

Borden

Citizen.

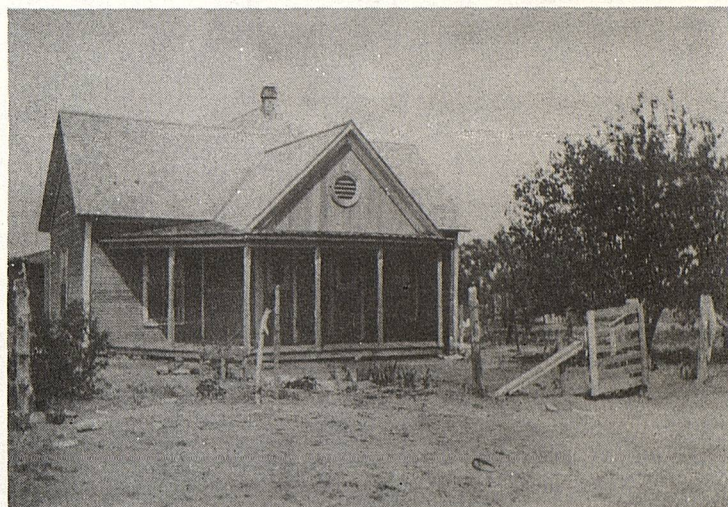
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"That Vacant House"

Borden County!
The Hugh Missett family
lived there!
Seven!
One by one stepped out:
Not to be gone long!
Father and Mother alone!
The covered wagon!
The chuck box!
The team of horses!
The dog, the cow!
The lead horse!
They went!

The House Vacant!
Silent!
Speechless!
But for voices
Of the stubborn wind!
A close bird cry!
Lit at night
by the stars
The jeweled fingers
of the sky!
and the moon!
By day - the sun!
Only shadows
moved about
by day and by night!

Stop! Behold!
The stock farm was sold!
That House was moved!
Some-where!
yet!
At this Home Place!



The Immutible
Speech -
The Bug-Out
The old well
The stock tank
Tree at back door
Iron bolts
Barbed wire
Steeple
Rock anthems
Birds nesting
Rabbits
Playing prairie-dogs
Wolves unchallenged
Restless Tumble Weed
Cactus blossoms
flowers blooming
Seasons changing
Sun rise! Sun set!
Our Soul (Missetts)
Loved this place
But with
Wings of thought
We must move on!
God did
and
Does
claim it
for His own
Where once
The Hugh Missett family lived

The Hugh Nisbett family joined hearts and hands with Gail in 1905. They were Hugh Nisbett and his wife, Alice, and the children - Leila, Stella, Homer, Eunice and Robert. Eunice and Robert attended the Gail public school, Homer worked with his father, and Leila and Stella were students at the college in Denton, Texas. The Nisbett home place was $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the Gail business center on the road travelled daily by the U. S. mail hack to and from Big Spring. Mr. Nisbett remodeled the house on this property, which he had bought for a home, hauling the lumber from Big Spring. He had also bought $\frac{1}{2}$ section of land from Mr. S. Webber for a home and stock farm. He and Homer, hauling lumber and supplies from Big Spring, built a house on this $\frac{1}{2}$ section. It was a duplicate of the house in Gail and the Nisbett family moved into this country home in 1907. Eunice continued her High School studies in Gail by boarding at Mrs. Scarlett's home. Robert went to the Kincaid (Possum Trot) school and at the Hicks school where his sister Eunice was the Teacher. He later walked 4 miles to attend High School where Mr. Bill Sims was the principal. The near-by neighbors were the Dave McKnight family, the J. R. Jenkins family and the Pete Whitaker family.

In 1916, after a continued drouth - no water or grass - Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Nisbett moved their live stock to Taylor County. By the end of the year Mr. and Mrs. Nisbett sold their stock farm and they, too, moved out leaving "That Vacant House".

Contributed by Leila Nisbett.



Grandpa Steven's first home on the Plains
Left to right: Bessie, Cleburne, Myrtle Jones
and Mother, Grandpa and Grandma Stevens.
Made about 1903 or 1904

HISTORY OF THE D. C. STEVENS
FAMILY'S RESIDENCE IN BORDEN CO.
(and more notes on the Tredway
community)
Contributed by Bessie Tredway
Wright.

My father, Mr. D. C. Stevens, my mother, my brother - Cleburne - and I arrived in Gail, Borden Co., on one of the very cold days of the winter of 1901, December 5th. Four to six inches of snow was on the ground. Mother and I stayed in one of our two covered wagons that morning while father and Cleburne gathered wood for the campfire to cook breakfast. Father's good biscuits were unusually tasty that morning. We stayed in Gail a day or two 'til father located a section of land six miles west of Gail for sale. It had a 4 room house on it so we moved in.

Cleburne was in two of the big land rushes they had in those days and father cooked for one that I remember. One morning he used a 50 lb. sack of flour making biscuits for 125 men and several dozen eggs and several lbs. of bacon. In March, 1904, he and Mr. John Fritz traded sections of land, father getting one on top of the caprock which proved later to be in the Tredway community. Here I attended school in the one room schoolhouse walking three miles each way. Cleburne and Annie McCorkle were married July 8th, 1906. Cleburne carried the mail from Gail to Lubbock for awhile, later getting the contract to carry it from Tredway to Gail, bringing the incoming mail back to Tredway. Later, father carried it several years.

My first teacher at Mesquite school was an elderly lady, Mrs. Mitchell. Prof. Jack T. Stevenson was the last. He organized a Literary Society with pupils of Mesquite or Tredway school, Plainview and Berry Flat, which met monthly. Different pupils would give readings or recite "speeches", etc. Those days were very enjoyable for the youngsters. We almost always had two parties each week - pie suppers, box suppers, candy breakings, in the summer ice cream suppers, sometimes just a "play party" where various games were played. Always on hand were three or four of us who played the organ, about the same number who played the guitar, mandolin, violin and French harp. So we made Music! Breakdowns! That part of it I enjoyed most of all. As was noted in a previous issue of the CITIZEN we had Church services whenever possible, with dinner, all kinds of goodies spread out on white tablecloths, another service or singing in the afternoon, another in the evening. If no minister was available, we had singing at someone's home

on Sunday nights. In the period between about 1900 and 1909 there were three singing schools taught by Mr. Isbell of Dallas. We took sack lunches and the hours were nine a.m. to 4 p.m. During lunch hour the boys and girls would pair off, get into a buggy or Spaulding hack and talk. It was during one of these singing schools that William Tredway began to "court" me. He operated the store and Post Office for his father, Mr. A. M. Tredway until 1910 when Mr. Eubanks bought the store. I think it was in 1910 that my father quit carrying the mail to Gail and went back to farming until about 1924. He built a house and moved to O'Donnell where he and mother lived until their passing in 1933 and 1937, respectively.

Dec. 25th, 1909 dawned bright and clear after three weeks of snowy weather. The 6 inch snow was melting and the men had to put boards down for me to keep from soiling my white slippers as William and I walked to his buggy to drive to the home of Mr. Eubanks where he kindly came out and performed our wedding ceremony. My brother Cleburne and wife, Annie, Gazzie Curry and Oakie Jones accompanied us in two other buggies. Afterward we went back to my home where almost everyone in the community were gathered to partake of the dinner Mother and I had prepared. She had a big turkey and two roasting hens, with her good dressing, and a big ham, and there wasn't anything left from all that except a little ham. There were numerous pies, cakes, salads, vegetables, bread, and not much left of anything. I baked our wedding cake. It had ten layers! We moved to O'Donnell on Dec. 5th, 1911, where we lived 31 years and where our three sons, Cecil, Harold and Lawrence were born.

FROM THE PEN OF JIM PARKER

It is my pleasure to share with you any memory I have of Borden Co. I was born August 26, 1885, in Comanche Co., Texas. When I was about two years old we moved to the camp of the Comanche Indians and lived among them for several years. Quanah Parker was the Chief. We were on and off the Indian Reservations for several years, finally settling around Cordel, Okla. My family moved to Hale Center, Hale Co., Texas in the early part of 1903. I did not move to Texas with them, but came down after they bought land from J. J. Dodson and J. A. Anderson in the northwest corner of Borden Co. in 1905. I came to live in Borden County in the early 1906's. I still own some of the above mentioned land.



We did some farming and raised stock. My very first vote was cast in Borden Co. ...In about March of 1909 I went to Gail to drive the hackline for Horace Hale. The north line that I drove ran from Gail to Tahoka. We went around the mountain north and west pretty well with square turns until we angled up Followay Canyon then west to the forty-nine pasture fence, hence north to about the southeast corner of the Lamb Place. ...The hack stopped at the John De Shazo stage stop to change horses and mules. Ed Gober was in charge of the stop. He was batching there. The fare as I remember from Tahoka to Gail was \$2.00. We changed teams four times on a round trip to Tahoka. The distance was about 86 miles and we made it six days a week. We usually had a two mule team. We didn't have too many passengers. We picked up passengers at the Stokes Hotel and at the Tom Smith Hotel. I lived at the Stokes Hotel. The only name I can recall for the hackline was Tahoka to Gail line. The line was discontinued on July 1, 1910. I quit the job of the Big Spring route. My brother John took over the driving. He drove for about two weeks and took typhoid. He was a patient and stayed at the Stokes Hotel through a long illness under the care of Dr. Sutherland. So Horace Hale finished out the month and life of the hack line he owned. Enclosed is a picture of the hack I drove. The women on board are May and Opal Parker - my sisters - and May and Lena Howell who lived in Tahoka at that time. The others in the picture are not known. ...On Sept. 14, 1910, I was married to Eula E. Hollar. We drove out to the north of Gail a few miles to preacher Jolly's house. We have three daughters. They grew up in the Berry Flat school district. ...My oldest daughter was teaching at Gail in 1941 - the 50th birthday celebration...There was a telephone line and serviceable exchange for our use on the hack line in 1908 - 1909 and as long as the line was in operation... I guess in spirit we

have never moved from Borden County, but actually we moved to the Amarillo area in 1947. Both Eula's (my wife) and my parents are buried in Borden County. We still have our farm and a host of friends there.

Our father, James Norris Hopkins, operated the Hopkins Hotel in Gail. Our brother, James Norris Hopkins, Jr., was born here on Oct. 4, 1897. He was the youngest of the 5 Hopkins children and the only boy. Many old timers will remember him. Our father was a business man in Gail, operated the old Kincaid Hotel for some time, the drug store, was the postmaster. He had rent property, a wagon yard and also was Justice of the Peace at one time. We were operating the hotel at the time of the land rush there so really had a ring side seat to that affair. Gail at one time had three hotels. Two on the south side of the square as it was then...a livery stable which was operated mostly for the young men to rent horses and buggies to take their girl friends and sweethearts to the country for dances or parties or just for plain driving to the country side. The next, still on the side of the square, was the Newby Hotel. Then on down a little farther was the Jack Willbourne Hotel. Then turn the corner and there was the Kincaid on west side of the square. Our father at this time was bringing his family by covered wagon from Goldthwaite, Texas...settled on what was known then as Grape Creek, 6 miles south of Gail. He had traded the property in Goldthwaite for the section on Grape Creek...later due to a drought papa traded horses and cattle to Hugh Kincaid for the hotel in Gail. While operating the hotel papa would take in rental property for debts that some folk couldn't pay or for some other reasons. My mother kept boarders as well as feeding some of the town boys that did not have money to pay. It was big business - hard work - and little pay. She received \$15.00 per month for boarders, 25¢ for a meal to all transients that had it to pay. Our rent property - 4 and 5 rooms - rented for \$8.00 per month if you could get it. Mama found time to do most of her own work except some man that did the wagon yard and helped in the kitchen as needed...To give you an idea how many folk were in and out of Gail then, the Hotels would not begin to hold them... We had our own cows, chickens, pigs...

Contributed by Myrtle Hopkins Pou.

Editors note: This issue of the BORDEN CITIZEN is devoted almost in its entirety to contributions from our readers. Most of them are word for word and some reproduced from the original copy. It is our hope that you will enjoy this and that it will serve as an incentive for more of you to send us your family histories as they pertain to Borden County and other mementos of days gone by.

L. S. MUNGER

The Borden County Museum as well as the city of Abilene lost a valued friend and benefactor in the recent death of Lillo Shannon Munger. Mr. Munger was the son of the Stephen Ingram Mungers, one of the first great industrial families of Texas. He attended the University of the South at Sewanee, Tenn., and later came west to be a cowboy on the Borden County ranch which his father had purchased from Tom Love in 1903. This ranch, in southwest Borden County and now owned by Rich Anderson, is still known as the "Munger Place". While in Borden County Lillo took part in the social life of the community and spent some time in Gail. In January, 1905, Mr. Munger and Miss Bertha Sayles were married in Borden Co. at the Abney ranch and went to make their home at the "Munger Place". Mr. Mungers business interests included farming, ranching and oil interests mostly in Dawson and Andrews counties. On his many trips to see after these properties he frequently stopped to visit in Gail. He was interested in our community and our Museum and we received many liberal donations from him for its support.

MRS. SAM BUCHANAN, the former Ola Wolf, aunt of Vernon and Jackie Wolf of Borden County, passed away December 6, 1970. Her husband lives in Coahoma, and is the son of the late Parthania Coates (fondly called "Aunt Sip"). He is a cousin of Mrs. Sterling Williams.

MRS. B. L. SMITH, SR., of Junction, passed away Dec. 21, 1970. One of her sons, James E. (Bun) Smith and his wife - the former Bess Orson - live in our County

Our sincere sympathy to Jym and Beno Hendrix on the recent deaths of their brothers, Clay Hendrix and Ray Hendrix.

T. J. STERLING passed away January 2, 1971. Among other survivors is his wife, the former Pearl Woolever.

GARNETT KELLEY passed away January 2, 1971. His wife is the former Bertie Millhollan and his sister is Mrs. Marvin Key, both of Snyder.

J. B. COTTEN, SR., 83, passed away in Seagraves on February 14, 1971. Mr. Cotten, a rancher, attorney and West Texas historian, was honored in 1967 by the Texas Bar Association for 50 yrs. of service. He was a director of the Permian Historical Society in Odessa and a member of the West Texas History Association and the Borden and Nolan Counties Historical Societies. His survivors include Dorothy Browne of Gail.

MR. L. S. MUNGER of Abilene passed away Feb. 17, 1971. (See article elsewhere in this issue).

TED JOHNSON, 66, passed away Feb. 18, 1971 and was buried in the Gail Cemetery. He was married to the former Clara Pearce on January 3, 1921. Ted was a native of Borden County. He is survived by his wife, one brother, John of Gail, and three sisters, Mrs. Pearl Keen, Mrs. Ellen Davidson and Mrs. Maggie Greenway, all of Snyder.

REV. COL. C. WRIGHT, 84, circuit riding minister who brought religion to the open prairies, passed away March 5, 1971, and buried in Lamesa.

JAMES EARNEST JONES who was born in Borden County 76 years ago, passed away March 7, 1971, and was buried in Lamesa.

EXCERPTS FROM THE PENS OF OUR READERS:

SUSIE HOWE BRUNDRETT, Alta Loma, Texas - ...so many of the names mean a lot to me. I was born in Borden County in 1900. Will (W.A.) Bedell, Mrs. Rob Dorward, Mrs. Frank Good, Mrs. Ira Wasson were my mother's brother and sisters. Mrs. Dave Dorward seemed to be Aunt as well as Uncle Dave seemed my kin, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Dorward were too...I lived my first six years - two younger sisters were born in - the 1½ story white house up near the curve in "The Mountain". We left there in 1906...

L.P.SKINNER, Silsbee, Texas...I was born in Gail March 24, 1893, but my parents soon moved to Colorado City...I'll try to visit Gail one of these days...I believe my father, the late I. P. Skinner, assisted in forming the county...

MAYDELL ALDERMAN, McCONNELSVILLE, OHIO...When I was in Big Spring last November we drove to Lubbock and Canyon to visit those Museums and came back via Post and Gail. Your Museum was not open that day but we looked in the window and the next time I am in Texas, I'll plan to stop...It was such a joy to be where there were few people - so many places are over-crowded and unpleasant. It's the quality that counts - not the quantity...I wonder if John Johnson remembers hearing when Gail got a telephone line. My father was connected with the Western Telephone Co. Before I was born he took my mother and brother who was a little fellow with him in the hack to Gail to see about a telephone line. They had to ford the Colorado and the mules went down in quicksand. Somehow the driver and Papa got them out and on to solid ground but they were too exhausted to go on. I don't know how far the nearest ranch house was, or how they got there, but the rancher got up and they were taken care of that night. He loaned them his horses or mules to go on. This is what I remember my mother telling of such a frightening experience...

KATIE BELL CRUMP, Lubbock ...Please find enclosed a check in appreciation for the pleasure of reading your Newsletters. I am indebted to some unknown person for sending them to me...I have never lived in Borden County nor have any of my family...however Borden County is no stranger to us. My father and two brothers came to Lubbock Co. in May 1890 before the county was organized. All supplies were hauled from Colorado City and of course passed through Borden County and often camped there. Gail was not settled during the early trips. Two other small settlements but I do not recall the names... Sep. 1890 my mother, Sister and I came to Colorado City on the train from Dallas, of course the remainder of the way by wagon. Many trips were made for supplies, meeting relatives, etc. ...Please keep me on your mailing list...I keep all the Newsletters...

The Midland County Historical Survey Committee is to dedicate a marker on May 16, 1971, commemorating the old Midland Christian College. Any former students of this college are asked to contact Mrs. H. N. Phillips, 1904 W. Texas Ave., Midland, Texas 79701.

Our Newsletter is published 4 times a year, September, December, March and June. Our new year begins in September. Checks in the amount of \$3.00 yearly, made out to the BORDEN CITIZEN, should be sent to Sybil Holmes, Box 137, Gail, Texas 79738.

Contributions and donations to the Museum should be sent to Pauline Clark or Sibyl Gilmore, Gail, Texas, 79738. The Museum is now open regularly on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday from 1 - 5 p.m. and we invite you to come and see it.

Since the Museum opened in August of 1970 we have had approximately 1300 visitors sign our register. These include out-of-state visitors from New Mexico, Oklahoma, California, Hawaii, Colorado, Missouri, Indiana, Arizona, and Oregon. We have also had visitors register from London, England; Kawasa, Japan; and Allende, Coahuila, Mexico.

The official appointment of members to the Borden County Historical Survey Committee has been announced by County Judge Glenn Toombs. The county survey committee, which implements the state marking and preservation program in this area, will cooperate directly with the State Office of the Texas State Historical Survey Committee in Austin.

Mrs. Frank Miller of the Fluvanna Community will be chairman of the group. Other members are Mrs. Pauline Clark, Museum chairman, Mrs. Ruth Weathers, Secty. & Treas., Mrs. Sibyl Gilmore, Mrs. Opal Stephens, Mrs. Sybil Holmes, Mrs. M. W. Monk, Mrs. Doris Rudd, Mrs. Glenn Toombs, Mrs. Larry Smith, Mrs. Donna Hendryx, Mrs. Bill Stephens, and Mrs. Helen Jo Gray.

"Goals for the Seventies," a comprehensive historical preservation plan drawn up by the State Survey Committee, will provide the focus for county committee activities. It encompasses a wide range of objectives and programs.

County Judge Glenn Toombs commented, "The committee has been appointed at this time so that they may make plans for the coming two years although their terms began in January."

He also pointed out that the overall purpose of the committee's work is the development of local history as a scholarly resource and a tourist attraction. "County survey committees work with local historians, county commissioners courts, and tourist-related organizations to insure the preservation of history for future generations of Texans," he said.

From:
Borden County Historical Survey Committee
Gail, Texas 79738

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