men to go to the Indian village at Tehuacana Springs (Now in Limestone County,) for the purpose of holding a council and making a treaty with the Tehuacanas. But Coleman and his party were discovered by Indian spies as he was approaching the village. The tribe had not been advised of the purpose of his visit, and supposing its disposition to be war-like, they took up a strong position in rifle-pits dug in the ground, and fired upon the whites

A sketch of Moore's life would not be complete without mentioning the part he played in the initial battle of the Texas Revolutionary War. This battle was fought at Gonzales, October 2, 1835, and was prompted by the inopportune demand of Col. Ugartechea, Mexican general in command at San Antonio, for the cannon given the people of Gonzales by the Mexicans some years before. Volunteers from the colonies rushed to Gonzales to save the cannon. In this immediate emergency Moore was elected colonel. In the clash that followed, the colonists, led by Moore, were successful.⁶¹

as they approached. A fierce conflict between the Indians and the Texans ensued. Captain Coleman killed several of the warriors, but he was unable to dislodge them. After having one of his men killed and several wounded, he withdrew and fell back to Parker's Fort. From the fort, he sent messengers to the settlements requesting reinforcements. He was soon joined by four companies of volunteers under the commands of Captains George W. Barnett, John H. Moore, R. M. Williamson, and Philip Coe. These troops, in accord with a pre-arranged plan, assembled at Tenoxtitlan on July 31, and marched in a body to join Captain Coleman at Parker's Fort. The combined force was organized into a single body, and Colonel John H. Moore was elected to command. Captain Barnett's company formed the advance guard, and reaching the site of the Indian village, he found it abandoned. On the arrival of Moore's party, a council was held to agree on a course of action. Captain Barnett favored chasing the Indians, and the plan was agreed on. Major Moore led his troops in pursuit of the savages as far as the forks of the Trinity, then across the Brazos and down that stream, Captain Barnett continuing to act as advance guard with his company. They failed to locate the escaping Indians, but they encountered several roving bands whom they routed, killing several warriors and capturing a few women and children. These captives were taken to the settlements and "sold as slaves." This is said to be the only recorded instance of attempted Indian enslavement in Texas. The experiment proved a failure for the simple reason that while you can take an Indian to the job, you can't make him work.

These men are known to have followed Moore on this campaign:

Anders, Samuel	Ingram, John
Blackburn, A. J.	Jones, Meyers Fisher
Brown, Lionel	Munson, Mordello S.
<u>Criswell, John Yancy</u>	Rabb, Andrew
Dawson, Nicholas M.	Rabb, John
Eastland, Nicholas W.	Rabb, Thomas J.
Eastland, Wm. M.	Shaw, Josiah
Harnes, Abel	Shaw, Peter V.
Goodman, J. B.	Smith, Dr. Wm. P.

⁶¹ Wooten, "History of Texas," 155-156.

JOHN YANCY CRISWELL, Sr.

Discharge of Leroy V. Criswell

Camp near Berar

24th Nov 1835

We do hereby certify that Leroy V. Criswell
 as served in J. B. Neill's artillery
 Company from 28th of Sept up to the
 date and is one hundred and thirty
 five miles from home and is
 hereby honorably discharged

(Signed) J. B. Neill Capt
 S. F. Austin

San Felipe De Austin.

I, John W. Moody, Auditor, do certify the foregoing to
 be a true copy taken from the original now on
 file in my office, in testimony whereof I have
 hereunto subscribed my name as such

12th Feb 1836

J. W. Moody, Auditor
 Pub ofc for Texas

CRISWELL FAMILY

Camp near Bexar 24th Nov 1835
We do hereby Certify that L. Criswell has served
in J. C. Neill's Artillery Company from 28th
Sept. up to this date and is one hundred and
thirty five miles from home and is hereby
Honourably discharged J. C. Neill Capt.
S. F. Austin

(TX)

Camp near Bexar 24th Nov. 1835

We do hereby certify that L. Criswell has served in J. C Neill's
Artillery Company from 28th Sept. up to this date and is one hundred
and thirty five miles from home and is hereby Honourably discharged.

J. C. Neill Capt.

S. F. Austin

~~43.06~~

Sec 283 Book B
Leroy Criswell
audited 12th Feby 1836
By ~~Moody~~ auditor
Military Service
28th Sept 1835 -
To 12th Feby 1836 (TX)
No Draft 333.6

Sec 283 Book B
Leroy Criswell
Audited 12th Feby 1836
By J. W. Moody Auditor
Military Service
28th Sept 1835
To 12th Feby 1836
No. Draft 333C
\$43.06

San Felipe De Austin

before me John W. Moody came Leroy Criswell
and says the annexed instrument is just true & original
and he owes nothing to the Government.

Sworn to 12th Feby 1835

before ~~J. W. Moody~~ Auditor

TX

15
135

3 days left
31 " out.
30 " over
13 " recd

7720
30 1500 } 01.33
136
20
36
10

14-5-1

San Felipe De Austin

before me, John W. Moody, came Leroy Criswell and says the annexed
is just, true & original and he owes nothing to the Government

Sworn to 12th Feby 1836

before J. W. Moody Auditor

San Felipe De Austin

before me John W. Moody Auditor, comes Leroy
Criswell and says the annexed instrument
is Just true & Original & he owes nothing to the
Government.

Sworn to 12th Feby 1836

before ~~J. W. Moody~~ Auditor

TX

San Felipe De Austin

before me John W. Moody Auditor come George
Criswell and says the annexed instrument is
just true & original and he owes nothing to the
Government.

3 a left
31 a bot
24 a. 100

58
6. 3 return home.

Sworn to 12th Feb 1835
before ~~John W. Moody~~ Auditor

20) 135 (6 3/5

120
15

6420 4.3 50
30) 1240

120
80 43.05
69

20

13

3

35



83

\$51.33

William Crigerell

Filed 12th July 1836

Examined Same day
admitted to audit for
One dollar thirty
four cents.

Properly audited

Approved July 12, 1836
H. C. Hudson, Comptroller

2
334

284

\$5.75

Leroy Wm. Crigerell

Filed 12th July 1836

Examined Same day
admitted to audit for
five dollars twenty
four cents.

Properly audited

Approved July 2, 1836
H. C. Hudson, Comptroller

FAYETTE COUNTY - PAST & PRESENT

PRAHA—ONCE VISITED, NEVER FORGOTTEN

Catherine Berger

Passing through Fayette County on Farm to Market Road 1295, a traveler could very easily by-pass the small community, if it were not that the corner of his eye catches sight of the church. It is a beautiful church, gothic in structure, that blends in perfectly with the valley in which it stands. The valley and the community surrounding it are known as Praha. Praha, a simple, rural Fayette County community, is situated about three miles east of Flatonia, south of the Southern Pacific Railroad on the James Duff league.

This area was first known as Mulberry. When the Czechs moved in, the Anglos and Germans, in laughing scorn, called the Czech community Hottentot. When the post office was established, it was known as New Prague. Later it was renamed Praha.

The first and most prominent of the settlers was Mathias Novak, a penniless Bohemian who came in 1854 as an immigrant. After working for wages among the Americans, he saved enough money to buy several hundred acres of land and to build a log-house with a shingled roof. By 1870 there were about twenty-five Czech-Moravian families who helped build the community. These included Frank Branitsky, Joseph Nykel, Joseph Viviala, Joseph Matula, Bedrich Berkenhoff, Martin Chaloupka, H. Greive, Carl Gallia, Philip Bucek, Andreas Gallia, Frank Vacl, George Morysek, Joseph Hajek, John Baca, and M. Jares. James C. Duff, William Criswell (a veteran of the Battle of San Jacinto), and Leroy V. Criswell (a soldier in the siege of Bexar, witnessing the killing of Ben Milam), were also early settlers.

The first church services in Praha were held in the Matt Novak home with Reverend Martiniers from Hallettsville saying the Mass. Staying for only a short time, Reverend Victor Gury from Frelsburg replaced Reverend Martiniers and came to Praha once a month to hold services. Families came from twenty to thirty miles around to attend the services in the Novak home. As more settlers came, a small frame hut was built to serve as a place of meeting and worship. It was evident that Mulberry was growing.

Reverend Joseph Bitkowski, a Benedictine Father, was the first resident priest. Reverend Bitkowski, who came in 1866, directed the construction of the first church, which became a part of the old rectory. Through a lot of hard work, the parishioners built a church measuring thirty by sixty feet, utilizing lumber hauled by ox-wagon some one hundred and fifty miles, from Spring Branch, about twenty miles west from Houston. It took them three weeks to make the trip there and back. Mathias Novak donated about twenty acres of the present-day parish property for the church site. The new church was dedicated at Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. Catholics from up to thirty miles away, from Navidad, Bluff (Hostyn), High Hill, and Fayetteville came to attend Mass in the new church.

Reverend Bitkowski had missions in the surrounding communities of Bluff, Ross Prairie, and Navidad. The people who lived there were very pleased with the missions, but they were so poor

second day of the attack, the Texans had five wounded. The night of the 6th was occupied by the enemy in keeping up a languishing fire, in opening a trench on the Alamo side of the river, and in strengthening their batteries on Main Street, leading from the plaza to the Alamo. The Texans were engaged in strengthening their lines.

DEC. 7, 1835

On the morning of the 7th, the enemy opened a brisk fire from the trench constructed the night before; also of artillery and small-arms from other positions.



COLONEL BEN R. MILAM.

By eleven o'clock that day, the deadly fire of the Texan rifles had silenced that from the trench and also from some of the Mexican artillery. The only house between the Garza house and the buildings on the plaza was about midway, but back from the street. About noon, the gallant Karnes advanced with a crowbar, under a heavy fire from the enemy, and forced an entrance. Captain York's company followed and held the position. In the evening the fire of the Mexicans became active from all their works. Colonel Milam, in passing from his position to that of Johnson at the Veramendi house, was instantly killed by a rifle-shot in the head. He fell just as he entered the yard. In his death, Texas lost a commander and a soldier whose place could not be easily supplied. The Texans, however, felt a new incentive to avenge his death. They immediately set on foot a party to take possession of the house of José Angel Navarro, situated on

the north side of Main Street, one block west of the main plaza, but commanding a portion of the military plaza, and the Mexican redoubt on the second block west of the main square. The party consisted of portions of the companies of Captain Llewellyn, English, Crane, and York. They advanced from the house taken by Karnes and forced an entrance. The enemy endeavored to retake it by firing through loopholes made in the roof; but the Texans returned the fire through the same loopholes, and drove them off.

Immediately north of and adjoining the Navarro house, fronting on Flores Street, stood a row of buildings known as the "Zambrano Row." The taking of these buildings was part of the work of the 8th of December. The morning was cold and wet, and but little was done. About nine o'clock, however, the same party who had taken the Navarro house, being reinforced by the Grays, commenced the attack. The row consisted of a series of rooms, separated by thick partition walls. These walls were pierced, and thus the Texans advanced from room to room. The enemy disputed every inch of the ground, and kept up a tremendous

¹ [Milam was buried in a trench near the east wall,—Harvey also, killed on the 5th.—F. W. JOHNSON'S MS. "HISTORY OF TEXAS."]

BATTLE OF BEXAR (SAN ANTONIO) — DEC. 5th - 10th / 1835
 LEROY VANNOY CRISWELL WITNESSED KILLING OF
 COL. MILAM.

Wm Criswell's Discharge December 13th 1835

This is to Certify that Wm Criswell of the Brass Gun Battalio[n] 1824 Entered the Volunteer Army of Texas on the 28th of September & has discharged his duty with honor and applause he is also one who so galantly distinguished himself in the Siege of Bexar he is hereby Honorably discharged

Almeron Dickinson Capt
J. C. Neill Colonel

By Order
Wm. T. Austin
Aid de Camp

Edward Burleson
Comd in Chief



December 13th 1835

This is to Certify that Wm Criswell of the Brass Gun Battalio[n] Entered the Volunteer Army of Texas on the 28th of September and has discharged his duty with hounor and applause he is also one who so galantly distinguished himself in the Seige of Bexar he is hereby Honorably discharged

By Order
Wm. T. Austin
Aid de Camp

Almeron Dickinson , Capt.
J. C. Neill, Colonel
Edward Burleson
Comd. in Chief

REPRODUCED FROM THE
HOLDINGS OF THE
TEXAS STATE ARCHIVES

I do hereby certify that William Criswell has served as a private in the permanent volunteer company of Texas militia and as such discharged his duty for fifty days under my command in Col. Moore's Battalion

Mina September 13th 1835. R. M. Williamson

Capt Commanding
J. H. Moore Col
Commandant

(TX)

2/25
1/12 50
4.16
41.66

25
3/10 67
25
+ 10

268

2283 Draft 051.033

William Criswell

Audited 12 Feb 1836

By ~~William~~ Auditor

Military Services

28th Sept 1835

To 12th Feb 1836

The Draft 3034 D

(TX)

A Paper on How
to in many Circumstances
of War

I do hereby Certify that William Criswell has served as a private in the permanent Volunteer Company of Texas Militia and as such discharged his duty for fifty days under my command in Col. Moore's Battalion

Mina September 13th 1835.

R. M. Williamson
Capt. Commanding
J. H. Moore Col.
Commandant

Copy to and

Delivered to Mr

Criswell

The provintial Government of Texas Dr

Sept
1835

Leroy and William Criswell Dr

% 3 1/2 lbs Coffee Bought of Taytum & Lee \$1.00

% 5 lb of Sugar Bought of Lee --- 1.00

Oct 4 % 5 lbs of Sugar Bought at Gonzales 1.00

% Cash paid out for Sapp and corn ^{St Antone} 75

December 27 % two Dollars paid a Doctor at Gonzales 2.00
the Money paid John Y Criswell

(TX)

\$5.75

The provintial Government of Texas To Leroy and William Criswell Dr

Sept

1835 % 3 1/2 lbs Coffee Bought of Taytum & Lee \$1.00

% 5 lbs of sugar Bought of Lee --- 1.00

Oct 4 % 5 lbs of Sugar Bought at Gonzales 1.00

% Cash paid out for Sapp and corn St Antone 75

December 27 % two Dollars paid a Doctor at Gonzales 2.00

the Money paid John Y Criswell \$5.75

269
\$5.75
also 284 her B
L & Wm Criswell
audited by St by 1836
By ~~William Criswell~~ Criswell
Auditing by John Y
1835
July 1836
The Criswell

Feb 11th 1836

This is to certify that we in behalf of a squad of volunteers traveling to St Antonio being out of provisions called upon John Y. Criswell who fed us in his own house with his own provisions for the night & next morning breakfast, eight of us two meals @ .25 cts. Say five dollars for which the government will no doubt remunerate him. We being authorized to draw on said gov. for provisions.

7.40
8.10
1.10
10.00

(TX) M. Autry
D. W. Cloud
Agents for Squad

Feb 11th 1836

This is to certify that we in behalf of a squad of volunteers traveling to St Antonio being out of provisions called upon John Y Criswell who fed us in his own house with his own provisions for the night and next morning breakfast, eight of us two meals @ .25 cts. Say five dollars for which the government will no doubt remunerate him. We being authorized to draw on said gov. for provisions.

M. Autry
D. W. Cloud
Agents for Squad

The above squad of men perished at the Alamo in March 1836.

(ABOVE DOCUMENT IS ON DISPLAY WITHIN THE ALAMO SHRINE,
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS)

THOUGHTS OF BY-GONE DAYS. (Ed. Journal) By John Yancy Criswell, Jr.

In my communication of the 20th ult. in speaking of the LaGrange Intelligencer, the first newspaper published in LaGrange, carries my mind back to the spring of 1836. The few families that were living in the neighborhood of Wood's Prairie, in which West Point is located, get ready as best they could, to fall back east out of the Mexican's army reach. Some families in sleds, some in 2 wheel woden carts; but few had wagons, all using ox teams, they met at the old Woods place in said prairie, crossing the Colorado River at the Grassmeyer place, above the Prim farm, then owned by Wm. Barton. The families were as follows: Wm. Barton, Zedeck Woods, Norman Woods, Montroville Woods, James Robinson, George Speers, Noah Karnes (the father of W. P. & G. W. Karnes, living near Plum Post Office) and W. A. Faires, the father of R. O. Faires and brothers, L.F. T. Cottle and my fathers family, and some others the names of whom I have forgotten.

The families effects were floated over the river on beef hides. After crossing the river we camped the first night at the old Cunningham place near the river. Some of the teams wandered off that night, which caused two or three days delay in hunting them. On the morning that we intended to make an advancement for the town of Washington, on the Brazos River, just as day was breaking, the Comanche Indians, who had concealed themselves that night in the river bottom, made a dash through the field, rattling little triks of their make, stampeeding and running off nearly all of the horses that were in the crowd. The night previous, the Indians pulled the fence in various places so as to pass out of the field with the stock. W. A. Faires was up that morning quite early and went out to get his ponies, in going along the fence he found some gaps in it. He put up two of the gaps and found one of his ponies out side the field, hobbled and his head tied down to the front feet. As he got his horse untied the Indians made their start through the field and Faires started for camp without saddle. Stopping and putting up those two gaps in the fence saved him from being cut off from the camp by the Indians.

Some of the crowd were up and saw the Indians run the horses out of the field and off. I saw the sight, but it was done so quick that there was not much to be seen. After the sight was over the men concluded it would be best to recross the river which they did and camped the first night at the Barton place. Next morning three of the men started out to hunt some of the lost teams. They were Montroville Woods, Wesley Scallorn, the other name I have forgotten, came very near being cut off by the Indians, they making a charge on us that morning, but having to run over the ground that had been plowed that spring, saved the three men.

From the Barton place we went down and crossed the river at the old Labide crossing, which is at or near the R. R. bridge at LaGrange; camped at Col. John F. Moore's little log cabin and a block house in the yard used as a fort against the Indians. This was about the first week of April 1836. The ground where Col. Moore's cabin stood is some 4 or 5 blocks up the street from the northwest corner of the public square of your city. Then no one ever dreamed of a town being built on that ground and afterwards a railroad built over the land.

CRISWELL FAMILY

The families being destitute of teams as well as vehicles and horses to ride, the women and children that were big enough to walk had to do it, and besides walking had to carry grub and bedding on their backs. It was a very wet spring that year, we had mud and water without end.

Don't talk about hard times during the Confederate War. It was nothing to be compared with those days. To see nearly the whole crowd walk through mud and water up to their knees, men, women and children, and then bedding down and sleeping on the wet ground at nights without tents was surely a trying time. About half way between the Colorado and the Brazos Rivers, Noah Karnes was killed accidentally by Wayne Barton, he was rapt up in a bed quilt for his coffin and buried where he was killed. On reaching the Brazos, it was up over all the low bottoms, wagons, carts, etc. were crossed over in a ferry boat, each wagon by turn. The boat was run day and night until all was crossed. The families arrived at Robbin's ferry on the Trinity River on or about the 15th of April, 1836. At the Trinity River we found a large number of families awaiting their turn to cross the river, the Trinity was up and over all bottom land; it was five miles wide and took one day to make two trips with the boat which was slow work. Before our crowd got to cross we got news of the Mexicans being whipped at San Jacinto on the eve of memorial day, the 21st of April, then the shouts of women and children went up for joy, at the prospect of going back through the mud and water to their little log cabins they left behind them.

Mrs. O. Fitzgerald and Mrs. Gorham are the only two women that I knew of, who was in our crowd that was anything like grown and W. P. And G. W. Karnes of Plum neighborhood, and myself, are the only men living that were in the crowd, that were not grown. There may be others living, if so, I have entirely forgotten them by name.

In those days there was no fencing, and nobody to want a fence, but plenty of hostile Indians, buffalo, mustangs (wild horses), wild cattle, deer, turkeys, and other small game, but few people to eat the game. In those by-gone-days, all we had to do was take our guns, go out and kill any kind of game you wished, broil it over the fire and eat it without salt and be happy. J. Y. C.

CRISWELL FAMILY

Rec^d of Mr. Moody Auditor, a draft drawn in favour of Mr. Criswell for fifty one $\frac{33}{100}$ dollars on account of which I promise to keep the same in cash. February 12th 1836

W. Criswell
(TX)

x. 7-1-1

THIS CERTIFICATE

Entitles *William Criswell*

to pay from the

date of the last payment made him to *27th June*

1836, as a

Private in Captain
Regiment,

Billingely's Company, ()

Entered Service March 27th 1836.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Houston, *Nov 1st* 1838

John G. Criswell is the assignee -

Wm. M. Mey Secretary of War.
(TX)

19-1

8229 8129

\$24.00

John P. Criswell
a partner of Mrs Criswell
filed Nov 1st 1838
admitted to audit for

\$24

Military Services

~~generally~~ - audited

27th March 1836

Dec 1st Nov 1834

No draft 9795. A

approved 1st Nov 1838

Francis R. Subrick

Comptroller

draft debtd to J P
Criswell

REPRODUCED FROM THE
HOLDINGS OF THE
TEXAS STATE ARCHIVES

No. 17 § 24, 17

THE TREASURER of the Republic of Texas will pay
 to the Order of *John Y. Criswell (assignee of William Criswell)*
twenty four - Dollars out of any money in the Treasury ap-
 propriated for the payment of the Military. *for services in army*
 Houston, *Novm. 1st* 1838

[Signature]
 1st Auditor.

[Signature]
 Comptroller.

AUDITOR'S OFFICE,

Houston, *Nov 1st*

1838

THIS DAY came *John Y. Criswell assignee*
 and says the annexed instrument is just, true, and original, and the only one
 claimant has offered for liquidation: That *claimant* owes the Government nothing on his
 own account, or on account of any other person. as he fully believes, he being his own

Sworn to before

[Signature]



1st Auditor.

This is to certify that Mr. Coenshal delivered
 over his Army (U.S.), at San Antonio and is now
 responsible for no public property whatever
 which he may have had while in any company
 in the Army

Houston 31st May 1838

R. P. Coenshal
 late Capt. U.S.A.

(TX)

Delivery of Army Equipment & Supplies To the Government
 on completion of service by Wm. Criswell.

The Day before William Criswell and says the
~~instrument~~ instrument is just and true and
 original that he owes the government
 nothing on his own accounts on occasion
 of any other person nor has he reclaimed
 sold or employed any army munitions of war
 or any other property that ever belonging
 to the republic of Texas or caused the
 same to have been used

Surrendered and subscribe
 to before me J. W. Henry
 for the County of Mina
 Texas - July the 15. 1837
 J. W. Henry

(TX)

(John Y. Criswell, Sr.)

This is to Certify that John Y. Criswell served in the Army of Texas in first Regiment of Texas Militia and in the Company of Minta Volunteers on the 7th day of February and entered for the period of one month during which time he faithfully performed his duty as a private and is hereby honorably discharged.

March 7, 1836

--- Billingsly
Capt. Minta Volunteers
Edw. Burleson
Col., Comdt. 1st Regmt.

This is to certify that John Y. Criswell served in the Army of Texas in first regiment of Texas Militia and in the company of Minta Volunteers on the 7th day of February and entered for the period of one month during which time he faithfully performed his duty as a private and is hereby honorably discharged.

March 7, 1836

--- Billingsly
Capt. Minta Volunteers
Edw. Burleson
Col. Comdt. 1st Regiment.

CRISWELL FAMILY

This is to Certify that the Ranging Corps under the
 Command of Col. E. Burleson made use of three
 bushels of Corn at one Dollar and fifty Cents per bushel
 and one bushel of potatoes at one Dollar property
 of J. Y. Chriswell. Colorado July 22, 1836.
 Let this be Audited
 May 15th 1838. A. S. Thurston & Co. Capt. Ewd. Burleson
 M R Corps. Col. Comanding R.

48

Ewd. Burleson TX
 Col. Comanding R.

This is to Certify that the Ranging Corps under the Command of Col. E. Burleson
 made use of three bushles of corn at one Dollar and fifty Cents per bushel
 and one bushel of potatoes at one Dollar property of J. Y. Chriswell.
 Colorado July 22, 1836

Let this be Audited
 May 15th 1838 A. S. Thurston ----- John G Mc G--- Capt
 M R Corps Ewd. Burleson
 Col. Comanding R.

7486

145

Dec 22
1838

John D. Critwell

filed by Ben E. Burden

Examiner and auditor for

\$1800000

Wm. D. Phillips

Wm. D. Phillips

Wm. D. Phillips

Wm. D. Phillips

11 July 1836

and 15 May 1838

Receipts \$925.00

no 5928 1838

Approved 18 May 1838

Thomas R. Criswell

Comptroller

Auditors Office

Houston 15 May 1838

This day came E. Burden and says the annexed instrument
are True and original and the only ones, offered for
Liquidation that Claimant owes the Government nothing
on his own account or on account of any other person
Ben E. Burden

Ben E. Burden

~~Ben E. Burden~~

Eastland
or order
on Government

no 11

Colorado City June 5th 1837

The Government of Texas will pay Jno Y Christwell
or order four dollars & 50¢ for provision furnished my
company

Wm M Eastland

Cap't of Rangers

Let this be audited May 15th 1838

\$5.50

A. S. Thurston

D. M. Lynn



Colorado City June 5th 1837

The Government of Texas will pay Jno Y Christwell or order
four dollars & 50¢ for provisions furnished my company

Wm M Eastland

Cap't of Rangers

Let this be audited May 15th 1838

A S Thurston ---

This is to certify that Leroy V. Criswell served as a private in the mounted rifle Company under my command in Col. Moore's Battalion fifty days and as such faithfully discharged his duty October 23 1838

30 $\overline{) 12501} 41.66$
 $\begin{array}{r} 50 \\ 25 \\ \hline 12501 \\ \hline 1200 \\ \hline 50 \\ \hline 30 \\ \hline 2000 \\ \hline 180 \\ \hline 200 \\ \hline 180 \\ \hline 20 \end{array}$

R. M. Williamson
 Capt. Thru

J. H. Moore Commanding TX

This is to Certify that Leroy V. Criswell Served as a private in the Mounted rifle Company under my Command in Col. Moore's Battalion fifty days and as Such faithfully discharged his duty. October 23, 1838.

R. M. Williamson
 Capt. thru
 J. H. Moore, Commanding

8227 5442

\$41.66

Henry W. Criswell

Adm 1st Nov 1838

admitted to audit for

\$41.66

Henry's Service

~~Henry W. Criswell~~ Auditor

25 July 1838

Adm 1st Nov 1838

W. H. G. 9793. 6

Approved 1st Nov 1838

Francis R. Sublack

Comptroller

Adm 1st Nov 1838

Criswell 2nd Nov 1838

REPRODUCED FROM THE HOLDINGS OF THE TEXAS STATE ARCHIVES


JUDITOR'S OFFICE,

Houston, Nov 1st 1838

THIS DAY came John W. Criswell (assignee Henry W. Criswell)

and says the amount in receipt is just, true, and original, and the only one
has offered for liquidation: That blame over the Government nothing on his
own account, or on account of any other person, as he fully believes he being his own

Sworn to before


1st Auditor.



REPRODUCED FROM THE HOLDINGS OF THE TEXAS STATE ARCHIVES

Black Jack August 24th 1851
 Fayette County Texas
 James C. Swisher Auditor Public accounts
 Texas: — — — Sir enclosed you
 will receive my discharge for fifty days
 in the Militia of Texas, also Texas scrip
 in favour of John Y. Criswell for twenty
 four dollars \$24.00 for liquidation.
 Very Respectfully

Leroy V. Criswell

Black Jack - August 24th 1851

Fayette County Texas

James C. Swisher Auditor public accounts Texas--Sir enclosed you will notice my discharge for fifty days in the Militia of Texas, also Texas script in favour of John Y. Criswell for twenty four dollars \$24.00 for liquidation.

Very Respectfully

Leroy V. Criswell

W. Clap 1896

John Y. Criswell
Leroy V. Criswell

Audited Paper

Amounts \$ 24

Per 24

Certificates
for the above
Sept 14 1857.

J. W. Smith
Auditor

Lambert
Comp.

Rec Certificate
Leroy Criswell

Leroy Criswell

LA GRANGE JOURNAL

March 21, 1889

Vol. 10, No. 13

A CORRECTION by John Y. Criswell, Jr.

In scanning over THE JOURNAL of the 7th last, I see a communication from the Weimer correspondent of the Colorado Citizen, giving some of the details of the late re-union of Green's Brigade, held at La Grange, Texas on Feb. 21st. which from the said Colorado Citizen, Weimar correspondent and other accounts, was a grand success. I am proud to know that La Grange did her whole duty in entertaining the members of Green's Brigade who were at the reunion as well as all the visitors of other commands. Well old Fayette is the banner county of Texas. There is no doubt but she sacrificed as many men, if not more, from the commencement of hostilities of Mexico, until the close of the Mexican War of 1846 to 1848 than any other county. On the 18th day of September 1842, the brave Capt. Dawson with the company all, save one or two, were from old Fayette were slain in battle, save about a dozen, who were taken prisoners and taken to Mexico. Capt. Dawson was trying to make his way to the command of Col. Caldwell who was camped on the Salado Creek some five miles this side of San Antonio. And right here wish to correct a mistake that my friend Charlie made in the write up for the Colorado Citizen.

When Charlie gets among friends he is easily excited, hence his mistake. He said that Joel Robison and Edward Manton were the only two surviving prisoners of Capt. Dawson's Company. Now Joel Robison was not taken prisoner at Dawson's defeat as it is commonly termed. Joseph C. Robinson, who in his lifetime lived in Woods Prairie, some two miles west of West Point was one of the Dawson prisoners. He married a daughter of old Uncle Billy Turnage, of La Grange, but has been dead for a number of years. Milburn Harrell of Gonzales County and Edward Manton of Fayette County are the only survivors of the Dawson prisoners. My friend Joel W. Robison, of Warrenton was in the battle of San Jacinto, April 21, 1836, and was one of 4 or 5 men who captured Gen. Santa Anna. If I mistake not, Santa Anna rode into camp behind Joel W. Robison. I think Robison will tell you or any one else, that he saw Gen. Santa Anna before the others did, and perhaps got to him first, though Gen. Houston tried to take the honor (if honor it be) of capturing Santa Anna, from Robison and place it on Sylvester, who I think was the Sergeant of the squad.

Again Charlie says Fayette County was once the home of Stephen F. Austin. He never lived in this county, only as a part of Austin County.

Respectfully submitted
J. Y. Criswell

State of Texas } Personally appeared before The Undersigned
 County of Fayette } a Notary Public for The County and State
 of aforesaid Leroy V. Chriswell who being duly sworn accord-
 ing to Law, says that he is the contractor, & Chriswell
 who served as a Private in the Expedition raised for
 the purpose of repelling the Invasion of Texas by the
 Mexicans under General Wall, in the fall of the Year
 Eighteen Hundred and forty Two, and that he was ^{not} a mem-
 ber of any regular organized Company, though he served
 from the Commencement until the close of the Expedition
 1842 makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining
 the pay due him for said service, this 5th day of May
 A.D. 1853.

Leroy V. Chriswell

Sworn to and subscribed before
 me the day and Year above written
 James C. Gaither
 N. J. H. C.

State of Texas } Personally appeared before The
 County of Fayette } Undersigned a Notary Public for
 The County and State of aforesaid William V. Chriswell and
 T. J. Seavern who being duly sworn according
 to Law, says that Leroy V. Chriswell served in the Expedi-
 tion as set forth in his affidavit and that they are
 disinterested in the above application for pay.
 This 5th day of May A.D. 1853

Sworn to and subscribed before }
 me the day and Year above written }
 James C. Gaither }
 N. J. H. C. } Wm. V. Chriswell
 T. J. Seavern

For full value and Consideration I transfer to John
 A Green all my right title and Interest to the within
 application for pay - and authorize the said John
 A Green to receipt to the proper department for
 The Same,

Leroy A. Criswell

State of Texas }
 County of Fayette } Personally appeared before
 the undersigned a notary Public for the County and
 State aforesaid Leroy A. Criswell who acknowledged
 to me that he signed the above transfer for the
 purposes and Considerations therein set forth
 and Executed

In Testimony whereof I have
 hereunto set my hand and
 affixed my hat of Office
 This 5th day of May 1885
 James C. Walker
 N. P. A. C.

State of Texas I personally appeared before the undersigned
 County of Fayette & a Notary Public for the County and
 State aforesaid William V. Chriswell who being duly
 sworn according to Law say that he is the iden-
 tical William V. Chriswell who served as a Private in
 the Expedition raised to repel the Invasion of
 Texas by the Mexicans under General Wall in
 the fall of the Year Eighteen Hundred and forty
 Five and that he served as such in the Com-
 pany commanded by Captains Thomas Raby
 from the Commencement of the Expedition until
 its close in said Year He makes this declaration
 for the purpose of obtaining the pay due
 him for said service This 5th day of May 1853
 sworn to and subscribed
 before me the day and Year
 above written
 James C. Baithes
 N. P. & C.

William V. Chriswell

State of Texas I personally appeared before
 County of Fayette & the undersigned a Notary Public
 for the County and State aforesaid Jerry V. Criswell
 and I I sworn who being duly sworn accor-
 ding to Law say that William V. Chriswell served
 in the Company as set forth in his affidavit
 and that they are interested in the above app-
 lication for pay This 5th day of May 1853
 sworn to and subscribed
 before me the day and Year
 above written
 James C. Baithes
 N. P. & C.

Jerry V. Criswell

J. C. Baithes

For full value and consideration I transfer
to John A Green all my right title and interests
to the within application for pay, and authorities
The said ^{John A Green} to receipt to the proper departments
for the same,

Wm. Criswell 523

State of Texas }
County of Fayette } Personally appeared before
the undersigned a notary Public for the County and
State aforesaid Wm. Criswell who solemnly
thats he signed the above transfer for the
purposes and considerations therein set forth
and expressed

In Testimony whereof I
have hereunto set my hand
and seal of office, this 5th day
of May
A. D. 1853

James L. Gaither
N. P. A. C.

State of Texas } Personally appeared before the undersigned
County of Fayette } Notary Public for the County and State
aforesaid, John G. Lewis who being duly sworn according
to Law, says that he is the identical John G. Lewis
who served as a private in the Expedition raised to repel
the Invasion of Texas by the Mexicans under General Hall
in the fall of Eighteen Hundred and forty five, and that
he was not a member of an regular organized Company
though he served from the commencement until
the close of the Expedition. He makes this declaration
for the purpose of obtaining the pay due him
for said service, This 5th day of May AD 1853

Sworn to and subscribed
before me the day and Year
above written

John G. Lewis

James C. Gaither
N. P. & Co

State of Texas } Personally appeared before the undersigned a
County of Fayette } Notary Public for the County and State
aforesaid Leroy V. Lewis and William V. Lewis who
being duly sworn according to Law, says that John G.
Lewis — served in the Expedition as set forth in his
affidavit and that they are disinterested in the above
application for pay, This 5th day of May AD 1853

Sworn to and subscribed
before me the day and Year
above written

Leroy V. Lewis
Wm. V. Lewis

James C. Gaither
N. P. & Co

For full value and consideration I transfer to
 John A Green all my right title and interest to
 the within application for pay and authorize
 the said John A Green to receipt to the proper
 department for the same,
 John A. Criswell

State of Texas }
 County of Fayette } Personally appeared before
 me the undersigned a notary Public
 for the County and State aforesaid John A Criswell
 who acknowledges that he signed the above
 transfer for the considerations therein
 set forth and expressed

In Testimony whereof
 I have hereunto set my
 hand and seal of office
 this 5th day of May 1853
 James C. Gaither

SUCCESSION OF JOHN Y. CRISWELL, ^{SR.} DECEASED

Republic of Texas
County of Fayette

Know all men by these presents that we, Leroy V. Criswell as principal, John W. Scallorn, and Michu Andrews. Wm. M. Eastland as securities are held and firmly bound unto Nicholas W. Eastland, Chief Justice of the County aforesaid and his successors in Office in the sum of twelve hundred and eighty-nine dollars, the payment of which well and truly to be made we bind ourselves, our heirs, Executors and administrators jointly, severally, and firmly by these presents. Signed and sealed with our seals this (16th) sixteenth day of December in the Year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine.

The conditions of the above obligation is such that the above Leroy V. Criswell as principal has been appointed administrator upon the estate of ___ effects of John Y. Criswell Deceased by the probate Court of the County aforesaid. Now if the said Leroy V. Criswell shall well and truly discharge the Lawful duties of Administration upon the estate and effects of the aforesaid Deceased--Then this obligation to be null and void. Otherwise to remain in full force and virtue in Law.

Signed, sealed, and delivered in the Town of La Grange this the day and date above written.

Approved:

Wm. Eastland
Judge of Probate

L. V. Criswell (signature)
John W. Scallorn (signature)
M. Andrews (signature)
Wm. M. Eastland (signature)

I certify the foregoing to be a true Record.

March 23, 1841

S. J. Meornegay
CPE of Probate

Inventory

We the undersigned appointed to take an inventory and appraisal of the property of John Y. Criswell deceased do find the following property with appraisalment. Viz--

5 Sows - 7 - \$35.	5 pork hogs - - 35.	70.00	
2 large pork hogs. 32.	10 shoats. 30.	62.00	
1 Sow. 7.		7.00	\$139.00
3 Cows and Calves. \$12.		36.00	
2 heifers & 1 bull. 7		21.00	
2 Yoke of oxen - 50 -		100.00	
1 oxen 25.	1 ox waggon. 50.	75.00	232.00
1 set of Blacksmith tools consisting: of 1 bellows,		50.00	50.00
1 anvell, 1 Vize, 3 hammers, 1 (?), 1 Sledge, 3 open			
tongs, 1 set claws & punch, 1 screwplate.			
2 Augers and 1 hand saw		2.75	
1 Log chain 5.50.	2 plows 2.50.	8.00	
1 (?) coulter etc.		3.00	
1 (?) mill - 2.00.	1 Herring (?)	6.00	19.75
1 lot of castings		25.00	
1 Spinning wheel. 4.	1.pr. Steelyards.1.	5.00	

CRISWELL FAMILY

1 (?) 1 pot. & a tub etc.	6.00	
1 coffee mill 1.25. 1 clock 5.	6.25	
Cubbard ware	4.00	46.25
2 Beds and furniture & 2 bed steads	45.00	
4 chairs & 1 chest & trunk	4.00	
1 Earthen jar and pot	1.50	
1 lot of books-9.00. 1 rifle gun. 12.	21.00	
1 pr. apothecaries scales & wates, 1 pocket compass & a looking glass	6.00	
1 lot of corn. Supposed to be 80 bush.	80.00	
		<u>157.50</u>
		\$654.50

Sworn to and subscribed
before me this 11th day
of December 1839

Wm. Scallorn
Stephen Scallorn
John H. Scallorn

James Robinson

I certify the foregoing to be a true Record. March 23, 1841.

S. J. Mcornegay
Clerk of the Probate

A list of property sold at the sale of John Y. Criswell. Deceased. January 15, 1840.

John Burleson		
1 Waggon One hundred & forty.50¢	\$140.50	
William V. Criswell		
1 Yoke of Oxen	94.00	
" " " "	68.00	
Aaron Burleson		
1 Lot of Cattle. 5 head.	67.00	
Wm. V. Criswell		
1 Yoke of oxen	<u>166.00</u>	\$535.50
John W. Lemaster		
1 set of blacksmith tools	81.50	
Henry J. English		
2 Augers	3.25	
Hugh W. Childress		
1 Cow & yearling -27. 1 Cow & calf. 31.	58.00	
Lymon Stewart		
10 shoats--4.75	47.50	
L. V. Criswell		
5 head pork hogs. (?)	30.00	
John A. Miller		
1 Steel Mill	7.25	\$228.00
Leroy V. Criswell		
3 head of Hogs	28.00	
Wilson Biggs		
1 Oven	3.50	
John W. Pendleton		
1 Stew Cettle 3.50. 1 pot.	11.50	
John W. Scallorn		
Grill iron & baker	1.50	
Richard Barkley. Skillet & ba(?)	.50	
Leroy V. Criswell		
1 lot of castings	26.00	
John W. Scallorn		
1 compass	.50	

CRISWELL FAMILY

Lea. F. T. Cottle. 1 clock.	5.00
J. L. Smith. 1 Rifle gun.	18.00
Daniel Gray. 1 pr. Steelyards.	2.25
Thomas Thompson. 1 Spinning wheel.	8.00
William Scallorn. 1 hewing axe.	8.00
Lea. F. T. Cottle. 1 Earthen pot.	.50
John C. Cunningham. 1 hand saw.	11.00
John W. Fendleton. 1 churn.	5.00
L.F.T.Cottle. 1 Stone jar	2.50
L. V. Criswell. 1 Lot of Cooper's vessels.	6.50
John C. Cunningham. 1 log chain.	17.00
Leroy V. Criswell. 2 Beds & furniture.	45.00
Aaron Burlesson. 1 bed stead.	3.00
L. V. Criswell. " " "	3.00
Norman Woods	
1 lot sundries: apothecaries scales, looking glass, pocket compass, etc.	4.00
David Berry. 1 trunk.	4.75
L. V. Criswell. 4 chairs	3.00
" " " 1 lot of cupboard ware	5.00
" " " 1 (?) shear plow	5.50
John W. Scallorn. 1 wash boal	.50
J. C. Cunningham. 1 small plow, 1 shovel plow	4.50
L. V. Criswell	
1 lot of corn	131.00
Lyman Cronkright . 2 sows.	24.00
James H. Criswell 3 sows @ 9.50	28.50
L. M. Stewart. 1 pork hog.	30.00
L. V. Criswell. 1 year lease of farm.	50.00
L. V. Criswell. 1 year hire of negro girl.	<u>155.00</u>
Total of sales	1,508.75

The above is a true list of the property sold by the administrator of the estate of John Y. Criswell. Deceased. Sold January 15th, 1840.

John W. Scallorn /
Newton Scallorn / clks.

Sworn to before me
this 28th of March,
A.D.1840.

S. J. Meornegay
Clerk of the Probate

I certify the foregoing to be a true record. March 23, 1841.

S. J. Meornegay
CPE of Probate

CRISWELL FAMILY

Republic of Texas) Probate Court
County of Fayette) January term, 1840

Know all men by these presents that William Scallorn as principal and John W. Scallorn and Leroy V. Criswell as securities are held and firmly bound unto N. W. Eastland Judge of Probate in the sum of Twelve hundred dollars for which sum well and truly to be paid we abring ourselves jointly and severally and firmly by these presents- Signed with our hands and sealed with our seals this 27th of January, A.D. Eighteen hundred and forty.

The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas the above bound Scallorn has been appointed guardian of John Y. Criswell minor heirs of John Y. Criswell deceased. Now the above said bounden Scallorn shall well and truly discharge all and singular the duties recurring of him by Law then the above obligation shall be null and void. Otherwise to remain in full force.

Approved

January 27, 1840)
N. W. Eastland)
Judge of Probate)

Wm. Scallorn (signature)
John W. Scallorn (signature)
L. V. Criswell (signature)

I certify the foregoing to be a true record. May 12th 1841.

S. J. Mcornegay

Republic of Texas) Probate Court
County of Fayette) January term, 1840

Know all men by these presents that I Leroy V. Criswell as principal and William Scallorn and John W. Scallorn as securities are held and firmly bound unto N. W. Eastland, Judge of Probate in the sum of twelve hundred dollars for the payment of which well and truly to be made we bind ourselves jointly and severally our heirs executors and administrators firmly by these presents. Signed with our hands and sealed with our seals this 27th day of January 1840.

The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas the above boundees Scallorn has been appointed guardian of the minor heirs of John Y. Criswell deceased, to wit. Andrew, J.Y., Joseph E. Criswell--If said guardian shall well and truly discharge the duties of said guardianship agreeably to Law the above obligation shall be null and void. Otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

Approved

January 27, 1840)
N. W. Eastland)
Judge of Probate

L. V. Criswell (seal)
Wm. Scallorn (seal)
John W. Scallorn (seal)

I certify the foregoing to be a true record. May 12, 1841.

ESTATE OF JOHN Y. CRISWELL

Leroy V. Criswell Admd.

1839

To P2 14/100\$ Texas money paid for Taxes valued as 4 for one. No. 1.	15.53
cash paid J. W. Scallorn for sugar received by J.Y.Criswell	1.25
cash paid G. W. Tuttle for 500 rails & repairing fence	10.00
cash paid printer for advertising administrators notice (marked X)	1.00
cash for taxes 9.40 Texas money at 4 for one (Fayette Co. n2)	2.45

CRISWELL FAMILY

	cash paid to Sheriff of Matagorda Accounty No. 3	18.00
1841	cash paid to Sheriff Fayette County No. 4	6.52
	amt. paid S. S. B. Fields for collecting Lemasters note for 81.50	10.00
	amt. paid S. S. B. Fields for legal services in obtaining partition of estate No. 5. Note paid.	25.00
	amt. paid Leo. F. T. Cottle on note with interest no. 6.	60.75
	amt. paid for probate judge's fees.	24.00
	amt. paid for Clerks fees No. 8	28.11
No. 9	amt of sales \$1310.50 comm as administrator at 5 per cent	65.52
1844	paid Comm. & surveyor for services in partition of lands as appears by receipts A.B. & C. in Matagorda County	19.00
1845	paid I. W. McKisick for Taxes recpo D for Estate	5.80
1843	Cost in Bastrop County (receipt E)	14.03
1839	J. Y. Criswell (receipt F) tuition paid to Stephen Scallorn	.50
	amt paid W. V. Criswell (receipt G)	20.40
	amt. paid S. P. Burt (receipt I)	24.75
	acct. for 250 rails for myself making hauling and laying up 2¢ each	5.00
	amt. paid for cost of Probate Court	24.43
		<u>388.66</u>

CR

By amount of Sales	1,310.50
deduct \$53.50 lost and collected by S.S.B.Fields and not paid whose estate is insolvent this was on Lemaster debt. Deduct \$45.50 not received on the debt of Lymon M. Stewart. Total deduction after deducting lossess balance of sale deduct sums above charged	<u>99.00</u> 1,211.50 <u>388.66</u> 822.84

A note signed by James H. Criswell and John W. Scallorn for \$28.50 and one signed by William Criswell and Leroy V. Criswell for (?) for property purchased are included in the amount of sales above mentioned marked K & S. there is probably a small amount due for (?) from myself to the extate which will be accounted for if it can be ascertained to be the fact.

The State of Texas)
County of Fayette) To the Judge of Probate

Your petitioner Leroy V. Criswell administrator of John Y. Criswell states that the above is a correct statement and asks that notice may be given in accordance with law for a distribution and final settlement of said Estate. A list of the Heirs is attached hereto.
31 March 1847
Leroy V. Criswell

William V. Criswell	Fayette County
James H. Criswell	" "
John Y. Criswell	" "
Kandace Fitzgerald	" "
Mary J. Haddon	Matagorda County
Leroy V. Criswell	Fayette County
Joseph E. Criswell)	Minors and Leroy V. Criswell Guardian
Andrew J. Criswell)	

CRISWELL FAMILY

The above report appears to be correct and the request for a final settlement is granted to take place on the last Monday in July next.

J. S. Sester Judge of Probate

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the original recorded 17 August 1847.

N. W. Faison, P. C.

CRISWELL FAMILY

Republic of Texas) Probate Court
County of Fayette) February Term 1843

Know all men by these presents that I Leroy V. Criswell as principal and William V. Criswell and L. F. T. Cottle as Securities are held and firmly bound unto N. W. Eastland Judge of Probate in the Sum of twelve Hundred Dollars for payment of which well and truly to be made we bind ourselves jointly and severally, our heirs, executors and administrators firmly by these presents. Signed with our hands and seals this 27th February 1843.

The condition of the above obligation is Such that whereas the above bounden L. V. Criswell has been appointed Guardian of the minor heirs of John Y. Criswell decd., To wit, Andrew J. and Joseph E. Criswell-- If said guardian shall well and truly discharge the duties of guardianship agreeably to Law then the above obligation shall be null and void; otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

Approved Feb. 27, 1843)	Leroy V. Criswell (seal)
N W Eastland)	Lee F. T. Cottle (seal)
Judge of Probate)	William V. Criswell (seal)

I certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the original, Recorded this 23rd day of Sept. A.D. 1843

James P. Hudson
Clerk P C Fayette County

The State of Texas
 County of Fayette } Know all men by
 these presents that We, Leroy C.
 Criswell, Wm. V. Criswell Jos. E.
 Criswell & Geo. Y. Criswell heirs of our
 father John Y. Criswell hereby do
 nominate constitute and appoint
 J. W. Woodlin, our true & lawful
 attorney for us & in our names
 to receive and receipt for all money
 which may be due us on the
 annexed certificate of debt
 of the Republic of ~~the Texas~~
 as heirs of our father John Y. Cris-
 well to whom said certificate is
 issued. Twenty four dollars
 hereby ratifying & confirming what
 ever our said attorney may do
 our names as regards receiving & receipt-
 ing for said money due on
 said certificate dated 1st Sept.
 1857 No. 2053.

Witness
 our hands & seals, using seals for seals
 this 26 May 1857-

Leroy C. Criswell
 Wm. V. Criswell
 Jos. E. Criswell
 Geo. Y. Criswell

THE STATE OF TEXAS.

County of Fayette.

Before me, the undersigned, Clerk of the County Court, in

and for said county, this day personally appeared *L. W. Criswell, Wm V. Criswell, Geo*
Criswell & Geo J. Criswell whose names appear to the foregoing instrument of writing hereto
attached, bearing date the *26* day of *May* A. D., 1857 and acknowledged
that *they* signed and sealed the same for the consideration and purposes therein stated.

In testimony whereof, I hereto sign my name, and affix
the seal of said court, at office in the town of La Grange,
the *24* day of *June*

A. D., 1857
J. G. Johnson
Clerk, County Court.

The State of Texas }
County of Travis } personally
appeared
before me *John W. Dancy* who
states upon oath that the indi-
viduals whose names are sign-
ed to the within power of attor-
ney are heirs of *John Y. Cris-*
well, this *23* July 1857;
J. W. Dancy

Seen & subscribed
before me this 23 July 1857
15415

D. Schomberg

TRANSCRIPTION OF JOHN Y. CRISWELL LAND RECORDS - KNOX COUNTY, KENTUCKY

Deed Book C, p. 358

This Indenture made and entered into this 12th day of March 1824 between Dennis Burns of the one part and John Y. Criswell of the other part, both of the County of Knox and State of Kentucky. Witnesseth, that in and for the Consideration of seven hundred and thirty seven dollars in Commonwealth Bank notes in hand paid to the said Burns the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the said Dennis Burns hath granted, bargained, sold, aliened, and conveyed and by these presents doth grant bargain sell alien and conform unto the said John Y. Criswell all that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the County of Knox and of the Hazle (?) Fork of Lynn Camp Creek, and containing one hundred fifty-seven acres be the same more or less, and bounded as followeth, towit, Beginning on a double white oak, thence due West 160 poles to a white oak, thence North 150 poles to a hickory & double white oak thence East 160 poles to two white oaks, and black gum, thence South 150 poles to the beginning. To have and to hold the said tract or parcel of land, together with the appurtenances thereunto belonging unto the said John Y. Criswell, his heirs and assigns forever, and the said Dennis Burns for himself, his heirs, and assigns doth hereby warrant and forever defend the said tract or parcel of land free from the claim of himself, his heirs, assigns, and all and every person or persons claiming by through or under him and it is expressly understood that if said land should be lost by a prior or better claim the said Burns is to refund the said purchase money, and it is further understood that the land Burns sells, the aforesaid tract or land subject to a mortgage which Claiborne W. White is holding on it, which the said Criswell is to pay. In testimony whereof the D. Burns hath hereunto set his had and affirmed his seal the day and date first written.

Dennis Burns (Seal)

Witnesseth: James Love. Marshall Love.

Deed Book C., p. 359

This Indenture made and entered into this the tenth day of May in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty four between William Vannoy of one part and John Y. Criswell of the other part each of the County of Knox and State of Kentucky, witnesseth, that for and in consideration of the sum of ten dollars in hand paid, the receipt is whereof acknowledged hath granted, bargained, and sold, and by these presents doth grant bargain sell, _____ and confirm unto the said John Y. Criswell his heirs and assigns forever, a certain tract or parcel of land containing fifty acres by survey, lying and being in the county of Knox, on the Hazle Fork of Lynn Camp Creek, and bounded as follows, towit, beginning at Pin Oak and red oak on the top of a ridge, thence N65W30 poles from the six mile tree on the Barbourville Road, thence S65E60 poles to a spanish oak, thence S25W140 poles to a double pin oak thence N65W60 poles to three small poplars, thence to the beginning, with all and singular the woods waters profit comm_____ free from the Claims or Claim of all and every person claiming in and through me In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this day and date above written.

William Vannoy (seal)

(Recorded by Clerk James F. Ballew 20 May 1824.)

TRANSCRIPTION OF JOHN Y. CRISWELL LAND RECORDS - KNOX COUNTY, KENTUCKY

Deed Book C., p. 364

This Indenture made and entered into this 10th day of June in the year of our Lord 1824 between Henry Banks of the City of Richmond, Virginia, of the one part, and John Y. Criswell of the County of Knox and State of Kentucky of the other part. Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the sum of seventy-five dollars to me in hand paid, the receipt whereunto acknowledged, have bargained and sold, and by these presents do bargain, sell, alien, and confirm unto John Y. Criswell one certain tract or parcel of land, situated lying and being in Knox County and on the Hazle Fork of Lynn Camp Creek, and being a part of a 9302 acre Survey Entered and Surveyed and patented to John Lewis, containing two hundred and fifty acres, be the same more or less, and bounded as follows. Beginning at the said Hazle Fork where the upper line of Lewis's Survey crosses said fork, thence north along the original line to where the said line crosses the road leading from Lynn Camp to the Salt Works, thence Westwardly along with said road as far as to where the road crosses the first branch of Lynn Camp, and thence Southwardly down said branch to where it runs into the Hazle Fork, and thence up said Creek to the Beginning. To have and to hold the said tract or parcel of land with the appurtenances his heirs & assigns forever unto the said John Y. Criswell, I, Henry Banks do warrant and forever to fend free from the Claim or Claims of all and every person, in testimony whereof I hereunto set my hand and seal this day and date written above.

Henry Banks (Seal)

By J. P. Thatcher

Witnesses: Samuel McHargue, James Moody

Deed Book C, p. 395

This Indenture made this eighteenth day of October, eighteen hundred and twenty four, between Andrew Craig and his wife Sophia of Whitley County Kentucky of the one part and John Y. Criswell of Knox County and State aforesaid of the other part, witnesseth that the said Andrew Craig & Sophia his wife, for and in consideration of the sum of five hundred dollars to them in hand paid the receipt whereof before the signing and sealing of these presents is hereby acknowledged, hath bargained and sold, and by these presents doth bargain, sell, alien, and confirm unto the said John Y. Criswell and his heirs forever, a certain tract or parcel of land, containing six hundred acres situated in Knox County of the waters of Little Richland and Goose Creek to include the fork of the Salt Works & state road. Beginning at a beech and ash in the head of a hollow on the north line of Lott No. 1st it being the most north eastwardly corner of a survey executed on a bond from John Logan to said A. Craig, for a title thereto, from thence South with the East line of the same 240 poles to a poplar on the top of a ridge, thence north another line of said Survey west 122 poles to a Stake on the West line of said Lott, thence south 80 poles to a ly___ on the south line of John Lewis 36000 acre Survey thence with the same East 190 poles to a beech, maple, & sourwood, thence N28 $\frac{1}{2}$ E with a line of Payne's, 210 poles to two beeches, thence East 150 poles to the South east Corner of Lott No. 1st thence with the East line of the same North 320 poles to a white oak, thence West 380 poles crossing a branch of Goose Creek and the Salt Works Road to the beginning. To have and to hold the said tract of six hundred acres of land with all the appurtenances to the same belonging or in anywise appertaining to him the said John Y. Criswell, his heirs, assigns forever, and they the said Andrew Craig and Sophia his wife for themselves, their heirs do covenant with the said John Y. Criswell that they will forever warrant and defend the same against themselves, their heirs, and all forever claiming by through or under them. In Testimony whereof they have hereunto set their hands and seals, the day and date first

Transcription of Deed Book C., p. 395, continued

written.

Andrew Craig (Seal)
Sophia Craig (Seal)

(Recorded 14 December, 1824 by James Ballew, who certifies he explained dower rights to Sophia Craig as required.)

Abstract of Deed Book C., p. 422, John Y. Criswell land records

John Y. Criswell and Elijah Harris convey to Thomas Fowler 200 acres of the land they jointly own in the John Lewis survey for the sum of twenty dollars, said sum paid in hand.

Signed: John Y. Criswell (seal)
Elijah Harris (his mark) (seal)

Sale made 7 December 1824.

TRANSCRIPTION OF JOHN Y. CRISWELL LAND RECORDS - KNOX COUNTY, KENTUCKY

Deed Book C, p. 377:

This indenture made and entered into this thirteenth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty four, between Henry Banks of the city of Richmond, Virginia by his agent John P. Thatcher of the first part and John Y. Criswell and Elijah Harris of the County of Knox and State of Kentucky of the other part witnesseth that for and in consideration of thirty five dollars to me in hand paid the receipt is hereunto acknowledged hath bargained and sold, and by these presents doth grant, bargain, and deed, alien and confirm one certain tract or parcel of land situated lying and being in the County of Knox and being the balance unsold of a 9300 acre survey entered surveyed and patented unto John Lewis and bounded as follows:

Beginning at a white oak and poplar the north East corner of John Watts Survey and on water of Lynn Camp Creek, thence North 1200 poles to two white oak thence west 1200 poles to two red oaks growing from one rooth thence South 1200 poles to a stake and red oak, thence East 1200 poles to the beginning.

Unto the said John Y. Criswell & Elijah Harris themselves, their heirs & assigns forever, free from myself, my heirs or any person claiming it or through me, and them only reserving from or out of said tract or parcel of land the different tracts or parcels of land sold by my agent to the different persons as follows, viz, John Y. Criswell, 400 acres, Charles Lawrence, 50 acres, Elijah Harris, 150 acres, Spencer Norville, 100 acres, Elijah Farris, 100 acres, John Ferry, 50 acres, William Mullins, 100 acres, William Dewese, 300 acres, John Horton, 200 acres, Gilbert Farris, 57 acres, James Moody, 250 acres, Samuel McHargue 400 acres, William McHargue, 300 acres, John Horton, 200 acres, John Edwards, 100 acres, James Gray, 100 acres, Dorcas Kidwell, 50 acres, John Arthur, 150 acres, Daniel Dussers 100 acres, Zeke Fowler & Levi Moore, 500 acres, Joab Moore, 300 acres, Ephraim Moore, 200 acres, Elias Kemper 100 acres, & Benjamin Blakeley 200 acres, all of these tracts or parcels of land it is plainly understood is reserved out of the aforesaid 9300 acres survey, the balance supposed to be four thousand acres be the same more or less. I Henry Banks do warrant and forever defend unto the aforesaid John Y. Criswell and Elijah Harris free from me my heirs and assigns or any person claiming in or through me my heirs and unto the said John Y. Criswell and Elijah Harris themselves and their heirs forever in and against the claim or claims of no other person - In testimony whereof I have here unto set my hand and seal the day & date first written.

Henry Banks (Seal)

By J. P. Thatcher

Knox County Ky: I do certify that the foregoing Indenture of bargain and sale to John Y. Criswell and Elijah Harris was acknowledged before me on the 13th instant by J. P. Thatcher, attorney in fact for Henry Banks, to be his act and deed for the purposes therein mentioned - and the said deed truly entered of record in my office, Given under my hand this 26th day of July 1824.

James F. Ballew, CLK.

TEXAS VETERANS IN THE MEXICAN WAR

MUSTER ROLLS of TEXAS MILITARY UNITS

compiled by

CHARLES D. SPURLIN
Victoria College

The muster rolls were created from the Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers who Served During the Mexican War in Organizations from the State of Texas, National Archives Microcopy No. 278.

REPRODUCED FROM THE
HOLDINGS OF THE
TEXAS STATE ARCHIVES

CRISWELL FAMILY

36. MENIFEE, John, 21
37. MILLS, M. J., 29 (Died at Smith's Station, Texas on July 26, 1847)
38. MORRELL, H. R., 19
39. MORRELL, W. H., 23
40. NANNEY, Charles, 25
41. PATTON, A. J., 26
42. PATTON, John S., 22
43. PATTON, W. T., 21
44. PERKINS, E. P., 27
45. PHIFER, Anderson, 19
46. PHILPOT, H. V., 19
47. PILAND, J. B., 23
48. PRICE, Meredith, 19
49. PRIOR, P. W., 40
50. RIDGELL, D. P., 19
51. ROBERTSON, Shawnee, 30
52. RUTHERFORD, R., 27
53. SEVERE, Charles, 28
54. SHAW, Jim, 39
55. SMITH, Jesse, 19
56. STEPHENSON, S. R., 38
57. STERRETT, James, 19
58. STOKES, William J., 22
59. THRASHER, James, 35
60. TOWNSEND, Thomas, 21
61. WALKER, Gideon, 22
62. WEBB, T. H., 22
63. WELCHE, John, 19
64. WEST, W. B., 24
65. WILSON, W. B., 24
66. WOODS, Cary, 23
67. YOUNG, William, 20

INDEPENDENT COMPANIES

P. Hansbrough BELL'S Company, Texas Mounted Volunteers (Corpus Christi Rangers)--Composed of personnel recruited primarily at Corpus Christi, Texas. Mustered into federal service on September 10, 1845. Reorganized on March 10, 1846. Mustered out of federal service on July 6, 1846.

ORIGINAL OFFICERS

P. Hansbrough BELL, Captain
Mahry B. GRAY, First Lieutenant
Dewitt C. LYONS, Second Lieutenant

ORIGINAL NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER

John T. WHITE, First Sergeant

CRISWELL FAMILY

PRIVATEES

1. AARON, James H.
2. ADAMS, William
3. ALLEN, Daniel
4. ALLEN, Hiram A. (Discharged on March 10, 1846)
5. BERRY, Alfred
6. BLAIR, Alonzo (Discharged on March 10, 1846)
7. BLAIR, James Francis (Discharged on March 10, 1846)
8. BRADLY, Charles (BRADLEY; discharged on March 10, 1846)
9. BRADLY, John (BRADLEY; discharged on March 10, 1846)
10. BRANNUM, John (BRANNAN)
11. BROOKFIELD, Edward
12. BROWN, Edwin K.
13. CALAHAN, John (CALLAHAN)
14. CASTLEMAN, Jacob
15. CASTLEMAN, John
16. CLEVELAND, Soloman (CLEVELAND, S. C.; discharged on March 10, 1846)
17. CRISWELL, Jackson
18. CRISWELL, John Y.
19. CRISWELL, Joseph E.
20. DIVIER, Dennis
21. DOUGHTY, Daniel
22. DOWNING, William J.
23. EWERS, Albert
24. FADDIN, Patrick
25. FERREL, William
26. FIFER, Jacob (Discharged on March 10, 1846)
27. FRIAR, Alfred L. (Discharged on March 10, 1846)
28. HALL, Henry (Discharged on March 10, 1846)
29. HART, H. A.
30. HELY, Michael (Discharged on March 10, 1846)
31. HICKMAN, William
32. HOLSTER, James
33. HOWARD, James (Discharged on March 10, 1846)
34. HUMPHREYS, Jacob J. (HUMPHRYS)
35. JAMES, John
36. JORDAN, William
37. LOOKE, Austin D.
38. MANNING, J. M.
39. MARRS, James (Discharged on March 10, 1846)
40. MCGLOIN, John
41. MCPETERS, John (Discharged on March 10, 1846; rejoined company on April 1, 1846)
42. MCPETERS, Thomas
43. MILICAN, William L.
44. MILLER, Henry
45. MILLS, John E.
46. MILLS, Lawson F.
47. MURPHY, Thomas
48. OMEARA, John (O'MEARA)
49. OSBORN, William S. (OSBORNE)
50. PAUL, Philip C. (Promoted first sergeant on ?)

CRISWELL FAMILY

25. HUDSON, G. H.
26. IRONES, William
27. JETT, William (Substitute for James DUNN)
28. JOHNSTON, John
29. JONES, Elisha
30. LAUGHLIN, William (LOUGHLIN)
31. LAYMAN, John (LAMON)
32. LUCHINGER, Jacob (LUCKSING)
33. LYCET, J.
34. LYONS, Thomas
35. MALLON, Nathaniel R.
36. MARTINEZ, Graviel
37. McDERMOTT, M. K. (M., M. R.)
38. MCKAY, Francis
39. MOORE, John
40. NELSON, G. H.
41. NICHOLSON, Andrew J.
42. OURY, William (OUREY; acquired William BRUSH as substitute on
March 29, 1846)
43. POWELL, O. C.
44. REDDISH, James
45. ROBERTS, James
46. SPAIN, Francis G. (SPANE)
47. SPENCE, James H.
48. STEPHENS, Washington (STEVENS, STEVINS)
49. STOUTENBURG, J. (STOUTENBRUGH)
50. WILLIAMS, Joseph
51. WOOLFOLK, R. S. (WOOLFORK, Robert L.)
52. YOUNGBLOOD, James

Mabry B. GRAY'S Company, Texas Mounted Volunteers--Composed of personnel recruited primarily at Matamoros, Mexico. Mustered into federal service on July 21, 1846. Mustered out of federal service on July 17, 1847.

ORIGINAL OFFICERS

Mabry B. GRAY, Captain, 28
Dewitt C. LYONS, First Lieutenant, 26
John C. CASTLEMAN, Second Lieutenant, 26

ORIGINAL NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

William B. SAYRES, First Sergeant, 22 (SAYRE)
Jackson PAGE, Second Sergeant, 24?
William CARDWELL, Third Sergeant, 26
James FOWLER, Fourth Sergeant, 26
Edward FITZGERALD, First Corporal, 30
Thomas BOATWRIGHT, Second Corporal, 23
Michael McMAHON, Third Corporal, 33
George W. PETIGRU, Fourth Corporal, 19 (PETEGUE, PETTIGUE)
John ST. LUKE, First Bugler, 22

CRISWELL FAMILY

PRIVATEES

1. AARON, J. H., 27 (ARON)
2. ADAMS, William (Discharged for ? on August 3, 1846)
3. BARTLET, James, 23
4. BARTON, John, 32
5. BEARDSLIE, Lewis (BEARDSLEY; discharged for ? on August 3, 1846)
6. BELL, P. Hansbrough, 30
7. BLACKBURN, Charles, 35 (BLACKWELL)
8. BOATWRIGHT, Lewis, 40
9. BRADLEY, John, 24
10. BRADLEY, Michael, 22
11. BRANNON, John, 23
12. BROOKS, Augustus (Died at Corpus Christi, Texas on February 3, 1847)
13. CLARK, William, 24 (CLARKE)
14. CRISWELL, John, 28 (CRISWELL)
15. CRISWELL, John T., 22 (John Y.)
16. CROWNOVER, Chelrey, 21 (Chesley)
17. CUMMINGS, Joseph, 21
18. CUMMINGS, Washington, 19
19. CUMMINGS, Wiley C. (Died at the Guadalupe River on February 10, 1847)
20. DIAL, William (DOYLE; discharged for ? on August 3, 1846)
21. DOANE, James A., 31 (DOAN)
22. DOLAN, Joseph H., 27 (DOLAND)
23. DOUGHTY, Daniel, 24
24. DUGAN, Mathew, 24 (Michael)
25. DWYER, Dennis, 23 (DWYRE)
26. DWYER, Timothy, 21
27. FRAME, William, 21
28. GUTHERE, William A., 25
29. HALE, Henry, 30 (HALL)
30. HARDY, Edward (Discharged for ? on August 3, 1846)
31. HART, Henry A. (Died at Camargo, Mexico on May 1, 1847)
32. HART, Timothy, 20
33. HERRALD, Leander, 24 (HEROLD)
34. HICKMAN, William, 19
35. HODAL, Jacob, 30 (HUDLE)
36. HOLBIN, Rubin, 22
37. HORD, Edward R., 21 (HOARD)
38. LEACH, Admiral W., 28
39. LOOK, Austin D., 22
40. MARRS, James, 30
41. MARSHALL, Jesse D., 23
42. MCGLOWEN, John, 21 (MCGLOWAN)
43. MCPETERS, George, 18
44. MCPETERS, John, 19
45. MCPETERS, Thomas, 40
46. MILLER, Henry (Discharged for ? on August 3, 1846)
47. MILLIGAN, Little (Died at Corpus Christi, Texas on November 30, 1846)
48. MIMMS, Jefferson (Died at Monterey, Mexico on April 1, 1847)

23

Criswell, Jackson

**Bell's Co. Texas Mtd. Vols.
(Mexican War.)**

Private | *Private*

CARD NUMBERS.

1	<i>11465310</i>	28
2		29
3		30
4		31
5		32
6		33
7		34
8		35
9		36
10		37
11		38
12		39
13		40
14		41
15		42
16		43
17		44
18		45
19		46
20		47
21		48
22		49
23		50

Number of personal papers herein 0

Book Mark: _____

See also _____

6 | Bell's Co. Mtd. Vols. | **Texas.**

Jackson Criswell

Pr, Capt. Bell's Co., Texas Mounted Vols.
(Mexican War.)

not stated
Age.....years.

Appears on **Co. Muster-out Roll**, dated
Matamoras, Mexico, July 6, 1846.

Muster-out to date....., 184 .

Last paid to....., 184 .

Clothing account:

Last settled....., 184 ; drawn since \$..... 100

Due soldier \$..... 100; due U. S. \$..... 100

Am't for cloth'g in kind or money adv'd \$..... 100

Due U. S. for arms, equipments, &c., \$..... 100

Bounty paid, \$..... 100; due, \$..... 100.

Valuation of horse, \$..... 100

Valuation of horse equipments, \$..... 100

Remarks *Absent. Returned to his home from the
Christ's station of his company on the expiration
of his term of involvement, 10 June, 1846. Pay due.*

This company was originally mustered in to serve 3 months from September 10, 1845. On expiration of service it was continued in service for 3 months by order of Gen. Taylor, those men who wished to do so going home. This was repeated on expiration of second service. June 10, 1846 (expiration of third service), the company was not mustered out owing to the "circumstances of the service." Those who desired it were dismissed, and the rest mustered out on reaching Matamoras.

Book mark :-----

1000
(861) Copyist.

Jackson Criswell

AUG. 18.

11468310

1891

from 12 April 1846 to 10 June 1846.

(Enrolled April 12/46 at C Christie
for 3 mos) meter not shown

24

Criswell, John G.

**Bell's Co. Texas Mtd. Vols.
(Mexican War.)**

Private

Private

CARD NUMBERS.

1	11468261	28
2	11468312	27
3		28
4		29
5		30
6		31
7		32
8		33
9		34
10		35
11		36
12		37
13		38
14		39
15		40
16		41
17		42
18		43
19		44
20		45
21		46
22		47
23		48
24		49
25		50

Number of personal papers herein *0*

✓ Book Mark

✓ See also

6 | Bell's Co. Mtd. Vols. | **Texas.**

John Y. Criswell

Priv, Capt. Bell's Co., Texas Mounted Vols.
(Mexican War.)

Age *not stated* years.

Appears on Co. Muster-out Roll, dated

Matamoras, Mexico, July 6, 1846.

Muster-out to date *July 6, 1846.*

Last paid to *184*

Clothing account:

Last settled....., 184 ; drawn since \$..... 100

Due soldier \$..... 100; due U. S. \$..... 100

Am't for cloth'g in kind or money adv'd \$..... 100

Due U. S. for arms, equipments, &c., \$..... 100

Bounty paid, \$..... 100; due, \$..... 100.

Valuation of horse, \$..... 100

Valuation of horse equipments, \$..... 100

Remarks *Pay due from 10 Dec 45 to 10 June 46.*

This company was originally mustered in to serve 3 months from September 10, 1845. On expiration of service it was continued in service for 3 months by order of Gen. Taylor, those men who wished to do so going home. This was repeated on expiration of second service. June 10, 1846 (expiration of third service), the company was not mustered out owing to the "circumstances of the service." Those who desired it were dismissed, and the rest mustered out on reaching Matamoras.

Book mark :

(361)

Hoods

Copyist.

6 | Bell's Co. Mtd. Vols. | **Texas.**

John Y. Criswell

Priv, Capt. Bell's Co., Texas Mounted Vols.
(Mexican War.)

Age *not stated* years.

Appears on

Company Muster-in Roll

of the organization named above. Roll dated

Corpus Christi, Tex., Dec. 27, 1845.

Muster-in to date *Sept. 10, 1845.*

Joined for duty and enrolled:

When *Sept. 10*....., 1845 .

Where *Corpus Christi*.....

Period *3 months* years.

Bounty paid \$..... 100; due \$..... 100

Valuation of horse, \$..... 100

Valuation of horse equipments, \$..... 100

Remarks :

~~THIS IS AN FILE MUSTER ROLL~~

This company was originally mustered in to serve 3 months from September 10, 1845. On expiration of service it was continued in service for 3 months by order of Gen. Taylor, those men who wished to do so going home. This was repeated on expiration of second service. June 10, 1846 (expiration of third service), the company was not mustered out owing to the "circumstances of the service." Those who desired it were dismissed, and the rest mustered out on reaching Matamoras.

Book mark :

(356)

Hoods

Copyist.

25

Criswell, Joseph E.

**Bell's Co. Texas Mtd. Vols.
(Mexican War.)**

Private

Private

CARD NUMBERS.

1	<i>11468260</i>	28
2	<i>11468311</i>	27
3		28
4		29
5		30
6		31
7		32
8		33
9		34
10		35
11		36
12		37
13		38
14		39
15		40
16		41
17		42
18		43
19		44
20		45
21		46
22		47
23		48
24		49
25		50

Number of personal papers herein *0*

Book Mark: _____

See also _____

AUG. 18.

11468311

1891

from 10 Dec. '45, to 10 June '46.

6

Bell's Co. Mtd. Vols. | Texas.

Joseph E. Criswell

Capt. Bell's Co., Texas Mounted Vols. (Mexican War.)

Age ^{not stated} years.

Appears on

Company Muster-in Roll

of the organization named above. Roll dated

near Corpus Christi, Tex., Oct. 27, 1845.

Muster-in to date Oct. 1, 1845.

Joined for duty and enrolled:

When Oct. 1, 1845.

Where Corpus Christi

Period 3 months years.

Bounty paid \$ 100; due \$ 100

Valuation of horse, \$ 100

Valuation of horse equipments, \$ 100

Remarks:

SEE BILL ON FILE MUSTER CO.

This company was originally mustered in to serve 3 months from September 10, 1845. On expiration of service it was continued in service for 3 months by order of Gen. Taylor, those men who wished to do so going home. This was repeated on expiration of second service. June 10, 1846 (expiration of third service), the company was not mustered out owing to the "circumstances of the service." Those who desired it were dismissed, and the rest mustered out on reaching Matamoras.

Book mark:

Handwritten mark

(256)

Copyist.

6 | Bell's Co. Mtd. Vols. | **Texas.**

J. E. Criswell

Prk....., Capt. Bell's Co., Texas Mounted Vols.
(Mexican War)

not stated
Age..... years.

Appears on **Co. Muster-out Roll**, dated
Matamoros Mexico July, 184*6* .
Muster-out-to-date....., 184 .
Last paid to, 184 .

Clothing account:

Last settled....., 184 ; drawn since \$..... 100
Due soldier \$..... 100; due U. S. \$..... 100
Am't for cloth'g in kind or money adv'd \$..... 100
Due U. S. for arms, equipments, &c., \$..... 100
Bounty paid, \$..... 100; due, \$..... 100.
Valuation of horse, \$..... 100

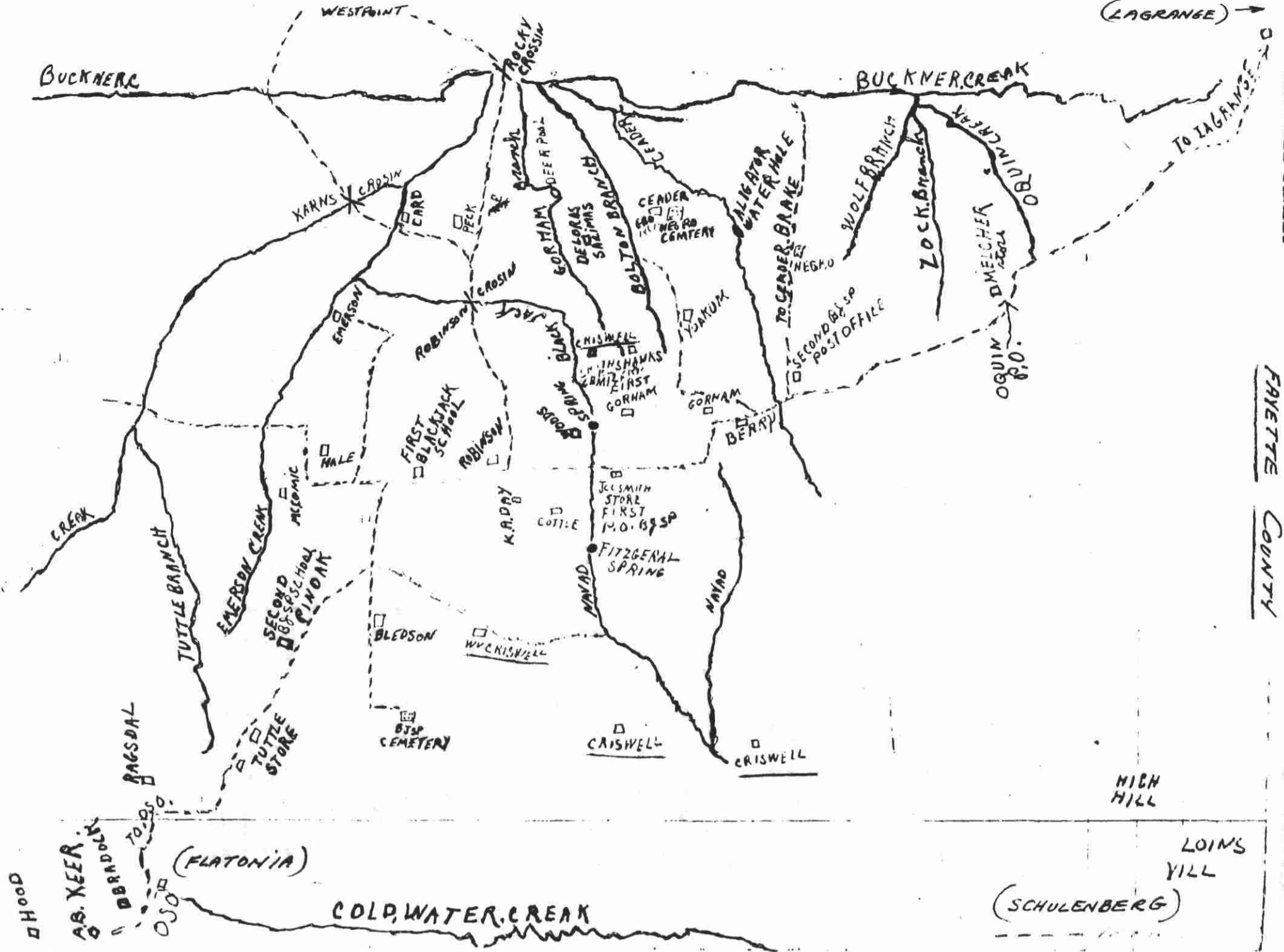
Valuation of horse equipments, \$..... 100

Remarks *absent. Returned to his home from 10*
Christi the station of his Company, on the expiration
of his term of enrollment June 10th 1846. Pay due

This company was originally mustered in to serve 3 months from September 10, 1845. On expiration of service it was continued in service for 3 months by order of Gen. Taylor. those men who wished to do so going home. This was repeated on expiration of second service. June 10, 1846 (expiration of third service), the company was not mustered out owing to the "circumstances of the service." Those who desired it were dismissed, and the rest mustered out on reaching Matamoros.

Book mark :

..... *Hoods*
(361) Copyright.



E-22

(LAGRANGE)

HIGH HILL

(FLATONIA)

LOINS YILL

(SCHULENBERG)

COLD WATER CREEK

Hood
AS. KEER
BRANDON

TO S.C.
TO S.C.
TO S.C.

RAGSDAL

TUTTLE BRANCH

EMERSON CREEK

SECOND SCHOOL

TUTTLE STORE

MC COMIC

EMERSON

FIRST BLACK JACK SCHOOL

ROBINSON

ROBINSON CROSSIN

EMERSON

CARD

PECK

K.A. DAY

COTTLE

SPRING

BLACK JACK

GORNAM

DELORES

SALIMANS

GORNAM

ROCKY CROSSIN

J.C. SMITH STORE

FIRST M.O. B.S.P.

FITZGERALD SPRING

CHISWELL

SHANKS

GORNAM

BOLTON BRANCH

CENDER

NAVAD

NAVAD

GORNAM

GORNAM

YAKUM

CEADER

CEADER

CEADER

BERRY

GORNAM

GORNAM

WOLF BRANCH

WOLF BRANCH

WOLF BRANCH

WOLF BRANCH

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CRISWELL

CRISWELL MARRIAGES--FAYETTE COUNTY, TEXAS

This list includes every marriage of the Criswell Family who married in Fayette County, Texas, beginning in 1838. (Original spelling used)

Candace Criswell & Lee F. T. Cottle on Jan. 29, 1838. (Daughter of John Y. Criswell, Sr.)
 Mary Jane Criswell & William Madden on Sept. 16, 1838. (" " " " ")
 Leroy V. Criswell & Eliza McMicken on Feb. 24, 1842. (Son of John Y. Criswell, Sr.)
 Wm. V. Criswell & Mary E. McMicken on Oct. 12, 1844. (" " " " ")
 Andrew Jackson Criswell & Sarah Trimble on May 20, 1847. (" " " " ")
 John Y. Criswell & Mary R. Daniel on Dec. 2, 1847 (Son " " " " ")
 Joseph E. Criswell & Sarah Ann McMicken on 6-1-1848. (" " " " ")
 James Henry Criswell & Cary Harkins on Oct. 20, 1856. (" " " " ")
 Eliza Jane Criswell & Wm. J. Boykin on Sept. 30, 1858. (Daughter of Leroy Criswell)
 Mary E. Criswell & Benj. W. Cary on March 15, 1860. (" " " " ")
 Elizabeth J. Criswell & John C. Jones on Nov. 7, 1865. (" " Wm. V. Criswell)
 Martha Criswell & James Jackson on June 24, 1866. (" " Wm. V. Criswell)
 Sarah E. Criswell & W. H. S. Lee on Jan. 8, 1867. (Daughter of Wm. V. Criswell)
 Martha F. Criswell & R. P. Kirk on May 30, 1867. (Daughter of John Y. Criswell, Jr.)
 Saphronia Criswell & Jasper W. Cross on Aug. 15, 1867. (Daughter of Joe Criswell) Joseph
 J. F. Criswell & Margaret Jackson on Feb. 5, 1868. (Son of Leroy Criswell)
 Mary A. Criswell & J. W. Lyons on June 2, 1870. (Daughter of Wm. V. Criswell)
 Mary E. Criswell & James F. Ayers on Jan. 18, 1871. (Daughter of John Y. Criswell, Jr.)
 John H. Criswell & Lattiticia J. Jones on Sept. 2, 1875. (Son of Wm. V. Criswell)
 Lillie M. Criswell & John P. Waddell on Oct. 4, 1875. (Daughter of Wm. V. Criswell)
 Anderson Criswell & Susan M Sullivan on Dec. 2, 1875. (Son of Joe Criswell)
 Lucy A. Criswell & W. R. Campbell on Dec. 2, 1875. (Daughter of John Y. Criswell, Jr.)
 James Y. Criswell & Ardelia Burk on Feb. 1, 1876. (Son of Wm. V. Criswell)
 Mary Ann Criswell & C. A. Ivy on Dec. 27, 1876. (Daughter of James Criswell)
 J. E. Criswell & G. W. Izard on Nov. 8, 1877. (This could be Leroy's daughter)-Yes
 Thomas J. Criswell & Frances A. McCormic on Feb. 20, 1878. (Step-son of Jim Criswell)
 D. R. Criswell & Belle Secrest on April 14, 1881. (Son of Leroy Criswell)
 Martha J. Criswell & M. B. Sadler on Sept. 13, 1882. (Daughter of Joe Criswell) James Ed
 Amanda M. Criswell & Samuel E. Powell on Sept. 14, 1882. (Daughter of Joe Criswell)
 Mrs. Frances A. Criswell & A. M. Karnes on Nov. 15, 1882. (Divorced wife of T.J. Criswell)
 Emma Criswell & A. D. Karnes on July 31, 1883. (Daughter of Jim)
 Joel S. Criswell & Mary Nickel on April 19, 1893. (Son of John Y. Criswell, Jr.)
 Ida Criswell & M. B. Jones on Dec. 1, 1897. (Daughter of John Y., son of Wm. V. Criswell)
 L. May Criswell & S. D. Bell on Oct. 26, 1898. (Daughter of John Y., son of Wm. V. Criswell)
 Bernice Criswell & Wesley B. Jones on Nov. 7, 1900. (Dtr. of John Y., son of Wm. V. Criswell)
 Mittie E. Criswell to G.H. Davidson on Dec. 30, 1903 (" " " " ")

TRANSCRIPTION OF LEROY VANNOY CRISWELL WILL, ESTATE RECORDS

Will Book G, p. 69:

State of Texas) To the Honorable County Court of Fayette County. Having been
County of Fayette) solicited by the Relatives of Leroy Criswell to take charge
of the Estate. I hereby make application for letters of ad-
ministration on the estate of Leroy V. Criswell & wife deceased at the Next Term
of Said Court this the 29th day of June A. D. 1866.

A. B. Kerr

Will Book G, p. 69:

(The State of Texas)
(County of Fayette)

In the Name of God Amen. Know all men I make this my last Will & Testament, revok-
ing all others heretofore made by me. First after death that My Sole return to God
who gives it. 2nd That all my Just debts be paid, that the Court appoint three men
to make out a inventory of all my property, return it to the County Clerk and he to
record it, then the Court to have no more to do with it. It is my wish for the fam-
ily to remain on the place that I live upon or so long as my wife remains a widow.
In Case of her marriage the Second time, the She to pay rent for the place to my
heirs or their Guardians or Attorneys & that to pay the debts against me if any that
Such of the property as can be best done without, be Sold to pay them. That it is
my earnest desire that my Children all have a Education that they can do their own
Business. I will and bequeath all of my property to my Children to be divided equally
to all Share and Share alike without any partiality, in the land, the Negroes, the
cattle, horses & tenements & every thing named and unnamed known as property that
belongs to me now or hereafter. I give to my Wife Elizabeth A. Criswell all that
the law allows her at the time of Our Marriage and no more that is the Community
property Strictly to the law that at the time of the Marriage between us. I have
the following property: one-eighth of a League My father's head rite, Five hundred
acres out of A. Karnes League, my head rite one third of a League, 1476 acres, the
place on which I lived when the Marriage took place. The five hundred acres I
sold and bought the place where I now live with the proceeds of the one-eighth I
sold for stock and other articles for Family use. The one-third of a League I
sold and bought a Negro woman and from some dissatisfaction I sold her and with the
proceeds of her I bought the one I now own, Malinaa. All of the above property
I claim as not being community property, and it is my wish that my children have it
as above named, that my wife have None of it at all. This is my wish for her high
regard felt and acted and exprest on many occasions. In testimony whereof I appoint
William S. Webb my attorney to carry out the intent of this will. I appoint W. S.
Webb and A. Yenefree Executors to the foregoing will, and I have subscribed my name
this the 5th day of August A.D. 1862. Interlined before signed.

Leroy V. Criswell

Witnesses:

Jacob Castleman; James Clemons

X

X

CRISWELL FAMILY

INVENTORY OF THE ESTATE OF
WILLIAM VANNOY CRISWELL

According to Fayette County Court records (statement of Mary Criswell, widow) the following in an inventory of the property of William Vannoy Criswell, who died intestate on January 19, 1858.

Inventory and appraisement filed 22nd March 1858 of the common property of Wm. Criswell decd and Mary his surviving wife.

2 Bay horses \$200. 1 old mare \$35.	\$235.00
1- 4 year old mare \$66. 1- 2 year old mare \$40.	106.00
1- 1 year old colt 30. 1 yoke oxen \$50.	80.00
1 cart \$5. 1 - 2 horse wagon \$65.	70.00
50 head of Cattle \$6. 30 head hogs \$1.	330.00
1 Negro man \$900.00. 1 Negro girl \$200.00.	1100.00
250 acres land \$7. 300 acres land \$4.00	2950.00
300 acres land @ 50¢. 200 acres land @ 50¢.	250.00
Cash \$88.50. 300 lbs. cotton 9¢.	115.50
Household furniture & Farming tools	<u>50.00</u>
Total	\$5,536.50

TRANSCRIPTIONS OF LETTERS TO/FROM THOMAS MENEFEE CRISWELL - VARIOUS CORRESPONDENTS
Thomas Menefee Criswell, b. Nov. 5, 1856, Fayette County, Texas. Never married,
 died April 12, 1886. Buried Milam County, Texas.

Dodge City KS
 Jan 24th 1881

Dear brother I will write you a few lines to let you know where I am. am
 well Present & hope this may find you enjoying the same good health.
 Dave I received a letter from you on last Christmas day, & I answered it
 in a few day afterwords but have not rec. any answer & I write this thinking
 Proibly my letter never reached you.

I have no news to write it has ben a terrible hard winter up here the worst
 ever known in Kansas. Every thing has ben froze up since about the first of
 November but stock is doing very well so far. Dal got back to the ranch
 yesterday he brought his wife with him. most of the boys that was on this
 ranch when you was here is still here now Brown, John George & Wash Linkins
 the latter started for Bryan Texas four days ago to return the first of
 March.

Jess Driskill is here also. Dave the fellow called Concho that worked here
 when you did killed Henry Heck, the man that kept the Mulbury ranch about
 an old blister and has ben convicted of murder in the second degree but
 sentence has not ben passed on him yet. The generl opinion is that he will
 go up for about twelve years Dave you asked me in your letter if I knew Tolbert
 Driskills P.O. address it is Coleman City, Coleman County Texas he is working
 down there for old Bill Day he brought two herds up for him last year.
 Dave write as soon as you get this & tell me how you are getting a long &
 give me all the news I would like to come back & see all the folks once
 more but I have not been anywhere in so long I dont feel like going at al So
 I will close for the Present hoping to hear from you soon I remain as
 ever your brother

T. M. Criswell

Direct to J. W. Driskill

Dodge City K.S. Feb 21 1881

Mr. D. R. Criswell, Schulenburg Texas

Dear brother I received your letter a few days since. was glad to hear from
 you, & to know you was well. I have no news to write the weather is nice
 and warm just now the first pleasant weather we have had since the tenth
 of November, 1880. On the 5th of this month we had the worst snow storm I
 ever seen, it lasted about ten days if we have another such storm as it
 were cattle will die here by the thousands. they are dieing now in the
 western part of this state & in Colorado also. A few is dieing here
 me & Dal Jess & som french skined nine to day. the railroad cars is
 killing an average of 25 head pr. day out west of Dodge they are cattle
 that has drifted from the Smoky river and Platt river it is reported that
 there is fifteen thousand head lodged on the arkansas river above Dodge City
 thirty men has come to Dodge to cross them on to the south side of the
 Arkansas river if they succeed I guess they will clean up this range before
 spring there has ben lots of men froze to death in this country this
 winter some has had their face frost bitten until it would peel off like
 a scald. Their is fifteen men in the hospital at Fort Elliott waiting

CRISWELL FAMILY

to have their feet amputated caused from being froze. some looses one foot & some looses both.--I have just got over the mumps I come out from Dodge on the 13th & the Mumps went down on me. I was in a bad fix for about a week but I think I am over them now all the damage they have done me except to make me suffer a good deal is to cost me one hundred dollars \$100.00 Dave I am glad you are going to get married every young man I think ought to marry before he gets too old I wish I had of married five years ago, but as it is I don't know whether I will ever marry or not. Probly some day I will. but not soon to who when or where abouts I have no more idea than an unborn baby---- so hoping to hear from you soon I will close as ever your brother T. M. Criswell

Camp Supply I. T.
July 31st 1881

Dear brother as I have just finished a long letter to my girl I will endeavor to drop you a few lines in answer to yours recd to day before I retire. no news that I know of but the world could half burn up & I would not know it down here where I am it has ben raining for everl days & grass is better that ever seen it in my country & cattle is fat & getting fatter I got a letter from Jim Snodgrass the other day he said Lee come up the trail this spring but I have not heard anything about him arriving yet you asked about how was oorn crops in Kansas I dont know any thing about what is going on in the farming part of KS for I have not seen a paper thats went to press since the President was shot & some time before that I am just three months behind the times

Dave is your wife a sister to Bud Secrest or a daughter of Frank Secrest. I dont know which one of the girls you got tell Lillie I am patiently waiting for her to answer my letter Dave you said Driskill must have 40,000. or 50,000 head of cattle They have got about 30,000 head besides this year's calves they still own or ranch in Dakota & two ranches in KS & one in the territory bud told me the other day that he would not take \$23.50 per head for these cattle in the nation they keep up three different brands theres

DDD ~~OO~~ F ~~OO~~ V - ~~OO~~

Cal & Evans keeps up two brands thus

KK ~~OO~~ S.L.D ~~OO~~

Jess brands thus JES ~~OO~~

So I will close for the present hoping to hear from you soon I remain as ever your brother

T. M. Criswell
Camp Supply
I. T.

[Transcriber's notes: T. M. Criswell was an operations manager for the Driskill Land and Cattle Company. David Robert, Milam, and Lee, three of the other brothers are also known to have driven cattle for the Driskills. the I.T. ref. above = Indian Territory, nation = Indian Nation. The President who was shot is a reference to James Garfield, who was shot on July 2, 1881, and later died on Sept. 19, 1881.

TRANSCRIPTION OF TM CRISWELL LETTERS

Wright, Beverly & Co.
Dealers in
General Merchandise
Dodge City
April 6th 1881

D. R. Criswell

Dear brother I received your letter to day was glad to hear from you & am glad to know you are married and settled down. I have no news to write there is better prospects for grass this year than was ever known in this country at the time of year roundup began on the first 30 miles below Driskill ranch on the Cimmaron I left the round up party yestraday morning on Snake Creek I am in Dodge City at Present waiting for some fine bulls to arrive from Kansas City Mo to take them to the ranch Dave I would like to have a picture of yourself and wife you must send me one soon I would send you one enclosed in this but there is no artist at Dodge City when I have an oppertunity to have some taken I will Send you one I will send you the Ford County Globe a paper printed at Dodge City so hoping to hear from you soon I will close as ever your brother

T M Criswell

Ft. Supply I. T.
July 10th 1881

D. R. Criswell

Dear brother I received your letter to day was glad to hear from you I have no news to write times is quiet & cattle is fattening fast I am in the Indian Territory on the Canadian river & have ben for two months Driskill bought out Lee & Reynolds last winter and is holding on their old range I am camped 26 miles below Supply. Driskill bought out the $\frac{1}{2}$ cattle owned by John Fraser Deceased there is seven thousand head of them Dave how long has Milam ben down in Fayette co & how come him to leave Bill & Sues (?) & does he know how to read & write well. I thought he was still with Bill you had better persuade him not to go to where Lee is yet he is too young to start out yet try & keep him from going tell him I will give him a nice suit of clothes if he will not go & stay wher he is have you heard from Lee lately & what is he doing So hoping this may find you & wife well I will close as ever your brother. T.M.C.
Direct to Ft. Supply indian Territory

TRANSCRIPTIONS OF T.M. CRISWELL LETTERS CONTINUED

Camp Supply I.T.

Aug. 25, 81

Dear Brother I recd your letter the other day was glad to hear from you I have no news to write it is very warm here during the day, but the nights is getting cool there is no news in these parts that I have heard of. Bud Driskill sold these cattle the other day for \$22.50 & me & L A Brown will start up to the Cimarron ranch day after tomorrow the rest of the boys that was working for him here is going to work for the man that bought the cattle I have not seen Jess nor Dal in three months Wash Lankins John George & Brown has all bought some cattle this year they all bought heifers yearlings at \$12.00 per head & Wash bought 210 John 100 Brown 80 head they are going to put them in with Bud after frost I heard of Tom Jackson passing up the trail this spring but didnt see him I got a letter from Bill the other day he said Milan was back at his house & was going to school this fall so hoping to hear from you soon I will close your brother

T M Criswell

PS. Direct to Deep Hole, Clark PO, Kans, thats the new PO where the Trail crosses the Cimarron

Deep Hole Kans

Oct 3 1881

D. R. Criswell

Dear Brother

I recd your letter the other day. I was glad to hear from you. I have no news to write things is getting quiet now & will be more so soon for we will all soon go in our winter quarters to crawl out again next April. The outfit is gone to ~~price~~ now with 1000 beeves to ship when they get back we will bound up and brand and make a small shipment & then the circus is over until next spring

it is terrible lonesome here after the work is all over and every body in winter camps. Bud Driskill has sold his intrest in this Ranch to the old man Y I for one hundred and seven thousand dollars and has bought the Ranch in Dakota you asked how long I expected to stay in this country or whether I expected to make this my home or not I expect to make this country or some country north of here my home for years or until I make a stake I never intend to go any where or let up trying until I get a good stake if I never get it I will be found an old man a Trying. I have had no oppertunity to have any Photographs taken I believe ther is an artist in Dodge now & when I go there again I will have some taken & send you one. About Tolbert Driskill I dont know where he is now he is not working for Bill Day any more after he left Day this last spring at Coleman City Tex he went to Coleman City so I heard & went to Drinking whiskey & gambling & was there the last I heard of him he has ben going down hill & loosing foot holt for two years I will find out where he is if I can and let you know so I will close for the Present hoping to hear from you soon I remain as ever your Brother

T M Criswell

Deep Hole Kans

TRANSCRIPTION OF T. M. CRISWELL LETTERS CONTINUED

Deep Hole Kansas May 4 1882

D R CRISWELL

I will start down in the nation
a hundred miles south east of here in
the morning on a cow hunt

Dear Brother

I received your postal Several days since but was with the roundup and have not had time hardly to eat until to night. I got a letter from Lee at the time I received your postal he is up and will be able to go to work in a few days. the Scrape was all about nothing it was caused from Lee being Drinking and another Party aging him on, & it was a lad of a boy 18 or 20 years old that cut Lee the cut was just inside the left thigh about three inches below the groin & was six inches long. it was the worst looking Place I ever seen in my life. When I was down there and they Said it was well then to what it had ben

Lee has been with the rong crowd of boys down in that country boys that would work a while & then go and Spree their money away I think if I can get him up here with me he will do better as there is none of the boys here that Drinks and rowdys around Lee had no money nor horse or Saddle when he got into the fuss he got sixty dollars about three or four days after it had happened that I had sent him to come up here on. by rail the whole thing cost me just even three hundred dollars but I dont mind it more than if it had only cost me five cents if Lee will do better and try to do some thing for himself and not spend all his money as fast as he makes it I would of wrote you about it sooner but I was waiting for you to answer my last letter when I would of wrote you all about it I have ben very busy since I got back gethering horses and getting ready for roundups write soon as ever you Bro T M Criswell

Buffalo Kans July 8 1882

D R Criswell

Dear Brother

I will drop you a few lines this evening as this the first chance I have had since roundup began I am now one hundred & fifty miles north of the ranch on my way to Dakota with a herd of four thousand yearlings for J. L. Driskill & son. I am going to take charge of their new ranch up there at \$75 per month this year and a hundred dollars per month next year if they put more cattle on their ranch

I would of wrote sooner but I actually have not had time Dave if you will find out how much money it will take to rail in mothers & fathers & brother Larkins graves & write to me I will pay for it all my self. I feel ashamed for my part that it has not been done long ago. so I will close for the Present as ever your Brother

T M Criswell

P S Direct to Spearfish PO Dakota Territory

Little Moissouri river

Montana territory

Sept 20 1882

Dear Brother

I received your letter to day & was glad to hear from you. I got here

& turned my herd loose on the 1st of this month I have just got through branding the other two herds & started the out fit back to Kansas. I have 9005 head on the range besides the cattle that has been here since '79.. I have not heard from Lee since before I started from the Cimarron. if you know where he is & what he is doing let me know. also where Brother Milan is & what he is doing about the old sorel horse you can have him if you can make anything out of him keep it I will pay all the expences of fixing up our father & mothers & brothers graves. as you have a family to take care of and that is more than I ever expect to have Dave if I was you I would leave that country if I ever got able and go north to some stock country. I will go to Deadwood some time this winter & have some Pictures taken & send you one I dont think I will ever go back to Texas any more. I think it is the Poorest country in the world. I will close for the present hoping to hear from you soon I remain as ever your brother ,,T. M. Criswell
Care J. L. Driskill & sons
Spearfish, D. T.

Ranch Belle fourche
Nov. 5th 1882
D. R. Criswell

Dear brother

I received your letter Several days Since would of answered before now but have had no oppertunity to mail a letter until now. no news to write we are having nice weather for this time of year in this country only had one snow storm that amounted to much, that was on the 16th of Sept. last. I have turned all the cattle loose now and have nothing much to do until next spring

I dread the time from now until next spring worse than all the working Season on account of every thing being so dull

Dave I will send you the \$20.00 the first time I go to Spearfish or Deadwood and you can have the graves fixed to suit your self. I have not heard from Lee or Miliam Since last Spring. I dont know where either of them is. I will have some pictures taken soon & send you one. I dont know what is going on down on the ranch in Kansas, have not heard from there lately Tobe & the old man has sold their Kansas Ranch to Dock Day to be delivered next Spring Dal and Evans has also sold their ranch there to Dock Day for the sum of Sixty five thousand dollars \$65,000 Jesse has sold his cattle too and has about eight thousand dollars in money

L. A. Brown is running the Kansas ranch for Driskill John George is still on the ? ranch yet and runs one hundred half breed three year old heifers in the spring Wash Lamkin is up here with Butts out fit with Tennessee or J. A. Vaughan in Charge. Wash has got one hundred cows & calves up here with Bud. My camp is 15 miles a bove buds ranch on the Belle Fourche river I had six men & 150 head of saddle horses to look out for & no more til Spring four of us went out deer hunting for three days and killed 28 of the finest black tail deer you ever seen the deer is as fat as the fattest fat cow you ever seen we killed all the deer in 4 miles of my camp there is also mountain sheep elk and bear in two miles of my camp, but in the roughest place on earth. no more at present your Brother as ever

T M Criswell

Dave today is my birth day I am 26 years old today the 5th of Nov 1882 TMC

TRANSCRIPTION OF T. M. CRISWELL LETTERS CONTINUED

COSMOPOLITAN HOTEL
Olaf Helweg, Proprietor

Deadwood, Dakota, Nov. 9th 1882

Dear Brother

I received your letter on the 6th inst was glad to hear from you. no news to write we are having very nice weather I came down to Dead yestraday, me & Wash Lamkin. we will start in about an hour for Spearfish by stage. Dave in regard to seeing old man Driskill about what you said I will say that I will probly not see him until next summer and maybe not then. I never seen the old old man but three times in my life and the third time was when he hired me to bring up the herd & run the ranch. I never spoke over a half dosen words to him in my life. You are probly better acquainted with him than I am if you think you can make a deal with him you can write to him at Austin Texas. I would like to help you if I could but it is just as I tell you. I will have to close as the stage is waiting on me now as ever your brother TM. Criswell

Stoneville M. T. 3/27/84

D. R. Criswell

Dear Brother I received your letter yestraday & was glad to hear from you. no news in this country. we have had two weeks of as nice weather as I ever Seen. & the snow has all melted except in Places where it was drifted 5 & 6 feet deep, but it commence storming again this evening & from the present indications I think we will have 5 or 6 inches of snow by morning cattle & horses look well considering the Bad weather from the 1st of Jan to the middle of March. You asked about the fight at Stoneville between the officers & horse thieves it happened on the 14th of Feb in this way. there were six of the horse thieves & one of their number was in Jail at Miles City for Stealing indian horses in Dakota & a Deadwood officer would pass Stoneville ___ on or about the 14th of Feb with the prisoner bound for Deadwood & these 6 friends & pardners of the Prisoner made their threats all over the country that they would liberate the Prisoner or kill the officers in charge of him before they passed Stoneville in fact they had ben waiting for several days at Stoneville for the Prisoner to come a long & the officers from Spearfish & Deadwood found out that the thieves were at Stoneville waiting to liberate their Pal. & on the 14th of feb four of the officers came to Stoneville & went to a house a bout 4 hundred yds from the Saloon where the thieves were stationed they expected to meet the officer from miles at Stoneville but as they didnt meet him & the horse thieves started toward miles immediately after the officers arrived they thought then was thier only chance & so they steped out of the house & commence firing on the thieves they killed 4 head of horses & wounded one Harry Tuttle of the gang & one of their party was killed it is not known whether any more of the gang was wounded or not one of the Horse thieves were killed the next night five miles below Stoneville where he was waiting for some one to bring him a horse you did not know any of the Parties that was killed or wounded there was about 8 or 10 cowhands at Stoneville the day of the fight & among them were these two men of mine Harris & Cunningham after the fight had stopped between the officers & thieves the Boys all stepped out of the Saloon to see what was the matter outside & they were all Standing in a bunch when the horse thieves fired

TRANSCRIPTION: T. M. CRISWELL LETTERS CONTINUED

into the crowd from the Brush & killed Cunningham & wounded Harris they had no cause what ever for shooting into the cowpunchers as they took no Part whatever in the fight J. C. was standing in the crowd of cowpunchers when Harris & Cunnigham was shot this horse thief Tuttle that was wounded in the arm was sent to the hospital at Spearfish and after words taken out & hung by masked men I will speak to Lee about what you said when I see him again so no more at Present Your Brother

T. M. Criswell

March the 19th 1885
Gordon City Neb

Mr. T. M. Criswell

Dear friend tom I will drop you a few lines to let you know that I am still on the turf and hope that these few lines will finde you in joying good helth Well tom I have had a hell of a time this Winter a drifting a round over the country it has been coald as hell in this country lots of cattle died Snow is a foot deep now tom I saw old Bill H. not long ago he is still in the ring

Well tom I am coming up the trail in the summer this country is no good the grangers has took this country Jim Murray is married and doing Well he took his old name When he got married Bennett Irwin is doing Well he has got a hotell and libery stable in gordon city Well tom I want you to Write to me and tell me all of the news what has become of lee I have written too letters to Hood but have not heard from him yet I want you to Write the general news of the country Tom I started to go to Texas last fall but Jim didnt want me to go Tom let me know What old Hood is doing What has become of George Jackson is Billy Howell still in the country and Bill Coyle tom have you heard from D.R.C. lately has he give out the notion of coming up to that country or not Well tom old boy I believe that is all I can think of So I will close hoping to hear from you soon

I still remain your friend

D. W. Tate

Direct your letters to

S. J. Irwin

Gordon City, Nebraska

(Transcriber's note: The next letter is from Lee Criswell to D. R. Criswell, but since it concerns T. M. Criswell, it is included here.)

Chadron Neb May 10th 1885

Mr. D. R. Criswell

Dear brother I thought I would write you a few lines and let you know that Tom is in a very bad fix and I want you to come get him he has a bout two thousand dollars.

Dave come wright away and get him.

I cant stay with him as I had a little trouble up there last spring

Dave I have been down in Neb after cattle for J. S. Irwin and I am on my way back to Montana Dave be sure and come after Tom. I will give him all the money I make after his gone I will close asking you come and get Tom. give my love to Bell, and tell her brother is with me

Lee Criswell

address your letters to Miles City Montana in care of J. S. Irwin

TRANSCRIPTION OF T. M. CRISWELL LETTERS CONTINUED

Winchester PO Fayette Co Texas
 March 9, 1885,

Mr. T. M. Criswell
 dear Cousin

I will try this lonesome morning to answer your kind & most appreciated letter which I received in ___ time. It found all well. but this letter is leaveing mone of us well my little Benna boy was very sick last week but he is up now & _ath is very near sick & I feel worse than git out. We have not planted any corn yet but will next week we have planted water-melons & garden seeds. every thing looks like spring here. the grass is peeping up & the trees is budding and blooming. well I just dont know notheing to write

Sister Em has another little girl that is two for her her post office is Indianapolis Mason County Texas I had a letter from brother Tom about two weeks ago they were all well & doing well his post office is Cowboy PO McCulloch County Texas.

I shall call you a mean boy here after. here I was so uneasy about you I did not know what to do & come to find out it was a girl causing your heart disease. never mind old fellow I'll pay you for that--why didnt you write & tel me all about it you know your own affairs would interest me more than anything else & you know that I have kept secrets for you & why cant I again I have not changed any unless I have gotten a little better & I am not so wild as I used to be. as you know I had plenty of room to get better but I have one great consolation & that is I can get forgiveness for all the meanness I ever done before I die. if I will only ask it. I want to know your girls name & all about what kind of a girl she is & I want yours & her pictures & an invitation to the wedding well I will have to close as I am out of something to write I am truly glad you are better hope you will be well in a short time. if we can sell out this year we will move up the country & then you will come to see us wont you. good by Tom if we never meet again in this world I hope will in a better place as ever your true cousin Mollie Walsey

Give my love to Lee tell him he is not forgotten

fare thee well Tom

Mollie Walsey

Winchester

Texas

TRANSCRIPTION OF T. M. CRISWELL LETTERS CONTINUED

Odell, Ill., March 22, 1885
Mr. Thomas Criswell

Dear friend

Yours of March 7 received to day and can say was truly glad to hear from you we have had it fearful cold hear & lots of snow it is froze hard yet I am going to bring back 30 of the finest horses that you ever saw in fact they are as good as there is in the East. In regard to wife Aspey (?) has left this part of the country so I have not seen her this month I brought Daves picture back & Nell is badly gone on it she says he did not answer her last letter so you will hafta talk to him I have been so busy buying horses that I have not had much time to look after the girls but I took a peep at some of them and in a while I am coming back as soon as the wether is warm enough How is all the boys getting a long & how is Stoneville & Jimmie Harrisburg give them my regards.

I received a letter from Harper a few days ago he says the widow is sick I think I will have to come back and look after her I will be on my way by the time you get this so good by

from yours truly:

_____ (signature indecipherable)

Rock Port, Mo. Nov. 21st 1885

T. M. Criswell

Dear friend Tom--

Your letter of somewhat ancient date written to Stoneville was forwarded to me and I recd the same only a few days ago- and Old Boy I'll assure you I was truly glad to hear from you once more--I have bin in this part of the world since the 1st of Sept--I am in here on a visit Dont know how long I'll remain here I'm having a good time you bet their is Just lodes of Dandy Girls and they are nice and not so nice-- But thru iy all cost money to Fly high you know. I have not heard a word from the Ranch since I left their Dont know why i have wrote them several times--

Well Old Boy how are you any how? Hope you are intirely well ___ this and are haveing your usual amount of fun-- Do you know where Lee is? Essie Brown is teaching the school at Huletts School House. I heard Jess & Rosie Davis were married. I dont know weather I'll go back to Stoneville or not-- I will not stay in this country longer than Spring -- Say Tom must I get married or not eh? I want your advice as I think it is good-- She is just as nice as can be--I will close for the presant write me soon--address as the head of the letter--

Very respectfully yours
Jarrett E. Todd

DRISKILL BROTHERS

Stock Growers

Range: Belle Fourche and Little Missouri Rivers

Spearfish, D. T., Nov. 7th, 1885

T. M. Criswell

Buckholts, Texas

Friend Tom

will start you a check to day for seventy Dollars, sent you by the D boys. I think I will get some more, but cant say where it will be. I have no news to write as it is very dull up here. The Marshal of Rappid City was killed a few nights ago by cow boys, also one cow boy.

Plenty of boys out of a job this winter. Tell Dave to write and let L. A. Brown know when you get this check, also Wm. Colman about the twenty-five dollars I sent before this, so as to let them know that you got all money

T. M. CRISWELL LETTERS CONTINUED

that they give me. I will start to the Ranch to morrow or next day
Wash Lan kin is in Texas I guess he will come and see you while down there.
Write soon.

As ever your friend

W. D. Driskill

Driskill Brothers
Stock Growers
Range: Belle Fourche and Little Missouri Rivers

Spearfish,, Dakota Territory
Mar. 24,, 1886

T. M. Criswell

Friend Tom

I have not heard from you in some time, so I thought I would drop you a
line, and let you know about this part of the country. We will have our
stock meeting on the 15th of April,, I think I can raise you some money
there. We will have a Theatre that night and I hope We can raise you as
much as two Hundred dollars & maybe more, but cant tell yet for certain.
Have got the tickets printed, and will do our best to sell all we can.
I hope this will find you better. We are all well at present, and Elnore
sends love to Mr. Criswell.

Wash Lan kin has sold his cattle to J Weare.

I think cattle will come out all OK this winter

kindest regards to Dave and

his family

so I will close--write soon

As ever your friend

W. D. Driskill

TRANSCRIPTION OF LETTER OF JAMES HARVEY CRISWELL TO DAVID ROBERT CRISWELL,
August 12, 1883.

(Note: James Harvey Criswell was born Black Jack Springs, Fayette County, Texas 13 Nov. 1852; he died in Corpus Christi, Texas 22 Feb. 1952; married Melletta Jane Hester on 14 March, 1872 in De Witt County, Texas. He was the seventh child of Leroy Vannoy and Elisabeth McMickens Criswell.)

Johnson City
Blanco C. Texas
August 12th, '83

Mr. D. R. Criswell

Dear Brother I seat myself this morning to anser your kind and welcom letter that I recieved yeaster day. I was glad to hear from you this leaves us all well and hope it may find you and family all well it has ben very dry here this year but the most of the farmers has made enough corn to do them I will make corn enough to do me and I will make half bale of cotton to the acer.

I like this country very well but I am not settled yet I want to look round futher west before I Settle I will give you a discription of this country it has got good farming land wher you can get land that can be cultivated the country is rough and rocky but it is healthy and is the best watered county I ever was in and the grass is good Stock does fine here and this is a good cotton country.

land for farming (indecipherable) is worth from \$2.50 to \$5.00 unimproved and grazeing land is worth \$1.50 per acer and improved is not selling much I can not tell you any thing much a bout any reglar price this is a very good Stock country the grass is good and water is pleantyful and ther is pleanty of out let the country open no nasters I would like that you would come to see us if you are thinking of moveing form that country you must come up this fall I think you would like this country if you can put up with the rocks Dave you must come to see me before you go any wheres if you dont like this country we can look at the country futher west I cannot tell yet whether I will stay here or not if I dont find anyplace that suits me better I will stay here. I think I would like Kimble county very well and land is not so high

I would like if we could find a place that would suit boath of us and settle to gether where we could see one another once and a while.

If I settle this faul I will try to get a place for Sister Joe I would like to help her All I can. I did not know that Wright was dead untill in July I went out to see Brother John an he told me about Wright being dead I have not heard from Joe sence she was maried I would have wrien to her before now if I had knowed wher her PO was Dave you must tell Joe to write to me You must come up if you can tell Joe I will do all I can for her if I can get wher I can settle her close to me

I beleave I have told you all I know come if you can I must tell you that I taken the premum here with the first Bale of Cotton this year. I had it gined and sole it yesterday I goet \$20 dollars premum I will close for this time so good but for time

Shumpy (?) joines me in love to you and your wife Dave I wold like to see your wife. Shumpy (?) says for you to come and bring your wife

Your Brother
as ever
Harvey Criswell

TRANSCRIPTION OF LETTER FROM RUTH SPINKS TO TOM CRISWELL, Nov. 4, 1885
(Note: Ruth Spinks (nee: Criswell) was the eleventh child of Leroy V. and Elizabeth McMickens Criswell; born Dec. 23, 1855 in Fayette Co., Texas, T(homas M(enfree) Criswell, b. Nov. 5, 1856, her brother)

Gonzales Nov. the-4, 85

Mr. T. M. Criswell

Dear Brother I seat my self to drop you a few lines to let you know how I am getting a long I am doing very well me and the children are all well I am hired out to cook at eight dollars a month to a man by the name of (indecipherable) just him and his wife and two boarders they are old people and their children are all married. I like it very well and have a pleasant home me and the children picked 38 hundred pounds of cotton they are getting large enough to help me some. how are you getting a long I would like to come and see you and will if I can get off do you need any thing in the way of bead clothes or any thing else if you do let me know and I will send you what I can how is Dave and Bell getting a long, and sister Joe how is she getting a long and what is Lees to if you are able to write you must write to me and tell me all about yourself I have thought of you often in your afflictions and wished to be with you and help to do something for you and I would of gone to you if it had not for my children it has been a tight pull untill now I think I will get a long very well and I hope you will soon be up again I know you suffered death a thousand times but I hope you are over that by this time and if you have run short of money let me know I will send you some every month I will divide with you as long as I can make a cent and answer this as soon as you get this and tell Dave and Joe to write so I will close with much love to you give my love to Daves family and Joes too I remain as your true sister

Ruth Spinks

Explanatory note: T. M. Criswell had been operations manager for the Driskill Land and Cattle Company holdings in the Dakotas, but in May of 1885, the youngest brother, Lee, had written Dave to "come get Tom for he is in a bad way". He died in Dave's home on April 12, 1886; he is buried in the Corinth cemetery in Milam county.

Ruth Criswell Spinks is fairly obviously a widow at the time of this letter. She refers to children, so had more than one, and since she refers to them as old enough to pick cotton, they are probably over 5 years of age. She would have been 30 at the time she wrote this letter.

TRANSCRIPTION OF T. M. CRISWELL LETTERS CONTINUED

Sabinal Texas
Sept. the 28th 1885

"Mr. T. M. Criswell"

"Dearest friend

Many weeks and even months have elapsed since I last wrote to you, and it seems an age since I had a letter from you. but during this long silence dont think I have ceased to think of you or even hear from you. I have had letters from "Jno. F. C." and "Aunt Bettie". always letting me about your health "Dear Tom" if you remember the last letter I wrote to you was sometime in March" I sent you my valentine" which I received in February" it was an old comic picture together with all the nonsense I could think of. Well weeks passed by and every time anyone would go to the office I would think shorely I will get a letter from Tom "this time" but was always disappointed. I could not imagine why you did not write but finely concluded you had grown tired of so poor a correspondant. So in July Billie and I went up to John Criswells. You cant imagine who surprised I was to hear you was in Texas "and how shocked to hear of your poor health. I had a letter from John only yesterday bearing the good news that you was improving rapidly and giving me your address" John told me the last time I seen him he expected you would stay with him the sommer and I fully intended going up there to see you if you come to Johns' but they always write that you have not come. Do you intend comeing this fall or winter. we are still living on the "Sabinal" Billie thinks of moving to "Devine" this winter if nothing happens. Dear old friend if we do move to Devine" and get a good comfortable house to live in I want you to come and stay with us this winter. I will not listen to any excuse at all. It would be the greatest pleasure in the world to have you with us if we can make you comfortable. I have not seen John or any of the folks "since July" John said in his letter that Milam had started out here to work for Billie but he has not gotten here yet. I didnt get to see Milam ? while I was at Johns

Tom Jack was here and looks more like Uncle Ben ? than ever. Aunt Bettie and cousin Rhilie is just as little and poor as they can be. I think it would take all three of them to weigh one hundred. They were all well and in very good spirits and enjoyed myself splendidly. but I always enjoy myself at Johns & Tom I want you to write me a long letter and tell me every thing you can think of. I have been wanting to write to you for a long-long time but I didnt know wheather you would understand my letters or not. I would give anything if I could come to see you, but it is so very far. Well, I will try and tell you something about ourselves. Billie has his cattle in a pasture, he intends selling them the very first opportunity presents itself. Billie is at work making "Hay" he is running the Mower and gets one dol per ton for cutting. he has cut as high as eight ton a day. The man he is at work for is going to put up one thousand ton. I expect we will stay here till cold weather. I have not been home for sometime. I had a letter from Ma a few days ago. Pa and Ma has joined the Christian Church" since I was down there. they still live at Devine" Sister Bobbie is living at her same old place. Bro Willie lives about two miles this side of Devine " he is getting along badly. It seems like he cannot give up his bad habits and have and buisness about him he has a case in Court at Castroville next month which keeps one in a world of trouble. Willie has a good

T. M. CRISWELL TRANSCRIPTIONS CONTINUED

wife and a sweet little girl and it would be my one greatest pleasure of life to see them do well. Brother Mareland Ma's oldest child is up here at work I know he is one of the best hearted boys ever lived. he is just like Ma. "Tom I know you remember enough about Ma to know a better woman never lived.

Well I have just been to Uvalde and stayed two days and had just a nice time. I went to the "Skating Rink" one night and had such a nice time. I was at a splendid dance about two weeks ago. We danced till three o'clock, had a nice supper, ice lemonade" and a good time in general. Ma has been writing to me about going to dance and not strudding myself down to be old folks" but I tell her I dont feel old and I can be old yet awhile. I wish I could bet my consent to give up all the pleasures of this world and live for a better one and be an old " " altogether but I cant see it now. but perhaps I will someday. Who knows shat is in the near future. Tom I know you will get awful tired of this old letter for I have nothing in the world interesting to write but I want you to write me a long letter and tell me every thing you know. "Tell me how often you hear from" Miss Jennie and when you think of going back after her. Are you going to make "dear old Texas" your future home. Do you remember what you promised me you would do if you ever came back to Texas. I hold you Sacred to that promise. I want you to come to see us just as soon as you can. There is no one on this earth I would rather see."Billie says tell you to be shore and come. I will stop writing for this time be Shore and write to me soon. Give my best regards to Dave"& family hoping to hear from you I am

Your own true friend

"Gazzie

Address Gazzie E. Davis

Sabinal Post Office, Uvalde Co.

TRANSCRIPTION OF LETTERS FROM G. W. IZARD TO D. R. CRISWELL, c. early 1880's.
(Note: Joe E. Criswell, sister to D. R. married G. W. Izard on Nov. 8, 1877.
She was born in 1840, so was 17 at the time of her marriage.)

Schulenberg, Tex.

June the 26, 1880

D. R. Criswell

Dear Brother

After so long a time I will drop you a few lines to let you know that we have not entirely forgotten you yet I would have written sooner But have been So buisy I have not had time. I arrived home Safe and Sound. I found Joe & the children well. And also a pretty good prospect for a Splendid crop...Corn is needing rain It will make pretty fair corn without any more rain.

Dave that was John with Joe at Schulenberg that time It was the next day after you left here. News. There is a camp meeting going on up at Oso. There has been several Conversions among them was Miss Nannie Ross. She has not joined the Church yet Well Dave The Country is roused up at a Considerable rate There an ortroucious murder in the Neighborhood Wendsday morning. Bob Ragsdale was killed on the hill between Bill Waddill and Mrs. Seacrest. The dificulty was about Cattle The is no clue to the one that did the deed. The Supisition lies to Blake and Sirce Seaney and Short day. He was shot six times and then drug five hundred yards down that Branch this side of Bill Waddills and thrown in the Branch. There is a great deal of talk about the Mob law. The people is at a fever head. Well I must close. John Waddill is here waiting on me to go to Schulenburg. Joe says she has not had time to write. Our love to you So write soon.

As ever your Brother

G. W. Izard

P. S. Old Ball is getting fat. My pasture is not closed as yet. My poneys all range out side.

I recieved a letter from Bill Cris he is well he going down in LaSall Cou. will be gone (?) day.

Cowboy Aug the 1880

Mr. D. R. Criswell

Dear friend after my best regards to you I will endeavor to write you a few lines to inform you how times are in this part time are dull as usual grass is fine and cattle and forses fat Dave I wish you would see what a man could sell a small bunch of mixed cattle at down there about the middle or last Sept 1.2.3. yr. steers cows and 1. & 2. yr heifers pleas find our & write to me immeadtly the folks in this country are all well. Write soon and believe me your friend.

G. W. Izard *

*(TRANSCRIBER'S NOTE: The signature on this letter could be J. W. instead of G. W. The handwriting in the two letters does not appear to be the same.)

TRANSCRIPTION OF LETTER FROM F. Y. ROBERTSON TO D. R. CRISWELL, ADM., EST.
OF G. W. IZARD.

(Note: G. W. Izard was known to be living on June 26, 1880, and presumed still living on 21 July 1882, ref. his wife's letter to D. R. Criswell. It can therefore be assumed that he died between July 1882 and March, 1883.)

L. R. Robertson

ROBERTSON BROTHERS BANKERS
Buffalo County, Nebraska

F. Y. Robertson

Kearney, March 24, 1883

D. R. Criswell Esq, Adm. Est. of G. W. Izard
Schulenburg, Texas

Sir:

Yours of 19th inst. in relation to G. W. Izard's transactions with Robertsons Bros. Bankers at hand: On June 22 1882, Mr. Izard deposited \$650.00 with said bank and on July 1, 1882 drew it out taking in payment our draft No. 2061 on Marsh Bros. Marsh & Co. bankers, at Lincoln, Nebraska for \$650.00, being the only transaction Mr. Izard had with said bank, and of which I enclose a statement as requested.

Very respectfully,

F. Y. Robertson, Cashier

TRANSCRIPTION OF LETTER FROM J. E. IZARD TO D. R. CRISWELL, July 21, 1882.
(Note: J. E. Izard is Joe E(lisabeth?) Criswell, eighth child of Leroy V. Criswell, b. 1854 in Fayette County.)

Neb. Pine Ridge, Agency Po.

July the 21 1882

Dear Brother I seat my Self down to let you all hear from us one more time we are all well at present and hope you all may be injoying the Same life Dave I would of writen to you before now but we have Just got to the ranch a few days ago and have not had time to write to you all We had A long tire- some trip we was two weeks on the road from Korney to Newman's ranch and we come to a Creek that we had to take the horses out of the wagon and the three men had to take it down by hand it was awful lookingspace it was A mile down it they tide all of the wheels and tide it to trees a long the bluffs ever bouddy says they do not now how we got down that place with out braking the wagon but we did not brak a thing I thought that we had come to the Jumping Off place they had to lead me down the hill for I could not walk down alone the Children cried and hollard all the time they was bringing it down we never seen a tree on the road until we got to Snake Creek 60 miles from the ranch and Gazzie got sick and a lady came down to our Camp fournd out Gazzie was sick and she told us to get in her hack and go to the ranch 60 miles they put in two fresh fat horses and told us to get in the hack and go to the ranch that day and we make the trip that day and they did not Carge us one sent for it the folk is very clever in this Country I boarded at Oglala and went to Karney and i half days travles on the 2d Cass and stayed two weeks. We have not got to any ranch yet but Mr. Izard is going to morrow to look at A ranch so I con't tell you any thing A bout what we are going to do yet Lou & Bennet is well tell Bell and her mother that I would like to see them and that I have not forgotten them yet and tell them to write to me and tell me all A bout little bird and all of the family kiss Bettie and holly for me and all of the babys. So I will Close for this time you must write as soon as you get this so no more your sister

So good bye
J. E. Izard

CRISWELL FAMILY

TRANSCRIPTION OF LEE CRISWELL LETTERS

Dodge City Kansas Sep 17 82
Mr. Dave Criswell

Dear Brother

I am going to work Driskill Tom is Bossing the ranch in Decota he is getting 1 hundred dollars per month I am getting 30 dollars per month. I am going to Decota in the spring.

Lee Criswell

Chadron Neb. May 10th 1885

Mr. D. R. Criswell

Dear brother I thought I would write you a few lines and let you know that Tom is in a very bad fix and I want you to come get him he has about two thousand dollars.

Dave come wright a way and get him.

I cant stay with him as I had a little trouble up there last spring

Dave I have been down in Neb after cattle for J. S. Irwin and I am on my way back to Montana Dave be sure and come after Tom I will give him all the money I make after his gone I will close asking you come and get Tom. give my love to Bell and tell her brother is with me

Lee Criswell

Address your letters to Miles City Montana In care of J. S. Irwin

Sun Dance, Wyo. Terr.
Feb. 25, 1887

Mr. D. R. Criswell

Dear Brother I would drop you a few lines to let you that I was still alive. I have never made anything in this country. I am going to leave this country in the Spring and go to New Mexico or Colorado. I can make more money in Souther Texas work for \$15 dollars a month. there ar so many Eastern cattle men in this country and they all work Yankeys and Texas men don't stand much of show. Dave cattle is dying like sheep with the rot. Snow is about one foot deep on level all over this dam northern country. Dave when I came to this country a man could get \$40 and 45 dollars, but now a man can but \$25 per month. Dave you need not answer my letter until you hear from me again I will write to you when I locate again I give my best respect all the folks. I will close for this time.

L. V. Criswell

Lee Criswell (probably his full name was ^{LEWIS} ~~Leroy~~ Vannoy Criswell ~~after his father~~) was the thirteenth of fourteen children born to Leroy Vannoy and Eliza McMickens Criswell. No birth date is available, but he was born between Larkin (Dec. 11, 1862) and Milam (March 18, 1866). These brief letters are all available which he wrote himself, but letters from other family members refer to him as being in constant scrapes... However, he must have reformed along the way, since he is referred to in a history of Motley County, Texas as one of "our most respected founding pioneers". It is not known when he died; apparently he married, since two of his daughters (in their 80's) were living there (Motley County) in the early 1970's.

TRANSCRIPTION OF WILLIAM MELTON CRISWELL LETTERS

Comfort Texas June 15, 80

Dear brother I received your letter just a week ago today I found all well and all our stock all right I recd a copy of the journal of Agriculture yesterday as I come home from John I have bin over their all week helping him put up a house to live in I will start down to Frio County next week after Toms estate and to see what I can collect on old Lee & Milam Lee went to a dance Friday night and has not got straight yet old man Heren from Frio town passed John while I was over their and Lee told me that Charley Slaughter had swindled Billy Slaughter out of nearly all Billy owns and gone to New Mexico. Old man Herin had a bunch of horses of Bill Doughrites Bill was not a long. But they was expecting every day for Bill to over take him so I will close for this time

as ever your Brother

W. M. Criswell

Austin, Texas Sept. 7, 1880

Dear brother I am on my way to Dallas me and Nelley & Milam we will be gone about 25 days then I expect to come down to Fayette with some horses you write to my lawyers and see if they wont take horses for what I owe them Gazzie Davis and Billy was seperated when I was donw their I have not heard from them since I left I dont no wheather they live to gether or not write to me at Dallas and tell me the news and what has ben done about the Secret & Ragsdale murder case I remain as ever your Brother W. M. Criswell give Joe and Wright my love

Dutch Comfort Texas July 17 1881

Dear Bro I arrived home right side up with Call on the 1th of July I have just got back home from above I went off to Seth Makery (?) ranch about 90 miles above here to take some horses I seen some mighty fine country while I was gone old Dick Woods has bin killed at the ___ ? by Moh (?) so you see he is got justis of so long a time he is James Louis Dick Wood I reckon you do recolect him this Louis as all well give my love to your baby and all the balence of the family

- W. M. Criswell

Comfort Texas Feb 28, 1881

Dear Dro I rec your letter this morning Dave I well start below some time after the 14 of month all ll ho _____ Sallis 1 year old steers 650 1 year old Pt 600 2 yr steers 950 3 yr old 12 4 yr old 14, horses 900 is how they are selling up here I can send you the money I owe you now but I will make it all wright when I come down as ever your Bro

W. M. Criswell

Comfort Texas August 29, 81

Dear Bro

I will answer your letter I have no newes to write of interest it is getting dry up here if it done rain pretty soon I cant now what stock will do this winter I an afraid I will have drive my cattle and old ___ back to the Nueses River old Pancho Berraro passes here this morning and said it had rained good rains from fort Ewell to Loredo and grass was fine out there Dave if your hip is not eny Better you had better see a Docktor about it the Post boys is going to move up to where Bro. John lives with their cattle I am going to start to S.A. to morrow with some horses to sell they

TRANSCRIPTION OF WILLIAM MELTON CRISWELL LETTERS CONTINUED

say all in about Pleasenton and sommerset san megil and Frio City and my old Ranch the hole face of the Earth is burnt off timber all burnt off clear no more at present give my love to Jim Shugar Pie as ever Bro
W. M. Criswell

Lockhart Texas Oct. 29, 81

Dear Bro & Sister

I will scratch you a few lines this leaves us all well at present I will leave for home tomorrow grass is fine up in my Country stock fat write me wheather you are going to plant eny crop next year or not and wheather you have got eny plow team or not if have not Come up and you can git one I have sent \$75 to G W Izzard to pay the B & T note so no more as ever your Bro
W. M. Criswell

Comfort Texas Dec 18, 1881

Dear Bro & sister

I recd your letter a short time ago was glad hear from you all this leaves us all well at present grass is not the best in the world up here if we have a bad next winter cattle will fare bad. Corne is selling up here at 130¢ per bushel I am feeding 2 horses a gallon a peace a day and plent of oat straw which caps them up splendid. Dave my San Anontio trial is set for Jan 3 1882 I writen to Shook to have an attachment issued for you if it dont come in time for you you come up on the train if they bring you up under attachment this will save expenses I want to try and dispose of the lease this time I will send you Shooks letter as

ever your Bro
W. M. Criswell

Comfort Texas Feb 17, 1882

Dear Bro

I will start John down with two horses the Best I could get 2 greys one in good fix the other first class middling her will start the 19 or 20 You keap the horses for your trouble in going and coming from SANAntonio give my love to all. They have Tom Jackson in Bandera for stage robbing But I think he will probable get off it ___ the Robery as ever your bro

W. M. Criswell

Comfort Texas Jan. 12 1882

Dear Bro

I rec your Letter yestrday as to the watch the man was drinking and I asked him for his watch to fool a fellow and he taken it out of his pocket and gave it to me and Iput it in my vest pocket and him and ___ went off to Bells Bro to by me a knife for me and they was gone some time and Cra__ come a long and asked me to go and eat dinner with him and I went and never thought eny more of the watch until I felt in my pocket 8 miles from SA for a match and felt it I sent it back before I got home by one of my neighbors the next day after I left you and I suppose it was delivered on Saturday Nay brought two cavvies with him one a little sorrel Bro SR on left shoulder one a black ball face pony Spanish branded he said that heleft a horse at his brothers that there was \$25 dollar reward for Lee ___ this talk when he first come up here I think that Lee come by Gonzales & Newbraunfels the two that Lee brought up was not match biger than Days as ever your bro

W. M. Criswell

I got a letter from Milam he says he roped a buffalo calf

TRANSCRIPTION OF JOHN FINES CRISWELL LETTERS

Bandera County Texas May 5 1881

Dear brother I seat myself to write you a few lines to let you no we are all well and hope these few lines may finde you and Will and Sister Joe all well I written you long since and have got no answer and also I written to Wright and have got no answer this leaves us all right Brother Bill was at my house about two weeks ago and Said he would come over in 8 or 10 days but has not come over yet there is lots of cattle going up the trail this Spring Schriener and John Lytle has drove fifteen thousand from this Section and Bill Waugh has two heards gone by Couch of Frio Town has several heards all ready gone by and Woodard and Asha has been sending cattle I saw Till Driscoll in Bandera he bossed a heard for Shriener & Lytle this year Till is nearly as large as Brother Bill the cold friege on the 18 of March killed every thing in this country that was up corn and _____ the small grain and all the Pecan crop is killed and the earley most of every description to was killed and it has been prity dry up here till a few days ago it rained and we neede rain now I hav some 5 or 6 acres of corn and some oats planted and I am working my corn out--the frost did not hurt me on account of mine just a coming up and the cockel burrs is numerous among the corn a man by the name of John McLoren living on the Frio Canyon had his wife murdered by some unknown assassain his wife and a young man by the name of Leas both was shot and killed by a black looking men so the little six year old girl Says they are on trail of them yet 15 men and one Indian gide the robbers took all the valuabels and broke the Sewingmachine and carried off bed clothing and some 18 or 20 dollars the ladey was wattering some plants in her garden when She was murdered this was on the head of the West Frio in Bandera County & Daivey write to me and tell me if them lawyers ever said anything concerning my owing them I will be in there this Summer or fall and make anything all right. You must come and see me give my love to Bill Williams and tell him I hav not forgotton him tell Wright to drop me a few lines and to let me no how he is doing your Brother untill death
John F. Criswell

Bandera Texas

Sep. 19. 1882

Dear Brother I Seat my Self to write you a few lines to let you no that I have not forgotton you I hav bin waiting for a letter from You till I hav gave it out and thought I would write to you and tell you all the news All is well and Billy as fare as I no I have not heard from Billy in 4 weeks there is no news of any importance It has turned off dry up here the grass is fine Stock looks well the old lady Jackson and Ben Lane came to my house on the 15th of last month Ben stayed 4 or 5 days and started home he lives in Leon County on the Trinity River in East Texas Ben looks old and broken Med Gibsons childe came along with Ben and got crazy on the road and the old lady Jackson & Ben Lane had a Big time with him on the road but he come all right again Ben talks of moving out here this fall give my love to Belle and Mrs. Secrest family and Bill Williams too Davey write to me and tell me what horses is worth down to Schulenberg and around their Tell me how Vick Dickinson is getting along Since he was wounded I saw the account in the Galveston News where he was Shot at or near Moulton at a dance and hav not heard from him since and tell me how you made it home & you must come and see us you and Belle when you can I think I will come in your country this faul if there be any chance to sell any forses for a good price I think me and Bill can put up 8 or 10 gentle horses between us Billy told me you lost Old Sorrel after you got home I have a big work horse 15 hands high verry heavey set and a

JOHN FINES CRISWELL TRANSCRIPTIONS CONTINUED

mare 14 hands high 2½ years old gentle to ride or work what is such stock
worth down their I am in a hurry for Olley and Harvey is going to school and
I have to Shove myself around lively now to keep up I have 23 calves now 17
heifers among the lot Rhilie and the children sayes for you to come and see
us if you possibly can we had a local option election on the 11th of this
month whiskey won nearly 3 to 1 all over the county So I will close as I
have got to go to town this eavening to mail this and other letters So write
soon and often dont wait for me to write Your Brother until Death

Jno. F. Criswell

NOTE: John F. Criswell was the third child, first son, of Leroy Vannoy &
Eliza McMicken Criswell. He was born 25 December 1845 at Black Jack Springs,
Fayette County, Texas; married Margaret Rhilie Jackson on Feb. 5, 1868; he
died in Bayard, New Mexico some time after 1918.

Transcript of letter from John Finis Criswell (Son of Leroy) to his cousin Elizabeth J. (Bettie)(daughter of William V.) married to Calvin Jones.

BAYARD NEW MEXICO (Grant County)
Dec. 12th, 1917

Dear cousin Bettie and Calvin; I just recd. a letter from my sister E. J. Boykin. I had not heard from her in years and have been trying to locate her for a long time. I was so glad to hear from her and to know she was still living and in good health. This (finds) us all well and hope the same for you and Calvin and family.

I have one widowed daughter and little boy Lane. All the rest is married and gone. My wife Rhilie died the first day of August 1915 over two years ago. I will give you the names of my children.

James Harvey living 10 miles from me. Ranshing. He has 500 head of cattle. William Henry, living on the Frisco River 125 mi. from me. John Yancy and George Leroy lives 50 miles west of Albuquerque, N.M. They have between them 600 head of Cattle. Clarence Martin the youngest, 22 years old. Just married. Lives at Fierro, 8 mi. from me. He works in a Copper Mill. He gets \$5.00a day.

Now my girls, Anna Lee lives up at Fierro. Her husbands's name is Byron Faton. Eva Feaney lives in Morenci, Ariz. All the girls has one child. Anna Lee's is a girl. Eva Feaney's is a girl 9 year old. Etta who lives at home, one a boy 8 years old and is going to school.

I live 140 miles North West of El Paso, west of the Rio Grand in 9 miles of the Grate Continental divid in the Rocky Mountains in Grant County N. Mex. I tell you it is some dry out here. I have plenty running water. I irrigated a patch of Spuds and raised 1500 pounds of fine irish potatoes. They will keep well out here. You never see a rotten irish potatoe out here. I taken up 640 acres adjoining me in the additional Stock raising homested law passed by Congress about a year ago.

I have 50 head of cattle now. Beef Cows is from \$55.00 to \$65.00 a head to the local butcher. This years sucking Calves sells to the local butcher for \$35.00 and up. Flour is \$7.00 per 100. bacon, salt .40¢. Swifts premium .50¢ a pound. Onions 5¢. 50 pound Lard \$11.50 and beef and pork out of the Butcher Shop .40¢ pound, and evry thing else in proportion. Whiskey Sealed quart \$3.00 but New Mexico went State wide probition by 16,500 majority. The whiskey Men have untill the first of Oct. to get shut of all Spiritous licors.

Bettie, I will be 72 years old this comeing Xmas dāy, born in 1845 I can do a lot of riding if I am 72, and (do) work of all kinds. Now Bettie write me when you receive this western News Sheet. Etta and little boy is going to Morenci, Ariz. to see Eva and family. She will start the 22 of Dec. go from here to Lordsburg by Auto and take the train on the Western Pacific, same road that runs to Flatonia, Tex., and travel West toward California. I will be alone untill she comes back. I can pick up some old stiff to stay with me for his board and loding.

Well Bettie I just dont know for certain how long it has been since I was at your house but I think it was in 1882. You lived then near the place I first went to school near Mrs. Robinsons. I shur would love to visit my old child-hood Scenes of long, long ago.

Bettie, Santa Rita and Hurley is working 1200 men at each place. I live right on the RR line that hauls to ore from Santa Rita to Hurley where they have machinery to extract every particle of copper from rock

John Finis Criswell letter to Bettie and Calvin Jones--continued.

Grant County is the richest county in N. Mex. by 5 million dollars. 50 miles to Deming where 40 thousand American Soldiers is camped. About 100 miles to the line of Old Mexico. Silver City is the County Seat.

It gets pretty cold out here at times. I seen the trurmometer 15 below zero 4 years ago in Jan. So I will close this time as I dont know if a man has to have (a) licence to publish a paper or not.

J. F. CRISWELL

(J.F. does not mention his oldest child, Oliver (Ollie) b. 1870 who was probably dead then)

In September 1967, Cecil Robert Criswell (son of David Robert Criswell) visited Clarence Martin Criswell (youngest son of John Finis Criswell, oldest brother of David Robert Criswell) in Tombstone, Arizona and afterwards received the following letter from Clarence's brother George Leroy Criswell.

Alb (Albuquerque) N. Mex Sept. 16, 1967
2442 Nalencia N E

Mr. Cecil Criswell

Dear Sir

My Bro Clarence was over from Tomb Stone, Ariz & told me you had been to see him. If you ever come to Alb come & see me. I & Clarence are all that is left of my Bros. how was Your Father the only uncle I ever seen was uncle harve Criswell I have 3 sisters but we are all giting up in years I will be 81 in Jan 11 (1968) & is in good helth. I have ranch all of my life Sold the big ranch in 1949 but (bought) a farm & farm for a few years. I came to N Mex in '94. hope to her from You As ever yours trully
George L Criswell
come & see me.

JONES COMMERCIAL COLLEGE
OF AUSTIN, TEXAS.

LIBER SCHOLARSHIP.

This is to Certify that *M. N. P. Criswell*
of *Wichita, Texas*, having paid the required
Admission Fee of Forty **DOLLARS;**
and subscribed to the rules of the Institution, is, this day, ad-
mitted into full Membership thereof, and is entitled to all the
privileges of the prescribed Business Course, and, after completion
to the right of Reviewing at any future time gratis.

Austin, Texas, *27th May, 1880.*

J. M. Jones
Pres.

Handwritten notes in the left margin, including names like 'Criswell' and 'Wichita'.

Residents of Motley County 1891

Taken from the tax record which were incomplete, from newspaper stories, and friends.

J. L. Aiken, W. Ake, Lee Anderson, J.M. Askins, J.L. Austin, G. Austin, J.P. Bagley, Frank Baxter, G. Baxter, John Ballard, G.V. Bains, W.W. Bains, Marion Blackerby, C.D. Bird, A.L. Barton, P.B. Barton, J.C. Burleson, J.L. Burleson, Joe Beckham, R.C. Beckham, A.D. Beauchamp, Hugh Beauchamp, J.F. Briscoe, Dan Browning, J.F. Brown, J. T. Baker, R.B. Bishop, C.F. Beaty, Jim Blackman, C.M. Buchanan, C.W. Buchanan.

C.F. Berry, B.F. Brock, J.T. Cornett, H.H. Campbell, L.B. Campbell, Joe Campbell, S.D. Cartwright, John Cole, Dan Cribbs, C.V. Cribbs, P.A. Cribbs, A. Coleman, P.G. Coleman, C.F. Chandler, A.G. Caruth, A.B. Cooper, G.F. Coffman, W.R. Clements, J.B. Clements, J.W. Cowart, J.C. Cowart, Pete Chandler, J.A. Chitwood, W.S. Cook, G.W. Cook, J.W. Cooper, John Colthopr, Sam Chalk, Lee Criswell, E.E. Carter, J.W. Carter.

T.N. Cammack, J.B. Clifton, W.T. Cloyd, S.W. Cassell, W.B. Currie, Tom Capehart, W.C. Collins, E.A. Day, J.S. Day, W.H. Denny, E.H. Denny, J. Dooley, J.W. Dilliard, W.F. Darden, H.A. Demic, W.A. Davidson, C.C. Davidson, James Dalziel, Will Drace, Preston Drace, T.N. Dodson, Steve Daffern, T.G. Duncan, D.S. Dunwoody, S.A. Elliot, J.A. Elliot, D.E. Elliot, W.D. Elliot, A.B. Echols, T.N. Edmondson.

T.B. Edmondson, T.R. Edwards, E.A. Foster, J.F. Fullingim, R.S. Forbes, W.F. Forbes, J.A. Frezell, W.E. Gaines, D.B. Garrison, W.F. Garrison, D.G. Griffith, J.E. Griffith, W.H. Graham, Frank Green, Arthur Gates, Walter Gates, W. B arner, Frank Golden, Frank Gallagher, W.E. Hefner, L.P. Hefner, S.A. Hatley, J.H. Hodges, E.N. Henry, D.H. Horton, S.R. Harris, J.W. Hartris, T.J. Harrison, R.C. Harper, W.L. Hood, E.C. Heath, J.D. Hooper, C.B. Heffner, Wilson Heffner.

Bob Haley, Hobbs, D.C. Hustan, E.C. Harris, H.F. Hotchkis, Will Hyatt, J.D. Harkey, L. O. Hinson, J.F. Hardy, R.A. Haley, S.L. Hardesty, J.W. Ivester, F.M. Jenkins, J.W. Jenkins, S.L. Jenkins, J.A. Jones, W.R. Jones, Wiley Jones, J.G. Jones, W.B.

Johnson, G.G. Johns, L.W. Johns, J.D. Jefferies, J.M. Johnson, E.B. Kimble, W.B. Kimble, D.C. Keith, H.B. King, J.G. King, J.D. Kutch, D.F. Lancaster, J.C. Lancaster, G.B. Landrum, E.J. Leslie, E.J. Leslie, Frank Larquey.

J.W. Long, J.H. Long, Lee Long, R.E. Long, W.D. Long, Lanier, A.G. Ligertwood, Jack Luckett, Lal Lewis, George L. J.P. Lovelady, Dr. James Mooney, C.P. Martin, W.A. Martin, William Martin, Sr., William Martin Jr., I.E. Martin, P.W. Martin, G.S. Martin, J.W. Martin, F.M. Morrow, M.A. Millwee, Meacham, J.M. Miller, J.D. Miller, L.A. Medlin, Lum Moore, J.L. Moore, D.E. McDonald, W.T. McDonald, Jeff Morris, hiam Moses, C.W. Moore, Charles Morris, R.L. Moore, Moore.

W.W. Moore, J.E. Meador, M.E. Meador, R.E. Meador, J. Meador, Joe Meador, Pat McHugh, J.T. Montgomery, S.K. Call, S.G. MacAdams, E. Madden, E.L. McBride, B. MacEwen, Henry Marhsall, Jim McCommis, W. Methley, A.L. Murphree, L.T. Maurey, W. McRea, Clarence Nugent, W.A. Newman, Newman, Stacy Newman, E.W. Nolan, J.J. Oates, J.L. Orr, Orr, W.E. Powers, J.H. Powers, Rev. J.C. Powers, H.B. Phelan, W.C. Patterson, J.E. Pritchard, M.E. Pitts, L.A. Pitts, Pitts, J.B. Pierce.

J.M. Price, Bill Parks, C.D. Pipkin, S.T. Pepper, Sam Price, J.H. Russell, Ed Russell, J.J. Russell, L.L. Russell, E.B. Russell, F.H. Ross, W.E. Reeves, F.C. Rinehart, J.M. Rowden, Reynolds, Eugene Raymond, C.C. Ralls, W.H. Rattan, J.C. Ratts, John Ross, Joe Rhodes, Joe Reese, R.A. Seay, R.J. Seay, T.H. Seay, N.B. Seay, J.H. Shelton, Lee Smith, W.M. Smith, C.C. Smith, J.B. Sanders, Jonathan Sanders, W.N. Sage, C.V. Simpson, G.B. Simpson, Bill Stafford.

Nathan Shands, Charlie Stradley, Jay Stradley, J.H. Sheridan, D. Sommerville, A.A. Tibbs, J.H. Thompson, George Thompson, J.C. Turner, Till Thomas, J.C. Thomas, C. Taylor, S.F. Taylor, I.G. Trimble, W.R. Tilson, John S. Thomas, John Vaughn, White, J.W. White, W.A. Walton, M.F. Warner, D.C. Wattle, Wharton, N.A. Wray, B.C. Wray, W.J. Whitworth, Harrison Williams, W.M. Wason, G.T. Wagoner, R.S. Watson, C.P. Wadsworth, C.E. Wideman, F.M. Wells, B.G. Worswick, J.W. Wadsworth, G.A. Yantis, J.H. Zanick.

Blair (Dundee) Chairman 1937-1938; W. D. Macdougall (Dundee) Chairman 1939-1951. No chairman was indicated in the annual reports of 1900 through 1909.

Payroll of the Matadors

Wagon bosses were the highest paid employees of the Matador Ranch more than a decade after its establishment in 1878 by H. Campbell. They received the astounding sum of \$75 a month as compared with \$25 to \$35 paid the other cowboys and the one woman employee.

The following is the payroll of the Matador Ranch in 1890-91 compiled by Miss Mary Keith.

The preceding year, 1899, there were 69 men on the ranch payroll with a total monthly payroll of \$1,989.25.

S. T. Pepper, J. H. Smith, J. I. Briscoe, S. G. MacAdams, W. T. Cloyd, J. M. Campbell, Frank Larquey, W. A. Walton, J. R. Moore, C. W. Moore, J. H. Thompson, F. M. Wells, D. C. Hustan, D. C. Keith, J. P. Lovelady, D. S. Dunwoody, H. B. King;

E. C. Harris, J. G. Kegler, W. Methley, J. F. Brown, J. T. Baker, A. L. Murphy, M. Blackerby, J. L. Austin, G. Austin, J. H. Hooper, R. C. Beckham, H. F. Hotchkis, John Ballard, J. P. Beckham, Will Hyatt, B. G. Worswick, J. D. Harkey, L. O. Hinson, Will Thomas, J. W. Whittaker;

L. T. Muarey, J. W. White, W. C. Collins, R. B. Bishop, E. W. Molan, W. McRea, Charles Orr, J. E. Beckham, C. F. Beaty, Jim Blackman, G. W. Buchanan, D. Browning, J. F. Hardy, D. Somerville, Varner, W. Akes, Tom Capehart, John O. Ross, D. H. Horton, C. F. Berry, R. A. Haley, Lee Crisswell, Frank Greear, Doc Edwards, John Jackson, Arthur Gates, Walter Gates;

Dan Cribbs, E. Madden, Joe Reynolds, Stacey Newman, E. L. McBride, George Thomson, W. Garner, J. H. Qurick, Frank Gallagher, W. A. Newman, W. T. McDonald, Jesse Harris, C. M. Buchanan, Pat McHugh, Frank Golden, Mrs. R. Zurick;

W. B. Currie, Charles Morris, S. L. Hardisty, George Lutz, B. MacElroy, R. S. Watson (first bookkeeper), Joe Rhodes, B. F. Brock, Henry Marshall, J. A. Frezell;

W. R. Tilson, G. W. Cook, Tom Harrison, Sam Prince, Tom Jones, Jack Luckett, Jim McCommis, Tom Sharard, S. W. Cassell, E. W. Nolan, John Martin, W. McRea, Newman, Jas. E. Beckham, Jim Blackwell, J. L. Moore, J. D. Kutch, Joe Reese, J. E. Pritchard;

J. K. Fullingim, G. B. Simpson, W. S. Cook, W. M. Miller, F. M. Morrow, J. C. Roberts, Andy Jackson (broke horses), F. G. Baxter (blacksmith), D. E. MacDonald and R. A. Halcy (wagon driver).

Payroll in 1896-97

In 1896-97 the following names were added to the ranch payroll:

C. T. Wafford (cook), Will Drace, Jim Meador (cook), Adam Drace (fence rider), Ned Richards (cook).

As the ranch continued to grow, so did the list of employees and in 1898-99 the ranch gained another woman, Mrs. J. R. Moore on the payroll as well as the following men:

C. R. Adams (ranges), Tom Barley (fence rider), P. E. Lee (ranges), Ray McLane (ranges), W. E. Parks (Pitch Fork Kid), Calvin George, Henry Cook, R. J. Seay, A. D. H. Ligertwood, Jim Swaringin, Parker Randolph, Lal H. Lewis, Bert Browning, John Morriss, Tom McNutt, Dave Carpenter, Shelton McCall, Will Cammack, J. P. Plumlee and J. R. Moore.

Payroll in 1900

The following new names were on the ranch payroll in 1900:

J. M. Jackson, C. H. Harper, A. L. Murphy, E. C. Harris, J. F.

Leonard, Ed Russell, B. R. Russell, T. G. Duncan, Walter Hooper, James Dalziel, John MacBain, J. C. Lancaster, D. G. MacKenzie, Sid Duawoody, George Davis;

Pete Courtney, Walter Clower, Joe Meador, George Russell, George Thomas, E. Simpson and Mrs. MacDonald.

Later History

In August 1946 when John Stevens became superintendent of the Matador Division of the Matador Land and Cattle Company, Ltd., he had been preceded by four other men. H. H. Campbell, the first superintendent, had served from 1882 to 1890. Arthur G. Ligertwood, an Englishman, acted in the capacity from 1891 to 1909, and J. M. Jackson from 1910 to 1923. Maurice J. Reilly who served from 1923 until his death in 1946 was the fourth. John Stevens the last superintendent, stayed on with the Scotch company until it was sold to the American holders in August 1951.

The sale of the Matador Land and Cattle Company was contemplated long before any actual transactions were made. As early as 1945, scattered land in the Croton breaks were sold to the Pitchfork, and other isolated tracts of several sections per tract were disposed of in Dickens, Floyd Motley, and Cottle Counties.

Still, five years later, rumors of the sale of the entire ranch came as a surprise to most people—and as a heartbreak to many. The Matador Land and Cattle Company had become an institution to the people of Motley County—a vast ranching empire which was in some way a part of the life of every individual in the area. Nevertheless, in June of 1951, Lazare Freres and Company Ltd. of New York a firm of investment brokers representing themselves as a number of American buyers, made an offer of \$23.70 per share for the 800,00 outstanding shares of the Matador Land and Cattle Company Ltd. In July, the offer was accepted. The great Matador Ranch was no more.

The disposition of land in the Croton breaks and in the four above mentioned counties had been handled as a straight land sale. The difference between the 1914 evaluation of the 42,000 acres and its 1951 sale price created a sizeable tax problem that the company wanted to avoid a second time. Therefore, the breakup of the more than 400,000 acres remaining in the Matador Division was facilitated by the sale of corporate shares in the company. Buyers in turn organized corporations and





Cowboys on the Matador Ranch about 1915. Group includes two wagons. At left diagonally upward toward the right are L to R: Lon Vivian; Harry McFarland (horse wrangler); Monk Rucker and Bill Rucker. Downward toward the right, the next three men are Bob Criswell; Birnie Harkey; and Jack Smith. Center back is Roy Aubry flanked by the two Harrold boys. The five men at extreme back on the right are L. to R.: Bang Thornton; Guy Pitts; Walker Williams; Gilbert Keith;

and Buddy Plumlee. In the foreground beginning at the left of the picture are L to R: Delmar McNemar; a horse wrangler; Lee Neeley; Slim Black, in front; Houston Schweitzer, in front on white horse with black hat raised; Jet Lewis (behind Houston with white hat raised); Charlie Fullingim; Bob Alley, wagon boss of one of the outfits; Big John Southworth, the other wagon boss. The Skaggs boy is at extreme right. Man behind Big John is unidentified.

The John Henry Criswell Family

John Henry Criswell and wife, Letitia Josephine (Jones) Criswell arrived in Motley County in 1896. They settled on a ranch at Four Corners, east of Whiteflat. In 1898 they moved their family to Matador.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Criswell were members of pioneer Texas families. The Criswell family migrated to Texas from Kentucky in 1839. They settled on a Mexican Land Grant in the Matagorda Bay area in a Stephen F. Austin Colony. Two sons, William Vanoy and Leroy fought in the Texas Revolution. William was the father of John Henry and Leroy the father of Lee, who was also an early day settler in Motley County.

The Criswells were married in Fayette County where both of them were born. They followed the pattern of many young married people of moving West and in this case also north. Due to the drought of 1886, John Henry and other male members of the family made a reconnaissance north to the Red River and west searching for better pasturage for their cattle. They found grass knee high to a man, and learned that people were moving to the Panhandle area of Texas. John moved his family, now six in number, first to Collingsworth County and later to Childress County. His son Albert was the first white boy born in the newly organized county. Their youngest child, Florence Myrtle, was two years old when they arrived in Motley County.

The Criswell children attended school at Whiteflat. They rode horseback each day. On the cold winter mornings trying to wrap up enough to keep from freezing seemed almost impossible. The girls especially had trouble trying to keep their skirts from being made into balloons by the winter wind. A young man from Floyd County was one of the teachers.

In 1899 Mr. Criswell was roping a steer when by some chance the rope intended for the steer fell on his neck. He was jerked from his horse and dragged a great distance. A friend made a quick horseback ride to Childress, sixty miles away, to get a doctor, but Mr. Criswell died before the doctor arrived. At the time of his death, he had land holdings in the south and south eastern section of the county as well as his original ranch at Four Corners.

Mrs. Criswell was active in several organizations in Matador. She was a devout member of the Baptist Church where she taught Sunday School classes. She was a charter member and the first president of the Baptist Woman's Society. She was also a charter member and the first Grand Matron of the Rebecca Lodge. She spent much time in helping to nurse the sick. She met an untimely death in 1909 when she contracted blood poison from working with a young mother who died from blood poisoning after childbirth.

The John Criswell family grew to adulthood in Matador and married members of other Motley County pioneer families. Alice married Albert Johnson who died of typhoid fever in 1909. Later Alice married Homer Sheats. Claud married Betty Darden (Darden Canyon was named for her family). Effie married Ransom Pinckney Moore, an early publisher and merchant. Ora married Roy McLane, a Matador Ranch cowboy. Lena married Lute Davis, pioneer cowboy and later carpenter. Lettie married Ernest Herring. Albert was a bachelor. Myrtle married Frank Stubblefield in Pecos County where she was teaching school.

Grandchildren of the couple were Alma Johnson (married Robert Hoyt), Kathryn Sheats (married Murray Johnson), Esther Criswell (Cleveland), Edna Criswell (Blankenship), John Claud Criswell, Mary Criswell (Lee), Jessie Criswell (Harold), John Moore (married Lila Bird), William Ransel Moore (married Velma Walters), Olive Moore (married John Russell), Josephine Moore (married John Hamilton), Marjoria Moore (married J.M. Harper) and Ray Peyton Moore who was killed when he was thrown from a horse as a child; Raymond Davis (married Hettie Patton), Donald Davis (married Carol Allen), Lena Mae Davis (married Dan Ellis), and Juandell Davis Hicks

By Josephine Hamilton

The L.V. (Lee) Criswell Family

Mrs. Priscilla (King) Blackshear was a widow with eight children when she moved to Motley Co. Her children were William Thomas, Catherine "Katie" (m. Charlie Orr), Elizabeth (m. Sam Graves), Viola; George "Tede" (m. Mary Davis), James "Pete" (m. Lantie Hensley), and Ora "Daby" (m. Jim Orr)



The Criswell girls. Back row L to R: Myrtle (Stubblefield); Lena (Davis); Effie (Moore). Seated: Ora (McLane); Alice (Sheats); and Lettie (Herring). They were the daughters of John Henry Criswell.

CRISWELL FAMILY



Back row L to R: Oda Criswell (Mrs. George Birchfield); Mrs. Lee Criswell; Tose Criswell (Mrs. Riley A. Day); Mary Davis (Mrs. Tede Blackshear). Seated: Pete and Tede Blackshear, twins; and Sam Ballard, Pete's brother-in-law.

Mrs. Blackshear married Lee Criswell on December 11, 1895. They had two daughters: Oda "Odie" (m. George Birchfield), and Zora Lee "Tose" (m. Riley Day).

Tose Day remembers that her father always wore a white hat and bib overalls. Mr. Criswell raised corn, and had an orchard and a garden. He worked for A. B. Echols and freighted with T. E. Long. He drove 6 mules to the wagon and rode one of the mules on the right side of the wagon--guiding the others. Their old dog, Jack, straddled the mule behind him and put his paws on the back of the saddle. If he couldn't go with Lee he'd "go to town and stay with T. G. Duncan."

Mr. Criswell died March 1, 1926. Mrs. Criswell who was born in Kentucky April 24, 1854, died December 20, 1935.



Lee Criswell

The L.W. Crowell Family (See Tipton.)

The Bob Crump Family

Life with four boys has its little moments. Jon, who ran away from home at the age of two, kindly declined any help from the policeman his mother had frantically called; as a baby, Kevin tried to eat a fish hook; and the atrocities committed by Bobby were legion.

Then there was the evening the family cat brought home a half eaten parrot. Bob was outside playing ball with his second son, Randy, when a little old lady tottered into their yard. "I've lost my pet parrot," she said. "You haven't by any chance seen one around, have you?"

Now Bob has always been taught that a lie is an abomination unto the Lord, but he quickly calculated that it's also a very present help in time of trouble. "No--no," he stammered. "haven't seen a parrot--no--uh--no parrot." The woman started to leave when the voice of "Honest Abe" piped loud and clear. "Sure we have, Dad!" Randy said. "Don't you remember???" Our cat brought one home and ate it. Here's one of the feathers!"

Bob Crump is the son of the former Naoma Mitchell, and the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Grover C. Mitchell. He is married to the former Mary Pelfry. They reside in Phoenix, Arizona.



The Bob Crump Family L to R Back row: Jon; Randy; and Kevin. Seated are Bob and Mary and Bobby.



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Feb. 24, 1936.

Mr. D. R. Criswell,
Buckholtz, Texas.

Dear Sir:

Please pardon the liberty we are taking in addressing you, but in the past we have done considerable research work in regard to the history of Fayette County, this includes the Criswell family.

Of these there seems to have been two brothers, one was William V. Criswell, a Hero of the Battle of San Jacinto, and Leroy V. Criswell, his brother, who participated in the Siege and Capture of Bexar. *Dec. 5th To 10th 1835.*

We have just about all the information we desire about Wm. V. Criswell, but next to nothing about Leroy V. Criswell and we understand from Mrs. Jones of Muldoon that you are the son of our hero Leroy V. Criswell and that you still have his discharge.

The State of Texas and the undersigned would be very grateful to you if you would give us all information that you can about your father.

Our story of Wm. V. Criswell is printed in the La Grange Journal on date of Feb. 13, 1936 and we sent a copy of it to our old friend W. Tom Jones of Muldoon.

Please let us hear from you.

Yours truly,

Austin Houston

2314 Morse St.

Buckholts, Texas, Feb'y. 27th, 1936.

Houston Wade,
2514 Morse St.,
Houston, Texas.

Dear Sir: I am in receipt of yours of the 24th inst. making inquiries as to LEROY V. CRISWELL, and in answer will say that I am a son of the said LEROY V. CRISWELL, and I was 77 years of age on last Oct. 18th, 1935, and I was born near old Flatonia in Fayette county, Texas.

With reference to my father's discharge from the army at BEVAR or CAMP BEVAR, will say that the enclosed is a copy of the original discharge which I copied more than forty (40) years ago, the original was then in the possession of my deceased Bro., Henry K. Criswell of Yoakum Texas.

The original discharge may be in the possession of Billy (OR W.H.) Criswell now of Yoakum, Tex.

In so far as I know my father, Leroy V. Criswell, first settled at BLACKJACK Springs near what is now Muldoon, and thereafter moved and settled near old Flatonia in Fayette Co.

Leroy V. Criswell died in the year 1865 at which time I was about 6½ years of age.

My father is buried in what was known as the DUFF grave yard or cemetery which is about ¼ to 1 mile S.E. from the village known as PRAHA which is S.E. from Flatonia.

My recollection is that my father's grave has no marker by which it could be identified from other graves.

My antecedents came to Texas, in the year 1829, and the family consisted of my grand father Criswell who went on a business trip to Ky., soon after coming to Texas, and there died in Ky. while he was there, and in so far as I can remember his family consisted of the following sons and daughters to wit:

LERO V. CRISWELL: WILLIAM V. CRISWELL: JOHN Y. CRISWELL:
JOE (J.E.) CRISWELL: JAMES CRISWELL AND JACK CRISWELL, SONS,
AND TWO DAUGHTERS, VIZ. GAMBAGE CRISWELL AND MARY CRISWELL.

My father's discharge (if I did not make a mistake in dates) shows to have been issued Nov. 24th, 1835, while in your letter to me you state that he, Leroy V. Criswell, was at the taking of BEVAR (San Antonio) on Dec. 5th to 10th, 1835.

But however, my father may have remained at CAMP BEVAR for some time after his discharge was issued to him.

William V. Criswell is buried in the same grave yard or cemetery in which my father is buried as stated above, and William V. Criswell's grave can be easily located, as it had considerable rock and cement work placed over it.

Thanking you for your kindness and hoping that I have herein given you such information relative to Leroy V. Criswell as you wish to have in your historical research, and with kind regards and best wishes, I remain,

Yours truly,

L. V. Criswell

P. O. Box 2,

Buckholts, Texas.

(copy)

Houston, Texas.
Feb. 29, 1936.

Mr. D. R. Criswell,
Buckholts, Texas

Dear Mr. Criswell:

First off I want to thank you for your kind letter to me date of February 27, 1936, and most of all do we want to thank you for the wealth of information contained therein.

By way of compensation I am including here a copy of my short biography of the hero of San Jacinto, William V. Criswell, this includes all that I knew up to that date on this family.

I have written a booklet: The Dawson Men of Fayette County, which includes some information about the Mier Prisoners, also I am the coauthor of a volume The History of Fayette County, I mention these facts to show you why I am so much interested in the history of the glorious people of our old home that helped so much to make Texas history.

I have made a copy of the honorable discharge of your Father, Leroy V. Criswell, so I am returning to you your copy. A copy of it also goes to the State records. I wonder if this discharge reveals to you as much as it does to me? From the date of enlistment shown there can be little doubt but that your Father answered the call for help carried by "Old Paint" Caldwell, and that he joined Col. John H. Moore and went to the rescue of Gonzales and took part in the opening of hostilities there on October 2, 1835; not only that but he is shown as a member of the artillery company - that means that

he was detailed to help man the little cannon that was the cause of all the rumpus.

Up to the time the battle of Conception was fought the Texian army had only one cannon, the little four pounder, - at the battle of Conception they captured a beautiful eight pounder with which they did such terrible execution during the siege of Bexar. They captured several guns later, after the battle of Conception and the Grass Fight.

I wish I could send you a copy of my story about John Ingram and also my biography of Dr. William F. Smith. It is just possible that the La Grange Journal can furnish you with my story about Smith; it will help you to understand the entire campaign.

As a matter of suggestion: why not write a letter of inquiry to Miss Harriet Smither, Box D D. Capitol Station, at Austin, Texas, and request her to send you the official army records of Leroy V. Criswell, I have furnished you that of Wm V. Criswell and part of that of John Yancy Criswell.

I would like the best in the world to hear from you again and I will be glad to give you all the information I possess in exchange for what you know. There are several more men I want to ask you about, one of them is John Slack of old Elm Grove community: he fought at the battle of San Jacinto with Wm V Criswell.

Yours truly,

2314 Morse St.

Houston Wade

P. S:- If you know of any person interested in my booklet The Daring Men of Fayette County, give them my name. This booklet sells for one dollar, postpaid.

Wade

about cake baking. The two young-
 found themselves alone at home one day
 never having had all the cake that they
 had to eat, they decided to remedy the
 situation by baking one. Neither knew the first
 about baking, but they decided the more
 or they used the better it would be. The
 was a disaster, of course, and the worst
 was when their mother discovered the
 fate of the precious sugar — she never
 scolded the boys but left that up to her hus-
 band. The boys were very contrite and begged
 not to tell on them, but she told them she
 was going to tell their father and she wouldn't
 back down on her word. However, the good
 behavior and contriteness of the two little fel-
 lows tugged at her tender feelings until she
 compromised as best she could without giving
 in to their pleas. Just before their father re-
 turned she gave each of them an extra pair of
 pants to provide some padding in the area
 where the blows would be felt.

Jewey Turner engaged in the lumber busi-
 ness on a rather extensive basis during the
 twenties and founded the D. E. Turner Oil Com-
 pany in 1945, which he operated until his
 death and which his family carries on today.
 He was interested in fishing and sports and
 was a familiar figure at ball games with his
 father. Patsy at his side. He encouraged young
 people in sports and education and many
 young men who strayed afoot of the law knew
 that they could get a helping hand from him.
 Many people who found it hard to make ends
 met at times were carried on the books at the
 store for long periods of time. Some never
 repaid these accounts, but from time to time,
 even after many years, people repaid him.
 After his death in 1972, his family received
 many testimonials from people he had helped
 and for kindnesses he had done that his family
 never knew about.

His zest for life was manifested in his sing-
 ing and for many years he was a familiar figure
 in church choirs at regular services and in the
 high Sunday singings which were widely
 attended. These choirs used the shaped note,
 or cred harpe's type hymnals.

His family consists of: D. E. Turner, Jr.
 (Tommy) and his wife Adeline Messic Turner,
 Ozelle Shumaker and husband Clyde W.
 Shumaker, Marie Snider and husband Clate
 Snider. His wife Ruby is now retired. There are
 grandchildren: Mark Shumaker, Gena Shu-
 maker Pries, Michael Turner, Alex Turner and
 Cathy Snider.

Sources: Family records and personal knowledge.

— Mozelle Turner Shumaker

THE VANNOY FAMILY

1049

The genealogy "James Hook and Virginia
 Eller" published in 1925 contains about all that
 is yet known about the first generation of the
 Vannoy family in the United States. That
 source states that the Vannoy family is of
 Huguenot extraction, the early family having
 emigrated from France to Holland and later to En-
 gland during the reign of Charles I. The name
 in France was spelled Vannoise or Venois. The

later were names of distinguished families in
 France during the 16th and 17th centuries.

The emigrant to America, John Vannoy set-
 tled on Statler Island, New York. The best
 records indicate his children to be: John, Fran-
 cis, Abram, Rachel, Catherine, and Sarah. The
 second generation traced is through Francis
 Vannoy. The children of Francis Vannoy were
 John, Hannah, Cornelius, and Andrew. The
 third generation traced is through John Van-
 noy. The children of John Vannoy were
 Rachel, Andrew Vannoy who married Susan-
 nah Shepherd October 18, 1779, Abraham,
 Francis, Nathaniel who married Elizabeth Ray
 of Ashe County, Hannah, Daniel, Susannah,
 and Katherine.

The fourth generation is traced through
 Andrew Vannoy and Nathaniel Vannoy.
 Andrew was a captain in the N.C. Regiment,
 Revolutionary War, and Nathaniel was a
 sergeant major on the staff of Col. Ben Cleve-
 land. Both Andrew and Nathaniel participated
 in the Battle of Kings Mountain. Nathaniel Van-
 noy was granted 100 acres of land on Decem-
 ber 15, 1798 on a branch of Lewis Fork Creek.
 On December 10, 1802 and November 28,
 1812, two additional tracts containing 20
 acres and 50 acres respectively both on the
 waters of Lewis Fork Creek were granted to
 him. Nathaniel Vannoy and his wife were
 founding members of the New Hope Baptist
 Church. The church was constituted June 26,
 1830 to serve the people of Lewis Fork Creek.
 The children of Nathaniel Vannoy and wife,
 Elizabeth, were John, Joel, Sarah, Jesse,
 Andrew, Elizabeth, Jane, Ann, and Susannah.

The fifth generation is traced through Jesse
 Vannoy. The children of Jesse Vannoy were
 Elizabeth Ray, Joe, Eden, Sarah Jane, John
 Humphrey, Katherine Ann, William Kilby, Jes-
 se Whitfield, James Nathaniel, Abraham Wes-
 ley, Frances Susannah, Andrew Jackson,
 Mary Caroline, Franky Matilda, and Anderson.

The sixth generation is traced through
 Anderson Vannoy. Anderson Vannoy died in
 1862 at Winchester, VA, from wounds re-
 ceived at the Battle of South Mountain in the
 War between the States. The children of
 Anderson and Martha Wheeler Vannoy were
 Richard Leroy, Catherine (Eliza), James New-
 ton, Mary C., Doane, and Hester.

The seventh generation is traced through
 James Newton Vannoy born July 6, 1857; died
 March 17, 1926; married Cornelia Bumgarner
 October 1881. Cornelia, born September 28,
 1865, died April 9, 1936, was the daughter of
 Adam and Polly (Brown) Bumgarner. They had
 a family of sixteen children as follows: George
 Everett, Hannibal Roscoe, Mary Ethel, Robert
 Glenn, John Thomas, William Andrew, Jesse
 Albert, Mattie Mae, Virginia Dare, William
 Raynor, Mintie Hester, Benedict Arnold,
 Richard Newton, Joseph Conrad, Carl John-
 son, and Clyde Smith.

Source: James Hook and Virginia Eller published in
 1925.

— Thomas G. Vannoy

THE VANNOYS and RAYS

1050

John Vannoy, grandson of John Vannoy
 and his wife Susannah Anderson went from
 New Jersey to S.C. about 1735-6, and after
 several years moved to the "Jersey Settle-
 ment" in Rowan Co., N.C. There John sym-
 pathized with the "Regulators" in their
 opposition to unjust taxes and the service fee
 policy. After the Battle of Alamance in 1771
 many homes along the Yadkin River were de-
 stroyed, including the Vannoy home, and they
 went up-river to the Wilkes area.

Children were Rachel, b. 1741; Andrew, b.
 12 Aug. 1742, m. 18 Oct. 1779 to Susannah
 Shepherd, d. 9 Oct. 1809; Abraham b. 15 Jan.
 1745; Francis, b. 13 Aug. 1746, d. 26 July
 1822 in Knox Co., KY; Nathaniel, b. 16 Feb.
 1749, d. 26 July 1835, married Elizabeth,
 daughter of William and Elizabeth Ray. Han-
 nah, b. 26 Mar. 1751; Daniel, b. 22 Feb. 1752,
 m. 2 Oct. 1779 Sarah Hickerson; Susannah, b.
 6 July 1754; and Katherine, b. 26 Dec. 1755.

Nathaniel Vannoy lived most of his life in
 Wilkes Co. He served as Sgt. Major to Col.
 Benj. Cleveland at the Battle of King's Mtn. and
 in skirmishes with British, Tories and Indians.
 He became a planter, Register of Deeds for
 Wilkes Co. 1814-15 and, finally, a Baptist
 evangelist. He died at the home of his daughter
 Sarah Cleveland in Greenville, SC. Nathaniel
 married Elizabeth Ray ca. 1773 in Surry Co.
 They were "founder members" of New Hope
 Baptist Church in 1830. After a full life she
 predeceased him and was buried, in a Yates
 family cemetery on Lewis Fork. Her parents,
 William and Elizabeth Ray, came from
 Amherst Co., VA, ca. 1772.

On 1 June 1778, Nathaniel, Daniel and
 Andrew Vannoy were among those appointed
 "jurors" to "lay out" roads in the county. In
 the 1782 tax list and the 1790 census Elizabeth
 Ray appears as head of family; apparently Wil-
 liam died between 1778 & 1782.

Their son Col. Jesse Ray (b. 1760, Amherst
 Co. VA) married Elener Baker 8 Jan. 1782. He
 was active in the organization of Ashe Co. from
 Wilkes in 1799.

Daughter Ann Ray and her husband Nathaniel
 Vannoy had nine children: John Vannoy,
 b. 22 May 1775, m. 1st Elizabeth Kilby, and
 died ca. 1796 in Missouri. Joel Vannoy, b. 27
 Feb. 1777, moved to Pike Co. KY; Sarah Van-
 noy, b. 16 Jan. 1779, d. 23 July 1856 in SC,
 m. 31 Aug. 1801 to Jerimiah Cleveland, son of
 Robert Cleveland; Jesse Vannoy, b. 2 July
 1781, d. 26 Nov. 1875, m. 12 Jan. 1804 Mar-
 "Poily" Kilby Shepherd, widow of John
 Shepherd; Andrew Vannoy, b. 4 Nov. 1783, d.
 22 Jan. 1869, m. 1st Elizabeth Degan in NC
 and 2nd Jane McMicheals in TN. He was a
 soldier, school teacher, Baptist minister and
 Clerk of Court in Bedford Co. TN. Elizabeth
 Vannoy, b. 4 March 1786, m. 1806 Neil Pat-
 ton. Jane Vannoy, b. 20 Aug. 1788, m. 18
 Thurston. They moved to Arkansas. Ann Van-
 noy, b. 4 May 1790, d. 21 May 1873, m. 13
 Jan. 1809 to John Foster, son of Thomas and
 Elizabeth Jones Foster. Ann and John lived on
 a plantation on the Yadkin, some nine miles
 east of Wilkesboro and had 15 children.

Susannah Vannoy, b. 4 Nov. 1790, a twin to
m. a Parks.

Sources: "Geo. Michal Eller" by Hooks; Hunterdon Co.
Rowan, Wilkes and Ashe Co. records; "King's Mtn.
's Heroes" by Draper.

— Mrs. John M. Richards, Jr.

HANNIBAL ROSCOE VANNOY 1051

H. Ross Vannoy was born 9 April 1884 and
died 3 September 1974. During his ninety
years, he left a significant influence for de-
pendants, friends, and community.

He was the son of James Newton and Cor-
nelia (Bumgarner) Vannoy of the Purlear com-
munity. He left his father's farm at an early age
and began selling insurance in North Wilkes-
boro. New Hope Baptist was his church. He
was married to Ruth Ella McNeil, daughter of
Thornton Sylvester and Eda Elizabeth (McNeil)
McNeil 10 May 1914.

After his marriage his father-in-law, Thorn-
ton McNeil, brought Ross Vannoy into his
business, the North Wilkesboro Coca-Cola
Bottling Company. He worked there until after
Ruth Vannoy's death 11 January 1919.

Their three children were (1) Ella Sue Van-
noy Colvard, (2) Annie Louise Vannoy Gray,
and (3) H.R. Vannoy, Jr., called "Johnny."
Information about them may be found in their
mother's biography, located elsewhere in this
book.

The Vannoy lineage is rich in history. Ross
Vannoy's grandfather, Anderson, the
youngest of fourteen children, died in Win-
chester, Virginia, after being wounded at
North Mountain as a Confederate soldier. His
great-grandfather, Jesse, was a soldier in the
Revolutionary War, serving in the regiment of
Gen. Benjamin Cleveland. He was granted land
for his military services. Jesse Vannoy was a
founding member of the New Hope Baptist
Church in 1830.

The Vannoy family is of Huguenot extrac-
tion, having fled from France to Holland. Later
they went to England during the reign of King
Charles I. The emigrant to America, who set-
tled on Staten Island, was John Vannoy, who
fought under Oliver Cromwell and was
related to him by marriage. He was the great,
great-grandfather of Jesse Vannoy.

After the death of his wife, Ross Vannoy
moved to Ashe County in 1923 where he had a
sub-franchise for Coca-Cola, a distributorship
for Gulf Oil, and he founded the Dr Pepper
Bottling Company of West Jefferson in 1934.

He returned to Wilkes County to court and
marry Lena Florence Poplin, eldest child of
Leet and Kushat (Harris) Poplin of Ronda.
Lena Vannoy was born 19 July 1901, and she
and Ross Vannoy were married 13 September
1925. Her father was a member of the Wilkes
County Board of Commissioners.

Ross Vannoy's daughter, Ella Sue, moved
with him to Ashe County, while his other
daughter, Annie, remained living with her
parent, Mamie McNeil, in North Wilkesboro.
Johnny had died in 1924.

Lena and Ross Vannoy had two sons, (4)
James Leet Vannoy, who was born 4 October
1926, and (5) Raymond Kyle Vannoy, who

was born 9 May 1928. Leet Vannoy resides in
Austinville, Virginia, and is married to Mildred
Dean Phipps. They are the parents of (1) Patri-
cia Vannoy Inge, (2) Edith Vannoy, and (3) Neil
Vannoy. Kyle Vannoy lives in West Jefferson
and is married to Shirley Hartzog. His children
from former marriages are (2) Teressa Van-
noy, (3) Phyllis Vannoy, (4) Michael Vannoy,
and (5) Susan Vannoy. His oldest son, (1)
James Kyle Vannoy died in 1978.

Ross Vannoy was the second eldest of six-
teen children, all of whom were born at Pur-
lear.

(1) George Everette Vannoy was born 21
July 1882 and died 18 July 1945. He was
married 18 March 1916 to Julia Florence Max-
well. They had two children and two grandchil-
dren. (2) H. Roscoe came next and his lineage
is found above. (3) Mary E. Vannoy was born 1
March 1886 and died 9 May 1960. She was
married to James Harrison Davis 29 April
1906. Their children number ten and their
grandchildren, twenty-six. (4) Robert Glenn
Vannoy was born 16 May 1888 and died 1
August 1974. He was married 8 August 1915
to Lessie Phillips. They were the parents of six
children and seven grandchildren.

(5) John Thomas Vannoy was born 23 De-
cember 1889 and died 26 February 1975. He
was married 26 September 1915 to Lora Ellen
Watts. They had five children and eleven
grandchildren. (6) William Andrew Vannoy
was born 5 November 1891 and died 5 August
1927. He married Margie Lee Dosse and had
two sons and seven grandchildren. (7) Jesse
Albert Vannoy was born 27 March 1893 and
died 13 April 1973. He married Lilla Gilliam 6
February 1916 and they had two sons and two
daughters. There were seven grandchildren.

(8) Mattie Mae Vannoy was born 26 April
1895 and died 26 January 1972. She was
married to John David McLean 5 November
1921. They had a son and a daughter. Their
grandchildren number four. (9) Virginia Dare
Vannoy was born 24 December 1896 and died
18 February 1970. She was married 1 May
1926 to Robert Lee Reavis. They were the
parents of a son and a daughter and four
grandchildren. (10) William Raynor Vannoy
was born 29 December 1898 and died 19 Au-
gust 1947. He was married to Lacy Florence
McNeil 7 January 1923. They had one daugh-
ter and no grandchildren.

(11) Mintie Hester Vannoy was born 29 De-
cember 1900. She was married to Archie Allen
Bumgarner. She has one daughter and five
grandchildren. (12) Arnold Vannoy was born
14 March 1903 and died 27 May 1919. He was
unmarried.

(13) Richard Newton Vannoy was born 28
July 1904. He was married to Dorothy Scott 5
September 1925. They had two sons and two
grandchildren. (14) Joseph Conrad Vannoy
was born 19 March 1906. He was married 12
February 1929 to Helen Whittington. There
were four children and seven grandchildren.

(15) Carl Johnson Vannoy was born 18 No-
vember 1909 and married Leida Church 1 Jan-
uary 1931. There are three daughters and five
grandchildren. (16) Clyde Smith Vannoy was
born 3 March 1911. He was married to Virginia
Money 5 February 1935. There are three chil-

dren and five grandchildren.

Ross Vannoy has only one surviving sis-
ter, Mintie Vannoy Bumgarner, and four surviv-
ing brothers, Richard, Conrad, Carl and Clyde
Vannoy. Forty-six nieces and nephews were
born, although some are deceased.

With the large family and humble be-
liefs, Ross Vannoy learned early to make
contribution to mankind. His life was interest-
ing and full. The counties of Wilkes and Ashe
benefitted from his having been one of their
noble citizens.

Sources: Hook, *George Michael Eller, Descendant
His in America*. Vannoy, *The James Newton Vannoy
Family*; family records and memories

— C. Frank Coyle

THE FAMILY OF JAMES NEWTON VANNOY

(1) George Everette Vannoy (July 21, 1882,
July 18, 1945) married March 18, 1916 Florence
Maxwell (April 23, 1880; January 19, 1970).
They had two daughters, Annie Lora Vannoy
(January 1, 1917), married Charles Raymond
Hill December 24, 1937, and Winnie Mae Vannoy
(March 30, 1918) married Troy Manus Church
June 16, 1940.

(2) Hannibal Roscoe Vannoy (April 9, 1884,
September 3, 1974) married May 1914 Ruth
Ella McNeil (See Ruth Ella McNeil Vannoy
story).

(3) Mary E. Vannoy (March 1, 1886, March 1,
1960) married April 29, 1906 James Harrison
Davis (July 8, 1884; February 19, 1955). They
had ten children; Theta Ester (February 1907;
October 18, 1913); Parks (March 1908); Scott
(April 18, 1909; married V. Whittington Septem-
ber 11, 1928 and had children; Ralph (February 2,
1911) married September 18, 1937 Pansey Kendall and
one son; Ruth (October 24, 1919) married
Wiles June 27, 1934 and had three children; Gladys
(March 25, 1914) married Eugene Phillips Novem-
ber 5, 1938 and had five children; Grace (Septem-
ber 13, 1915) married February 12, 1938 Arlie O.
Foster and had three children; Warren G. (Feb-
ruary 26, 1921, October 26, 1981) married Jurileen
Nicholson February 28, 1942 and had one son; Doris
(October 29, 1922) married George Eysenbach May
1944 and had seven children, and Marjorie
(August 22, 1925).

(4) Robert Glenn Vannoy (May 16, 1888,
August 1, 1974) married August 8, 1915 Lessie
Phillips Vannoy (September 13, 1888; June 16,
1959). They had six children; Clifton married
Reba Campbell, Elm Springs, Inez Dora (Janu-
ary 20, 1920, November 15, 1934), Robert Glenn Jr.,
Susan and Betty Jean.

(5) John Thomas Vannoy (December 23,
1889, February 26, 1975) married October 26,
1915 to Lora Ellen Watts (February 4, 1890,
February 4, 1973). They had five children: Wayne
Winifred (September 1919) married Ruby Belle
Baker and had two children; Reuben Wrenn (Jan-
uary 23, 1925) married Annie Beile Pardue and
had two children; Faye, married Roy Taylor Cash-
croft.

1858) and had four children, her second marriage was to Jim Spicer. John Thomas married Ara Sue Lovette and had four children. Howard Hadley married Mary Gladus and had three daughters.

(6) William Andrew Vannoy (November 5, 1891 August 1927) married Margie Lee Dosse February 11, 1896; January 23, 1972). They had two sons: Lacy French and William James (deceased).

(7) Jesse Albert Vannoy (March 27, 1893; April 13, 1973) married February 6, 1916 to Ella Blanche Gilliam (August 9, 1892, December 22, 1972). They had five children: Sarah Cornelia (January 3, 1917), Charles Albert (April 23, 1919), Margaret Ruth (February 27, 1924; January 17, 1925), Betty Louise (April 9, 1927; December 10, 1927), Mary Elizabeth (August 19, 1928).

(8) Mattie Mae Vannoy (April 26, 1895; January 26, 1972) married November 5, 1921 to John David McLean (September 3, 1895; November 15, 1978). They had two children: Frederick Carl (August 26, 1922) and Winnie Sue (November 25, 1923).

(9) Virginia Dare Vannoy (December 24, 1896; February 18, 1970) married May 1, 1926 Robert Lee Reavis (May 9, 1897; September 26, 1972). They had two children: James Arnold and Iris Allene (Nancy).

(10) William Raynor Vannoy (December 29, 1898; August 19, 1947), married on January 7, 1923 Lacy Florence McNeil (May 29, 1902). They had one daughter: Mildred Katherine.

(11) Mintie Hester Vannoy (December 29, 1900) married Archie Allen Bumgarner (February 19, 1886; March 25, 1936). They had one daughter: Archie Alan Bumgarner (November 25, 1936).

(12) Arnold Vannoy (March 14, 1903; May 27, 1919)

(13) Richard Newton Vannoy (July 28, 1904) married September 5, 1925 to Dorothy Scott (September 11, 1906). They had two sons: Max Clinton (January 7, 1929; June 8, 1938), and Thomas Gene. (April 20, 1933). Thomas Gene married Evelyn Englebert and had two children: Sharon Ann (Sherry) (October 7, 1953) and Larry Thomas (December 3, 1956). Larry married Susan Dare Wachter September 26, 1981.

(14) James Conrad Vannoy (March 19, 1906) married Helen Whittington and had four children: Louise; Joseph Smith (March 13, 1934; November 11, 1939), Linda; and Frank Douglas (November 16, 1943).

(15) Carl Johnson Vannoy (November 18, 1909) married January 1, 1931 Leida Church (January 7, 1914). They had three daughters: Carlee, Barbara Jean, and Mary Maxine.

(16) Clyde Smith Vannoy (March 3, 1911) married February 5, 1935 Virginia (Virgie) Money (October 21, 1918; February 19, 1975). They had three children: Mildred Carolyn; Eugene Smith; and Daniel Jeffrey.

Sources: family records and personal knowledge.

— Thomas G. Vannoy

JOEL VANNOY

1053

Joel Vannoy was born in 1792, presumably

in Wilkes County, N.C. It has been said, "Sheriff Vannoy was a man of great prominence in his day. He was sheriff of Wilkes County almost for a life time. I have been told that he was a very striking personality, strong mentally and physically." Official records of Wilkes County indicate that he only served as sheriff for six years, from 1824 to 1830. He was the father of 22 children, 17 of whom grew to adulthood. Seven of his sons served in the Civil War.

So far as we know, no definite proof ever has been found as to the father of Joel Vannoy. Two sources say he probably was the son of Daniel Vannoy who married Sarah Hickerson in Wilkes in 1779. Others have stated he was the son of Nathaniel Vannoy.

Joel Vannoy served as a corporal in the Fifth Regiment of Wilkes County in the War of 1812.

A marriage bond was issued March 18, 1817 in Wilkes County to Joel Vannoy and Elizabeth Saint Clair. She was born on September 12, 1796 and died February 10, 1831. She is buried at Presbyterian Church in Wilkesboro. Seven of her children lived to maturity and were:

Joel Alfred Vannoy (1818- ?); Elizabeth Caroline Vannoy (1819-1876) married Horatio Nelson Miller and had ten children; John Hamilton Vannoy (? -1862); Rebecca Elvira Vannoy who married a Walsh; Emily Amanda Vannoy (1821-1888) married Edward Welch and had a large family; Amelia Adeline Vannoy (1827-1897) married to Willis Parker and they were parents of ten children; and Ann Marie Vannoy who married first Rodolph McClelland, married second Henry S. Swink with issue by both.

On July 6, 1832 a marriage bond was issued in Burke County, N.C. to Joel Vannoy and Lemira E. Sudderth, daughter of Abraham and Martha Sumter Sudderth. She was born in 1819 and died in 1858 at the age of 49. She also is buried in the Presbyterian churchyard in Wilkesboro. Ten of her children lived to be grown and were:

Abram McLean Vannoy (? -1862) with one known child; William Wiley Vannoy (1834-1905) had two children: Sarah Martha Vannoy (1835-1905) married first John Nooe and had five children, married second Joseph P. Shields and had two children; Alexander Washington Vannoy (1836-1862); James Vannoy (1838- ?); Harvey Sudderth Vannoy (1840-1935); Thomas Irwin Vannoy (1842- ?); Elijah Ross Vannoy (1844-1863); Catherine A. Vannoy (1849-1872) was married to Vance Taylor and had two known children; and Anderson Mitchell Vannoy (1854-1922).

In 1833 Vannoy wrote a letter to Gov. D.L. Swain in which he said that he had been to Cherokee County, N.C. He was protesting intruders from other States who were destroying the land and timber by gold mining. Sometime between 1836 and 1840 he moved his family to Cherokee. He purchased about 900 acres of land there in 1839. He and his family of eleven males and five females are listed in the 1840 Census of Cherokee County. They also appear in the 1850 Census of Cherokee.

Family tradition says that he was appointed by the Governor of North Carolina to gather up

the Indians of Cherokee County for their removal to Indian Territory, or what is now the State of Oklahoma. This may be true, but if so, he only served a short time. Records from Washington, D.C. indicate that he paid a substitute to serve in his place.

It is not known when Joel Vannoy returned to Wilkes County, but he died on October 25, 1858 and is buried in Wilkesboro between his two wives. He left a will which was probated in Wilkes County.

Sources: *Land of Wilkes*, by Johnson J. Hayes; *Cherokee Heritage, The People of Cherokee County*, by Margaret S. Freel; *Muster Rolls of the Soldiers of the War of 1812*, Adjutant General; *Abraham Sudderth Family History*, by Alfred A. Kent, Jr.; Wilkes County records, Cherokee County Records, family correspondence, census records, grave markers.

— Virginia Lee Satterfield

JOEL VANNOY ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS

1053

John Vannoy was born about 1716, died about 1778 in Wilkes County. He settled in the Jersey Settlement of Rowan County with his wife, Susannah Anderson of New Jersey. He rendered public service during the Revolutionary War. He and his wife had nine children, all believed to have been born in North Carolina: (1) Rachel, born 12 April 1741, married John Patton, (2) Andrew, born 12 August 1742, died 9 October 1809, married 18 August 1770 in Wilkes County, Susannah Shepherd, (3) Abraham, born 15 January 1745, (4) Francis, born 13 August 1746, died 26 July 1822 in Knox County, Kentucky, (5) Nathaniel, born 16 February 1749, married Elizabeth Ray, (6) Hannah, born 26th March 1751, (7) Daniel, born 22 February 1752, married 2 October 1779, Sarah Hickerson, (8) Susannah, born 6 July 1754, (9) Katherine, born 26 December 1755.

Daniel Vannoy, son of John and Susannah (Anderson) Vannoy, and his wife Sarah had at least nine children, one of whom was Joel Vannoy, who was born in 1792, died 1853 in Wilkes County. Joel lived for awhile in Cherokee County, N.C., was a cabinet maker, a Col. in the War of 1812, and sheriff of Wilkes County from 1824 until 1830, and was married twice. He and his two wives are buried in the Old Presbyterian Cemetery in Wilkesboro.

Joel Vannoy first married on the 18 March 1817 in Wilkes County, Elizabeth St. Clair, born 12 September 1796, died 10 February 1831. There were eight children born to them, as follows: Joel, Jr., Elizabeth Caroline, Alford, John Hamilton, Rebecca, Emily Amanda, America Adeline and Ann Mariah.

Joel's second marriage was about 1832 to Emily Lemira Suddeth, born 1809, died 1852, daughter of Abraham and Martha (Sumpster) Suddeth. Joel and Emily Lemira were the parents of nine children, viz: (1) Abraham, born 1832, married Martha James, (2) William Wiley, born 22 June 1834, died 9 January 1905, married Susan Elizabeth Crowson, (3) Sarah Martha, born 18 July 1835, died February 1905 in Charlotte, N.C., married 1st 4 July 1857 in Wilkes County, John Nooe, and 2nd

John Preston Shields, (4) Catharine, born 1805, died 1910 Laurel Springs, Alleghany County, married Vance Taylor, (5) Washington Alexander born 1839, (6) Harvey Suddeth, born 1841, died 15 January 1835 at Ronda, Wilkes County, married 19 September 1867, Charine Weiborn, (7) Thomas Erwin, born 1843, died 1864 at Gettysburg, (8) Elijah Jess, born 1844, (9) Anderson Mitchell, born February 1855 died 21 March 1922, married Annie Smith. He was sheriff of Wilkes County and is supposed to be buried in the old Presbyterian Cemetery, Wilkesboro, N.C.

William Wiley Vannoy, son of Joel and Emily Mira (Suddeth) Vannoy married 7 July 1867 in Wilkes County. Susan Elizabeth Crowson, born 7 November 1837, died 22 April 1903, daughter of Adam and Nancy Crowson. He was a major in the Civil War. They are both buried in the old Presbyterian Cemetery, Wilkesboro, N.C. They were the parents of five children: (1) William A., born 4 April 1868, died 8 February 1898, Addie Forester, (2) James Edward, born 4 April 1868, twin to William A., died 26 January 1819, married 27 May 1899 in Stokes County, Hartie Roberta Rebecca Ward, (3) Joseph, born 1879, died young, (4) Anderson Mitchell born 1875, (5) Gladia Belle, born 1879, married January 1894, Jesse M. McNiell. They lived at Donnacona, Forsyth County; then Winston-Salem and buried in the Salem Cemetery there.

James Edward Vannoy, son of William W. and Susan Elizabeth (Crowson) Vannoy, married Hartie Ward, born 25 February 1876, Stokes County, died 5 August 1963 in Wilkes County, daughter of Samuel Marion David and Mary Ann Ruth (Hutcherson) Ward of Donnacona, Forsyth County, N.C. Ed was a well-to-do merchant of North Wilkesboro, dealing primarily in roots and herbs. He is buried in the North Wilkesboro Cemetery, Sixth Street. She is buried in Mt. Lawn with her second husband, J. Lippard. James Edward and Hartie had five children: (1) Maisie Susan, born 17 December 1900, died 8 December 1955, married Joseph Richard Reins, (2) Lucy Roberta, born 20 November 1902, married June 1922 in Boone, N.C., Alvis M. (Jack) Hadley, (3) Ruth Elizabeth, born 6 December 1904, died 17 April 1936, married, 1st, 11 January 1836, Kenneth Chilton, 2nd, Walton LeGrand Black (4) James Edward, Jr. born 20 July 1906, is unmarried, (5) William Wiley, born 1 December 1909, died 1914, (6) Harvey Suddeth, born 4 March 1910, is unmarried, (7) Mary Margaret, born 2 January 1914, married William Clyde Pearson, (8) Infant boy born and died 31 January 1916, (9) Jackson Mitchell, born 3 February 1917, is unmarried.

Mary Margaret Vannoy, daughter of James Edward and Hartie (Ward) Vannoy, married 5 August 1834, in North Wilkesboro, William George Pearson, born 4 January, 1913, died 8 September 1956 in Winston-Salem hospital, son of Rom Hall and Maude (Hollar) Pearson. George was a wholesale grocer, in business with his father. He is buried at Mt. Lawn Cemetery. William and Margaret were the parents of three children: (1) William Clyde, Jr., born 12 August 1935, married 14 October 1964, Catharine Ray Snell. They live in Cape Coral, Florida,

(2) Ruth Vannoy, born 22 November 1836, married 15 February 1961, James Allen Bumgarner, born 2 October 1934, died 1973. Jim and Ruth had two children (a) Rebecca Lynn, born 24 September 1965, (b) Mark Allen, born 12 March 1968. Since Jim's death, Ruth and her children have lived in North Wilkesboro. (3) Margaret Janice, born 27 December 1948. Jan is a cytologist at Wilson Memorial Hospital, Wilson, N.C. She is as yet unmarried.

Sources: George Michael Eller & his Descendants, etc. by Hook. Wilkes Marriage records. Bible records, tombstone inscriptions, birth certificates, Federal Census, newspaper items, personal knowledge.

— Ruth Pearson Bumgarner

RUTH MCNIEL VANNOY

1055

Twenty-eight bright and giving years were the life span of Ruth Elia McNiell Vannoy. During her relatively brief life, she gave the gift of contributing perfection to her surroundings.

She was the second child of Thornton Sylvester and Eda Elizabeth (McNiell) McNiell. Born 2 November 1890, she died during the 1918-1919 influenza epidemic in the same month as did her father and brother, Osco McNiell. Her death was 11 January 1919.

Ruth McNiell was married to Hannibal Roscoe Vannoy 10 May 1914. He was the son of James Newton and Cornelia (Bumgarner) Vannoy of the Purlear community. His birth date was 9 April 1884. Ross Vannoy's biography is found elsewhere in this publication. There were three children, all of whom were born in Wilkes County, as were their grandchildren.

(1) Ella Sue Vannoy was born 17 February 1915. She attended Appalachian State University and was married to Carl Franklin Colvard 6 October 1934. Born 22 March 1908, he was the son of Charles Hampton and Elizabeth (Vannoy) Colvard of the Wilbar community. (Their biographies may be found elsewhere in this book.) They had one son, Carl Franklin Colvard, Jr., unmarried, who was born 30 August 1939. He attended Wake Forest University and resides in West Jefferson with his mother. Both are members of the West Jefferson First Baptist Church. Carl F. Colvard, Sr. died 28 May 1962.

(2) Annie Louise Vannoy was born 17 May 1917 and died 4 July 1977. She was married 31 March 1941 to Alexander Russell Gray, Jr., born 1 June 1919, son of A.R. and Sarah (Campbell) Gray of Wilkesboro. Annie Gray graduated from Meredith College and was a member of the Wilkesboro United Methodist Church. Her three children are (1) Alexander Russell Gray, III, unmarried, born 13 June 1943, and he attended Lenoir-Rhyne and Wilkes Community Colleges. His church membership is with the Wilkesboro United Methodist Church, and he lives with his father. (2) James Robert Gray was born 12 May 1946 and was married 28 June 1969 to Mary Iva Reinhardt, born 23 February 1945, the daughter of Walter Ramseur and Gwendolyn (Parker) Reinhardt of Northampton County. They are communicants of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Wilkesboro. Jim Gray is a graduate of the University of North Carolina. Their children are

(1) David Christopher Gray, born 26 Feb 1974 and (2) Martha Elizabeth Gray, born January 1978. Annie Gray's only daughter born 27 May 1950. Named for her two grandmothers, Sarah Ruth Gray, unmarried, graduated from the University of North Carolina Greensboro. She is a communicant of St. Paul's Church. All of the Grays live in Wilkesboro.

(3) Hannibal Roscoe Vannoy, Jr., named "Johnny," only lived five years, has been born 9 January 1919 and died 27 February 1924.

Ruth Vannoy had five brothers and one sister, (6) Mamie McNiell. Her brothers were William Alonzo, (2) Claude Ackie, (3) Charles Odell, (4) Richard Tipton, and (5) George McNiell. For a complete description of the lineages, reference should be made to the information on Mamie McNiell Hartley. The Honorable Johnson J. Hayes wrote about the McNiell in general: "As their name implies they were that sturdy, thrifty Scotch-Irish stock, loved liberty and believed in and practiced earning their bread by the sweat of the face."

All the McNiells were born and lived on Cowles Creek in the Purlear community, though there are variations in the spelling of the surname within the immediate family. The original composition of McNiell is used for continuity.

They were a fun-loving family, and each had a great sense of humor. They, likewise, had the business of citizenship and community involvement seriously.

Eventually their father, Thornton McNiell, founded the North Wilkesboro Coca-Cola Bottling Company. He lived with Ruth Vannoy and her family in North Wilkesboro during the war to look after his business interests in the returning home on week-ends. His death was two days after his daughter's.

Ruth Vannoy was reared in a devout Baptist home. This legacy was continued when her own home was established. Judge Hayes further wrote: "The outstanding characteristic of the (McNiell) family is its loyalty and dedicated support of the church in their community."

She was a fine homemaker and an excellent cook. Ruth McNiell Vannoy's many accomplishments during her short life continue to be remembered and to serve as an inspiration.

Sources: Absher, *The Thornton McNiell Family*; George Michael Eller, *Descendants of His Ancestors*; Hayes, *Genealogy of the McNiell Clan*; and family memories.

— C. Frank Colvard

THE WORTH and BEATRICE CHURCH VANNOY FAMILY

1056

Walter Worth Vannoy, Sr. was born in Ashe County April 7, 1907, son of Joseph L. and Lillian Colvard Vannoy. He received his education in the Ashe County schools and moved to Wilkes County in 1924. He has been employed in a trucking business for 35 years.

He married Beatrice Terena Church

She was born January 8, 1904, at Branch, being the second of three children born to Zoiley Cotter and Rebecca Church. She received her education at Mountain View Institute, Woman's College in Greensboro, and Ivey's Business School in Wilkesboro. She taught school in Wilkes County for six years, and did clerical work for oil company in North Wilkesboro for two years.

Four children were born to this union: Ives Madison Vannoy, born October 29, 1909, received his education at Millers Creek High School. He married Mildred Dean Whitton on December 22, 1951. She was born March 2, 1933, daughter of Walter and Ruby sons Whittington. She received her education at Mount Pleasant High School.

Annie Lee Vannoy, born February 11, 1933, graduated from Millers Creek High School, Cleveland Business College, and worked for Ralph Davis, Attorney-at-Law, for several years. She married Ivery Haynes on August 5, 1966. He was born November 26, 1932, son of Major Dewey and Mollie Brown Haynes, of Mulberry community. He received his education at North Wilkesboro High School and Cleveland Business College. He worked several years for Lowe's Companies, Inc., retiring in 1971. He is now self-employed in investments.

Claude Elbert Vannoy was born July 5, 1935. He is a graduate of Millers Creek High School and received a Master's Degree in business administration from the University of Utah. He retired from the U.S. Army with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1977. On September 25, 1956, he married Virginia Alene Brown, born September 4, 1934, daughter of Edward and Sara McDaniel Brown of Oklahoma. She is a graduate of Cambridgeshire Technical College, Cambridge, England. They have three children: David Bryant Vannoy, born January 1, 1958, graduated from the University of Tennessee. Cynthia Anne Vannoy, born June 4, 1959, is a graduate of the University of Maryland. Marie Alene Vannoy, born July 27, 1963, a student at Catonsville Community College, Catonsville, Maryland.

Walter Worth Vannoy, Jr., who lives in the pocket community, was born December 3, 1938. He is a graduate of West Wilkes High School and is self-employed in a trucking business. He has three daughters: Catherine Anne Vannoy, born January 11, 1967, Brenda Sue Vannoy, born April 14, 1969, and Amanda Marie Vannoy, born September 2, 1971. The three daughters are piano students.

Sources: Family Bible and personal knowledge.

— Mrs. Annie Lee Vannoy Haynes

WALKER FAMILY OF WILKES

1057

Samuel Walker, an early settler and landowner in Wilkes Co. entered 200 acres of land joining Aquila Lowe's line in 1779. Samuel was born 7 May 1749, married Martha, born 6 Aug. 1759.

This family moved to Henry Co. Ky. between 1790 and 1798. Samuel made an indenture, 5

months and 24 days before his death, to his son Charles, in exchange for "engaging to support and maintain the said Samuel his father in good and comfortable victualing, cloathing and lodging the ballance of the said Samuel's natural life."

Their children born in N.C. except the last one in Ky. (1) Jacob (1778-1854), m. Sarah Biggers; Mary Polly Sharp; and Sarah Miller. (2) Zephaniah (1780-1852), m. Polly Butcher and Lydia Wheaton, he was living alone in Brown Co. In. in 1850. (3) Isaac b. 1782, m. Elizabeth Pritchard and moved to Johnson Co. In. (4) Ellender b. 1784, m. Jesse Baker and moved to Bartholomew Co. In. (5) Rachel b. 1787, m. Littleton Baker (half brother of Jesse), moved to Boone Co. In. (6) Betsy (Elizabeth) b. 1790, m. James Crawford. (7) Charles Montilion 1798-1843, m. Ann Thixton and Elizabeth Parks.

Jacob Walker, son of Samuel, b. 6 Aug. 1778, d. 31 Sept. 1854, buried in Walker Cemetery, Brown Co. In., m. Sarah Biggers. Children all born in Ky. (1) Samuel 1804-1872. (2) James b. 1800/10, and moved to Missouri in 1836. (3) Benjamin Franklin 1808-1890, m. Frances Long. (4) Arlanda (Landy) b. 1812/13 m. Nancy Baker and Rachel Young, daughter of John Young, moved to Illinois. (5) Zephaniah 1813-1897, bur. Hopewell Cemetery, Boone Co. In., m. Martha Baker, Mary Paxton and Mary Petro. (6) Isaac. (7) Betsy, Patsy. (8) Charles Hazard 1816/17-1890, m. Jane Rariden and Mrs. Nancy Burton, sons Samuel, John, Henry T. and Jacob C.

Samuel Walker, son of Jacob, b. 19 July 1804, died 3 June 1872 and was the first person buried in the Sprunica Church Cemetery, Brown Co. In. He m. Nancy Young, b. 20 May 1807, daughter of John Young. Children: (1) Jacob Perry 1828-1907, m. Cynthia White and Rachel Amanda Wright. (2) Franklin 1830-1922, m. Nancy Curry 1836-1892. (3) Sarah Jane 1832-1915, m. Wm. Fraker. (4) Wm. J. 1835-1898, m. Elizabeth Taggart 1839-1924. (5) Orlando (Landy B) 1839-1914, was deaf, m. Mary E. Kennett 1842-1913. (6) Harrison 1841-1925, m. Eliza Ann Hurd. (7) Nancy 1843-1908, m. Samuel Tracy, (8) James Knox 1845-1932, m. Catherine Campbell, (9) Scott Samuel 1847-1929, m. Clarissa Duchamel 1852-1895. (10) Daniel b. 1850, d. young. Two more children died of Malaria in swampy Johnson County, so the Walker family moved to higher ground in Brown County, Indiana.

Harrison Walker, son of Samuel and Nancy, b. 26 Aug. 1841, d. 23 Nov. 1925 in Ind., m. Eliza Ann Hurd 1866, daughter of Charles Willard and Mary A. Henry Hurd. The Hurd family came from Somersetshire England to Connecticut, and finally came to Indiana. Eliza b. 2 June 1845, d. 23 Dec. 1928 in Ind. Children: (1) John Willard 1872-1936, m. Florence Etta Dine. (2) Alta Belle 1875-1958, m. James R. Brickey 1874-1956. (3) Bertha Ellen 1883-1960, (4) Lydia Evaline 1888-1973, m. Ira Weddle, and had Irwin H., Norma, Virgil and Virginia. (5) Male b & d 1878. (6) Female b. & d. 1881.

John Willard Walker, son of Harrison and Eliza, b. 19 Sept. 1872, d. 12 Jan. 1936, m. Florence Etta Dine 26 Sept. 1894. She was b.

26 Feb. 1876 in Brown Co. In. daughter of Samuel Dine and Mary Ann Pitcher. Florence Etta d. 23 Mar. 1936. Children: (1) Dettie Eressa 1895-1973, m. Ross Catt, Lloyd Holder and Rentist Shultz. Sons, Leland, Lawrence and Russell Catt. (2) Ora Ervan 1897-1918, unm. (3) Leatha Mable 1899-1972, m. John P. Elliott. (4) Herschel Oscar b. 1902, living 1982, m. Eloise Rodgers; children Helen, George, Reva and twins Tom and Jerry.

Leatha Mable Walker daughter John Willard b. 13 Sept. 1899, d. 4 March 1972, m. 19 June 1919 John Parker Elliott 1896-1973, both d. in Seminole, Florida and are buried in Glen Cove Cem., Knightstown, In. Children: (1) Lloyd Earl 1920-1942, unm. (2) Florence Louise b. 1922, m. James R. Abraham and Robert A. (Lamb) Shaw, children, Patricia (Abraham) Albers, James John Abraham and Robert A. Shaw II. (3) James Preston b. 1929, m. Jean Shertzer and had Steven; m. second Jan Shultz, and had James Lee; married third Mary Boyd, and fourth Diana Garrett.

My grandmother, Florence Walker was beautiful with Auburn hair and blue eyes. I spent many a happy weekend in her home. She would find pieces of pretty cloth to make doll clothes and let me play tea party with her best china cups and saucers. Grandfather John was always ready to open his coin purse and take me to the 10¢ store to buy a doll to sew for. Grandfather had a little story he told "A small boy asked his mother, "where am I going to die?" His mother asked, "why do you want to know?" The little boy replied, "because I won't ever go there!" Whenever I fill in charts with my grandfather's death place and date, I think of him and want to say, "Grandpa, don't go to Lebanon, Indiana!"

My mother, Leatha Elliott was a wonderful person. She could make a warm inviting home anywhere, which she did many times, as we moved frequently. My father traveled, and being alone she took us fishing, wild strawberry picking and told us and the neighbor children ghost stories in the kitchen with all the lights out. Once, on my birthday, I sent her a bouquet of roses and said "Thanks Mom," I hope she knew how much I loved her.

Sources: Wilkes Co. N.C. records; Henry Co. K. Records, Family Bibles.

— Florence Elliott Shaw

CHARLES and SOPHRONIA DOCKERY WALKER

1058

Charles Spurgeon Walker was born December 29, 1880 to Isaac Jeffrey (1849-1918) and Minerva Caroline McNeil Walker (1852-1904). His grandparents were Isaac (1815-1907) and Sallie Roberts Walker (1817-1905); and Alfred and Matilda Vannoy McNeil. The Walkers lived on Morris Knob in the Boomer community. Charles, his father, and grandfather were farmers.

A family story relates that when the earlier Walkers were crossing the ocean, a child died and was buried at sea. The other children were told that this sea burial was necessary to prevent the large whales from attacking their ship.

A Hundred Years of Comfort in Texas

A Centennial History

by
Guido E. Ransleben

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Press of
THE NAYLOR COMPANY
San Antonio, Texas

STORIES AND PRANKS

sleeping on the floor. A veritable cloudburst had disturbed the festivities of the day, and after the young men had stretched out on the floor, with their feet to the center and heads to the walls, it was discovered that the roof was leaking in one spot, causing a dripping of water on one of the guests. It was impossible to move because of the crowded condition; hence it was agreed amongst them that one after another would undergo this torture every hour, in rotation. The decision was carried out accordingly. This incident illustrates the good humor and comradeship existing among the early settlers.

Wearing apparel went back to the primitive, as the clothes the immigrants brought along were worn out in due course of time; however, some were stored in trunks and worn on festive occasions only. The everyday work clothes consisted of a blue-striped hickory shirt and pants of blue or brown Kentucky so-called jeans. Comfort was fortunate in having a proficient tailor in its midst in the person of Heinrich Seidensticker. Mr. Seidensticker built the home, which was torn down at the time the Ernst Doebbler home was built, and which today is the art studio of Peter Hohnstedt. His property extended to what is now Chamberlain's Variety Store and the Groos Pharmacy, the Louis Lich residence and the Hohnstedt lot back to Albert Faltn's residence. Besides doing the tailoring for the community, Mr. Seidensticker also operated a dairy, the corner area being then known as Seidensticker's *Kuhpenne* (cowpen). During the day the cows were pastured in the river area below the present home of Charles Seidensticker, Jr.

An interesting story was related to the writer by Henry Seidensticker, Jr. shortly before his death last February, which relates to his father's tailoring business. It seems that a man by the name of Bill Crisswell, living up the river above Comfort, had had a feud with a man named Ed Kelly who lived near the "Bend" in the Block Creek area below Comfort. Crisswell was a big man, whereas Kelly was of the diminutive type. On their last meeting in Comfort, Crisswell had severely beaten up Kelly and threatened his life if he would catch him in town again. About two weeks later, Crisswell, accompanied by his wife, came to town in his buckboard, stopping at Seidensticker's for measurement for a suit of brown jeans with an extra pair of pants "to boot." Seidensticker was strictly a tailor, hence carried no stock of merchandise. After finishing the measurements, he gave Crisswell the figures for the amount of material necessary to make the suit and extra pants. Crisswell walked down to August

A HUNDRED YEARS OF COMFORT IN TEXAS

Faltin's store on the corner, bought the desired material and brought it to Seidensticker to complete.

Crisswell mounted his buckboard again and drove around the corner, stopping in front of the Peter Ingenhuett store (where the Faust Hotel now stands) in which was also located the post office. Coming out of the post office, Crisswell saw Kelly riding up on horseback. Kelly had a carbine strapped to his saddle and reached for it. Crisswell tried to reach his buckboard; however, Kelly struck him with the first shot. Crisswell turned in his tracks and started running east toward the Meyer Hotel, with Kelly firing another couple of shots after him. Crisswell turned the corner, where now stands the Comfort Museum, and plunged into the home of Mrs. Hermann Wille, who resided about a hundred feet back from the corner. Crisswell fell over a bed in Mrs. Wille's home; she summoned immediate aid, but he died a few hours later from the effects of the first bullet which had passed through his stomach.

This shooting on October 28, 1882, brought Comfort into the category of a full-fledged frontier town. Kelly was later acquitted on the testimony of witnesses to the previous meeting of the two men involved. Mr. Seidensticker found himself with the measurements and material on hand; however, his client had joined his ancestors — a victim of his own promotion.

Except for the unfortunate incident above, Comfort had always been known as a peaceful hamlet. Lawlessness was practically unknown; the only incidents marring the peace of the community usually were the results of the offspring of "nesters" in some adjoining counties who, due to local option which kept their precincts in the dry column, at times came to Comfort and tried to make up for lost time. As road conditions and train schedules prevented taking some of these culprits to the county jail in Boerne until the following day, it was necessary to handcuff these rowdies with their arms embracing a hackberry tree. It was later decided to build a small 8x10 bastille on the present site of the fire station; however, the construction was flimsy enough to give the prisoner a chance to break out and escape. This saved the county a little money, as these fugitives would never again return for fear of having an added charge of jail-breaking against them; thus peace and quiet were again restored.

Not all of the behavior of these "outsiders" was due to over-indulgence of the harder spirit. On occasion of one of the big dances of the year, which attracted people to come in buggies, hacks, wagons and on horseback from every fork of the creeks, there again appeared in town two sinister-looking "outsiders."

NOTE: LEE CRISWELL SHOT THE ASSINATOR BUT DID NOT KILL HIM.

REPUBLIC & STATE SETTLERS' GRANTS

(Criswell name)

Land Grants	Land District	Class
Criswell, A. F.	Fannin	P
" C. M.	Robertson	3
" D. B.	Robertson	P
" D. E.	Fannin	S
" D. P.	Robertson	P
" Davis	Robertson	3
" Frank	Milam	P
" H. E.	Milam	P
" Harlam	Travis	P
" J. F.	Bexar	P
" J. L. J.	Houston	P
" J. Y.	Gonzales	1
" James H.	Milam	3
" John F.	Bexar	P
" John Y.	Bexar	3
" Joseph	Refugio	1
" L. D.	Bexar	P
" L. H.	Bexar	P
" Leroy	Gonzales	1
" Leroy	Fayette	1
" Leroy V.	Gonzales	1
" Mary E.	Fannin	B
" Mary E.	--	RV
" O. T.	Fannin	P
" S. H.	Fannin	P
" Samuel H.	Robertson	3
" Thomas	Liberty	3
" William	Gonzales	B
" William	Bexar	B
" William	Bexar	B
" William	Gonzales	1
" William	Bowie	1
" William	San Patricio	1
" William	--	RV

(Source: Texas General Land Office, Archives and Records Division)

REPUBLIC & STATE SETTLERS' GRANTS

Headrights were given to the heads of families and single men who settled in the Republic.

1. **First Class** grants were issued to those who arrived in Texas prior to March 2, 1836. Heads of families received one league (4,428.4 acres) and one labor (177.1 acres) and single men received 1/3 league (1,476.1 acres).
 2. **Second Class** grants were issued to those who arrived in the Republic after March 2, 1836, but prior to October 1, 1837. Heads of families received 1,280 acres and single men received 640 acres.
 3. **Third Class** grants were issued to those who arrived in the Republic after October 1, 1837, but prior to January 1, 1840. Heads of households received 640 acres and single men received 320 acres.
 4. **Fourth Class** grants were issued to those who arrived in the Republic after January 1, 1840, but prior to January 1, 1842. Heads of households received 640 acres and single men received 320 acres.
- Pre-emption Grants** (homestead or settler's claims) were issued to those who actually resided on a tract of no more than 320 acres for at least three consecutive years from January 22, 1845. Under an act of 1854, all pre-emptors could locate no more than 160 acres. Under a later 1870 act, heads of households could locate no more than 160 acres and single men no more than 80. The last pre-emption grant was approved in 1898, at which time the Texas Supreme Court declared the public domain exhausted.
- Special Acts** certificates were given under the direction of the legislature for individual relief.

MILITARY GRANTS AND LISTS

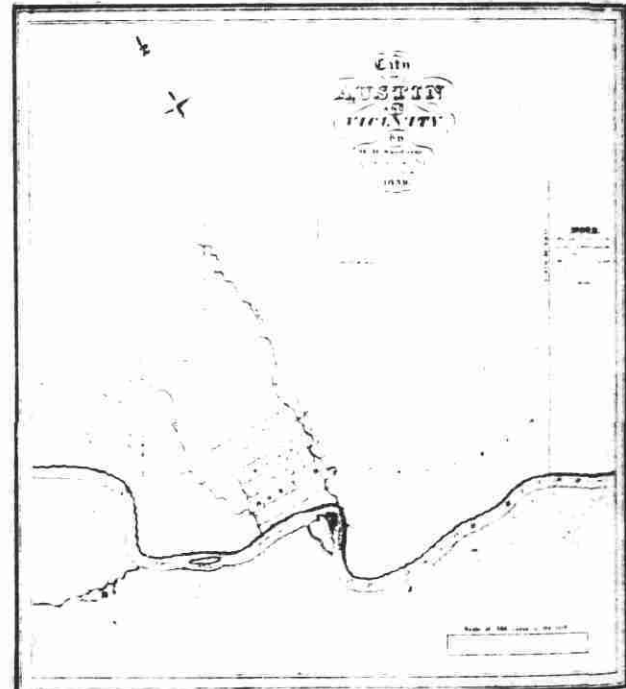
Bounty Grants were issued for the months of service in the Army of the Republic of Texas. For every three months of service, certificates to locate 320 acres were issued.

Donation Grants of 640 acres were issued for special service during the Texas Revolution. Those who fought at any battle, such as the Siege of Bexar, Goliad, the Alamo, or San Jacinto were eligible. Second donations were later made to surviving veterans, destitute widows and signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence.

Confederate Scrip was a special donation of 1,280 acres given to permanently disabled Texas veterans, or to the heirs of deceased veterans.

Muster Roll Book contains the muster rolls from the Army of the Republic of Texas.

*RV - REPUBLIC VOUCHER
APPLICATION BY TEXAS VETERANS*



1839 City of Austin and Vicinity map showing Austin on the north bank of the Colorado River

FAYETTE COUNTY BRANDS

Mary E. Criswell An under slope in each ear. Recorded Feb. 21, 1853	Brand <i>+C</i>
Napoleon B. Yancy Smooth crop in left ear and half upper crop in right ear. Recorded March 14, 1853.	Brand <i>NY</i>
Elizabeth A. Criswell Crop and split in left ear and crop and under cut in right ear. Recorded April 8, 1853	Brand <i>EC</i>
John Y. Criswell Mark swallow fork & under bit in left ear and swallow fork in right ear. Recorded Sept. 7, 1854	Brand <i>C</i>
G. W. Izard Recorded June 24, 1867	Brand <i>CA</i>
I. J. Izard Recorded Jan. 21, 1856	Brand <i>IZ</i>
Leroy V. Criswell Mark crop each ear. Recorded Jan. 29, 1838	Brand <i>LC</i>
Andrew Mc Micken Mark crop the left ear & half crop the right ear. Recorded Jan. 29, 1838	Brand <i>MC</i>
William Criswell Ear mark a crop and an under bit in right ear and a smaller fork in the left ear. Recorded Feb. 17, 1840	Brand <i>(V)</i>
James H. Chriswell Swallow fork in left ear & half crop in right ear on upper side. Recorded August 24, 1846	Brand <i>C5</i>
Joseph E. Criswell Smooth crop & upper bit in right ear & a smaller fork in left ear. Recorded March 3, 1849. May 2, 1871 brand changed to <i>JoC</i>	Brand <i>JO</i>
Thomas E. Secrest Recorded May 24, 1849	Brand <i>TS</i>
Mary R. Criswell Over crop on each ear. Recorded Jan. 11, 1853	Brand <i>52</i>

LIST OF TRAIL DRIVERS THAT WENT UP THE TRAIL WITH DAVID ROBERT CRISWELL
IN 1877-1878 TO DELIVER CATTLE TO CHEATHAM, RIDING & RAGSDALE AT LAKE
STATION NEAR HUGO, COLORADO.

Ward Lampkin

Charley Moore

Emil Oberwetter

Tom Hawker

L. A. Brown

Bill Wells

Jesse Driskill

Gus Waite

Nap Adkins

John Gill

F. M. Estes

W. A. Bates

John George

--- Evans

Frank Love

Al Andrews

Dan Cookley

District Court, Fayette County, Texas

Civil File
652

Wm. V. Criswell
VS

Suit: Libel
Date: Spring 1852

Jackson C.C. Smith

(In this suit, the Criswell brothers each separately sue Smith for libel.)

Wm. V. Criswell declares that Jackson C.C. Smith is indebted to him in the sum of \$5,000.00 as damages for libel. He explains to the Court that Smith on 16 March 1852, wrote and published a libel on the name of Criswell by posting certain defamatory statements as follows: "Look at this N.B. I have said years ago that the Criswells was damned thieves. I now say that I can prove enough to satisfy any honest man that they are such as I have represented them. I wish all honest men to meet Saturday week at Black Jack school house and I will publicly expose them. And I also wish the Criswells and their friends to attend and deny the charges, if they can, I shall bring against them."

Soon thereafter (3-19-1852), Smith wrote another slanderous libel as follows: "I say to all honest men that I only want to regulate the Criswells by public opinion, and think that it would be a disgrace for any honest man to speak to any one of them, let alone to hurt any one of them."

These notices were posted in several public places by Smith - on the door of Black Jack school house "situated at the Black Jack Grove" "which building is also used as a place of public worship", and at "the Grocery" kept by Smith and at a black smith shop, each in the "neighborhood of said school house"; and "also by being posted up on trees beside the public road known as the 'Gonzales Road'"

Wm. V. declares that he is one of the Criswells referred to in the libels. He further declares "that in the State of Kentucky from which he emigrated to this country with his father the late _____ Criswell, whose character also the said Smith libels, cruelly, falsely and maliciously in each of said publications, the name of Criswell was without reproach or blemish."

Wm. V. declares further that he had been a citizen since 1835, "that he participated in the Revolution for its Independence."

He was awarded by the jury \$1.00 damages.

However, Smith answers in general as follows. He tells the Court that Wm. V. Criswell stole a hat from a resident in the town of Matagorda worth \$5.00; a hair rope (\$5.00) from a resident "on the road" between La Grange and Matagorda, "cattle from the Mexicans in 1839", a horse from one Mullett (in fact a number of them)

worth \$1,000.00, "a door from a house belonging to the estate of David Berry" in 1847, rail~~d~~ from John Arnold in 1850, a hog from Levi McClure in 1851, a large quantity of fur from a resident in Bastrop County in 1842, the sum of \$10.00 from Joseph Criswell, in 1846.

Smith declares that he was not being spiteful but only wanted to give "his friends and neighbors, for their own protection", a simple warning, and that the Criswells might be brought to justice. He explains that the name of Criswell "in the State of Kentucky whence he came" was not without blemish that in fact "plaintiff was a fugitive from justice at the time of his leaving the State of Kentucky."

The proposed meeting called by Smith took place as scheduled at the school house and Smith proceeded to abuse the Criswells and said that he could prove his charges.

In the suit, one Dr. Wm. P. Quinn gave a deposition for the Criswells. Smith's attorney had subpoenaed more than 128 witnesses!!!! Whether or not all appeared is not clear from the proceedings.

Emma L. Cremer nee Brookfield says that Wm. V. was a young man of about 17 years in 1835. That she first saw him at Captain Burnham's place and that he was living with his parents a short distance from the old captain. Jesse Burnham (the old Indian fighter and usually known as "Captain" Burnham) says that Wm. V. was known to him since 1833. Nancy Kenner declares that Wm. V. in 1840 "or thereabouts" was engaged in stealing horses in the West about Goliad. (He was stealing these, she implies, from the Mexicans.)

oooOooo

Civil File

653

This is a suit for damages on charge of libel brought by John Y. Criswell against Jackson C. C. Smith. The usual charges of thievery, similar to those levelled against Wm. V., are enumerated by Smith against John Y. He says, however, that John Y. stole a blanket, a pocket book with 25¢, timber from the land of Samuel Williams in Fayette County, etc.

A most interesting deposition is on file given by Governor Peter H. Bell of Texas. He has this to say in regard to John Y. Criswell's character: "Among his fellow soldiers was in the main a good one. He was fond of trading and running horses, or trafficking, etc., and participated in all the little amusements legitimate in camp. He was considered a wild young man, but generally esteemed a fit associate by his fellow soldiers." Bell first knew Bell in 1845; "He was a soldier under my immediate command, and subject daily to my inspection of the manner in which he performed his duties as such." He was in Bell's company. (See Texas Hand Book, - Peter H. Bell. From this deposition it appears that John Y. was in Bell's Ranger company. WPF)

oooOooo

Civil File

654

Joseph E. Criswell files suit against Jackson C.C. Smith for libel. Both, or rather each, of the Criswells sued for \$5,000.

P. H. Bell gives identical character reference as for John Y. (So, both brothers served under Bell. - WPF) Charges brought by Smith were similar in effect as those brought against the other two Criswell brothers.

ooo0ooo

Civil File

591

Andrew J. Criswell brings suit for \$5,000 against Smith for libel. He declares that he lived in Fayette County since 1835.

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John Y. Criswell was awarded \$5.00 damages.

ooo0ooo

Civil File

651

Suit: Libel

Same date as

the other suits

Herein Leroy V. Criswell sues Jackson C. C. Smith for damages in the amount \$5,000.00, awarded \$5.00.

MC MICKEN

Records copied from old Criswell Bible in possession of Mrs. G. W. Wilkerson (daughter of Eliza Jane (Criswell) Boykin) Mrs. Wilkerson is the mother of Gilbert Hale, deceased, but a former resident of Waco, Texas.

Andrew Mc Micken, Sr. departed this life April 2, 1824.

Mary Mc Micken departed this life Arpil 10, 1826.

A. J. W. Mc Micken departed this life April 19, 1821.

Eliza A. Mc Micken departed this life January 7, 1848.

Other names listed: Eddy Criswell Faires & Alex Faires.

Records indicate the Mc Micken's migrated to Texas from Tennessee in 1837, after the war for independence. Records of the Black Jack (Pin Oak) Cementery show that Eliza A. Mc Micken was burried in grave site 18 (located end of Farm Road 373 off State Road 609.)

No record of grave site of Andrew Mc Micken.

MC MICKEN

Gonzales County Court House Records
Deed Records E, Bill of Sale of Negro woman to A. Jones -Pages 202-203

REPUBLIC OF TEXAS) Know all men by these presents that I, Andrew
COUNTY OF FAYETTE) Mc Micken of the County and Republic aforesaid
for in the consideration of the sum of five hundred dollars to me
in hand paid by Archibald Jones of the County of Gonzales and Republic
aforesaid the receipt where of I do hereby do acknowledge, have
bargained and sold and alienated, and by these presents do bargain,
sell and alienate unto said Archibald Jones, a certain Negro woman
named Maria and aged thirty years, to have and to hold, own and possess
the said Negro woman Maria unto him the said A. Jones, his heirs,
Executors or Administrators for and during the term of her natural
life, and I do hereby covenant for myself, my heirs, Executors or
Administrators that the said Negro woman Maria is sound and free from
disease and I warrant and defend the title against the claims of all
persons, whatsoever, and free from all incumbrances. In testimony
where of I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Scrawl by way of
seal this sixth day of August in the year Eighteen hundred forty five.

Andrew Mc Micken

Certified by District Judge of
Gonzales County
Republic of Texas August 28, 1845
Recorded Dec. 23, 1845

Gonzales County Deed Records, Bill of Sale..Vol. D. Page 53

REPUBLIC OF TEXAS) Know all men by these presents that I, Archibald
COUNTY OF GONZALES) Jones of the County and Republic aforesaid, for
value received, have granted, bargained and sold and by these presents,
do grant, bargain and sell unto James Madison Mc Mickin, a certain
American Black Horse (named Mingo) and I warrant and defend the title
against the claims of all persons whatsoever. In testimony whereof I
hereunto subscribe my name and fix my Scrawl by way of a seal, this
7th day of August 1845, in presence of Aaron Moore & Andrew Mc Micken.

A. Jones (seal)

Recorded 9-8-1845

MC MICKEN

Caldwell County Court House, Lockhart, Texas
(Carved out of Gonzales County)

Deed Records

Arthur Swift to Andrew Mc Micken 7/10/1848 Book A Page 430

State of Texas, Gonzales County: Arthur Swift of Gonzales County to Andrew Mc Micken of Fayette County, property originally in Gonzales County, now in Caldwell County, on Plum Creek--two Labors \$600. by deed July 10, 1848.

Andrew Mc Micken to A. G. May 10/14/1853 Book C Page 529

State of Texas, Caldwell County: Andrew Mc Micken of Fayette County sells to A. G. May of Caldwell County, a portion of the above two Labors of land for \$400. by deed on October 14, 1853.

A. G. May to James M. Mc Micken 10/17/1853 Book C Page 530

State of Texas, Caldwell County: Albert G. May sells to James M. Mc Micken of Fayette County for sum of \$412.00, one large load wagon, four yoke of work oxen, yoke rings and Maples, wagon sheet, two---, & wagon bins, one American Horse of bay color with star on his forehead-7 years old. by Bill of Sale on 10/17/1853.

MC MICKEN

Fayette County, Texas Probate Records. Petition for letter filed November 13, 1854 by Andrew Mc Micken.

STATE OF TEXAS () In the county court , November Term, A.D. 1854. COUNTY OF FAYETTE) To the Honorable Chief Justice of the County and State foresaid, the petition of Andrew Mc Micken would respectfully represent that David N. Mc Micken departed this life intestate on or about the 10th Inst. leaving his principal effects in the county of said petitioner, further represents that said decendant left no wife or children, that petitioner was the father of said deceased and as such is his nearest of kin. Petitioner prays that legal notice be given and that petitioner may be appointed administrator of the estate of said deceased and for such order as may be required in the promises.

Recorded 15th Dec. 1854

Fayette County Probate Court, November Term 1854

#338 Nov. 27, 1854

This day came on to be heard the petition of Andrew Mc Micken, praying for letters of Administration of the Estate of David N. Mc Micken, deceased--and it approving to the satisfaction of the Court that ten days notice has been given as required by law, when force it is ordered by the Court that Andrew Mc Micken be and is hereby appointed administrator of the estate of David N. Mc Micken, deceased.

#338 Dec. 29, 1854

It appearing to the satisfaction of hte court that Andrew Mc Micken was appointed at the Nov. 27th Term of this Court, Administrator of the Estate of David N. Mc Micken and ordered to give bond written the time prescribed by law. It is therefore ordered by the Court that the said Andrew Mc Micken, Admr. as said be hereby removed from the Admr. of said estate.

MC MICKEN

Gonzales County Court House Records
Deed Records, Book 59, page 300

Mc Micken, et al. Alice to A. E. & S. G. Mc Gowen July 1899.

Surviving heirs of J. E. Mc Micken (his widow, Alice Mc Micken and children; J. M. Mc Micken, Mable Spinks and husband Raphael Spinks, L. O. Mc Micken, H. W. Mc Micken, M. R. Mc Micken, T. W. Mc Micken, and J. W. Mc Micken) sell blk, 52 in town of Harwood on Galveston, Harrisburg & San Antonio Railway, together with improvements and gins and machinery to A. E. & S. G. Mc Gowen for \$1,500.

Deed Records, Book F2, page 510

James M. Mc Micken & wife convey 123 acres to J. T. Mooney.

Probate Records--None.

Judgement Record, Book A, page 169

Mc Micken, J. M., Defendant; C. A. Richardson & Co., Plaintiff.

In the Justice Court, Precint No. 1, Mc Lennan Cty. Texas, March Term, A.D. 1900. Judgement for Plaintiff for total amount \$31.70
May 14, 1900.

Marriage Records

1891 J. E. Mc Micken and Alice Shannon
1898 Mabel Mc Micken and R. Spinks
1900 Mrs. Alice Mc Micken and J. H. Snelling
1900 Maude Mc Micken and W. W. Pendleton

(Alice Shannon was probably a second wife to J. E. Mc Micken)

MC MICKEN

Fayette County Court House Records of Probate (Book V, Pages 394-398) show the will of Mary E. Criswell in which she appoints A. W. Roth (attorney) of Flatonia and J. M. Mc Micken of Harwood, Tx. joint executors and the will is witnessed by M. F. Walker and Henry M. Mc Micken.

The will specifies that her property be sold and that the proceeds be distributed (1) Three hundred dollars to body servant Emaline Criswell, colored, and (2) Remainder divided among daughters Elizabeth J. Jones; Mary A. Lyons; Lillie M. Wadell and son, John H. Criswell and children of my son James Y. Criswell.

FAIRES

Fayette County Court House Records of Probate, Books T & V show that R. O. Faires and his wife were appointed Guardians of the children of W. T. Criswell (son of James Y. Criswell and Ardela Burk) however; upon the death of R. O. Faires, his wife was unable to administer the guardianship which was placed in receivership.

William and Ada Faires were neighbors to John Yancy and Eleanor V. Criswell on Woods Prairie. Elizabeth A. (Faires) Mc Micken and her children probably visited her parents on occasions and the Criswell boys became well acquainted with the daughters.

JOHN YANCY

A Hero Of The Battle Of San Jacinto

JOHN YANCY, born in Raleigh, North Carolina, June 22, 1815. Came to Texas in 1833 as a single mansettleing in Nacogdoches County, Texas. Joined the Texas Volunteer Army March 6, 1836 to June 6, 1836, first enlisting with Capt. William D. Ratcliff's Company at San Augustine, but withdrew from that command to join Capt. Haden Arnold's Nacogdoches Company and fought under that command at San Jacinto. Was issued Headright Certificate No. 716 for two thirds (2/3) league of land, being a single man settleing in Zavala's Grant issued by the Mexican Government. Issued Bounty Certificate No. 3074 for three hundred (320) acres land for serving in the Army Of Texas from March 6, 1836 to June 6, 1836. Issued Donation Certificate No. 181 for six hundred forty (640) acres for having participated in battle of San Jacinto.

John Yancy married Elizabeth Mc Anulty in 1837 and moved to Bell County in 1851. Mr. Yancy died October 16, 1868 and is buried in a marked grave in the Belton Cementary, Belton, Bell County, Texas. Mrs. Yancy was born September 30, 1820, died October 26, 1898 and is buried in a marked grave in Killeen Cementary, eighteen (18) miles west of Belton.

Children: Sara J. Yancy
Mary E. Yancy
James R. Yancy
Margaret M. Yancy

James R. Yancy married Martha E. Caddell, daughter of William Caddell.
Children: John Yancy (Deceased)
Mrs. May Mitchell, Winters, Texas.
Frank Yancy, Killeen, Texas
Percy Yancy, Killeen, Texas

Margaret M. Yancy married J. L. Peterson

Mrs. Robert Conner, great-grand dauthter of John Yancy, Sr., address Rt. 4, Winters, Texas.

(John Yancy belived to be nephew of John Yancy Criswell, Sr.)

S. F. AUSTIN REGISTER OF FAMILYS

Character Certificates in the
General Land Office of Texas

Reference # 1037

JANEY, JOHN (John Yancy/Yancey)
NACOGDOCHES

3 August 1835

Certify foreigner John Ycean is a man of good ----, single without
family, resident of this municipality since 1833.

Jn Egne Michamp Arcalde Interim

(Source: Texas General Land Office, Archives and Records Division)