A History
of
The Sears Family

Collected and Compiled by

Mrs. Julia Campbell Sanders

1968
A Final Word

As I feared there are some unexpected errors in the final copy of this family history. The most glaring is printer's errors.

(1) It is one of layout which was corrected when I checked with printer after he started printing the back sides of sheets. This error is corrected beginning with page 66 (with exception of page 88). From there on the pages are printed properly so that the sheets may be "flipped back" for easier reading.

(2) On page 93 - the top of the document should be ignored as it is not a part of Henry Hookers will.

I hope you enjoy this true record of our family and if there are other errors I hope they will offend no one.

I shall appreciate your acknowledging receipt of your copy or copies -- just a post card will do.

Thank you for your patience and if you know of other family members desiring copies I still have some for sale.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Julia C. Sanders
4023 Olive Street
Texarkana, Texas 75501

Jan 15, 1969
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PURPOSE

This manuscript stemmed from the desire to learn more about my Sears ancestry and my original intent was to secure information for my own personal use. The search, which began in 1955, has been successful beyond my fondest hopes, despite my ignorance of genealogical techniques. When I started collecting data, I had no intention of printing a book; however, because my relatives expressed a desire to know more about their ancestors, I decided to publish my findings and include a record of descendants through 1967.

The result is in no sense a literary work, but is a true story of a typical family that helped to make the United States great, and I present it, not as that of a professional, but rather as a work of love with the hope that it will help living generations to appreciate their rich heritage. One cousin commented, "It is nice to have good ancestors, but it is more important to be one". If those who read this make such a resolve then this effort will not have been in vain.

FORWARD

Family records and history often become lost or more difficult, if not impossible to locate, with the passing of time. Furthermore, the older the records, the fewer, more "garbled" and incomplete they become due to fires, carelessness, lack of interest, deaths and divisions of families. In this manner many individuals lose contact with their past because no one locates, collects, and preserves records and data while people knowing the information are still alive. Such was almost the case concerning the Sears family of Whitewright, Texas. As early as 1959 none of the living grandchildren contacted knew their grandmother Sears' maiden name - and were in disagreement as to her given name. This is easy to understand because their father was only seven months old when his mother died in Alabama. In the spring of the next year their grandfather was to move to Texas from Alabama with his family of twelve motherless children, the youngest of whom was Frank, less than two years old, who would eventually become their father.

With these few facts, as a springboard, my quest began and the result is this family history centered around my great grandfather, CHRISTOPHER "KIT" SEARS, of Whitewright, Texas. It covers a span of over two hundred fifty years and tells of Kit's ancestors, his life with both his first wife and his second wife, then delves into the ancestry of each of his two wives, concluding with information about his twelve children and their numerous descendants.

The narrative section, which appears in the first of the book, is based upon information secured from legal records, stories written or related by relatives, information secured from books, and that of my own personal knowledge. This is a true story substantiated by documentary proof. When a conclusion is drawn, or a speculation is made, it will be indicated as such.

After the first reading the descendant may want to identify the people in the story as they relate to him; therefore, two ancestral charts have been provided for this purpose. These charts show the lineal descent in graphic form with the names on the chart corresponding to the names of people written about in the various narratives.

To afford the descendant a concise pictorial record of his ancestry, there are two Pedigree Charts included. These charts are commonly known as "Family Tree".

Pedigree Chart No. I is the paternal and maternal line of any and all of Kit Sears' twelve children.

Pedigree Chart No. II is the maternal line for any and all children of Frank Sears. Since No. 3 on this chart later became Kit Sears second wife, the reader will notice that it is her ancestral chart.

Explanation for use of these charts is included in the section "Ancestral Charts".
Following the ancestral charts will be an appendix of legal documents pertaining to the story. When there is no written account of an individual's life, it is necessary to spend countless hours searching court, marriage and census records in numerous counties and states. Library research of indexes, microfilm and books requires untold effort, patience, time and eyesight! If and when a record is discovered, it is necessary to dispatch numerous letters, then copies of records are purchased in order to ferret out the correct lines of descent. Thus is provided the legal aspect of such a work as this, which substantiates the narrative, while providing authentic records for the genealogist.

A few of the documents in the appendix are photostats of the original but for the most part typewritten copies are used because, generally speaking, the original writing is difficult to read since it is often dim and poorly written. (Reading ancient writing isn't easy for the beginner; for example, a double "s" is written "sp"—which looks like the letter "p". Until I learned this, I could not even understand some words. In the appendix you will notice on Frank Sears and Mary Douglass' wedding license, both forms are used "ours" and "theirs". The name Charles Dop is Charles Doss; then, on the bottom of the license, Mary Douglass' name is written Douglap.

All documents appearing in the appendix are copied exactly as they appear in the original; that is, there are no corrections made in punctuation, spelling, or capitalization. It may be of interest to note that the same name may have several spellings. This is because most of the instruments were dictated and the copyist wrote what he "heard" and spelled it out according to his knowledge. Since the person dictating the will, suit, or whatever could not write, there would be no way of checking for errors; or, even if he could write, sometime, by the time wills were made, eyesight was too poor for reading. At this time in our history the importance of details and exactness did not have the significance which we attach to them today. A person's intent was the important thing and survivors were morally obligated to do what was intended. You will also notice that the same person sometimes has two given names. This was, of course, due to the use of nick names. (For example, Mary could be either Mollie or Polly; Henry became Harry, etc.)

Wills usually have two dates. The first when the will was written, the second when the will was recorded. Marriages also have two dates; the first is the date the license was issued, while the second is the date on which the ceremony was performed. (Example: Mary Douglass and Frank Sears marriage record.)

When there is a discrepancy of one or two years in a person's age, it is usually due to the relation of a person's birthday to the day when the enumerator took the census. It is also a sad fact that both the one submitting, and the one recording, the census information did not attach much importance to exact age. In large families, especially, it was easy to make a slight error in age or even to omit a name.

As to the record of Kit Sears' descendants, I have endeavored to locate and include descendants from his ten children who married and had issue. Whenever possible, dates of births, marriages and deaths are given. There will no doubt be errors, some due to my own carelessness, and others typographical. It is possible that descendants reporting family information made honest errors in the records submitted. I hope that such errors will be at a minimum and that those which may occur will not offend anyone. Just try to understand that with so many dates involving so many people it is fatally easy to make an error.

In order to make this record more interesting, I have included a scrapbook section of pictures and newspaper clippings. As you know there can be errors in news stories; nevertheless, they tell a basically true story. If there is a discrepancy in a news story and my narrative, you will find that my narrative is correct. (For example, my grandmother Mollie Sears' story in the paper quotes her incorrectly. She was not born in Rome, Georgia but in Talbot County, Georgia. Also, in her own handwriting, she says that fifteen in all came to Texas in covered wagons; whereas, the news account says "wagon". These are minor mistakes but I merely wanted to call them to the attention of the reader.)
These clippings collected through the years were sent to my mother and to me, so there will be an understandable over-balance of information concerning the Frank Sears branch of the family. I make no apology for this, but wish that I had more clippings concerning the other nine children of Kit and Polly Sears.

The collection of this information has been a tedious but pleasant task. I submit it for your record and hope you will enjoy reading it as much as I have enjoyed collecting and writing it.

Humbly submitted,

(Mrs.) JULIA C. SANDERS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The publishing of this work about my great grandfather would have been impossible without the help of many people — so, to each and all who gave assistance in any way may I express my sincere appreciation.

To the following who helped in a special way I am deeply grateful:

To those who provided family history from their personal experiences or recollections; namely: Miss Eula Sears, Mrs. Della (Sears) Campbell, Mrs. Pet (Sears) Touchstone, Mrs. Odie (Sears) Matthews, and Mrs. Mossie (Sears) Hatfield.

To those who gave special assistance by submitting lists of descendents and other genealogical data; namely, Mrs. Henry (Martha) Montgomery, Mrs. Vera Hickman, Mrs. Sears Anderson, Mrs. J.T. Holloway, and Mrs. Winona Harless.

To all those who submitted family data sheets.

To genealogist Dr. J. L. Pritchard for permitting the unrestricted use of his book on the Harless Family; Mrs. C.W. Shields, Mrs. Kathleen Paul Jones, and Mr. James Barbee.

To County and State Officials in various places, especially Mrs. Elizabeth De Young of Huntsville, Alabama and Mrs. Anne Miller of Orange County, North Carolina.

To my very dear friend, Mrs. Ransom (Leah) Quinn, for her hours and hours of tedious research, many notes and photostats that helped to document this work.

To those who gave financial assistance which permitted the typing of this work so that it could be submitted to the printer; namely, Mrs. Lila Mae (Pet) Touchstone, Miss Eula Sears, and Mr. Lance Sears.

And, to my beloved husband, Bob Sanders, who has not merely tolerated and indulged me in this effort but has encouraged me to see it through to completion.

To all of you I am deeply grateful.

Humbly submitted,

(Mrs.) JULIA C. SANDERS
CHRISTOPHER (KIT) SEARS

1804 - 1877
LIFE AND ANCESTRY OF CHRISTOPHER ("KIT") SEARS - (1804-1881)

"Go West Young Man, Go West" must have been the haunting refrain that accompanied the movement of Kit Sears and his ancestors as they made their trek from Virginia through North Carolina and Alabama to the black land of East Texas. Their need for freedom, hope of the more abundant Christian life, and promise of new land seemed to be in their very life blood and was passed from father to son, generation after generation.

Their dependence and reliance upon God and His providence was evidenced not only in the wording of their wills, but by their lives, because wherever they moved they gave land or helped to establish churches.

This great country, melting pot that it is, was to take the Sears and Barbees' of England and France, the Harless' of Bavaria, the Hardisons' of Holland and the McLeods' and Douglasses' of Scotland and melt and blend them into a noble race, the Texas Pioneer. This is our heritage.

The first record concerning the ancestors of Christopher Sears is found, as we would expect and hope, in a church. For it is in Christ Church, Middlesex, Virginia that we find the first legal records. These are birth, death, baptismal and marriage records concerning Kit's ancestors - not one but two generations have records in that church. While Virginia was still a colony, the church was a part of the church of England and many of the old records are still intact.

We can only speculate as to how the Barbees arrived in Virginia but the most likely seems to that they landed first in New York State, then later migrated to Virginia (some think by 1656). Mr. James Barbee of Houston says that a great grandson of Christopher Barbee of Orange County, North Carolina, (known to be related to our Barbee's) told his descendants that three Barbee brothers came from France to New York to found the Barbee families of Virginia and North Carolina.

Christopher Sears great grandfather was William Barbee of Middlesex County, Virginia. William Barbee was married twice; first to Elizabeth and second to Mary. Baptismal records of Christ Church, Middlesex Virginia include the following children of William:

- Hannah - child of William Barbee and wife Elizabeth bap. 12 Apr 1685
- William - 15 May 1687
- Benjamin - 11 May 1707
- Elizabeth - 6 Nov 1715
- Mary - 16 Feb 1717

Hannah - child of William Barbee and wife Elizabeth bap. 12 Apr 1685
William - 15 May 1687
Benjamin - 11 May 1707
Elizabeth - 6 Nov 1715
Mary - 16 Feb 1717

The reader will notice there is a skip of some twenty years in these birth records. During these twenty years we assume that William lived elsewhere or that church records are not complete. We do know from William Barbee's will, 5 January 1720 recorded February 1720 in Middlesex County, Virginia, that at least two children not mentioned above were born to William and his first wife, Elizabeth. They were John Barbee and Ann Morgan. In his will he also names his son William, then mentions "the children which God has blessed me with by my last wife". Therefore from these two records - church and will - we know that William had four sons and four daughters:

- William
- *John
- Benjamin
- Grey
- Hannah
- Elizabeth
- Ann
- Mary

This John Barbee was Christopher Sears great grandmother. John Barbee married Ann Miller on 25 December 1709 at Christ Church, Middlesex, Virginia but by the time of John's death he was in the adjoining county of Essex because it is there at Rappahannock on 18 December 1750 that we find John's will recorded. (See will in appendix) He had a very short will in which he did not name his children, only his wife Ann. He recommended his "soul to God in hopes of assured and certain resurrection to life eternal", then gave Ann all of his estate, "real and Personal or whatever nature so ever", for her to use and dispose of it as she saw fit; that is, after his just debts were paid, stipulating
she was his sole executor and that she should not be required to give any
security. The will was signed by his mark and seal which were quite fancy
and individual. Witnesses to the will were: Sam Hopkins, James Colquitt,
and John Andrews.

Sixteen years after her husband's death, Ann (Miller) Barbee died,
leaving a will dated 7 Aug 1761. The will was not probated until 20 Oct
1766. (see copy of will in appendix) Ann committed her soul to "my
blessed Savior Jesus Christ, unto His most holy protection". She gave
slaves to Rose Sears and Mary Sears. She then ordered all of her lands,
negroes, and personal estate be sold to the highest bidder and money arisin-
from the sale be divided in eight equal parts; one for each child liv-
ing, "Christopher, John, Joseph and Francis Barbee, Mary and Rose Sears,
and Nical Pitts, each one-eighth part of my estate."

Item - She gave to her grandsons, Christopher Barbee and Thomas Redd, one-
eighth to be divided equally between them. (We do not know who Thomas
Redd's parents were, but we know for sure that the grandson, Christopher
Barbee, was a son of William Barbee, deceased, who left a will dated 1758
in Orange County.) In Orange County Court Records for 1758, Volume II,
are three references to William's orphan, his widow, and settling of his
estate. Rachel, his wife, filed inventory and slaves were sold, etc. This
same William Barbee was christened in 1711 at the same church where his
parents were married in 1709; therefore, he was either their oldest or
second oldest child. We can say from these legal papers that John Barbee
and Ann Miller had eight children; namely:

<table>
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<th>Daughters</th>
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<tr>
<td>Christopher</td>
<td>Mary Sears</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John</td>
<td>Rose Sears</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph</td>
<td>Nical Pitts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis</td>
<td>- also a daughter who had</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William (died 1858)</td>
<td>a child named Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Redd</td>
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Ann Barbee appointed three executors: her son, Francis Berbee, her son-in-
law, Henry Sears, and a friend, John Lee, Jr. The witnesses were: Samuel
Hames, John Samuel and John Webb. It is interesting to note that John Lee
was the clerk who recorded both John's and Ann's wills, even though they were
sixteen years apart.

The Barbee family, as did the Sears family, repeated the same names,
generation after generation. As an example, I would like to point out that:
William Barbee (Will 1720 - Va.) and wife Elizabeth named a son William Barbee
(Will - 1752 - Va.) This William was a brother to our John Barbee (Will-
1750 - Va.), wife, Ann, who named a son William Barbee (Will -1758 - North
Carolina), wife Rachel. These three William Barbee's were related to Ann
(Miller) Berbee (Mrs. John Barbee), as follows: father-in-law, brother-in-
law and son; or to John, her husband, as father, brother and son. Studying
legal records in Virginia and North Carolina enables us to be positive of
this relationship. I am sorry to say that all Barbee relations are not so
easy to solve. William Berbee (Will - 1752 - Va.) must have not had any
descendants. At any rate, he left his estate to Ann Berbee (see will in
appendix). Note clerk was John Lee, Jr. Ann was his sister-in-law, who
had been widowed in 1750.

During the years following Ann's death, we find the records of her
children, not in Virginia but in North Carolina. Numerous records in the
counties of Wake, Chatham and Orange County of North Carolina reveal that
five of her sons, one daughter and two sons-in-law were involved in legal
transactions which resulted in the authentic recording of their names. It
is here that I should like to point out that many of the names, which through
the years, have been attributed to the "Sears", may actually have come from
the "Berbee" line of the family; that is: Christopher, John, Joseph, Thomas,
Mary, Rose and Francis (Frank).

Let us continue now with our direct line of descent.
*Rose Barbee married Henry Sears about 1760; we think in Virginia. I have not been able to find the records there or in North Carolina, so we assume they are destroyed.

At this point, I should like to insert the possibility of Henry Sears having been married previously. The reader will find notes on this at the end of this chapter.

*Henry and Rose settled in Orange County, North Carolina where they purchased land and established their home and it was there, before the beginning of the revolution, that Henry Sears died. His will made on November 8, 1768 was recorded in Orange County six years later in 1774. (see copy of will in appendix.)

In his will, Henry Sears described himself as "planter being sick and weak of body but in perfect mind and memory". He commended his soul to God, then asked for a christian burial stating that all of his just debts be paid. He then "lent" all his estate, real and personal, bonds and chattels, and three negroes to his beloved wife, Rose Sears, during her widowhood and no longer! He further stipulated that at his wife's death, as a widow or at her second marriage, that his estate be equally divided between his beloved sons and daughters, namely:

John Sears
Sally Sears
Edward Sears
Nancy Sears
*Barby Sears
Harry Sears

He appointed John Barbee, Jr., as his executor and his executrix was his wife, Rose Sears. (We have no way of knowing which John Barbee this was. Was it Rose Barbee's brother? Some genealogists think not.

Rose (Barbee) Sears lived as a widow for over forty-seven years and as early as 1782, obtained a land grant in Orange County, North Carolina, where her name continues to appear in many legal transactions until her death. She was listed as head of the household in the 1790 census of North Carolina, Orange County, Hillsboro District.

On 11 December 1820, Rose Sears, widow of Henry Sears, instituted a law suit against three of her children in Orange County Superior Court of Equity and Law. At the beginning of the suit she stated that "being nearly one hundred years of age" and that, as Henry Sears widow and executrix of his estate, she has endeavored to carry out the terms of his will. She also stated that the youngest child of hers and Henry's was a boy, Albert Sears, who was born after Henry made his will and about two years before his death. She re-names their children as:

John Sears
Sarah Sears (Mrs. John Harrod)
Nancy Sears
Edmund Sears
*Barbee Sears
Henry Sears
Albert Sears

As the reader has probably already noticed, Henry called his children by their nick-names; that is: Barby instead of Barbee, Edward instead of Edmund, Sally instead of Sarah, and Harry instead of Henry. I should like to point out that, in the searching of records, the same person's name may be spelled in several different ways. This could be due to the fact that the legal instrument was usually dictated, and naturally, a copyist could very easily misunderstand or use a different spelling since most names have more than one spelling. This discrepancies would go undetected because many men and most women were unable to read and write at that time.
In the suit Rose said, "I did bring up and support all and each of the said children until they each severally and respectfully arrived at their several ages of maturity and settled for themselves".

Rose must have been younger than Henry because she states that when Henry made his will he was "sickly and infirm". She further states that "he was sickly whereby he neglected his customary business and contracted and incurred heavy debt, all of which Rose "paid, settled and discharged to the last and utmost cent". She further states that these debts to different merchants, tradesmen, speculators, and money lenders amounted in all to a gross sum far exceeding the intrinsic value of the legal estate and property "lent" to her in her husband's will.

Children named in the suit were: Sara, wife of John Harrod; Barbee Sears and Henry Sears. She also names "Jesse Yates and other confederates yet unknown". Rose states that she lent certain slaves, one each, to these three children. The slaves named were: Lucy or (Suzy) to Sarah Harrod; Jenny to Barbee Sears and Frank to Henry Sears. These were all young slaves and since none of these were named in Henry's will of '68, she must have acquired them after his death or they could have been the children of the slaves he owned at that time.

Rose says she wants the three "lent" slaves returned to her, together with their increase which has been ten, making thirteen slaves in all. Although the children claim they owned the slaves, the truth is that she only "lent" them and the children knew that! She says she has been informed that even then "one Jesse Yates, son-in-law of John Harrod and his wife, Sara," is about to remove one of the said negroes from the state or jurisdiction of the court where she will be unable to get the slave back. As executor of Henry's estate, Rose says that she cannot allow these three children to retain possession of these slaves because it will not be fair to the other of Henry's children and that she will not be carrying out his wishes calling for an equal division among all children. She also states, that since Henry was drowned and did not alter his will after his last son was born, that he, Albert, would not get his fair share of Henry's estate. She asks for the return of the slaves as well as their increase and asks that the children be required to pay court costs. The first page of this suit is in the appendix, but it was too lengthy to include in its entirety. Copies may be secured from Orange County, North Carolina, estate papers - Henry Sears, December 11, 1820.

Did she win the suit?? We do not know. However, on 27 November of that same year (1820), Rose Sears deeded Henry Sears a four hundred acre tract of land for ten ($10) dollars. Then, on 11 December 1820, she made over her power of attorney to John Devereaux Delacy. The last legal record that I know of is in June of 1821 when she deeded a 300 acre tract of land to Henry Sears "to cover court costs". A thorough search would probably tell the end of the story. Rose must have lived to be almost, if not, 100 years of age, dying we presume about 1821. If she left a will, I was not able to locate it.

One of Henry and Rose Sears' seven children was Barbee (Barby) Sears who married first Mary Harwood on 2 July 1788 and then second, Peggy (Margaret) Barbee on 16 September 1799. These marriages are both recorded in Wake County, North Carolina, and in both instances, the bondsman was James Harwood. The fact that Barbee (Barbie or Barby) Sears married a girl whose last name was Barbee makes one wonder if perhaps they were not distant relatives - this we have no way of knowing - however, Peggy Barbee (as her name appears on marriage records) was the daughter of Joseph Barbee and his wife Elenor of Wake County, N.C. Joseph Barbee's will, dated 1 February 1830, names his wife Elenor then stipulates - "after her death to:

| Heirs of Willard Barbee | $1.00 |
| Heirs of Mark Barbee    | $1.00 |
| Heirs of Asa Barbee     | $1.00 |
| " Heirs of Peggy Sears  | $50.00 |
| Heirs of Polly Sears    | $50.00 |
| To my son, Dorris Barbee - land, etc., and balance of estate to my two daughters, Rosey and Nancy Barbee." |
This will indicates that Willard, Mark, Asa, Peggy and Polly were married and living away from home. Dorris was the executor and was named as a son. The two girls, Nancy and Rosey, were unmarried daughters. (Nancy died unmarried, leaving a will January 1835.) Though Joseph does not name the first five as his children, this was probably due to carelessness or the fact that it was thought unnecessary. At any rate, I feel sure that they were Joseph and Eleanor's children because Christopher Sears and J.D. Barbee of Whitewright were cousins and from this will we can see that Christopher's mother, Peggy (Barbee) Sears was a sister to Mark Barbee who was the father of J.D. Barbee.

At the date of this writing I do not know the parents of Joseph Barbee or Eleanor, his wife.

Though Barbie Sears and Peggy Barbee were married in Wake County, they had moved and were living in Chatham County twenty one years later, at the time his mother brought suit in 1820. (His sister, Mrs. Harrod, was still living in Wake County, and their brother, Henry, was in Orange County.) Barbie Sears will was filed in November 1844 after he made it on 8 August of that same year. (see will in appendix) In the will he names his wife, Margaret, and the following children:

Robert Sears
Tempy Harwood
Nelly Mulkholland
Joseph Sears
Christopher Sears (Later called "Kit")
Barbie Sears
Rosie Council
Nancy Williams

To his wife, Margaret, he willed slaves, furniture and money. He specified that his debts be paid out of his estate, and then, that the remainder be divided equally among the above children. He made his worthy son, Robert, executor of his will. The two witnesses were Mr. Harwood and Mr. Williams, probably some kin of his in-laws. As the reader will note, all of Barbie Sears' daughters were married by the time of his death.

It may be of interest to the reader to know that the slaves named in Barbee's will were not the same as any of the thirteen mentioned in his mother's suit, or those in his father's will; therefore, he must have acquired these "on his own".

Margaret (Peggy) Sears continued to live in Chatham County until her death, eight years later. She died as a widow and, since she left no will, her son Robert T. Sears was appointed administrator of her estate in 1852. (see copy of her estate papers in appendix) This made Robert acting as administrator of both his parents' estates. This probably indicates that he continued to live in Chatham County and that very likely he was the eldest son; therefore, this would mean that he was the eldest brother of Kit Sears.

Kit Sears was such a long way from the state of his birth that very little was known of the kin left in North Carolina. My Aunt Eula, however, in telling me about the family, said that Kit had a brother named Bob, who had a son, Adolphus, in the tobacco business at or near Durham, North Carolina. Aunt Eula is now 93. If the reader will consult an Atlas, it is easy to see the nearness of Durham to Chatham County. The history of North Carolina shows that Orange County was the parent county of Wake, Durham, and Chatham, which suggests that, although it appears the family moved from county to county, they probably resided near the same place. As far as I have been able to ascertain, this is the only reference made to the "North Carolina kin". Aunt Eula says she knew nothing of anyone returning there for a visit, but the fact, that she knew the names and I later found the records, proves Kit at least spoke of his kin. Finally, in 1968, I made contact with some of the kin and one of them, Reverend Harmon Sears, age 91, says that he knows Robert Sears made at least one visit to Texas to visit his relatives. Mr. Sears' wife, in answering my questions of Kit's relatives still living there, said in a letter to me: "Some of the Sears descendants still live here but the older ones are rapidly dying out. Rosie Council lived to be very old, her relatives are around. Nellie Mulkholland's relatives are here too. Adolphus Sears had a
big family, all are dead except three girls." The above mentioned Reverend Sears was a son of Harmon Z. Sears, a first cousin to Kit Sears' children. Harmon Z. Sears was a son of Joseph Sears, brother of Kit. This cousin to the family is a Baptist minister and, as his wife remarked, "At least one Sears man has lived to be old". They reside in Apex, North Carolina.

Back to the estate of Margaret (Peggy) Sears (Mrs. Barbee Sears) — appearing on the bond with Robert Sears are two men; namely, Henry Williams and T.G. Williams. (These men were probably in-laws or close friends because Margaret's daughter, Nancy, married a Mr. Jesse Williams.) Margaret's estate papers are very interesting to read and, when reading them, you will notice that many of the buyers were Margaret's children or in-laws; i.e., Mulkholland, Herndon, Castleberry, Harwood, Morgan, and Williams. The inventory gives us a glimpse into the personal estate of a widow in the 1850's. It also shows the comparative worth of items and value of the dollar. Notice that some items were priced to the ½; also notice the peculiar spelling "cheers" for chairs. Different items interest different people, but I just wonder if John B. Sears ever caught "the hog in the woods" which he bought for $1.30?

To better appreciate this list of items, Margaret Montgomery of Dallas, who helped me decipher and translate the original, suggests that the reader refer to a book "Colonial Living" by Edwin Tunis which describes and gives pictures of everyday objects used by our ancestors. For example, a "cradle" is a scythe with an extra row of wooden teeth above the blade. A reel used in spinning is the "clock real" and it clicked when the spinner had wound forty strands. The "soap creat" was a soap trough used for pouring out and cooling the home-made lye soap. Use your imagination, reader, as you go over our great-great-grandmother's list of personal belongings and she will become more than a name in a book! (see copy of estate papers and inventory in appendix, pages 1 and 2 are originals transcribed but I have typed the remainder of the inventory)

The reader may wonder why Christopher Sears' name does not appear as one of the buyers. We can only guess; but considering that news traveled slowly, and that mail delivery was slow and uncertain, since there were no railroads as far west as Whitewright, Texas. It is very likely that Kit Sears did not know of his mothers' death until months, even years, after it occurred. The sale occurred in November, which was a bad time of the year for travel, and it is quite likely that Robert did not even know where in Texas his brother, Kit, had found a place to "settle". So ends our account of Kit Sears' parents.

Margaret and Barbee Sears must have educated their children because their son, Christopher, had a good education for his day. He was born on 25 February 1804, and probably lived in North Carolina until he was a young man in his twenties. Two years after Christopher's birth, a cousin, J.D. Barbee was also born in North Carolina. We can just assume that both of them were born in Chatham County and lived there for some twenty or twenty-five years. These young men were attracted to new and greener fields so they left North Carolina and moved to Alabama because the first legal record we have of Christopher Sears is found in Madison County, Alabama on 28 December 1828, when he was twenty-four years old. It was on this day that he married Polly Harless, the daughter of John and Catherine Harless. The marriage record (see copy in appendix) uses "Polly" but all other legal records use her real name, Mary.

Christopher (Kit) Sears and his wife, Polly, continued to live in Madison County, Alabama for the next twenty-two years. They had a large family which consisted of twelve children. The family was listed in the 1830, 1840 and 1850 census. Christopher and Polly must have acquired considerable property because the record of deeds for the county shows them "deeding away" several pieces of land. Land Patent Certificate of Purchase #288 dated 25 November 1831 appears in the Madison County Tract Book, page 246 which shows that Kit Sears purchased land from the United States. This was their first land transaction as far as I know.

Details concerning the life of this family for the next twenty years is left to our imagination, but we do know that they were active in church, of that we are sure, because in 1848 Christopher Sears and wife, Mary, deeded land, meeting house, arbour and camp stand to the Walnut Grove Cumberland Presbyterian Church. (see copy of deed in appendix) The Walnut Grove Cumberland
Presbyterian Church is still an active congregation. I have a letter from the present clerk of the church, Rebecca Jean Whitaker who says, "The original church was burned by the Yankees during the Civil War but the present one stands on the same spot as we can see part of the old foundation. We are very grateful to your ancestors because they saw fit to give us this spot so that we may worship God."

This deed was probably the last legal paper that Mary (Polly) Harless ever signed, because on 22 May 1850 Mary died at the age of 41. She left twelve children the youngest of which was a seven month old baby boy, George Francis, who was to later become by grandfather.

Shortly after Polly's death in May, their oldest son, John B. Sears, married Mary Catherine Douglass, an Alabama girl, on 3 June 1850 in Madison County. The census was enumerated in June of that year and in examining the census list of Christopher Sears' family we see that Polly's name is missing as well as their son's, John B. Sears. We therefore assume that he was living with his wife's family or that the couple was on their honeymoon when the enumerator took the census. Polly, of course, had died just a few weeks before the censusus enumerator came to her home.

The children of Christopher (Kit) and Mary (Polly) Sears were:

1. John Barbee Sears (not listed with family in 1850 census)
2. Joseph H. Sears (20)
3. Margaret C. Sears (18)
4. Robert D. Sears (15)
5. Nancy C. Sears (14) (twin)
6. Mary E. Sears (14) (twin)
7. Martha F. Sears (12)
8. Elizabeth A. Sears (10)
9. Thomas Sears (8)
10. Henry C. Sears (6)
11. Rosey A. B. Sears (3) (Rosanna Rebecka)
12. George F. Sears (1) (George Francis)

The above list of children, with the exception of John B., were listed as above in 1850 census with their respective ages in parenthesis. This list corresponds exactly with the one appearing in Kit's Bible which was later copied and given to me. The "Bible" list included part of the marriage dates and the names of spouses of the children as well as a few dates of death. This detailed information is included in the genealogical section.

There is one point I should like to point out about my grandfather (child number 12). You will notice that on the first census record his name appears as George F. Sears. When I first found this census record, it came as a shock to me since we had always known my grandfather by the name of Frank Sears. I questioned my mother and she said "Oh, father hated long names and family names. He never wanted mother to give us double names or would not let her name us after any of his kin folks. Father always said he had too many aunts, uncles, and cousins by the same name and it was too hard to keep them straight!" Imagine my surprise when, even later on in my search, I found that legal records referred to my grandfather as Francis Sears (1857). Yet, anytime he reported the census, it was only F. Sears or Frank. As a child, when I visited in his home, I heard his name was "Benjamin Franklin Sears with Frank for short," and sure enough on his death certificate, one of his daughters reported his name as Benjamin Franklin Sears. So, errors occur in history! Actually, after searching family records, I know that he was named George for his great-great grandfather, George Loy (maternal side) and Francis for his great Uncle Francis Barbee (paternal side). Yet, he was Frank Sears to all who knew him.

Christopher Sears moved to Texas in late 1850 or early 1851, as a forty-seven year old widower, bringing his eleven unmarried children, the youngest of which was one or two year old Frank Sears. The young groom, John B. Sears and his wife, Margaret, accompanied his father to Texas. Kit secured land in what was then known as "Red River Country". It was referred to as "raw" land and rightly so because there were few comforts in that pioneer land which was just newly admitted to the union. Kit Sears had faith in its future...
and history has proven him to be correct. To quote, "Coming from Alabama, Kit knew good farming land".

The first purchase of land in the Fannin County clerk's office recorded by Christopher Sears was a tract of land for seven hundred and fifty seven acres bought on 25 November 1851 for the sum of $1,135.50. (see copy of deed in appendix) It seems to be common knowledge that he purchased large tracts of land, later selling it or giving it to his twelve children. A search of Fannin County records would reveal any transactions, if the reader cares to pursue the matter.

Up to this point, I have relied principally on legal records for the history of our ancestors (drawing logical conclusions at times), but now, after the move to Texas, we have not only legal records, but stories of events and people witnessed by descendants of Christopher Sears who are still living. To date, (24 April 1968), as far as I know, Kit Sears has seven living granddaughters. The youngest of whom is 75 years old; she is Lila Mae (Pet) Touchstone, who was the last grandchild and she was born twenty years after her grandfather's death. Two of her older sisters, ages 91 and 92, remember Kit and hearing about him from their father, Frank. Therefore, from this point my "Sears" story may have more color than document, but it is none-the-less true.

In order to give the reader a better understanding of the surroundings of the Sears' new home, Fannin County, located near Red River in northeast Texas, I submit some information from a story of the early history of Fannin County which is in a scrapbook belonging to the Texarkana Public Library. I summarize since the story is too long to reprint here.

The place now called Fannin County was once called Red River Country. It was later named Red River County in 1836 when it was formed out of the Old Mexican Municipality with Clarksville as the county seat. This was when Texas was a republic. At this time, Red River County extended from the eastern tip of Texas to as far west as Cottle County (Paducah) in the bottom of the pan handle. This land is all bordered by the Red River on the north. In 1837 Fannin County was organized from its parent county, Red River County, while Texas was still a republic.

John Emberson, a Tennessean and several of his companions were the first known white people to come to the area. They came to hunt and trap in Bois-D-Arc Creek in 1815.

Emerson went back to his home in Arkansas and returned about five years later, in 1823, with his wife. By 1836 when Dr. Daniel Rowlett arrived in the county there were six families residing there; namely: John Emberson, Jefferson Ivey, George Ivey, Stephen Westbrook, Charles Quillen, and a man by the name of Clift. These earliest settlers no doubt reached the area by boat coming up the Red River.

The Republic of Texas issued eighty-eight first class land grants to citizens moving into the area in January 1838. However, by February 1838, one month later, fourteen of these people had died. Only two people are actually known to have lived in Fannin out of the 88 original grants. (summary ends here) Fannin was a large county, and subsequently, eighteen counties were formed, all or in part from it. Those counties were: Archer, Baylor, Collin, Crock, Cottle, Denton, Grayson, Hardeman, Haskell, Hunt, Throckmorton, Clay, Foard, Montague, Knox, Rains, Wise, and Young. Kit's first land purchase took place when the county was fourteen years old. He was known to have property in Grayson and Collin Counties, as well as in Fannin.

After establishing a home for his family and building a house, one of the first community efforts of Christopher Sears, a staunch, Cumberland Presbyterian, was to organize a church. He called his neighbors together at his home, and there, on 30 October 1853 with Jacob A. Zinn as moderator, the White-wright Presbyterian Church was organized.
The group was placed on the Bonham Presbyterian Circuit and, by 29 March 1854, it received a supply pastor. The young church, despite the rumblings of the Civil War, took in several negro members. These may or may not have been slaves. According to the Texas slave census of 1860, it appears that there were very few slaves in Fannin County. Slave owners known to be allied or related to the Sears' clan were: John Aldridge, Q.R. Aldridge, J.D. Barbee, J.P. Montgomery, Christopher Sears, and J.H. Sears. There were probably others; a more careful check of the census could be made if the reader is interested in more information on slave ownership.

On 9 July 1853, Nancy Sears, one of Kit Sears seventeen year old twin daughters, died as the result of measles. Other members of the family had the disease and at least two of Kit's children were blinded while adults as a result of the measles. I do not know when they had the measles, but John Barbee Sears, oldest son of Kit, was blind when the 1860 census was taken. Kit's other child, Martha Aldridge, was blind when I met her in about 1926 - 1927. She was very old at that time and had been blind for years because the family told about her ability to keep house and do everything in a superior manner "just as well as if she could see". I would not hazard a guess as to when she went blind. Our family always had a morbid fear of measles, due to the fact that it might blind those who came in contact with it and modern medicine, of course, considers it a very dangerous disease.

I should like to point out here that, when Kit Sears came to Texas from Alabama in 1850 or 1851, he was accompanied by some other families who were his neighbors or relatives in Alabama, some are said to have come a few years later. We are not certain of the details but we do know that the following people, kin or allied to either Kit Sears or his wife Polly Harless, did come to Texas from Alabama and settled in East Texas about this time; namely, the Barbee Family, the Harless Family, the Doss Family, two Montgomery Families, and the Everhart Family — perhaps others. I have a scant bit of information on these people, and due to the close relationship to Kit and Polly, I am including it under the section "Allied Families". (In this same section is information on one of Christopher Sears' brothers, Joseph B. Sears, who did not move from North Carolina.)

Charles Dotson Harless, a young brother of Kit Sears' deceased wife, Polly Harless, came to Texas as a single man, purchased land in Collin County, settled there and got things in order for his bride-to-be. He returned to Madison County, Alabama in 1855 and on 19 March 1855 married Lizzie McCreiger. The young couple returned immediately to their Texas home in Collin County and reared a family. Some of their descendants still reside there.

The Sears families, Kit and his son John B. Sears, were fairly well settled in their new homes by 1855; so, in that year, Kit's children seemed to get the "marriage bug". Martha Frances Sears married Billy Aldridge in April 1855 or 1858. This marriage took place, we presume, in Fannin County, but I have not checked the records. In the fall of that year, Joseph H. Sears made a trip back to Alabama to marry his boyhood sweetheart. On 10 October 1855, he married Margaret McCreiger. Yes, she was a sister to Lizzie, who had married Joseph's uncle, Charles D. Harless; so, here is a double cousin relationship and the uncle and nephew became brothers-in-law. Joseph H. Sears came back with his bride to Texas where they started housekeeping. An interesting story of this couple's first home, built in 1856, is to be found in scrapbook section. The story "Woman Sees Tornado Raze Birth Place" has a picture of the home of Joseph and his wife, Margaret.

Later in that same year — (Kit's Bible says "after Joseph's wedding") another Sears daughter was to be married. This time it was Kit's oldest daughter, age 23, who was to be the bride. Margaret Catherine Sears married Alford Medlin 21 Jan 1853, we suppose in Fannin County. At any rate, we know from a living descendant that Kit helped the young people build a house "right near him" so that Margaret could help care for, and look after, Kit's younger children, her little brothers and sisters. After Margaret married, Kit was left with seven children at home; namely, Robert 21, Mary Evelyn , Elizabeth Ann (Betty) 15, William Thomas 13, Henry C. 11, Roseanna Rebecka 8, and Frank 6.
This, of course, meant Margaret's children played with Rebecca and Frank because they were so near the same age. One of Margaret's grandchildren said that her Uncle Frank was more like a brother to the Redlin children than an uncle because they lived so close together. I'm sure that Margaret Sears Redlin was more like a mother to Frank than a sister since there was seventeen years difference in their ages.

As a point of observation - by this time Kit Sears had a daughter and two daughters-in-law named Margaret. I just wonder if they had nick names or how they ever differentiated between the three Margaret Sears!

At least one other child of Kit's married an Alabamian. This was his daughter Mary Evelyn Sears, who wed Lucien Pinkney Montgomery in October of 1855. Mary Montgomery's grandson, Dr. Tom Montgomery of Huntsville, Texas says: "I know that two lines of Montgomery's, the Sears' and the Everhart's migrated to Texas shortly after Texas was annexed to the United States and settled along the Grayson-Fannin County line. I have a childhood memory of playing around the bed of a conestago wagon (a covered wagon drawn by six horses) in which Lucien Pinkney Montgomery and Mary Sears Montgomery, my maternal grandparents, brought their household effects to Texas!"

Death struck Kit's family for the third time, for it was on 24 November 1860 that Robert Donnel Sears died of fever at the age of 26 and so far as we know he was unmarried. He was buried in what is now known as Doss Cemetery located on the Dick Pennington Farm near Whitewright.

Elizabeth Ann (Betty) Sears, at the age of 21, married William Pennington on 29 October 1861. (The above mentioned Dick Pennington was a son of this couple.)

We do not know the date of William T. Sears' wedding to Mary Everhart, but, on 6 May 1869 after the horrors of the Civil War, Kit's youngest daughter, Rosanna Rebecca married Joe Harris. Then, two short years after William's wedding, on 11 May 1871, Kit's youngest child, Frank Sears, married Mary Augusta (Mollie) Douglass, the daughter of a close neighbor. (See photostat of original license and picture of couple on wedding day.) These are both among my most cherished keepsakes; since this couple later became my maternal grandparents.

As we can see, all of Christopher's living children were married and established in their own homes by the summer of 1871. That summer found him a widower of sixty-seven years. He had not remarried since his wife's death twenty years earlier but now he was lonely and there was nothing to prevent him from marrying again. So he married for the second time in December of 1871.

Kit's second marriage was to a close neighbor who had moved to Texas after the Civil War and bought land near him. She was a pretty young widow by the name of Mary Douglass. Mrs. Douglass had been widowed by the Civil War while living in Arkansas. After the war, she brought her young children to Texas when she came in a wagon train with two of her sisters and their families.

Mrs. Douglass had a daughter Mary A. (Mollie) age 19 and two sons, Alex 11 and Walter 7. Yes, you are right! Mollie had previously married Frank, the youngest child of Kit Sears. This indeed caused a unique family relationship. Mary Douglass became step-mother to all of Kit's large family! Had we not known of this turn of events first hand I'm sure, as a genealogist, we would never have straightened it out, since both of Kit's wives were named Mary and since the new daughter-in-law was named Mary Douglass, like her mother. For ease of identification, Frank's wife was always called Mollie so that is what we shall call her. When we say Mary Sears we refer to her mother, Mary (Hardison Douglass Sears), the second Mrs. Kit Sears.

The church which was organized in 1853 at Kit's home changed its name from Pilot Grove to Canaan and, within a short time, had divided with all north of Bois D'Arc Creek going to Canaan, while those south of the creek attended Sears Chapel.
Sears Chapel prospered, but in 1778 when the Katy Railroad was constructed from Denison to Greenville and the town of Whitewright was formed (and named for a New York capitalist), the church followed the businessmen of Kentucky town, Pilot Grove and Orangeville to the new town of Whitewright.

Della Sears Campbell, my mother, says that she remembers when she was very young her grandfather, Kit, remodeled his house, among other things, he added a front porch. She said that the house was a two-story structure standing in the midst of a large group of oak trees.

Securing lumber for home construction was not an easy task, as Frank, her father well knew. He used to tell of his experiences as an eighteen year old boy going to Jefferson, Texas to buy lumber for the construction of the Sears' homes.

It seems that, as each of Kit's children would marry and establish their home, it was Kit's custom to help them build a new house. Imagine building ten new homes! No wonder he waited until all of his children were married to remodel his own! (An example of one of the homes may be seen by referring to the news clipping in scrap-book section.)

The lumber for these houses was brought from Jefferson, Texas by ox wagon. Frank said that, as a young boy of 18 (1867), he would take an ox team and wagon frame (no bed) to Jefferson and return with a load of lumber. On a great deal of the return trip it was necessary for him to walk along side the wagon as he drove the team. Remember, there were only trails and practically no bridges; so, travel was slow and difficult. How many trips do you suppose had to be made for enough to build one house?

My mother remembers her grandfather, Kit Sears, as a man of small stature who was clean shaven and always wore a white shirt. This was an era when men wore beards and to be clean shaven was unusual; therefore, his personal grooming must have been distinctive. When he came to Texas in 1850, he brought a unique shaving pan with him; the pan is made of cast iron, stands on three short legs, is six and one-half inches in diameter, and holds three cups of water. It was made to set on top of the stove or on the coals of an open fireplace or camp fire. The point was for him to have hot water for shaving. This pan is another of my prized possessions. I also have pictures of Kit Sears and his second wife, Mary, as well as one of Mary's three children, and one of her first husband, W.A. Douglass. These are in beautiful walnut frames with their original mats still in good condition.

Mary Sears was a very tiny woman. I have a pair of her button shoes (they appear to be about size 2½ or 3), a small leather satchel, a tiny black straw hat with black lace, and a pretty satin and lace cape or large collar which she wore around her tiny shoulders.

Kit and Mary lived the remainder of their lives together there at Whitewright. He died at the age of 77 on 20 July 1881. Della, my mother, remembers that it was a very hot day and he was buried not far from the house in the family cemetery. Della lived next door to her grandmother and grandfather until she was eight or nine years old. She referred to the cemetery as the Sears cemetery; however, I have learned that the land was sold several times and not until it belonged to T.J. Doss (who had married Rebecca Barbee) was it given as a cemetery. The property bears the name Doss Cemetery even though it is located on the land originally owned by Kit Sears. The land is now owned by Mrs. Floyd Basset who inherited it from her father, Blair Pennington. The cemetery is located between Whitewright and Orangeville in Fannin County. (See news story in scrapbook section.)

Mary Sears lived for several years after Kit's death. She passed away in 1886 and was buried one and one-half miles from Kingston at McKnight Cemetery.

Unlike his father, grandfather, great-great-grandparents, and great-great-grandfather, Kit did not leave a will. My mother says that his second wife did not receive any of his property. She said that his possessions were sold at public auction. It is very likely that, by the time he was seventy-seven, he had already disposed of his land and most of his estate. A thorough search of land and court records should reveal the disposition of his property, if the reader cares to make such a search.
The foregoing has been "my story" about Kit Sears, my great-grandfather, who died thirty-two years before I was born; but now, here is a real treat for you, his descendants. Straight from the pen of his first grandson, Luther Sears, is this story of his recollection of Whitewright and the Sears family. We are indebted to Luther's granddaughter, Mrs. Bill Holloway of Whitewright for preserving this story and sharing it with us.

Luther Sears was the oldest son of J.H. Sears and Margaret McGregor and was Kit Sears' first grandson. I quote:

"WHITEWRIGHT

By Luther Sears (1858-1940)

In the fall of 1878, Whitewright had her beginning. Fifty-two years ago she was laid off by a man by the name of Jim Whitewright, who then lived in the city of New York.

In 1878, the M-K-T Railroad was built to what is now Whitewright. Jim Whitewright had the town laid off and sold as many lots as he could then let Jim Batsell and Jim Reeves sell the rest and he (Whitewright) went back to New York and never returned here anymore. Mr. Jim Batsell was made postmaster for a number of years. Batsell moved his house (The Jack Pierce House) from Kentucky town to Whitewright.

The first grocery store was established by Perry Scullin & Co., in '78. The first drug store by Jones and Fennell, Hardware by Batsell and Reeves.

In 1886, J.H. Reeves acted as purchasing agent for the Cotton Belt Railroad from Sherman to Whitewright. Batsell and Reeves gave the land for every church building and for the first mill which was built by Spencer Wright. The first Blacksmith Shop was established by E.E. Wallace, who was mayor then.

The town was incorporated in 1887 with W.A. Benedict as Mayor, Dr. R. May, Secretary, H. Chowning, City Marshall, W.D. Hoard, F.D. Patterson, R. May, J.B. Weasley and Sam McChristian, Alderman.

The land on which Whitewright was built was deeded from G.W. Blanton on north side from John Gowdy on south and Christopher Sears on the east.

The old Christian Church was the first house of worship. The first public school was established in 1885 with Professor Lewis Holland as Principal. In 1885, the "Whitewright Eagle" was published. It was called "Flow and Hammer" under the management of A.L. McGammel.

For a number of years Whitewright was a great center for selling cotton. As high as 16 thousand bales was marketed here. The first sermon preached was by Rev. J.W. Connelly. Where now stands L. Laro Lumber Co. yard. The first child born here was Jessie Rathbun in 1879. The first bank - W.B. Womack & Son; the first fire was in 1884, which destroyed all the north side and in 1911 on 12 June, the biggest of all fires, nearly all business houses and about 20 homes were destroyed.

The first Depot Agent here was J.W. McCurty. Postmasters: Reeves, Batsell, Peter McKenna and Mrs. John Renshaw.

In 1886, Messrs. Butler, Pine, Anderson & Truett established Grayson College which grew from a small school with poor quarters to one of the best known and most liberal schools in the state, with a curriculum second to none. Later, a fine pressed brick three story building costing more than $20,000.00 was built, which was a few years ago dedicated to the public school.

In 1894 (???) the soil about Whitewright is of black wax nature and highly productive making good crops, grows corn, cotton, wheat and oats.

The town and country are pretty well united, no bickerings or petty strife between the producers and merchants. Most everybody are at peace with each other and we hope with God.
New gravel and concrete roads are being built all through the country and ere long we can travel most anywhere on concrete roads.

Whitewright is one among the substantial towns in the state, peopled with enlightened citizens and offering superior inducements to the home seekers and the trade public.

Speaking of the early settlers, my great grandfather, Christopher Sears, (known as Uncle Kit Sears) came to Texas from Alabama in the fall of 1850 but returned to his home state that fall. Early in the spring of 1851, his wife died and he decided to move west with the rest of his family.

So he and his cousin, Joseph D. Barbee, set out for Texas in the ox wagons—arriving in Texas, they began looking for a location to settle for a home. Finally they decided to stop and settle on Blairs Spring Branch because there was plenty of wood and water, buying the rough land for $1.00 per A. There was no money here, no houses and nothing to get money from.

So they made rails and built fences, built log houses with no floors to live in until they could do better.

About the first thing they looked for was a place to worship, but there was none here. But, Mr. Barbee and Uncle Kit Sears got together and organized a church at "Lick Skillet" (afterwards called Pilot Grove). Then, they built a school house on Grandfather's land, made of clapboard and split logs for seats.

People began to cultivate the land, raise stock and make a good living, didn't have much money but were happy and content.

Finally, in after years, the railroads began to traverse the country, more people began to settle and break out the sod until the vast prairies and stock country gave way to the Home Seekers until now we have a solid agricultural country.

Until in the early seventies, the wild strawberries could be picked plentiful over most of the land around Whitewright. Deer - Wild Turkey - Fox - and the Bob Cats could be found in the Bois'd Arc Bottoms.

And alas, when the railroads came and people from every state in the union began to flock to Texas, the game was killed or they left the country, until now the people shoot at each other to practice with their guns."

Editor's Note: By calculation, we determine that this story was written in 1930 when Luther was 78 years old. He referred to "Kit" as his great grandfather - but, as he mentions later, Kit was his grandfather, and according to Kit's Bible, Polly Sears, Kit's first wife, died in Spring of 1850, not 1851. Isn't this remarkable for a man of 78 to have written almost forty years ago? Incidentally, Luther attended college, and from the "style" of this original copy, I judge that Luther was just "jotting down" events and thoughts as they came to him. He wrote a beautiful large, legible and mannish hand.
NOTES ON HENRY SEARS (KIT'S GRANDFATHER) WHO DIED IN 1774

As a possibility, I should like to suggest that Henry Sears was married once before he married our Rose Barbee — my reasons for this deduction are:

1. Henry was obviously some older than Rose Sears and Rose was "up in years" when she married him. She states that he was infirm at the time of his death in 1774, and that he died leaving her with young children because she states this in her suit. He was very emphatic about not wanting her to marry again. Consequently, she lived as a widow for at least forty-seven years after he died. If she was one hundred in 1821, she would have been forty when she married.

2. There is a record in Christ Church, Middlesex, Virginia that fits into the "pattern" of our Henry Sears; also, the names of his brothers and sisters. I submit the following information as a real possibility — even the dates do not conflict. My only question is: What happened to his first wife and their children; did they die?

Records taken from those of Christ Church, Middlesex, Virginia:

Joseph Sears (who died 12 June 1740) and wife, Mary, had these children:

1. Joseph Sears — Baptized on 15 November 1713.
2. Violette — Born 1 January 1715 — Baptized 12 February 1715.
3. Harry or Henry Sears — Born 19 May 1717, Baptized 23 June 1717.
5. Joseph Sears — Born 18 May 1721 — Baptized 4 June 1721.
7. Frances Sears — Born 2 January 1724 — Baptized 7 February 1724.
8. Betty Sears — Born 1 January 1726 — Baptized 29 January 1726.

Editor's Note: Notice that numbers 1 and 4 names are repeated in children born later. This means that these two children died and their names were used again. This was a common practice at that time.

Notice number 3, Harry or Henry Sears, born 19 May 1717. If this was our Henry he would have been fifty-seven at his death which was quite old in 1774, when life expectancy was much less than today.

This Henry Sears married on 7 December 1738 at Christ Church to Jane Watts and they had the following children:

1. Elizabeth Sears — born 8 January 1739, baptized 15 April 1739.
4. Philemon Sears — born 10 March 1746 or 1747.
5. Mary Sears — born 24 March 1755.

Notice that the last child born to this union was born in 1755. The last two children were never christened, so they must have died soon after birth or at birth — possibly Jane Watts Sears died too, giving birth to that last child on 24 March 1755. At any rate, by 1760 — the year we think Rose and Henry married (we know they were married by 1761 because Henry is mentioned in Ann (Miller) Barbee's will as being her son-in-law at that time) Henry's youngest living child would have been sixteen. Probably all three of these children were married and, consequently, we never did hear of them and he did not include them in his will of 1774. It is also possible that they died before 1774. My imagination tells me that Henry Sears and his parents attended Christ Church where he married and later took his family. At the same time, Rose Barbee was attending church there with her parents, John Barbee and Ann. It is easy to see Henry after he became a widower starting to date Rose Barbee by then, a spinster of 35 or 36 — later marrying her — then the two moving away from Virginia for a new start in North Carolina where they had their children. He died after sixteen years of marriage, leaving her with the responsibility of rearing his seven children. Will we ever know if this is fact or
fiction? The records could prove it if we can ever find them! If this deduc-
tion is correct then Kit Sears paternal great grandparents would have been
Joseph and Mary Sears. I think that this is very likely the case. It is
interesting to note the similarity in names of Joseph and Mary Sears children
with the names of the children of Henry Sears, Barbee Sears and Christopher
Sears. The only different name was Violetta.

This is most of the information that I have been able to secure on the
Sears Ancestry to date and it provides an authentic record of the family in
America after 1709. If in the future any reader or descendant can add to
this record, I should appreciate hearing from them.

J. Sanders

One of the Sears Homes in Whitewright, Texas (Fannin County)
This family group picture was taken in Whitewright, Texas. As to the date we are uncertain; however, the following people are identified as:

TOP ROW: Left to Right: Henry C. Sears, Frank Sears, William Pennington
BOTTOM ROW: Mrs. Henry C. Sears, Mrs. Rosa Sears Harris, Mrs. Martha Sears Aldridge, Mrs. Bettie Sears Pennington, William Thomas Sears, Mrs. W.T. Sears.
HARLESS ANCESTRY

Mary (Polly) Harless, first wife of Christopher (Kit) Sears and the mother of his twelve children, was of German descent. Her great grandparents came from the upper Palatinate of Germany and settled in America years before the revolution. In order to better understand this part of our heritage, I submit the following which is taken from the book "The Harless Genealogy" by Dr. J. L. Fritchard:

"The name Palatinate (German-Pfalz) was originally given to the Imperial castles of the German Empire. These castles were strategically located, and the German Emperors resided in them alternately, aiming to maintain order by their presence and to administer justice impartially in all the provinces of the Empire. The Palentine or Count Palatine was the highest civil and judicial officer in these castles. Finally, the title was retained by only two of the territorial magnates of the Empire, whose States were distinguished as the Upper and Lower Palatinate, or as the Palatinates of Bavaria and the Rhine. The Counts Palatine of the Rhine whose original castle was at Aix-la-Chapelle were already in possession of the office and the lands pertaining to it in the 11th Century, and they were probably the most powerful princes in the German Empire. After the 12th Century, there were many changes in rulers and in the territory of the Rhine Palatinate. At one time France controlled all of the territory West of the Rhine. It has always been one of the richest areas of the German Empire. During the many wars, especially during the Thirty Years' War, the people suffered great privations and, as a result, in the early 18th Century many of them emigrated to other countries. In the year 1708, there were many thousands in the vicinity of London. The English sent them as Colonists to America and to Ireland. More than 3000 Protestant Palatinates were sent to County Limerick, Ireland, to replace displaced Catholic Irish; and many Protestant Palatinates were sent to the American Colonies, principally to Pennsylvania, Maryland and New York. More than 3000 Catholic Palatinates who refused to give up their religion were returned to Germany.

From 1720 to 1740 was a period when great numbers of Palatinates came to the American Colonies. Between the years 1730 and 1740 they were encouraged to settle in the western part of the Colony of Virginia. In 1714, Governor Alexander Spottswood founded German Settlement, changed in 1720 to Spotsylvania. In 1735, Johan Kasper Stauffer founded a Church at Germanna, on Robinson River, a tributary of the Shenandoah, where he had been granted a tract of 5000 acres. Adam Harper established the ferry on the Potomac, now known as Harper's Ferry. Justus Heidt brought ten families from York, Pa., to the Shenandoah and settled them near where the town of Winchester now stands."

Two of the Palatinates who came to America were our immigrant ancestors, Johan Phillip Harless and his bride. On 17 February 1738 in Offenbach, Germany John Phillip Harless married Anna Margaretha Preiss, daughter of J. Hendrick and Agnes Preiss who resided in Germersheim Bavaria, Germany. The young couple's honeymoon was a voyage to America on the Ship "Winter Galley" which left Rotterdam, Germany and landed at Philadelphia. There, on 15 September 1738, Johan Phillip Harless took the Oath of Allegiance. This Harless couple was not alone in the new land because accompanying them on their voyage from Germany were John Philip's sister, Margareta and her husband John Michael Price; in addition, were three of Johan Phillip's brothers-in-law; namely, Daniel, Augustine, and Henry Preiss. These young people continued to live near each other and settled first in Orange County, Virginia in the Shenandoah Valley which was in the vicinity of Peaked Mountain Church. Orange County, at this time, included all of Virginia West of the Blue Ridge. Subsequently, in 1745, Augusta County was established which was bounded on the East by the Blue Ridge, on the North by Pennsylvania and Maryland, on the South by Carolina, and on the West by the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. It was here in 1739 that the first Harless (Martin) was born. The settlers remained here for some eight or ten years but, by then, they had acquired land and moved to a German settlement called New River (first called Woods River), southeast of the present city called Roanoke, Virginia.
A little historical background concerning the surroundings and situations confronting our ancestors will give us a clearer picture of their part in colonizing America and forming the United States. I quote Pritchard again:

"A hundred years ago it would have been easier to write with much more accuracy the history of our early ancestors in America. However, we do have some authentic records in County and State official papers and in the Census Records. The first census was taken in 1790. Jamestown, Virginia was settled in 1607, so for 183 years there was no census. However, the Counties did keep certain records, especially land records, and court records. Some kept marriage records, and Ministers of the Gospel also kept marriage records as a general rule. Then some of the people kept what are known as 'Bible Records'. Some of the early records are difficult to read; many County Records have been destroyed by fire and some by neglect. The following notations are gathered from various sources. Some of them may be of interest.

According to Waddell's Annals of Augusta County: 'Justus Heydt (Joist Hite) obtained title to 40,000 acres in the lower Shenandoah Valley and proceeded to settle it with German families from Pennsylvania. He moved his family there in 1732. Lord Fairfax questioned Hite's title and brought a suit which was not settled until both were dead, but Hite's title was upheld. Meanwhile, many German settlers became alarmed about the uncertainty of their titles and moved farther up the Valley....'

From 1740 to the beginning of the Revolutionary War was a period of great activity in settling the lands of Western Virginia. In 1748, Peter Jefferson, father of Thomas, was granted 10,000 acres on New River. George Washington had begun surveying lands in 1748 at the age of 16. In 1755, he was present at Braddock's defeat, and in 1756 was Commander-in-Chief of the Virginia Militia, engaged in building forts, stockades and military roads for the protection of the settlers. Patrick Henry was a member of the Virginia General Assembly. Daniel Boone was living with his family on the Yadkin River in North Carolina, when he was not away on hunting expeditions in Kentucky. Thomas Jefferson was a member of the Virginia General Assembly and was buying the land where now stands Monticello. Jefferson was the first owner of the Natural Bridge of Virginia. He acquired title to an area of 157 acres surrounding the bridge from King George III in 1774, after Washington had made a preliminary survey.

At first the Indians were peaceful, but in 1749, the home of Adam Harmon on New River was attacked by marauding Indians who did considerable damage to his property, besides carrying off many valuable skins. This is said to be the first case of depredation by Indians west of the Blue Ridge. But, from then on until after the Revolutionary War, the settlers in that region were never safe from Indian attacks. In 1755, Vause's Fort, which was located on the headwaters of the James River, was attacked and destroyed by the Indians. Twenty-four persons were either killed or captured and most of Vause's livestock was slaughtered. Forts, stockades, and military roads then became a necessity. Numerous records of those years show that Phillip Harless and his sons were appointed Overseers for the construction of military roads.

John Phillip Harless settled on a tract of land now on Cow Pasture River about four miles from Natural Bridge. It is not known just how long he lived there. He was given a patent to the land in 1762. However, prior to that date, between 1745 and 1750, John Phillip Harless and Michael Price, his brother-in-law, had bought a tract of land on Tom's Creek, a branch of New River, now in Montgomery County. It is not likely that they moved their families there at that time because of Indian attacks, such as the murder of the two Harmon brothers, the massacre at Draper's Meadows in 1755, the attack on Vause's Fort, the murder of Balzer Librock's children, etc. This area known as the German New River Settlements suffered from Indian attacks for 50 years, until the Revolutionary War.

In spite of the dangers from Indians and the dangers of pioneer living, Phillip Harless with some other settlers on New River organized St. Peter's Lutheran Church in 1750, the first Church west of Blue Ridge. In 1946, a suitable monument was dedicated to mark the site of the original church. The following names are inscribed on that monument:

(Editors Note: notice name Preiss, dropped German spelling and became Price.)

John Phillip Harless and his sons, in addition to their main occupations of farming and stock-raising, were engaged in building roads for several years. At the time they moved from the Shenandoah to the New River (first called Wood's River), there were no roads worthy of the name. Very shortly, it became necessary to build suitable military roads. The Court was the law and the Court appointed the Road Overseers and the Road Overseers called upon the settlers to do their share. The Court of Fincastle County appointed Philip, Emanuel and David Harless to survey a road on 17 March 1775. John Philip and his sons, Martin, David, Philip Jr., Henry and Emanuel all served as Road Overseers, and when not serving as Overseers they were doing the work required to construct roads and bridges.

Notwithstanding the Indian depredations, the settlers continued to move up the Valley of Virginia. After the Revolutionary War, they began to settle in Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee. Roads began to be built and all the Harless men were engaged in road building at one time or another.

The Land Records of the German New River Settlements were still being kept in Harrisonburg, Augusta County on 20 June 1769. In Book 15, p. 445, it is recorded that J. Philip Harless sold to Michael Price 365 acres on Tom’s Creek, it being part of a tract patented to J. Philip Harless on 21 October 1765.

From 1750 to 1800 John Philip Harless and his sons bought and sold a great many tracts of land in Augusta, Botetourt, Fincastle, and Montgomery Counties. When Giles County was formed in 1806, Martin Harless and his sons already owned land in that County.

By the time of the Revolution, Johan Phillip and Margaretha had a large family consisting of five sons and two daughters: namely, Martin, David, Johan Phillip, Jr., Henry, Sr., and Edmund Emanuel; Margaretha and Mary. All of the sons were old enough and fought in the Revolutionary War in the Virginia Militia against the British and the Indians. Martin Harless, oldest son of John Phillip, served in Capt. Looney's Company. Martin's sons, Ferdinand, Daniel and Philip also served. All three applied for pensions in 1834. Alfred P. Harless and William A. Harless, then residing in Washington County, served in Capt. William White's Company, 1777 - 1780. David, Philip, Henry and Edmund, all sons of John Philip Harless, served in Capt. John Taylor's Company, according to Kegley's Frontier. Since Martin's sons were still alive and eligible for pensions when the pension law was passed, they all filed pension claims, two of which are quoted below from Dr. Pritchard’s book:

"The three made claims for pensions on the same day in 1834. The Federal Government had just passed a bill which allowed the payment of Pensions to Soldiers of the Revolution. The war had been over for fifty years, but it is interesting to read these applications:

'CLAIM NO. 4612 - On 22 March 1834 before Robert M. Hutchinson, Justice of the Peace for Giles County, Va., appeared FERDINAND HARLESS, (grandson of Philip and Margaretha), age 79 years, and made claim to obtain benefits under an Act of Congress dated 7 June 1832, submitting the following: 'That in the Spring of 1777, in the County of Bottetourt, he volunteered to serve against the Indians, and that he served under the command of the following officers. That on account of the depredations of the Indians, the people were compelled to erect forts and station men in them. That for this purpose, in the Spring of 1777 he volunteered under Captain Floyd and served in garrison in the County of Bottetourt at a place called Smithfield. That he served in that garrison from 1 April to 1 October 1777; that there was a regularly embodied corps stationed in garrison with him under the Command of Captain Floyd, the Colonel Preston was there. That the nature of his services was to remain in the Fort for its defense in case it was attacked by the Indians, and to hold himself in readiness to go to the assistance of any other Fort that might be attacked. That again in the Spring of 1778 he again volunteered and served under the same officers above named and in the"
same garrison at Smithfield from 1 April to 1 October 1778. That in the spring of 1779 he again volunteered and served from 1 April to 1 October under Captain Lucas, and was stationed in garrison on Sinking Creek. That he again volunteered in the Spring of 1780 and again in the Spring of 1781, serving each year from 1 April to 1 October under Captain Lucas in the last-named garrison.

'That the nature of his services was to remain in garrison for its defense and to range and reconnoitre in spying parties on watch for the approach of Indians. Part of the garrison served at the mouth of Sinking Creek, and part at the mouth of Stony Creek.'

That he was one of the early settlers of Western Virginia and had to endure much of the hardships of Indian warfare. That he recollects when a party of Indians gave chase to Martin Harless (his father) who barely escaped, arriving in the Fort after a race of three or four miles. That he recollects the murders and taking into captivity of many of his neighbors, amongst whom were the families of Lybrook, Chapman, McKinsey and a number of others. A daughter of Lybrook was beat on the head with a war club and then skelped. She was found the next morning alive. She begged for a drink of water, but she expired very soon. In scenes like these he passed through the Revolutionary War. That the time he served was with an embodied corps and that during that time he followed no civilian pursuit.

Witnesses: Philip Harless, Parker Lucas, Daniel Harless, all of whom served with him. He was born in Shenandoah County, Virginia, 1755. He has no record of his age and never received a written discharge. Rev. Isaac Scott and Robert W. Dennis, character witnesses, testify that they have known Ferdinard Harless for many years, that they believe the statements as set forth to be true. Daniel Harless and Philip Harless make an affidavit that they served with Ferdinard Harless, as set forth above.

CLAIM FOR REVOLUTIONARY PENSION NO. 4613, made by Philip Harless (1757-1849); (Grandson to Philip and Margareta)

SERVICE: Virginia. State of Virginia, Giles County:

'On the 22nd day of March 1834, Philip Harless, age 73 years, a resident of Giles County, Virginia, made the following declaration in order to obtain a pension:

'That in the County of Bottetourt in the Spring of 1777, he entered the service of the United States to serve against the Indians. The nature of this service and the authority by which he was called out is as herein stated:

'That, in the County of Bottetourt, Virginia - in the part that is now Montgomery County - he volunteered under the Command of Captain Floyd and served from the Spring of 1777 until the first part of October of the same year. That he was stationed at the garrison at Smithfield. That again in the Spring of 1778, he volunteered and served in the same garrison from the first of April until the first of October of the same year, under the same Captain Floyd. That, in the Spring of 1779, he volunteered under the Command of Captain John Lucas and served from 1 April to 1 October. That, he took the Oath of Fidelity as an Indian spy, and was so engaged against the Indians. That, in 1780 and 1781 he volunteered to serve from early in the Spring to late in the Fall of each year. That he had to endure the perils of Indian warfare during all of the Revolutionary War. That he was born in Bottetourt County in 1760, and lived in Bottetourt County in the part now Montgomery County until 1779, and since then has lived in that part of Bottetourt County that is now Giles County.'

The usual affidavits of witnesses and character witnesses are affixed, the same names appear in the Claim of Ferdinard Harless. The application of Daniel Harless is very similar to the foregoing. Daniel says that he was born in 1758, that his birth is recorded in the Family Bible, which he has not seen in years.

Other items of interest to Harless descendants from Dr. Pritchard's book are:
In A Signet Book, published in The New American Library of World Literature, July 1955, entitled 'David Crockett's Own Story,' Devy relates that at the age of 12 years he was employed by an old German by the name of Jacob Siler to help with driving the herd of cattle from Davy's home on the Nolachucky River in Tennessee to Baltimore, Maryland. Jacob Siler's wife was Mary Harless, daughter of John Philip Harless. This was about 1798, so John Philip Harless was dead (1772), but his son David was living on the Harless Homestead at that time. Devy says that he visited a Mr. Hartley, who lived about four miles from Natural Bridge, Virginia, and who was the father-in-law of Jacob Siler. Devy lived with Mr. Siler and his wife for quite some time, a few months at least.

Among the many records of land transfers made by Harless owners is one of interest made by Martin Harless, first son of John Philip. It is a Giles County record and reads as follows: 'Martin Harless sold to Philip Harless on 3 July 1807, 46 acres of land that was granted to Martin Harless by Governor Patrick Henry.' Patrick Henry served four terms as Governor of Virginia, 1776 to 1786.

HISTORICAL DOCUMENT CONCERNING THE HARLESS FAMILY

This document is known as the ELIZABETH (HARLESS) SMITH CHURCH CERTIFICATE. It was originally written in the German language and was translated into English by Professor A.G. William of William and Mary College. The certificate follows:

'In the year of grace after the victorious birth of our beloved Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, 1768, the second day of July, there was born in virtuous wedlock, Elisabeth Harless. Her father, John Philip Harless, a son of the deceased JOHN PHILIP HARLESS and his wife, ANNA MARYRETHA, whose maiden name was FREISS. Her father was Hendrick Preiss and her mother was Agnes Price.

The above-mentioned ELIZABETH HARLESS' mother was Johanna, whose maiden name was Boscher. Her father was George Boscher and her mother was Elenora Charlotte. Her Godfather and Godmother were the deceased George Wilhelm and his wife, Margaretha.

According to the testimony of her above-mentioned parents, Elisabeth was baptized in her childhood. She was instructed by me in the doctrines of Christianity and thereupon was confirmed. She pledged herself to lead a life of virtue and piety, and thereupon was permitted, for the first time, to receive the Lord's Supper and was then received and recognized as a member of the Sacred Lutheran Congregation by me in open meeting.

'Signed: Peter M. Brugwell, D.D.W.

'Virginia, in Montgomery County, on the first day of June 1788.'

In most of the records and references concerning JOHAN PHILIP HARLESS, 1716-1772, the immigrant ancestor who landed at Philadelphia, 5 September 1738, the name Philip Harless was used. The above document seems to be incontestible evidence that his name was JOHAN PHILIP HARLESS.

John Philip Harless and his wife are buried in the Harless Cemetery at Long Shop, Virginia. A new monument for their grave unveiled on Memorial Day, 30 June 1948, with appropriate ceremonies. The Honorable Julius Goodman, Commonwealth Attorney for Montgomery County, Virginia, read the following 'Tribute' as part of his address:

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN PHILIP AND ANNA MARGARETHA (FREISS) HARLESS written by J.L. Pritchard, M.D., Mayor of the City of Santa Clara, California, 1948-1950.

In my mind's eye I can see the vine clad hills, the waving grain fields and the apple trees in the German Palatinate on the Rhine of many years ago. The castled crags of Drachenfels towered above a pleasant countryside, with its fertile farms and thriving villages. A pleasing picture of a happy and contented people.

Then came wars and tyrannical rulers. Great political and religious disturbances swept the country. No longer could the people worship as they pleased. They had to change their religion to conform to the wishes
of the current ruling prince. The times were truly 'out of joint'. Peace and plenty were no longer to be found in the land, and the hearts of the people were sorely troubled.

But 'God moves in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform'. They heard of a country beyond the seas, 'where a man was a man, if willing to toil; and the humblest could gather the fruits of the soil'. And what was more important - people could worship God according to the dictates of their conscience.

It took brave hearts and trusting souls to bid goodbye to home and loved ones. Crossing the ocean was hazardous and the voyage took many days. The country to which they proposed going was strange to them. The people spoke another language, had different laws and customs.

But Philip and Anna Margaretha Harless, with trust in God, bade farewell to their native land, their parents, and all the dear scenes of their childhood. They landed in Philadelphia in 1738 from the ship, THE WINTER GALLEY. But who knows why they did not settle there? Perhaps they heard of a more pleasing country, more like their homeland on the Rhine. So they went south to the Shenandoah, remained there a few days, and then moved on to this fair country. Here among these fertile valleys and pleasant hills they lived out their allotted span of years.

They and their neighbors who were the first to settle here had to withstand all the vicissitudes of a pioneer people. They hewed their farms from the wilderness, built their houses, raised their crops, built Churches, and brought up their families. They were law-abiding and God-fearing people.

But in addition to all the other hardships, they lived in continuous danger from Indian attacks for more than fifty years. During the French and Indian Wars their situation became extremely dangerous. Forts and stockades and roads had to be built for their protection. But the Indians continued their depredations, murdering the settlers, killing their stock, burning their dwellings, destroying their crops, and carrying off prisoners.

These settlements were the outposts, the first line of defense on the frontier of civilization. In order to establish forts and stockades and organize the militia, the Commander-in-Chief of the Virginia Militia made an inspection trip through this area, and then wrote a report on the situation to Governor Dinwiddie. The date of that report was 22 April 1756, and the writer, Colonel George Washington. I quote from that report: 'Your Honor may see to what unhappy straits the distracted inhabitants and myself are reduced. I am too little acquainted, Sir, with pathetic language to attempt a description of the people's distresses; tho, I have a generous soul, sensible of wrongs, and swelling for redress. But what can I do? If bleeding, dying, would glut their insatiate revenge, I would be a willing offering to Savage fury and die by inches, to save these people. I see their situation, know their danger and participate their suffering, without having it in my power to give them further relief than uncertain promises. In short, I see inevitable destruction in so clear a light, that unless vigorous measures are taken by the Assembly, and speedy assistance sent them from below, the poor inhabitants who are now in forts must unavoidably fall. The supplicating tears of the women and moving petitions from the men melt me into such deadly sorrow that I solemnly declare, if I know my own hand, I could offer myself a willing sacrifice to the butchering enemy, provided that would contribute to the people's ease.'

No further words of mine are needed to describe the danger of living on the frontier under constant threat of attack by the Indians. You may wonder why they were willing to undergo these perils. Why did they come to the mountains of Virginia?
'Not as the conqueror comes, they the true hearted came;
Not with the roll of stirring drums and the trumpet that sings
of fame,
There was a woman's fearless eye, lit by her deep love's truth;
There was manhood's brow serenely high and the fiery heart of
youth.
What sought they thus afar? Bright jewels of the mines?
The wealth of seas? The spoils of war?
No! They sought a Faith's pure shrine.
Ay, call it Holy Ground, the soil where they have trod.
They left unstained, where here they found
Freedom to Worship God.'

The sons of John Philip Sr., were Martin, David, Philip Jr., Henry
and Edmund. John Philip Sr., soon moved his family farther up the Valley of
Virginia where he acquired a tract of land on Cow Pasture River near Lexing­
ton and four miles from Natural Bridge. It is likely that all but one of his
children were born there. The names of the Counties were changed several
times within a very few years. When they were in the Shenandoah Valley they
were in Orange County; at Lexington, they were in Augusta County, then in
Bottetourt, then Greenbrier, and now the old home place is in Rockbridge
County.

The birth dates and the names of the wives and husbands of the
children were all written in German Script in the Lutheran Family Bible.
This Bible was handed down from father to son until it came into the posses­
sion of a Harless Family who lent it to a person who promised to get a trans­
lation of the family records from German to English. The translation was not
made and the bible disappeared. This was a great loss. Some names, dates
and places of great interest to us are not available. Will some one please
find that Bible?

FAMILY OF OUR IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS

Johann Phillip Harless was born in Bavaria, Germany in 1716 and died
in Montgomery County, Virginia in 1772. His will is recorded in Augusta
County, Virginia. He married Anna Margaretha Preiss on 17 February 1738 in
Offenbach, Germany, a daughter of John and Agnes Preiss. The marriage is
recorded in German Lutheran Church Registrar.

They had the following children:

a. MARTIN HARLESS 1739-1820 m Catherine Lingel ____________,
daughter of John Jacob and ____________ Lingel, an immigrant
family from the upper Rhine Palatinate who arrived at Philadelphia on
26 September 1737. Martin established his family on a large acreage
lying in Clover Hollow, on Sinking Creek, near what is now Newport, Va.
He served in Capt. Looney's Company, Virginia Militia, during the Revo­
lution.
Sons: Ferdinand, Daniel, Philip, Patrick, Michael;
Daughters: Anna, Margaret, Martha, Catherine.

b. DAVID HARLESS 1746-1817 m Catherine _________. David owned
various tracts of land on Tom's Creek. He was buried in the David Har­
less Cemetery on his home Ranch. Isreal Lorton Sr. had been buried in
that cemetery in 1752. David left a Will.
Sons: Philip, David Jr., Jacob and John;
Daughters: Rebecca, Elizabeth, Johanna, Mary and Catherine.

c. PHILIP HARLESS, JR., 1748-1822 m Hannah Boscher 1749-1823, 7 Decem­
er 1767. Philip left a Will.
Sons: Philip, Samuel and Daniel;
Daughters: Sarah, Margaret, Elizabeth, Mary.

d. MARGARETHA HARLESS 1750-1822 m George Henry Wilhelm (Williams)
1747-1820, son of Henrich and Anna Elizabeth (_______) Wilhelm,
immigrants from the Upper Rhine Palatinate, who came in the ship Queen
Elisabeth, landing at Philadelphia, 18 September 1738.
Sons: Frederick, George, Michael; Daughters: Elizabeth, Margaret, Polly,
Susan, Catherine.
Henry Harless, Sr. was born in 1752 near Lexington, Virginia. He died in 1815 leaving a will at Madison County, Alabama. He married twice; (1) Charity Province; (2) Elizabeth.

Children by first wife:

- David
- Henry
- *John
- Daniel
- Phillip
- Mary
- Susan
- Hannah
- Nancy
- Sarah
- Elizabeth

In a land transaction on 16 November 1774, in Botetourt County, Virginia, Henry Harless, Sr., bought some land from his brother Immanuel and the deed states that the land formally belonged to their father, Phillip Harless, (now
deceased). This document locates Henry, Sr., at the beginning of the Revolution. As has been stated previously, Henry fought in the Revolution and his name also appears on a Master Roll of Montgomery County, Virginia for 1812 which indicates that he fought in the War of 1812. (I do not have proof of this.)

Henry Harless, Sr.'s, service in the Revolution qualifies his legal descendants for membership in the patriotic societies of DAR, SAR, and CAR. My mother, Della Sears Campbell, was elected to membership in the National Society Daughters of American Revolution on 18 October 1967. She is a member of the Lone Star Chapter, Texarkana, Texas. Her line of descent is: Henry Harless, Sr., son John Harless, daughter Mary (Polly Harless) Sears; son Frank Sears, daughter Della. Any legitimate heir of Christopher and Polly Sears is also eligible on the services of Henry Harless, Sr.

Henry Sr.'s name appears as serving on the Grand Jury in Virginia but how long he remained in the state of his birth we do not know. By 1802, his name appears on a list of owners of taxable property and polls for Anderson County, Tennessee. Some members who have researched on this branch of the family think that he married his second wife in Tennessee but, since many court records were destroyed, we can't locate a marriage record. Mrs. Kathleen Paul Jones of New Hope, Alabama, author of the book "Henry Harless, Sr., - American Revolution Ancestor", (only three copies made), wrote me and said "Henry and his wife, Charity, executed deeds but we do not know just when he left Virginia for East Tennessee. It is probable that Charity died in Virginia and that the second marriage took place in Anderson County, Tennessee, where he and his family had moved; however, the records of Anderson County are almost all burned. I was in Nashville once and found a transcript on an old minute book 1801-1809 with reference to Henry Harless. Seven of these records referred to jury service, two were proof of deeds, and, in one record, Phillip and his son-in-law, John Redenour, were to "view a road."

While Henry Harless was living in Tennessee, two of his sons and two of his sons-in-law moved to Madison County, Alabama. We cannot be certain of the exact date but the history of Alabama states that there were large groups of people moving into that territory immediately following the War of 1812. It is altogether likely that the Harless men were among this number because by 1814 there were records of land purchases by some of the family. It is of interest to note that, at this time, this area was known as Madison County Mississippi Territory and these first land records were in territorial papers of Mississippi. Alabama was carved from Mississippi territory and became a state in 1819.

Some time prior to 1815 Henry Harless, Sr., left Tennessee and moved across the border into Northwestern Alabama and joined his sons in Madison County. It is here that we find his will recorded on 15 May 1815 in Will Book A, page 115. Since it is in Will Book A, we presume that it was one of the first in the county. David Harless, a son of Henry Sr., died about the same time because his will is recorded at the same term of court and in the same book on page 119. Henry's will was made on 21 April of that same year. (Copies of both wills are to be found in the appendix.)

Henry Harless, Sr., wills his plantation and some cattle, as well as some household items to his beloved wife, Elisabeth. He further states that he wants his just debts paid "which are filed and are none of magnitude." (Notice an absence of slaves in his will.) He states that all of his property of every description, etc., is to be divided equally among his children, namely:

David Harless - (his wife was Elizabeth)
Mary Redenour
Susannah Middleton
Henry Harless, Jr., (his wife was Margaret Basore)
*John Harless (his wife was Catherine Mosier)
Hannah Wilson
Nancy Tilmann
Daniel Harless
Sarah Wall
Phillip Harless
Elisabeth Harless

37
We do not know when Henry's second wife died, but it is through Henry's son, John, that the Sears line descended. We know that he and a number of his brothers lived in Alabama for years after their father's death and it is very likely that Elizabeth remained there to be with her step-children.

John Harless (1736-1857) was the fifth child of Henry Harless, Sr., and wife Charity. He was surely born in Virginia, although, I have no proof of this. He married Catherine Mosier (1789-1858), the daughter of Nicholas Mosier. The date and place of their marriage is uncertain and many of "us" have searched and searched for the records but they seem to be destroyed. Judging from the ages of their children, it is likely that they married around 1805. John Harless was listed in the territorial census as living in Madison County, Mississippi Territory. He was listed as head of household as follows:

- 1 male over twenty-one (himself, of course)
- 2 females under twenty-one (probably Nancy and Mary)
- 1 female over twenty-one (his wife, of course)

This record was found in Carter's - "Territorial Paper of U.S.A.", Volume V, Census of Madison County, Mississippi Territory, January 1809.

Although John Harless was a resident of Madison County in January 1809, we cannot locate any land records in his name until 1814, five years later. He could have owned land, but the first record is Government Land Patent #731 purchased from the United States on 14 March 1814. His father-in-law, Nicholas Mosier, secured Land Patent #892 on 7 May of that same year. A description of these grants shows that they are located near each other:

- NW¼ Sec. 4 T2R1W - John Harless, 14 March 1814 #731
- NW¼ Sec. 9 T2R1W - Nicholas Mosier, 7 May 1814 #892

Historians say that families were rushing into Alabama to settle there and, from the numbers of these patents and the dates granted, it appears that they were arriving at a rate of three families per day.

It seems that David Harless, brother to John Harless, was the first Harless to sell land in Alabama, according to existing land records in Madison County, Alabama. A Deed of Sale is recorded in Deed Book A, page 121 and was recorded in 1815.

By January 1822, Catherine (Mosier) Harless' father, Nicholas Mosier, had died because, at that time, there was a tract of land belonging to Nicholas Mosier (deceased) which was sold and all his heirs and legatees signed the deed. (See appendix). Following this there are several other legal transactions signed by John Harless and Catherine. In some instances, the instruments read "Caty and John Harless".

In January of 1831, John Harless had three land patents showing purchase of land from the United States. During this period, the closely allied families of Harless, Sears and Mosier lived in Madison County where all of Christopher and Polly Sears' children were born and where Polly died in May of 1850 at the age of 41. She left a family of twelve children when her baby, Frank, was only seven months old. Her parents outlived her because, in the clerk's office, there are land transactions signed by them after her decease.

The last deed signed by both her parents was in 1853. John Harless died by 1857 without leaving a will. He left considerable property and the settlement of his estate gives us a remarkable record of his heirs. His wife, Catherine died in 1858.

Thomas S. Harless was named administrator of his father's estate. The Court Records are lengthy and quite interesting to read. Two of John Harless' daughters proceeded him in death so the records name their children. The court granted Thomas S. Harless permission to sell all of his father's estate so that it could be divided equally among all of his children. The estate was comprised of negro slaves, cattle, household items and four parcels of land. The court required that NOTICE OF SALE and Description of Sale be published in the Southern
Advocate - a weekly newspaper at Huntsville. Thirty days after the notice appeared in the paper the property was to be sold to the highest bidder. (See Notice of Sale in Scrapbook Section)

The four parcels of land totalled about four hundred acres and sold for $1,250.00 — Think of it, $3.00 per acre! The description of one tract of land was interesting in that it was one hundred fifty and 55 acres located "before the door of the courthouse in Huntsville".

The following heirs are named in the estate settlement:

Catherine Middleton, wife of A.J. Middleton
Thomas S. Harless
John W. Harless
Rachel Allison, wife of William Allison
David Harless
Henry Harless
Elizabeth Milan, wife of William B. Milan
Lotty Bramet, wife of Caswell Bramet (Brunet)
Charles D. Harless (later married a sister to Mrs. J.H. Sears)
Children of Nancy McCoffey (deceased) Mary and Janet McCoffey
Children of Mary Sears (deceased) John, Joseph, Margaret, Robert
Elizabeth, Henry, Martha, Thomas and Francis Sears.

NOTE: As the reader will notice, all of Mary (Polly) Sears' children's names do not appear in the list of heirs in the estate settlement. The omission of some names is easy to understand when we consider that the uncle was trying to recall the names of twelve of his nieces and nephews who had moved away some seven years earlier. It is also of interest to note that the names of the missing grandchildren were added when the paper were legalized in Texas by their father and guardian, Christopher Sears.

The settlement which began in November 1857 was not completed for three or four years. It stated that two of John's children were residing in Mississippi; that one son Charlie had moved to Texas, and that Mary Harless Sears' children were living in Texas with their father, Christopher Sears.

Since some of Mary (Polly) Sears' children were still minors it was necessary that a guardian be appointed in order for them to receive their legacy from their grandfather Harless. Kit Sears went through Texas Court proceedings and was appointed legal guardian for his five minor children. The lengthy proceedings are recorded in Madison County Alabama Probate Court Minute Book 8, and Probate Record Book 26 (File 2396). Also in Record Book D Probate Record Federal Court, Fannin County, Texas, 6 August 1860. (For copy of part of settlement see appendix.)

In order for the minor children to receive their legacy of $600.00 it was necessary for Kit Sears to make a bond for $2,000.00!!! The guardianship permitted Kit to protect, manage, and administer the said property for the minor children and he was instructed as guardian to - "have charge, custody and control of said persons and the care of their education, support, and maintenance as the law directs". J.B. Barbee and D.C. Kincaid were on Christopher Sears bond and with him signed the instrument with their names and seals, which were scrawls, on 20 July 1860. It appears that payment was finally made on 4 February 1861 when the attorney for Christopher Sears, J.W. Ledbetter signed a receipt for six hundred twenty-seven dollars and forty-six cents ($627.46) in payment of the legacy to the five minor children. Although this appears to be a relatively small amount of money, it would have bought a two hundred acre farm in Alabama and possibly one twice that size in Texas.

EDITOR'S NOTE: For much of the Harless information prior to 1814, I am indebted to Dr. J.L. Pritchard who so graciously granted me permission to use any part of his book, "The Harless Family". If the reader desires detailed genealogical information on other members of the Harless Family, I suggest that they consult Dr. Pritchard's book. In his book there are records showing that at least four of John Harless' children or grand-
children came to Texas; namely,

John W. Harless
Elizabeth Milam
Charles D. Harless
Mary (Harless) Sears

One discrepancy I'd like to point out is, that in Dr. Pritchard's record of the family of John and Catherine (Mosier) Harless I see a son Joel Harless named. Possibly Joel died without issue and, consequently, was not included in the estate settlement. This would mean that the couple had twelve children rather than the eleven mentioned at the time of John's death.
These two families were ancestors of the mother of Mrs. Polly (Harless) Sears (the first Mrs. Kit Sears). Much has been written about Polly Sears’ father’s ancestry - the Harless - but less is known of her mother’s people; however, I submit my “findings” on Polly’s maternal line. Polly Sears’ mother was Catherine Moser before she married John Harless. I submit wills of Catherine’s grandfathers. Catherine’s mother was a Loy. This record may be confusing to all except those who have delved into the past. I submit it for the use of those who may like to do further research. Mosier is also spelled Moser.

The * indicates our ancestor:

*Martin Loy of Orange County, North Carolina was born about 1718 and married Catherine Faust (born about 1722) also of Orange County, North Carolina. Records in the files of the Latter Day Saints Library in Salt Lake City compiled by Eugene Olson of Idaho Falls, Idaho give the following record of the family of Martin Loy:

*George Loy (born about 1739) married Mary Elizabeth Tilmon.  
Henry Loy (born about 1743) married Margaret  
John Loy (born about 1743) married Mary Holt.  
Mary Loy (born about 1745) married George Faust.

I have a copy of Martin Loy’s will but he fails to name his son John - perhaps John died before his father. The will dated 15 July 1777 was recorded in Orange County, North Carolina, May Term of Court 1779. (See copy of will in appendix). Martin’s will is very short and he refers to his wife as Catherine and names three children; George Loy, Henry Loy and Mary.

The Loy family continued to live in Orange County because it is some twenty years later that we find the will of George Loy, our ancestor, who was a son of Martin Loy.

*George Loy mentions his wife in his will but fails to call her by name. He names his children in the following order:

*Elizabeth Moser  
Caty Albright  
Margaret Clapp  
John Loy  
Rachel Albright  
Jacob Loy  
George Loy  
Henry Loy  
William Loy

George named his loving wife and his son, John Loy, to be his executrix and executor. The witnesses were Michael Holt and John Loy. George Loy signed his will which indicates that by the end of the Eighteenth Century the men could read and write. (see copy of will in appendix). The will was made on 18 October 1799 and filed in November Term of Court 1799 in Orange County, North Carolina.

It is of interest to note the recurrence of the same family names in these Loy - Moser wills over several generations. The names Albright, Sharp, and Holt are found in deed and marriage records. One marriage record shows a Henry Loy marrying Sophie Albright in Orange County, 1796. Then, forty years later, we find a Jeremiah Loy marrying Anna Holt. Notice that in 1799 a Mr. Holt was witness to George Loy’s will. Do you suppose Jeremiah was one of George’s grandsons???

The above Elizabeth Moser was, before her marriage, Elizabeth Loy. We do not know when or where she married Nicholas Moser of Orange County, North Carolina. It is some twenty years later that we find her name in a deed record in Madison County, Alabama. It is in a list of names of heirs and legatees of Nicholas Moser, her husband.
In order for the court to sell some land belonging to Nicholas Mosier, who died intestate, it was necessary for Elizabeth and her children to sign the deed so here we have a good record of Catherine (Moser) Harless' brothers and sisters as well as her parents. (Deed dated 19 January 1822, filed in Deed Book H, Page 189, Madison County, Alabama.)

*Nicholas Mosier and his wife, Elizabeth (Loy) Moser had the following children:

Joel Moser
John Moser
*Catherine (Mrs. John Harless)
Mary (Mrs. George Seaton)
Daniel Moser
Rachel (Mrs. John Lawler (Lollar)

The deed states that Joel, John and Catherine are living in Madison County, Alabama, that Mary Seaton and Daniel Moser are residing in Limestone County, Alabama, and that Rachel Lawler is living in Franklin County, Alabama. A study of the map shows all counties to be in North Alabama with Limestone and Madison adjoining and both being on the Alabama-Tennessee border.

This is all the information I have collected on Catherine Moser's mother's people, but I have a short record of Catherine's grandfather Moser.

Catherine's other grandfather was Frederick Mosier, Sr., also of Orange County, North Carolina. His will was made on 20 April 1796 and was recorded at the May Term of Court, Orange County 1800.

*Frederick Mosier, Sr., names his wife, Barbarey, in his will as well as the following children:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sons</th>
<th>Daughters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Moser</td>
<td>Caty Kimbro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frederick Moser</td>
<td>Barbara Hoffman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob Moser</td>
<td>Lizzy Sharp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Moser</td>
<td>Eva Sharp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abraham Moser</td>
<td>Madeline Bulcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phillip Moser</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Nicholas Moser</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Frederick names his son Phillip and his son-in-law Peter Sharp as his executors. Witness was Richard Cochran. (See appendix for copy of will).

This is as "far back" as I have been able to trace our ancestry before printing this book. Perhaps this start will be an inspiration to other descendants to inquire into the records. If any information is revealed later, I shall appreciate hearing from those who uncover it.

J. Sanders
Alex Douglass, Mollie Douglass Sears and Walter Douglass
This chapter deals with the ancestors and relatives of the second Mrs. Christopher Sears, whose maiden name was Mary E. Hardison. She was first married to William Douglass of Talbot County, Georgia. This concerns the people entering into her life before she married her second husband; namely, the widower, Christopher (Kit) Sears of Whitewright, Texas.

This chapter will be of particular interest to the descendants of Frank and Mollie Sears of Merkel, Texas, because Mollie Sears was, before her marriage, Mollie Douglass. She was the only daughter of Mary (Hardison) Douglass and William A. Douglass. If this sounds complicated it is because mother and daughter married father and son. To add to the confusion, both women were named Mary; however, we shall refer to Mrs. Christopher Sears as Mary Douglass or Mary E. Sears, and to her daughter Mary as Mollie Douglass or Mollie Sears. As you read, remember that Mary E. is the mother of Mollie.

The relatives herein mentioned include the immediate family of Mary E. Sears and that of her first husband, William Douglass. To assist the reader, I submit a brief family record of the various members of the Hardison family. Some of these people were "close to" the Sears of Whitewright, while others never did reach Texas. I shall begin with the parents of Mary E. Sears and their children.

THE HARDISON FAMILY

Harvy Hardison (1791 - 1864) married Decie (1800 - 1862). They had the following children:

1. Luther Hardison (born before 1827) married Mary Smith and they had two sons: Tom and Willie.

2. Elizabeth Hardison (born 1827 or 1829) married Joseph McHugh (McCue) and they had some children. The 1860 census listed the following children: Selina, Emma, Mary, Charlie, Nancy.

3. Mary E. Hardison (1831 - 1833 or 1886) married William A. Douglass (1824 - 1864). They had five children: John, Emmet, Mary A. (Mollie), Alex, and Walter. After her husband, William A., died in Civil War, Mary E. married Christopher (Kit) Sears. This was the second marriage for both Mary E. and Kit.

4. Jane Hardison married M. Pierce Johnson and they had children: J. Fletcher, E.H. and Alice (Womack) - (Tom Johnston of Jayton was Fletcher's son.) See Jane Johnson's obituary, scrapbook section.

5. Sarah M. Hardison (1832 - ) married a Mr. Otwell and they had children. He died in Civil War and I think she came to Texas with Jane and Mary after Civil War in 1867. (Frank Sears' girls spoke of "Aunt Mittie". Could this be Sarah M.?)

6. John Hardison - killed in Civil War on 6 July 1861 at age 22% years; buried in Arlington Cemetery. This information was taken from Bible of Mary and W.A. Douglass.

Harvy Hardison was born in North Carolina and Decie, his wife, was born in Georgia as were all of their children, with the exception of Luther, who was reported as having been born in Scotland. Willie Hardison, in the 1880 census, reported Scotland as the birthplace of his father, Luther. We may, therefore, assume that Harvy and Decie made a trip to Scotland and that their first child, Luther Hardison, was born while they were abroad.
Harvy and Decie Hardison were listed in the 1840 census of Talbot County, Georgia. Only four of their children were listed with them at that time; therefore, we may assume that the two oldest children were either away at school or had married at a young age.

We find that Harvy and Decie had only one child left at home by 1850. This was their youngest, a boy named John. The married daughters, at least three of them, were living near their parents: namely, Mary E., Jane and Elizabeth. Harvy and Decie and their son, John, had moved to Drew County, Arkansas by 1857. Accompanying the elder Hardisons were their three daughters and their families; that is, Mary (Mrs. William A. Douglass), Jane (Mrs. M. Pierce Johnson), and Elizabeth (Mrs. Joseph McHugh). It was here that the families bought land and settled near each other.

Before the Civil War began, Harvy Hardison must have been quite well-to-do because in the Arkansas 1860 Census he reported owning real estate valued at $6,000.00 and a personal estate of an additional $6,600.00. In checking the Arkansas Slave Census of 1860 I found that he owned eight slaves and that he had two slave houses on his plantation.

All four of the related families - The Harvy Hardisons, The W.A. Douglasses, The Joseph McHughes and the Pierce Johnsons - were listed as living and farming near each other in Drew County, Arkansas. (Joseph McHugh was also listed as a saddle maker.)

I failed to look for all the families, in checking the slave schedules, but I did notice that W.A. Douglass had either two or three slaves with one slave house. It is my opinion that Luther Hardison, who was married before 1853, had taken his bride and bought land further west in Arkansas at the town of Stevens in Ouachita County because we do know that he reared his two sons there. One of his sons, Tom, was a lawyer who served in the Arkansas Legislature in 1893 and the other, Willie, was a well educated doctor. Willie's parents had sent him to London to get his medical training. Dr. Willie Hardison came to Whitewright to visit his "kin" soon after he returned from London and my mother remembers how handsome he was and how impressed they were by his presence. She also remembers he died very young as a result of surgery (in Fort Worth) and his wife died six months later of grief over him. Luther Hardison and his wife, along with their two sons and their wives, lived, died and were buried at or near Stevens. Years later in 1908 or 1909, Mollie Sears and three of her daughters went back to Arkansas to visit their Aunt Mary but by that time their Uncle Luther and their cousins, Willie and Tom, were dead.

Mollie, in telling of her childhood, referred to this Uncle Luther. She also said that she remembered her father owned land and had negro slaves to work his plantation. She recalled what a privilege it was, as a very young child, to accompany her father when he went to Monticello, Arkansas, to take their cotton to market. She said sometimes they would go to the Mississippi River where the cotton was put on a boat to be shipped up river.

Mollie had a very serious illness sometime before the Civil War started, when the four families were living in Arkansas. This illness was called "The White Swelling" and left her with a crippled leg and foot. We know today that she very likely had polio because one of her legs was shorter than the other and she had only limited use of it.

Four years after their move to Arkansas, bitter fighting broke out between the North and the South and this struggle was to disrupt the lives of all four of the families.

John Hardison and his three brothers-in-law went to Monticello to enlist in the Confederacy. Thus, the only man left in the four households was the father, seventy year old Harvy Hardison. This was quite a situation since there were four women with ten or twelve children living on four separate farms with only uncertain slave labor to do the work.

When W.A. Douglass left to join the war he had four small children. The other two men also left children but I do not have a record as to their exact number or ages.
John Hardison was the first of the men to die in the war. We do not know the details but a note in the Bible of Mary and William A. Douglass says: "John Hardison died 6 July 1861 at 22 years and 6 months of age. Buried in Arlington Cemetery." My mother told me, when I was a child, that some of her kinfolks were killed in either the Battle of Vicksburg or Gettysburg. I thought then, as a child, that such stories just couldn't be true! Now, I know they were.

The reader will recall, if he is familiar with the history of the South, that the Confederate soldiers were, for the most part, fathers and husbands who enlisted for brief periods of service; usually six months at a time. When their terms of service ended they would return to their homes for short furloughs where they would help plant, work, or harvest crops, which ever the need might be. They would return to their "outfit" after their work was done and re-enlist for another period.

It was during one such furlough that Mollie remembered having her father pick her up and place her on his knee and say to her: "Now, my little Mollie, don't you worry about your little lame leg because, when I get home from the war, I'll take you to New York or wherever it is necessary to find a doctor who can fix you so you won't limp."

Decie Hardison died, December 1862, at the age of sixty-two, leaving her widower husband with the responsibility of "looking after" the families of his three daughters whose husbands were all away fighting in the Civil War.

As though the death of John Hardison followed by the death of his mother six months later were not enough sorrow to bear amid the privations and hardships of war, tragedy was soon to strike the family again.

Since the school house was quite a long way from their farm, it was necessary for the two children of Mary Douglass to ride horseback to school. One morning in the Spring, as was their custom, Mollie and John started to school on horseback with Mollie riding behind her brother John. When they were about one-half mile from school, they passed in front of a negro slave's house where a dog ran out and barked at them. This caused the horse to rear up. John let Mollie slide off safely to the ground while he tried to bring the horse under control; however, the horse bucked and threw him to the ground knocking him unconscious. The distraught negroes carried him into the house where they revived him. As soon as he regained consciousness, he told Mollie to walk on to school and explain to his teacher why he was late and that he would be there by morning recess.

Mollie did as John instructed while one of the negroes rushed to her home to tell their mother of John's accident. By the time Mary E. got over to the negro's house, John Douglass was unconscious again and at noon they came for Mollie to tell her that John had died even though there was only a small hole behind his ear. Mollie said that she was nine or ten and John was twelve or thirteen, perhaps fourteen. At any rate, she said that he was the only "man" at home as all the other men in the family were at war. Apparently, she must have forgotten her grandfather or perhaps he was too old or sick to help with the work.

Previous to John's decease, another of Mary Douglass' children was taken by death; namely, her son, Emmet Duncan Douglass. The date of his death is unknown, but we do know that he was born in 1855. He was dead by 21 July 1863, because on that day only a few months after John's tragic death, Mary gave birth to her last child, a boy, whom she named Walter Emmet. (It was not uncommon to use the same name again if the first child who was given that name had died.) I just wish we knew the significance of the name Emmet. (The Duncan was for one of William's uncles.) We have no way of knowing whether or not William got home for the birth of his son on that hot July day in 1863. I don't think he did. When speaking of her recollections of these days, as a child in Arkansas during the Civil War, Mollie always remembered above everything else that "there weren't any men, just women and children." Somehow Mary was able to struggle through the remainder of the year; then, in the Spring of the following year on 17 May 1864, death was to strike again. It was on that day that her father, Harvy Hardison, died at the age of seventy-three.
It is very likely that by the summer of 1864, Mary Douglass was finding the hardships of her life almost too much to bear. She was a person of tiny stature and her pictures show her as being very frail. Here she was at thirty-three years of age having lost by death, in less than three years, her brother, mother, two children, and her father, and, in the interim, having given birth to two children. While all this was taking place, her husband was away fighting for the Confederacy and the management of the farm and rearing of small children was left entirely up to her. Mollie, her eldest child, was a frail, crippled eleven year old girl. Alex was four and her baby was less than a year old. It is little wonder that she sent a plea for William to come home if he possibly could.

William Douglass started home from the war, and not far from Lacy, Ark., he stopped at a farm house to eat supper with a family. They ate a meal of fresh pork and, since it was hot summertime and there was no refrigeration, the meat must have been contaminated. He became sick and died of food poisoning on 4 July 1864 just before reaching home. He was buried near Lacy, Ark. (Lola Douglass Johanning, a daughter of Alex Douglass, told me this before her untimely death in 1953.) It is also a known fact by Mollie's daughters.

W.A. Douglass was a typical southern gentleman. I have a good picture of him taken before the Civil War. He had brown hair, blue eyes, a dark heavy beautifully trimmed and trained beard. He appeared to be a man of small stature and, since I knew all three of his surviving children and they were all small, I assume that William A. was not a large man. I must add that he was very handsome. He appears to be about thirty when the picture was made. His son, Alex Douglass of Dallas, looked a lot like his father, although I think Alex had blonde hair as a youth. His hair, at any rate, was grey when I knew him, but I see a strong resemblance in the three children (my grandmother, Mollie Sears, great Uncle Alex, Uncle Walter, and this man's picture). They were the essence of southern gentility and, although impoverished by the Civil War, neither my grandmother nor her brothers were embittered by it and they all made a comeback. Mollie once said: "The north sure was hard on the south and the south had nothing after Lincoln freed the slaves but it is best he did because some people were so mean to them."

Shortly after her husband's death, Mary went to Lacy and recorded two wills. First, that of her husband, William A. Douglass, and second, that of her father, Harvey Hardison. William must have written his will one time when he was home on furlough. His Civil War records are not complete, but two undated, and the other has 23 May 1862 as the date of his discharge. He was a sergeant in the light artillery under the command of Capt. J.A. Owens and Mollie always said he was a Tennessee Brigade. He made his will on 5 March 1862.

William's father-in-law, Harvey Hardison, made his will earlier, on 27 July 1860. Please note that Harvey Hardison's will was made previous to the deaths of his son, John, his wife, Decie, and his son-in-law, William; consequently, all three of these people were named in his will.

Both wills were recorded in Lacy, Arkansas in July 1864; William's on 6 July and Harvey's on 27 July. Both wills are very dim and difficult to read but, since I knew of the people mentioned in them, I was able to read and copy them with a minimum of omissions. (See typed copies in the appendix.)

To date we do not know the exact burial place of these relatives, although, several members of Mollie's family have been back to search cemeteries on three different occasions. Recently, I was in touch with the Drew County Officials and I was told that there are numerous unmarked graves in the cemeteries of that area. I suggest that, if any of the readers care to search later, they locate and search in Vessy Township because that is where the family was located when they were listed as slave holders in 1860.

Faith, raw courage, and sheer will power must have enabled poor Mary Douglass to carry on amidst grief, privation, and hard work. Where she had once depended upon servants to do the house and farm work, she now had to do that as well as assume the management of family and business affairs. Mollie, at the age of 82, recalled her life after her father's death, and, in her own
words, we get an accurate picture of how hard life was for these pioneers:

"My parents were W.A. and M.E. Douglass. In 1861, father enlisted in the Civil War, fought with the artillery in Tennessee, lost father a few months before the war closed. Left mother with three children. I was twelve years old and had two small brothers. Her property most all gone everything we had to eat or wear had to be made at home during the war; so we learned to spin and make all kinds of cloth and how proud we were of a new homespun dress!"

Mary Douglass and her two sisters, Elizabeth McHugh and Sarah Otwell, were both widowed by the Civil War, but her other sister, Jane Johnson, was more fortunate because her husband, Pierce (M.P.) Johnson, survived the struggle and returned to Arkansas after the fighting was over. It is not difficult to see this family "saim" - broken hearted over loss of loved ones, discouraged because their slaves were freed, their fortunes gone and land was almost worthless (with no men or slaves to work it). Theirs was a desolate situation but not barren of hope, so they must have decided to leave this land which held such bitter memories and offered little promise in order to seek a brighter future.

With this hope to lead them, three of the Hardison girls and their families left Arkansas and started for Texas. We know that two of the girls were Jane and Mary. We do not know which of the other two came. At any rate Pierce Johnson, Jane's husband, was the only man in the three families who moved to Texas.

We do not know exactly what route they took through Arkansas but, after considerable reading and research, I have made the following deductions, and give them as deductions, not fact:

They had to come west so I think they must have planned stops at places where they had relatives or friends. It is very likely that they had relatives in both Mt. Holly and Stevens, Arkansas. Mt. Holly is a little north of the direct western route but they could have gone there and very likely did because some of the relatives of William Douglass' mother, the McRaes and McLeods of North Carolina, had settled there as early as 1843. They could have gone by Mt. Holly to see if they cared to settle there; we don't know.

I am almost certain that they did go by Stevens, Arkansas because that was the home of Luther Hardison who was the only living brother of the Hardison Girls.

Visualize this wagon train, probably three or four wagons. I have the original story in Mollie's handwriting and she said wagons, not wagon, as was quoted in the news story in scrapbook section. Imagine, also, the hardships of that journey - courageous Pierce Johnson to start out on a trip with three women, eleven children, and he the only man to "look after" them and keep the teams and wagons moving. I'd say he had his hands full and little wonder that Mollie and the other kin always spoke lovingly of their Uncle Pierce!

The journey took them over mere trails with numerous streams and mountains to cross. Today, as I ride over the bridges spanning the Ouchita River and less formidable streams, I wonder that they ever got out of Arkansas! Can't you see this band of weary travelers arriving at Stevens to have a visit with their beloved brother Luther Hardison and his family? It is quite likely that this was their first reunion with their brother since the girls had lost their parents, husbands, children and brother during the war. It was no doubt an occasion for sharing experience and reminiscing while planning for a new life in the then unknown location of their new home.

It was here that they heard the latest word on the best routes into Texas. They, in all probability, crossed the Red River at Garland or Foreman, Arkansas, where ferries operated for many years. They continued to travel west for two or three days when they reached the little hamlet of Dalby Springs, Texas where Mollie said they camped their first night on Texas soil. They continued due west traveling parallel to the Red River and, in Mollie's words: "We got along very well until we got to Fannin County, ten miles north of Bonham. We stuck up in the black mud, bad roads and country thinly settled. We had to stop there!" So here we will stop in this part of our story leaving the
Douglasses and Johnsons as settlers in Fannin County in the Spring of 1867, when they bought land near Christopher Sears, a wealthy and prominent landowner and early settler.

THE DOUGLASS FAMILY

In the first part of this chapter I have written about the Hardison's ancestors who were the relatives of Mary Hardison Douglass - the second wife of Kit Sears. In this part of the chapter I shall discuss briefly the relatives of her first husband, William A. Douglass. This concerns his relatives who chose to remain in Talbot County, Georgia, instead of moving to Arkansas in 1857.

The families who moved to Arkansas and the ones to remain in Georgia were close neighbors in Talbot County until they decided to move. It seems that the Douglass branch chose to move east while the Hardisons went west. In the 1860 census we find many of these relatives living in counties in both Georgia and Alabama that were on the state borderline. These close kin left in Georgia by William A. Douglass were:

1. Catherine Douglass, his mother, who by then was a widow since her husband, William Douglass, Jr., was dead before 1857.
2. John Douglass, his brother, who was married and had a son. John Douglass was a physician who was later killed in the Civil War.
4. Margaret Douglass, his sister, wife of Pendleton Birch, and their children. (Mr. Birch was a school teacher.)
5. Mary Douglass, his sister, wife of Mr. Bass, and their children.

In addition to these members of his immediate family, there were many cousins, aunts and uncles left behind. They were his mother's relatives, the McLeods. Before her marriage to William Douglass, Jr., Catherine was Catherine McLeod, daughter of Norman and Mary (Campbell) McLeod, of Anson County, North Carolina.

My grandmother, Mollie (Douglass) Sears, though she was only five years old when she moved from Georgia, remembered her grandmother, Katy Douglass, her aunts and cousins and later told her own children about these "Georgia Kinfolks". Some of these relatives, very likely, later moved to Texas. We know that some of them came for a visit to Whitewright because one of the cousins, his last name was Otwell, took sick and died at the home of Mollie and Frank Sears in the late 1800's. Mollie's children tell the story of his being converted to Christ on his death bed and he was later buried in the family cemetery.

Census records for 1850 and 1860 show Mollie's grandmother, Catherine (Katy) Douglass, was a widow and that she made her home with her children. In 1850 she was living with her youngest daughter, Sarah Martin, who had a two year old son named Edmund (Eddie). We do not know when Katy became a widow but Mollie said that her grandfather Douglass made a trip to Scotland and, upon his return trip to the United States, he either died or was lost at sea. We do not know whether or not she ever saw her grandfather.

One of Mollie's favorite stories was that concerning a family fortune in Scotland which she said belonged to them if they only knew how to get it.
(We suppose she was referring to the Douglass branch of the family rather than the McLeod branch, but since both came from Scotland, we have no way of knowing.) We can assume that matters concerning this fortune prompted her grandfather's trip to Scotland. At any rate what became of the fortune is still a mystery. Mollie said that both Alex and Walter, her brothers, "tried to get it but they didn't know how". When I was younger I would have been skeptical about this story but not now, because of all the little tales and stories related to me by Mollie's children; not one of them has been proven false! On the contrary, legal records, census information, wills and books written on allied families have verified names, places and dates in every instance when they were found. Since both the Douglass and McLeod families were members of the nobility in Scotland, it is likely that a fortune was left behind or that a young generation came to the new world leaving parents behind who later died leaving legacies for children who had moved to the new world. Who knows?

By 1860, Catherine Douglass was making her home with her son, Dr. John C. Douglass, born in North Carolina, who had left Georgia and was living in Barbour County, Alabama. The 1860 census shows him living at Louisville, Barbour County, Alabama, that he was a 32 year old physician with real estate valued at $350.00 and a personal estate of $3,000.00. His wife, Sarah, born in Georgia, was 26 years old and their son, Willie, was seven while their daughter, Maria, was only two. The birth places of the children show that Willie, who was born in 1853, was born in Georgia while Maria was born in Alabama in 1858.

From this we may conclude that Katy and this son moved from Georgia about the time her other son moved to Arkansas. Katy's personal estate was valued at $2,400.00 but she did not report owning any land.

Also living with Dr. John C. Douglass besides his wife and children and mother was another family of three. Mr. Joseph Hardison, a 35 year old farmer who had real estate valued at $2,500.00 and a personal estate of $350.00. He was born in Alabama. His wife, Margaret, age 37, was born in North Carolina, and their son William, age 10, was born in Alabama. Now who do you suppose they were, what relation?

The records in Salt Lake City show a "Mary Douglass", daughter of John Douglass of North Carolina who came to Troy, Alabama as a child and afterward, married an Alex McKay of Louisville, Alabama. She came to Eufala and was a devoted member of the Presbyterian Church. I think this is the "Maria" who was 2 years old in 1860. She died in 1938, four years after Mollie Douglass Sears, and I think they were first cousins.

We do not know what happened to Margaret Douglass Birch (Mrs. Pendleton Birch). It is possible that he died in the Civil War and that Margaret married a second time to this Mr. Hardison and that they were living temporarily at her brother John's home. Margaret Douglass would have been 36 or 37 in 1860.

Mollie Sears said that her father's only brother, her Uncle John, was a doctor and, like her father, was killed during the Civil War. Until her death in 1934, Mollie had several letters written by her father to the family while he was away at war. I recall seeing these as a young child and noticing the beautiful but "peculiar" handwriting. Grandma Sears would read these letters to me as I sat at her feet. I do not recall their contents, I only remember the solemnity of the occasion and the reverence with which she handled the letters. These letters were loaned to Lola Douglass, her niece, after Grandma died and, although Lola intended to return them, they became lost; that is, unless some members of her family accidentally finds them. Lola's sudden and untimely death in Australia could account for their never being returned.

These letters were written with a small gold pencil. The pencil has a genuine amethyst stone in the top of it and a black cord is attached to the loop in the top. The pencil was given by Mollie's mother to her, then Mollie, in turn, gave it to her daughter Della Sears and it is now in the possession of my sister, Mrs. W.W. Bragg of Chillicothe, Texas.

Among Mollie's other keepsakes was a beautifully written letter which was addressed to her mother, Mary (Mrs. W.A. Douglass). It was written to Mary two years after her move to Texas when she was living as a widow in Whitewright with her three children, Mollie, Alex and Walter Douglass.
The letter dated 1869, Eufala, Alabama, was from Mollie's aunt Sarah Douglass (Mrs. William Martin, who had since married a Mr. Harwell). This aunt, Sarah, was a sister to Mollie's deceased father William Douglass. Although the letter is addressed to "Dear Sister" the two women were actually sisters-in-law, but due to their affection for each other the "in-law" was omitted.

After reading and rereading the letter and comparing names and places mentioned in it with those found in other genealogical sources and with known family history, I have been able to reconstruct a little of their life's story before, during and after the Civil War. Here it is with my apologies for any repetition:

The Douglass relatives and possibly some of the Hardisons, remained in Georgia while William A. Douglass moved with his Hardison-in-laws to Arkansas in 1857.

In Sarah (Douglass, Martin) Harwell's letter written in 1869, we find that a few counties and places are mentioned as the residences of the kin-folks. Among them are Pike and Chattahoochee Counties in Georgia and Barbour County in Alabama. A study of the map reveals that these counties lie on either side or near the Georgia-Alabama state line. In reading related family history, I learned that a portion of this country was settled by a large group of Scottish Highlanders who had migrated from North and South Carolina. In the census of these counties can be found dozens of names recognizable as relatives of Katy Douglass.

In her letter, Sarah mentions that her husband never did see his last child, which, as we know, was because he was away fighting the Civil War, where he was later killed. After Mr. Martin's death, Sarah married a second time, this marriage was to her present husband, Mr. Harwell, who had at least one child, because she mentions a step-son "Jackson Harwell". Judging from the comments in the letter, he was slightly older than Mollie Douglass. Sarah states, in the letter, that her mother (that would be Katy Douglass) is living with her at that time.

The letter writer makes numerous references to people known to be "kin-folks" - among them were:

Willie Douglass, this would be a seventeen year old cousin of Mollie's. He was the son of Dr. John Douglass and, therefore, a nephew to both women - Sarah and Mary.

Margaret's girls referred to twin daughters of Sarah's sister, Margaret Birch (Mrs. Pendleton Birch) that would make them nieces of both women and cousins of their children.

Jane and Elizabeth about whom the letter writer inquired, would be two of her former neighbors and sisters of Mary Douglass. If you refer to the first part of the chapter you will notice that Jane and Elizabeth were the two sisters of Mary that moved with her from Arkansas to Texas after the Civil War. They were Jane Johnson (a grandmother of Tom Johnson who many of the readers will remember) and Elizabeth McHugh, both daughters of the Hardison couple.

Jennie is a mutual cousin of both the letter writer and receiver. She was Jennie McRae, a niece of their mother, Katy Douglass.

John Birch was very likely the father of their mutual brother-in-law, Pendleton Birch.

In the letter where she speaks of Mollie's picture saying "mother says have yours and the little boys taken", she is referring to her mother Katy Douglass wanting a picture of her little grandsons, Alex and Walter Douglass, whom she has never seen. They are only five and nine years old respectively at this time, and were born after Mary left Georgia in 1857.
The picture of John that she is thanking Mary for is John Douglass, Mollie's oldest brother who was killed in the fall from the horse when they lived in Arkansas during the war. This is also the incident she refers to when, in the beginning of the letter, she describes her grief for Ella and says, "Mary, I know you can sympathize with me for your heart has received the same ghastly wound".

By comparing ages, we can see that Ella and Mollie were almost the same age and their brothers, John and Eddie, almost the same ages. Can't you see these four little ones playing together as five and seven year old children? This letter, you see, was written twelve years after the move from Georgia and Mollie would be seventeen while Eddie was nineteen. (But now Ella and John are both dead.)

I should like to point out here that these two sisters-in-law, Mrs. Sarah Douglass Martin Harwell and Mrs. Mary Douglass Hardison, had much in common, aside from being neighbors as young brides they:

1. Each had their husbands leave home to go fight for the South in the Civil War.
2. Each had a child born while the husband was away fighting for the confederacy.
3. Each maintained their home and had the sole responsibility of providing for and educating their children in the absence of their husbands.
4. Each had a husband to die during the Civil War.
5. Each lost a teenage child by sudden tragic death.
6. Each married for a second time; yes, to a widower with children.

These two women knew the privation, sorrow, and horrors caused by war; however, in the face of it all, they carried on in spite of the vicissitudes of life. The letter indicates, not only the writer's capacity to love and her compassion for others but, by its very nature, marks her as the perfect example of a southern lady. If the letter will "take" I shall include a copy of the original so that the reader may see her beautiful handwriting and read her "almost poetic" expressions. It is written on heavy linen paper with a fine Spencerian pen in black ink. Although it is nearly 100 years old, it is only slightly yellowed. If it will not "take", I shall include a typewritten copy. (see appendix)

Katy Douglass must have continued to live with Sarah in Eufaula, Alabama until her death because it is there two years later that she was buried. Her burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Eufaula, and her stone reads "Catherine Douglass 1879 - 1883."

The maternal side of this Douglass family; that is, Catherine's people, were the McLeods who came from the Isle of Skye in Scotland. Books have been written about the McLeods, both those remaining in Scotland and those coming to America, so I shall not go into any of the McLeod ancestry, but confine my remarks to Catherine's immediate family.

Catherine was the daughter of Norman McLeod and Mary Campbell of North Carolina. We do not know exactly when they came to America but Lola Douglass, Catherine's great granddaughter wrote me years ago that their names, (Norman's and Mary's) appeared on the shipping list of the boat "Lock Bay". I have searched but never found a record of that boat and Lola did not give me her source of information. The first record I have been able to find in America is in the will of Jennette McLeod, dated 22 February 1773 which is recorded in Anson County, North Carolina. Jennette wills her entire estate to her loving nephew, Norman McLeod. The will was witnessed by John McLeod and it appears that he wrote the will since the writing is the same as his signature. Jennette signed with her mark and seal.
Since Jennette did not say that Norman was living elsewhere, we assume that he was, at that time, living there in Anson County and was known by the people there. This would place him in Anson County by 1773, three years before the revolution. DAR tells me that there were several Norman McLeods in Anson County in the early 1800's but I believe this is our Norman because his name appears in so many legal transactions in Anson County and is usually with names of people related to him or men who were or later became his sons-in-law. His name appears in court records; such as, deeds, petitions, jury service, and land grants. The first one that I was able to find was dated April 1775.

From these records and books written about the McLeod family, we know that Norman McLeod, a Scottish Highlander, was a prominent resident of Anson County, North Carolina and that he fought in the American Revolution. (see pay voucher in appendix) The DAR, however, has not yet approved him as an American patriot.

He had at least four land grants from the United States in amounts of 300, 100, 60, and 100 acres, all in Anson County.

Closely allied to the McLeods and Douglasses were two other Scotch families, the McRaes and the McNabbs. Norman's favorite son-in-law must have been John C. McRae, the husband of his daughter Jane. (The Jennie in the letter was this couple's granddaughter.) Jane and John had a daughter marry into the prominent Kendall family of Eufala, Alabama. There is a book "The Storied Kendalls" which gives a good background of these Scottish Highlanders who settled in the Carolinas. In speaking of Jane McRae, the author had this to say of Jane and Catherine's father: "It was Norman McLeod, Scottish nobleman, who named the town of Morven in North Carolina for his native Morven."

Norman McLeods' will recorded in Anson County 1842 reveals him to be a deeply religious, christian gentleman with considerable wealth in both land and slaves. He names ten living children and two that were deceased, leaving bequests to each of them and to his wife, Mary. He requests that he be buried "at the Presbyterian Burying Ground near Morven". (see will in appendix)

Morven is a small town of five or six hundred people in North Carolina. It is Scottish in legend and nearby is a Scottish cemetery donated in 1810 by Farquhar McRae to the church "forever and ever". I presume this is where Norman is buried.

Although Norman fought in the American Revolution, I was unable to establish a line in DAR because I could not find the marriage record of his daughter Catherine to William Douglass, Jr. Those records were probably in the Anson County Courthouse and were burned when the courthouse was destroyed by fire in 1868. If the record still exists, it would probably be in some Presbyterian Church. The marriage probably took place around 1820 because the couple had a daughter by 1822 and she was born in North Carolina. If any reader ever secures this marriage record or knows more about this Douglass-McLeod ancestry, I should appreciate hearing from them at any time. At one time, Lola Douglass Johanning had a lot of information on our Douglass relatives but that was before I became interested in family history. I had just started corresponding with Lola shortly before her death and she offered to help me after her return from Australia - but she died over there of a heart attack and I do not know what became of the information she had collected.

So ends my account of the Douglass Ancestors.
The State of Texas,
COUNTY OF FANNIN.

To any Judge of the District Court, Justice of the Peace, or regularly licensed or ordained Minister of the Gospel—Greeting:

YOU ARE HEREBY authorized to solemnize the rites of Matrimony between

Frank Sears

AND

Mary Douglass

and make due return of this License to my office within sixty days, certified according to law.

Given under my hand and seal of office at Boehm, this the 16th day of May 1871.

Charles D. F.
CLERK DISTRICT COURT FANNIN COUNTY.

By Daniel H. Blair
Deputy

I, H. J. Rogers

a Minister of Gospel

solemnized the RITES OF MATRIMONY between

Frank Sears

Mary Douglass

on the 16th day of May

1871.

hereby certify that I

AND

Mary Douglass

THE

Frank and Molly Sears
Mary (Mollie) Douglass and Frank Sears were married in Fannin County on 11 May 1871. (See marriage record in appendix) The young couple started housekeeping in a house that Frank and his father had constructed for them prior to the wedding. The reader will remember that since there were no railroads in Fannin County until 1778, it was necessary for Frank to go by ox-wagon to Jefferson, Texas to secure lumber for his new home. With such poor roads, travel was especially difficult in the black sticky gumbo of the rich black land of East Texas. Frank and his father must have spent all winter and early spring building the house. When it was too bad to work on the house Kit was helping Frank make furniture for their kitchen. Kit made four kitchen chairs from a large oak tree that had stood in his yard. Frank tanned the leather and made leather strips which he used to weave the bottoms of the chairs, after his father had finished the wooden construction. By today's standards the chairs look frail and crude but they were strong and typical of the kitchen furnishings of those pioneering citizens. The four chairs were very sturdy and were used even after the family moved to West Texas nineteen years later. Out in West Texas the chairs were delegated to the "boys' cabins" where Frank's sons used them until the cabins were destroyed by fire and all but one chair burned. I own that remaining chair and it still has its original cowhide-laced bottom. On one of the back panels of the chair is the initial "S", carved there so that it could be identified easily even if the family carried it to camp-meetin'.

Following their marriage in May 1871, their first child, a boy Esca, was born on 27 April 1872. He was a beautiful blue-eyed blonde and the pride of his parent's hearts - but, tragedy was to strike Mollie just as it had struck her mother, years ago, only earlier in her life. One morning, when Mollie went outside to milk the cow, she left their seven month old son playing happily on a pallet on the floor. (A pallet was a quilt placed on the floor for the baby to lie and play on - no play pens in those days!) The it was mid-November, it was a warm day so the early morning fire in the fireplace had died out and the child seemed safe as he lay kicking on the pallet. Before Mollie had finished with her outside chores she heard the anguished cries of her baby and rushed in to find that he, the less than seven months old, had managed to crawl off the pallet and into the fireplace where his legs were burned by a few hot coals which were hidden under the ashes. Though they took Esca to the doctor the burns on his legs were so deep that gangrene "set in" and he died on 17 November 1872.

Mollie was grief stricken and only the birth of a second son the following July helped to ease the loss of her first child. Frank and Mollie continued to live in Fannin County next door to his father and Mollie's mother (who, you will recall, married each other in December of 1871) for the next eleven years. While living in Fannin County five other children were born; Arthur, Eula, Della, Odie and Alex. The older children attended a private school in Whitewright as soon as they were school age. By 1883 Frank was ready to branch out for himself so he bought a 1600 acre tract of land in Rockwall and Hunt Counties.

The family left Fannin County in 1883 and moved to their new farm in Rockwall County where the children attended school at Bear Creek School. Directly in front of their house was the Hunt County Line so Frank always had to pay taxes in both Hunt and Rockwall counties.

Soon after moving out on the farm, Frank built a new home in town at Royse City and the family moved from the farm so the children could go to the "city" schools. They remained in town for about two years but by that time Frank had accumulated so many cattle that he needed the help of his oldest son Arthur, who was by then a teenage boy and could do a man's work to help his father.

The family moved back to the house on the farm and the children attended Bear Creek School once again. Della recalls that they took a short cut to school through a pasture where there was a mean cow with big horns. She said they went through that pasture each day going back and forth to school with fear gripping at their hearts, knowing that at any time they might be run down by the big beast. She says, "fortunately not once did the cow give chase but I can tell you we didn't poke along through that pasture".
Alex Douglass, a brother to Mollie, had finished college at Grayson and, as a young unmarried man, was looking for land out west. On one trip out west he told of going to the place where Vernon now stands. He said he sat in the door of the main store in town and shot prairie dogs. Mollie's other brother, Walter Douglass, was also looking for land and a place to locate so he wound up being the first of the family to settle at Anson, in Jones County. He went there with his bride, some time before 1890, and opened a general store and photography business.

By this time Frank and Mollie had added three children to their already large family, because it was in Rockwall County that Mossie, Claude (Bud), and Pearl were born. Frank went to Anson to visit his brother-in-law Walter Douglass and then went farther west to secure land. Finally, in 1890, he bought land in both Surry County and Jones County.

In the spring of 1890, as soon as school was out, he and his eldest son, Arthur, who was then seventeen, made two or three trips to West Texas driving several herds of cattle. While they were gone with the last herd of cattle, the baby girl took suddenly ill and died within a few hours. Her illness was diagnosed as "summer complaint".

Della said her baby sister was the prettiest child she ever saw. She said Mollie wired their father about the baby's sudden death but even though the wire went to Snyder, he failed to get it. When Mollie did not receive a reply, she had no choice but to bury the baby, since the weather was so hot, even though her husband and son were not there for the funeral. The sad news of baby Pearl's death is recalled by Della, who remembers her father and Arthur arriving on the train. The baby was less than six months old when she died on 27 June 1890. The first time Della had ever seen her father cry was on the day Frank was told of Pearl's death. She said Frank held his head in his hands and cried "I can't believe it, I can't believe it, Mollie. It can't be true".

Before summer was over Frank and Mollie, with their eight children ranging in age from 2 to 17, boarded the train at Royse City in a pouring rain and started for their new home in Jones County.

By the time they arrived at Weatherford, something was wrong with the train so they were "stalled" and waited there while another engine came from Fort Worth. It was still raining so hard that they couldn't get off the train but someone came along selling apples, so Mollie bought some for the children. Della said, "We wouldn't eat apples like that at home but those apples tasted so good". She continued, "The children didn't seem to mind the delay but it worried the old folks". Imagine taking eight children on a train trip in 1890!

At Abilene their Uncle Walter Douglass was waiting at the station when the family arrived. Since there were so many people, it required two vehicles to transport them to Anson some thirty miles away. Part of the family rode in a rubber-tired surrey, while the remainder of the family rode in a Phayton Buggy. (A Phayton Buggy was a fancy one with fenders.)

In 1890, Anson was "on a boom", therefore, housing was not available so Mollie and her large family moved in with her brother Walter Douglass until Frank could build them a house. Mother said her Uncle Walter's house was one and a half stories. What? Split level housing in 1890, and no government loans!

After a short time Frank moved his family "to the place" in the country on the banks of the Clear Fork of the Brazos River near Truby, Texas. It was here that Lila Mae (Pet), Mollie's and Frank's last child was born on 1 September 1891, just one year after their move from East Texas.

The home was built on a bend in the creek. One year the spring rains flooded the creek and drove the family out of the house in the middle of the night. Frank was sitting up watching the creek rise so, when it reached what he considered a danger point, the family was awakened and they took their cover and camped upon the hill for the remainder of the night. The next morning the first light of day revealed that their home was flooded with water. As soon as the creek "went down" Frank, with the help of his sons and neighbors, moved the house up on the hill where it would be safe when the creek overflowed.
This same creek of the Clear Fork must have afforded the family much pleasure because they told of fishing and swimming there and it was the same creek the children crossed before they could attend school or go to church at Truby Mound. Frank built a suspension (swinging) bridge across the creek so that the children could cross even during the spring floods. The large family attended a "pretty white" Methodist Church about two miles up the creek and on Sunday friends and relatives would come for dinner. Frank's surviving daughters recall that it was not uncommon to have twenty-five or thirty for Sunday dinner.

Della Sears was the first of Frank's and Mollie's children to marry. It was on 29 December 1897 that she married Rufus Easton Campbell. He was a descendant of a pioneer family that had moved to Texas in 1828 and had a land grant in one of Austin's colonies. His grandfather had fought with Sam Houston and helped win Texas Independence from Mexico. His great-grandfather was an ambassador from the Texas Republic to the United States and his grandparents several generations back were John and Priscilla Alden of Mayflower fame. The couple was married in Della's home by Rev. T.C. Eason, a friend of the family. Della's wedding invitations were handwritten by her close friend, Mrs. Julia Poland.

Before long, Arthur, Alex and Odie were all married and settled in Taylor County.

All of Frank's sons went into ranching and long before they were married each boy had his own spread in various parts of West Texas - all relatively near Merkel.

Della moved with her husband and young daughter to Cottle County. Frank's younger children went to Truby to school until high school, after that Eula moved into Merkel to take care of the younger children while they attended the "City" schools. By 1907 the remainder of Frank's family had left the farm place and moved into town.

It was on 1 February 1909 that tragedy was soon to interrupt the busy, happy lives of these West Texas pioneers. Alex, who was married and had two young baby girls, left his family at the ranch while he went by train to Abilene on a short business trip. The purpose of the trip was to collect some $6 to $8,000.00 for cattle that a so-called "friend" had purchased from him. Alec arrived in Abilene on the night train, had dinner with the "friend", and this is the last time he was ever seen alive.

The "friend" was later arrested, tried and convicted for Alec's murder. It seems that, rather than tell Alec he didn't have the money to pay his debt, he decided he would solve the problem the easiest way and plotted Alec's death. The trial brought to light the events of that fateful night. After having dinner Alec was stabbed, it was thought, in Abilene and his body was carried by horse and buggy to a rural school house some five miles out of town where it was placed on top of some desks, saturated with gasoline and burned about midnight. The "friend" then drove the horse and buggy to his home where he drove it into the barn and there set fire to his own barn, burning the horse and buggy. Circumstantial evidence proved that he was guilty of the crime beyond a question of a doubt. Ironically, the horse used to pull the buggy that night was identified due to the markings of an odd shoe on his front foot, as one that Alec had sold to his "friend", so, it was part of the debt. There had been a shower during the night so the horse was tracked to the barn. Feeling in Abilene was so high that, although the man had been convicted of murder, a mob gathered at the jail but before they had time to take action, the convicted man committed suicide by stabbing himself with a pair of shears that he had borrowed to trim his beard early that morning. This tragedy was to sadden the lives of all the family and friends for many days to come.

The Frank loved West Texas he made several trips a year back to the place of his birth to visit his brothers and sisters and their families. Many times he went alone on these return visits because Mollie was frail and her limp she had as a child was much worse as the result of a fall she had one day while living on the farm at Truby. After the fall she had to use a crutch and her little leg seemed to grow shorter, never-the-less, she remained active and mobile.
In 1910, Frank's daughters, Eula and Mossye took a long trip and toured all the Eastern United States and parts of Canada, returning by Niagara Falls. This will be remembered as the days of the first motor buses and the folks back home were getting interested in the horseless carriage. By 1913, Pet, the youngest child, had gone East to attend college. Frank had wanted all of his girls to go back east to school but only Pet took advantage of her father's offer. She returned to Kerbel where she worked in the bank until she married a young West Texas druggist. She, like Della, moved away from Taylor County. Soon after Pet's marriage, Bud and Clyde married sisters and this left only Eula and Mossye at home with their parents. Frank had already made his fortune so he and Mollie enjoyed the late years of their life living in the little town of Kerbel, Texas.

As a child I have many happy recollections of visits to my grandparents home, and I shall, at this point in my story, indulge in a little reminiscing so that my descendants may know what it meant to me to visit my grandparents.

The Sears' house, a white two-story structure, with two front porches, (one up and one downstairs) stood in the center of the block. The upper porch was supported by large white columns and had a white railing made of carved posts. The lower porch sported the provincial porch swing. These two places always afforded a respite from the heat on a summer afternoon or evening. The house was surrounded by green grass and flowers. Nearby on the south, was a vegetable garden, and across the driveway to the north was a large orchard and some berry vines. Behind the house was the windmill and the grape arbors, and in back of all this was the barnyard with its chickens and cows. The grapevines and trees hid the fence surrounding the barnyard - so it was almost like two different worlds as one stepped through the concealed gate. In the front yard were blooming geraniums, poppies, larkspur, zinnias and roses located in all the right places. Large trees afforded a sufficient amount of shade. Though a concrete walk led from the street to the house the yards in the back were lined with boardwalks leading to the various places. Yes, one led to the out-door "bathroom", but by the time I remember visiting, it was outmoded and abandoned for the new bathroom built on the back porch of the house just off the kitchen.

This house held special fascination for a child whether 8 or 15 years old. In the upstairs bedrooms at rest time the cool afternoon summer breezes played music as they whistled clean and clear through the screens covering the upstairs windows. Sometimes the upstairs door to the porch was unlocked and, as a reward for being extra good, I was allowed to go out on the upstairs porch, provided I promised never to lean against the rail, because it was not strong enough to support even my 80 pounds. After all, it was only put there for "looks". I loved that porch because it was such a dangerous place to play and my, how far I could see over the tops of the trees for blocks and blocks! I remember looking down at the red shaggy poppies that bloomed by the hundreds on the south side of the house just outside my grandmother's bedroom window.

But, lest you think only the house held wonders for me, never think for a minute that anything could be better than the food at grandmother's. Oh, how Aunt Mossye and Aunt Eula could cook! Even today I can taste that crisp fried chicken, golden buttered corn, black-eyed peas, thin slices of fried yellow squash, sharp tangy beets and tomatoes, tender juicy onions, and cornbread and butter - no oleo then! This was all to be topped off with fresh fruit cobbler, either peach or berry, or green grape pie, each just sweet enough and oozing with butter. For those who wanted cream, a pitcher of it always stood on the table. All this food, of course, was grown right there on the block. Sometimes Aunt Eula would let me help gather it if I would promise to be careful and not step on the vines or break any branches.

Sundays were even better than other days because that always meant my cousins would come and I'd have playmates. Not only that, but we'd usually make ice cream - and such ice cream! There has never been any quite like it! Aunt Eula put so much cream in it that some members of the family complained of it being too rich, because the butter fat would stick to the roof of their mouths. Yes, by eating a few bites, you could tell when Eula had mixed the ice cream!
Frequently, on Sunday afternoons, we would ride out to "one of the boys" ranches and that meant more fun - horseback riding or swimming - and sometimes I'd get to spend a week with Aunt May and Uncle Arthur. Aunt May would always prepare a separate plate of chicken and all the fixings so my cousin Mollie and I could eat out in our play house. These were always exciting times and I always had just enough fear to get a thrill, because I never could ride or swim as well as the others or do anything quite up to their standard. I shall never forget one day at noon when Mollie spared me a fate worse than death. We were rushing to the house after hearing the dinner bell when Mollie looked behind and then yelled "climb that tree, quick!" I did, on the double, just in time to look down and see Mollie get the butt of her life from the family pet. He sent her rolling head-over-heels! Such a spill would have scared me to death if it hadn't killed me in another way, but not Mollie! She jumped up, dusted off her clothing and shook her fist at Billy. She chased him back to the barn then returned and told me never to let him get to my back - that as long as you faced him you were safe.

--- Enough of my childhood recollections! ---

Frank and Mollie lived to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1921. Children and grandchildren came from all around bearing gifts of gold - not just colored gold - but gold pieces in denominations of $2.50 to $50.00 and perhaps others.

In January 1922, after a very pleasant day, Frank Sears died unexpectedly of a heart attack. (see story in scrap book) He was 72 years of age and resembled Abraham Lincoln. Mollie Frank, Pet's baby girl who was merely two years old, would point to Lincoln's head on the penny and say "Grandpa". Frank not only resembled Lincoln in looks but in his quiet greatness as well.

Grandma Sears lived for 12 years as a widow with Eula and Mossye residing in the big house with her, looking after and caring for her when she was sick. She passed away at the age of 82 in June 1934. Mollie was a dainty, fastidious person with bright eyes and a clear sharp mind. She was well read, interested in politics, religion and public affairs. She took tremendous pride in her nine children and their families. Grandma was a perfect example of a southern lady who had an enormous capacity for love. I might add that my own little 91 year old mother, Della (Sears) Campbell, resembles Grandma Sears and is even prettier. The greatest compliment I receive is when a person says, "you look like your Grandma Sears and your mother, too".

Funeral services for both Grandma and Grandpa Sears were held at the First Methodist Church in Merkel. Both had been active in the church, supporting and contributing to it after they transferred their membership from Truby Mound. I have never heard why Frank changed from the Presbyterian to the Methodist faith but I'm inclined to believe it was because that in 1890 there was no Presbyterian Congregation that far West and Frank was essentially a religious man and formal worship of God every Sunday was a part of him, so he aligned himself with the existing congregation. He and Mollie had a deep religious faith which sustained them in joy and sorrow.
Frank Sears Nine Children:

Top Row: Pet, Mossie, Alex, Odie, Claude (Bud)

Bottom Row: Della, Arthur, Eula, Clyde
Frank Sears Family Group:

Back Row: (Standing) Left to Right.
John Sears, Emma Sears, Easton Campbell, Mary Campbell,
Della Campbell, Amy Sears, Virgil Touchstone, Dan Matthews,
Pet Touchstone, Odie Matthews, Eula Sears, Mossie Sears

Middle Row: Pearl Campbell, Lillie Pratt Sears, Mary Eula Sears,
Frank Sears, Odie Campbell, Mildred Matthews, Bud Sears,
Arthur Sears, Clyde Sears, Mollie (Douglas) Sears,
Lance Sears, Clyde Matthews

Bottom Row: Booq Sears, Julia Campbell, Johnnie Sears

THIS FAMILY GROUP PICTURE WAS TAKEN ABOUT 1916 or around 1917.
ALLIED FAMILIES

Without attempting to explain the family relationship of the Sears-Harless double cousins, I submit the following information given to me by Winona Harless of Farmersville, Texas.

SEARS - HARLESS

Charles Dotson Harless was born in Huntsville, Alabama and was married there; Marriage Records, Madison County, Alabama, Book 4B, page 100. They came to Nevada, Texas in 1856.

CHARLEY DOTSON HARLESS

From the book, "Reminiscences of the Boys in Gray, 1861 - 1865", by Miss Mamie Yeary, Copyright, 1913.

C.D. Harless (deceased), Farmersville, Texas - Born 13 July 1832, in Alabama. Enlisted in Captain Bumpass' Company F, Fifth Texas Partisan Rangers. Was true to the South and staid with the army until the close of the war. He had many good qualities and was well liked by his comrades. In company with W. C. Robinson and L.T. Robinson was detailed to come to Texas, by Col. Martin, on some important matter connected with the army.

CHARLES DOTSON HARLESS, son of John and wife Catherine Mosier, and a brother to Mrs. Kit Sears, was born 13 July 1832, died 11 January 1898. Buried in Honaker Cemetery. Married Elizabeth McGregor on 19 March 1855. She was born September 1832 and died August 1920. Buried at Oddfellow Cemetery, Farmersville, Collin County, Texas.

1. Isham Houghton or Houden, born July 1858, died ______, buried in Odd Fellow Cemetery. Married Fannie Allison, 25 December 1882. She was born 16 April 1865, died ______. She was his first cousin. Marriage recorded in book 5, page 353, McKinney, Collin County, Texas. She was the daughter of William Thomas Allison and Rachel Ann Harless. They had the following children: Marvin, and Charles Welch and a daughter Anise, she died as an infant. Marvin Harless married Ivey Bell Mann and had a boy and a girl. Charles W. Harless married Jennie Yeary and had two girls and a boy.


Issue: One son, Raymond, born October 1890. She died during childbirth. She is buried in the Honaker Cemetery in Farmersville, Texas.


7. Infant daughter, born 1878, died in infancy.

Editors' Note:

There is a very excellent book on the Harless Family. Thanks to the author, Dr. J.I. Pritchard, I was permitted unrestricted use of it in this work so I quoted very freely from it in the historical background of the Harless family. If the reader cares to pursue the Harless ancestry, I suggest writing:

R.C. Harless  
Cabrillo Avenue  
Burlingame, California  94010

He publishes the bulletin for the Harless Association. Mr. Harless may also have copies of Dr. Pritchard's Book or might tell you where you can purchase a copy.

SEARS - HERNDON

Mrs. Ruth Herndon Shields, 227 Vance Street, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 27514, who is closely allied with both the Sears and the Barbee families of North Carolina has done extensive research in North Carolina and has printed several excellent works on North Carolina records. I am indebted to her for the following information on a brother of Christopher Sears:

This brother of Kit Sears was Joseph B. Sears, who had a grandson (marked with *) who is living and with whom I have recently corresponded. My thanks to Mrs. Shields for putting me in context with these North Carolina relatives. The following is a record of Joseph B. Sears' children:

Belfield Sears (born 1828) married Caroline Davis.
Jane Sears (born 1830) married Henry M. Cates.
Sarah Sears (born 1831).
Thomas C. Sears (born 1832), Storekeeper at Morrisville, North Carolina, married in Chatham County, North Carolina, 27 June 1870, Miss R.T. ("Chick") Jenkins, and had issue: Will T. Sears and Minnie Sears.
William Henry Sears (born 1834) went to Memphis, Tennessee, and married there.
Harmon Zachariah Sears (born 17 May 1835, died 21 January 1912), married in Chatham County, North Carolina, 20 December 1860, Louvenia Williams, (born 28 March 1838, died 29 March 1886) and had issue:
  - Joseph Sears
  - Cathen Lenora Sears
  - Elizabeth Penelope Sears, married Parrish
  - Rev. Harmon Christopher Sears* (age 90 in 1968 and lives in Apex, N.C.)
  - Myrtle Sears
Melvina Sears (born 1838) married in Orange County, North Carolina, 13 January 1857, Rufus Harwood.
Cornelia Ann Sears (born 1838) married in Wake County, North Carolina, 30 March 1857, Basil Markham and had six children.
Nancy Sears (born 1841) married John Maynard.
Sophronia Herndon was a daughter of Aquilla Herndon and his wife Mary Moore. Aquilla Herndon was a son of Benjamin Herndon and his wife Lydia Massey.

Benjamin Herndon was a brother of George Herndon who is the George whose will is recorded in Book C, page 88, Orange Wills. Both Benjamin and George are ancestors of Ruth Herndon Shields; both were captains in the American Revolution, from Orange County, North Carolina.
Closely allied to the Kit Sears family through Kit's cousin, J.D. Barbee, is a descendant Robert L. Doss of Denison, Texas. I submit a letter from him which may be of interest to the reader:

"So far as I know, there was never intermarriage between the Sears family and the Doss family. The Doss family is allied with the Sears family through the Barbee family.

I do not believe there have been any marriages between the Doss and Barbee families other than that between my great-grandparents.

Joseph Dorris Barbee, one of my great-great-grandfathers, was born in 1806, probably in Orange or Chatham County, North Carolina. He died in 1868 at Whitewright. His wife's name was Jane*, but her family name I do not know. They had seven children, as follows: William Barbee, James Barbee, Mary Barbee, John Barbee, Sarah Barbee, Martha Rebecca Barbee and Elizabeth Barbee.

Their sixth child, Martha Rebecca Barbee, one of my great-grandmothers, was born in Madison County, Alabama, 2 January 1844. She died 13 March 1908 at Sabinal, Texas. She was married to my great-grandfather, Thomas Joseph Doss, on 26 November 1867, at the residence of her parents, the Joseph Dorris Barbees', in Fannin County, Texas. Witnesses at the wedding were Christopher Sears and John Thompson. (I have only recently learned that she was born in Alabama rather than in Fannin County, Texas, where I had always understood her to have been born.)

I understand that the Barbee family and the Sears family were closely related not only in Texas, but also in Alabama and North Carolina. Joseph Dorris Barbee lived in Madison County, Alabama at the time of the 1840 Census, but he was not listed there in the 1830 census.

Thomas Joseph Doss was born near Edmonton, Kentucky, on 6 November 1838; he died at Whitewright, Texas 26 May 1921.

Another descendant of his has tentatively identified the father of Thomas Joseph Doss as being George W. Doss, who appears in a census record of the appropriate era near Edmonton, Kentucky. At the time of that census, George W. Doss was married to Mary Jane Duvall of Kentucky, who was apparently his second wife. My great-grandfather is not recalled to have made very many comments about members of his family in Kentucky; he never mentioned his step-mother favorably.

The mother of Thomas Joseph Doss was named Louisa, but I do not have her surname. She died when he was quite young, and the young boy was placed in the care of an aunt for whom he had little regard, and in or before 1857, he left her home and came to Kentuckytown, Texas, near Whitewright. He was here but a short time before joining a wagon train to California, on which he rode as a guard. He followed this occupation for more than three years, until shortly before the outbreak of the Civil War, when he returned to Texas and enlisted in Company G, 16th Texas Cavalry (Dismounted). He apparently thought he was joining a mounted unit because he took his best horse and saddle with him when he enlisted, only to have the Confederate Army take them for the use of an officer. The record in the Library of Congress in Washington states that he was paid for his horse "to the amount of $150.00". He was wounded twice and sent home twice, once after having been left on the battlefield as dead. However, he re-enlisted each time, and toward the end of the war served as an ambulance driver. I have always thought that this service of his probably prompted him to have my grandfather educated as a medical doctor. The 16th Texas Cavalry Regiment was a part of H.E. McCullough's Texas Division, which was in action in Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi.

* Editor's Note: Her name was Jane Kincaid
My great-grandfather's correct name was Thomas Joseph Doss, although some members of the family have referred to him as Thomas Jefferson Doss in recent years because of mistaken statements made in the old age of one of his surviving children.

Christopher Sears (Kit Sears) is buried in the Doss Cemetery between Whitewright and Orangeville in Fannin County, Texas. It is called the Doss Cemetery because my great-grandparents (Thomas Joseph Doss and Martha Rebecca Barbee Doss) owned the farm and the land upon which it is located, and lived there at the time they dedicated the tract of land as a cemetery. A number of Barbee's are buried there, and I regret to say that it has been allowed to grow up into a wilderness. The land (and the farm from which the cemetery was dedicated) was purchased by Thomas Joseph Doss, after his marriage to Martha Rebecca Barbee, from Christopher Sears.

With respect to the Doss Cemetery, numerous early settlers are buried there, but nobody has been buried there since around 1920. The farm upon which the cemetery is located is now owned by Mrs. Floyd Bassett of Whitewright, she having inherited it from her father, Dick Pennington, who bought it from my great-grandfather. Thomas Emerson Sears, Jr., and I have discussed clearing the cemetery, and we anticipate doing so and attempting to get it marked as the resting place of many of the area's pioneers.

You referred in your letter to Charles Doss in Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. There are a number of Dosses in Fannin County, but I do not know the relation between that branch of the family and my own. This sounds ridiculous since there are so few Dosses, and Whitewright and Bonham are so close together, but I have to plead ignorance in this respect. Legend has it that people with the name of Doss are descended from one lone Scotch immigrant (from which generalization I enter the self-serving plea on behalf of my forbears that some of the people bearing that name are negroes who apparently adopted it, as was customary one hundred years ago.)

Thomas Joseph Doss and Martha Rebecca Barbee Doss were each married one time only, that time being to each other. They had six children, all of whom are buried at Oak Hill Cemetery in Whitewright. Their children were as follows: Dr. William Joseph Doss (1868-1933), my grandfather; Louisa Martha (Lula May) Doss Hayter (1870-1914, no living descendants; Samuel Stanton Doss (1873-1954), never married; Edmund Thomas Doss (1876-1957), numerous living descendants; Alice Geraldine Doss Huddleston Johnson (1878-1921), no living descendants; and, Effye May Doss May (1884-1960), married the late Robert H. May of Whitewright, numerous living descendants.

My grandfather, William Joseph Doss, was the oldest child of Thomas Joseph Doss and Martha Rebecca Barbee Doss. He married Esther Geneva (Bessie) Thompson of Savoy, whose father, William Henry Thompson, and mother, Betsy Jane Parkhist Thompson, migrated to Texas from Illinois shortly after the Civil War. My grandparents had two children, Thomas Glenn Doss, my father, and Beuna Cecil Doss, my aunt, both of whom are living. My aunt is unmarried. My father married the late Capitola Fulkerson Doss of Bonham, who was descended from the Fulkerson family of Missouri, the Chester family of County Cork, Ireland, and the Castleberry and Abernathy families of Tennessee and Virginia. My parents had two children; myself and my sister, Geneva Claire Doss Simmons, who is married to James Gilbert Simmons, now of Vernon, but originally of Grayson County, Texas, where his family was among the pioneer settlers."

Editor's Note:

The present owner of the Dick Pennington Farm - originally belonging to and known as the Christopher Sears Farm is Mrs. Anna Pennington Bassett. She inherited it from her father who was a descendant of Christopher Sears. Anna was an adopted daughter but Dick loved and adored her as tho she were his own child.
# Pedigree Chart I

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Birth</th>
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<td><strong>Mary Elizabeth</strong></td>
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### Frank Sears
- **Born**: Oct 8, 1849
- **Died**: May 21, 1905
- **Place**: Madison Co., Ala.
- **Father**: Henry Sears Sr
- **Mother**: Mary (Mollie) Douglass

### Henry Sears Sr
- **Born**: about 1777
- **Married**: will 1794
- **Died**: Aug. 8, 1844
- **Place**: Orange Co., N.C.
- **Father**: Hem/ur Sears Sr

### Mary (Mollie) Douglass
- **Born**: Feb 24, 1804
- **Died**: July 29, 1881
- **Place**: Whitewright, Tex.
- **Father**: Christopher (Kit) Sears

### Christopher (Kit) Sears
- **Born**: Feb 24, 1804
- **Died**: July 29, 1881
- **Place**: N.C.

### Rose Barbee
- **Born**: about 1720
- **Married**: will Feb 1, 1830
- **Died**: signed deed June 6, 1830

### Margaret (Aggy) Barbee
- **Born**: Feb 24, 1804
- **Married**: Feb 28, 1828
- **Died**: July 20, 1881
- **Place**: Chatham Co.

### John Harless Sr.
- **Born**: 1747
- **Married**: 1815
- **Died**: will 1830

### John Harless
- **Born**: 1786
- **Married**: 1805
- **Died**: Oct 1839

### Mary (Polly) Harless
- **Born**: Oct 14, 1808
- **Married**: May 22, 1830
- **Died**: Madison Co., Ala.

### Mary (Polly) Harless
- **Born**: Oct 14, 1808
- **Died**: Oct 1839

### Nicholas (Nicholas) Moser
- **Born**: 1784
- **Married**: Aug 8, 1844
- **Died**: deceased by 1822

### Catherine (Catty) Moser
- **Born**: 1789
- **Married**: 1805
- **Died**: 1858

### Frederick Moser Sr.
- **Born**: 1796
- **Married**: 1830
- **Died**: deceased 1850

### George Loy
- **Born**: Oct 24, 1799
- **Died**: Catherine Faust

### Barbara (alive in 1798)
- **Born**: Mar 1800

### Elizabeth Loy
- **Born**: 1797
- **Married**: 1820
- **Died**: 1850

### Catherine (Tilmon) Loy
- **Born**: 1820
- **Married**: 1845

William A. Douglass

BORN— Oct. 3, 1824
WHERE— Anson Co. N.C.
WHEN MARRIED— Jan. 11, 1849
DIED— July 6, 1866
WHERE— Lacy, Ark.

Mary A. Douglass

BORN— Feb. 5, 1852
WHERE— Talbot Co. Ga.
WHEN MARRIED— May 11, 1871
DIED— June 16, 1934
WHERE— Merkel, Texas

NAME OF HUSBAND OR WIFE
Frank Sears

Mary F. Hardison

BORN— May 4, 1831
WHERE— Talbot Co. Ga.
DIED— Mar. 1, 1866
WHERE— Fannin Co. Tex.
Buried 1 1/2 mile from Kingston at McKnight Cemetery

Harry Hardison

BORN— 1791
WHERE— N.C.
WHEN MARRIED—
DIED— May 17, 1866 at age 75
WHERE— Lacy, Ark.

Decie (Dicy)

BORN— 1800
WHERE— Ga.
DIED— Dec. 20, 1862 at age 62
WHERE— Lacy, Ark.
In order for the reader to better understand our ancestral relationship, I am submitting the simple chart below which I have devised for my own convenience. In this arrangement I start with my oldest known ancestor and work to myself. You will notice that the parent's name always appears directly above the name of the child. NOTICE the child always assumes the name of his father. The number in parenthesis ( ) appearing in front of the name is for referral to the numbers on the large PEDIGREE CHART (family tree). These ancestors are the people referred to in the narrative bearing the same name as appears on the PEDIGREE CHART #1 - starting at end of chart but beginning of chapter on Christopher Sears.

CHRISTOPHER SEARS' DESCENDING CHART

(36) William Barbee and wife Elizabeth had a son
(18) John Barbee and wife Ann Miller had a daughter
( 9) Rose Barbee and husband Henry Sears had a son
( 4) Barbee Sears and wife Peggy Barbee had a son
( 2) Christopher Sears and wife Polly Harless had:
( 1) → Frank Sears and wife Mollie Douglass

(Here, substitute whichever of Kit's ten children is your ancestor.)

As you know, each person has two maternal and two paternal lines. Whether the line is maternal or paternal depends upon who is speaking. The above chart would be the paternal chart for any child of Kit Sears.

Using the above as an example and referring to the PEDIGREE CHART you may follow Kit's children's various lines which are on PEDIGREE CHART #1; for example:

Harless Chapter 24, 12, 6, 3, then the Moser – Loy Chapter (28, 14, 7 and 30, 15 numbers on PEDIGREE CHART #1.

As the reader knows, the paternal line means ancestors or relatives of an individual's father while those of his mother are known as his maternal lines. (Of course, each time there is a marriage, the branches of the tree divide and other family names come into the line. As is the custom, on the PEDIGREE CHARTS, I have placed all paternal lines on the top branch of each union.)

Do not be confused by starting with the end and the largest numbers on the Pedigree Chart. I do this because in the narrative I naturally started with the ancestors who first came to America, and relate to our present generation.

A blank PEDIGREE CHART is included for the use of the owner of this book. If you are descended from Kit Sears you may complete your line by beginning with yourself (use pencil as it may be necessary to make corrections) and fill in blanks with your parents, gr. parents, etc., as far as you know - then, if you need help you may refer to the genealogical section where you may "locate" yourself or your parents and then "trace" to the child of Kit from whom you are descended. It is at this point that you will connect to PEDIGREE CHART #1.
On Chart #1 beginning with number 1 and going across is the direct line of Kit Sears' children. Instead of Frank you may substitute the name of any of Kit's ten children who had issue and the chart remains the same except the name of the spouse which should also be changed.

I have included, for your information, my maternal grandmother's Chart #2 because she was not only Kit's daughter-in-law but his step-daughter as well; since Kit (Number 2 on Chart 1) the widower, married Number 3 on Chart 2, the widow Douglass.

The Hardison-Douglass Chapter is about the people on Chart #2 and these people, as I have said previously, are not blood kin to Kit Sears' descendants. Theirs is only a "step-relationship"; that is, of course except for the descendants of Frank Sears, my grandfather. These Hardison-Douglass relatives would be Frank's children's maternal lines.

On the PEDIGREE CHART it is possible to place only the direct line; that is parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc. However, in researching and reading, I have found it much easier to understand family relationships if I have the names of the children of a union listed. Therefore, for easy reference, I have made the following Sibling Lists.

The numbers refer to the parent's names on the PEDIGREE CHARTS. When known, the name of the child's spouse is included. When a question mark (?) is used, that indicates I do not know for a certainty, but have reason to believe that the name submitted is the individual's name because I have seen a marriage record by that name or found the two names related in some other genealogical source. Of course, some children had more than one spouse so the record will no doubt be partially incomplete. Nevertheless, it is most unusual for any family to know the brothers and sisters of as many generations as I have been fortunate enough to discover. So, before the record is lost again, I list the children or siblings of our ancestors.

By using these Sibling Lists the reader may be able to locate aunts, uncles or cousins that he has heard his parents refer to. In these lists I start with the first couple on the chart and go to the end of the tree.

**Sibling Lists for Pedigree Chart #1**

Children of Number 1, Frank Sears and Mollie Douglass:

- Esca Sears - died as infant
- Arthur Sears - m. May Winter
- Eula Sears
- Odie Sears - m. Dan Matthews
- Della Sears - m. R.E. Campbell
- Alex Sears - m. Amy Estes
- Clyde Sears - m. Glen Lassiter
- Mossie Sears - m. Newt Hatfield
- Claude (Bud) Sears - m. Lo Lassiter
- Pearl Sears - died as infant
- Lila Mae (Pet) Sears - m. Virgle Touchstone

Beginning here by following the *, the reader may trace the ancestors of children of 2 and 3 (Christopher (Kit) Sears and Mary (Polly) Harless); their children were:

*John Barbee Sears - m. Margaret Catherine Douglass
*Joseph Hubbard Sears - m. Margaret McGregor (McGregor)
*Margaret Catherine Sears - m. Alford Medlin
*Mary Evelyn Sears - m. Lucian Pinkney Montgomery
*Nancy C. Sears died at age 17; Robert Donnel died unmarried
*Martha Frances Sears - m. Billie Aldridge
*Elizabeth (Betty) Sears - m. William Pennington

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Children of 2 and 3 (Christopher Sears and Mary (Polly) Harless) cont'd:

*William Thomas Sears - m. Mary Everhart, 2nd Kate
*Henry Christopher Sears - m. Bell Hill
*Rosanna Rebecca Sears - m. Joe Harris
*George Francis (Frank) Sears - m. Mary A. (Mollie) Douglass

Children of 4 and 5 (Barbee Sears and Peggy Barbee)

Robert T. Sears - m. Elizabeth Page
Tempy Harwood Sears
Joseph B. Sears - m. Sophronia Herndon
*Christopher (Kit) Sears - m. Mary (Polly) Harless
Berbie Sears - m. Nancy Olive (?)
Rosie Sears - m. ______ Council
Nancy Sears - m. Jessie Williams
Kelbye Sears - m. ______ Mulkhollend

Children of 6 and 7 (John Harless and Catherine (Caty) Moser)

Catherine Harless - m. A.J. Middleton
Thomas S. Harless - m. E.M. Sharp
John W. Harless - m. Elizabeth A. Terry
Rachel Harless - m. William T. Allison
Henry Harless - m. Mary Hermer (?)
Elizabeth Harless - m. William B. Milam
Charles D. Harless - m. Ann Elizabeth McGregor
Charlotte (Lotty) Harless - m. Caswell Bromit
Nancy Harless - m. Robert McCaffey
*Mary (Polly) Harless - m. Christopher Sears

Children of 8 and 9 (Henry Sears and Rose Barbee)

John Sears
Sarah (Sally) Sears - m. John Harrod
Edmund (Edward) Sears
Nancy Sears
*Berbee or Barby Sears - m. Peggy (Margaret) Barbee
Henry (Harry) Sears - m. Elizabeth Chandler (?)
Albert Sears - m. Mary Castlebury

Children of 10 and 11 (Joseph Barbee and wife Elenor)

Willard Barbee
*Peggy Barbee - m. Barbee Sears
#Mark Barbee - m. Temperence (2) Lena Ford (3) Widow Merrit
(Parents of J.D. Barbee who came to Whitewright)
Ass Barbee - m. Polly Hudson
Polly Barbee - m. ______ Beasley (She may have been married before)
Doris Barbee - (uncle of J.D., who came to Whitewright) (also uncle of Kit)
Nancy Barbee (left will January 1835 - unmarried)
Rosey Barbee

Children of 12 and 13 (Henry Harless and wife Charity)

David Harless - m. Elizabeth
Mary Harless - m. ______ Reddnour
Susannah Harless - m. ______ Middleton
Henry Harless - m. ______ Margaret Basore
*John Harless - m. Catherine (Caty) Moser
Hannah Harless - m. ______ Wilson
Nancy Harless - m. ______ Talmon
Daniel Harless
Sarah Harless - m. ______ Wall
Phillip Harless - m.
Elizabeth Harless
Children of 14 and 15 (Nicolas Moser and Elizabeth Loy)

Joel Moser  
John Moser  
*Catherine Moser - m. John Harless  
Daniel Moser - m.  
Rachel Moser - m. John Lawler (Lollar)  
Mary Moser - m. George Seaton (Leaton)

Children of 16 and 17 (Joseph Sears and Mary )

Although I cannot prove that the Henry of this family married (1st) Jane Watts and (2nd) Rose Barbee, I am convinced that this is the case, the more I explore the records. The reader may wonder why Henry's marriage to his second wife, Rose, is not at Christ Church where all the other records are. I don't know, maybe they are there and the researcher overlooked them. I know that Henry and Rose moved from Virginia to North Carolina at their marriage or soon after and this would account for their children not being in the Christ Church Registry. Another fact supporting my claim that Jane died and that Henry later married Rose Barbee is that Jane is not mentioned as having anymore children by Henry after 1755. Her death could be recorded in Christ Church but, when the records were searched, we were not looking for her but for Rose.

Therefore, I submit Joseph Sears and wife Mary as parents of our Henry. These families lived in Middlesex County, Virginia and all these records appear in Christ Church, Middlesex, Virginia. These are the children of 16 and 17:

Joseph Sears - baptized 15 Nov 1713, died 17 Jan 1720  
Violetta Sears - baptized Dec 1715, born 1 Jan 1715, died 12 Aug 1716  
*Harry or Henry Sears - born 19 May 1717, baptized 23 June 1717  
Thomas Sears - born 18 May 1719, baptized 14 June 1719  
Joseph Sears - born 18 May 1721, baptized 4 June 1721  
Mary Sears - born 27 Dec 1722, baptized 27 Jan 1723  
Frances Sears - born 2 Jan 1724, baptized 7 Feb 1724  
Betty Sears - born 1 Jan 1726, baptized 29 Jan 1726  
Thomas Sears - born 19 Apr 1730, baptized 3 May 1730

Children of 18 and 19 (John Barbee and Ann Miller)

Christopher Barbee  
John Barbee  
Joseph Barbee  
Frances Barbee  
*Rose Barbee - m. Henry Sears  
Mary Barbee - m.  
William Barbee - m.

Children of 24, and 25 (John Phillip Harless and Margaretha (Margaret) Preiss

Phillip Harless - m.  
Mertin Harless - m. Catherine Lingel  
David Harless - m.  
*Henry Harless - m. (1st) Charity, (2nd) Elizabeth  
Edmund Emanuel Harless - m. Elizabeth Siler  
Margaretha Harless - m. Samuel Bell (?)  
Mary Harless - m.

Children of 28 and 29 (Frederick Moser and wife Barbarey)

John Moser  
Frederick Moser, Jr.  
Jacob Moser  
Michael Moser  
Abraham Moser  
Phillip Moser
Children of 28 and 29 (cont'd)

Nicholas Moser
Caty Moser - m. __________ Kimbro
Barbarey Moser - m. __________ Huffman
Magdelane Moser - m. __________ Birtcher
Mary Moser - m. __________ Kek
Lizzy Moser - m. __________ Sharp
Eve Moser - m. __________ Sharp

Children of 30 and 31 (George Loy and Mary Elizabeth) (Tilman) (?)

John Loy
Jacob Loy
George Loy
Henry Loy
William Loy
Sally Loy

*Elizabeth Loy - m. Nicholas (Nicolas) Moser
Caty Loy - m. __________ Albright
Margaret Loy - m. __________ Clapp
Rachel Loy - m. __________ Albright

Children of 36 and 37 (William Barbee and wife Elizabeth) (2nd wife, Mary Gray) (?)

William Barbee (baptized 1687)
*John Barbee - m. Ann Miller
Ann Barbee - m. __________ Morgan
Hannah (died infant)

Children of 60 and 61 (Martin Loy and Catherreny Faust) (?)

Mary Loy
Henry Loy
*George Loy

In these sibling charts I have included the names of children known to be children of the respective unions. The asterisk (*) before a name denotes blood ancestor of Kit Sears' twelve (12) children and consequently are direct descendants of these people. If you have difficulty understanding these charts at first do not feel discouraged. Their place "clears up" with use and I am sure they will have little significance for anyone upon first reading.

SIBLING LISTS FOR PEDIGREE CHART II

The following people are not blood kin of any living descendants of Kit's children except Frank:

Number 1 - See names of #1 on Sibling List for PEDIGREE CHART #1.

Children of 2 and 3 (William A. Douglass and Mary E. Herdison)

John H. Douglass (died as teen-age boy)
*Mary A. (Mollie) Douglass - m. Frank Sears
Emett Duncan Douglass - died young
Alexander Luther Douglass - m. (1st) Julia Slack, (2nd) Nora
Walter Emmet Douglass - m. (1st) Emma Horton, (2nd) Dora

Children of 4 and 5 (William Douglass and Catherine McLeod)

*William A. Douglass - m. Mary E. Herdison
Dr. John C. Douglass - m. Sarah _______. He died in Civil War.
Mary Douglass - m. __________ Bass
Margaret Douglass - m. __________ Birch (Later, maybe, a Mr. Herdison)
Sarah Douglass - m. (1st) William Martin, (2nd) L.J. Harwell
Children of 6 and 7 (Harvy Hardison and Decie or Dicy Luther Hardison - m. Mary Smith
*Mary E. Hardison - m. W.A. Douglass
Jane Hardison - m. M.P. Johnson
Sarah M. Hardison - m. ______ Atwell
John C. Hardison - died in Civil War unmarried

Children of 8 and 9 (William Douglass and wife ______ Stewart )(?)

William A. Douglass - m. Mary E. Hardison
(I do not know his brothers and sisters for sure.)

Children of 10 and 11 (Norman McLeod and Mary Campbell)

*Catherine McLeod - m. William Douglass
Alexander McLeod
Duncan McLeod
Margaret McLeod - m. ______ Fields
Jane McLeod - m. John C. McCaa
Isabell McLeod - m. ______ McNabb
Christian McLeod
Ann Beverly McLeod
Elizabeth McLeod
Angus McLeod
Mary McLeod
John McLeod

EDITOR'S NOTES:

Reference - Children of 10 and 11 (Joseph Barbee and wife Elenor). In recent information from Mrs. Ruth H. Shields of Chapel Hill, N.C., I learned that Mark Barbee was born 17 January 1781 and died after 1850 census was taken and that he had three wives, as mentioned previously. From my notes I notice that Henry Sears was bondsmen for Mark's marriage to Temperance. This would be the Henry Sears, Jr., who was a brother to Barbee Sears. Mrs. Shields says that Mark Barbee's Bible lists Joseph D. as his third child born 26 Nov 1806 in Chatham County, N.C. She says her friend is a descendant of Mark through his oldest son, Abimeleck, and that J.D. Barbee married about 1831 to Jane __________ who died in 1832 in Memphis of plague on the way to Texas. (Jane was a Kincaid and J.D. Barbee was named for his grandfather Joseph and his Uncle Dorris, according to Wynona Harless of Clarksville, Texas.)

In the children of 16 and 17, notice that names Number 1 and 4 are repeated in children born later; this means that those two children died young and their names were used again. This was a common practice at that time. Also take note of the date of Henry's birth (1717). This would fit into marriage and death dates of our Henry. Henry's marriage to Jane Watts was 7 Dec 1738. Some twenty years later, I think this Henry was the Henry Sears who married our Rose Barbee.

Reference - Children of 24 and 25 (John Phillip Harless and Margaretha Preiss), English spelling of Prise is Price.

If you are a direct descendant of any of the children of Kit Sears you are eligible for membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution through our Revolutionary Ancestor, Henry Harless, Sr., and his wife Charity. For reference you may use DAR #527147 which is the number of my mother, Mrs. Della Sears Campbell.
Appendix

CONTAINING LEGAL DOCUMENTS

Some are photostats of originals, others are typed copies.

When documents are lengthy, only portions are included.
In the name of God Amen: The fifth day of January Anno Domini 1720 J. William Barbee of the County of Middlesex being ill and weak in body, but of sound mind and disposing mind and memory so, make and publish and declared this my last will and testament in manner and form following (that is to say) first I commend my immortal soul into the hands of Almighty God, and my body to the earth to be decently buried in such manner as my executors hereafter named shall think convenient — and all and singular my worldly goods, I give and devise and bequeath as followeth viz:

Imprimis: I give devise and bequeath all my plantation messuages land and hereditaments whatsoever lying in Middlesex County in Virginia unto my son William Barbee.

Item: I give and bequeath to my son John Barbee one shilling sterling.

Item: I give and bequeath to my daughter Ann Morgan one shilling sterling.

Item: As to the remaining part of my estate of what nature kind or quality whatsoever, I will and devise after all my just debts are paid and the charges of my funeral defrayed that it be equally divided amongst my children which God has blessed me with by my last wife. And lastly I do appoint and devise Matthews Kemp, George Hurdon (Herdon) and William Blackbourne executors of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

Signed and sealed in present of

Hugh or Hough Roack or Loack
Filbert Umphris
Edward Blackbourne

At a court held in Middlesex County the 7th day of March 1720 Matthews Kemp, George Harding two of the executors within named produced this will in Court and made oath hereunto and the said will proved in Court by the oaths of Hugh Roach and Edward Blackbourne two of the witness hereto who made oath that they saw the within named William Barbee deceased fill in and declare the within will to be his last will and testament and that — I say he was then in perfect sense and memory.

Clerk Wm. Standard CR CRT

The will below was the will of a brother to our ancestor John Barbee.

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN the thirteenth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty two I William Barbee of Essex County being in perfect health and memory thanks be to God therefore — calling to mind the mortality of my Body and knowing it is appointed for all mento die to make this my Last will and Testament & it is my will and desire that my Debts and funeral charges be first of all paid ITEM I give all my estate after my Death to Ann Barbee to be at her owndisposal at her death IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

Signed and in the presence of

Isaac Hawes
John (his X mark) Comerle
Michal (his X mark) Comerle

AT A COURT held for Essex County at Tappa the 7th day of May 1757 — This Will was presented in Court by the Excutrix within named who made oath according to Law the same being fully proved by the Oaths of all the Witnesses hereto is ordered to be Recorded and is truly recorded.

Test A Copy-Teste:

William Barbee (L.S.)

Signed and in the presence of us

Isaac Hawes
John (his X mark) Comerle
Michal (his X mark) Comerle

A Copy-Teste:

John Lee Cl Cur

Will Book No. 10, pg 147.
The name of God Amen. John Bredell of Essex county being at this present of perfect sense, and having a material interest in the things following, doth first declare the Almighty God my sole hope in heaven and earth, and his most powerful knowledge in the affairs of mankind, as for my immortal soul I desire I should be taught in the right way, that I may pursue my longing to do all my God and earthly and what I have stored up and desire being justly disposed for and during his natural life to be disposed of among my children as my wife shall think convenient at his death. I believe God will do his heavenly will and keep the things fit to be done. I am of the opinion that my estate shall not be divided among my children but that they shall take any sum and thereby I appoint my whole trust in my whole and the share of the interest in the testament not being Touching any names in other legacies whatever, I hereby make no sign or oath for what I have at my hands, or let my will this tenth day of February in the year of Our Lord thousand and ninety-two.

John Bredell

James Pyper

James Ingraff

John Anderson

The said John Bredell, for being born at Tappahannock on the 19th day of February, anno Domini 1750, the present 7th year of the reign of John Bredell, deceased, the last day of the same month and year, adsessed in bond by the bondsmen therein named who, in such words are hereby ordered to be sealed and securely recorded.


County, June 4, 1757-1777.
WILL OF HENRY SEARS

In the name of God, Amen,

I, Henry Sears, of the County of Orange in the province of North Carolina, planter, being sick and weak in Body but perfect in Mind and Memory, thanks be given unto God, calling unto mind the Mortality of my Body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament, that is to say, principally and first of all I give and Recommend my soul into the hands of Almighty that gave it and my Body I recommend to the Earth, to be buried in decent Christian burial at the discretion of Executrix and Executor here after named, nothing doubting but at the General Resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God and as touching such wordly estate wherewith it has pleased God to Bless me in this life I give, devise, and dispose of in the following manner and form after my just debts are paid... first, I lend to my dear beloved wife Rose Sears my three negroes names Phebe, Milley, and Reubin with their increase provided any should be. Furthermore, I lend her all the rest of my Estate whatsoever both Real and Personal during her widowhood and no longer, also it is my will that when my wife Rose Sears doth marry or die a widow, that all my Estate in goods and chattels and negroes both real and Personal Estate shall be equally divided between my Beloved Sons and Daughters named John Sears, Salley Sears, Edward Sears, Nancy Sears, Barby Sears, and Henry Sears, share and share a like which I give and bequeath unto my sons and Daughters equally and I likewise constitute and make and ordain my dear Beloved wife Rose Sears and John Barbee Junior my soul executrix and Executor of this my Last Will and Testament and I do hereby utterly disallow revoke and Disannul all and every other former Testament, Wills, Legacies, Bequeaths, and Executions by me in any wise before willed and Bequeathes, Rattifying and confirming this and no other to be my Last Will and Testament in Witness whereof I have hear unto set my hand and seal this Eighth day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand Seven hundred and sixty-eight (1768).

Signed, Sealed, Published, Pronounced and Delivered and Declared by the said Henry Sears as his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who in his presence and the presence of each other have here unto subscribed our names:

(Signed) Henry Sears
(SEAL)

Mark Morgan
Benjamin Hart
William Barbee

Orange County
May, 1774

The Execution of the will within was affirmed to in open Court by the affirmation of William Barbee on the subscribing witnesses thereto and ordered to be recorded... Test.

F. Nash, C.C.

NORTH CAROLINA WILLS, Orange County, N.C. Will Book A., pages 150-151
WILL OF BARBEE SEARS

In the name of God, Amen I Barbee Sears of Chatham County and the state of North Carolina being of sound perfect mind & memory blessed be God do this day the 8th day of August in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and forty four make and publish this my last will and testament in manner following that is to say -

1st Item I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Margaret Sears one negro man named Col and one negro woman by the name of Delia and her child and one small girl named Martha and two bed & furniture & two chairs horse and two cow and calves one table and ??? my kitchen furniture and one year support or provision during her natural life or widowhood.

2nd Item I also give to my son Robert Sears one negro boy by the name of Nathan to him & his heirs forever

3rd Item I give to my daughter Tempy Harwood one negro girl by the name of Caroline one bed & furniture one cow and calf to her & her heirs forever

4th Item I give to my daughter Nellie Mulkholland thirty dollars out of my estate or the lawful heirs of her body and the balance of my estate after payment of my just debts to be equally divided between Joseph Sears Christopher Sears Barbee Sears Robert Sears Rosia Council Tempy Harwood Nancy Williams and Nellie Mulkholland is to be to their lawful heirs of their body then a living and hereby make and ordain my worthy son Robert Sears executor of this my last will and testament in witness whereof I the said Barbee Sears have this my last will and testament set my hand & seal this the day and year above written signed (?) in the presence of us

Bury (?) Harwood Barbie Sears ( ) (mark) (SEAL)
Henry Williams

Chatham County November Sessions 1844 this certify that the foregoing last will and testament of Barbee Sears (has been) duly proved in open court by the oath of Roy Harwood X a subscribing witness hereto (?) and ordered to be recorded whereupon Robert Sears the Executor therein named appeared in open court & were duly qualified

Teste N.A. Steoman C.C.C.

EDITORS' NOTE: Since Barbee Sears widow Margaret Sears did not leave a will the court has a record of her estate papers. I am including a photo-stat of the first two pages of the original document for the readers benefit. However, since the list is long, I have had the entire inventory typed for ease of reading and to conserve space. These two people - the above Barbee Sears and the following Margaret Sears, were the parents of our ancestor Christopher Sears of Whitewright. The administrator, Robert T. Sears, was Christopher's oldest brother who later made at least one trip to Texas to visit Kit.
CHATHAM COUNTY.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That Robt seas Tenny

are held and firmly bound unto the State of North Carolina, in the sum of Eight hundred Dollars, to be paid to the said State; to which payment well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents. Sealed with our seals, and dated this 9th day of Nov 1852.

THE CONDITION OF THE ABOVE OBLIGATION IS SUCH, That if the above bounden

Phtt seas

Administrat or of all and singular the Goods and Chattels, Rights and Credits of Margaret deceased, do make, or cause to be made, a true and perfect inventory of all and singular the Goods and Chattels, Rights and Credits of the said deceased, which have or shall come to the hands, knowledge or possession of the said Robt Seas or into the hands or possession of any person or persons for

and the same so made do exhibit, or cause to be exhibited, to our said County Court of Chatham, within ninety days after the date of these PresentS, and the same Goods, Chattels and Credits, and all other Goods, Chattels and Credits of the said deceased, at the time of his death, or which at any time hereafter, shall come into the hands or possession of the said Robt Seas or into the hands or possession of any person or persons for

do well and truly administer according to law: And further do make or cause to be made, a true and just account of said Administration within the time required by the Act of Assembly, after the date of these Presents, and all the rest and residue of the said Goods, Chattels and Credits, which shall be found remaining in the hands of, or due from the said Administrators shall deliver and pay unto such person or persons respectively, as the same shall become due, pursuant to the true intent and meaning of the Act of Assembly in that case made and provided: And if it shall appear that any Will or Testament was made by the deceased, and the Executor or Executors therein named do exhibit the same in Court, making a request to have it allowed and approved of accordingly, if the said

Robt Seas

above bounden, being thereunto required, do render and deliver the said Letters of Administration, (approbation of such Testament being first had and made in the said Court) then this obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in the presence of

[Signatures]
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<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Price</th>
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This is the property sale at Margaret Sears Dec'd by R.T. Sears, Administrator, this the 29 day of November, 1852.

One lot of Corn #2.5 per B.
5 Barrels of Corn 2.10 per b.
5 " " " 2.15
5 " " " 2.15
The Residue 2.15
5 Barrels short #1.00
The Residue $00 99 3/4
One lot of shucks
Shuck in the house
1 Cutting Box
1 Hog in the pen
1 sow
Three first choice hogs $7.05
Three " " 7.10
Three " " 6.20
The residue $4 - 85
One hog in the woods
Four shoats $2.65
Cotton per hundred $2.50
1 bed stead & bed etc.
1 " " "
1 Cupboard
5 bushels of wheat $065
5 " " "
5 " " "
Residue .65
1 Pitcher
1 "
1 Set of cups and saucers
1 " " "
1 Sugar Dish
(?) Baskets
two baskets and two bottles
One cow with the yoke
One bell cow
One unmarked cow
White back yearling
Milk and sider Back cow
One red Heifer
One white heifer
One steer
One fodder stock
One " "
One " "
One damaged stack
One potato patch
First yearling in the lot
Second yearling
Two dishes
One "
5 tea spoon
6 Plates
1 Plate & Pitcher
1 Cream pot
Bowl and plates
Two plates etc.
Bowl and salt cellar
One scythe and cradle
One hammer
One Bowl
One bag of wool
Bag of cotton
One lot of Glass
One lot of apples
One figured counterpane

C. Barbee 20.45
T.A. Jones
" "
" "
" "
Jesse Williams 64.50
" 5.00
" 3.00
Lewis Yates 1.50
George Beavers 1.70
Belfield Sears .25
Henry Williams 8.54
James F. O'Kelly 7.00
John R. Johnson 21.15
Kennon Jones 21.30
Kerner Rigby 18.60
Wm. Marrard 14.55
John B. Sears 1.30
Kerner Rigby 10.60
John B. Sears 58.00
Carless Yates 11.40
Henderson Munholland 13.50
John Munholland 3.50
John B. Sears 17 1/2
Lemuel Morgan 20
Jane Sears 25
Lemuel Morgan 20
Fletch Barbee 16
Ruffin Morgan 18
Belfield Sears 50
John Castlebury 9.50
" 10.35
" " 8.75
Hermon Herndon 9.35
" " 9.10
John Castlebury 6.00
Dr. John Alison 6.85
John Castlebury 3.40
T.A. Jones 2.40
George Beavers 2.15
P.A. Jones 2.50
John B. Sears 30
Kerner Rigby 1.40
John Castlebury 5.00
" 4.00
James Parish 17
Lemuel Morgan 35
Bilfield Sears 12 1/2
George Beavers 30
Bilfield Sears 18
Ruben Herndon 10
Lemuel Morgan 30
Bilfield Sears 12 1/2
Lemuel Morgan 15
Bilfield Sears 2.80
" " 22
Henderson Munholland 22
John Munholland 2.71
Ruffin Morgan 18
James Wilson 25
Jesse Williams 25
Winney Parish 70

90
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Buyer Name</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>One figured counterpane</td>
<td>James O'Kelley</td>
<td>1.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One counterpane</td>
<td>James Wilson</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One &quot;</td>
<td>Henderson Maholland</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One bed quilt</td>
<td>R.T. Weatherspoon</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One spread</td>
<td>Murray Upchurch</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One bed quilt</td>
<td>John Maholland</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One &quot;</td>
<td>Jesse Williams</td>
<td>1.39</td>
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<tr>
<td>One counterpane</td>
<td>Briggs Harwood</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>One &quot;</td>
<td>Wm. A. Barbee</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One pair of socks</td>
<td>Billfield Sears</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>One basket</td>
<td>John Maholland</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>One &quot;</td>
<td>Jesse Williams</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One tablecloth</td>
<td>Conon Devis</td>
<td>1.23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three chears</td>
<td>James Parish</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One bed cord</td>
<td>Corliss Yates</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three cheers</td>
<td>Belfield Sears</td>
<td>1.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One &quot;</td>
<td>P.A. Jones</td>
<td>2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One lot of sheep @1.01</td>
<td>John B. Sears</td>
<td>5.05</td>
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<tr>
<td>One pair cords</td>
<td>George Beavers</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One &quot;</td>
<td>Billfield Sears</td>
<td>31</td>
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<td>Tongue and shears</td>
<td>Briggs Harwood</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One hoe</td>
<td>Henry Williams</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>One quart pot</td>
<td>James Wilson</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>One skillet</td>
<td>James F. O'Kelley</td>
<td>22</td>
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<td>One lot of leather</td>
<td>Harmon Sears</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>One bucket</td>
<td>Aulston Morgan</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>One coffee pot</td>
<td>Belfield Sears</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One ladle</td>
<td>Kerner Rigsby</td>
<td>39.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strainer etc.</td>
<td>John Maholland</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One hand saw</td>
<td>Belfield Sears</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One spider and lif</td>
<td>John B. Sears</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One oven and lif</td>
<td>William B. Sears</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waffle irons</td>
<td>Charles Councell</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One lot of</td>
<td>W.J. Sears</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One lot of tin</td>
<td>Belfield Sears</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One pepper mill</td>
<td>Bartlett Sears</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One pot rack</td>
<td>William Roberts</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>One pot rack</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>One cane</td>
<td>John B. Sears</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flesh forks etc.</td>
<td>Levy Baucom</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flat irons</td>
<td>Belfield Sears</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two jars</td>
<td>John B. Sears</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two trays etc.</td>
<td>Lewis Howard</td>
<td>39</td>
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<tr>
<td>One iron wedge</td>
<td>Jobson Morton</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>One pole etc.</td>
<td>John Maholland</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One noggin etc.</td>
<td>Fletcher Barbee</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One churn</td>
<td>Andy Ellis</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>One Clock Real</td>
<td>Benjamin Smith</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two tubes etc.</td>
<td>Harmon Herndon</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>One plggin</td>
<td>John B. Sears</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One axe</td>
<td>Briggs Harwood</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One axe</td>
<td>Wm. Roberts</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One grub hoe</td>
<td>James Wilson</td>
<td>27.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two weeding hoes</td>
<td>John B. Sears</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One plane</td>
<td>Berry Mason</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One plane</td>
<td>Henderson Maholland</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One froe</td>
<td>John B. Sears</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One set of plow gear</td>
<td>James Wilson</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One plane hoe</td>
<td>Archibald Bisby</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One drawing knife</td>
<td>John R. Johnson</td>
<td>02.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One garden of greens</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One chamber pot</td>
<td>John B. Sears</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Salt by the bushel, 80¢ per bushel  | Gideon Morton  | 1.60  
One pot gourd            | Ruffin Morgan   | 16   
One lot of tobacco       | Canon Davis    | 25¢  
One hatchet              | George Beavers  | 05   
1 soap trough            |                | 16   
Meal                     |                |       
One total of chickens    | John R. Tonsen | 5.00 
Onions                   | Wm. E. Howard  | 15   
lard                      | Ruffin Morgan  | 15   
Two small barrels        | George Beavers  | 05   
One lot of tallow        | Gibson Martin  | 06½  
One coffee mill          | Jackson William| 23   

WILL OF MARTIN LOY - 1779

In the name of God, Amen. I, Martin Loy of Orange County being very sick and weak but in perfect mind and memory thanks be to God for calling unto mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last will and testament, that is to say principally and first I give & recommend my soul into the hand of Almighty God that gave it and my body to the earth to be buried in christian burial at the discretion of my Executors. Nothing doubting at the general Resurrection, I shall reside(s) in the same again by the mighty power of God and as tough-ing (?) such worldly estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me in this life I give devise and dispose of the same to my executors to pay my Debts out of my Estate and to my daughter Mary I give and devise two Cows & Calves to my beloved wife Catherrin I give all my miserable Estate during her widowhood and live on the place and after her demise the land and plantation belongs to my son Henry Loy and also I give to my son George Loy one acre of land joining his land one the south corner and likewise constitute, make & ordain Jacob Albright & George Loy my sole Executors of my last will and testament.

In witness where I have herewith in my hand tested this 15th day of July 1777

his ( )
Martin Loy (Seal)
mark ( )
Signed sealed & delivered in the presence of us -
Test -
Henry Garhurt (?)
(mark)
Isaac C. Sharp
(mark)

Orange May Court - 1779

The Executor of the above will was duly proved in open court by the oaths of Henry Garhurt & Isaac Sharp the ?? Witness thereunto & order to be Recorded

Test -
N. R.(illegible) C.C.
Whereas Robert Cowden has for some time past reported and said that William Ledgerwood was a Known he does now acknowledge it to be false Report and that he had no grounds for saying so of him. On Wednesday the
this 30th day of March, 1792

Thos!
Hugh Young
John Young

The record held for Augustus Bowerly being the 10th 1792
The Pretendition of Scandalous Words spoken by
Robert Cowden of William Ledgerwood was Recorded by
Oral of John Young one of the Overseers thereof Ordered to be
Recorded

In the name of God, Amen.

Twenty-fifth day in the year of our Lord 1792. I Philip
Huntly of the County of Augusta in the State of Virginia,
being being very sick and Weak of Body but of sound Mind and
Memory hoped to God for it and knowing that the Certainty
of Death men one to die do make Ordains and Appoint to
my last Will and Testament that is to say First and
Principal I give and Bequeath my Soul to God who gave it and my Body to be Commind to
the earth to be Buried in a Christian Manner and decent manner
at the direction of my Wife and my Executors Mathew
Huntly and Augusta Dyer (whom I appoint legatees)
and sole Executors in the said Will with said Testament Was
for that worldely estate it hath. And also for the same in this life with I give devise and disposer of the same
on the following Tenement and for ever first devise and
Lawfull debts may be paid estate I have legally Oath
Imporsons I give and Bequeath to Elizabeth my dau.
Beloved Wife her Bed and furniture and the House and all the Cars that is built on the Plantation and all my Dwelling house the slave that is in it any waggon my still The Mill Of falls and all the Cars that is in my Land at the Present during her Natural Life of the Beroniens her Widows hood but if she can not continue her Widowhood the she shall have the third Part of the Plantation that is mine to my Dwelling house and the Eighth Part of Well Ground estate I shall assign given to her. The Dwelling house and the third Part of the Plantation to her a Dwelling she natural life only. I give it Aguesworth to my will beloved son Philip Barlowe and certain lands on siting back called College Ollison in Botetol County to play to my Executors twenty five Pounds three years after my decease I give it Aguesworth to my well beloved son David Barry three hundred acres of land on Pame and the Choneland County to him and his heirs forever. I pay my Executors. My Executors thirty pounds three years after my decease. I give it Aguesworth to my well beloved son Henry Barry thirty one hundred pounds to him and his heirs forever. I pay my Executors. My Executors thirty one hundred pounds to him and his heirs forever. I give it Aguesworth to my well beloved Daughter I gave you twenty eight Pounds to her and her heirs forever. I give it Aguesworth to my well beloved Daughter I gave you twenty eight Pounds to her and her heirs forever. I give it Aguesworth to my well beloved son Manumuel Barry the hundred pounds land that I gave you to him and his heirs forever. I give it Aguesworth to my well beloved Daughter I gave you twenty eight Pounds to her and her heirs forever. 
I give to my dearly beloved Wife to ly in the house of my Executors and as to be paid out at three pounds a year as she lands in Wards set and after my death forever
charges therein is Said of Inheritance the residue of any money equally divided amongst my wife and seven children this fund will be done and all Fains fully fulfilled by my trufly
friends Elizabeth Finch and Augustine Barrow being also
Appoint Whose and the Executors in this my last will and
testament and for hereafter fully declare revoked and
dissolved all and every other former Testament Will and
diary and executed by one in any way before
the named Willet A. Requently Declaring Rescinding Rescinding
henceforth again to be my last will and testament All
Whatse where above herein stated by my hand and hand handwriting
and true first Born Written
Signed sealed Pronounced
Published and Proclaimed as
the last will and testament of
Philip Harlow in.
Presence of
Archibald Houston, Samuel Bell, Elmerbel Bell
Referred to for Augusta County June 1978
This last will and Testament of Philip Harlow did use was
Proved by the Oath of Archibald Houston, Samuel Bell
and of the Writings thereof and Ordered to be Recorded in
the Records of Augusta County this day of the Executors.
Herein named who made it are according to law Certificates to
Grant her for hearing a District Court in due form
he hearing with due regard printed into and acknowledge
her (and according to law

Know all men by these present that we Augustine
Pierce, Daniel Pierce Henry Pierce and Charles Pierce are
and jointly bound unto Esther Grant, John L.
Dickerson John Moore and John 0. Lancaster justices
in the Sommision of the Peace for Augusta County for the
Bailiff of the Justice of this County and their successors in
In the name of God, Amen. I, Henry Harless, Sr., do on this 25th day of March in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifteen make and appoint this my last will and testament being in sound mind and memory blessed be God.

In the first place I give my Soul to God who gave it. 2nd, I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Elizabeth the plantation I now live on also two cows and calves, also the bed known by the bed we usually sleep in and its furniture with all the pots and all utensils of Pot Metal and all other utensils of every description about the house, also all the Putter and all the ware belonging to the Shelf, also one mare and saddle the mare known by the mare I bought of Mr. Murry, four head of sheep, four hoggs also what Geese and Ducks are belonging to me at this time, the same to be for her use so long as she remains my widow as per lifetime or if she does marry or at her death all the property designated to her to be sold and the proceeds thereof to be equally divided amongst all my children.

I will and bequeath unto my daughter, Eliza Harless one hundred dollars.

I further wish that all other property of every description, notes, bonds, and accounts the whole amount of what I may die possessed of except what is otherwise designated in my will after paying all my just debts which are filed or none of magnitude may be equally divided between all my children that is to say my son, David Harless, one part, my daughter, Mary Riddenour, one part, also my daughter, Susannah Middleton, one part, also my son Henry Harless one part, also my son John Harless one part, also my daughter Hannah Wilson one part, also my daughter, Nancy Tilmon, one part, also my son Daniel Harless one part, also my daughter Sarah Wall one part, also my son Phillip Harless one part, also my Daughter Eliza Harless one part, this I publish and declare to be my last Will and Testament.

In Witness Whereof I set my hand and seal the day before written also I choose and appoint my beloved wife, Elizabeth Harless and my friend, John Syrowi, my lawful Executors.

Signed, sealed in presence of

George Light
Harry Killingsworth
John X Murry
(his mark)

I do hereby certify that the above was proven in open Court by the subscribing witnesses thereto and ordered to be recorded 15 May 1815.

W.H. Winston, R.O.C.
To the Honorable Ferdinand, Judge of the Court of Probate of Madison County
in the State of Alabama:

The application of Thomas S. Harless, as administrator of the estate
of John Harless, late of said county, deceased, respectfully represents
unto your Honor:

That the said John Harless, who was at the time and had been for
years before, a resident citizen of said county, departed this life therein
intestate on the day of October, 1857 and that afterwards, to wit:

On the 28th day of November 1857, Letters of Administration, on the
estate of the said descendant, were granted by your Honor, to your applicant
(having given bond and security and taken the oath required by law) upon
the estate of the said descendant, which said letters are in full force and
unrevoked.

At the time of his death, the said John Harless, deceased, was seized
and possessed in fee simple of a tract or parcel of land in said county of
Madison known and described as follows:

The east half of the South East quarter of section numbered thirty-
six (36) in Township numbered five (5) on rangered numbered two (2) East of
the Baris (?) Meridian of the Huntsville Land District, containing eighty
(80) acres:

And the east half of the North East quarter of Section numbered one
(1) in Township Numbered six (6) of Range numbered two (2) East of the said
Baris (2) Meridan, containing seventy nine acres and fifty five hundredths
of an acre:

Together one hundred and fifty nine acres.

Your applicant further shows unto your Honor, that the said John
Harless, deceased, left at the time of his death the following named
children and grandchildren who are his only heirs at law, to wit:

1. Catharine Middleton, wife of A.J. Middleton, residing in Jackson
   County in the state of Alabama.
2. Thomas S. Harless, (your petitioner).
3. John S. Harless
4. Rachel Allison, wife of William Q. Allison; all of whom reside
   in the said County of Madison aforesaid.
5. David Harless, who resides in the County of Green in the said
   state of Alabama.
6. Henry Harless.
9. Lotty Bramet, wife of Caswell Bramet, who resides in the State of
   Missouri.
10. Mary McCaffey and Janet McCaffey, children of Nancy McCaffey,
    deceased, who was in her lifetime, a daughter of the said John Harless, deceased,
    residing in the State of Mississippi; and
11. John Sears, Joseph Sears, Margaret Sears, Robert Sears, Elizabeth
    Sears, Henry Sears, Martha Sears, Frances Sears and Thomas Sears, children of
    Mary Sears, deceased, who was in her lifetime, a daughter of the said John
    Harless, deceased, and who resides in the said State of Texas. All of the
    said children of John Harless, deceased, are of full age and all of the said
    grandchildren of the said John Harless, deceased, are minors under the age of
twenty-one years excepting the five following; namely: Mary McCaffey, John
Sears, and Margaret Sears, who are severally above the age of twenty-one years.
Your applicant further shows unto your honor that the said tracts of land cannot be equally, fairly and beneficially divided among the said heirs at law without a sale thereof.

Wherefore in consideration of the premises your applicant prays your honor to grant him an order to sell the said tracts of land, upon such terms as your Honor may prescribe, for the purpose of enabling him to make such division among said heirs at law; that a day certain to be by your Honor designated, be set apart for the hearing of this application—— That citations may be issued to the said heirs at law who reside in the said State of Alabama: That publication as by law required may be made against the said non-residents. That a Guardian or Guardians ad litem may be appointed for the said minor heirs and for such further orders as may be necessary and proper in the premises. And your applicant, as in duty bound, will ever pay be.—

John J. Coleman
Attorney for the Applicant

The State of Alabama) ss
Madison County

Before me, Ferdinand L. Hammond, Judge of Probate in and for the county and state aforesaid this day personally appeared Thomas S. Harless, the applicant aforesaid, who upon being duly sworn, on oath states that the Assessments contained in the foregoing Petition and application are true in substance and in fact as he verily believes.——

F.L. Hammond
Judge, P.C.

Filed February 17, 1858
Pro. Rec. Bk. 22, p. 309

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 17th day of February in the year A.D. 1858.

F.L. Hammond
Judge, P.C.
The State of Alabama. 

The execution of the order of the District Court of the United States for the Southern District of Alabama,Filed 3 Dec 1857, Pro. Rec. Bk 22, p. 20

To the Mayor, Isaac W. Mann, Moses Leary, Thomas Mann, Harrison McNeal and Martin Douth: Greeting:

You are hereby required to allot and divide the
following named negroes slaves, namely: Alexander, a
man about thirty-five years of age.—Eunice, a man about
twenty-five years of age.—Eunice, a boy about sixteen years old.—Eunice, a girl, about twelve years of age—also the following
tract of land, to wit: One half of the South
quarter of Section 16, in Township 5, Range 2 East,
Containing 80 acres, also the last half of the South
quarter of Section 2, in Township 5, Range 2 East, also
Containing 80 acres, beloning to the estate of John Hardy,
date of said county, deceased: amongst the following
heirs at law of the said decedent to wit: One Share to
Catherine Middleton, wife of A. J. Middleton.—One Share
to Thomas F. Hardy.—One Share to John W. Honey—One
Share to Rachel Allison, wife of William Allison.—One
Share to Henry Honey.—One Share to Elizabeth, wife of Z.
Milam, wife of William B. Milam.—One Share to Charles,
Le Hardy.—One Share to Lutty Brunnet, wife of Cas-
well Brunnet.—One Share to the children of Nancy
Mclaffey, deceased, namely, Mary Mcclaffey, and Janet
G. Mcclaffey.—One Share to David Hardy, and one
Share to Mary—Sons the children of Mary Sean, deceased:
namely: John Sean, Joseph Sean, Margaret Sean, Albert
Sean, Elizabeth Sean, Henry Sean, Martha Sean, Frances
Sean, and Thomas Sean. And a due return of your pro-
ceeding herein made to the said court of Distrik on
Monday next the 7th day of December next.

Given under my hand, this the 30th day of November A.D. 1857

J. L. Hammond, J.

Judge P.C.
Letters Guardianship. THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF FANNIN IN COURT JULY TERM 1860

To all to whom these presents may come. Greeting:

Know Ye, that Christopher Sears has been by me, Q.T. Crawford, Chief Justice of Fannin County, Texas this day duly appointed Guardian of the persons and property of the minors Elizabeth Ann Sears, Wm T. Sears, Henry C. Sears, Rosanna R. Sears and Franklin Sears and the said Christopher Sears having given Bond and appraised security for the faithful performance of his duties as such Guardian.

This is therefore to authorize the said Christopher Sears to enter upon and to take possession and charges all the property of whatsoever description belonging to the Estate of said minors and faithfully to protect, manage and administer the said property for the benefit of his said wards, and in accordance with the law, and the direction of this Court; until such time as the Minors shall be of competent age to assume the management thereof for themselves or until discharged from said trust and management by order of this Court: the said Guardian first making out and returning to this court a full Inventory of all the property, rights, claims and dues of said wards, which shall have come to his knowledge and the said Guardian is hereby empowered to take all proper and necessary action to protect, preserve and manage the property of said wards and to recover any property belonging to them, or any sum of money due then, either by suit or other proper and prudent court; and the said Guardian is hereby intrusted with the charge, custody and control of the persons of said wards and the care of their education, support and maintenance as the law directs.

Given under my hand Q.T. Crawford, Chief Justice of Fannin County Texas

In attestation whereof I have hereunto set my official signature and the Seal of my office in Bonham on the 30th day of July, Eighteen hundred and sixty

Filed July 30th 1860 Sam'l J. Galbraith, Co Clk

MADISON COUNTY ALABAMA

Deed Book DD, page 96, 30 July 1860 - Power of Attorney from Christopher Sears for himself and as guardian of Elizabeth Owen, William Thomas, Henry C., Rosannah R., and Franklin Sears, the minor children of Mary Sears, deceased, who was the wife of said Christopher, and John E. Sears, Joseph H. Sears, Robert D. Sears, Alford Medlin and wife Margaret (formerly Margaret Sears and daughter of said Mary and Christopher), Pinkney Montgomery and wife Mary E. (formerly Mary E. Sears, daughter of said Mary and Christopher), and William Aldridge and wife Martha A. (formerly Martha F. Sears and daughter of said Mary and Christopher) the said Mary Sears having been a daughter of John Harless, deceased, late of Madison County, Alabama, and the above all being of Fannin County, Texas, Power of Attorney to John Ledbetter to collect money coming to us from the Estate of John Harless, deceased.

Probate Record 26 F. 120. Transcript of appointment of guardian, from Fannin Co., Texas and orders. Fannin Co., Texas, July Term 1860. The petition of Christopher Sears to the County Court to be appointed guardian of Elizabeth Ann, William T., and Henry C. Sears, over 14, and Rosannah R. and Franklin G. Sears under 14, minor heirs of the said Christopher Sears and his deceased wife, Mary Sears. They have an estate in Madison Co., Ala. from their grandfather, John Harless, dec'd, late of said Madison Co. Ala. Wish to remove the property to Texas. His securities are J.D. Berbee and D.C. Kincaid. Editors Note: Joseph D. Berbee was husband of Jane Kincaid and Dewitt C. Kincaid was her brother. They lived in the north western part of the county, near the Mosers, Mceffey's, Sullivans.

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THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF FANNIN

I, Sam'J. Galbraith, Clerk of the County Court of the aforesaid County do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and full and correct transcript of the proceedings had in the probate court of said county, in relation to the guardianship of the minor Heirs of Christopher Sears and Mary Sears, now of record in my office.

Given under my hand and seal of office at Bonham this August 6, AD 1860.

Samuel J. Galbraith, Clerk CC
Fannin County & Ex Off Clerk
Probate P C Texas

THE STATE OF ALABAMA—MADISON COUNTY.

TO ANY SHERIFF OF THE STATE:

You are hereby Commanded, That of the Goods and Chattels, Lands and Tenements of Thomas E. Wals, administrator of the Estate of John Wals, late of said County deceased, you cause to be made the sum of Twenty Dollars and Twenty-five Cents, Deb, and Seventy-Five Cents, which Thomas T. Wals, one of the Sureties at Law and Administrators of the said John Wals deceased, recovered of you in the State Court of Cullman County, Avenue, for the County of Madison, besides Ten Dollars and Forty Cents, Costs of suit; and have the same to render to the said

and make return of this Writ, and the Execution thereof, according to Law on the first Monday in April 1867.

Witness, my hand, this 20th day of April, 1860.

James M. Emory, Sheriff.
THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF FANNIN

I, Sam'l J. Galbraith, Clerk of the County Court of the aforesaid County do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and full and correct transcript of the proceedings had in the probate court of said county, in relation to the guardianship of the minor Heirs of Christopher Sears and Mary Sears, now of record in my office.

Given under my hand and seal of office at Bonham this August 6, A.D. 1860.

Sam'l J. Galbraith, Clerk CC
Fannin County & Ex Off Clerk
Probate FC Texas

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF FANNIN

I, John F. Crawford, Chief Justice of Fannin County Texas and ex off Judge of the Probate Court of said County do hereby certify that the foregoing authentication is in due form and by the proper officers.

Given under my hand and the seal of said office of said Court, at Bonham this August 6th A.D. 1860.

Q.F. Crawford, Chief Justice
and Ex Off Judge of Probate Court
Fannin County, Texas

Received Huntsville February 4th, 1861 of Thomas H. Harless, Administrator of Estate of John Harless, deceased, six hundred and twenty seven dollars and forty six cents ($627.46) in full payment of the distributive share of John Sears, Joseph Sears, Margaret Sears, Robert Sears, Elizabeth Sears, Henry Sears, Martha Sears, Francis Sears and Thomas Sears in the estate of John Harless on a final settlement on the estate of said descendant.

J.W. Ledbetter, Atty for
Christopher Sears
W I L L OF FREDERICK MOSIER

Of sound mind and memory, advanced in years and knowing that by reason of my age I cannot live long I Frederick Mosier, Sr. of Orange County in North Carolina do make this will and testament

I devise will and bequeath to my sons John Mosier their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns forever all my lands and tenements subject to and charged with the payment of the sums following at or before the times limited and expressed hereinafter, to the persons hereinafter to be mentioned, that is to say to each of my sons, Jacob, Michael, Abraham, Phillip and Nicholas, severally, thirty five silver dollars making in the whole one hundred seventy-five silver dollars which when paid to my sons as aforesaid shall be a discharge in full of their several legacies; to each of my daughters Caty Kimbro, Barbary Huffman, Mark Kek, Lizzy Sharp, Eve Sharp, Magdelane Birtcher, severally twelve and a half silver dollars making altogether seventy five dollars in full of the legacies to my daughters.

The first payment shall be made to my son Jacob in four years after my death, the second to my daughter Caty in five years, the third to my son Abraham in six years, the fourth to Barbary in seven years, the fifth to Michael in eight years, the sixth to Mary in nine years, the seventh to Phillip in ten years, the eighth to Lizzy in eleven years, the ninth to Nicholas in twelve years, the tenth to Eve in thirteen years, the eleventh to Magdelane in fourteen years after my death, which sums of one hundred seventy-five dollars and seventy five dollars when paid to my sons and daughters, severally to my sons thirty-five dollars and severally to my daughters twelve and a half dollars at or before the times and periods after my death as expressed shall be discharged to my sons John and Frederick of any demands for legacies due in consequence of the land and tenements hereby given to them.

It is my will and desire that my personal estate may be sold in the customary manner, and that so much of the money as may be necessary for the discharge of my just debts shall be appropriated to that purpose and the residue shall be divided share and share alike among all my sons and daughters or their representatives, but if my wife Barbary survives me, she shall retain and keep possession of so much of my personal chattels as she may think necessary for her support and maintenance, during her natural life; to be disposed of after her death and paid over to my sons and daughters as above directed. My wife Barbary shall during her natural life occupy and possess so much of my land and tenements and such as she wants and have been entitled to in (?) if I die intestate. I constitute and appoint my son Phillip and my son-in-law Peter Sharp executors of this my last will and testament.

Witness my hand this thirty day of April seventeen hundred ninety six.

Witness present: R. Cochran )
???????? )
Frederick Mosier's mark

Phillip Mosier qualified
as executor

Rec — Orange County Original wills, Volume III, page 42.
In the name of God amen I George Loy of the county of Orange and State of North Carolina being in perfect memory thanks be to almighty God do make this my last will and testament. First I commit my soul into the hands of almighty God that gave it to my body; I commit it to the earth to be decently buried at the discretion (sic) of my Executors (sic) hereafter named and for what worldly goods it hath pleased God to bestow on me I give devise (sic) and dispose of in the following manner and form:

Item I lend to my loving wife the use of my dwelling (sic) plantation and all my lands during (sic) her life or widowhood and after her death or widowhood to be equally (sic) divided amongst my sons to wit. John Loy and William Loy their (sic) heirs and assigns for ever (sic).

Item I give and bequeath unto my daughter Sally Loy one feather bed and furniture two cows and calf's six pewter plates one dish and bason (sic) & half a dozen of spoons it is my desire that as much of stock to be sold as will pay all my debts and no more.

Item I also lend unto my loving wife all the remainder part of my estate during her life or widowhood that the word estate may be fully understood I say all my stock, Horses cows Hoggs and household furniture and after her death or widowhood to be equally divided among all my children named Elizabeth Moser Caty Albright Marget Clapp John Loy Rachel Albright Jacob Loy Sally Loy George Loy Henry Loy William Loy and to their (sic) heirs and assigns for ever (sic). I nominate (sic) and appoint my loving (sic) wife and my son John Loy Executor (sic) & Executor (sic) of this my last will and testament hereby revoking and disanulling (sic) all other wills by me heretofore made and do acknowledge this to be my last will. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 18th day of October 1799.

Signed sealed acknowledged
and pronounced to be my last
will and Testament in the presence of Michael Holt
George Loy
(Seal)
John Loy

From Orange County Original wills Volume III, p. 6.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The reader will note that the copyist failed to capitalize GOD, used very little punctuation and spelled words according to the way they sounded. This will was copied exactly as written from the original (photostat). George Loy signed his own will (almost illegible). The two men Michael Holt and John Loy also signed their names. Marriage records in North Carolina show some of the Albrights, Sharps, and Holts marrying two generations of Loy. Groups of Loy's and Mosiers, Holts, Sharps, etc., moved together from North Carolina to Alabama according to records where their names are mentioned in both states.
HARVY HARDISON WILL & TESTAMENT
THE STATE OF ARKANSAS
COUNTY OF DREW

In the name of God Amen, I Harvy Hardison of the county & state aforesaid being of sound mind and memory (?????) appointed for all (????????) and publish this my last will and testament first I commend my soul to the mercy of God and all my body to be interred in a manner suitable to my circumstances 1st as to the property I may be possessed of at my death I will & direct that it may be disposed of in the manner following which I give & bequeath to my beloved wife Dicy Hardison for & during the period of her natural life one negro woman named Caroline also five hundred dollars in cash together with the household & kitchen furniture & my stock that she may select also one Buggie & mule all of which at her death I wish to be equally divided between my children

2nd I do hereby give & bequeath to my daughter Elizabeth M. McHugh a negro girl named Rither and all of her increase during her natural life together with the south half of the southwest quarter of Section 24 twenty-four (24) in township number fourteen (14) south of ?? Range ?? number eight (8) west which land includes the places whereon I now live & which property is not to be transferred or used in the payment of her husband’s debts and at her death to be equally divided between the heirs of her body

4th I hereby give & bequeath to my daughter Mary E. Douglass during her life and at her death to be equally divided amongst her living children her choice of two negroes one named Hannah a woman and a girl named Susan also the increase of the negroes she may choose

5th I give & bequeath to my daughter Sarah M. Atwell a negro girl named Martha during her life and at her death to be divided equally among the heirs of her body also the increase of said girl

6th to my daughter Jane M. Johnson I give & bequeath a negro girl named Laura with her increase during her life and at her death to be divided equally between the heirs of her body

7th Now if either of the negroes named in this will shall before they come into the possession of the specified daughters die or become worthless in this event said legatees shall be made equal to the others out of the unapportioned part of the estate

8th I give and bequeath to my son Luther W. Hardison as much of my unapportioned estate as will make him equal (see) to each of the children above provided for

9th I give & bequeath to my son John C. Hardison as much of my unapportioned estate as will make each equal (sic) to the other legatees

10th It is my wish & my will that after this above property is distributed that the remainder of my estate be equally (sic) divided between all of my children and the part which each daughter received to be vested land and that my executors make the investment in the best possible manner provided that each daughter may if they think proper have the selection of their own land

11th I hereby appoint W.A. Douglass, Burrell B_______ and M.P. Johnson as executors to this my last will and testament to carry out the same in accordance to the true intent & meaning thereof

21st The property given under the tenth (10) article is given under the same terms and conditions as all the rest signed sealed published in presents (sic) of a witness (?) signed the same in the presence of the testator and in the presence of each other this 27th July 1860

Test W.B. Daniel
L.C. Morgan
Joseph A. Daniel

After the will follows a statement by Joseph F. Bussy, Clerk, saying the three witnesses; namely, William B. Daniel, L.C. Morgan and Joseph A. Daniel did appear to record the will that they witnessed Harvey Hardison made. It was recorded on July 23, 1864, A.D.

(Will recorded July 23, 1864 with usual court statements and witnesses.)
I, Norman McLeod, of Anson County in the state of North Carolina, do make and publish this my last will and testament, hereby revoking and making void all former wills by me at anytime heretofore made, and first I direct and desire that my body be duly buried in the Presbyterian Burying Ground near Norven- and as to such worldly goods as it has pleased God to intrust me with, I dispose of in manner and form following. I direct and it is my will and desire that all my just debts and funeral expenses be paid as soon after my decease as possible, out of the first moneys that shall come into the hands of my executors.

Item, I give and bequeath to my dearly beloved wife, Mary, four negroes to wit. Bill Washington, Emeline, and her child Eloise (?), and their increase, to have and to hold to her and her heirs forever. Also one hundred acres of land to be laid off by a surveyor, and two disinterested freeholders so as to include the dwelling house and other buildings where I now live, to have and to hold to her and her heirs forever which is given her in line of dames (clames or clames ?). Also three cows and calves, her choice, one horse, her choice; two aous and pig, her choice of what may then be on the plantation; a gig which I now own and all my household and kitchen furniture which I may possess at the time of my decease all and singular to have and to hold to her and her heirs forever —

Item, I give and bequeath to my daughter, Catherine Douglass one dollar only having heretofore given her as much as I desire to do —

Item, I give and bequeath unto my son Alexander one dollar only having heretofore given him his distributive share of my estate —

Item, I give and bequeath to my Son Duncan one dollar only, having heretofore given him his distributive share of my estate —

Item, I give and bequeath to the lawful children of my deceased daughter Margaret Fields or so many of them as shall be living at the time of my decease, one hundred dollars each —

Item, I give and bequeath to my daughter Jane McRea one negro man Bell in addition to what I have heretofore given her —

Item, I give and bequeath to my son-in-law John C. McRea in trust for my daughter Issabell McNabb and the heirs of her body, one negro boy, Nathan, in addition to what I have heretofore given her —

Item, I give and bequeath to my son Daniel one negro man, Willis, and two hundred acres of land to be laid off and parcelled out of a three hundred survey granted to me on Still's branch adjoining Lockhart's land, to have and to hold to him and his heirs forever. The said land to be laid off by a surveyor and two disinterested freeholders, provided nevertheless that if my said son Daniel shall not be living or shall not have a legitimate child or children then and in that case what is above bequeathed to him shall be sold by my lawful representative and divided share and share alike between the following named children: Jane McRea, Isabell McNabb, Christian, Ann Beverley, Elizabeth, Angus and Mary.

Item, I give and bequeath to my son-in-law, Jno C. McRea in trust for my daughter Christian and the heirs of her body, one negro woman, Thby and her child Martha and their increase.

Item, I give and bequeath to Jno C. McRea in trust for my daughter, Ann Beverly and the heirs of her body one hundred and fifty acres of land lying on the Camden Road the same wherever she is now living —

Item, I give and bequeath to Jno C. McRea in trust for my daughter Elizabeth the heirs of her body, two negroes, Hannah and Martin and their increase —

Item, I give and bequeath to my son Angus and his heirs two negroes namely Lewis and Frank, also one horse, bridle and saddle —

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NORMAN McLEOD WILL (cont'd)

Item, I give and bequeath to John C. McRea in trust for my daughter Mary and the heirs of her body, two negroes namely Ester and Harriet and their increase and in case my said daughter, Mary, shall be under age at the time of my decease, my will and desire is, and I do appoint my son-in-law Jno. C. McRea her guardian during her minority.

Item, I give and bequeath to my son John five dollars if he is living but I have good reason to that he is not —

Item, all my real estate not herein specially bequeathed or given away, to wit about three hundred acres on Jones Creek and three hundred acres on the waters of Mill Creek, in all about six hundred acres - if not otherwise disposed of by me before my decease to be sold by my executor and the proceeds after paying my just debts and paying all sums herein bequeathed, to be divided share and share alike between my children; Jane McRea, Isabella McNabb, Daniel Christian, Ann, Elizabeth, Angus, and Mary. And I do hereby make and ordain my esteemed son-in-law, John C. McRea executor of this my last will and testament — in witness whereof I Norman McLeod the testator have to this my will written on one sheet of paper, set my hand and seal, this twenty-fourth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred forty-one.

Signed sealed in the presents
Norman McLeod (SEAL)

(Sic) of the testator and of each other
Jno. Grady Jr.

Julia C. Sanders 10 May 1965

W.A. DOUGLASS WILL
Lacy, Drew County Arkansas 5 March 1862

I W.A. Douglass of the town of Lacy in the county of Drew in the state of Arkansas being of sound mind & memory & considering the uncertainty of this frail and transitory life do therefore make & ordain, publish & declare this to be my last will & testament (sic) that is to say first after all my lawful debts are paid and discharged the residue of my estate real & personal I give & bequeath & dispose of as follows to wit to my beloved wife all my real and personal estate notes and accounts during her natural life and to dispose of according to her own will and judgement providing that she never marries a second time and in the event that she marries then all my property real & personal cash notes & accounts shall go to my children now living to whom may be living at the time of my wife's death or marriage to be divided equally between them share & share alike. Likewise I make D.D. Daniel my executor of this my last will testament (sic) In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal the 5th day of March in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred sixty two.

W.A. Douglass

(Editor's Note: Will recorded in July 1964 but I did not get a photostat of the last page of will showing recording date. This was the will of the 1st husband of the second Mrs. Kit Sears. This W.A. Douglass was father of Nollic Douglass (Mrs. Frank Sears).
GEORGIA, TALLAHASSEE,

To any ordained Minister of the Gospel, Judge, Justice of the Inferior Court, or Justice of the Peace.

Know ye, that the undersigned, 

William A. Douglas and Mary Heardman

are hereby authorized, to join in the Holy State of Matrimony, according to the Constitution and Laws of this State; and for which this shall be your sufficient license.

Given under my hand and seal, the 18th day of January, 1849.

[Signature]

GEO. W. C. TALLAHASSEE

[Seal]

GEORGIA, TALLAHASSEE,

I do hereby certify that 

William A. Douglas and Mary Heardman

were duly joined in Matrimony by me,

the 19th day of March, 1849.

[Signature]

[Seal]

RECEIPT NO. 85466
DID NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
RECEIVED

FILE DESIGNATION

CBL W. A. Douglas
Capt. Owen Butler

(See reverse for explanation)
STATE OF ALABAMA, MADISON COUNTY

To any of the Judges of said State, any Justice of the Peace of said County, or other person legally authorized:

There are to authorize you, or either of you, to celebrate the Rite of Matrimony between

CHRISTOPHER SEARS and FOLLY HARLESS

agreeable to the Statute in such case made and provided.

Given at the office of the Judge of Probate of said County, this 25th day of Feby, 1828.

Solemnized on the 28th day of Feby, 1828.

R. Sullivan J.P.

STATE OF ALABAMA, MADISON COUNTY

I, Ashford Todd, Judge of Probate in and for said County and State aforesaid, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Marriage License issued to CHRISTOPHER SEARS and FOLLY HARLESS as shown on record in this office in Marriage Record 3 page 543.

Given under my hand and seal of office this 20th day of September 1865

/s/ Ashford Todd
ASHFORD TODD

MARRIAGES

| HARLASS, Thomas | To | Nancy Arnold | 6-30-1818 | 2 | 101 |
| HARLASS, Daniel | Mary Owen | 2-21-1829 | 3 | 599 |
| Henry G. | Martha T. Skelton | 5-28-1832 | 4 | 37 |
| Henry | Mary Hamner | 3 | 201 |
| Thomas S. | E.M. Sharp | 1868 | 5 | 507 |
| Hiram | Mary Jones | 11-19-1840 | 4 | 532 |
| William | Sophie E. Culps | 9-6-1841 | 4 | 589 |
| Thomas E. | Eleanor Richards | 5-9-1843 | 4 | 690 |
| Joel T. | Sarah Skelton | 9-9-1846 | 44 | 133 |
| John W. | Eliza A. Terry | 11-7-1850 | 44 | 376 |
| David D. | Nancy W. Lawler | 4-2-1851 | 44 | 406 |
| Henry D.F. | Frances Ann Wisdom | 8-18-1851 | 44 | 417 |
| Charles D. | Ann E. McCrifer | 3-19-1855 | 48 | 100 |
| John W. | Meseney Moon | 5-30-1867 | 5 | 359 |
| Bryant | Kate E. Taylor | 11-2-1871 | 5 | 1182 |
| David D. | Elvira Prosser | 3-5-1875 | 7 | 599 |
| Geo W. | Mary S. Nicholes | 11-20-1875 | 8 | 155 |
| W.J. | Eliza J. Smith | 12-19-1879 | 10 | 486 |
| Charlie | Cynthia Ekins | 12-13-1893 | 19 | 595 |
| Susanne | John Cole | 12-20-1819 | 2 | 401 |
| Nancy | Robt McHoffey | 1-26-1825 | 3 | 352 |
| Polly | Christopher Sears | 2-25-1828 | 3 | 543 |
| Elizabeth | John E. Fowler | 10-1-1831 | 4 | 125 |
| Catherine | A.J. Middleton | 7-15-1834 | 4 | 200 |
| Rebecca | John Creshaw | 2-2-1835 | 4 | 234 |
| Charlotte | Caswell Brummrett | 9-21-1836 | 4 | 33 |
| Elizabeth | Byrd Milam | | | |
| Charlotte | Robert Owens | 5-30-1837 | 4 | 382 |
| Nancy | Robert Esslinger | 1-31-1842 | 4 | 617 |
| Rachael | Wm T. Allison | 1-18-1842 | 4 | 615 |
| Polly | Nathan Creshaw | 7-22-1843 | 4 | 701 |
| Jane W. | George F. Owen | 12-4-1848 | 44 | 273 |
| Eliza Ann | James E. Miller | 7-27-1857 | 4B | 227 |
| Martha E. | William F. Lusk | 8-7-1860 | 4B | 413 |
| Caroline E. | Alexander Butler | 1-18-1869 | 5 | 626 |
| Ida | Thomas Sullivan | 3-24-1875 | 7 | 613 |
This certifies that the following information is recorded in a manuscript volume located in this Department titled "Revolutionary Army Accounts" (Volume W No. 2 Page 2, Folio -):

Heading: "North Carolina"

"Amount of certificates for Militia pay, for the District of Wilmington, N.C. from the 16th of July 1783 to the 19th of March 1784."

Number of pay roll: (torn off) (see attached journal no. 1577)

Name: Norman McDaid

Amount: 8 pounds, 18 shillings

Other information: Capt. James Campbell's name appears at head of list and by pay roll number.

Raleigh, North Carolina

February 12, 1965

State Archivist

No. 3838. State of N. Carolina, 12th Aug. 1783. As Auditor for the District of Wilmington. This is to certify that Lt. W. McDaid was allowed the sum of £17. 6s. 8d for his services on the Mattox stretcher service in pay roll No. 1577.

Lewis Melton, Capt.
State of North Carolina
Orange County

To his Honor, one of the Judges of the Superior Court of Law and Equity in and of the State of North Carolina,

Complaining sheweth unto your Honor,

Your Gracious Grace does sever and sumberv the Executive of Henry Dean family of the County of Orange in the State of North Carolina (now the said Henry Dean deceased in said by his last Will and Testament dated the eighth day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred eighty eight and proved in due course and form of law in the County Court of Orange County pursuant to the County Court of Orange County aforsaid at the May term of the year one thousand seven hundred eighty four the said Henry the testator being then wholly and informly and having no other estate and bequest, and lend to your Gracious for and during his life and widowhood the Negroes slaves the property of the said Henry Dean two Negro women named Millie and Caleb and their issue and the Negroes indebted to him and all and singular all his other Estate Real and personal for and during the said term of his natural life or while he continued a widow as aforesaid and upon the termination and happening of either of the said contingencies (court) upon the death or marriage of your executors and as aforesaid of the said testator Henry Dean the whole and entire of the said Negroes together with all and singular and every of them and each of them whereas and all every and singular of the other Estates and property real and personal due and the Wills and deeds to the equally divided share and part alike between all the children of the said Henry the testator as your Gracious testator John Dean, Sarah Dean, Nancy Dean, Edmund Dean, Barbara Dean, Henry Dean, ist, the youngest child of the said Henry and if your Gracious being born after the making and publishing of the said last will and testament by the said Henry Dean the testator and about two years before the death of the
CHURCH DEED

CHRISTOPHER SEARS & WIFE
TO DEED
WALNUT GROVE CHURCH

STATE OF ALABAMA
WALNUT GROVE CHURCH

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENT, that I Christopher Sears of the State of Alabama, Madison, County, and Mary Sears the wife of said Christopher Sears in consideration of the sum of one cent to us in hand paid by the elders of the Walnut Grove Society of the C P Church, all of the above named State and County, the receipt wherof we do hereby acknowledge, have bargained, sold and quit-claimed, and by these presents do bargain, sell and quit-claim unto the said elders and their successors in office forever, or as long as they see cause to keep it as a place of public worship, all of our right, title, interest and claim both at law and equity and as well, in possession as in expectancy of, in and to that certain piece of land, situated in the northeast corner of the East half of the North East Quarter of Section No. 2, Township No. 6, Range 2 East, containing two acres on which the Walnut Grove Meeting House, arbor and camp-stand, with all and singular the hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF we have hereunto set our hands and seals this 19th July 1847.

Christopher Sears (SEAL)
Mary Sears (SEAL) X her mark

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of G.C. Ledbetter, J.P.
State of Alabama, Madison County

Personally appeared before me, G.C. Ledbetter an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the aforesaid County, the within named Christopher Sears, and Mary, his wife, who acknowledge that they severally signed, sealed and delivered the within deed to the aforesaid elders and their successors in office on the day and year therein named. And the said Mary, his wife being by me separately examined apart from her said husband and acknowledged that she signed, sealed and delivered the said deed freely and without fear, threats, or compulsion of her husband.

Given under my hand and seal, February 19th, 1848.

G.C. Ledbetter J.P. (SEAL)

The foregoing deed was delivered into the office of the Clerk of the County Clerk of Madison County, in the State of Alabama, for registration, on the twenty-seventh day of March, eighteen hundred and forty eight and was duly registered on the twenty-ninth day of March, 1848.

Jno. Wotey Clk CC
State of Alabama, Madison County

I, Edith H. Johnson, a Notary Public in and for the State-at-Large, Alabama, hereby certify that the foregoing is an exact copy of deed made by me from a copy of the original as recorded in Deed Book W, Page 585 of the probate records of Madison County, Alabama, said copy of deed now being in the possession of Miss Mattie Nichols, New Hope, Alabama. This the 15th day of December 1956.

/s/ Edith H. Johnson
EDITH H. JOHNSON
Notary Public. My commission expires August 10th, 1959
DEED OF FIRST LAND BOUGHT IN TEXAS BY KIT SEARS

Deed Record Book E, Fannin County, Texas, page 216
STATE OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF FANNIN

Know all men by these presents that I Thomas Linsey for and in consideration of the Sum of Eleven Hundred and thirty five dollars and fifty cents to me in hand paid by Christopher Sears the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged have this day sold and by these presents to bargain, sell, convey and confirm unto the said Christopher Sears his heirs and assigns Seven hundred and fifty-seven acres of land out of my third of a League No. 424 bal. 8 1st class situated on Boisdarc County and State above named and bounded as follows:

Beginning at the South East corner of 330 acres sold to Hoffman out of said 1/3 of a League a Stake in the South line of the Original Survey Thence with said line west 1156 varas Blaire South East comes thence with Clairs east line North 400 varas Blaire N.E. corner, thence West 413 varas the South East corner of Nunn 223 acres — thence with Nunn’s East line north 2248 varas Nunn’s corner a Boisderac marked S and Honey Locust mkt C thence East 618 varas two small Ash trees one of which mkt E the other N. thence North 240 varas Nunn’s N.W. corner a small Spanish Oak mkt E.N. Thence with the North line of the original survey East to Boisderac Creek. Thence down the meanders of said creek to Hoffmans N.W. Corner a Chinquapin standing on the South Bank of said Creek mkt J H thence with Hoffmans West line South 2640 varas the place of Beginning to have and to hold the same together with all of its rights benefits and privileges thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining to the said Sears heirs and assigns forever. And I Thomas Linsey do hereby bind myself Heirs and Executors administrators and assigns to warrant and defend the title of the same against the claim of our selves and against the claims of all and every other person or persons, Lawfully claiming the Same, or any part thereof through me or any of us above named.

Attest
G.W. Newcome
Sandford R. Penn

(In testimony of which I hereunto set my hand and seal on the 25th day of November, 1851.
(Thomas Linsey, Seal)
Mrs. Brown for the rest of my children. I know they would feel the loss of one, I would gladly pass from earth away and join her in the after land for it really seems that I cannot live without her. This leaves us all well to start in with me at this time she is very well, Debbie is living with Mr. Jack McClenon this year attending to his business he is very old and his two sons are in Temple College Co. Estelle gets a very good salary, the Bass is still living in Peke teaching school. Dewolfe has his sons the marriage man by the name of Millie and last but least Lena married Capt. Pin Fitness his brother they married well Lena is in very bad health I think her stay upon earth will be short Junie is still a widow living at her father's. Dr. Birdie is able in Newen, but they were both Auntie one health which was sent, Joe asked me why she did not Billy Moore and Fletcher marry, she did not as he once or twice, he then went to Texas and married and Junie the Texas conference you may probably see him at some future period. None of Margaret girls are married I wrote a letter from Willie Douglas yesterday Sue is living in Chatahoochee Co Ga he did not say where his Rachel was though I suppose she is living where she has been for several years. I think I wrote you that old Mrs Birdie and Aunt Sue were both dead John Birdie is also dead, she fell suddenly dead and some among with apoplexy.

says Miss the children, I have received the letter Co. In answer the letter text is not legible the children are with me.
Dear Cousin Mollie,

As Mollie was writing and left a space I thought I would drop you a few lines and let you know that I had not forgotten you. I suppose Mollie has informed you of the death of my dear little sister; it was a severe shock, but we must learn to bear it. The best we can do is to be patient and take life as it comes to him. She was the idol of the family and a large circle of admiring friends. Cousin Mollie, I have not a single photograph of this time gone yet; the best one I had of my sister was a few weeks ago. I will have one taken the first time I go to Canada and send you, and let you see what a pretty cousin you have. Still, Aunt Mary and I are coming out to Canada next year, and we will visit you all. I seem to have an idea of you are a little boy, but I am a man now. My stepfather has fallen dreadfully in love with you, and is a mighty nice fellow and will do most excellent things for me. Since my last letter I went to Aunt Mary and my two little cousins and got to spend this.

Your loving cousin,
Caddie.
Scrap Book

Clippings Not Necessarily In Chronological Order
Christopher Sears. . . Pioneer churchman.

Whitewright Presbyterians Will Celebrate Centennial

Special to The News
WHITEWRIGHT, Texas.—From an humble start in the home of Christopher Sears on Oct. 30, 1853, the Whitewright Presbyterian Church has grown until today it is the pilot church of the North Texas Larger Parish, which was organized in 1956.

Sunday the church will mark its one-hundredth birthday with an all-day program that will include addresses for former pastors. More than twenty-five men held pastorates during the last 100 years, but one man, the late J. E. Smith, was minister for twenty-five years.

Today the Rev. Lee H. Smith is pastor-director of the parish with the Rev. H. L. Holland as staff pastor and Miss Dorothy Nelson as director of Christian Education.

The parish uses fifteen supply pastors from Austin College in Sherman to service its churches at Whitewright, Ladonia, Leonard, Cross Roads, Dodd City, Spring Hill, Tom Bean and Pottsboro.

Sears was a stanch Cumber-land Presbyterian widower, who came here with twelve motherless children from Alabama. Feeling the need for a church, he called in his neighbors, and on Oct. 30, 1853, with Jacob A. Zinn as moderator, the church was organized.

On March 29, 1854, the group was put on the Bonham Presbytery circuit to get a supply pastor. The church, in its early days, took in several Negro members despite the rumblings of the Civil War.

In 1862 the church changed its name from Pilot Grove to Canaan and within a short time had split up with all north of Bois d'Arc Creek going to Canaan and those living south attending Sears Chapel.

Sears Chapel prospered, but in 1878, when the Katy Railroad was constructed from Denison to Greenville, the town of Whitewright was formed and named after a New York capitalist, the church followed the businessmen of Kentuckytown, Pilot Grove and Orangeville to the new town.

The first women's missionary society was formed in 1889 with Mrs. Joe Nicholson its first president. In 1899 the church moved to its present location and in 1902 Dr. Fender started his quater of a century pastorate.

Under Dr. Fender the church took its present name and united with the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

On July 8, 1913, the Ladies Aid was reorganized with Mrs. R. L. Sears its president. Incidentally, since then only five ladies have held the post of secretary-treasurer. They are Miss Edna Rathbun, Mrs. W. A. Kirkpatrick, Mrs. Tom Lilley, Mrs. Al Short and Mrs. Lydia Henry.

In 1930, two years after the resignation of Dr. Fender, Rev. Joe E. Russell became pastor and under his helm the present building was constructed.

Sunday, Dr. Russell will be on hand to deliver the 11 a.m. address.

The church got its first electric organ when Kay Kimball matched $1,200 raised by the church. It replaced an old reed organ which was played by Miss Janis Horton, church organist, who was assisted at the morning service by Miss Jill Murry and at the evening service by Miss Guyla Wrenn Sears, both great grandchildren of Christopher Sears in whose home the church was founded Oct. 30, 1953. R. F. (Uncle Bob) Jones was the first pastor.

A large percentage of the members of the church are direct descendants or in-laws of the founding fathers.

Rev. Jasper Manton of Dallas, clerk of the Synod of Texas, was the main speaker during the afternoon, and Rev. Joe M. Russell of Fort Worth, a former pastor, was the morning service speaker.

Memorial Gifts Dedicated As Church Marks Birthday

WHITEWRIGHT.—Dedication of several memorial gifts highlighted Sunday’s ceremonies marking the church’s 101st anniversary and harvest fest program at First Presbyterian Church Sunday.

Some 1,300 persons, representing 33 downtown churches in 35 cities in the area attended. Attendance prize was won by the church at Pottsboro.

Sears’ chapel. . . His home was church in early days.
Sears—Sister M. E. Sears was born in Upson county, Ga., May 4, 1881; professed religion at thirteen years of age, and joined the M. E. Church, South, and was an active and earnest member all the days of her life. She was twice married, first to Mr. P. T. Douglas. After his death Sister Sears came to Texas. She was married to Mr. C. Sears in December, 1871, who preceded her to the heavenly home only a few years. She quietly and peacefully entered into rest March 1, 1886. It was my privilege to visit Sister Sears often during her protracted illness, and though a great sufferer, she exhibited in a marked degree the grace of patient and submissive resignation to the will of God. She spoke frequently of her death, and expressed a desire to go and be at rest. During the last moments of life, a sweet smile played over her face, and a peace shone from her eyes, a reflection from the bright faces waiting on the other shore. She leaves three children to mourn their loss. May this dispensation be sanctified to their salvation. The funeral was preached by the writer to a large and weeping congregation, from the words: "Because I live, ye shall live also." W. Wootton.

The Obituary Notice
for Christopher Sears
Second Wife.

Funeral Notice
SEARS

The friends and acquaintances of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral services of

CLYDE SEARS
(Age 47)

Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Methodist Church, Rev. T. C. Willett officiating, assisted by Rev. T. J. Rea and Rev. E. L. Yeats. Interment at Rose Hill cemetery.

Merrel, Texas, January 10, 1931.

Passed Peacefully Away.

Last Saturday morning Mrs. Jane M. Johnston, who lived with her daughter, Mrs. Alice Womack, was taken suddenly ill just after breakfast. She ate her breakfast and Mrs. Womack had left for her work at the post-office, leaving no one with Mrs. Johnston. Shortly after breakfast one of the neighbors visited the house and found her on the bed in a comatose condition. Physicians were hastily summoned and neighbors gathered in to render every possible aid, but it was apparent to one that her life hung by a very thin thread which might be snapped at any moment. She was beyond medical aid and all that loving hands could do would not restore her to health. She lingered in this condition until about 4 o'clock Monday evening when her spirit winged its way to its heavenly home to spend eternity as a reward for its labors on earth.

She was 67 years old the day she was stricken and had lived in Royse for many years. She had been a member of the Methodist church for over fifty years and was one of the most earnest and devoted Christian women in our town. Her place in the church was never vacant when it was possible for her to be present and her hands were always busy in Christ's vineyard. Many are the loving deeds and Christian acts which could be recounted to her credit and all who knew her mourn her death but each and everyone say that she is happy in her home above. She leaves two sons, J. F. Johnston, of this place and E. H. Johnston, of Spanish Fort, Texas, and one daughter, Mrs. Alice Womack, of Royse, and several grandchildren to mourn her death.

The funeral services were conducted at the Methodist church Tuesday morning at 10:30 o'clock by Rev. J. B. Adams after which interment took place at Reed's Chapel.

To the sorrowing relatives, we can only say that you have lost one who has only gone to reap her rich reward in the beautiful beyond where the faithful and just will join hands to separate no more through the valley.
Dr. Amos H. Fortner, 80, a long time resident of Sweetwater and a noted physician and surgeon, died about 6:30 Wednesday morning at his home, 311 Elm Street.

Death was due apparently from a heart attack. He had been in failing health during the past two or three years.

Dr. Fortner came to Sweetwater in 1915 from Dallas and formed a partnership with the late Dr. C. A. Rosebroug, a partnership that lasted until July 1, 1947. He was born in Plano, Texas.

He graduated from Tulane University in 1913 and served his internship in St. Louis.

At the time of his death he was a member of the Drs. Fortner, Price and Hood clinic, an organization he assisted in forming.

When Dr. Fortner joined Dr. Rosebrough in 1916, they set up their offices in the old Prim Building, north of the Texas & Pacific passenger station.

They converted one of the rooms of the suite into a bedroom, and placed surgery patients there for recuperation after they had done surgery in the office. The two young doctors frequently did surgery in the patients' homes in the days before Sweetwater had a regular hospital.

A few years after Dr. Fortner arrived here, they moved their offices to a large suite of rooms over what is now Armor Drug on the west side of the square. There they took care of their surgery patients until the old Tom Trammell Mansion in south Sweetwater was turned into a hospital by Rosabelle Deberry in 1916.

Both doctors worked in the hospital until it closed in 1928, with the opening of Municipal Hospital, which in recent years has become Simmon Memorial Hospital.

In 1928, they moved their offices again, this time to the Docher Building on the north side of the square, where Bowen Drug is located. They remained there until July 1, 1947, when they dissolved the partnership.

In recent years, Dr. Fortner has been associated with the clinic of Fortner, Price and Hood, which presently has offices on the north side of Simmons Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Fortner was a member of the American College of Surgeons; the AOA, an honorary medical scholastic society. He was a member of the American Medical Association as well as the Texas Medical Association and the Phi Beta Kappa.

Until recent years he was active in civic and church affairs. He was a charter member of the Sweetwater Rotary Club, a leader in First Methodist Church work and at one time was active in the state medical auxiliary.

Survivors include his daughter, Mrs. Rob (Nancy) Prentiss of Vienna, Va.; and three grandchildren, Martha, Gloria and Paul Prentiss.

C. B. Bryant Jr., president of the National Bank of Sweetwater before his death in March, 1959, was a brother.

**Deaths**

**MRS. MAE BIFFLE**

Mrs. R. E. Hickman, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Grant, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Sears, Mrs. Homer Caston, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Dillon, Mrs. Bernie Williams, Miss Louise Williams and Mrs. R. C. Browning attended the funeral of Mrs. Mae Griffin Biffle, 74, in Pauls Valley, Okla. Sunday. Mrs. Biffle was a daughter of the late John and Kate Sears Griffin, former residents of Trenton, Okla.

Mrs. Biffle was driver of a car which was in a head-on collision on a country road near Pauls Valley Tuesday of last week and she died in a Pauls Valley hospital Friday. She was a niece of the late Mrs. Alice Sears Kirkpatrick and attended Mrs. Kirkpatrick's funeral here on Mother's Day.
Mrs. Mollie Sears One of Most Respected Pioneers

Merkel, June 30—When Mrs. Mollie Douglas Sears, 82, widow of the late Frank Sears, died on Saturday, June 16, West Texas and Taylor County especially lost one of its oldest and most respected pioneers. She was buried in Rose Hill Cemetery beside her husband, who died in 1922, and two sons, Alex and Clyde Sears. A third son, Arthur, is buried in Abilene. Six other children are survivors. Mrs. Odie Mathews, Chandler, Ariz.; Mrs. Delila Campbell, Commerce; Mrs. L. M. Touchstone and Bud Sears, Mollie; and Misses Missy and Eula Sears, Merkel.

Mrs. Sears was the head of one of the more prominent ranch families in this section. For 43 years she had been a resident of West Texas. She was born Feb. 5, 1851, in Rome, Ga., and with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Douglas, moved to Arkansas in 1857. Four years later her father enlisted with a Tennessee battery. A short time before she died, Mrs. Sears wrote a sketch of her life, which she gave the title: "Why I Love West Texas." After mentioning the enlistment of her father, Mrs. Sears wrote:

"Lost father a few months before the war closed. Left mother with three small children—I was 12 years old—and two small brothers and her property must all gone. Everything we had to sell and very hard to be made at home during the war, so we all learned to card, spin and make kindling patch. Had grown several acres of cotton."

"In 1867 mother came to Texas with her brother-in-law and his family and another widowed sister and her children. In the old covered wagon, 15 in all. We went along very well till we got to Fannin County, 10 miles north of Bonham. We stuck up in the black mud; bad roads and country-line settled. We had to stop there. In 1871 I was married to Frank Sears, who had lived there since two years old. Made our first move in 1883 to Rockwall County. In 1886 came to West Texas."

Mrs. Sears then told of settling in Jones County, engaging in farming and ranching, adding:

"I raised nine fine children. Boys all made ranchmen."

"Mrs. Sears then told of moving to Merkel in 1907. She concluded the sketch of her life with the following:

"I love West Texas—think it is a fine place to live in. It has good

Two brothers, W. E. Douglas of Sunset and A. L. Douglas of Denison, were also here for the funeral, the former having been at the bedside of his sister for several days and the other visited her about four months ago.

Other survivors are 26 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Among many others who came for the funeral were a niece of Mrs. Sears, Mrs. Carlos F. Johnson in Fort Worth; a cousin, Mrs. Clyde Mathews, Prescott, Ariz., Lance Sears, Maryneal, and John Cooner, Eskota; while granddaughters were flower girls; Mrs. Wallace Bragg, Chillisoth, Miss Mary Eula Sears, Mrs. W. H. Epyson, Tyler, Mrs. Gerham Streeter, Abilene, Miss Mildred Mathews, Chandler, Ariz., Jewel and Billie Sears, Frances Sears, Mollie Frank Sears, Abilene, and Mrs. Lance Sears, Maryneal.

Interment was in Rose Hill cemetery on the family lot with the grave of her husband Frank Sears, who died in 1922, and the graves of two sons, Alex and Clyde. A third son, Arthur, is buried in Abilene. Mollie Douglas was born February 5, 1862, in Rome, Georgia, and with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Douglas, moved to Arkansas in 1857. Following the death of her father in the Confederate army, the family came to Texas in a covered wagon in 1867, settling near Bonham. She was married to Frank Sears May 11, 1871, at Whitewright and 43 years ago they came to this section, establishing a ranch home north of Merkel in Jones county. The family moved to the town of Merkel in 1904.

Six children survive: Mrs. Odie Mathews, Chandler, Ariz.; Mrs. Delila Campbell, Commerce; Mrs. L. M. Touchstone, Abilene; Bud Sears, Abilene, and Misses Missy and Eula Sears, Merkel. All were here for the funeral rites, as were the three daughters-in-law, Mrs. Arthur Sears of Abilene, and Mrs. Amy Sears and Mrs. Clyde Sears.
Mrs. W. A. Kirkpatrick, 93, descendant of a pioneer family, died at 4:15 a.m. Friday in a Sherman hospital.

Funeral services were held at 3 p.m. Sunday in the First Presbyterian Church. Rev. C. C. Dooley, pastor, and Rev. James Logan Jr. of Denison, Presbyterian minister, conducted the services. Burial was in Oak Hill Cemetery, directed by Earnhart Funeral Home.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick was born east of Whitewright Aug. 18, 1866, a daughter of the late Joseph H. and Margaret McGregor Sears. This was before Whitewright was established in 1878. On Sept. 30, 1884, she married Rev. W. A. Kirkpatrick. Mrs. Kirkpatrick had been a member of the Presbyterian Church for nearly 70 years. She was educated at schools in Orangeville and Savoy.

Alice Sears Kirkpatrick was the granddaughter of Kit Sears, who came to this community in 1840 with other settlers, including Dorris Barbee and several others, all of whom are buried in the Doss Cemetery east of town. She had lived in this community all her life, and was the oldest surviving native of the community.

Survivors are four daughters, Mrs. R. E. Hickman of Whitewright, Mrs. Guy Dillon of Durant, Okla., Mrs. Bob Grant of Bonham and Mrs. D. Leon Harp of San Antonio; one son, Ira Kirkpatrick of Sherman; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

He is survived by his good wife, (they having been married more than fifty years) and three sons, Arthur of Abilene, and Clyde and Claud, (Bud) of Merkel; and five daughters, Mrs. Virgil Touchstone of Childcrothe, Mrs. Dan Mathis of Jones county, Mrs. Eeaston Campbell, of Paducah, and Miss Eula and Missie Sears of this city. And to whom the Merkel Mail joins a multitude of friends and citizens throughout the country in extending deepest sympathy during this their sad bereavement for truly they have lost a faithful husband, a loving father, and our town and community one of its noblest and finest citizens.

Funeral services were conducted Monday morning at the First Methodist Church, by Rev. W. M. Murrell, of Crowell and former pastor oft he local church, assisted by other local pastors. The words spoken by Rev. W. M. Murrell and Rev. Cypert, both of whom had been intimate friends of the deceased were indeed touching, as they dwelt upon the life of this good man. Interement took place immediately after the services in Rose Hill cemetery, where a large concourse of loved ones and friends witnessed the last sad rites.

Continued
MOTHER OF BONHAM

WOMAN DIES IN

SHERMAN HOSPITAL

WHITWRIGHT (Spl.) — Mrs. W. A. Kirkpatrick who would have been 84 in August, died in a Sherman hospital at 4:15 a.m. Friday, May 6, 1960. Mrs. Kirkpatrick had undergone an emergency operation in a Sherman hospital three weeks ago. Mrs. Robert W. Grant of Bonham was a daughter.

Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday at the First Presbyterian church with the Rev. C. C. Dooley, her pastor, officiating, assisted by the Rev. James T. Logan, Jr., Presbyterian minister of Denison.

Interment will be in Oak Hill cemetery with Eamheart Funeral Home directing.

The former Miss Alice Sears, Mrs. Kirkpatrick was born Aug. 18, 1866, the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Sears, who were among the first settlers of this community.

At the time of her death, she was living within a mile of her birthplace.

She attended Richland Academy and Savoy College.

She was married to the Rev. William A. Kirkpatrick at the home of her parents Sept. 30, 1884. They established their home in Whitewright and Mrs. Kirkpatrick had lived here all of her life.

In 1899, Rev. and Mrs. Kirkpatrick built their home east of Whitewright and just inside Fannin county. Mrs. Kirkpatrick had lived there since that time. Rev. Kirkpatrick died in October of 1934, a month after they had observed their 50th wedding anniversary.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick was a lifelong member of the Presbyterian church at Whitewright and had been active in the women's work until her age prevented her participation.

At the time of her death, she was the only surviving charter member of the First Presbyterian church at Whitewright and the oldest citizen of Whitewright.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick noted her 93rd birthday last August at her home with her children and most of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren present for the day.

She is survived by one son, Ira L. Kirkpatrick of Sherman; four daughters, Mrs. Guy Dillon of Durant, Okla., Mrs. Robert W. Grant of Bonham, Mrs. D. Leon Harp of San Antonio and Mrs. Vera Hickman of Whitewright; five grandchildren, Mrs. Paul Vestal of St. Jo, Mo., Joe B. Dillon of Dallas, Robert and Ralph Kirkpatrick of Sherman and Mrs. Eva Mae Lancaster of San Antonio and seven great-grandchildren.

LAST SUNDAY we visited for the first time in many years the Doss Cemetery a mile and a half southeast of town. It is located on what is now the Dick Pennington farm but which originally belonged to our grandfather, Thomas Joseph, Doss, who cleared and put into cultivation most of the 271 acres. He gave the land for the cemetery, and that is the reason for its name. Ancestors of many of the community's old-timers are buried there, including the Sears, Barbee, Hamilton, Vestal, Hill, Medlin and other old families. Most of the tombstones have fallen over and are otherwise unreadable. Twice the cemetery has been in the path of tornadoes. We were able to read the names and dates on some of the stones, however, including these:

J. D. Barbee, 1806-1868; Nannie Barbee, wife of W. L. Barbee, 1847-1870; Christopher Sears, 1804-1861; Mrs. Sarah L. Hill, 1877-1885; Mrs. Esther Moses Burnett, 1818-1889; Robert D. Sears, 1834-1860; L. W. Atwell, 1837-1891; Zachus German, 1789-1878; J. A. Touchstone, 1812-1877; John T. Vestal, 1818-1868; S. J. and Dorah Vestal, 1883; Norah E. Sears, daughter of H. C. and M. C. Sears, 1846-1876; Thomas C. Medlin, 1867-1873; Milam H. Sears, son of H. C. Sears; Edgar Hamilton, 1873-1874; Irene and Norene Hayter, daughters of R. L. and L. M. Hayter; Jess Liston, Co. B., 10th Illinois Cavalry.

Some of the larger stones are face-down and unreadable. The J. D. Barbee listed above was our great-grandfather, the father of our grandmother Martha Barbee Doss. No member of the Doss family is buried there. The old cemetery is a shambles, overgrown with weeds, trees and brambles, and is seldom if ever visited by any of the descendants of the pioneers who settled this area.

A. C. SEARS, OF JONES COUNTY

Mr. Sears' likeness was secured through the "C. B. & R. snapshooter" during his sojourn at the fat stock show last week which will be readily recognized by our many readers in his section, and we are proud to state he has recently re-enlisted in our ranks. While yet young in years, "A. C." is a Triton among minnows and long-tailed fish, and his congratulations under the auspices of success in the cattle business, having played a part in the shipping game with the Campbells of our firm for a good many years in the past, and the recent transfer of Dave L. Campbell from our Kansas City office to our Fort Worth sales department has al-
Woman Sees
Tornado Raze
Birthplace

Historic Old Sears
Home at Whitewright
Destroyed by Twister

BY G. B. RAY.
WHITENIGHT, Texas, April
12.—When Mrs. W. A. Kirkpatrick
stood at the window of her home
last Thursday and watched the zig­
zag path of a tornado, she wit­
pessed also the destruction of her
childhood home, the famous old
house and early landmark known
as the J. H. Sears home.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick, who was Miss
Alice Sears before her marriage to
the Rev. W. A. Kirkpatrick, is the
sole survivor of the family that was
born and reared in this house. She
has lived her entire life of more
than seventy-five years within a
quarter of a mile of her birthplace.
Now the storm has erased it from
the landscape, and the tall, stately
cedars which had been planted by
J. H. Sears more than seventy
years ago, and carefully tended by his
descendants, now are twisted, stripped
and broken.

J. H. Sears came from Alabama
in 1850 with his father, Christo­
pber Sears, and eleven brothers and
sisters. They liked this country' and decided to settle here on the
blackland on the western edge of
Fannin County. They became
large landholders and prosperous
farmers. J. H. Sears early realized
the need of a church in this area'
and not long after his arrival he
built a small building for that pur­
pose and called it Sears Chapel. It
was used by people of all faiths
and was the scene of many great
revivals.

In 1855 Joe Sears returned to
Alabama for his bride. In 1856 he
began the construction of the house
pictured here. All of the lumber
was hauled from Jefferson and the
house was put together with pegs.
It became a rendezvous for travel­
ing preachers of every sect. No!
traveler was ever turned away;
there was always enough food
cooked to set an extra plate or two.
The hospitality extended visitors
made the home widely known and
popular.

The family of two brothers and
two sisters were born and reared
there.

Mr. and Mrs. Sears, the original
owners of the house, lived in it for
over fifty years and until their
deaths in 1907 and 1908. Since then
it has been the property of a son,
the late T. T. Sears.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick’s recent experi­
ence in weathering a Texas twister
is not her first one. Exactly twen­
ty-four years ago, on April 8, 1919,
a severe tornado struck this same
area. Windows of the Kirkpatrick
house were broken and a part of
the roof was blown away; the wind
Mrs. W. A. Kirkpatrick To Be Honored
With Open House on 90th Birthday

By Gladys Ray

Next Sunday afternoon, August 12th, from three o'clock until sun-
down the children of Mrs. W. A. Kirkpatrick will honor their mother
with a reception and open house at
Mrs. Kirkpatrick's home here.
The occasion is the ninetieth birthday of
Mrs. Kirkpatrick. The real date is
August 18th, but the open house will
be held on the 12th as the more con-
venient time when relatives and
friends can attend.

There will be no formal invitations
nor personal telephone calls. This
announcement will serve as an open
invitation to all the friends, neigh-
bors, and acquaintances.

The host and hostesses for the
event are very anxious for everyone
to attend.

The host and hostesses for the
host and hostesses for their mother's
reception next Sunday. They are:
Vera, Mrs. Hickman of Whitewright;
Laura, Mrs. D. Leon Harp of San An-
tonio; Nora, Mrs. Guy Dillon of Du-
rant, Okla.; Velma, Mrs. Robert W.
Grant of Bonham, and Ira Kirkpat-
rick of Sherman. The sixth child,
Elma Baker, died in infancy. There
are five grandchildren, Mrs. Paul
Vestal of St. Joseph, Mo.; Mrs. Eva-
mae Harp Lancaster of San Antonio,
Joe Billy Dillon of Dallas, and Ralph
and Robert Kirkpatrick of Sherman.
There are also seven great-grand-
children.

Throughout her life home-making
has been a hobby with Alice Kirk-
patrick. She grew up in a time when
travelers were welcomed at any
home where they chanced to stop.
Being the wife of a minister, she did
er full share of entertaining visit-
ing preachers, a habit she has fol-
lowed to this day. She is busy and
active today with her home, her
church, and her friends, not to men-
tion her children and grandchildren.

She has another habit she acquired
in early life which has continued to
the present; that is to visit the sick
and needy, the shut-ins, and those in
sorrow. She and her daughter, Vera,
drive many miles throughout this
area to bring some word of cheer and
sympathy to those who need it. A
truly Christian woman whose chil-
dren have called her blessed.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick will be glad to
see you Sunday and can tell you
much more than this about her long
and happy life in and around White-
wright and Fannin County.

“Little Alice” grew up in a God-
fearing and religious home with two
brothers and one sister. The early
habits of regular church attendance
and observance of church laws and
rules to advance the cause of religion
have stayed with her throughout her
long life. She has been a member of
the First Presbyterian Church of this
community since early childhood.
At that time the church was known
as Sears Chapel, located just south,
a mile or so, from her father’s farm.
Her membership has never been with
any other church group. She has
seen the church move four times—
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women’s organizations of the church,
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was only six years old. The young
couple established their home on the
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West Maple street. In a few months
they moved to the east side of town
to a new home built on an acre of
land they bought from Alice’s Uncle
Henry Sears. They paid $100 for the
acre of land. Their home for many
years was there. The home of Mrs.
R. L. Sears now stands on the same
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Kirkpatrick has never lived in rent-
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on a part of her father’s farm where
she was born. It is a large and com-
fortable home just a short distance
from the city limits of Whitewright.
In 1934 Rev. and Mrs. Kirkpatrick
celebrated their golden wedding. In this home, Mrs. Kirkpatrick still
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daughter, Mrs. Vera Hickman, lives
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Mrs. Kirkpatrick enjoys many dis-
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was The Whitewright Eagle, estab-
lished by H. S. Ellis. Mrs. Kirkpat-
rick remembers The Eagle and its
proprietor very vividly. Then came
The Plow and Harmer in 1885 which
in turn was merged with The
Sun which came along later.

Mr. and Mrs. Kirkpatrick were the
parents of six children, five of whom
are living today and will serve as
host and hostesses for their mother’s
reception next Sunday. They are:
Vera, Mrs. Hickman of Whitewright;
Laura, Mrs. D. Leon Harp of San An-
tonio; Nora, Mrs. Guy Dillon of Du-
rant, Okla.; Velma, Mrs. Robert W.
Grant of Bonham, and Ira Kirkpat-
rick of Sherman. The sixth child,
Elma Baker, died in infancy. There
are five grandchildren, Mrs. Paul
Vestal of St. Joseph, Mo.; Mrs. Eva-
mae Harp Lancaster of San Antonio,
Joe Billy Dillon of Dallas, and Ralph
and Robert Kirkpatrick of Sherman.
There are also seven great-grand-
children.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick was born
August 18, 1866, on her father’s farm
about a mile east of where her home
of today stands. Her parents, Mr.
and Mrs. Joseph H. Sears, were
among the earliest settlers of west-
ern Fannin County. Her grandfather,
Uncle Kit Sears, came early and ac-
quired a large section of what was
then raw land. He had confidence in
its future, and history has proved
him right. The Sears’ came from
Alabama and they already knew
good farming land; they settled here
in 1850. "Little Alice" grew up in a God-
fearing and religious home with two
brothers and one sister. The early
habits of regular church attendance
and observance of church laws and
rules to advance the cause of religion
have stayed with her throughout her
long life. She has been a member of
the First Presbyterian Church of this
community since early childhood.
That time the church was known
as Sears Chapel, located just south,
a mile or so, from her father’s farm.
Her membership has never been with
any other church group. She has
seen the church move four times—
from Sears Chapel into the village of
Whitewright on what is now the cor-
er of Sears and Maple streets in
1883; then to a new location on
Grand avenue where the J. W. Mc-
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mae Harp Lancaster of San Antonio,
Joe Billy Dillon of Dallas, and Ralph
and Robert Kirkpatrick of Sherman.
There are also seven great-grand-
children.

Throughout her life home-making
has been a hobby with Alice Kirk-
patrick. She grew up in a time when
travelers were welcomed at any
home where they chanced to stop.
Being the wife of a minister, she did
her full share of entertaining visit-
ing preachers, a habit she has fol-
lowered to this day. She is busy and
active today with her home, her
church, and her friends, not to men-
tion her children and grandchildren.

She has another habit she acquired
in early life which has continued to
the present; that is to visit the sick
and needy, the shut-ins, and those in
sorrow. She and her daughter, Vera,
drive many miles throughout this
area to bring some word of cheer and
sympathy to those who need it. A
truly Christian woman whose chil-
dren have called her blessed.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick will be glad to
see you Sunday and can tell you
much more than this about her long
and happy life in and around White-
wright and Fannin County.
Pioneer Citizen To Observe 91st Birthday

By Gladys Ray

On next Sunday, August 18th, Mrs. W. A. (Alice Sears) Kirkpatrick will observe her ninety-first birthday at her home just east of Whitewright. Mrs. Kirkpatrick is one of the oldest and most honored citizens of this community. Many will wish to pay their respects to her next Sunday; due to her serious illness last spring, there will be no formal open house and party for Mrs. Kirkpatrick this year. The day will be observed quietly at home with the family, close relatives, and friends.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick is still active about the house; she enjoys her flowers and her home duties and she likes to go for a ride in the car almost any and every day. She has been a lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church and whenever possible she attends the regular church services and meetings of the Missionary and Aid Societies. She is the only living charter member of the local church, and of the societies.

Alice Sears was born within a mile of the home where she now lives on August 18th, 1866. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Sears, and the granddaughter of Uncle Kit Sears, who were among the first settlers of this community. They had come from Alabama in the late 1840's. Alice received her "schooling" at Richland Academy and Savoy College.

On September 30th, 1884, Alice Sears was married at the age of eighteen to Reverend Wm. A. Kirkpatrick whom she had met while a student at the Academy. The marriage took place at the home of the bride's parents and the young people established their home in the new town of Whitewright. Mr. Kirkpatrick was a young Presbyterian minister and for many years he rode the circuits of the Lord and held pastorates of many churches in the North Texas area. But always the home was in Whitewright.

In 1899 the large and lovely home just outside the limits of Whitewright and over the Fannin County line was built. It has been the family home since that time. Located on a block of land she had inherited from her parents, Mrs. Kirkpatrick has spent many hours looking out her east windows over the acres of her childhood home and the scenes of happy days spent there with her brothers and sisters.

On September 30, 1934, the Reverend and Mrs. Kirkpatrick celebrated their golden wedding at their home. Hundreds of friends called to extend congratulations to this worthy couple. Rev. Kirkpatrick died within a month of this event. Mrs. Kirkpatrick has spent many more hours looking out her east windows over the acres of her childhood home and the scenes of happy days spent there with her brothers and sisters.

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"It is a pleasure for me to give to the city of Abilene the park, which my husband planned over 20 years ago," said Mrs. Sears as she presented the deed.

Mayor Blankenship accepted the deed for the city and said that he could think of no finer memorial to the memory of such a great man and fine citizen of Abilene.

"As Abilene grows and this area grows along with it," he said, "we hope that this will become one of the beauty spots of the city."
Sears Family Pioneers
In West Texas Ranching

The name Sears means ranching in West Texas and has since the day when Frank Sears and his wife, Molly, moved west from White-wright, lured by rumors of a healthy climate and plentiful land.

Anson was their first stop. Then they moved to the Truby community where they bought ranch land which is still in the family. The couple lived on the Truby ranch until retirement in 1904. Then, they moved to Merkel where they lived out their lives. Mr. Sears died in 1921, his wife in 1922.

Frank and Molly Sears had four children who grew to adulthood. Four of the sons are dead and widows of the four all now live in Abilene. The sons were Arthur, who ranched at Maryneal and Ekita; Alex, who ranched near Anson; Clyde, who ranched near Winfield; and Bud, who ranched in this area.

The Clyde Searses have a daughter, Carolyn. Bud Sears was married to Lela Luster, sister of Mrs. Clyde Sears. They had four children. Capt. Alex Sears, who was killed in a plane crash in 1953 after surviving a long tour of combat duty during World War II; Arthur, twin to Alex, who lives at Santa Rosa, N.M.; Frances, who is Mrs. Fred Shelton of Dallas; and Mary Sue, wife of Dr. Stanley Stevenson of Ft. Worth.

Capt. Alex Sears’ widow, the former Moreene Roberts of Fort Worth, lives on the ranch near Wingate which he operated before going into military service. During school months she lives in Sweetwater so her two sons, Alex Jr. and Bob, can attend classes.

Mrs. Della Campbell has four children living. Mary (Mrs. Wilson McCrary of Commerce), Pearl (Mrs. Wallace Bragg of Chillicoth), Odie (Mrs. Clark Jones of Oklahoma), and Julia (Mrs. Bob Sanders of Texarkana).

Mrs. Odie Matthews has two children, Clyde and Mildred (Mrs. Ralph Thompson), both of Phoenix, Ariz.

Mrs. Pet Touchstone has one child, Molly Frank, who is Mrs. J. R. Jordan Jr. of Abilene. The Jordans have two children, Jennifer and Jerry.

Family Tree
Here’s the way the Sears family tree reads:

Arthur was married to May Winter. They had seven children. Lance, who married Frances Mae Mingus, and who lives in Abilene, and ranches and ranches at Maryneal; Ve-ian, who is Mrs. Gorham Streeter of Lake Charles, La.; Molly, who is Mrs. Jack Bye of Garland; Jewel, who is Mrs. Paul Hodge of Abilene; and Betsy and Julie. The Pet Wells children are Lila Lee and Lauren.

Mrs. Sears, who was the victim in a sensational murder early this century, was married to Amy Estes. They had two children, Bong, who is Mrs. W. L. Eysson of Abilene, and Mary Rola, Abilene artist.

The Eyssons have one son, Tom, a junior at Texas Technological College.

The boys were: Arthur, twin to Alex; Alex, who lived at Santa Rosa, N.M.; Frances, who is Mrs. Fred Shelton of Dallas; and Mary Sue, wife of Dr. Stanley Stevenson of Ft. Worth.

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TEXARKANA

OBSERVES 90th BIRTHDAY — Mrs. Della S. Campbell celebrated her 90th birthday Saturday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Robert L. Sanders, 4023 Olive St. Friends called between the hours of 2:30 to 4 p.m. Other daughters attending were Mrs. W. W. Bragg of Chillicothe, Texas, and Mrs. Clark N. Jones, Mongum, Okla. Another daughter, Mrs. J. W. McCrory Jr., of Commerce, Texas, was unable to attend. Also present for the occasion was a granddaughter of the honoree, Mary Sue Sanders, a junior at TCU in Ft. Worth, Texas. Mrs. Campbell was born in Whitewright, Texas, and moved to Texarkana in 1959, but was a frequent visitor here prior to that time. She is a member of William’s Memorial Methodist Church and has seven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. Other relatives who visited Mrs. Campbell during the week were a sister, Mrs. L. M. Touchstone and a niece, Mrs. J. B. Jordan of Abilene, Texas. The Jordans have two children, Jennifer and Jerry.

March 25, 1967
McMurry Graduates Hear Dr. Hunt, Son of Founder

A guy named Hunt — a name. W. Hunt, founded the Methodist College and served as its president until his death in 1934. His father, the late Dr. James W. Hunt, founded the Methodist College and served as its president until his death in 1934. Only was a nostalgic and benevolent to McMurry College, turned to the campus where he "literally grew up." The McMurry campus was the scene of much of Dr. Hunt's early life. His father, the late Dr. James W. Hunt, owned a college in his own right, but an occasion to address summer school exercises.

The main theme of his address was simply, "What Kind of Person Do You Want To Be In Life?" He backed up his remark with a statement, "Is Service To Your Fellow Man Going To Be Your Creed."

Dr. Hunt urged the group to increase their faith in God, and "find Jesus Christ as your personal saviour."

"This graduating class," he said, "is in an enviable position because of the God-given knowledge you have acquired. But what you do from here, and how you react in life ahead, will shape the destiny of your life."

The president of Howard County Junior College, Raymond T. Bynum, director of the McMurry band, presented the Scriptural reading was read by the Rev. O. D. Clark, retired Methodist minister and a former president of McMurry. He gave the invocation.

Dr. Hunt was presented for his honorary degree by Dr. Marvin L. Barker, dean of Howard County Junior College. Raymond T. Bynum, director of the McMurry band, presented the Scriptural reading was read by the Rev. O. D. Clark, retired Methodist minister and a former president of McMurry. The Rev. Jordan Grooms, pastor of the First Methodist Church in Big Spring, pronounced the benediction, Dr. John Johnstone of Abilene gave the invocation.
Sears Memorial Methodist Center Open House Thursday

By Geraldine Satterwhite
Reporter-News Staff Writer

Sears Memorial Methodist Center is being decorated with dignity and taste befitting its occupants-to-be. Colors chosen are as warm and as lively as retirement-age personalities.

The feel of decor is traditional, but styles are compatibly mixed.

Abileneans and area residents will have a chance to tour the modified Colonial building Dec. 1 following opening ceremonies to be conducted at 2:30 p.m. by Dr. Tilden Armstrong, pastor of First Methodist Church and chairman of commissioners for the home.

Abilene District Methodist Conference, to be in session at First Methodist Church on that day, will be moved out to the new home at S. 32nd and Willis by Dr. H. Doyle Ragle, district superintendent, for the event.

Both the opening ceremonies and building tour will be open to the public.

Carpeting in the foyer, wide halls, parlor, activity and dining areas is tweed with shades of green predominating and accents of off-white and coral.

Wallpaper in halls and activity areas is off-white tweed - textured vinyl, and entry foyer walls are covered in gold vinyl patterned with a formal white floral design.

GREEN, GOLD and bitter-sweet are color accents in the big activity room with huge brick fireplace.

Colonial sofa and matching chair are upholstered in a woven textured design of olive, green and gold. There's a rocking recliner in black Naugahyde, another in green.

A Colonial commode in bitter-sweet is lamp table beside the sofa; coffee table and other occasional tables are Mediterranean in design with harmonizing distressed woods and curved ironwork bases.

Draperies on brass rods are off-white linen in a heavy, open weave. Lamps are Colonial walnut - one with shade covered in heavier than burlap loose-weave cotton.

Bookcase wall opposite the fireplace is in a fruitwood finish with open space for books, slanted shelves for magazines and enclosed storage space below.

Cathedral ceiling has exposed beams.

Floors of the beauty shop, hobby room and other utility areas of the home are an almost-white vinyl.

The big, light hobby room has adjoining locker room for hobby storage.

Furniture for bedrooms and still unfinished activity areas will be donated by individuals and families from over the area.

RESIDENTS-TO-BE — Mrs. Lila M. Touchstone, standing, and her sister, Miss Eula Sears, relax beside the fireplace in the activity room. Members of the Sears family for whom the home was named, each will have an apartment in the Center to be formally opened Dec. 1. Mrs. Touchstone is a member of the board of commissioners.

FAMILY PROJECT — Mary Eula Sears, left, and Mrs. W. H. Eyssen consider placing of a landscape by Miss Sears in the parlor of Sears Memorial Methodist Center. The sisters have furnished the parlor in memory of their late parents, Alex C. and Amy Estes Sears, longtime Jones County ranchers. (Staff Photos by Don Blakley)
ASSISTING IN decorating the activity room is Mrs. Raleigh Brown, the former Margaret Sears, daughter of Mrs. Arthur Sears and the late Mr. Sears.

Dining area, an extension of the big room, has a vast southern exposure, and is furnished with foursome tables and matching chairs.

Paintings by Mary Eula Sears, Abilene artist, will decorate walls of the parlor just north of and adjoining the activity room.

Miss Sears and her sister, Mrs. W. H. Eyssen, are furnishing the parlor in memory of their late parents, Alex C. and Amy Estes Sears, pioneer ranching family of Jones County.

Furniture for the room is Italian provincial. Chairs have cane backs and are upholstered in antique evergreen satin; draperies are off-white antique silk.

A MEMBER OF the Sears family for whom the home is named, Miss Eula Sears, also a donor, will have an apartment in the south wing.

No rooms of residents have cooking facilities — all meals are served in the dining area.

Furniture for the room is Italian provincial. Chairs have cane backs and are upholstered in antique evergreen satin; draperies are off-white antique silk.

WHY NOT?

SPEND

LIFE'S EVENING YEARS

IN

The Sears Memorial Methodist Center

ABILENE, TEXAS

A Creative, Secure, Comfortable,
Responsible and Rewarding

Manner (Manor)
Groundbreaking Held For Retirement Home

Ground was broken here Sunday afternoon for Sears Memorial Methodist Center, which was described as a building dedicated to meeting the spiritual as well as retirement home needs for this area.

The $300,000 retirement center for older adults will be built on a 16-acre site at S. Willis and 32nd St., with completion scheduled for September. Dr. H. Clyde Smith will be executive director of the center.

Speakers at the 4 p.m. dedication included Dr. Smith, Bishop O. Eugene Slater of San Antonio, bishop of the Northwest Texas Methodist Conference, and Dr. Tilden B. Armstrong, superintendent of the Abilene district.

Bishop Slater, in dedicatory talk, commended the concern for people expressed through the Methodist hospital in Lubbock, a children's home in Waco, and McMurry College. He said the retirement home filled yet another area of need.

The center will serve the area included in the Northwest Texas Conference of the Methodist Church. The closest center at present is in Hereford.

It will house 36 persons, and when expanded, will have up to 13 cottages for retired preachers and their wives.

Methodist Home

Is Named 'Sears'

The Methodist retirement home to be built in Abilene was named Sears Memorial Methodist Center in honor of the families of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sears and Mr. and Mrs. John Sears, both pioneer Jones and Taylor County ranch families, during a Monday meeting of the home's commissioners.

During the noon meeting at El Charro restaurant, the commissioners also authorized the board of directors to start construction as soon as the architect's plans are ready. Mrs. J. W. Crutchfield, secretary-treasurer, said architect Woodlief Brown would have the plans ready in two or three weeks.

Plans call for a 16-acre retirement home to be built at the south end of S. Willis. The main building will consist of apartments and community rooms. At one edge of the ground will be homes for retired ministers.

Mrs. L. M. Touchstone, a member of the Sears family who lives in Abilene with her sister, Miss Eula Sears, said the home will be not only for Methodists, but also for retired persons of other denominations who do not need a nursing home.

Dr. Clyde Smith, who hosted the commissioners at the meeting, was re-named as executive director; other re-elected officers are Clyde Latimer of Baird, chairman; Dr. Hubert Thomson, vice president; and Mrs. J. W. Crutchfield, secretary-treasurer.

Five persons were named to the board of directors and six more are to be named later.

New directors are Mrs. W. S. J. Brown of Merkel, Randall Jackson, Dr. J. W. Crutchfield, Dr. Dallas Denison of Sweetwater and Mrs. L. M. Touchstone.

The $200,000 center will house 36 persons in 22 single units and seven double units, and will contain 18,869 square feet, said the architect.

Up to 13 cottages for retired preachers and their wives are to be built as soon as they are needed.

The home has been approved by the General Board of Hospitals and Homes for the Methodist Church and by the Bishop and Cabinet of the Northwest Texas Conference.

THE SEARS MEMORIAL

METHODIST CENTER

South 32nd and Willis Streets

ABELINE, TEXAS
MISS SEARS HONORED — An engraved plaque paying tribute to Miss Eula Sears, seated, was given her at a luncheon Saturday at Sears Memorial Center, 3202 S. 32nd. Mrs. J. E. Shewbert, third from left, and Mrs. J. Cross White, not pictured, arranged the surprise presentation. From left are Dr. Clyde Smith, director of the Center, Mrs. Smith and Miss Sears' sister, Mrs. Lila Mae Touchstone. (Staff Photo)

THE SEARS MEMORIAL
METHODIST CENTER RESIDENTS
PRESENT THIS PLAQUE TO
OUR HONORED GUEST

MISS EULA SEARS <CENTER>

Because of her loyalty, devotion:
and interest in this home
The beautiful picture in the drawing room represents her artistic talents.
The flower beds and flowers she
has tended through the days represent
the inner beauty of her life. And
desire to bring happiness to others
Her quiet presence and smiles
bring assurance to each of us.

We, the residents of the home
affectionately wish
Miss Eula
many more golden days
and much happiness.
AT SAN ANTONIO FIESTA—Suzanne Sears, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lance Sears of Sweetwater, represented West Texas Wednesday evening in the coronation of the Queen of the Fiesta, traditional event staged annually at the Alamo City. Daughter of the immediate past president of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Assn., Miss Sears is gowned in hyacinth-blue velvet and train elaborately designed with one black sheep and two silver sheep glittering with sequins. Fence over which they are jumping is gold, flowers are topaz. Ribbons and bows of rhinestones adorn the velvet bodice and overskirt of the gown and puffed sleeves of matching tulle. Other trim is of rhinestones and topaz-colored stones. Bottom of the skirt and edge of the train are pulled up into scallops with rhinestone ribbons. Her head­dress is of rhinestones and topaz stones.

DUCHESS OF WEST TEXAS—Suzanne Sears, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lance Sears, has been named Duchess of West Texas to the court of the Order of the Alamo for the San Jacinto Celebration at San Antonio April 20. A graduate of Southern Methodist University where she was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority, Miss Sears was presented at the Abilene Cotillion Ball in 1955. Her father, a Nolan County rancher, is immediate past president of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Assn. She is a granddaughter of Mrs. Arthur Sears, 737 Meander, and Mrs. J. A. Mingus, 618 Hickory.
STANDING WITH THE NEW LANCE SEARS Bookmobile at the County-City Library as it started its tri-weekly schedule this week were, left to right, Mrs. Sears, Mr. Sears, Miss Jean W. Peaper Sr., and Mrs. D. H. Berry. Mrs. Peaper is librarian and made the first Bookmobile trips with Mrs. Berry, assistant librarian and bookmobile driver. The completely-outfitted bookmobile was purchased with money raised by selling 50 head of cattle given to the library by Mr. and Mrs. Sears. (Staff Photo.)

LIBRARY PLACES

Bookmobile Into Operation In Area

Another major move toward only need for the custom-made universal driver's license soon affording its services easily access-bookmobile but was sufficient to say the bookmobile was ordered able to residents in all parts of Nolan County area was access until service of communities can be done, as it will be for other plied by the County-City Library by the library's spaces, trips. She will also act as librarian the new Lance Sears. The money also covered the cost for the bookmobile.

Bookmobile went into operation of two bookmobile trips were. This coming week the bookmobile this week.

"This bookmobile," said Mrs. for the library at once.

John W. Peaper Sr., librarian. Considerable money Company is day morning, and to Nolan (Di..." is the biggest thing which has given me chance to the bookmobile School Thursday afternoon. Trips to Highland and Maryneal.

The vehicle is virtually a life-day to Sweetwater, but not a single line on wheels, and if we rain and snow, it does a steady job. A community where can take County-City Library to a string of communities — or simply there are schools, and this means, every section of Nolan County that Mrs. Peaper and Mrs. O. H. sill but Maryneal, the Bookmobile.

Money for purchase of the car-Berry, assistant librarian, is caring books to serve solely outfitted bookmobile came no time to cut the buches. They both adult and student readers, if from the side of 50 head of cattle had taken with them in manuscript, and its stops are which were given to the library. "We cordially invite you," Mrs. Peaper for the general public.

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"This may mean," Mrs. Peaper said, "Our library belongs to all of the Sweetwater and Nolan County area, and we want it to be used by all."
OUTSTANDING CITIZENS award winners announced here Tuesday night at the annual Awards Banquet of the Sweetwater Jaycees and Board of City Development are shown shaking hands at Sweetwater Country Club following the program. At the left are Mrs. Lance Sears and Mr. Sears, 1963 award winners; Glenn D. Bennett, outstanding young man of 1963, and Mrs. Bennett. (Staff Photo)

Lance Sears, Glenn Bennett Get 'Outstanding' Awards

Lance Sears, Nolan County rancher and community leader, was chosen as outstanding senior citizen of Sweetwater for 1963, and Glenn D. Bennett, insurance and real estate man, was chosen outstanding young man of 1963 by the "Awards Committee" here Tuesday.

Presentation of the trophies was made at the annual banquet here Tuesday evening at Sweetwater Country Club under sponsorship of the Junior Chamber of Commerce and Board of City Development.

More than 250, including large delegations from other towns, attended.

Charles R. Griggs was master of ceremonies. He presented a group from the Rolling Plains Cooperative Cotton Compress here and commented that this has been one of the major additions to the area in the past year because of transportation and other facilities available here.

"We are here to honor two men who have contributed to the stability of the town in which we live," Griesz said.

He asked J. M. Lawrence, who was 1962 recipient of the outstanding senior citizen award, to present the 1963 award, and Van N. Baucum, 1962 outstanding young man award recipient, to present the 1963 winner.

Lawrence presented Sears, "a big man in the life of the area in which he lives and serves," whose "progressive efforts have been felt throughout the state."

Sears was a pioneer in encouraging the screwworm eradication program and served as Nolan County chairman. Locally he has taken "a great personal interest in the Board of City Development, the United Fund, the construction and utilization of the coliseum."

"Sears has encouraged and participated in numerous activities which are educational and beneficial to the young people of this area who are interested in farming and ranching activities."

He has been a tireless church worker, has served as chairman of the board of stewards of First Methodist Church, was chairman of the building committee and served on the finance committee."

"Sears in his early years also became interested in the possibility of establishing a non-profit, charitable foundation dedicated to the memory of those pioneers who developed the part of West Texas. He sought an organization that would, in some measure, memorialize the spirit of those of our early citizens who preserved in spite of almost unbelievably difficult situations and provided our generation with the splendid opportunities which we enjoy today."

"Along with G. E. Ramsey Jr. of Chevy Chase, Md., Mr. Sears founded the Pioneer Foundation and that organization has been fitted a number of programs that have contributed to the benefit of the citizens of the area," Sears replied.

Lawrence said "a few years ago Sears became interested in the possibility of establishing a non-profit, charitable foundation dedicated to the memory of those pioneers who developed the part of West Texas. He sought an organization that would, in some measure, memorialize the spirit of those of our early citizens who preserved in spite of almost unbelievably difficult situations and provided our generation with the splendid opportunities which we enjoy today."

Sears was state director and state president of the Sheep and Goats Raisers Association and served in various capacities being called upon to testify before congressional committees and governmental agencies.

"Lance Sears was a son of the late Arthur Sears and Mrs. Mae Sears, pioneer settlers in this area. They were among those who established the ranching tradition that Lance has carried forward."

"He attended Simmons College (now Hardin-Simmons) and was a member of the Cowboy Band in that school."

"He married the former Frances Mae Mingus and they have two daughters, Suzanne, who graduated from SMU and is now the wife of B. T. Easterling, rancher in New Mexico, and Sandra a student at Texas University."

"Shears replied: "Thanks a million! This is an honor I know well I don't deserve. My brother-in-law, Raleigh Brown, state representative in Abilene, was in on the elaborate frame up and brought me here claiming that he had two tickets for Mrs. Sears and I."

"Mrs. Lawrence presented Mrs. Sears with flowers. Mrs. Van Baucum likewise presented flowers to Mrs. Glenn D. Bennett when the award was made to him as outstanding young man.

Baucum said "Bennett is a man of 1963 by the award."

"Lawrence said "a few years ago Sears became interested in the possibility of establishing a non-profit, charitable foundation dedicated to the memory of those pioneers who developed the part of West Texas. He sought an organization that would, in some measure, memorialize the spirit of those of our early citizens who preserved in spite of almost unbelievably difficult situations and provided our generation with the splendid opportunities which we enjoy today."

"Along with G. E. Ramsey Jr. of Chevy Chase, Md., Mr. Sears founded the Pioneer Foundation and that organization has been fitted a number of programs that have contributed to the benefit of the citizens of the area."
CATTLEMEN — Livestock Industry panel was composed of Eugene Lowery, manager of Navajo Bar N ranch, Window Rock; Steve Bixby, rancher, Globe; G. B. Pond, moderator, vice president at VNB; Clyde Matthews, cattle feeder, Scottsdale; M. D. Linn, tribal livestock manager, White Mountain Apache tribe, Whiteriver; and E. M. Wheeler, general manager, Apache Tribal Enterprises, San Carlos.

DR. AND MRS. J. W. McCRARY

COMMERCER COUPLE CELEBRATES 50TH

Dr. and Mrs. James Wilson McCrary observed their 50th wedding anniversary on September 24. They have been residents of Commerce for the past 40 years. Dr. McCrary was associated with East Texas State University for 33 years and has been on a retired status for seven years.

The McCrary's have been active in youth organizations and they have participated in Boy Scouting for 40 years in this Council area. They have also sponsored college socials, Girl Scouts and Campfire Girls.

Born to the couple were three sons, John Easton (killed in World War II); Col. James Wilson III, Sumter, South Carolina, and Major Dee Gordon McCrary, of Sherman, Texas. They also have one daughter, Mrs. Mary Eleanor Vogh, of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, and six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

STATE CATTLE FEEDERS SLATE MEET

The twenty-sixth annual meeting of the Arizona Cattle Feeders Association will be held Saturday, at an all-day session in Hotel Adams.

Board Chairman Clyde C. Matthews, 325 W. Lamar, will preside over the morning business meeting, which will include election of new officers.

Speakers in the afternoon session will be Dr. Bruce Taylor, head of the department of animal science, University of Arizona agricultural college, and Carl A. Binion, president of the Valley National Bank.

Other officers are Don M. Martin, vice president, and Peggy Drumm, secretary-treasurer, both of Phoenix. Directors are Sam McElhaney and Levi Reed, of Phoenix; W. B. Swahlen Jr., Tempe; M. Twain Clemans, Florence, and Bob McMicken, Litchfield Park.
T. J. Barlow Jr.

moves up

Cotton Firm Moves Barlow To Houston

T. J. Barlow, assistant general manager of Western Cottonoil Co., is being transferred to the general offices of Anderson, Clayton & Co., Inc., in Houston, W. D. Watkins, general manager of Western Cottonoil, announced Saturday.

In Houston, Barlow will serve as executive assistant to General Management, with special emphasis on industrial activities. The promotion will be effective March 15.

Barlow, a graduate of Texas A&M College and a Navy veteran, has been with Anderson, Clayton & Co. divisions since his discharge in 1946.

Born in Houston, Barlow came to Abilene with his parents at the age of 5 and completed his public schooling in Abilene at the age of 17. He then went on to A&M, where he received his degree in petroleum engineering in 1949.

Early in 1944, he married the former Billie Louise Sears of Abilene. After receiving his Naval commission, he served in the Pacific Theatre during the remainder of World War II and some post war months.

He went to work for Western Cottonoil Co. about 24 hours after returning to Abilene after his discharge from the navy. He has also handled projects for Anderson, Clayton in several parts of the U.S., and in Mexico and Egypt.

The Barlows have lived at 774 Elmwood Dr. in Abilene since 1967. They have two children, Lance, 13, and Lynne, 8.

Richard K. Stainman of 507 E. Maryland, Maricopa chapter chairman, American Red Cross, awards stripes and corsages to members of the Red Cross who have served at the Arizona State Hospital since the Gray Lady group was organized in the fall of 1951. From left standing are Mes. Walter C. Ams of 84 W. Moreland, Irving Mayer of 2215 W. Mulberry, George Richardson of 314 E. Pasadena, R. E. Thompson of 4029 N. 33rd Pl., and M. C. Steinger of 4121 E. Lewis. Seated from left are Mes. Virail Saunders of 6249 S. 14th Pl., R. H. Leber of 5408 E. Yale, Corwin Black of 512 W. Vermont, W. E. Crons of 2522 N. 52nd St., and Lloyd A. Cooper of 1607 W. Earl Dr., chairman and hostess.

McCrarys Keeping Southern Culture

(Following is a note from J. W. McCrary Jr., written from Danvers, Mass., 25 miles northeast of Boston, on a bulletin from Holy Trinity Methodist Church in Danvers.)

"Just to let you know where we are and to keep in touch with southern culture and civilization, we drop this note to you. We went through war areas in South to North and the Revolutionary areas to the place where the original settlers landed, etc.

"Mrs. McCrary followed her kin back to John Alden and the landing in 1620. Now we can begin to enjoy the change of culture as found in this area. We leave tomorrow by way of coast to Nova Scotia, Canada, and in 10 days or two weeks, we will be back to the States via Southern Canada and thence home in a month or so. All of us are well; good weather, and high prices. Keep the South alive.

Sincerely,
J. W. McCrary Jr."
TREASURES FAMILY HEIRLOOM—Mrs. Robert L. Sanders, 4023 Olive, shows the scrawl on a legal document, the original, dating back to 1841. It is a bill of sale representing slaves her great-grandfather, Rufus Campbell, bought with the legacy received from the will of his uncle, John Campbell. The Campbell family lived in Salisbury, Rowan County, S. C. Other papers in Mrs. Sanders' collection show when her ancestors migrated west. The first box of Bibles to reach Texas was brought by the David Ayes family in 1833. One of Ayers' daughters married Rufus Campbell.

Homage to Divine Creator Takes First Place in Wills of the Past

By ANNIE MAY TURNER
Daily News Women's Editor

Genealogy is the hobby of Mrs. Robert L. Sanders, a direct descendant of John and Priscilla Alden.

Mrs. Sanders, in establishing Daughter of the American Revolution lines, both maternal and paternal, has accumulated many copies of wills (at least a dozen), bills of sale and other legal papers—there also are some originals—dating back to her early American ancestors and members of their families.

Most of the legal papers were marked with scrawls as evidence of authenticity. The scrawls were made with a pen, with rings of circles sometimes looking as though they had been doodled, yet carrying the dignity of a seal.

Some of the wills were short, others long—the longest has 49 stipulations. Almost every one shows deep religious conviction, and dedication. Also shown are love and respect for the wife, the desire that all debts be paid, and the opinion that the testator was sick physically, but in fine condition mentally. The husband owned everything.

acceptance of it through the all-sufficient merit and mediation of my most compassionate Redeemer, Jesus Christ, who gave himself to be an atonement for my sins, and is able to save to the uttermost all that come unto him, seeing that He ever liveth to make intercession for them, and Who I trust will not reject me, returning penitent when I come to Him for mercy.

"In this hope I hope and confidence I surrender my soul with comfort, humbly beseeching the most glorious and blessed Trinity, one God, most holy, most merciful and gracious, to prepare me for the time of my dissolution, and then to take me to Himself into that peace and rest of incomparable felicity which He has prepared for those that love and fear His holy name. Amen.

"I give my body to the earth from whence it was taken in full assurance of its resurrection from there at the last day. As for my burial, I desire it may be done without pomp or state at the discretion of executors hereafter named, who, I doubt not, will manage it with all requisite prudence.

He authorized his executors to hire some of his slaves at his factory, for two years, at fair and reasonable wages, to provide them clothing, lodging and provisions, to take care of them in case of sickness, and give them two dollars a month. The rest of their wages was to be held as common stock. At the
An example is a will signed in May 1774. It tells:

"I, Henry Sears, of the County of Orange, in the province of North Carolina, planter, being sick and weak in body but perfect in mind and memory, thanks be given unto God, calling unto mind the mortality of my body, and knowing that it is appointed for all men to die, do make and ordain this my last will and testament, that is to say, principally and first, I give and recommend my soul into the hands of the Almighty that gave it. My body I recommend to the earth, to be buried in decent Christian burial at the discretion of the executor hereafter named, nothing doubting but at the general Resurrection I shall rise again by the mighty power of God to bless me with in this life. I give, devise and dispose of in the following manner after my just debts are paid.

"First I lend to my dear beloved wife, Rose Sears, my three negroes named Phoebe, Milley and Reubin, with their increase, provided there should be. Furthermore, I lend her all the rest of my estate whatsoever, both real and personal, during her widowhood, and no longer. Also it is my will that when my wife Rose Sears doth marry, or die a widow, my estate in goods and chattel, negroes, real and personal estate shall be equally divided between my beloved sons and daughters..."

Another interesting will that goes back to May 5, 1799, has long sentences, and the testator's soul is bequeathed to God. The document reads:

"In the name of God, amen. I, Maxwell Chambers, of the Town Salisbury, County of Rowan and State of North Carolina, being of sound and disposing mind and memory, and calling to mind the uncertainty of this life, having passed my three score and fourteenth year, feel admonished that my probation here must, if desired, to emigrate to a free state, or Liberia."

The will of Maxwell Chambers, signed Jan. 15, 1854, was that of a very wealthy man. His home is now a museum.

The will opens with "In the name of God, amen. I, Maxwell Chambers, of the Town Salisbury, County of Rowan and State of North Carolina, being of sound and disposing mind and memory, and calling to mind the uncertainty of this life, having passed my three score and fourteenth year, feel admonished that my probation here must terminate ere long. I commit my soul to God who gave it, trusting in the merits, atonement and intercession of my blessed Savior for salvation by grace, and grace alone..."

He wanted a decent burial and his debts paid, then willed his great wealth, money, stocks, bonds, timber and many other things, to relatives and friends. He mentioned some pieces from his home. To his sister he gave his velvet cushioned rocking chair, one dozen fancy sitting mahogany chairs, a set of dining tables, two fancy mahogany folding tables, a marble top center table.

"...As to my worldly estate, I will and positively order that all my just debts be paid. I give unto my well beloved wife, Sarah Barbee, all my land, where I now live, during life or widowhood, with all my stock of every kind and all my household furniture, then my land is to be equally divided between my three sons, Mack and Young and William, and also my tract of land containing four hundred and forty acres in Chatham County near Torrington's Mill.

"As for Joseph, Patt, John, Sylve and Edie, they have had their part. I do not intend any more for them than one shilling apiece, and all the rest of my property is to be equally divided between the rest of my children, Sally, Elizabeth, Rosanne and Thelea only. I give to my son William, a young colt, a finely known by the name of Pigson. Also I give unto my grandchildren Frances one feather bed and one cow and calf if she stays here unto woman's age, if taken away that part to be null and void, which is as equal as I can direct..."

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Dr. James W. McCrary Jr., professor of education at East Texas State college, was presented with the Silver Beaver Award at the annual meeting of the Boy Scout NeTwO Trails council last Thursday night at the Alps Café in Mt. Pleasant.

The award is the highest recognition that can be bestowed upon Boy Scout adult leaders at the council level. It is given upon the basis of civic service, particularly to youth and Scouting.

Presentation was made by Ben Dickerson of Sulphur Springs. Two other Scout leaders in the council also were honored with the award. They were Ira Moody of Sulphur Springs and Ike Webb of Hugo, Okla.

Only other Commerce resident honored in the past with the Silver Beaver was the late L. I. Smith Sr., who was cited in 1951 for his outstanding work.

Dr. McCrary is a veteran of 31 years service in Scouting. He first registered in Dallas in 1927 as Scoutmaster, and organized his first scout troop in Commerce in 1928. He served as Scoutmaster for five years. Five boys of this troop received the Eagle award. He organized the APO chapter at East Texas State college, and served as its senior sponsor for 20 years. He has served in almost all phases of scouting in the Council. He is the past chairman of the Council's advancement leadership and training, and camping and activities committee and is also vice president of the council.

In addition to holding a PhD degree from the University of Texas and teaching at East Texas State, Dr. McCrary is an ordained minister in the Methodist church, and has served the Commerce Methodist church as Sunday school teacher and as superintendent of Sunday schools.

He has spent much of his life working with young people.

Council officers for 1959 were installed at Thursday night's banquet. Keith Benner of Dallas was in charge of rites.

Nine Eagle scouts who had attained the rating during 1958 were recognized and presented with special Eagle Scout neckerchiefs.

Walter Bassano of Paris, retiring council chairman, presented a report on highlights of the year. Speaker for the banquet was L. D. Webster, vice president of Lone Star Steel company, who described his experiences in Russia last summer and compared Soviet and American standards. His conclusion was that the United States is far ahead in the various fields discussed, including education.

Persons attending from Commerce included Mrs. McCrary, Dr. and Mrs. Frank Young, and Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Sparks.

Dr. J. W. McCrary

Awarded Plaque
By APO Fraternity

Dr. J. W. McCrary, Jr., professor of education, has been presented a plaque for 20 years service with Alpha Phi Omega, honorary service fraternity at East Texas State.

Joel McGee, president elect of A. P. O., and Joe Humphries, past president of A. P. O., presented the plaque to McCrary during the last spring semester meeting.

McCrary has been active in Boy Scout work since 1927. In 1928 he reorganized a Scout group in Commerce. McCrary served as Scout master and committeeman of the district training office at Camp Wisdom, Dallas, and as Scout council executive of the district.

East Texas A. P. O. chapter includes approximately 25 persons. The fraternity offers three $175.00 scholarships each year to beginning freshmen with some previous interest or experience in Scout work.
McCrarys Undeterred By Friday 13th Start

Friday, the 13th of July, will be a lucky day for Dr. and Mrs. J. W. McCrary, as they will leave on that day for a vacation trip to England and the continent.

They will be accompanied by their daughter, Mary, and Mrs. McCrary's sister, Mrs. W. W. Bragg, and Mr. Bragg, from Chillicothe.

The trip to New York will be made by car. They will leave Midlewild airport at 5:30 p.m. on July 19 via Trans World Airline and will arrive in Paris on July 20. After four days there, they will visit Nice and then go to Rome.

On July 27 they expect to meet Dr. and Mrs. Logan Wilson from Austin in Rome. From Rome they will visit Florence and Venice before going to Switzerland, then to Germany and Holland before taking off for London on Aug. 9.

They will be met in London by their son, Major James McCrary, who is stationed at Weatherfield field, 40 miles from London. While visiting Major and Mrs. McCrary, Jatracia and John Steward, the McCrarys will go to Scotland for a family celebration on the Isle of Sky.

The McLeod clan, from which Mrs. McCrary's family descended, will meet at the 800-year-old castle, Dunvegan, for the installation of a new chieftain, John McLeod. This family is one of the few still governed by a clansman, states Mrs. McCrary. The McCrarys will attend the ceremony.

After a visit to Ireland, they will return to London where they will leave by plane on Aug. 20 for New York. Jatracia will return to United States with her grandparents to attend school at DeKalb next year. She will be in the home of her maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Steward.

The McCrarys expect to return by car to Commerce and arrive here Aug. 26.

Lt. Dee McCrary Given Air Medal

Lieutenant Dee G. McCrary, pilot, son of Dr. and Mrs. J. W. McCrary of 1701 Walnut, has been awarded the Air Medal, it has been announced by Brig. Gen. Charles W. Lawrence, commanding general of the India China Division, Air Transport Command.

Lt. Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer, commander of all U. S. Forces in China, in commenting on the service of the group of which Lt. McCrary was a member said, "Through enemy fire and through all sorts of weather, over oceans, mountains, desert jungle, those planes came, never failing. Upon their cargoes battles have been fought and victories won. Upon their cargoes China survived when there was no other contact with the world. Your fliers made the Hump the most famous mountain range in the universe."
P. E. O. President

Something About a Keyboard Seems to Attract Molly Jordan

By MARJORIE SAYLES
Report-News Staff Writer

Molly Frank Jordan thinks it would be great just to sit and stare into space for six months. Then she would be ready to get in some really serious, consistent practice at the piano. And to become familiar with yet another keyboard — at the typewriter.

And perhaps even another keyboard — more properly, the manuals — of husband J. B.'s electric organ.

The Jordans are far from approaching retirement age. But Jennifer, their daughter, gets her degree from McMurry this summer. After graduation she plans to teach — "get out on her own." Son Jeryl's a Cooper High School senior and will be off to college next year.

With both youngsters "flown the coop," Molly probably will feel the need just to "sit" and become adjusted to a different pattern of living.

Only One Club

Not that she's up to her ears now in a dozen different clubs whose activities keep her in a constant whirl. She belongs to only one organization in addition to her church. That one is the P. E. O. Sisterhood which she serves as local Chapter president.

Time was when the picture was different. With her husband she has been extremely active in P-TA, Band Parents clubs and other groups related to their children's interests. She's a past president of McMurry Alumni where she was a charter member of Gamma Sigma social club. Mr. and Mrs. Jordan helped organize St. James Methodist Church.

As the children have grown up, however, she has gradually dropped many of the activities in which her participation is no longer important.

Happy as those days were, Molly frankly enjoys the greater freedom the family has now to spend long, happy hours at their two-acre tract near Lake Tonkawa.

Sears Granddaughter

A deep love for the country is part of Molly Jordan's heritage — she's a member of the Sears clan, long-time West Texas ranchers. Her mother, Mrs. Lila Touchstone, is a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sears.

Heading Chapter CK, P. E. O. Sisterhood, is no small job. But Molly doesn't find it burdensome. Procedure's strict, hard to learn, she says, but once established facilitates smooth operation.

"It's the one organization I've ever belonged to that has a strict rule and sticks to it," she notes, adding that its members "just don't refuse to do things."

Founded almost a century ago as a social club at Iowa Wesleyan, P. E. O. Sisterhood later enlarged its membership to include women beyond college campuses.

A philanthropic educational organization, it founded, owns and supports Cotter College for Women at Sedalia, Mo. An International Peace Scholarship is maintained by P. E. O. members' voluntary contributions, as is an educational loan fund for women college students.

A current project for Texas chapters is establishment at San Antonio of a home for retired members.

No Fund Raising

But the financing of these projects entails no big fund-raising events... another thing which simplifies the work of a chapter president.

At a meeting Monday at the home of Mrs. Joe Roeder, 2100 Hollis, Chapter CK will have its second program of a series on the theme, "We Build a House."

The "Architect's Plan" was examined at the initial fall meeting.

"The Walls Go Up" at Monday's meeting. Guests will be included at a Nov. 8 program on "Our Bookshelves Hold Treasures." Later in the month a visit from a national officer will be noted as arrival of "The Building Inspector."

Among other presentations keyed to the "Build a House" theme will be a program on decorating.

There'll be a "New Foreman on Job" when officers for the coming year are elected and installed March 8.

Officers serving currently with Mrs. Jordan are Mrs. H. E. Grauville, vice president; Mrs. John B. Pope, recording secretary; Mrs. Gordon Bennett, corresponding secretary; Mrs. J. H. Roeder, treasurer, Mrs. James P. Chapel, chaplain, and Mrs. Brian Brooks, guard.

MRS. J. B. JORDAN JR.

... plays from heirloom album of classics
Homemaking Courses
Offering Practical Knowledge At MHS

One of the most common squawks against modern education is that little practical knowledge, applicable in everyday living, is being taught.

But Mrs. Clark Jones, Mangum highschool home economics teacher, is trying to prevent that.

An overwhelming majority of female highschool graduates have to cook, keep house, do a lot of the family buying and raise children.

Mrs. Jones tries to teach them the proper methods to do just that.

There are certain facets of homemaking which are presented each year — food, clothing, child care — but Mrs. Jones has a schedule set up that allows certain points to be stressed during each term.

For example, during Homemaking I, which the girls take during their freshman year, she attempts to make the child become aware of herself and her relationship to the family.

Under the foods and clothing category, she stresses proper buying, sewing, remodeling of clothes, as well as simple food preparation — breads, double-crust pies, simples desserts.

While studying milk, the class tours the Gold Star dairy here. Also, Mrs. Jones teaches the girls good grooming and good nutrition.

There is an introduction to the boy-girl relationship.

By the time the girls have reached their sophomore year, child care from ages two to six is emphasized. Mrs. Jones tries to get the students to understand themselves by understanding children.

At one point during Homemaking II, the students observe play school among pre-school children. Each girl pin-points one child, then makes a report on the child's behaviour.

A group of mothers participate in a panel discussion on child care.

"Most of the girls are baby-sitting at this age," Mrs. Jones points out. "That's why they should be well-versed in child care, particularly children of this age."

By the third year, the girls get down to one of the hard essentials of life — the use of money.

They study consumer buying — labels, brands, types of clothing, household appliances, equipment to be used in the home.

During this term, they also present food demonstrations, and in this department, Mrs. Jones has an unusual grading system.

As each girl presents the demonstration, the other members of the class prepare a criticism sheet, listing both the good and bad points of the demonstration. Then, the other girls are graded in turn by Mrs. Jones on the basis of their criticism sheets.

"They don't miss a thing," the homemaking instructor declared. "This helps them to improve their own demonstrations by noticing the flaws in other girls'."

In Homemaking II, as in the other courses, Mrs. Jones offers a unit on health for the girls.

"Homemaking IV is one of our best courses," she claims. "It's during this final year that they are about to step into an adult world, and we try to get them ready for it."

The major facet of the final course is on marriage. Mrs. Jones stresses the choosing of a proper mate, as well as good family relations.

Case histories of families who have gone to marriage consultants are pre-
Learning to save 10 cents per pound by dressing their own chicken, Kay Morgan, Nan Morris and Susie Hughes are shown, left to right, with Mrs. Clark Jones. Each girl in this sophomore class brought her own chicken and cut it up under Mrs. Jones' supervision as part of their unit on cooking. The popularity of Mrs. Jones' classes are evident. "There are only about four or five girls in highschool who aren't taking one of the Homemaking courses," she points out.

In the housing discussion, types of housing, architecture, lighting, furniture and its arrangement are brought out. Visits are made to different types of homes in Mangum.

Also during this final year, each girl must prepare and serve an entire meal for two persons. They plan a menu for an entire week, observing cost, nutrition and variety.

They study again equipment needs of the kitchen, clothing and money management.

By the time June rolls around the senior year, Mrs. Jones hopes she has transferred enough knowledge to the students that they will make good wives, mothers and citizens of the community.

So, if that teenage daughter of yours is cooking meals "like Mamma used to make" and telling you where you can save a cents here and there, perhaps it's because of something she learned at school.
TO GET SCOUT AWARD — Allen Sanders, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sanders, will receive his God and Country Boy Scout Award at the morning service of the Williams Memorial Methodist Church. He is a member of Troop 22 at First Methodist Church, State Line at Fourth.

RECEIVE EAGLE AWARDS — Allen Sanders, left, and Bobby Curtis received their Eagle awards Tuesday night at a Court of Honor for Troop 22, Texarkana, Texas. Melvin R. Cook, Scout executive of the Caddo Area Council, made the awards. Sanders is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Sanders, and Curtis is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Curtis. Both boys are members of the Order of the Arrow and are senior leaders in their troop.

Allen Sanders, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Sanders, is shown receiving the God and Country Award presented to him on Scout Sunday, February 11. Mr. Shook, in making the presentation, spoke of the responsibilities placed upon the scout in preparation for receiving this coveted award. More than one year of study and activity is necessary to meet the basic requirements for this distinctive medal.

Condition Of 10\textsuperscript{th} Robert Sanders
Reported Good

Robert Sanders, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Sanders of 4023 Olive was reported in good condition Monday at University Hospital at College Station, Texas, where he is being treated for injuries received in a one-car accident early Saturday.

Lawrence Glen Sherill of Huntsville, Texas, was killed in the mishap which occurred on Highway 30, eight miles east of College Station. Both youths were students at Texas A&M University.

Mr. and Mrs. Sanders returned to Texarkana Sunday after visiting their son. Mrs. Sanders said her son had no fractures or facial lacerations, but was badly bruised. He was transferred to University Hospital from a Bryan hospital where he is under observation.

Mrs. Sanders said her son thought his seat belt saved his life when the car overturned.
Mary Sue Sanders, a student at Texas Avenue Junior High, has reason to pop a few buttons. Her story on the Campbells family early Texas pioneers, which was entered in the Junior American Citizenship contest in Austin quite some time ago, has been published in the “Junior Historian,” official publication of Texas Historical Society.

At the time the story was written, Mary Sue’s teacher was Mrs. Lavonne Rochelle.

**Have You Heard?**

by Annie May Turner

**AWARDED DEGREE**

Mary Sue Sanders of Texarkana was among the students receiving degrees from Texas Christian University at the summer commencement held Friday. She was awarded a BA degree in English and Spanish. Miss Sanders is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Sanders.

**SEPTMBER 15, 1968**

**TO TEACH AT TCU** — Mary Sue Sanders, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Sanders, has been awarded a teaching assistantship at Texas Christian University. She will teach freshman English while working toward a master’s degree. She received her BA degree from TCU in August with majors in English and Spanish.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1962**

Mary Sue Sanders, 15-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Sanders, is the author of an article in the March issue of Junior Historical magazine. Its title is “First Bibles for Texas.” She wrote the article for the Texas Historical Association. It was the second she’d written, and the first also was published.

So now she has two fine feathers for her cap.

**LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OFFICER** — Mary Sue Sanders, a student at Texas Senior High School, has been elected vice president of District VI Teen-age Library Association. She was one of over 300 students representing 18 clubs participating in the annual fall meeting held recently in New Boston, Texas.

**TEXARKANIAN VISITS MEXICO FOR SUMMER COURSES AT UNIVERSITY OF AMERICAS**

Miss Mary Sue Sanders, attractive daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Sanders, is in Mexico City. She is a student at the University of Americas, which is affiliated with the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, and is taking courses in Spanish grammar and conversation.

Miss Sanders reports that aside from stimulation of the University, living in Mexico City is a delightful experience. She lives just a block from bull fighting rings, and in the middle of the fountain, park, restaurant and nightlife area. Her roommate is a New York girl.

They live with a family which includes three married daughters, and each has a floor of the four-story apartment house. Living there takes three and a half hours of time, and three buses, to get to the university, but Miss Sanders likes the arrangement. This way she gets to see many things which would be missed otherwise.

On weekends she takes university tours to points of interest in Mexico. Her first was to see the old ruins and pyramids at San Juan.

In the fall she will be a senior at Texas Christian University, where she is prominent in campus activity. Her sorority is Kappa Delta.
DR. WILL WRIGHT, veteran country doctor from Farmersville took time out during an interview to talk with a patient whom he had sent to Dallas for treatment. The 80-year old doctor still maintains semi-practice even though he is partially blind.

By JOY GANNON
Herald Banner Staff

FARMERSVILLE — "The loneliness...the terrible sense of responsibility...knowing the family watching and waiting in the pre-dawn hours looked to me to win the battle with death...this, I remember most of all."

Dr. Will Wright of this city fought the battle of death innumerable times for area families during his 55 years as a country doctor.

Now semi-retired, the 80-year old medical veteran said this week, he made his rounds in town and country, in good weather and bad, by horse and automobile when he began his practice here in 1920.

"I was on the go day and night," he recalled, "and grabbed a meal whenever I had time."

Comparing the medical techniques of that day with those of our time, Dr. Will said in retrospect he often wondered how patients ever survived in those days.

NUMBER ONE KILLERS

The number one killers of people who lived in the country in the early '20's were typhoid and pneumonia, according to the youthful-looking octogenarian.

"We used liquid diets and cool water baths to break the fever that goes with typhoid. Although aspirin was on the market, we didn't know to use it to reduce fever."

The typhoid originated from open water supplies. Dr. Will said, and the co-killer, pneumonia, was caused by those "mysterious viruses," that still plague modern man.

Dr. Will doubts that modern doctors have ever seen what he termed a "full-blown" case of pneumonia.

"Thanks to modern medicines, pneumonia is caught before it has a chance to fully develop. Back in those days, in fact until the coming of the sulfa drugs prior to World War II, it was a critical illness."

It was with some trepidation that he used the first of the "miracle" drugs on a patient in the late '30's.

EARLY SURGERY

Surgery, he said, was usually performed in the patient's home with either Dr. Will Cantrell or Dr. Joe Becton from Greenville handling the scalpel and me serving as anesthetist and nurse.

The big operation of that day, according to the Farmersville native, was an appendectomy.

"Now, we know of course," he said, "that was the worst thing to recommend for a post-operative patient, because the inactivity causes blood clots and related illnesses."

Dr. Will described the conversion of the kitchen in a country home into an operating home.

"We covered the ceiling with sheets to keep dust from falling on the patient, then tacked sheets over the walls. The table and floors were scribbled down with strong lye soap, and we sterilized our instruments by wrapping them in thick layers of newspapers and baking them till the paper fell off."

THE GREENVILLE (TEXAS) HERALD BANNER
Sunday Morning, June 9, 1968
Affable Dr. Will must enjoy a measure of satisfaction when he recalls that during his teenage days, he was more or less named by the village elders "the boy least likely to amount to something."

"I had dropped out of school, and I wasn't really worth a hoot," he laughed.

The "future town bum" was deterred from his path by the marriage of his sister. "Her husband was a pharmacist, so my father opened a drug store here in Farmersville for him to operate. I started working there, and soon acquired a rudimentary knowledge of medicine from him and the doctors who hung out there."

From what the affable doctor says, the town couldn't have been more astonished when he announced that he was going back to school and became a doctor. "Our old family doctor said I'd never make it," Dr. Will chuckled, "he said I just didn't have what it took."

The teenager proved the old adage days, he was more or less able to practice, especially in later years, to his wife. "She predicted that he had five years to live at the most. Today, he looks 15 years younger than he is. His voice is firm, his mental faculties sharp and alert, and few wrinkles mar his skin. He walks erect without a stoop to his shoulders. Even though he has reached the 60-year mark, Dr. Will keeps ahead of the latest medical advances by means of a "talker," of recorded technicallectures obtainable only through the State Library Board."

Dr. Will says he owes his ability to practice, especially in later years, to his wife. "She had a lot to learn when she started helping me after my eyesight failed," he said, "and I never could have made it without her."

Corinne became his eyes in the office, and patients especially those from the old days continued to come for treatment, and they still do. In addition to his eye trouble, Dr. Will has had a coronary, and some 10 years ago, a doctor predicted that he had five years to live at the most.

"I had dropped out of school, and I wasn't really worth a hoot," he said. "I just didn't have what it took."

When interviewing a doctor, a reporter inevitably get around to the number of babies delivered during a career. In Dr. Will's case, he lost count a long time ago, but his wife, Corinne, figures it must have been well over 2,000. Many, including Wright Pendleton of this area, were named for him.

A delivery back in the early days, Dr. Will said, brought all the relatives out. And they always had POTS of water boiling when he arrived. He walks erect without a stoop to his shoulders. Even though he has reached the 60-year mark, Dr. Will keeps ahead of the latest medical advances by means of a "talker," of recorded technical lectures obtainable only through the State Library Board. Dr. Will says he owes his ability to practice, especially in later years, to his wife. "She had a lot to learn when she started helping me after my eyesight failed," he said, "and I never could have made it without her."

Corinne read aloud to him to help him keep up with new advancements in medicine, until he obtained the talker. Dr. Wright was honored with a 50-year pin from the Farmersville Masonic Lodge this year. A past director of the State Library Board. Mrs. Wright is the former Corinne Pennington of Royse City. The couple have three daughters, Mrs. Henry Quinius, whose husband is on the faculty of the Theological Seminary at Austin, and two granddaughters, Libby, Susan and Ann.
Genealogical Section

Information concerning births, deaths and marriages of many of the descendants of Christopher Sears and Polly Harless. This couple had sixty-eight grandchildren. Their names as well as many of their descendants are found in this section.
Genealogical information on the descendants of Christopher Sears and his first wife, Mary (Polly) Harless. Christopher Sears was always known as "Kit" Sears after he moved to Texas in 1850.

CHRISTOPHER SEARS was born in North Carolina on 25 February 1804. He married Mary (Polly) Harless who was born on 6 October 1808 in Madison County Alabama. These two young people were married on 28 February 1828 in Madison County. They lived there and twelve children were born to this union but on 22 May 1850 Mary (Polly) Harless died and was buried in Alabama. Their youngest child, Frank, was a baby seven months old. Christopher Sears lived to be 77 years old when he died 20 July 1881 in Fannin County Texas. He is buried in Doss Cemetery at Whitewright, Texas. This cemetery is located on the land that Christopher Sears first bought when he migrated to Texas from Alabama in 1850 or 1851.

Issue:

1. John Barbee Sears
2. Joseph Hubbard Sears (Joe)
3. Margaret Catherine Sears
4. Robert Donnel Sears (died before marriage)
5. Mary Evelyn Sears
6. Nancy C. Sears (died before marriage)
7. Martha Frances Sears
8. Elisabeth Ann Sears (Betty)
9. William Thomas Sears (Uncle Tom)
10. Henry Christopher Sears
11. Rosanna Rebecks Sears
12. George Francis Sears (Frank)

Since this record concerns the descendants of these ten children who lived to marry and have families, the reader will find it helpful to notice the Roman numeral ( ) after the name. This number will indicate the relationship to Christopher and Mary Sears as follows:

NAME I - denotes a child of Christopher and Mary
NAME II — denotes a grandchild of Christopher and Mary
NAME III— denotes a great grandchild of Christopher and Mary
NAME IV — denotes a great great grandchild of Christopher and Mary
NAME V - denotes a great great great grandchild of Christopher and Mary
NAME VI - denotes a gr gr gr gr grandchild of Christopher and Mary

The number appearing in front of the name indicates the child of that generation according to age, with the oldest child being named first. Since all dates were not submitted it is possible that the grand or gr.grandchildren of Christopher Sears could be out of order, but by and large the order is generally correct with the older children appearing first and the younger last.

Christopher Sears oldest son was:

JOHN BARBEE SEARS (I) who was born 17 December 1828 in Madison County Alabama, married Margaret Catherine Douglass who was born 6 October 1826. This couple was married on 3 June 1850 in Madison County Alabama. They came as a young married couple to Texas with his father and family and settled in Fannin County. Some time after arriving in Texas there was a terrible outbreak of measles, (we think in 1853 or 1860) that killed many pioneers and blinded others. John B. Sears was one of the victims of this epidemic as he was blinded by the disease. In the 1880 Census Record of Fannin County he is listed as blind. (My mother remembers her "Uncle John" as being blind.) In a note I have scribbled in this notation about Mrs. John B. Sears - "Margaret Catherine Douglass Sears was born 6 October 1826. Her father was John Douglass and mother was Katherine Knowlin. Her sister was Mrs. Robert Lilly and she was born in 1840 and married in 1857". I wrote down this information before I knew to give source so I simply submit it with no proof as to its source or accuracy.
ISSUE:

1. Jim Sears (II)
2. John Douglass Sears (II)
3. Robert Wade Sears (II)
4. Christopher C. Sears (II)
5. Murphy Sears (II)
6. Zora Sears (II)
7. Ida B. Sears (II) (This child must have died young. She was listed as 12 years old in 1880 Census.)

1. JIM SEARS (II), listed as J. J. Sears, age 28 in 1880 Census, born in Texas and married Meg Kennedy, age 23 in 1880 Census, born in Missouri. In the 1880 Census only the three oldest children were named, however, the remainder of the family group was sent to me by Mrs. Sam Chandler.

ISSUE:

1. Clara Sears (III) (age 5, 1880) married Billy Gray
2. John Sears (III) (J.A., age 3, 1880) married Maggie
3. Grace Sears (III) (age 2 mos., 1880 census, which also showed she was an adopted daughter) married Sam Robnett
4. Kate Sears (III)
5. Maud Sears (III) married Tom Bass
6. Murphy Sears (III) (girl) married Jim Humphrey
7. Chrissie (III) (girl)

2. JOHN D. SEARS (II) (Jack) married Ellen Moore and the writer assumes there were 10 children.

1. Clarence Sears (III) died single
2. Dell Ray Sears (III) married Hugh Canon and they had 7 children
3. Ernest Friend Sears (III) married Ellen Bean and they had 4 children
4. Ethel Lorina Sears (III) married Jim Berry and they had 3 children
5. Floyd Douglass Sears (III) married Irene Simmons - no children

After his first wives death, John D. married Molly Dillehay and they had these children.
6. Alma Verna Sears (III) who married Charles Lockhart and they had 3 children
7. Dannie Lee Sears (III) who married Samuel Chandler and they had 5 children (Dannie Lee was 77 years old in 1968)

ISSUE:

1. Molly Chandler (IV) married Petty, they live in Los Angeles where she is manager of a radio station. She has 3 children

1. Sandra Petty (V) married Greenwald and they have 2 boys, David and Jesse
2. John Petty (V)
3. Jan Petty (V)

2. S. Thomas Chandler (IV) married and is an attorney in Tucson, Ariz. and has 6 children

1. Danny Chandler (V) (A marine in Viet Nam)
2. Terry Chandler (V) (In college)
3. Rocky Chandler (V) (In college)
4. Christine Chandler (V) (In high school)
5. Kathleen Chandler (V) (In grade school)
6. Mark Chandler
2. JOHN D. SEARS — ISSUE: (cont'd)

3. Jack Stanley Chandler (IV) — died age 16

4. Robert Lee Chandler (IV) — Manager and Part-Owner of manufacturing company in Detroit, Pennsylvania, and Canada, and has 4 children
   1. Stephen Douglass Chandler (V)
   2. Donne Lee Chandler (V)
   3. David Chandler (V)
   4. Cindy Chandler (V)

5. Margaret Elsino Chandler (IV) Married Marvin and they have 5 children
   1. Douglas Marvin (V)
   2. Stasey Marvin (V)
   3. Mark Marvin (V)
   4. Tom Marvin (V)
   5. Robin Lee Marvin (V)

8. Beatrice Julia Sears (III) married Landess Bloom and they had 1 child

9. Thelma R. Sears (III) died unmarried

10. Mona Jane Sears (III) married Bill Hutcheson and they had 6 children

3. ROBERT WADE SEARS (II)(born 28 May 1859 in Denton County Texas, died 3 October 1918) married Martha Anderson Routh (born 30 Jan 1869, died 31 Oct 1931) on 18 Sept 1884 and born to this union were 9 children

   ISSUE:

   1. Lucille Sears who married Horace Fitzpatrick and they had 2 children, Sharon and Ronnie
   2. Jack R. Sears — no record
   After Edna's death, Carl Ray married Edith but there were no children to this union.

2. William Thomas Sears (III) (born 18 March 1887, died 5 February 1959) married Mae White — no children

3. James Barbee Sears (III) (born 18 June 1889) married Edna G. Morgan (born 16 October 1900). This couple had 2 children
   1. Geraldine Ruth Sears (IV) married Richard L. Mead
   2. Martha Louise Sears (IV) married W.L. Lyman Crouch. By a previous marriage, Louise had 1 child, Pamela Ruth Wood, born 17 September 1944.

4. George Carter Sears (III) (born 17 Nov 1891 in Comanche County, died October 1955) married first to Tena and second to Mary

5. Jonathan Routh Sears (III)(born 3 Feb 1894 in Brown County Texas, died 12 May 1967) married Mary Reubena Eagles, this couple had 3 children
1. Jeanne Sears (IV) married Keith Fullerton and has daughter by previous marriage. 
   Carol Walt (V) (Mrs David Talbert)

2. Robert Wilson Sears (IV) married Ruth

3. John Eagles Sears (IV) married Janice, this couple has 3 children
   1. Kitty Sears (V)
   2. Tom Sears (V)
   3. Paula Sears (V)

6. Aubrey Keating Sears (III) (born 24 March 1896 in Commanche County) married Mary Ethel, this couple had 3 children
   1. Ward Sears (IV)
   2. Blane Sears (IV)
   3. Mark Sears (IV)

7. Ernest Douglass Sears (III) (born 11 July 1898 in Commanche County) married Fern Morrow (born 12 October 1900). This couple had 4 children
   1. Fern Constance Sears (IV) married Tom Lolly and they had 2 children
      1. Timothy Lolly (V)
      2. Michael Lolly (V)
   2. Ernest Sears (IV) married Dorothy Snider. This couple had 2 children
      1. Douglass Sears (V)
      2. David Sears (V)
   3. Arthur Lee Sears (IV) married Connie Creelman and had 1 child
      1. Gregory Sears (V)
      Arthur and Connie were divorced and he married Joan - no children
   4. Neva Mae Sears (IV) married D.R. Aguaya. This couple had 4 children
      1. Dianne Elaine Aguaya (V) (14 Aug 1957)
      2. Catherine Ferne Aguaya (V) (29 Oct 1959)
      3. David Richard Aguaya (V) (19 Nov 1960)
      4. Mary Ellen Aguaya (V) (28 Mar 1963)

8. Catherine Margaret Sears (III) (born 7 July 1901, died in infancy in Taylor County)

9. Robert Wade Sears (III) married Mary, they had no children he died in 1944.

4. Christopher C. Sears (II) (age 23 in 1880 census) married Martha (age 22 in 1880 census), they had no children at that time, Aug 11, 1880, but later one child was born.

ISSUE:

1. Hugh Sears (III)

Then Martha died and Christopher married Ella Lane, they had 3 children

2. Margaret Sears (III)
3. John Lane Sears (III)
4. Mark Wade Sears (III)
5. MURPHY SEARS (II)(boy) married Glen children

ISSUE:
1. Clyde Sears (III)
2. Douglas Sears (III)
3. Zora Sears (III)

6. ZORA SEARS (II) married Joe Hale, who died, then Morgan Stuart,
(no other record)

7. IDA B. SEARS (II) was listed as 12 years of age in 1880 census
but that is the last record I have of her

If this family of John Barbee Sears and Margaret Catherine Douglass have
other descendants, the writer was not given a list of their names. Therefore,
the following space is left for any additions.

* * *

The following is a record of the second child born to Christopher Sears
and Mary Harless Sears. He was JOSEPH HUBBARD SEARS, who came to Texas as an
unmarried young man but later returned to Alabama to marry. The young couple
returned to Texas via an oxcart and made their home at the east edge of White-
wright. A year after they married, Joe, with the help of his brothers and
father, built a large house (see story in ScrapBook Section) where the couple
reared their children and continued to live in it until their deaths.

II. JOSEPH HUBBARD SEARS (I)(born 17 May 1830 in Madison County Alabama,
died 2 January 1907) married Margaret McGregor (born 16 May 1831,
died 2 October 1908) on October 18 (or 10th) 1855 in Madison County
Alabama, this couple had 4 children

ISSUE:
1. Luther Sears (II)
2. Virginia Catherine Sears (II)
3. Tom (T.H.) Sears (II)
4. Alice Sears (II)

1. LUTHER SEARS (II)(born 2 Sept 1858, died 6 Dec 1940) married
Nannie R. Brown (born 8 June 1863, died 28 August 1936) on 12 Oct
1884 (in Fannin County I'm sure). This couple had 4 children

1. Bernie Sears (III)(born 18 Nov 1885) married Lee Neck Williams
(a direct descendant of Robert E. Lee) on 25 Dec 1905. Mr.
Williams died 16 Sept 1954. This couple had 5 children.

1. Nellie Lucille Williams (IV)(born 24 Sep 1906) married
Daniel Edward Cleveland, Jr., and they had 1 son

Daniel Edward Cleveland III(V) who married Emogene Burk
and they have 1 son, Scott Cleveland Burk (VI)

2. Ruth Rebecca Williams (IV)(born 6 July 1908, died 11 Dec 1961)
who married J.A. Hulme on 19 Dec 1936. They had 1 son

James Randolph Hulme (V)(born 1945) who married Betty Jean
Woodward and they have one child, Tracey Leann Hulme (VI)
3. Robert Lee Williams (IV)(born 29 June 1910) married Nedra Clay of Dallas. This couple had 2 children
   1. Lynne Arden Williams (V) married Henry K. Woodyerd and they have 1 child, Lynda Lee Woodyerd (VI)
   2. Robert Lee Williams, Jr. (V), a student at North Texas State University, Denton
5. Dorothy Louise Williams (IV)(born 27 Jan 1920) lives with her mother in Gainesville

2. Bessie Sears (III)(born 16 Jan 1888) married Homer Rosco Caston (born 13 Nov 1885, died 4 April 1959). Bessie was born in Whitewright and Homer in Guntersville, Alabama. Born to this union were 5 children
   1. Clyde Henry Caston (IV)(born 26 July 1908, Beaumont, Texas)
   2. Nannie Elizabeth Caston (IV)(born 7 Jan 1910 at Leonard, Texas, married Granville Carpenter, they had 3 daughters
      1. Betty Nan Carpenter (V)(Mrs. Baxter)
      2. Deanne Carpenter (V)(Mrs. Halcomb)
      3. Jan Carpenter (V)(Mrs. Turner)
   3. Loudie Mae Caston (IV)(born 7 Jan 1910) married K.H. Brown and they had one daughter, Lou Ann Browning (V), (Mrs. Redman)
   4. Homer Rosco Caston, Jr. (IV)(born 10 July 1920 at Leonard) married Helen Benson. They have 3 children
      1. Chris Caston (V)
      2. Scott Caston (V)
      3. Keith Caston (V)
   5. Luther Preston Caston (IV)(born 20 Sept 1925) married Katherine Walton. They have 2 children
      1. Bob Caston (V)
      2. Marva Ann Caston (V)


4. Homer Sears (III) (3 Dec 1893) married first Maggie Lee Everheart (born 1 July 1897, died Nov 5, 1934). This couple had 3 children
   1. Homer Lee Sears (IV) married, no children
   2. Mary Jo Sears (IV)(born 26 Oct 1916) married Luther Lee Newman (born 24 Mar 1911) on 22 Feb 1941. Born to this union were 2 children
      1. Patricia Carol Newman (V) (2 April 1946)
      2. Jo Helinda Newman (V) (16 Feb 1950)
   3. Edith Mae Sears (IV)(born 30 Aug 1918) married James Truett Holloway (born 10 Jan 1919) on 18 Oct 1941. He is the son of Mr. & Mrs. W.T. Holloway of Greenville. Born to this union were 4 children
      1. James Michael Holloway (V)(born 12 Dec 1944), married Patricia Jarvis on 22 December 1967
      2. John Sears Holloway (V)(born 21 Feb 1947)
      4. Susan Holloway (V)(born 9 June 1951)
On 28 October 1938, Homer Sears married for the second time, his wife was Chrystcne Stegall (born 17 Oct 1912) and they have one child.

   2. Christopher Hiller Shaffer (V)(born 29 Oct 1963)

2. VIRGINIA CATHERINE SEARS (II)(Kate)(born 11 June 1860, died 17 Sept 1937) married John S. Griffin (born 2 Lby 1853, died 23 Sept 1940). This couple had 5 children
   1. George E. Griffin (III)(born 26 July 1879, died 7 Sept 1965) married Florise Yates. They had one daughter, Dorothy Griffin (IV) who married C.L. Irumpy.
   2. Clarence A. Griffin (III)(born 17 Sept 1882, died 27 June 1962) — thought to have married, but no record.
   3. Mae Griffin(III)(born 7 Dec 1885) married J.B. Biffle. This couple had 3 sons
      1. Roy Biffle (IV)
      2. Ned Biffle (IV)
      3. Morris Biffle (IV)
   4. Clara Griffin (III)(born 14 Feb 1890) married W.B. Hinton. This couple had 2 children
      1. Charles Anderson Hinton (IV)
      2. Virginia Hinton (IV) married Ben Buford
   5. Joseph Hayden Griffin (III)(born 2 Feb 1895) married Marguerite Estelle(’adge) Anderson (born 17 Sep 1896) on 29 Nov 1917 at Whitesboro, Texas (one source of info gave this date as Nov 17.) This couple had 3 children.
      1. Margaret Estelle (Kargene) Griffin (IV)(born 19 Mar 1919 at Gainsville, Texas) married Donald A. Peachie (born 20 June 1911, Chattanooga, Okla.,) on 1 Jan 1938. This couple had 2 children
         1. Donna K. Peachie (V)(born 6 Dec 1940, Decatur, Tex) who married Steele Gribble,III, on 16 Apr 1963
         2. Kirk Griffin Peachie (V)(born 22 Oct 1959 at Lubbock, Texas
      2. Charles Anderson (Andy) Griffin (IV)(born 9 July 1926, Brownfield, Texas) married Phyllis Perkins (born 9 Aug 1926, Pawhuska, Okla) on 18 July 1950. This couple had 3 children
         1. margene Dianne Griffin (V)(born 29 Mar 1951, Kermit, Tex)
         2. Robert Anderson Griffin (V)(born 18 Nov 1952, Midland,"
         3. Phyllis Sue Griffin (V)(born 22 Nov 1955, Midland,Tex)
      Phyllis Perkins had a son by a previous marriage, David Earl Martin, (born 4 Sept 1949)
      3. Julia Catherine Griffin (IV)(born 7 May 1931, Brownfield,) married Luther Alvin Bourn (born 4 Aug 1928, Haynesville, La.,). They have one son, James Hayden Bourn (V)(born 31 May 1958 at Lubbock, Tex)
      6. A girl was born but died as an infant.
3. **Tom Sears** (II)(T.H.) (born 14 Aug 1864, died 28 Sept 1942) married lst Baggie (born 22 Jan 1871, died 2 Dec 1900), 2nd Mrs Eva Lewis Gaston (born 22 Dec 1869, died 14 Mar 1949). All children were born to Tom's first wife, Baggie. They were:

1. **Claude Sears** (III) (born 1888, died 1946) married Jerome Sanders. Their children were:
   1. Margaret Saunders (IV)
   2. Imogene Saunders (IV)
   3. Bill Saunders (IV)
   4. Jack Saunders (IV)

2. **Robert Preston Sears** (III) (born 12 July 1891, died 3 Apr 1966) married Lelta Love (born 29 Dec 1894 and lives in Whitewright) on 22 June 1919. This union had two children
   1. Robert Emerson Sears (IV) (born 3 Jan 1925, died 3 April 1952)
   2. Betty Margaret Sears (IV) (born 19 Sept 1925)
      married Maurice Garner. This couple had 4 children
      1. Connie Sears Garner (V)
      2. Ruth Ann Garner (V)
      3. Joseph Robert Garner (V)
      4. Trina Margaret Garner (V)

3. **Ona Sears** (III) married Ribbon Meadow - No record

4. **Byron Sears** (III) (born 29 Jan 1896, died Feb 1958) married Virginia Gillett (born 4 Oct 1896). This couple had 2 children
   1. Thomas Don Sears (IV)
   2. Sue Sears (IV)

5. **Gladys Sears** (III) (born 15 Mar 1898) married Dr. L.E. Holland, both are deceased - no children

4. **Alice Sears** (II) (born 18 Aug 1866, died 6 May 1960) married Rev. W.A. Kirkpatrick (born 1853, died 10 Sep 1934) on 30 Sept 1884 in Whitewright. Born to this union were 6 children

1. **Vera Kirkpatrick** (III) (born 28 Feb 1887) married Rush E. Hickman (died 6 Dec 1933) on 11 Oct 1916. This couple had no children. They lived in Whitewright.

2. **Laura Kirkpatrick** (III) (born 20 July 1889) married D. Leon Harp on 30 Sept 1912. To this union were born two daughters
   1. Eva Mae Harp (IV) married Owen Lancaster, they had 2 children
      1. Owen, III (V) married Ann Edwards and they have one daughter, Kimberly Ann (VI) (born 26 Jan 1965)
      2. Blake (V) not married

3. **Ira L. Kirkpatrick** (III) (born 28 Sept 1891) married Nabel Everhart on 10 Oct 1916 and they have 2 sons
   1. Ralph Kirkpatrick (IV) married Marjorie Kline and they have two sons, both of whom are married
      1. Lenny Kirkpatrick (V), has 2 sons, Ralph Mitchell and Lenny Jr.
      2. Jimmy Kirkpatrick (V), married Virginia Parkhill, has 2 children, Gena Gale and E. Dennis.
2. Robert (Bobby Gene) Kirkpatrick (IV) married Peggy Morse, a widow with 3 children by her first marriage
   1. Ricky
   2. Vicki
   3. Linda

4. Nora Kirkpatrick (III) (born 9 Mar 1894) married Guy Dillon and they had 3 children
   1. Jack (IV) died in infancy
   2. Joe B. Dillon (IV) (born 1917) still single
   3. Dorothy Lee Dillon (IV) married Paul Vestal. They live in Chicago and have no children

5. Elma Kirkpatrick (III) (born 1898, died 3 October 1899)

6. Velma Kirkpatrick (III) (born 30 Oct 1901) married Robert W. Grant (born 27 Aug 1892, died 11 Sept 1962). They did not have any children and she continues to own and operate a dress shop in Bonham, Texas.

III. The third child of Christopher and Polly Sears was a girl, also born in Alabama. She was named MARGARET CATHERINE SEARS (I) (born 29 Jan 1832, died 1894). Since Margaret Catherine was the oldest daughter, it fell her lot to "mother" her younger brothers and sisters after their own mother died. Margaret Catherine was only 18 when her mother died and there were nine younger children to fall under her care. Her baby brother, Frank, was only seven months old when their mother died so Margaret Catherine knew the responsibility of children at a young age. Family records say that some time after her brother, Joseph Hubbards, wedding in 1855 that she married Alford Medlin at Whitewright, Texas. One record says 21 Jan 1853
   As was "Kit's" custom - he help build and get the young people settled in a home - this one very near him because Margaret Catherine helped to care for her three younger brothers and sisters. Her own children were near enough to the age of Frank, Rosanna, Henry C. and Betty (Elizabeth) Sears that they all played together.

   The writer has only a limited record of this "Medlin" family, but according to the best information, there were three of Margaret's children that lived to maturity. Issue as follows:

   1. ROBERT C. MEDLIN (II)
   2. Rosa Lee Medlin (II)
   3. William A. Medlin (II)

   1. ROBERT C. MEDLIN (II) married Susan Ann Kirkpatrick on 11 Nov 1879. (This Miss Kirkpatrick was a sister to the Rev. Kirkpatrick who was later to marry Christopher Sears grand-daughter, Alice Sears. (Yes, more double cousins!) To this union were born 6 children

   1. Summer Sears Medlin (III) (born 3 Jan 1882, died 6 Dec 1943) married Grace Lawerence on 31 March 1912. To this union were born 7 children
1. Mary Sue Medlin (IV) married Fenton Gardner and they had one child, Jane Gardner (V) who is married and has a child, Jill (VI), about 7 years old.

2. Margaret Lorene Medlin (IV) unmarried

3. James Robert Medlin (IV) married and has one son, Kirk Patrick Medlin (V), about 18 years old.

4. Maurine Medlin (IV) married Denton Butler on 10 Nov 19__ and has three girls
   1. Darlene Butler (V)
   2. Deane Butler (V)
   3. Debbie Butler (V)

5. Ruby Medlin (IV) married A.J. Jackson and has 3 girls
   1. Denise Jackson (who is married) (V)
   2. Teresa Jackson (V)
   3. Sonja Jackson (V)

6. Chester Lawrence Medlin (IV) married Lois Jean Harris during WW II. They have 2 children
   1. Melanie Ann Medlin (V) married Adrain A. Cox
   2. Duane Lawrence Medlin (V) (born about 1951)

7. Omar Ray Medlin (IV) married Phonsine Furlong soon after WW II and they live in California and have 2 sons
   1. David Medlin (V)
   2. Edwin Medlin (V)

2. Cecil Ray Medlin (III) (born 1 Sept 1884, died 1952) married Rena V. Rockett in October 1909 but this union had no children

3. Carl Leonard Medlin (III) (22 Nov 1888, died 1946) married Mary Smoot, this couple had 2 children

4. Neva Medlin (III) (1895) married Omar Whitten Galleway on 22 Jun 1919. This union had no children

5. Iva Medlin (III) (15 Nov 1897) married Charles Finis Smith on 25 Aug 1948. This union had no children

6. Robert Kirkpatrick Medlin (III) (26 Jan 1904 - 1 Dec 1947) died as a widower

2. Rosa Lee Medlin (II) married Hansel C. Kirkpatrick and this couple had one adopted son, Carl Kirkpatrick.

3. William Alford Medlin (II) married Katherine Rainwater and the only records we have are that they had the following children
   1. Thomas Oral Medlin (III)
   2. Pearl Medlin (III)
   3. Jewel Medlin (III)
   4. Leon Medlin (III) - Leon died but lost account of other children

* * *

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IV. ROBERT DONNEL SEARS (I) (born 31 Jan 1834 and died on 24 Nov 1860, before ever marrying. He is buried in Doss Cemetery near Whitewright.

V. MARY EVELYN SEARS (I) (born 31 January 1836, died 26 March 1893 or 1897) married Lucien Finkney Montgomery (1828-1903) in October of 1855. Both of them were born in Alabama. Mr. Tom Montgomery (age 80) of Huntsville, Texas has this to say about his grandparents—"I know that two lines of Montgomeries, the Sears and the Everhearts migrated to Texas shortly after Texas was annexed to the United States and settled along what is now the Grayson Fannin County Line. I have a childhood memory of playing around the bed of a Conestago Wagon in which L.F. Montgomery and Mary Sears, my maternal grandparents, brought their household effects to Texas." Born to this union were 6 children

(1.) GEORGIA MONTGOMERY (II) (died 1907) married Rev. Joe B. Nicholson. They lived in Whitewright. To this union were born 5 children

1. Julia Nicholson (III) (born 1891, died 1907) and John Hugh Biles (born 1891) were married in 1923. To this union were born twin sons

1. John Biles, Jr (IV) (born 1925) married Barbara Alexander on 13 June 1946 and they have one son, John Alexander Biles (V) born 1951

2. Joe Dennis Biles (IV) (born 1925) married Reba Rebecca Smith on 18 June 1947. They have 2 children

1. Paul William Biles (V) (born 1950)
2. Susan Rebecca Biles (V) (born 1952)

2. Lauree Nicholson (III) (1918-1948) and I.K. Stearns had 3 children

1. Douglass Stearns (IV) (born Swain County, N.C., possibly)
2. Ross Stearns (IV) (born Swain County, N.C.)
3. Judy Kip, (Mr. Stearns daughter by his first wife)


4. Joe Nicholson (III) (1898-1911)


(2) LAURA MONTGOMERY (II) (born 21 Sept 1860-13 Jan 1922) married James Malone Carter on 2 Oct 1879. They lived in Whitewright. To this union were born 5 children

1. Foy Carter, (III) (born 1881, died 1883)
2. Joe Raymond Carter (III) (born 17 Nov 1885, died 3 Feb 1929) and Bertha Thompson were married on 12 April 1910. (See footnote at end of Laura's family record)
3. Robert Carter (III) (born 1889, died 21 June 1891)
5. Mary Evelyn Carter (III) (born 1 Dec 1894) married Elliott O. Thomas on 18 May 1916. This union had 2 children

1. James Elliot Thomas (IV) (born 2 Oct 1917) married Lois Johnson on 12 Jan 1934. This couple had 2 children

   1. Rebecca Thomas (V) born 1936
   2. Patricia Thomas (V) (born 11 Aug 1940) married Glenn Brassham on 13 Mar 1962 and they have one daughter, Jennifer Lynn (VI) born 5 Dec 1963

2. Mary Evelyn Thomas (IV) (born 10 Sept 1926) married Eugene L. Miller on 22 Dec 1946. This couple had 3 children

   1. Thomas Lee Miller (V) (born 2 June 1950)
   2. David Leland Miller (V) (born 6 Mar 1952)

NOTE: The person submitting the data on Laura Montgomery and James M. Carter listed the grandchildren separate from their parents so the writer does not know to whom the following children belong – but it would be either Wilbur Carter or Joe Raymond Carter.

1. Annie Laurie Carter (V) (born 17 Nov 1911) and she married B.B. Owens
2. George Malone Carter (V) (born 11 Dec 1923, died 28 Dec 1961) he was married twice (no names submitted.)

3. RACHEL EVARUHANT MONTGOMERY (II) (born 1862, died 1899) married Benjamin Spencer Montgomery (born 1857, died 1949). (These two Montgomery's were not related and the printer is correct. A Montgomery did marry a Montgomery and he was known as Ben Montgomery who lived all his 93 years in Whitewright where he was an outstanding member of the Presbyterian Church and had partnership in a clothing store.) This couple had 6 children

1. J. Maxwell Montgomery (III) (born 1885-1953) married Olive Gough of Clarksville and they lived in Dallas. They had 3 children

   1. Henry Gough Montgomery, M.D. (IV) (born 1912) a Dallas Surgeon and Physician, is married to Martha Barlow and they have 2 children
      1. Ann Montgomery (V) (born 1952)
      2. John B. Montgomery (V) (born 1953)

   2. Jerry Maxwell Montgomery, Jr., (IV) (born 1916) married twice; first, Mary Meyer, they had a daughter, Patricia Ann Montgomery (V), second, Haydie Macero (a Peruvian) and they have a son, Jerry M. Montgomery, III, (V). They live in Lima, Peru.

   3. Clara Montgomery (IV) (born 1919) married George E. Sinclair. They have 2 daughters

      1. Susan Sinclair (V) (born 1947)
      2. Pamela Sinclair (V) (born 1951)

2. Tom Sears Montgomery (III) (born 26 Aug 1887) married Lola Key (born 6 June 1887). Tom S. Montgomery, Ph D., is a retired professor of English from Sam Houston State Teachers College at Huntsville, Texas. This couple has 1 son who resides in Houston.

   1. Thomas Kenneth Montgomery (IV) (born 8 Nov 1913) who married and has 2 daughters

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1. Kathryn Key Montgomery (V) (born 23 June 1939) who married Harris and has a child, Ellen Key Harris (born 6 Sept 1966)

2. Elizabeth Sears Montgomery (V) (born 4 Nov 1947)

3. Julian Montgomery (III) married Nobility (Annie) Dickson, they had 1 daughter

1. Betty Montgomery (IV) (born 1924) married J. Howard Buaas (Austin, Texas). This couple had 3 children
   1. Julie Ann Buaas (V) (1950)
   2. Brenda Buaas (V) (1955)
   3. Jim Buaas (V) (1964)

4. Andrew Montgomery (III) (1897–1936) — unmarried

5. Gertrude Montgomery (III) — unmarried

6. Marguerite Montgomery (III) married Julian Boone. They did not have any children

7. Rachel Montgomery (III) married Fountain Kimble. This couple had a daughter, Rachel Kimble who married Pete Moffet.

NOTE: Benjamin Spencer Montgomery had 2 wives

Their graves are:

Rachel E. M. 1862-1899
H. I. M. 1862-1928

It is my understanding that his will is recorded in Grayson County.

3. SAM HOUSTON MONTGOMERY (II) married lived in Whitewright. This is a list of the children but no other information on the family

1. Grace Montgomery (III) married a Mr. Clendenin
2. Enna Montgomery (III) (now deceased) married Mr. Perry
3. Holly Montgomery (III) (now deceased) married a Mr. LaRoe
4. Catherine Montgomery (III) married Eldridge Pennington (wonder if this wouldn't be more double cousins)
5. Blanche Montgomery (III) married Fred Conn
6. Nell Montgomery (III) married
7. King Montgomery (III) deceased
8. Jim Montgomery (III) deceased
9. Grafton Montgomery (III)
10. Sam Montgomery (III)
11. Dick Montgomery (III)

4. Moe Montgomery (II) married William E. Blaine. They lived in Jacksonville, Florida where she died. They had one son, W.E., Jr., who worked for Skelly Oil company in 1931, last record.

5. Robert C. Montgomery (II) no record other than he did marry and had a son Robert C., Jr.
VI. NANCY C. SEARS (I) (born 31 Jan 1836, died 7 Sept 1853), a twin to Mary Evelyn, was probably a victim of the measles epidemic.

VII. MARTHA FRANCES SEARS (I) (born 6 Feb 1838) was the seventh child of Christopher Sears. She married Billy Aldridge and according to the record taken from "Kit's" Bible the couple was married in April 1855. However, one record submitted to me gave the date as 1858. I visited Whiteoak as a child and met Aunt Lartha, who was then very old and blind. She was tiny, dainty and a sweet old lady with gray hair. She felt of my mother's face and said, "you look like your mother". Then she felt of my face and said, "you look like your grandmother too". This was a real compliment because my grandmother, Lollie Sears, was beautiful like the ladies on cameo brooches. She also remarked about the pretty color of our dresses. One of us had on a purple dress and we were told that she could tell color by the smell. Her eyes were damaged by measles and apparently her blindness stemmed from that, tho I do not know how long she had been blind. She could do housework and she gave me a tea towel which she had made from a flour sack (that was when flour came in cloth sacks; 10 or 25 lb bags). It was hemmed with the tiniest stitches I ever saw. If you will notice in the picture section where the group of Kit's children are on the porch, she appears to be blind there. At the time I met her, she was visiting Aunt "Het" Groves out in the country near Whiteoak. I submit both dates. The couple had 9 children as follows:

1. CALLIE ALDRIDGE (II) (born in Grayson County) married a Mr. Rich and to this union were born 6 children (2 sets of twins)
   1. Ida Rich (III) (twins)
   2. Ada Rich (III) (twins)
   3. Bill Rich (III)
   4. Jim Rich (III)
   5. Luther Rich (III)
   6. Addie Rich (III)

2. WILLIAM ALDRIDGE (II) (1862-1964) Yes, Will lived to be 102 years old. He married 1st Margaret Wallace and they had 2 sons
   1. Hugh Aldridge (III) (born 22 Oct 1895) married Core Johnson (born 7 May 1906) on 11 Feb 1921. This union had 4 children
      1. Frances Lorene Aldridge (IV) (born 22 Oct 1922) is married
      2. Helen Florene Aldridge (IV) (born 29 Aug 1924) married George Foris (born 2 Jan 1920) on 10 Sept 1947. This couple has 3 children
         1. Georgia Darlene Foris (V) (born 15 Aug 1948)
         2. Kathleen Lynell Foris (V) (born 27 Apr 1950)
         3. Henry Lee Foris (V) (born 5 Oct 1951)
      3. Ida Lee Aldridge (IV) (born 5 Jan 1930) married
      4. Jimmy Lee Aldridge (IV) (born 16 Jun 1934) unmarried
   2. Foy Aldridge (III) - deceased

   After his first wife's death, Will married a second time, and they had some children - 1 daughter that we know of:
   3. Vergie Aldridge (III) married Dick Snell. They had 2 children. Vergie died when the little girl was 1 year old.
      1. James Snell (IV) is married and has 2 girls
         1. Judy Sue Snell (V)
         2. Jimmie Lorene Snell (V)
      2. Omah Sue Snell is married to Harris and they had 2 sons
         1. Jerry Lynn Harris
         2. Jon Richard Harris

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4. It has been mentioned that there was a fourth child, Love, a boy who was accidentally shot in the leg and died of blood poisoning but we are not sure that he was a son of Will Aldridge

3. **George Aldridge** (II) married Lou, but they had no children

4. **Bob Aldridge** (II) married Minnie Black and they had 2 daughters
   1. Ola Aldridge (III)
   2. Nora Aldridge (III)

5. **Anna Aldridge** (II) married Jess Dees and they had a large family
   1. Hayford Dees (III)
   2. Laud Dees (III)
   3. Jewel Dees (III)
   4. Oto Dees (III)
   5. Ulner Dees (III)
   6. Willie Lee Dees (III)
   7. Maggie Dees (III)
   8. Cleora Dees (III)
   9. Lella Dees (III)

6. **John Aldridge** (II) married Dora, later died leaving 2 small boys
   1. Rufus Aldridge (III)
   2. George Aldridge (III)
   Both sons are now dead. One correspondent said that Rufus had a son, David Aldridge (IV) who did live in Ada, Okla. There is also a Mr. Ken Aldridge who is said to be the son of "Little George" - would this be the above George? Ken has a sister, Betty.

7. **Uriah Aldridge** (II) (twin to Maggie Pearl) died in infancy.

8. **Maggie Pearl Aldridge** (II) (born 1874, died 1956) married Joseph Edward Delashaw (born 1872, died 1954) in 1892. To this union were born 12 children (one baby boy born dead). This family lived in Grayson and Cook Counties.
   1. Atna Ruth Delashaw (III) (born 1894, died 1896)
   2. Bessie Vera Delashaw (III) (born 1896) married James Randolph Coen (born 1895, died 1950) in 1927. Born to this union were 2 children
      1. Robert Edward Coen (IV) (born 1929) married Margie Whittington (born 1922) in 1956. This couple had 4 children
         1. James Kevin Coen (V) (1959)
         2. Mark Coen (V) (born 1961, died 1964)
         3. Lori Michele Coen (V) (born 1962)
         4. Kimberly Kay Coen (V) (born 1964)
      2. Mary Jane Coen (IV) (born 1933) married Lonnie George Stevenson (born 1931) in 1967. They have one child
         Lawrence Coen Stevenson (V) (born 1966)
   3. Vivian Grace Delashaw (IV) (born 1898) married Robert Warren Duncan (1901 - 1937) in 1924. This couple had 1 son
      1. Robert Warren Duncan, Jr. (V) (born 1930) married Loretta Lucille Erwin (born 1932) in 1954. This couple has 1 son
         Robert Lynn (Bobbie) Duncan (VI) (born 1956)
4. Thelma Louise Delashaw (IV)(1900) married Carl Moore. No issue

5. Elena Josephine Delashaw (IV)(born 1901) married William Neil Boyd (1891 - 1964) in 1917. This couple had 14 children

1. William Edward Boyd (V)(born 1920) married Elsie. He had 2 children by his first wife
   1. Diana Lyn Boyd (VI)(born 1947)
   2. Noah Keith Boyd (VI)(born 1950)

2. Hermia Vivian Boyd (V)(born 1920) married Timothy Murphy in 1947. They have 1 child
   Jay Murphy (VI)

3. Weemon Bruce Boyd (V)(born 1922) married Bonnie Chambers in 1945. They have 3 children
   1. Brenda Boyd (VI)(born 1950)
   2. Weemon Bruce Boyd, Jr. (VI)(born 1947)
   3. Deebra Kay Boyd (VI)(born 1952)

4. Joe Truman Boyd (V)(born 1926) married Norma Harrison in 1945. They have 5 children
   1. Ruth Ann Boyd (VI)(born 1946) married Jack Maynord in 1965 and they have a baby (VII)
   2. Toni Carol Boyd (VI)(born 1948)
   4. Joe Russell Boyd (VI)(born 1951)
   5. Lorena Boyd (VI)(born 1952)

5. Darrell Wayne Boyd (V)(born 1924) married Anna Lois Hayes in 1947. They have 3 children
   1. Sheryl Ella Boyd (VI)(1948)
   2. Ronda Kay Boyd (VI)(1949)
   3. Norma Wayne Boyd (VI)(1953)

6. George Washington Boyd (V)(born 1930) married Peggy Smith in 1949. They have 3 children
   1. Debra Joyce Boyd (VI)(1950)
   2. Tonya Kay Boyd (VI)(1954)

7. Johnnie Neil Boyd (V)(born 1932) married Judy Williams in 1952. They have one son
   Reynolds Neil Boyd (VI)

8. James Frederick Boyd (V)(1934) married Darlene in 1965

9. Lewis Delashaw Boyd (V)(born 1935) married Nancy Migios in 1959. They have twins, born in 1961
   1. David Glen Boyd (VI)
   2. Donna Sue Boyd (VI)

10. Carol Mae Boyd (V)(1936-1937)

11. Dell Wiley Boyd (V)(1938-1939)

12. Dalton Lee Boyd (V)(born 1938) married Judy Webb in 1961. They have 2 children
   1. Thresa Boyd (VI)(1964)
   2. Lisa Boyd (VI)(1965)
13. Jerry Douglass Boyd (V)(born 1942) married Katherine Jeanette in 1960. They have 3 children
   1. Katherine Boyd (VI)(1961)
   2. Jerry Dale Boyd (VI)(1963)
   3. Earlene Boyd (VI)(1965)

14. Dayton Earl Boyd (V)(born 1943) married Carol Wayde in 1966

6. Edna Pearl Delashaw (IV)(born 1903) married William Kreps

7. Ruby Hazel Delashaw (IV)(born 1905) married Everett Rhea Parker (1901-1959) in 1921. This couple had 4 children
   1. Margaret Lou Parker (V)(born 1922) married William B. Dozier (1918) in 1942. They have 2 children
      1. Donna Dozier (VI)
   2. Evelyn Rhae Parker (V)(born 1925) married James Bledsoe (1926) in 1945. They have 3 children
      1. Bonnie Deen Bledsoe (VI)(1947)
      2. James Marcus Bledsoe (VI)(1949)
      3. Cynthia Ann Bledsoe
   3. Everette Roger Parker (V)(born 1943)
   4. Gabriel Newby Parker (V)(1951)

8. Albert Forest Delashaw (IV)(born 1907) married Oma Jewell Robertson (born 1909) in 1934. They have 3 children
   1. Albert Forest Delashaw, Jr. (V)(born 1935)
   2. Larry Edward Delashaw (V)(born 1936) married Bonnie Nelson (born 1937) they have 2 girls
      1. Donna Lynn Delashaw (VI)(born 1963)
      2. Deanna Louise Delashaw (VI)(born 1967)
   3. Michael Lynn Delashaw (V)(born 1943)

9. Fred Aldridge Delashaw (IV)(born 1910) served for 23 yrs as an Army Chaplain and looked into Delashaw records overseas. He says that the Delashaws are French. He married Elaine Camp (born 1915) in 1936. This couple has 2 daughters
   1. Sandra Sue Delashaw (V)(born 1939) married Larry Warden in 1961. They have a son
      Kent Samuel Warden (VI)
   2. Linda Lue Delashaw (V)(born 1941) married Joseph Anthony Varano (born 1940) in 1949. They have 2 children
      1. Debra Sue Varano (VI)(born 1961)
      2. Joseph Anthony Varano (VI)

10. Alton Lee Delashaw (IV)(born 1913) married 1st Doris Robinson and they had the following children
9. JODY (JOE) FRANCES ALDRIDGE (II) married Ivy Wariner. This couple had 6 children
   1. Grady Aldridge
   2. Bunice Aldridge
   3. Zula Aldridge
   4. Gyona Aldridge
   5. Pearl Aldridge
   6. Tom Aldridge

   Grady is thought to be living in Gainsville but writers' letters were not answered

   NOTE:
   Editor's apology - after final copy was made, I found that DeLashaw was written with the capital "L". Sorry I didn't know sooner.

   *   *   *
VIII.

ELIZABETH ANN SEARS (I), eighth child of Christopher Sears, was called Betty. She was born 2 May 1840 and died 7 Aug 1927. In either 1860 or 1861 on 29 October, she married William Pennington (Billy)(born 24 Feb 1835, died 19 Oct 1927). Born to this couple were 5 children

1. WILLIAM PENNINGTON (WILLIE)(II)(born 13 Oct 1862, died 26 Jan 1949) married 1st Laura Bush (born 11 Sept 1867, died 12 May 1891) on 16 October 1886. To this union were born 7 children

1. Roy Edwin Pennington (III)(born 11 Dec 1887, died 30 Jul 1900)

2. Rhom T. Pennington (III)(born 12 Oct 1889) married 1st Bula Bailey (21 May 1891-19 Dec 1914) and they had one son, Daily Pennington, born dead 30 Apr 1913. After his first wife's death, Rhom married Verda Rasco and they had 1 daughter

1. Aileen Pennington (IV) who married Wilson Kaiser.
   This couple had 3 children before divorce
   1. Joe Kaiser (V)
   2. Suzy Kaiser (V)
   3. Barry Kaiser (V)

3. Corinne Pennington (III)(born 11 Sept 1893) married Dr. William C. Wright (born 15 Mar 1888) on 11 Dec 1921. This couple lives in Farmersville and they have 1 child
   Emma Lou Wright (IV)(born 28 June 1923) who married Rev. Henry Willard Quinius, Jr., on 10 Dec 1943. (I believe Rev. Quinius is a Pres. Minister in Austin.)
   Born to this union are 3 children
   1. Corine Elizabeth Quinius (V)
   2. Susan Margaret Quinius (V)
   3. Catherine Ann Quinius (V)

4. Robert Gilma (Bud) Pennington (III)(born 11 Sept 1897, died 1945) married Bernese Graves and they have 1 son
   1. Joe Pennington (IV) who married Betty Pounds. They have 3 children
      1. Patricia Pennington (V)
      2. Greg Pennington (V)
      3. Shirley Pennington (V)

5. Regina Pennington (III)(born 7 Apr 1900). Regina never did marry and is a retired teacher, very pretty and so young looking she belies her 68 years. I am indebted to her for the picture of Christopher Sears as hers was a better copy than mine.

6. Kate Pennington (III)(born 24 Sept 1902) married J.A. Canup. This couple never did have any children so Regina and the Canups have built a new duplex and live in Royse City, Texas.

7. Neil Pennington (III)(born 14 Mar 1906) married Iva Lee Houser and they have 3 children
   1. Robert Neil Pennington (IV)
   2. Donnie Pennington (IV)
   3. Charles Pennington (IV)(killed in auto accident)
2. JOSEPH RICHARD (DICK) PENNINGTON (II) (born 3 Dec 1863, died 22 Nov 1944) married 1st Cordelia McCreery (1872-1905) and 2nd Jinnie Lewis (1872-1947) (a sister to the second Mrs. T. H. Sears). They adopted a daughter
   Anne Pennington, who married Floyd Basset (son of W. L. Basset). Born to this union were 3 children
   1. Beverly
   2. Dixie
   3. Jimmy

   Dick lived in Whitewright in a large white one story house with a large screened in front porch that sat on a large tree-shaded grassy lot. They owned a pet parrot that could talk very plainly. She was very tame and friendly but quite mischievous. She would play tricks on Mrs. Pennington by calling her so that she would come to the front door thinking there was a visitor. This trick delighted my fancy when I visited there as a 12 year old girl. We made fast friends so cousin Dick permitted me to take Polly outside for fresh air and said I could watch her. We walked in the yard and she finally flew up into a tree which cousin Dick had said was her favorite and that I would have to use the broom to help her down when she tired. After a little while she called in her high pitched voice, "Help, Help, I want down". I took the broom and held it up for her to step on the handle, instead she flew at my hand catching my right forefinger with her sharp bill. When I yelled she flew to the ground and jumped up and down and cried gleefully, "I fooled ja, I fooled ja", and so she did because the scar can still be seen today.

   What is now known as the Pennington Farm belonging to Dick's daughter, Mrs. Basset, was once the farm of Christopher Sears. It has changed hands several times but when Christopher first owned it, a family cemetery was started on it - later this land was donated as a public cemetery and called the "Doss Cemetery" since he owned the land and gave it as a cemetery. I understand it is no longer used but like so many old cemeteries is overgrown with weeds.

3. JONES PENNINGTON (II) (born Sept 1861) married Kate Jones. This union had 2 children
   1. Joe Pennington (III) married Elsie, they had no children. He was killed.
   2. Harcella Pennington (III) married Drury Wood and they have 2 children
      1. Chip Wood (IV) married Margorie, they have 4 children
         1. Joe Wood (V)
         2. Robert Wood (V)
         3. Jean Wood (V) (1963)
         4. Ellen Wood (V) (1966)
      2. Ellen Pennington (IV) married FRAKKIE C. PENNINGTON (II) (born 23 Sept 1868, died 17 Jan 1908) married Jim C. Reubell about 1890. Frankie and Jim married in Whitewright and lived there until about 1903 when they moved and lived first at Waxahachie, then San Angelo, Texas. She was living there at the time of her death; however, she died at Whitewright while visiting her parents. After her death, her two daughters, Nell and Lela, lived with their grandparents, Bettye and Billy Pennington. This couple had 3 children
         1. Omer Reubell (III) (born 14 Feb 1892, died 1940). Omer married and had at least one son Austin Reubell (IV)
2. Nell Reubell (III)(born 26 Jan 1895) married J. H. Smythe (1842-1930) on 11 May 1921. This union had one daughter

1. Betty Nell Smythe (IV)(born 3 Nov 1922) married Norman Billy Hancock (born 19 May 1919) on 26 June 1943. Born to this union were 3 children
   1. Billy Dave Hancock (V)(born 7 May 1946)
   2. Betty Susan Hancock (VI)(born 11 July 1948)
   All of these Hancock children were born in Lubbock, Texas.

3. Lela Betty Reubell (III)(born 3 July 1897) married Ross Dickerson (born 6 Jan 1895, died 6 Jan 1933) - no children. Lela is a retired teacher.

5. ViNetta (Net) Pendleton (II)(born 18 Dec 1876) married Alfonso L. Groves (22 Feb 1871 - 4 July 1926) and they had 3 children
   1. Elizabeth Groves (III)(a homemaking teacher in Denison, Texas) married Robert Geer. They divorced. This union had 1 son Robert Geer, Jr. (IV)
   2. Pennington Groves (III) married Pearl Price. It is my understanding that he divorced his 1st wife, but I do not know whether Pearl was his 1st or 2nd wife, or who was the mother of his 2 sons (I believe Pennington lived in Lansing, Mich.)
      1. Ray Groves (IV)
      2. Roy Groves (IV)
   3. Roy Harold Groves (III) married Mdean Martin and I think they had children. He is in business in El Paso, Texas

* ** *

IX. William Thomas Sears (I)(Uncle Tom)(born 28 Apr 1842, died 6 May 1914) was the ninth child of Christopher Sears. He lived in Whitewright and married twice, 1st to Ethelia M. Everhart (born 9 June 1847, died 2 April 1906). This union had 9 children. 2nd wife was Mrs. Kate Suggs of Denison. no children

1. Fannie Sears (II)(born 30 Oct 1868, died 4 May 1941) married Columbus Brinkley Bryant (born 16 Dec 1862, died 10 Dec 1937) and to this union were born 3 children
   1. Anthony Barry Bryant (III)(born 15 Jan 1890, died 24 May 1945) married Marcie Wilson (born 19 May 1890) on May 24, 1911. To this union were born 3 children
      1. James Columbus Bryant (IV)(born 10 Oct 1912) married Kay Waltz on 9 Jan 1947 to this union were born 3 children
         1. Anthony Barry Bryant (V)(19 Feb 1948)
         2. Frank Randolph Bryant (v)(Randy)(7 Aug 1949)
         3. James Columbus Bryant, Jr. (V)(14 Feb 1949)
   2. Martha Bryant (IV)(born 13 Sept 1918) married Griffin Dollarhide, Jr. To this union were born 3 children
      3. Thomas Wilson Dollarhide (V)(7 Jan 1953)
3. Betty Bryant (IV)(12 Feb 1931 – 12 Sept 1949)

2. Martha Bryant (III)(died 1960) married Dr. Amos H. Fortner (died 28 Jan 1965) in 1914. This union had one daughter

1. Nancy Fortner (IV)(1 Mar 1922) married Robert Prentiss on 29 Apr 1947. They have 3 children

   1. Martha Prentiss (V)(7 July 1949)
   2. Gloria Prentiss (V) (30 May 1954)
   3. Paul Prentiss (V) (13 Oct 1956)

3. Columbus Brinkley Bryant, II(III)(born 20 Apr 1899, died 3 Jun 1959) married Eva Stillwell on 31 Dec 1921. This union had 2 children

   1. Columbus Brinkley Bryant, III (IV)(born 17 Mar 1925) married Olivia Gose Bommar and they have 3 children

      1. Eva Nan Bryant (V)(born 11 Aug 1952)
      2. Larilla Bryant (V)(born 4 Nov 1953)

   2. John Anthony Bryant (IV)(born 12 Feb 1941) married Judith Ann Roberts on 31 July 1965. (daughter of Mrs. Charles Stanley Roberts of Sherman.) They have one daughter

      Eva Kathleen Bryant (V)(born 4 Aug 1966)

2. LOTTIE SEARS (II)(born 1870, died 24 July 1941) married John D. Hoard and they had 1 daughter

   1. Core Lee Hoard (III) who married Jay Payne. This union had 1 child

      Jane Payne (IV) who married Yankee

3. CORA SEARS (II) married John Marshall. She died on 28 Dec 1925 and he died in 1934 in an automobile accident when a butane truck struck his car and exploded. They had 1 son

   John Grayson Marshall (III) who died in infancy. John Marshall's parents were Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Marshall of Whitesboro, Texas.

4. JOHN W. SEARS (II)(born 1872, died 7 July 1930) married Edna Pratt Lilly (1876 – 1926). Both came from Whitewright and as a young married couple, moved to Merkel, Texas where cousin John engaged extensively in ranching. They were neighbors to Frank Sears and John and Frank were as close as brothers even though John was Frank's nephew. This couple had a home in Merkel and one on the ranch where the writer spent many happy hours as a child. This couple had two daughters

   1. Lily Pratt (III)(born Aug 1902) married W.S.J.(Bill) Brown. They have no children. Lily Pratt was a liberal contributor and chairman of the committee to furnish the Retirement Home of the Sears Memorial Center in Abilene. (see stories in scrapbook section) She worked very hard with her 2 cousins, Pet Touchstone and Eula Sears, who spear-headed the venture.

   2. Johnny Clarence Sears (III)(born 1906) She married and later divorced F.W. Snyder. No children

5. WADE SEARS (II)(5 Aug 1876 – 2 Oct 1937) married Edna Martindale (born Oct 1883) She lives at Bells on Highway 82 with son, W.T. Born to this union were 3 children: Katherine Sears (III), Marie Sears (III) and W.T. Sears (III). We have no record of these families but do know that W.T. Sears married Edna Earl Moore and the only record I have is that W.T. lives at Bells.
6. **MARY LEIGH SEARS (II)** (15 Jan 1879 - 22 Jan 1962) married Elwyn Choice Anderson (28 Dec 1879 on 30 Dec 1902). Born to this union were 2 children

1. Charles Sears Anderson (III) (born 22 Oct 1905) married Grace Single (25 May 1906) on 23 April 1930. She is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. J.W. Single (Methodist Minister). Born to this union were 2 children

   1. Mary Grace Anderson (IV) (25 June 1937) married James Hunter Harwell (14 Dec 1933) on 24 Dec 1957. Born to this union were 2 children

      1. Kay Leigh Harwell (V) (14 Dec 1959)
      2. Laurie Ann Harwell (V) (2 Aug 1963)


      1. Cheri Louise Price (IV) (27 Aug 1942)
      2. Price (IV) (1967)

2. Louise Wilburn Anderson (III) (22 Feb 1907) married Myers Milton Suddath (28 Feb 1907) on 19 June 1932. Born to this family were 2 daughters

   1. Marilyn Suddath (IV) (born 9 Mar 1933) married Jon Franklin Greeneisen (8 Aug 1933) on 24 Nov 1956. Born to this union was 1 child

      Lee Ann Greeneisen (V) (23 May 1958)

   2. Louanne Suddath (IV) (17 April 1935) married Richard Eugene Loupee (18 April 1929) on 3 Oct 1958. This couple has an adopted daughter

      Andrea Loupee (3 Jan 1966)

7. **THOMAS EVERHART SEARS (II)** (Red Tom) (born 17 Jan 1882 - 17 Oct 1932) married Mabel Jones (3 Aug 1882) in 1907. Born to this union were 4 children

   1. Martha Joe Sears (III) (15 Sept 1910) married Clifton Alexander Emerson (1910-1965) on 17 Nov 1940. Born to this union were 2 sons

      1. Clifton A. Emerson, II (IV) (Little Cliff) (28 Mar 1943)
      2. James Michael (Jim) Emerson (IV) (14 Dec 1950)

   2. Madge Sears (III) (17 Jan 1915 - 1953) married Clifford Braly. This couple had one daughter

      Sandra Sears Braly (IV) (28 Oct 1934)

   3. Mary Jane Sears (III) (1916 - 1917)

   4. Thomas Emerson Sears (III) (14 Oct 1917) married Tommy Caruth (11 Dec 1920). I believe this is the Tom Sears that lives in Whitewright now. (There have been so many Toms.) Born to this union were 2 sons

      2. Del Paine Sears (IV) (1 May 1947)

8. **LOU SEARS (II)** (died 1937) married Hubert C. Holland in 1917. No children to this marriage. Mr. Holland lives in Ft. Worth, Texas

9. **JIM SEARS (II)** (1888 - 20 Aug 1904) never married

** * * * **
X. Henry Christopher Sears (I) (20 Aug 1844 - Oct 1914) Married Bell Hill (1884 - 1927), tenth child of Christopher. Born to this union were 8 children. Though this family lived in or near Whitewright, I have been unable to secure records on the descendants. I submit the following:

1. Nora Sears (II) (1866 - 1876) buried in Doss Cemetery.
2. Melan Sears (II) died young
3. Jim Sears (II) died young
4. Addie Sears (II) married Ollie Randle -
5. Bascom Sears (II) married Celeste Biles of Louisiana. Born to this union were 2 children
   1. Josie Bell Sears (III) married Jack Ryan and they had 1 son
      Jack Sears Ryan (IV) who is married and has children
   2. Louise Sears (III) married Edd Welch of Dallas, they adopted a daughter, Linda
   1. Morrell Sears (II) (1893 or 95 - 1937 or 39) married Jewel Benton. This couple had 2 daughters
      1. Elizabeth Sears (IV)
      2. Justine Sears (IV)
   2. Jim Sears (III) married Marjorie Moore. They had 2 sons
      1. Robert L. Sears (IV)
      2. David Sears (IV)
   3. Bula Sears (III) married Marvin Bryant. They had 1 daughter
      1. Robbie Lee Bryant (IV) who married Wendyl Watts and they have 2 sons, Bryant Watts and Robert Watts.
      1. Mary Marie Mitchell (IV) married Robert Veasy and they had 1 son, David (V)
      2. Frances Mitchell (IV) married 1st William Farthing, 2nd David McCrary, and had 2 children by 1st marriage - William Farthing (III) (V) and Susan Farthing (V).
7. Georgia Sears (II) married Dr. King. One son

XI. Rosanna Rebecca Sears (I) (22 Sept 1847 - 1 Dec 1918) married Joe Harris (12 Oct 1838 - 24 Feb 1919) on 6 May 1867. She was the 11th child of Christopher and Polly Sears. Joe Harris was born in Floyd County Virginia and came to Texas in 1859 with neighbors. He stopped at Honey Grove, Texas. He was a skilled cabinet maker. He fought in the Civil War belonging to the 16th Texas Dismounted Cavalry, Waterhouse Brigade Company C. He was wounded in Nellegan Bend Fight. After the war he married Rosanna Rebecca Sears on 6 May 1869 at Whitewright and they settled at Old Kentuckytown in Grayson County near Whitewright. This couple had 6 children

1. Lillie Harris (II) (26 June 1870 - 27 Nov 1888) unmarried
2. **BEDFORD L. HARRIS (II)** (27 May 1872 - 23 Dec 1953) married sisters-lst, Mary Anna Reubell of Prairie County Ark. She lived only a short time. Then, he married 2nd, Madora Ethel Reubell (18 Aug 1874 - 15 Sept 1952) on 16 Jan 1901 at De Valls Bluff, Ark., residence of T.F. Atkins with Rev. William Morrow officiating. Born to this union were 2 children

1. **Anna Lillian Harris (III)** (12 July 1902) married Rufus Saunders Turner (16 Aug 1899) on 29 Mar 1927 at Royse City, Texas. Mr. Turner was the son of Mary Aurora White and John Ephrom Turner born in County. Born to this union were 2 children

   1. Mary Anna Turner (IV)(8 June 1928, Fountain County Indiana) married Dana Foster Bresnahan (24 Nov 1925) on 5 May 1955 in St. Bartholomew's Church, N.Y. This couple has 2 children
      1. Regan Foster Bresnahan (V)(3 Aug 1959)
      2. Fraser Harris Bresnahan (V)(l9 May 1965)

   2. John Bedford Turner(IV)(27 Feb 1930, Fountain Co, Ind.) married Jessie Rae Hollingsworth (7 July 1931) on 22 Oct 1952 at First Presbyterian Church, Commerce, Tex. Born to this union were 4 children
      2. Lisa Kathleen Turner (V)(l6 Feb 1958)
      3. Linda Gail Turner (V)(5 Nov 1961)

2. **Rosa Katherine (Kate) Harris (III)** (23 July 1905 near Royse City) married Carl Evans Reese (18 May 1909) on 6 May 1933. Born to this couple was 1 child

   1. Roland Harris Reese (IV)(8 Feb 1934, Hunt Co.) married Shirley Jean Dawson (22 Oct 1936) on 21 April 1956. This union had 3 children
      1. Melanie Jean Reese (V)(24 May 1957)
      2. Dawson Evans (Buddy) Reese (V)(27 July 1958)
      3. John Carl (Johnny) Reese (V)(31 July 1959)

3. **ELBERT CHRISTOPHER HARRIS (II)** (28 Jan 1874 - 24 Mar 1954) married Minnie Lee White (17 Apr 1877 - 24 Mar 1961) of Wilson County Tennessee on 4 Dec 1895. Born to this union were 6 children

   1. Buron Harris (III)(28 Sept 1896 - 20 Oct 1918) unmarried

   2. Eva Harris (III)(5 Mar 1898) married W.D. Collins on 30 Oct 1921. They had 4 children
      1. W.C. Collins (IV) who married and had 4 children
      2. Robert B. Collins (IV) who married and had 4 children
      3. Gordon B. Collins (IV) who married and had 2 children
      4. Patricia Jo Collins (IV) who married Roy Lowe and they had 3 children

   3. Roma Lee Harris (III)(31 July 1899) married Dock Christopher. This union had 1 child
      1. Inez Christopher (IV) married Jean Pixler and had 2 children

   4. Jewel R. Harris (III)(15 June 1901) married T.O. Overstreet on 25 Sept 1921. Their children are:
1. Georgia Fae Overstreet (IV) married Kent McDonald and they have 2 children

2. Anida Bell Overstreet (IV) is married and has 2 children

3. John C. Harris (III)(8 Jul 1903 - 28 Jun 1957) married Letha Lillie. They had 1 child Betty Jo Harris Mines (IV)

5. Joe C. Harris (III)(11 Jul 1876 - 20 Jul 1941) was a dentist in Weatherford and married Irene Stegald. This union had 2 children

1. Frances Harris (IV)(11 Aug 1903) married Hulen Whitson (14 Feb 1901) on 15 Mar 1925. Born to this union was 1 child

2. Les Lewis Harris (II)(20 Sep 1907) lives in Amarillo

7. Leo Lee Harris (II)(20 Sep 1907) lives in Amarillo


9. Floyd Turner Harris (II)(22 Nov 1887 - 17 Nov 1957) married 20 Nov 1937 to Ophelia Pierce (22 Jul 1897 - 8 Dec 1962). Born to this union were 2 children

1. Carry Bell Harris (III)(18 Aug 1913) lives in Dallas, Tex.

2. Franklin Sears Harris (III)(23 May 1911) married Geneva Cook and they live in Whitewright

XII. Frank Sears (I)(3 Oct 1849 - 15 Jan 1922) married Mary Augusta Douglass (Kollie)(5 Feb 1852 - 16 June 1934) on 11 May 1871 in Whitewright, Texas. Frank was the 12th child of Kit Sears and his lost. He, like all the others, was born in Alabama and was barely seven months old when his mother died. His wife, Kollie, was born in Talbot County Georgia. (story about this couple) Born to this union were 11 children

1. Essa Sears (II)(27 Apr 1872 - 17 Nov 1872) died before 1 yr old

2. Arthur Sears (II)(13 Jul 1873 - 20 Nov 1929) married Nancy Ivy Winter (7 May 1884 - ) on 24 June 1903. To this union were born 7 children. All were born in West Texas where Arthur was a rancher with extensive land holdings. During his lifetime, he was known for his liberality as he gave generously to the three colleges in Abilene, the churches there (not only his own - St. Paul Methodist) and any worthy civic enterprise. His love for the Mexican laborers on his ranches was revealed when many came to his funeral and told Aunt Ivy of his many good deeds known only to them. In addition to his own family he reared one
orphan boy as his son and helped him get started in ranching. Aunt May was always a willing, smiling partner to his many acts of kindness and the writer recalls with pleasure the many happy hours spent in their home and remembers the warm glow of love that surrounded all who entered there. Their children all lived to maturity and married. They are:

1. Lance Sears (III) (11 May 1904) married Frances Lee Langus (3 Mar 1914) on 26 June 1933. Lance is a rancher (both sheep and cattle) holding a degree from Simmons University, Abilene. (It may come as a surprise to some people but Lance was a member of the then famous Cowboy Band of Simmons U., when it toured Europe. His Dad gave him money to make the tour but he chose to work as a real cowboy instead of being a "musical cowboy" in Europe. He is Past President of the Texas Association of Sheep and Goat Raisers and continues ranching in several sections of Texas, New Mexico, Colorado and perhaps other states, with headquarters at Sweetwater, Texas. He, like his father, is a great benefactor. (see stories in scrapbook section) To this union were born 2 daughters

1. Suzanne Sears (IV) (22 Aug 1937) married B.T. Easterling (10 Mar 1933) of Quemado, N.M. on 30 Dec 1961. Suzanne has a degree from S.N.U. Born to this union
   1. Susan Ross Easterling (V) (9 Aug 1962)
   2. Lance Sears Easterling (V) (1 Jan 1965)

2. Sandra (Nubbin) Sears (IV) (24 Sept 1942) married Dr. W.M. Lockridge (S.V.U.) on 16 July 1966. Sandra has a degree from Texas U. Born to this union
   1. Frances Sears Lockridge (V) (26 Sept 1967)

2. Vivian Isabella Sears (III) (8 Oct 1908) married Daniel Gorham Streeter (9 Aug 1906) on 19 Aug 1932. They live in Lake Charles, La. Born to this union were 3 children

1. Dorin Nicholas Streeter (IV) (22 June 1935) married Betty Jane Thornhilly on 16 Aug 1956. Their children are
   1. Glen Nash Streeter (V) (27 Aug 1959)
   2. David Sears Streeter (V) (8 Feb 1964)
   3. Tracy Elizabeth Streeter (V) (14 Apr 1967)

   1. John Daniel Denbow (V) (21 Dec 1966)

3. Douglas Gerald Streeter (IV) (21 Sept 1944)

3. Mollye Sears (III) (9 Dec 1912) and Jess C. (Jack) Bye (9 June 1910) were married on 24 June 1938. The Bye's live in Garland, Texas. Born to this union were 2 children

1. Jackqueline Bye (IV) (18 Jan 1940) and Robert Dunbar Batjer married on 7 Jan 1959. Their children
   1. Jane Ann Batjer (V) (27 Feb 1960)
   2. Thomas Minter Batjer (V) (2 Nov 1962)
   3. James Dunbar Batjer (V) (23 Nov 1964)

2. Tommy Bye (IV) (6 July 1945)
4. Jewel Sears (III) (25 Sept 1916 - 7 Aug 1963) married 1st to D.T. Laughter, Jr., after his death, married 2nd Paul Hodge. 2 children by each husband

1. Judy Sears Laughter (IV) (1 Aug) married Louie Nelda on 27 Feb 1960. Born to this union
   1. Lonie Marie Nelda (V) (11 Nov 1960)
   2. Julia Marie Nelda (V) (5 May 1964)
2. Don Laughter, III. (IV)
3. Arthur Paul Hodge (IV) (U.S. Navy Reserve)
4. Hunt Hodge (IV) (with sister, Mrs. Louie Nelda in Pio Town, N.H.)
   (Paul Hodge has married since Jewel's death.)

5. Billie Sears (III) (25 Sept 1920) married Jim Barlow (22 June 1921) on 12 May 1944. Born to this union were 2 children

1. Thomas Lance Barlow (IV) (2 Sept 1946)
2. Lynne Louise Barlow (IV) (2 April 1951)

The Barlow children were born in Abilene but now reside in Houston where Jim, an A & M graduate, is an Oil Company Executive.

6. Marjorie Sears (III) (twin-13 Nov 1924) married Horris Loyton Wells, Jr. (10 May 1951) on 17 Mar 1951. Born to this union were 3 children

1. Lindsay Wells (IV) (27 Jan 1953)
2. Laurene Wells (IV) (5 Feb 1954)
3. H.P. Wells, III (IV) (30 June 1958)

7. Margaret Sears (III) (twin-13 Nov 1924) married Raleigh Holden Brown (10 Dec 1921) on 10 May 1947. Born to this union were 3 children

1. Nancy Margaret Brown (IV) (22 Nov 1950)
2. Margie Elizabeth (Betsy) Brown (IV) (21 June 1953)

"The twins", Margaret and Marjorie, both have degrees from Texas University and their husbands are both Lawyers in Abilene. Raleigh Brown served several terms in the Texas Legislature. He is now a district judge.

3. EULA SEARS (II) (4 Sept 1875) lives at 3202 So. Willis St., in Abilene. Eula has been busy at work doing things for others since she was a child. She has always loved the out of doors and her home is always surrounded by flowers in bloom and fruit trees either blooming or bearing. She and her youngest sister, Pat, are the two persons chiefly responsible for the "Sears Memorial Center" which was opened in Abilene in December 1966. They each gave their life savings - a considerable sum - and their unflagging energy to getting the $350,000.00 Retirement Home started and completed. Eula now resides there and tho she is 92, she says she is the "yard boy" for the home - more fact than fiction! She is a doll so take time to meet her if you are ever in Abilene!

4. DELLA SEARS (II) (25 Mar 1877) married Rufus E. Campbell (22 Feb 1874 - 31 Oct 1937) on 29 Dec 1897. This couple lived first in Jones County but in the Winter of 1897 they moved to Cottle County where they lived and reared a family of 5 children
1. Mary Edna Campbell (III) (12 Nov 1895) married Dr. J.W. McCrary, Jr., (23 April 1893) on 24 Sept 1917 at home of her parents in Cadwell, Texas. Dr. McCrary is a retired professor from East Texas University at Commerce. His undergraduate work was at S.U. (B.A. and B.A. Degrees) and his Ph.D from Texas University. This couple had 4 children - the boys, as well as Dr. McCrary, all served as officers in the Air Force in WW II. Dr. McCrary is also a licensed minister of the Methodist Church and has helped with Christian work on the E.T. Campus. Their children are:

1. John Easton McCrary (IV) (16 Jan 1919 - 27 Nov 1943) married Gusie Leeslaughter on 25 June 1943. Before his death he had a Masters Degree in Chemistry from Texas A&M and he was awarded his wings in the Navy and Marine Corps. He was a 1st Lt. when he was killed. No children from this union. Gusie Lees later remarried. John is buried in Commerce, Texas.

2. James Wilson McCrary III, (IV) (20 Dec 1920) married Patricia Stewart on 20 Dec 1940. He is a retired Col. from Air Force and both he and Patricia hold degrees from East Texas State University. He has many decorations for service in WW II. They have 2 children:

   1. Patricia McCrary (V) (Jan 1942) married Grover M. Blackwell on 15 July 1960. Born to this union were 2 children

      1. Grover Blackwell (VI) (about 5 yrs old)
      2. Stacy Blackwell (VI) (about 3 yrs old)

   2. James Stewart McCrary (about 1953)

3. Dee Gordon McCrary (IV) (28 Oct 1922) married Lou Harless Porter on 25 Dec 1945. Dee G. has his B.S. degree in Meteorology from Texas A&M. He is a retired Major and has served in many overseas stations and has been awarded decorations by the Air Force. He fought in WW II and he has his English Wings as well as U.S.A. Wings. Lou has a B.A. degree from Texas University. Born to this union were 2 children:

   1. Dee G. McCrary, Jr. (V) (8 April 1947) a Junior at University of Texas
   2. "Gussie" McCrary (V) - about 1957

Note: It is of interest to know that Dee and Lou met while in college and later married. At that time my mother told Lou that the Harlesses were our kinfolks. Later in 1967 I traced their lives and found that the two had the same great grandparents and consequently their children have only one set of grandparents if you go back far enough. They were John Harless and Catherine Hosser.

4. Mary Eleanor McCrary (IV) (7 Nov 1937) married Dr. James William Vogh (Ph D) on 13 June 1964. Eleanor has a Masters Degree in Biology and taught College Biology five years before marriage. They live in Bartlesville, Okla. with their 2 children:

   1. Jennifer Vogh (V) (May 1965)
   2. James W. Vogh, III. (V) (Feb 1967)

2. Arthur Lee Campbell (III) (31 Mar 1900 - 1 Sept 1948) married and later divorced Helen Louise Sample. He is buried in Kerkel, Texas. They had no children.
3. Pearl Campbell (III) (22 Jan 1902) married William Wallace Bragg (20 Oct 1900) on Jan 1924 at Methodist Church in Paducah, Texas. He went to Texas University and she to S.M.U. They have been in the insurance business for over 40 years. They have one son

1. Granville Wallace Bragg (IV) (13 July 1935) married Betty in June 1959. She has a son by previous marriage. This union has no children.

4. Odie Campbell (III) (6 April 1904) married Clark Newland Jones (27 Nov 1901) on 6 June 1926 at Methodist Church in Paducah, Texas. Odie has her Masters Degree from East Texas University and teaches home-making at Mangum, Okla. Clark had his own Electrical business there until 1967 when ill health forced him to retire. This couple has one son

1. Jerry Clark Jones, M.D. (IV) (19 Aug 1931) married Jeaneen Collier in 1960. Jerry is a Psychiatrist and has his office in Everett, Washington. This couple has 2 children

1. Rachel Jones (V) (1961)
2. Rebecca Jones (V) (1963)

Dr. Jones is a 1st Lt. in the Army Reserve and has served overseas.

5. Julia Campbell (III) (17 Feb 1913) married Robert Lee Sanders (27 Feb 1907) on 26 May 1934. Both Julia and Bob have Masters Degrees from East Texas University. Bob is a Staffing Specialist in Personnel at Red River Army Depot. He served in WWII. During this time, Julia worked in Public Relations with the State Department of Homemaking and Public Housing Authority. They remained in Texarkana where 2 children were born

1. Mary Sue Sanders (IV) (20 Aug 1946) a Senior at Texas Christian University – Language Arts
2. Robert Allen Sanders (IV) (2 Mar 1948) a Sophomore at Texas A & M University – Electrical Engineering

5. ODIE SEARS (II) (26 Dec 1878) married Daniel Jefferson Matthews (Dan) (3 Nov 1879 – 7 Jan 1933) in 1904. This couple lived in the country near Merkel, sent their son to Texas University and daughter to C.I.A. (Texas Women’s University). Then about 1930 they moved to Arizona where Odie and her two children still reside at Phoenix, Arizona. Their children:

1. Clyde Cornealious Matthews (III) (26 Jan 1905) married Helen Calder (Dit) on 13 July 1940. Clyde is a cattleman and rancher and Past President of Arizona Stock Growers Assn. Dit has a gift shop in Scottsdale.

2. Della Mildred Matthews (III) (1 Aug 1907) married Ralph Thompson on 4 Aug 1940. Ralph is Claims Manager for the Light Company in Phoenix. They have no children

Note: Aunt Odie Matthews is a real supporter for her adopted state, Arizona, but she loves her Texas Kin, so don't go thru Phoenix without calling her! She is shooting for the 90 mark but you'd never guess it.

6. ALEXANDER CHRISTOPHER SEARS (II) (16 Oct 1880 – 1 Feb 1909) married Amy Estes (12 Nov 1885 – 5 Oct 1965) on 3 April 1903. Alex was a West Texas Rancher and the victim of a vicious murder. A man whom he thought to be his friend killed him and burned his body in a country school house in order to keep from paying him a debt of $6,000.00. Alex was called to Abilene to receive the $6,000.00 payment where he was met at the train by the murderer and was never seen again after having dinner that night with the man in an Abilene Cafe. The man was caught, tried and convicted
but committed suicide before he was executed. He secured a pair of scissors from the jailer to trim his beard and in the night he stabbed himself and was later found in a corner of his cell. Alex left his widow and two little girls - both blondes. Alex was the only blonde in the Sear's Family and resembled his own Uncle Alex (Douglass). His daughters were:

1. Mary Eula Sears (III) (3 Oct 1904) who married Jack Morris (now deceased). No children to this union. Mary Eula is an artist who uses many mediums - water colors, oil, pastels, charcoal and etchings and has had shows in various Texas Cities. One recent oil painting of the Red River County Court House at Clarksville has been reproduced on personal note stationary. This old courthouse is a fine example of the buildings in Texas during the later part of Christophers life.

2. Boog Sears (III) (14 Nov 1906) married W.H. Eyssen and they had 1 son
   1. Timothy Sears (IV) married Nancy Perry and they had 2 children
      1. Timothy D. Eyssen, Jr. (V)
      2. Janell Amy Eyssen (V)

7. Walter Clyde Sears (II) (16 Aug 1883 - 9 Jan 1931) married Glen Mae Lasserter (3 Sept 1895) on 29 Aug 1917. Clyde, like his brothers, was a West Texas Rancher and they lived and reared their family in Merkel, Texas. They had 5 children

1. Alex Christopher (A.C.) Sears (III) (7 Sept 1918) married LaVaunn Anderson on 27 June 1942. A.C. is a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, was a Captain in the Marine Corp and fought in WW II. After the war he and LaVaunn settled in Ft. Worth where he owns his own Clinic. This couple has 2 daughters both students at Texas Christian University in Ft. Worth.
   1. LaVaunn Jeanne (Bonnie) Sears (IV) (27 Feb 1947)
   2. Michele Colleen Sears (IV) (14 Oct 1948)

2. Walter Clyde Sears, Jr. (III) (Bubba)(31 Dec 1920) and Lou Dall Gray were married 6 Nov 1940, and live in Abilene where Bubba is ranching. They have
   1. Carolyn Jan Sears (IV) (18 July 1944) married John Sherman Lively on 17 July 1965 and they have 1 son
      1. John Lively, Jr. (V)

3. Evelyn Sears (III) (23 Nov 1925) and Robert McGhee were married on 4 Nov 1944. Evelyn lives in Wyoming. Born to this union were 3 children
   1. Roberta Ann McGhee (IV) (21 Oct 1945)
   2. Jimmy McGhee (IV) (Feb 1952)

4. Virgle Glenn Sears, Sr. (III) (19 June 1928) and Anna Jo Knox were married on 29 Nov 1948. Born to this union were 3 children
   1. Virgle Glenn Sears, Jr. (IV) (6 June 1950)
   2. Larry Clay Sears (IV) (30 May 1952)
5. Dick Sears (III) (18 Dec 1930) married Cecilia Suzanne Lovelace on 21 Jan 1955. Dick is an engineer in Tulsa, Okla. Born to this union were 3 sons
   1. Richard Merk Sears (IV) (2 April 1957)
   2. Phillip Clyde Sears (IV) (18 Aug 1960)
   3. James Stevens Sears (IV) (10 Feb 1962)

8. MOSSIE SEARS (II) (16 Aug 1886) married, after the death of her parents, Newt Hatfield, a widower. He lived about 10 years. No children to this union. Mossie lives in Merkel and is active in church and civic affairs.

   These two couples had a double wedding. The "young fry" of the town had a lot of fun - all at the expense of the young married couples, as they "kidnapped" the Sears' boys and kept them away from their brides on their wedding night. Bud was also a rancher, having spreads in Texas and New Mexico. He made his home in Abilene. Born to this union were 5 children - (the first an unnamed infant died at birth)
   1. Frances Sears (III) (1920) married Fred Shelton. They have children
   2. Arthur Sears (III) (a twin) (18 Sept 1922) is married and has 1 son
   3. Alex Franklin Sears (III) (twin) (18 Sept 1922) married Maurine Roberts. Alex served as a pilot in WW II and was still in the service when he and a friend were killed in a plane crash while up on a "weather mission" near San Angelo, Texas. (I think in fall of 1951). He left a widow and 2 sons
      1. Alex F. Sears, Jr. (IV)
      2. Robert Sears (IV)

   After a few years as a widow, Maurine married Joe Lindsey, a friend of hers and Alex, so they are rearing the two boys on Alex's ranch.

4. Mary Lo Sears (III) (1928 - 2 Apr 1967) married 1st, Mr Sonnon, 2nd, Dr. Stephens, 3rd, A.P. Trice. Her 3 sons were by Dr. Stephens (I think) but thinking it best for the boys Dr. Stephens permitted Mr. Trice to adopt the boys so they live with him in Abilene, since the death of their mother. They are
   1. Lee
   2. Claud
   3. Louis

10. PEARL SEARS (II) (8 Jan 1890 - 27 June 1890)

11. LILA MAC (PET) SEARS, Litt. D. (II) (1 Sept 1891) "Pet", the last child of Frank and Mollyc Sears, was born in Jones County just a year after Frank moved his family to West Texas. Lila Mc (Pet) went to school in Jones County, finishing high school at Merkel, then attended Risher College in Memphis, Tenn. Finishing there, she returned to work in the bank at Merkel. She married Virgle Touchstone, a young druggist and they established their home in Chillicothe where in about 1924 or 1925 he died of complications following surgery. They had a small girl who with her mother returned to live in Merkel, Texas. Their child
   1. Mollie Frank Touchstone (III) (30 Oct 1919) married J.B. Jordan on 6 Sept 1941 at St. Pauls Methodist Church in Abilene. This couple had 2 children

2. Jerry Jordan (IV) (5 Oct 1947) is a Senior, engineering student, at Texas Tech, Lubbock, married in Summer 1968.

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"Jet" Sears Touchstone was the last grandchild of Christopher and Polly Sears. She was born after both of them had died, but she is one descendant who has made the dedication of herself to the service of others and to Christ's Church as the central theme of her life. It is to her that this work is dedicated and I, as a loving niece, want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for all that she has done for others through the years. It is only fair to her daughter and two grandchildren that some of her accomplishments be mentioned in this family history.

**A TRIBUTE TO AUNT PET**

Pet Sears Touchstone, the widowed as a young woman, was not embittered but used her sorrow as a means of growing closer to her Savior. Taking his admonition, "if you love me, serve me", as her guide line, she has worked tirelessly in every church of which she was a member. Helping in several instances to organize new churches, she has served as chairman of many fund raising campaigns for buildings and other worthy causes. She has donated organs to three different churches in the area, besides her regular contributions to their programs of growth.

Perhaps her longest continuous service with one group has been as a trustee for McMurry College, where she has worked on every worthy enterprise, helping dozens of young people (financially) to secure their college education. Realizing the need for a new band hall, she spearheaded a drive which provided the new Band Hall ($125,000.00). The college, recognizing her outstanding leadership and devotion for so many years, awarded her the Doctor of Humane Letters in August 1959. This outstanding honor is not lightly or frequently awarded because so few people meet the requirements to qualify for it.

Pet's latest endeavor has been in cooperation with her oldest sister, Malia Sears, in the planning and executing of their joint dream — that of a Retirement Home for the Methodist Church in the Abilene area. To her, goes the credit for instigating, pushing, "plugging for", and carrying through the project that has resulted in the completion of a $350,000.00 retirement home.

She made dozens of trips to inspect homes and retirement hotels in order to eliminate errors in this one. And, as all who know her are willing to agree, if you want something done and done right, just get Pet Touchstone after it! Being the modest person that she is, she wants no credit but she is chiefly responsible for raising the money and pushing to completion the $350,000.00 Retirement Home. Because of her hard work, liberal financial donations and the generous donations of her sister, Malia Sears, and cousin, Lillie Pratt Sears Brown (Mrs. Bill Brown of Merkel) and their hard work, the Methodist Board of Homes named the home and complex in honor of the Sears Family. This seventeen acre tract, housing the home, is located in one of the best sections of Abilene and has been named SEARS MEMORIAL CENTER. During and since its construction, a number of Sears' descendants have made contributions
toward the home and its furnishings (details concerning this may be found in news releases found in the scrapbook section). But let it be said, let was the one to coordinate all the forces necessary to the construction of the center!

The she has served her community in many areas her first devotion was to her family to whom she has been a faithful daughter, sister and mother. Her keen business acumen and hard work has made her successful in the field of insurance and real estate in Abilene and Merkel.

Her life of outstanding service to her fellowmen has been due not so much to her wealth but to her capacity for hard work, love of others, and generosity in giving. She has helped untold dozens of individuals with the right hand, never knowing what the left was doing. I know from personal experience. Her example should serve as an inspiration to those who follow. So, to you Aunt Pat, I pay the tribute of saying that I know of no one who has more nearly lived the Christian life as described in the 12th Chapter of Romans — than have you, and I say as did Paul Phil 1:3 — “I thank God upon remembrance of You.”

Your devoted niece

Julia Campbell Sanders