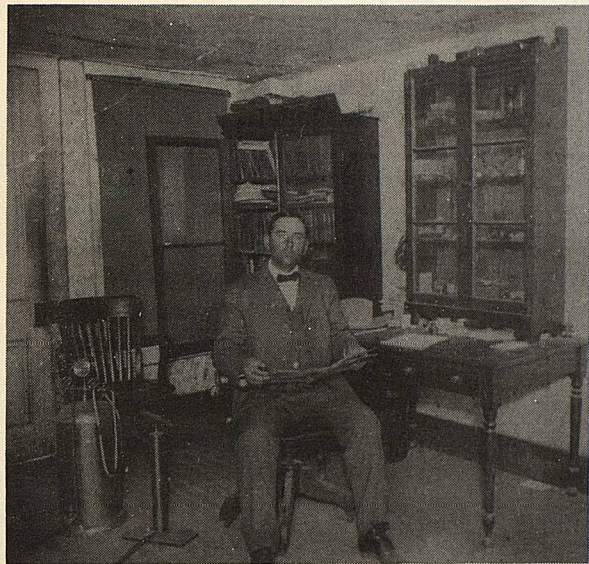


Borden Citizen.

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DR. HANNABASS



Dr. Hannabass

John H. Hannabass, of German descent, was born April 23, 1870, in Franklin County, Virginia. He moved to Texas in late 1800's settling at Commerce. He was issued a permanent Certificate authorizing him to practice medicine, the 4th day of June, 1894, at Cooper, by the board of Medical Examiners of the 8th Judicial District of Texas. On December 10, 1910, a License to practice medicine and surgery was granted to him by the State Board of Medical Examiners of Texas. He first registered in Borden County on May 8, 1903 - Volume 1, Page 1, Register of Physicians and Surgeons Records.

The family doctor of Jim and Nancy McClinton, Cooper, Texas, was not available on a certain date in 1898 when their daughter Kate became ill. They called a new doctor in town - the handsome, young Dr. Hannabass. Miss Kate, a beautiful young school teacher, had just finished Mayo College in Cooper (now East Texas State Teachers College - Commerce, Texas). This began a romance between the young doctor and the schoolteacher which led to their marriage.. Their only child, Miriam,

was born in 1900. She grew up in Gail where she was an active member of school and social groups. Thinking that Mrs. Hannabass had developed tuberculosis, the decision was made to leave Commerce and find a better climate. So in the early 1900's the Hannabass family came to Borden County where he became a dedicated doctor and friend to all who came his way.

They first came to Gail in a surrey and spent the night at one of the hotels, later moving into a house at the foot of Gail Mountain. (The rocks and bricks from this house are now in a fireplace chimney on Arah Route, Snyder). His office was established on the north side of the square near the Dorward Drug Store, where drugs were mixed in a mortar with pestle, now on exhibit in the Borden County Museum. Nine days after he registered at the Borden County Courthouse he delivered a baby boy, James Newton, to J. L. and Maggie Woods. A few days later he delivered a baby girl, Sarah Emma, to John S. and Effie Petty. The doctor - driving his horse "Stockings" - became a familiar sight. The night was never too dark or cold, the road too long or narrow. When the word came, he hitched up his horse and went. "Stockings" probably knew more roads and trails than most cowboys. He was one of the German Coach Breed of horses. Once - when the doctor was away - "Stockings" was cut on barb wire. Miriam ran to neighbors for help. John Johnson and Frank Berry used lime and bandaged the hurt leg to stop the bleeding and saved his live.

Doctor Hannabass would spend an hour, a day, or however long was needed when he received a call. A lot of his medicine was mixed at the time of treatment by placing a little of one kind of powder and then another on the end of a little flat stick taken from his 'black satchel' and mixing all together. A well know cure was a 'through' of calomel or black-draught each spring. His fees were collected in various ways. More broken bones, gun shot wounds, and babies were paid for with vegetables, butter, eggs, sometimes quilts, than with cash. He even received some payments he was not expecting - like the time six year old Vivian Clark was brought from the river section to the Doctor's office with tonsillitis. During the examination the Doctor's fingers were nearly bitten off. For broken bones, he made a cast by soaking leather, about 14 x 28 inches, then placing it on a board and shaping the leather to fit the broken limbs. This was probably the procedure used to set the leg of Rankin (Dick) Hart. Dewey Everett tells the story of Dick who - while riding a mule on the O B ranch - was thrown and broke his leg. He was taken to the Doctor's office and laid on the couch, still wearing his boots and spurs. The boot on the injured leg was cut off and each time the doctor pulled on the leg to set it, Dick would raise his good leg and come down on the couch so hard with his spur he was ripping it to shreds. The doctor stopped his work and said - "By Gosh, stop that! You are tearing my sofa" - but the ripping and setting went on.

For recreation Doctor Hannabass liked to hunt quail. One cold morning - when the snow was 3 or 4 inches deep- Arthur Prince came in the office and the Doctor asked him to take him some place quail hunting. They went to the Prince section where there was a covey of quail under every bush. Dr. Hannabass used a whole box of shot gun shells and never hit a quail. (Was he a poor shot or did some one fill his box with blanks)??? And then there was the time Dr. Hannabass delivered Ethel Everett's second child. Her husband called him early and said - "Doc, I think we are going to need you today" - and the Doctor answered - "Well, I don't have anything else to do today so I will come on up." They were living on the De Shazo place on the corner of the '49' spread, just off the caprock. When the doctor arrived, he decided there was not going to be a baby for a while

so he and Harvey went quail hunting. Along toward night, Aunt Susie Jones climbed on the old dug-out with a cloth jerked from the table, and waved until she got the hunters attention.

The Doctor eventually retired his old buggy and horse and bought a new fangled red 2 cylinder Buick from a car dealer, Crawford Fullilove. Jim Holly taught him to drive but he forgot all instructions when he drove into his garage and began hollering 'Whoa-Whoa' with his foot on the accelerator instead of the brake. It did not 'whoa' and he plowed right through the garage. (Talk about women drivers.) Doctor Hannabass served as County Superintendant. He was elected County Treasurer in 1912 and served until December 1917. In 1922 he ran for County Judge. While he was canvassing on the plains, a big vicious dog came at him barking and growling. The lady of the house came to the door and hollered - "He won't bite, what are you running for?" Not hearing the first of the sentence, he yelled back - "County Judge, vote for me!" She probably did, for he was elected and served until 1926.

Dr. Hannabass had a life long dream of building a hospital for T. B. patients on top of Gail Mountain, but the long hard hours of dedication as a public servant caused his health to fail. He died on January 22, 1929, at the age of 64. Miriam died in 1936 and Mrs. Hannabass in 1941. All three are buried in Snyder, Texas.

He was a specialist in a lot of fields of medicine but the records indicate that the Doctor who heard the first cry, after spanking the reverse end of more babies in his 22 years of service in Borden County, was Dr. John H. Hannabass, M. D.. He delivered all the Mitchell and Rogers children. One of the last babies he delivered was William Cranfill, Jr., on April 16, 1925. He had also brought the baby's mother - Delia (Doodie Hudson) Cranfill into the world.

By Pauline Clark and Doris Taylor Rudd.

With this issue we begin our 4th year of publication. We hope to continue this newsletter until enough information has been gathered to compile a comprehensive history of Borden County. If you have information or corrections please send them to us. We always welcome your letters. Your expressions of interest and appreciation and your contributions of information and money have enabled us to feel that our efforts have been worth while. We hope that you think so too. Subscriptions in the amount of \$3.00 are now due. Please send your check made to Borden County Historical Society to Box 137, Gail, Texas - 79738. Doris Taylor Rudd has prepared the enclosed brochure about Gail and Borden County. We think it is excellent and know you will also.

We have been notified that the marker for Mushaway Peak has been approved and are looking forward to receiving it. Much research was done on the history of this area which was required as a part of the marker application. Most of us do not realize how much history has been made in Borden County. We will be telling you more of this in a future issue.

The Texas Historical Survey Committee and the Texas State Historical Foundation annual meeting will be held November 1 - 2 in San Antonio. Edna Miller, our county chairman, plans to attend.

Dr. W. M. Taylor was born in Mississippi May 29, 1829. His parents both passed away while he was a very young child and he was raised by foster parents. They sent him to school where he was trained in the art of medicine. Later he became a practicing Doctor, married, and had two children. He owned a plantation and had slaves. This was before the Civil War. Not believing in slavery but needing help to run his plantation, he treated his slaves as his own family. He bought wives for the young men - saw that they were lawfully married - and registered the births of their children in the family Bible along with that of his own children. A grandson has this family Bible now.

After the war he was left a widower with a plantation, little help, and no money to hire more. Most of his money had been invested in slaves but still was not enough to do the work. Dr. Taylor married the second time and decided to move to Texas to make a new home and a new medical practice. He left his oldest daughter in Mississippi training to be a nurse. He was very proud of the pictures he had of a lovely dark-haired lady in nurses uniform - his daughter, Molly. He bought a home near the line of Comanche and Erath Counties and was the only Doctor the two counties had for years, a frontier country with Indians still making raids.

When Dr. Taylor decided to retire he moved to Borden County about the year of 1902. Selecting a place between Gail and Old Light, he lived in the county until 1917. One of his closest neighbors was a young couple, the Dock Reeder, whose first child was born there. Later Dock Reeder became the County Judge of Borden County. After the death of Dr. Taylor his place was kept as the W.M. Taylor Estate. In 1940 it was sold to Roy Reeder, a son of Judge Reeder.

Note: This article and the one to follow was sent to us by Mrs. Viola Raylor Carmichael, granddaughter of Dr. W.N. Taylor. We are truly thankful to her for sending this information and hope we have written it in such a way as to make it enjoyable for her to read again in print.

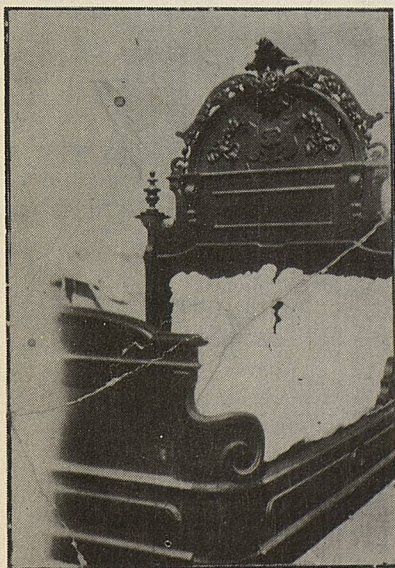
-Sibyl Gilmore-

A FEW EARLY MEMORIES OF BORDEN COUNTY by Viola Carmichael

I was born in Comanche County June 7, 1898, and came to Jones County with father, A. V. Taylor, and my family in the year 1899. He rented a farm from a man by the name of Maxwell who later operated the Maxwell Hotel in Snyder, Texas. Wanting a home of his own, my father moved us to Borden County, south of Durham, and settled on one section of land which later became a part of the old Long ranch. I was too young to remember much about those years in Borden County but can recall the names of some of the neighbors that were kept fresh in my mind by my parents and my older brother Vernon Taylor. East of us were the Johnsons and the Bob Reid family. North were the Simpsons, and south the Callaways. The Callaways daughter married J. R. Jenkins about 1902. I remember this because my father used to tell about J. R. passing the house on his way to see his girl friend. On one such occasion the creek was out of banks after a big rain and our house was between the creek and the river and in great danger of being washed away. J. R. made his horse swim the creek and went on to see that our family was safe.

Another time a big rain washed all the bridges away and some of the houses. But in spite of this, these rains were appreciated because it was the means of obtaining drinking water for the future. A large water hole had been scraped out in the bed of the creek and water hauled to the house on a hand made sled pulled by two horses. One side of the dug-out was guttered into a rain barrel. The two wash tubs and wash pot was put under the other side to catch extra water off the roof. Pots and pans were also placed outside the window. Sometimes it was a long time between rains. We were taught to save water. The drinking water was kept in a cedar bucket and we drank from a gourd dipper. My mother would dip up just what she thought we would drink. If there was any left she drank it or poured it into a five gallon can to be used to water the milk pen calves or the dog. All dish water was saved to water hogs. When we washed our face and hands the water was poured into these cans. All the children were bathed in the same washtub of water. I also remember bathing in the rinse water when mother washed the clothes. There was always water kept in the milk cooler. In warm weather a wet cloth was placed over each crock of milk to keep the milk cool.

I remember attending a camp meeting at Gail about the year 1901. People came for miles around in covered wagons and camped for two days and nights. The camp grounds and the brush arbour, where the meeting was held, was west of the old part of town. If Gail had Church House I do not remember it. My father left Borden County in 1903 because he did not have a clear title to the section of land and had no room to expand. He moved to several different places finally buying a place near Brownfield, where he built his own home. He bought a well-drill and drilled his own well. Now he had the water he had always wished for. He came back to Borden County in 1914 and lived in his father's rent house. He farmed for four years. It was while living in Borden County that I met and became engaged to Hubert Carmichael. We waited three years, for World War One to be over, before we married. We lived 20 years of the 37 years of our married life on farms in Borden County. But I must add -- we had plenty of water every place we lived.



One of the latest acquisitions of the Borden County Museum is a round linen table cloth with embroidery and wide hand made lace donated by Mrs. Lura Tennessee (Tennie Locklear) Clayton of Las Vegas, Nevada. It was given to her 42 years ago by her aunt, Mrs. B.N. (Byrd) Green, who made the cloth while living at Gail. Both the Locklears and the Greens were early settlers of Borden County. In the summer of 1892 the Locklear family drove 300 head of horses to West Texas from their range on Bear Creek near Brady in McCulloch County. A three year drought had forced them to sell or give away their cattle and find new pastures for their prized horses. One well remembered event of the trip was driving the horses through the street of the small village of Abilene. The Locklear family settled on the west bank of Gavitt near the main crossing between Snyder and Gail. Many a time they helped push a passing wagon up the steep and slippery east bank of the creek. Aunt Ludie Locklear Clark remembers many incidents of travelers who spent the night, of balking horses, waiting for rises on the creek to run down, and the huge willow tree near the crossing with a limb that lay almost across the creek making a place to play and daydream and a partial bridge to walk.

Aunt Ludie saw Bell Kincaid (who later became her sister-in-law, Mrs. John Clark) for the first time when the Kincaids camped at the crossing. Mr. Locklear sent Ludie to the camp with a bucket of clabber milk. Only those who have spent days in camp with nothing but muddy water to drink and with water bread to eat can know how gracious a gift a bucket of clabber can be. Ludie had no trouble recalling how Bell looked. Her beautiful red hair which hung to the hem of her dress was remembered by all who saw her.

Many who lived in Gail in the early 1900's will remember Uncle Byrd and Aunt Matt Green. Uncle Byrd had a stiff arm as the result of a fall while working on the new bridge over the Colorado river, built in 1902. He had a habit of holding this stiff arm out and beginning a story with "I si(say)" so he was known among the Gail youngsters as "Uncle Si". While recuperating from the

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fall and the resulting broken arm, Uncle Byrd and Aunt Matt spent some time at the Locklear home. One day Uncle Byrd strolled up the creek to where one of the Locklear horses had bogged in the quicksand and died there. Before he could return to the house, a summer shower up the creek brought down a headrise. He started wading across the creek but was caught in a second rise which washed down the carcass of the horse along with other debris in which Uncle Byrd became entangled and almost drowned. One of the things which most people will recall in connection with the Greens is a massive and magnificent black walnut bedroom suite. This furniture had originally belonged to the Blum family who were among the earliest settlers in the Durham community. It had been brought from New York City by boat down the Mississippi and overland by oxcart to West Texas. When the Greens moved from the high ceilinged house later occupied by the Reeder family, the lovely carved panel had to be removed from the headboard of the bed and the rollers from the marble topped dresser in order to fit them into the next house. The bed had places for candlesticks on the headboard. (See photo on page 3). The footboard was curved. When the Blums left West Texas they gave the furniture to the Greens, who had worked for them. Uncle Byrd and Aunt Matt sold the bed, washstand, and dresser after they left Gail for \$25.00! Now wouldn't that be a treasure for our Museum!!!

- Edna Miller

Mrs. Frank (Fannie Williams) Berry passed away in Snyder on May 31, 1968.

Obe Wilson, 66, passed away on August 18, 1968 at Hereford Texas.

Don Reeder, brother of Sid and Roy Reeder and Mrs. Dewey Everett, passed away August 23, 1968, in Lubbock.

Billy Askins, 84, passed away in Snyder on Sept. 15, 1968. He came to Borden County in 1903. Burial was in Gail.

Mrs. Jim (Gola) Jones, who grew up on the Jumbo Ranch died on September 6 at Pie Town, New Mexico. Her father was "Jumbo" Wilson.

Mr. J. E. Edmonson of Lamesa passed away in November, 1967. He lived in Borden County at the time of the 1903 land rush.

Mr. O. S. Howe of Galveston but formerly of Borden County passed away last year.

Rowdy Tom (Bud) Smith, 62, Passed away in Lamesa, Sept. 20, 1968. He was born in Borden County. His family came to Borden County about 1887 and his grandparents were here before then.

Mrs. Rosa Pratt, 98, died at the Happy Haven Nursing Home in Abilene on August 1, 1968. Burial was in Lamesa. She had been a resident of Borden County since 1900.

FROM THE PENS OF OUR READERS:

James P. and Alma Prince, Albuquerque, N. M. - We have read the June issue of the Borden Citizen. We enjoyed it immensely, even more, perhaps, than some other issues because of the stories of Dad and Mom. ~~We~~ realize now something of the time and effort given to the preparation of each number of the Citizen. Each copy brings us a lot of pleasure.

Howard Whitaker, Henrietta, Texas - I have been thinking for some time I would go out there and see some of the old timers - for instance - Frank Miller and Clyde and Charlie - also Earl Sealy - I have a picture of a school group taken in 1909 at the Possum trot School about 15 miles from Gail.

Rev. L. E. Hurley, Wilson, Oklahoma - Mr. Ned Smith gave me a copy of the June issue. I was thrilled to read about the happenings in the early 1900's. I landed in Gail in late 1901 at the age of one and was reared in that county. My father, R. D. (Bob) Hurley settled on a section of land that joined the old 49 ranch on the N.W. corner so O.K. Yantis and his family were close neighbors. I could tell a lot of happenings from 1902 till 1918.

From: The Borden County Historical Society
Gail, Texas 79738

To:

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