

Borden

Citizen.

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JAMES CAROL JOHNSON AND ELBA TENNESSEE JOHNSON

Uncle Jimmy and Aunt Tennie

GEORGE W. FOSTER

On the 31st day of March, 1903, I purchased 4 sections of land from W. H. Green, some 20 miles West and Southwest from Gail and lying in both Borden and Dawson Counties between the Colorado River to the South and Tobacco Creek to the North. I owned 3 sections of this land for more than 25 years, occupying it as a home for more than 10 years, however, soon after proving up my Homestead rights under the State Laws, I moved into Dawson County occupying another Section of this land as a home, and finally moving to Lamesa.

With reference to the early History of the County, I can go no further back, but at that time Borden County was considered one, among the very best, cow countries in the West, and while it is true that land was cheap throughout West Texas, yet I could have bought land for less on the Plains than I paid for this land, it lying partly on the plains and partly in the breaks, this land cost me \$600.00 per Section bonus, this is, above the State debt, which was \$1.00 per acre. Gail was considered at that time the best town, doing more business, than any other between Amarillo and Big Spring, which at this writing seems impossible, however, there are plenty of old timers in the country who will verify this statement. Borden County, like the remainder of West Texas Counties, had her share of sand storms, prairie dogs, drouth and "land rushes".

Regarding the last named, permit me to say a further word regarding the one in which I participated. I think it was in March 1904. There was a contest over two Sections of Land situated in Garza County between John Slaughter, stockman, and Perry Crowley, small stock farmer, both of Garza County, this being State School Land, and Garza County being unorganized and attached to Borden County for Judicial Purposes, and at that time the Law providing for filing on land belonging to the State, was that such filing must be made in the County where the land was situated or attached, so it was necessary that such filing on above land be made at the County Clerk's Office in the Court House at Gail.

I will not take the space here to discuss the merits of this contest, further than to say that the results were never further questioned and since its discussion here would add nothing of either Historical nor Ethical value, I will only give a resume of the "land rush".

It being the custom of those days where there was to be a probable contest over the filing on State School Land, that the would be purchaser, several days in advance of the appointed day for filing set by the State Land Commissioner, would take among other things, his "bunk", that is a roll of bedding, and occupy the Hall of the Court House, as a bed room, sleeping

JAMES CAROL JOHNSON

and

ELBA TENNESSEE JOHNSON

I am sending this donation and picture of my Grandfather, James Carol Johnson and Grandmother, Elba Johnson.

They were known and loved by all as Uncle Jimmy and Aunt Tennie.

Grandfather donated land across from their property to build a little white Schoolhouse.

Happy Birthday Borden County.

I enjoy the BORDEN CITIZEN very much.

LEE JOHNSON

Marietta, GA.

therein, guarding the door to the County Clerks Office, that no one should file on this land before he did. So in keeping with this custom, Mr. Crowley moved into the Hall of the Court House at Gail, however, he had not been there long until he was thrown out by some of Mr. Slaughter's men, they taking possession, intending to file upon this same land.

Mr. Crowley, dissatisfied with this treatment, had a number of his friends, on horseback, cover some dozen Counties asking that his friends and sympathizers who for the most part were "nesters", that is men with small holdings, to come and regain the entrance to the door of the Clerk's Office, which meant a home for he and his family. I, being one of the invited guests, arrived at the scene on the appointed day and found, after a count had been made, that there was some 475 men to assist Mr. Crowley, however, we also found the Court House (The present one.), a two story, framed building, packed full of men, consisting of cowboys, clerks, barbers, soda jerkers and etc., representing some dozen towns and Counties. Of course, law and order must be maintained among so many men, so W. K. Clark, who was Sheriff of Borden County, summonsed several good men to assist in keeping order, and among other things, he took their guns.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above letter, or part of a letter, was sent to us by Ruth Carter, asking for help in locating the remainder of the letter. We thought just this part was interesting.

"My father, George W. Foster, wrote the enclosed letter. While going through some old papers, we found this portion of the letter. We would like very much to have the complete letter. We thought perhaps, you could contact the PTA who may have records dating back to the time of this letter. Any effort you make will be appreciated." Signed by Ruth Carter.

If you know of the existence of the remainder of this letter, please contact THE BORDEN CITIZEN.

VALENTINE CRAWFORD PEARCE, 89, of Lubbock passed away August 29, 1992. She was born in Big Spring and married Roy Pearce on January 22, 1921. He died in 1962. She graduated from Big Spring High School and West Texas State University. She taught school in Gail. Burial was in the Gail Cemetery. Survivors include two sons, Leon of Huntington Beach, Calif. and Rupert of Lubbock, a brother, two sisters, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

JAMES C. SKELTON, 89, died October 27, 1992 in Snyder Nursing Home. He was born January 5, 1903 and had lived in Borden County many years of his life. He was known to many people by the name of "Slim" and as one of the best barbed wire fence builders. He was buried in Gail Cemetery. One son, Richard, preceded him in death. Among his survivors are his wife, Mildred, one son, John C. Skelton, one daughter May Shaffer, 7 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

THOMAS JEFFERSON GOOD, JR., 73, died January 6, 1993 in Roswell, N.M. He was born in Borden County January 28, 1919. He was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Tom Good, pioneer ranchers of Borden County. Two brothers, one sister, and one daughter preceded him in death. Burial was in Fort Sumner, N.M. Cemetery. He had been a New Mexico State Legislator for ten years, a County Commissioner and a rancher. Among his survivors are his wife, a daughter, a son, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

CORDIA MOORE, 70, passed away February 4, 1993 in a Midland Hospital. She married Henry Moore on December 8, 1945 in Big Spring. She had been a resident of Borden County for many years before moving to Big Spring. Burial was in Vealmoor Cemetery. Among her survivors are her husband; a daughter, Tracy Moore of Big Spring; two sisters and a brother.

JAMES "CHARLIE" CHORN, 66, of Lubbock died February 3, 1993. He was born in Scurry County. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas Tech and taught school in Gail and the Cherry Creek School District in Colorado. He was Superintendent of the Fluvanna School in the 1950s. Among his survivors are his wife, two daughters and his mother.

FORMER FLUVANNA RESIDENT GETS TWO WHO'S WHO LISTINGS

Dr. Gaylan Collier, a former Snyder area resident who retired in May after 24 years as professor of theatre arts at Texas Christian University, has been notified of her listing in two new "Who's Who" volumes. Her name may be found in both the new Who's Who in America and Who's Who in Entertainment, 2nd edition. She was listed in the first edition of the entertainment work in the late 1980s. A native of Fluvanna, she is a graduate of Abilene Christian College, earned her master's degree from the University of Iowa and the Ph.D from the University of Denver. At Abilene Christian, she earned "best actress" awards in 1943-44, 1944-45 and 1945-46. During her 44 year career in teaching acting, she taught at the University of North Carolina, Greenboro College, Abilene Christian, Idaho State University, Sam Houston State College and Wisconsin State University before joining the TCU faculty.

THE BORDEN CITIZEN has not been published on a regular basis lately, BUT, we feel that we are prepared to keep the newsletters to a much better schedule in the future. We need YOUR LETTERS and STORIES. Please let us hear from you. We have not taken anyone off our list of subscribers to the papers for lack of payment. If you have not paid your \$3.00 in the last several years, we would appreciate your paying now. Please send us your memories, we want to print them.

THE BORDEN COUNTY MUSEUM can be seen by asking for a key in the Courthouse. You may honor a friend or relative by sending a MEMORIAL or a GIFT to the Museum, Box 23, Gail, Texas 79738. A card will be sent to the person so honored, or to the family in their memory.