

Borden Citizen.

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LT. LUDWIG SIEGMUND ANTON VON ROEDER

This issue of the Borden Citizen and the following issue will carry the story of the von Roeder Family which has contributed much to Texas and Borden County history. We hope to continue with the publication of histories of all Borden County pioneer families and that these histories will eventually be incorporated into a book of Borden County History. If you have not done so, won't you assist us in assembling the history of your family?

In the bedroom of Mrs. Ed (Frieda) Murphy, at her home in eastern Borden County, is a simple wooden chest. Now beautifully preserved, yet still showing evidence of the years of service it has survived, the chest is Mrs. Murphy's one remaining material link with the fateful voyage which brought her family from Germany to Texas in 1834. Events reflecting a century and a half of world history, stories telling of much joy and suffering have been enacted about this small chest.

In the early 1800's Germany was a loosely organized group of states or provinces ruled by Feudal Barons or Princes. Mrs. Murphy's great grandfather, Lt. Ludwig Siegmund Anton von Roeder, Heir and Justice of Hoym and Harzgerode was such a baron. He and his three brothers participated in the French Revolutionary Wars, two of the brothers having lost their lives.

This period following the Napoleonic Wars was a time of unrest. Political oppression, lack of economic opportunities, over population, military regimentations, and religious freedom were issued. Time was ripe for the glowing reports from early German settlers in Texas, where there was freedom of speech, religion and politics, and fertile, beautiful land could be had for the asking. These factors were among those that influenced the von Roeder's decision to come to Texas.

J. Frank Dobie, Texas historian and master yarn spinner, writes of the von Roeder family in his "Tales of Old-Time Texas." He begins, "Ludwig Baron von Roeder of Prussia and his wife had nine sons, all over six feet tall and all restless under military tyranny. In 1832 Siegmund, the wild one of the breed, fought a duel at the University of Breslau with the Prince of Prussia and killed him. The fact that the duel was fair prevented the King from putting Siegmund to death but not from sentencing him to life imprisonment." Dobie's story continues, saying that Siegmund was eventually released from prison, the condition being that his entire family should be banished from the Kingdom. They were given one year to leave. Part of Dobie's story is based on a letter written from Texas by Siegmund's mother, Caroline Luise Sack von Roeder, to her sister in Germany. This letter is included as part of the contents of a small leatherbound book, one of Frieda Murphy's most prized possessions. The front of the book is lettered in gold with the words:

"LIFE-STORY OF EMILIE VON ROEDER".



THE SACK FAMILY ESCUTCHEON
WHICH DESCENDED TO THE VON ROEDER FAMILY.

Emilie von Roeder was Mrs. Murphy's mother, who lived to be 94 years old.

Because it has much bearing on the von Roeder history, and reflects the life which these aristocratic people lived in early day Texas, as well as their past in Germany, we would like to share the letter with you. The letter is reproduced below as it appears in the book.

This letter was translated from the German by Sigismund Eengeling, an erudite grandson of Caroline Luise Sack von Roeder, and was published on March 2, 1944, in the Comfort, Texas News. The local branch of the von Roeder family feels that the letter was "embellished" in the translation, as it is family tradition that the Sigismund of the letter, although he did fight a duel with and kill the Prince of Prussia, resulting in the family's banishment, was never married. In fact, the translator admitted in a letter to Benno G. von Roeder, Mrs. Murphy's elder brother, who compiled his mother's Life-Story, that the translation was "embellished" but stated that the "substance is correct" and that the account was verified by Carl Nagel, Secretary of Commerce and Labor under President Taft. Nagel's father was a German immigrant physician who settled near Cat Spring, the home of the von Roeder family. Carl was born there and attended school with Mrs. Murphy's father, Hermann von Roeder.

The Louis (Ludwig) and Robert Kleberg mentioned in the letter were the husbands of Caroline Luise von Roeder's daughters, Luise and Rosalie, and were among those who accompanied the von Roeder family on their voyage to America.

Robert and Rosalie Kleberg were the parents of Robert Kleberg, Jr., who married Alice King and became the manager and an heir of the great King Ranch.

Caroline Luise, 1782-1858, the wife of Lt. Ludwig Siegmund Anton von Roeder, was a daughter of the very old and wealthy Sack family which has extensive recorded history. Part of the Sack fortune was loaned to the Prince of Saxony and a foundation was set up to administer the proceeds from this estate. When the Sack heirs including the von Roeders, became of age, married, or entered the university, they were given a grant from this fund. Mrs. Murphy, as did her older brothers and sisters, received such a grant. Her brother Herbert received the last American grant in 1915. After World War I, the American heirs were requested not to apply for the money because of the difficult times in Germany. The remainder of the Sack estate was confiscated by Hitler in World War II.

After the marriage of Caroline Luise Sack to Lt. Siegmund Anton von Roeder, they lived at "Hoym", Baron von Roeder's ancestral estate. Later they purchased the estate and castle of MARIENMUENSTER, in Westphalia. "Hoym" was sold to Baron von Roeder's sister-in-law and was owned by her family as late as 1900. MARIENMUENSTER was sold when the family came to America.

Of the sixteen children born to Caroline Luise and Baron von Roeder, all nine of the tall sons mentioned by J. Frank Dobie, were given the name Ludwig along with several other given names, some of which were also duplicated. Four of the unmarried children, the one called Ludwig, Abrecht (Mrs. Murphy's Grandfather), Joachim, and a sister, Valeska, together with a family servant, and "ample equipment" were sent to America some time in advance of the main party - probably to locate a place for the family to live.

" Wildcat Springs, 24th March, 1835.

My dear Sister:-

You have not come. From day to day and month to month we live in the hope of clasping you in our arms and hearing from your mouth all the sweet details and doings of our family and friends whom we left behind. Please do not delay your departure; the journey will keep you long enough.

Life is rude here. You will miss the opera and the theatre, and your good servants. God, how I miss Amalie and Sophie! But you will soon accept our negro domestics (I hate that word 'slave') as very satisfactory substitutes. They are big-hearted, humble creatures and learn our way of life (lebensart) readily. They are learning German faster than we do English.

Be sure to bring all sheet music that you can collect. My piano is in excellent condition after the rough handling on the voyage, and roaming about here, in search of our final location. And do not fail to bring the complete works of Goethe. Day before yesterday, the third anniversary of the poet's death, we all assembled and read aloud many of his poems. Ludwig read the poet's beautiful poem "Warte nur, bald ruhest Du auch" (Wait awhile, soon you'll repose with us). All of us wept. Robert Kleberg began to sob and went out under the trees. He is a superior young man - not large in body, but lion-hearted and tender too. His judgment is sound and all his habits are moderate. I wish my sons would take him and his brothers for their examples.

I regret to inform you that we have been disappointed in our hopes that emigration to America, where there is universal agreement on democracy, would remove my sons from the arena of constant debate, violence, and tragic conflict, in which, as you will recall, they engaged with royalty at the Universities. Ludwig and I have pleaded with them to lay aside their arms; but they will not divest themselves from their German weapons. All day, on horse or walking, at meals, in company and everywhere, they go about swaggering and swanking with their clanking sabers and swords. In the words of Hamlet: "It is not, nor it cannot, come to good." It is an ugly, defiant, invitation to trouble and bloodshed. But then - the Americans are no better - and they are our only associates. They cannot live without a pistol. They sleep more with their guns than with their wives. And thus War holds the boards in this quarrelsome world - and always will.

And that brings me to the bitter-sweet wedding of our wild son, Sigismund, whose duel with the Prince of Prussia, and conditional pardon from prison, brought us all to Mexico.

He had a precipitous marriage at San Felipe, after he killed a man with the same sword that killed the Prince of Prussia. Louis Kleberg was present and saw both the killing and the wedding in a succession of 20 minutes. He gave us the following account:

It seems that a dozen or so young blades met at the house of Benjamin Buckingham, on the Brazos. This young Kentuckian had only recently brought his beautiful young bride to his plantation. They were all celebrating - dancing, drinking, singing, laughing, until finally - as usual in this new world - for lack of other entertainment the men drifted into cards. At first it was a social game; the stakes were small. Soon the losers dropped out. Sigismund was most favored by the Goddess Fortuna; she slighted Buckingham. The game narrowed down to these two. My son proposed the restriction of stakes. His adversary, the scion of Blue Grass wealth, demanded the removal of any limit. They played and drank into the night - and through it.

Fortune swayed back and forth, liquor lending its aid to keep excitement at a high pitch among the onlookers; but Sigismund was gradually forging ahead. When Buckingham's cash was gone he put up his bills of sale to mules, work-horses, yokes of oxen. With but slight interruption the stream trickled over to Sigismund. Then, one by one, Buckingham's slaves came into the game; out in the hall they stood - poor black chattels - old and young, men, women and children.

Sigismund raked the bill of sale for every one from the middle of the long table, stacked them neatly, and weighted them down with a large, red, Brazos-River-Bottom brick. The game went on. At noon the onlookers ate juicy beef and wild-turkey sandwiches, brought in from the kitchen outside. The players ate nothing - they played.

When his personal property - wagons, buggies, saddles, plows, planters, race-horses, and all other animals, with their feed and harness, - was gone, Buckingham sent for the title-papers to the various plots in his plantation. His friends begged him to stop. "I will not stop" he shouted back with a gambler's frenzy as the cards were dealt again. "My luck'll come back - you wait and see."

Of course Sigismund couldn't quit since he was the winner - he had to play. "I'll quit when he calls it off - not before."

The title-papers came. Buckingham laid the deed to the big farm in the bend of the Brazos River on the table; Sigismund followed with all the stuff under the brick. They played.

In September 1834, Baron von Roeder, along with wife, children, married sons and their wives, future sons and daughters-in-law, friends and neighbors, set sail for America on the steamer "Congress". After 60 days they landed at New Orleans. There they boarded a schooner which was shipwrecked on Galveston Island on December 22, 1834. All lives and most of their cargo were saved. Despite their lack of familiarity with such adversities, the party set about salvaging sail, timbers and equipment from the ship to provide shelter and survival on this uninhabited island, which was then a dense wilderness, the habitat of wolves, snakes and alligators. There was also an abundance of deer, water fowl and other game for food. This experience of self reliance and improvising with what was at hand, was soon to become a way of life for these who had lived in luxury. Can you imagine the thoughts and emotions of these people on their first Christmas Day in this new land??

After a few days the party was able to signal a passing ship. Since there was not room for all on board, Rudolph von Roeder and Robert Kleberg took passage to Brazoria. No ship was available there to rescue the party so the two men struck out afoot following buffalo trails through the dense, Indian infested wilderness, until they reached San Felipe, the headquarters of Stephen F. Austin, who had settled the first colonists in Texas in 1821. There they learned that Ludwig and Albrecht von Roeder, ill and in dire need, were living in a crude hovel at nearby Cat Spring. Joachim and their sister, Valeska, had died of the yellow fever which was epidemic along the Texas coast. Cat Spring was so called because Albrecht (Mrs. Murphy's grandfather) had killed a wild cat there. It became a well known German settlement and, along with other nearby communities, the nucleus of the large German colonies reaching from Indianola and Brazoria to Fredricksburg and beyond.

After their bittersweet reunion with Ludwig and Albrecht, Robert Kleberg arranged for a boat to return to Galveston Island to rescue those stranded there. Three trips were made in the severe winter weather to bring the party to Harrisburg where they rented a house for the women and children to live in until shelter could be provided for them at Cat Spring. The shelter consisted of two small houses, one with dirt floor. The walls were made by setting small tree trunks in the ground about two feet apart. Hand split boards were nailed inside and out and the space was filled with mud, chips and whatever was available. Door and shutters were crudely made and the roofs were of split shingles, moss, palmetto leaves or anything at hand. This home was as far removed from MARIENMUSTER as was their life in America from that they lived in Germany.

This anecdote is told of the time spent in Harrisburg. Guests had been invited for Sunday dinner. The table was laid with the family silver and linen rescued from the ship wreck. Several loaves of fresh bread lay on a corner of the table. Suddenly a friendly Indian rushed in, threw down a bloody venison ham onto the clean tablecloth, picked up some bread and hurried out saying, "Swap, Swap"!



When the family left Harrisburg for Cat Spring, they took only such things as were immediately needed, leaving most of their books, paintings, instruments, and paraphernalia stored in the house there. Harrisburg was burned by Santa Ana the following year and all these treasures were lost. However, in her letter Luise von Roeder mentions her piano, so evidently some things had been moved to Cat Spring.

(This story of the von Roeders will be continued in the Spring edition of The Borden Citizen.)

The staff of the "Borden Citizen" wishes to offer our readers an apology for not having sent them a Fall 1974 issue. This time we are not able to blame the postal service. We were just not able to do the fall edition. With this winter edition we hope to get going again, even though a bit behind schedule. With your help and support we will endeavor to send you four issues this year, with a bit extra for the one we missed. Thank you for your indulgence and for your many kind words.

If you have not renewed your subscription to the Newsletter, please send it to Mrs. Pauline Clark, Box 117, Gail, Texas 79738. The rate is \$3.00 per year. In the past we have asked that you send your subscriptions to Mrs. Sybil Holmes. She has done an excellent job for us but has asked to be relieved of her duties. WE THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SYBIL.

Buckingham lost, but not without a dreadful oath. Deed after deed followed the first, until the big brick, symbolic of the deep, rich, red soil of the Brazos River bottom, rode and hugged them all.

Buckingham looked about the room. Every eye evaded his search. Not a word was spoken. Light thickened; infiltration of the gloom of night worked gray upon the window frames. An old, white-haired negro shuffled up to the table and set candles beside the players. As he went out he opened wide the big, heavy walnut doors. Every man rose to his feet: There stood the bride-like a February dog-wood in full bloom among the drab and wintry trees of a Brazos River bottom! She stepped forward and laid her hand on her husband's arm. "Come on, honey; let's go," she said, "you're tired."

"And that aint all" said some young fellow with a snigger. "You mean I'm broke?" snorted Buckingham, "but I'm not". His fist struck the table with profanity, as he drew his marriage certificate from his pocket, and threw it between the candles. "We'll play for that!" - Instantly Sigismund pushed his winnings- brick, deeds and all- into the middle of the table. "Certainly we will". And then arising, and with a cavalier's sweep of his hat and a deep bow to the bride, "but not without the consent of the lady". She smiled; they played; Buckingham lost. And as Sigismund raised the brick to consolidate the marriage certificate with his other winnings Buckingham fired, but missed, and as he reached for another pistol Sigismund flashed his sword and ran him through.

The Coroner came, saw, found self-defense; and as the body on a stretcher passed out the double door, the same official, in a loud, ringing voice was heard: "Will you, Barbara Buckingham, take this man ---?"

Oh my dear, dear sister: Was ever woman in this humor wooed? Was ever woman in this manner won?

Sigismund is selling the entire Buckingham estate and is moving to West Texas with his lovely wife. We will not see much of them; but we feel that he has at last got his feet on the ground. Hurry, hurry and join us; this is truly the land of freedom and romance.- Und das Schicksal zerzt uns Alle an der Nase 'rum. Der Shakespeare drueckt es grossartig aus: "There is destiny that shapes our ends, rough-hew them how we may."

Au revoir, au revoir, my darling sister.

Deine dichliebende Schwester,

Caroline Luise,
Baronin von Roeder. "

PAUL WASSON, Big Spring, Texas, passed away in July, 1974.

ELMO WASSON, of Big Spring, Texas died in August, 1974. Paul's and Elmo's parents were the late Ira Wassons of Borden County.

SAMUEL W. SANFORD, 87, passed away in Tahoka, Texas in July, 1974.

RAYMOND MAXWELL, 64, former resident of Borden County, passed away July 26, 1974 in Big Spring. Among his survivors are two sisters, Opal (Maxwell) Williams of Snyder and Lucy (Maxwell) Hood, Colorado City, Texas.

LINSEY VESTAL HOOD, 95, member of a Pioneer Borden County Family, died July 21, 1974. Mrs. Alice Askins of Snyder is his sister.

MRS. DAPHENE (LAMB) BURRUS, wife of Stuck Burrus of O'Donnell, passed away September 16, 1974. She is also survived by a daughter.

LOWELL BOAZ MOORE, son of Mrs. Vie (Spears) Moore of Monahans, Texas died May 13, 1974. He was buried in the Gail Cemetery.

IRA HAGINS, 58, died August 9, 1974. Burial was in the Gail Cemetery. His wife lives in Gail.

MRS. LAURA MODESTA HENDERSON, 72, passed away. She was born in Borden County and was a member of the Sanderson family who were early Borden County residents.

JOSIE YORK LEMLEY, 89, passed away in San Angelo, Texas, September 10, 1974. She is survived by a son, Joe Lemley of San Angelo and a brother, Joe York, of Snyder.

JAMES EDWARD HARRIS, 80, Vealmoor, Texas, died September 2, 1974. He is survived by Miss Mayme Clanton and Mrs. Otis McBride of Borden County, who were his sisters.

TOM B. SAUNDERS, III, 68, Fort Worth, Texas, passed away July 30, 1974. He is survived by his wife and son, Tom B. Saunders, IV, and a daughter, Mrs. Jim Calhoun. Saunders worked on the O. B. Ranch in 1923. We are indebted to the Saunders family for sending us the many pictures of Tom's activities on the O. B. Ranch. We have these in our picture display.

MRS. HELEN DEATON, of Midland, Texas, daughter of Jimmie and LaNelle (Johnson) Deaton, passed away recently after a long illness. She was the granddaughter of Mrs. Jim (Lillie Rogers) Johnson,

MRS. W. P. BRUELS, of Mercer, Penn., mother of Mrs. John Dennis of Gail, died February 19, 1975.

MRS. GENE (LULA) SMOOT, passed away in San Angelo, Texas. They lived in Borden County for many years. Burial was in the Gail Cemetery. She is survived by her husband, Gene Smoot.

MRS. LILLIE GARNER, mother of Mrs. Jake (Sybil) Holmes of Gail, passed away August 15, 1974 in Brawley, California. Mrs. Holmes is a member of the Borden County Historical Committee.

MRS. MAPLE (CURREY) RICHIE, formerly of Borden County, died in Lamesa in 1974. Among her survivors are Frank and Doyle Currey of Borden County.

MRS. MAGGIE (JOHNSON) GREENWAY of Snyder passed away January 26, 1975. She was the daughter of the Calloway Johnsons, early pioneers of Borden County.

MRS. P. A. DUGGER, formerly a resident of Lake J. B. Thomas in Borden County, passed away in Lamesa recently. Among her survivors was Mrs. Vernon Todd of Lamesa.

MRS. H. C. (JAZY) SHORTES, died the 19th day of September, 1974. She had been a resident of Borden County for many years.

MRS. FLORENCE (GARNER) BROWN, died August 16, 1974. Among her survivors is her husband, G. S. Brown, who is an employee of Borden County.

RICHARD O. SKELTON, 39, of Lake J. B. Thomas died in Brooke Medical Center in San Antonio where he was receiving treatment for burns. He is survived by his wife and four children and his mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Skelton of Borden County.

T. M. HUGHES, 83, a retired Borden County Commissioner and stock farmer, passed away November 27, 1974. He is survived by his wife, six daughters and one son.

MRS. ANNIE LILLIAN RULE, 82, of Corpus Christi, died January 21, 1975. She was a native of Borden County. Among her survivors is a brother, Gibbs Doyle of Corpus Christi and three sisters.

MEMORIALS TO MUSEUM

The Gail Courthouse Employees and the Vivian Clarks gave a memorial gift to the Borden County Museum in memory of Jim Harris.

In memory of Mrs. Gene (Lula) Smoot memorials were given by Doris Rudd, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Lloyd and The Vivian Clarks.

Mrs. Doris Rudd gave a memorial in memory of Mrs. H. C. Shortes.

Memorials were received from Doris Rudd, Dorothy Browne, Frances Bennett, The Roland Hamiltons, The V. R. Clarks, The James Wilsons, The Borden Gray, Jrs., The Jap Jones, Don Cox and The Delmo Pearces in memory of Mrs. Josie (York) Lemley.

In memory of Mrs. Lillie Garner, mother of Mrs. Jake Holmes, memorials were received from Gail Friends, Edna Miller and The Vivian Clarks.

The Raymond Lloyds sent a memorial to the Museum in memory of Cole Shaffer.

Mrs. Maple (Currey) Richie was remembered by a gift to the Museum by Doris Rudd and the Vivian Clarks.

A memorial gift was received in memory of Mrs. P. A. Dugger, mother of Mrs. Vernon Todd, from Dorothy and Janice Browne and the Jerry Kincheloes.

The Vivian Clarks, The Sterling Williams, Doris Rudd, Gail Courthouse Employees, The Jerry Kincheloes and Dorothy Browne and Janice sent gifts in memory of Maggie (Johnson) Greenway.

Gifts were made to the Museum in memory of Boaz Moore by Edna Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Vivian Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Spears and the Spears Family.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO MUSEUM

Mr. and Mrs. James P. Prince, Albuquerque, New Mexico, have given a generous donation to the Museum.

Given by the Samuel W. Sanford family to the Museum are an obituary of Samuel W. Sanford, a jewelry box, grandfather clock, watch stand, bible and other things.

Mr. and Mrs. T. A. (Bud) Hollar of Amarillo have loaned an antique sewing machine to the museum.

The family of Maple (Currey) Richie have loaned an old can that has been in the John Currey family for over a hundred and fifty years, and an old bedspread or counterpane.

On January 13, 1975, County Judge Jim M. Burkett and the Borden County Commissioners' Court appointed the members of the Borden County Historical Survey Committee. The members of the Committee are: Mrs. Edna Miller, Mrs. Vivian Clark, Mrs. Opal Stephens, Mrs. Ruth Weathers, Mrs. Sybil Holmes, Mrs. Dorothy Browne, Mrs. Sibyl Gilmore, Mrs. M. M. Monk, Mrs. Doris Rudd, Mrs. Bill Stephens, Mrs. Glenn Toombs, Mrs. Larry Smith, Mrs. Aubrey Rogers, Mrs. Norman Sneed, Mr. Roy Reeder, Mr. Lee Francis York, Mr. Naymon Everett, Mrs. Gay Sealy, Mr. Vivian Clark, Mr. Viril Clark, Mrs. Virgil Clark, Mr. Burl Cramer, Mr. V. J. Coleman and Mrs. V. J. Coleman.

In a recent Abilene Reporter Newspaper, in a column by Katharyn Duff, we found an item about Sam Lapowski, identified in this item as a colorful early-day peddler. This is the same Sam Lapowski that once owned the Durham store in Borden County. The Borden Citizen published an article about the Durham Community, Vol. V, No. 4, June 1970, and we quote from this article: "The first official record of the Durham store is a bill of sale and inventory recorded in Book 2 of the Borden County Deed Records wherein Augustus Trudo and John Wucher 'composing the firm known as the Durham Trading Company' sold to S. Lapowski and Bro. of Colorado City for the sum of \$1166.22 'one warehouse and all appurtenances thereof situated in Durham, Borden County, and merchandise as per invoice'. The instrument, dated September 11, 1890, was signed by Anthony Blum and Sig Simons as witnesses and by C. C. Rooks, agent for Augustus Trudo and John Wucher. In John M. Hendrix story of 'Colorado City, Texas Cow Town' which was published in the 'Cattleman' in April, 1941, we read that 'The Lapowski's and Sig Simons operated dry goods stores, catering to the wealthy cattle trade'."

The article in the Abilene Reporter concerns Mr. Lapowski and his son. It tells of a story told by T-Bone Winters and we quote, "One concerns a colorful early-day Abilenian, Sam Lapowski, an immigrant peddler who settled here when the town was new and built a large merchandising business. Sam's son, Abilene history buffs will tell you, changed his name to 'Dillon', his mother's family name, when he went off to college. He went on to establish a major investment house on Wall Street. His son, Douglas became United States Secretary of the Treasury."

FROM THE PENS OF OUR READERS

I am enclosing \$3.00 for a subscription to The Borden Citizen. A friend of ours receives this publication ..and passes it on to us. My husband, who was born and reared in Borden County, was pleased to read about "Miss Josie" (how her praises have been sung by an ex eight year old who read while Miss Josie had her arm around him) in June 1972 issue which we just inherited. In June 1974 issue we got a chuckle from "On to Lamesa" by John R. Williams, for Clarence, my husband, had written an answer to it and published it in his first volume of verse. "On to Lamesa" and the answer were included in his latest volume, Wayside Reveries published last Spring. This volume also includes "A Tribute to Borden County." Mrs. C. N. Cosby, Canyon, Texas.

Please renew my subscription to Borden Citizen. I do enjoy it so much. The old timers, some I knew, or remember, others just familiar names.... Surely enjoyed the article about Jake Scoggins. He was one neighbor, on the Hutchison Ranch. Mrs. May Thomas, Phoenix, Arizona.

I spent two months back east earlier in the year. I also visited my sister, Lillie Harris, who is now in a nursing home in Dallas...Also spent some time with my sister, Mary Sanders in Lubbock....I read the Borden County news with great interest. Truly it is a fine paper. I marvel at how much information you get of the old, old timers from people who read the paper, who have been away from Borden County for so long. I am always intensely interested in anything that refers to Durham, the community where I grew up. It is sad that almost every paper carries the news of the passing away of some old timer that I knew long years ago. As time goes on there will be fewer and fewer people that I know, but still I want to keep up with all the news of people in the county...I hope to visit in Gail this summer..and visit the Museum again..Last time I spied an old typewriter.. It was the one my dad, A. J. Cantrell bought for himself when he came Tax Assessor in 1923...I learned to type on that machine.. That same summer, 1932, Miss Maggie (Williams) wanted me to help her in the County Clerk's office...For the first week, she had me to copy Field Notes, which is a terrible experience for a green horn..I learned later that she told my dad that if I stuck through the week on Field Notes, she knew she could trust me with all the rest. Mrs. J. E. (Pauline) Brigham, Laguna Hills, California.

I have not received a copy of the Borden Citizen since July. I enjoy the Citizen since Borden County was so closely associated with Lynn in the early days, and a lot of our pioneer families first settled in Borden. My Dad, the late E. I. Hill, served as District Attorney of the old 32nd Judicial District from about 1921 until 1924, when he resigned because he had bought the Lynn County News at Tahoka. The district was then composed of Nolan, Mitchell, Howard, Scurry and Borden Counties. The late W. P. Leslie was District Judge. On one occasion, while we were living in Sweetwater, I came with my dad to court in Gail, but if I remember correctly, there were no cases and the Grand Jury met only briefly. Late in the afternoon, my dad and I drove out to Bull Creek in our Model T and fished a while, catching a few perch. Frank P. Hill, Tahoka, Texas.

I want you to know, we think of all you good people there at Gail often, and do appreciate the fine job that is being done in publishing the Quarterly Newspaper regarding Gail and the old timers. I enjoyed seeing the Museum very much. I am wondering if you plan another reunion in the future.
Alvin Kincaid, Cisco, Texas.

Enclosed are my dues for My Borden County Citizen. I started to school in Gail. I was Eddie Nell Smith. My brothers were Ned and R. T. (Bud). Mrs. Eddie Jenkins, Athens, Texas.

My dad, Mr. Will S. Johnson is 97 now and not well enough to enjoy much. He really looks forward to your newsletter though and I do not want his subscription to run out... Thank you for the news and fond memories that your paper brings my dad, I only wish it came more often.
Nell Hitson, Rosell, New Mexico.

I really enjoy reading about Gail and all the surroundings. Mrs. Lefern Pierce, Heavener, Okla.

Enclosed find \$3.00... I enjoy every newsletter very much and sure would hate to miss one. Best wishes to everyone.
Homer Skeen, Portales, New Mexico.

I wish to thank your society for sending me copies of the Borden Citizen for June 1968, about James and Susan (Green) Prince, the first doctor in Borden County; March 1973, with the letter of 1892 from Mrs. Mary M. Prince to her sister; January 1974, about the Big Blizzard of 1918 and of Ranchers; April 1974 about Gail's Blue Front Store, Homesteading and Sandstorms; July 1974, with the History of J. K. Scoggin and Family and of Oldtime Autos; all very interesting for me to add to my collection of Pioneer History of the United States. My grandfather, William Osgood Prince and wife, Maria Lawry, went to Wyoming, homesteading, when that part of the West was opened but lost his wife and two infants from fever and came back East with my father, a boy of 5, so his grandparents could raise him here in Maine. But many Princes ventured farther West and pioneered on the railroads... I am grateful to Mrs. Mary Prince Vickers for introducing me to your wonderful informative Borden Citizen and thank you very much.

Miss Louise M. Prince, Corresponding Secretary, Bangor Historical Society, Bangor, Maine.

Send your letters, remembrances, subscriptions and family histories to Mrs. Pauline Clark, Box 117, Gail, Texas 79738 or to Mrs. Edna Miller, Fluvanna, Texas 79517.

Borden Citizen.

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