A FAMILY HISTORY

By:

Una Good Hooten
AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I am indebted to three cousins, Virginia Grace Baker Wright of Kirksville, Missouri, the late Mary Hunt Lain of Cooper, Texas, and Bob L. Hanna of Corwin, Kansas, and to my mother, Sarah Selvina Baker Good, for the early records in this family history.

Una Good Hooten

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FOREGOARD

When our emigrant ancestors severed connections with the old world and came to America, they found pioneer conditions which made it necessary for "every tub to stand on its own bottom" and tended to reduce family pride to an evidence of affectation.

There was an innate, unconscious pride in southern people which made the meticulous preservation of family papers seem unnecessary. Separation from our kin in the older sections has broken oral transmission and such has been lost by fire, flood and the ravages of war.

Time changes everything, now with more leisure and our shrinking frontiers due to modern day transportation and communication, there is renewed interest in our forebears.

Every family tree has at least one safe branch and doubtful ones can be avoided.
The record on my mother’s side begins with a colony of Scotch-Irish Protestants who set sail for America to secure political and religious freedom.

John and Charles Wesley were preaching a new religion in England at that time and George II was on the throne.

Two of our ancestors were Christian martyrs during those trying days when rulers tried to force all subjects to conform to the Church of England.

Mr. and Mrs. Somerville and a large family of children were members of the colony that sailed from North Ireland between 1740 and 1750. One twin daughter (Rhoda Somerville, 15 years of age) who had been reared by a maiden aunt, remained in Ireland. The vessel landed on an island some distance off the shore from Boston, Massachusetts. The 500 passengers were put ashore and for unknown cause, the ship sailed off with the household goods and provisions of the passengers and never returned. All but 50 of these castaways died of starvation. Indians discovered and gave aid to the survivors among whom was Mrs. Somerville who had lost her husband and eight children. Their experiences were terrible.

Later, Mrs. Somerville married a Mr. Davidson, and their son, General William Davidson, fought with Washington in the Revolutionary War. Gen. Davidson was killed while he and his command were engaged in battle at a crossing on the Catawba River in North Carolina. Davidson College in that state was named in his honor.
Gen. Davidson's daughter married Finis Ewing, one of the founders of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Rhoda Somerville, the twin daughter left in Ireland, came to Pennsylvania and married Humphrey Cunningham, later moving to the Carolinas. Rhoda was born in 1733 in north Ireland. Died in January 1831, Bedford County, Tennessee, and was buried near Cartrace, Tennessee. Her last years were spent with a granddaughter.

This incident is from the family record left by his father, Harvey Harna. Three other sources give substantially the same account, J. J. Anderson, Nashville, Tennessee, Foster A. Soundley, B. D. of Asheville, North Carolina, and Rev. Davidson of Galveston, Texas, through his grandson, J. G. Davidson, all of whom are descendants of Mrs. Somerville.

The following sketch was published in Bedford County paper by Col. Andrew Rairdin in early part of 19th century:

"Rhoda Cunningham, of Bedford County, Tennessee, who is in her 93rd year, is the ancestor at this time of 306 living descendants, children and grandchildren born to the fourth generation.

"What is most consoling to the declining years of this most honorable matron is that out of this long line of descendants none have yet done aught to detract from the character of an honest family; all are esteemed as most worthy citizens engaged in the most laudable pursuits of life, earning their bread by the sweat of their brow."

Two daughters were born to Rhoda Somerville and Humphrey Cunningham. They were named Sarah and Katy. These sisters married brothers.

Sarah Cunningham was born December 12, 1765, Buncombe County, North Carolina; died August 13, 1825, Bedford County, Tennessee.

James Patton was born February 20, 1764, Buncombe County, North Carolina; died August 9, 1827, Bedford County, Tennessee. The Pattsons moved to Bedford County in 1806 and resided near Bartrace, Tennessee.

Sarah and James Patton were the parents of ten children, nine girls and one boy.

1. Margaret Patton, born in York County, South Carolina in 1785; died 1874, age 89. Margaret Patton married William Hanna 1806. They were my maternal great grandparents.

Other children born to Sarah and James Patton were:

2. Rhoda who married Thomas Couch.
4. Abigail who married Jacob Anderson.
5. Jennie who married Joseph Irvin. (Irvin)
7. Sarah who married Joseph Haynes.
8. Ervin Patton had three marriages. Mary Conser was one of his wives.

Now let us return to Sarah and Katy Cunningham who married brothers, James and Matthew Patton. The intermarriages between Patton and Hanna families are so confusing I shall arrange in diagram to make clear.
Sisters
Sarah Cunningham married James Patton and their daughter Margaret married William Hanna (1)

Katy Cunningham married Matthew Patton and

Their two daughters were (Margaret married Samuel Hanna (2) and Mathilda married Andros Hanna (3)

Matthew Patton died and Katy (his widow) married Robert Hanna (4)
"The Pattons were wealthy, but there are several reasons why James did not gather riches. First, a rolling stone gathers no moss; second, his boys were all girls but one; third, he was not by any means avaricious. He appreciated the amenities of the church and the moral training of his children was far above the accumulating of this world's goods. He was an elder in the Presbyterian Church tried and true.

"James Patton reared ten children, nine girls. They all married. Nearly all the girls were left widows, not any of them married again. And though one died before the age of fifty, yet the average age of the ten was 72. Nearly all of them reared large families, and as a premium on moral training, not one to my knowledge, has reflected dishonor on the escutcheon of the family name."

The following is from an historical sketch of Bethlehem Presbyterian Church published in Bedford County Times:

"Early in the present century, James Patton, a venerable elder of the Presbyterian Church, emigrated from North Carolina to this county and settled on Strait Creek, near where it empties into the Garrison. He had nine daughters and one son. Finding no Presbyterian preaching within his reach, he did not rest until he had taken his wagon back to North Carolina and brought out Rev. George Boston, Presbyterian minister, with his family. Mr. Boston proceeded at once to organize the present church. The first sanctuary was a log house on this very site (where Strait Creek empties into the Garrison). This church was organized in the spring of 1816."
iCIII of Great Grandmother Margaret Ratton's sister Jane (Jennie) Irvine (or Irvin). This data from record of Jace Josephus Lee, Houston, Texas (grandson of Josephine Somerville Irvine):

Jane Irvine Ratton born April 14, 1789, died 1866, married Josephus Irvine November 10, 1807.

Five children born to this union:

1. Mary South Irvine, born December 15, 1808, died May 2, 1891, married James Perkins in 1824.


5. Judge Allan Duncan Irvine, born September 16, 1821, died March 24, 1906.
HANNA RECORD

On the Hanna side, our record begins with Great, Great Grandfather Hanna, a Scotch-Irish emigrant from Ireland to America who settled in Scotch-Irish Colony in Pennsylvania. He had six sons and one or more daughters. His sons were James, Robert, John, Andrew and Samuel. One daughter Polly married a Mr. Hood.

Andrew Hanna (my great, great grandfather) married Mary (Polly) Fruit in 1766 or 1767. To Andrew and Mary Fruit Hanna, the following children were born: Robert, Nancy, William (my great grandfather), Andrew, Samuel and Mary (Polly) Hanna.

William Hanna (my great grandfather) was born December 17, 1771 in Ashville, Iredell County, North Carolina. Died 1836 at age of 65.

Eighteen years later the family moved to Blount County, Tennessee, where William was first married. His wife lived only a few years. In 1804 William accompanied his father and Uncle John Hanna's families when they moved to Rutherford County, Tennessee. Here William married the second time to Margaret Patton (my great grandmother) about 1806.

Ten children were born to this union:

1. Mary Fruit Hanna, their oldest child was my grandmother. She was born July 10, 1807, in Rutherford County, Tennessee. Died May 2, 1890 in Clay County, Polo, Missouri.

After the Patton and Hanna families moved to Bedford County, Tennessee, and the following children were born to William and Margaret Patton Hanna:

2. James Hanna born 1809 in Bedford County, Tennessee.

3. Andrew Hanna born 1810 in Bedford County, Tennessee.
5. Sarah Hanna born 1814 in Bedford County, Tennessee.
7. Harvey Hanna born 1821 in Bedford County, Tennessee. (Father of Bob I. Hanna, Corbin, Ky.)
10. Kelvina Hanna born 1826 in Bedford County, Tennessee. (My mother named for this one)

Marriages:
1. Mary Fruit Hanna married John Baker, Polo, Missouri (my grandparents)
2. James Hanna married Rebecca Shookley.
3. Andrew Hanna married Martha Houston.
5. Sarah Hanna married John Tilford.
6. Carson Hanna died young and never married.
7. Rhoda Hanna married Mr. Ritter.
8. Katherine died soon after marriage.
9. Harvey Hanna married Ann Houston, sister of Martha.

My Maternal Grandparents

Mary Fruit Hanna born July 10, 1807, Rutherford County, Tennessee, died May 2, 1890 in Polo, Missouri. Age 82 years, 9 months and 22 days.

Married August 21, 1823 to John Baker. John Baker was born July 7, 1804, Tennessee, died April 9, 1896 in Caldwell County, Missouri. Age 91 years, 10 months, 2 days.
John Baker and Mary Fruit Hanno had ten children as follows:

1. William Hanna Baker, born June 6, 1829 in Bedford County, Tennessee, died of typhoid fever August 26, 1858. 1st wife - Martha Ann Letey, born August 18, 1832, died December 10, 1855, married January 6, 1854. 2nd wife - Liza A. Binville, born December 15, 1836, died October 13, 1893. Liza was left a widow and married Dr. Donaldson who was killed during Richmond, Missouri tornado in 1878.


3. Margaret Lucinda Baker, born June 19, 1833, died 1897. Married Thomas Setty November 2, 1856. This couple moved west and severed connection with relatives.


5. Nancy Adaline Baker, born October 19, 1837, Polo, Missouri, died November 24, 1930, Polo, Missouri, 93 years, 1 month, 5 days. Married William F. Houston October 20, 1856. William Houston was relative of General Sam Houston.

6. James Carson Baker born November 1, 1839, in Clay County, Missouri, near Polo, died November 19, 1940, at home of his nephew William Baker, Polo, Missouri, where he had made his home for many years. Age 101. Married Mary Kansas Thompson January 20, 1870.

7. John Walker Baker born December 10, 1841 near Taitsville, Missouri, died August 30, 1939, at the home of his son, Evin E. Baker, Polo, Missouri, age 97 years, 9 months, 20 days. Married Carline Henry January 7, 1875.


10. Sarah Evelina Baker (my mother), born February 17, 1850, six miles north of Knoxville, Missouri, died August 9, 1939, at the home of her daughter, Una G. Hooten in Cooper, Texas. Married John Alexander Good, born May 24, 1850, in Jonesboro, Tennessee, died at home in Cooper, Texas, October 7, 1925. Married November 18, 1869, in the home of the bride's parents, Polo, Missouri.
About 1830 William Hanna and family, accompanied by their brother-in-law, James Erwin Patton and family, and the families of their married daughter, Mary Fruit Hanna Baker and family and son James and family, moved from Bedford County, Tennessee, to Ray County, Missouri.

This long trip was made over land in wagons, a "carry-all" and on horseback. Mary Fruit Baker was one of the party who rode horseback and carried her baby, Martha, in her arms. This baby, Martha, later became the mother of Mary Lain (Mrs. H. B. Lain of Cooper, Texas).

Life was hard for the new settlers that first winter. Their bread was made from frost bitten corn. Honey and wild game was plentiful. In spring they were able to buy wheat.

A foot injury caused by a falling tree while clearing timber was the cause of William Hanna's death. This wound never healed until he moved to Missouri but it caused his death one year later.

Margaret Patton Hanna (his wife) of North Carolina was strongly opposed to secession. She was a diligent Bible student and a member of the Presbyterian church. Her children were Democrats but she remained a staunch Republican.

Her brother, Irwin Patton, married three times. His last wife was southern aristocrat and owned a beautiful plantation in Texas and many slaves.

Margaret Patton Hanna was a pretty brunette, energetic, vivacious and lived with John and Mary Fruit Baker after
the death of her husband.

She thrilled the Baker children (her grandchildren) with stories of her exciting, eventful life in North Carolina. The Hanna's first home in North Carolina was a log cabin in the midst of the forest with cane breaks growing up to the yard. Wild game, snakes and savage beasts were abundant. It was necessary to guard doors every moment when open. All clothing was made on a spinning wheel, and this wheel was placed in front of the door during summer.

The Hanna's livestock (cattle, sheep, hogs and poultry) was killed in such numbers by wild beasts they decided to move to a more settled section.

Sarah Baker, the youngest grandchild, listened to these "hair-raising" accounts of her grandmother's eventful life on long winter evenings while the wind whistled and rattled windows, the big hickory logs popped and sputtered in the open fireplace, and when the homemade candles burned low, she was afraid to leave the family circle to secure another from a closet in the same room.

THE BAKERS:

On the Baker side our record begins with Great Grandfather William Baker of Welsh Descent born in 1770 and killed by Indians in 1838.

William Baker married Miss Marita Bullard. After her first husband's death, Marita married a Mr. Burnam.

To William Baker and Marita Bullard four children were born:
1. John Baker (my grandfather), born July 7, 1804, in Tennessee, died April 9, 1896, Caldwell County, Missouri, 92 years.

2. Jane Baker (ranchman) married Frankie Hancock, daughter of lawyer Hancock, and moved to Texas in the thirties, settled near Austin at the mouth of Onion Creek.


To Marita Bullard Baker and her second husband, Mr. Burnam, five children were born: Alfred, Larkin, Jane, Sarah and Zara. The three girls accompanied by their mother moved to Texas and settled in Coryell County.

Great Grandfather William Baker had three brothers:

1. Jim Baker who moved to Texas and settled near Bonham.

2. Loris Baker married and lived in Iowa and reared family. After his wife’s death in 1855, he moved to Texas and made his home with his brother Jim. He was 72 years old then and died soon after going to Texas.


Grandfather John Baker was nephew of Kit Bullard of Kit Bullard’s mill on Duck River, an old landmark in middle Tennessee. He was apprenticed to Kit Bullard in his youth. John Baker learned to write on slate stone in the ground at the tan yard near Wartrace, Tennessee, while living with John G. Walker. There he learned to make shoes and when married, he made the shoes for his family including the slaves.

Grandfather John Baker of Polo, Missouri, made several trips to Texas, traveling by wagon and four times on horseback to visit his mother and brother Jim who lived near Austin on Onion Creek, San Saba County. Usually a friend
or neighbor would accompany him on those trips. If a
home was available when sunset came, they were always
welcomed. If not, they pitched camp and prepared their
meals from food provided before leaving home.

On one trip his daughter Martha accompanied him. In
the Indian Territory, they were entertained in the home of
a prosperous Indian family. The Indian wife assigned her
negro maid to serve Martha and to sleep on a pallet in
her room for protection. Martha feared the maid more
than the Indians. The Bakers compensated their hosts
with gifts. Apples from Baker orchards were especially
appreciated.

Upon their next trip the Bakers found their Indian
friends in mourning over the death of their small son.

Grandfather John Baker was so impressed with the
beauty of Texas, the fertility of the soil, the friendliness of the Indians and the low price of land that he
bought 1600 acres in Delta County and 500 in Panhandle.
The mild Texas climate and the nearness to his mother
were also contributing factors.

A touching scene Grandfather Baker related was of a
visit to his mother after a lapse of 20 years. His
arrival was expected and Great Grandmother would stand in
the doorway, shade her eyes with her hand, and look as
far as her failing eyesight would permit. About sundown
the wagon was sighted. After the necessary work of caring
for the team and unloading was over and he was seated with
the family, Great Grandmother with candle in hand, knelt
before her son John to better scrutinize his features.
"It doesn't look like John," she said. Tears filled the eyes of John Baker when he told of this experience.

Mary Huntain related this story of why Grandfather Baker purchased land in Delta County.

"A man by the name of Cole bought a fine saddle horse from John Baker for $300.00 and loved to Texas without paying for it. Later Grandfather located him and secured Delta County land from him in settlement. Lawyers Boney and Lightfoot of Paris cleared the headrights for him.

"Money to purchase 300 acres in west Texas was given to a friend who disappeared and was never heard from."

The following story was related many times by my mother, Sarah Good:

"The Indians were a constant menace to life and property of the early settlers in Texas when Jim Baker and wife resided on their ranch near Austin, Texas. Upon one occasion when Mr. and Mrs. Baker were on their way to Austin to trade, they were attacked by Indians lying in ambush. Mr. Baker was wounded by one of the arrows but was able to find temporary protection for his wife and himself behind a large tree. He shot one of the Indians and they ceased shooting at once and began mourning over their dead comrade. A band of whites attracted by the noise appeared at this time and saved Mr. and Mrs. Baker but not before the Indians had made away with the horses they were driving."

This Jim Baker was the brother of Grandfather John Baker and the one Great Grandmother Baker lived with after her husband's death.
Sarah Helvina Baker (my mother), tenth child of John and Mary Fruit Hanna Baker, was born February 17, 1850 in a two room log cabin on the Baker farm located six miles northeast from Aumsville, Missouri. Three months later the family moved into their new, two-story frame home and the log cabins they had occupied were converted into slave quarters.

John Baker, the father of Sarah, owned sixteen slaves, two families. The women did the cooking in the kitchen apart from the main house and carried the food to the master's table. They also did the washing, ironing and house cleaning. The men and boys worked in the fields and assisted with the care of the sheep, hogs, horses and mules. In return for their labors, the slaves were well fed, clothed and comfortably housed. Old Bilt, the slave leader was the soul of honor. He owned a horse, a pig, and farmed a small crop of his own. In winter he made beautiful baskets and brooms and found ready sale for them, and in this way was able to have money all the time. His wife was named Lindy and they had several children. Bilt was given to my grandfather when both were small boys. He saved Bilt from being sold once by hiding him in a feather bed. A good slave was valued at $1,000.00. America was the name of one of the other slave women.

At the time Sarah was born, the nation was enjoying a season of peace. Clay's Omnibus Act seemed to have settled the slavery disputes. Zachary Taylor (Whig),
twelfth president of the United States, died in July of
1850 and Vice-president Millard Fillmore succeeded to the
presidency.

At the age of six, Sarah started to school which was
within a "stone's throw" from her home. Later she
attended the Rattlesnake School, a mile away, and was
accompanied by her brother, Tom Baker.

The slavery controversy came to a climax in 1861 when
war was declared. Governor Jackson of Missouri favored
secession. The citizens were about equally divided in
sentiment and often members of the same family joined
opposing forces. This bitter dissension caused so much
animosity among the pupils that schools were forced to
close.

Four long years the grim specter of war stalked our
fair land. The Bakers were strong Southerners but were
also a peace loving family.

The Union armies marched through the state and at
times were near the Baker home. One night a small company
of Yankee soldiers camped there, sleeping all over the
place (house and yard). The slaves were happy to serve
supper and breakfast to them after which they moved on.

The war ended in the spring of 1865; the slaves were
freed; and reconstruction was necessary. The Baker's
slaves joined the slaves of their neighbors and moved
into Kansas. In the fall, eight of them returned and
Grandfather Baker rented them land and they were happy to
be at "home again" as they expressed it.
The Baker children assisted with the work.

Grandmother Baker was a pretty woman. She was slender with brown hair, brown eyes and fair skin, but was very frail.

Things necessary to daily living that we buy in shops now were then made at home. A small field of cotton was grown each year during the war and this was picked from the seed by hand, spun and woven into cloth for making sheets, pillow cases, and wearing apparel. Cotton mattresses were unknown. Feathers and straw were used as mattress fillers.

Sheep were sheared by hand and the wool washed, dried, spun and woven into winter clothing. Stockings and socks were knitted at home.

All colors for dyeing this homespun cloth were made. Great Grandmother Hanna would "set up" blue dye. Her method has been forgotten. Walnut leaves alternated with layers of cloth placed in a barrel and soaked with water would produce a beautiful, fast color brown. The negroes used leaves of certain trees for bluing.

Maple trees were tapped for syrup and sugar too.

Starch was made by rubbing green corn on a grater fashioned like a washboard in a tub. When washed this starch would settle to the bottom.

Brown sugar, green coffee, flour, and syrup were bought by the barrel in New Orleans and shipped by boat to Richmond for home consumption.
This brown sugar barrel was kept on a platform so the drip could be caught and used.

Coffee was roasted and ground as needed. A coffee mill was a necessary part of every kitchen. Coffee was settled with the white of an egg.

When Sarah was small, all cooking was done on an open fireplace.

Homemade candles furnished the only light after sunset.

Apples, turnips, cabbage, Irish and sweet potatoes, and beets were "hilled up" for winter use. They were covered with straw and soil in a manner that preserved them perfectly.

The Mormons lived in Missouri at the time Sarah was a little girl and the old settlers did not approve of them, and John Baker was a member of the company that forced them to move on. In the deserted Mormon gardens was found a cucumber shaped squash and they called it the "Mormon Squash." They were delicious baked or made into pies.

Compared with young ladies of the present age, Sarah spent a quiet, uneventful life, assisting her parents and brothers with the routine work at the home.

Occasionally there were parties, she visited relatives, and attended church at Knoxville, six miles distant, riding horseback or in a wagon with her family.

Revival meetings were held in the summer by the Methodists, Baptist and Dunkards under brush arbors in the timber near the Baker home.
The Duncards were an interesting religious group. Foot washing was practiced as in the days of Christ - the men washed the men's feet and the women washed the women's feet. When Duncards met, they always kissed but this form of greeting was confined to those of like sex. Baptism was by immersion, three times face foremost and they believed no one would be saved but Duncards. Their high moral standards caused them to be highly respected.

The Duncard children after associating in school and social life with other denominations refused to join the church of their parents.

The Bakers were Methodists.

Sarah attended two square dances with her brothers as escorts. The dances often continued throughout the night. At the first one, she retired at midnight with a severe headache.

After attending her brother Tom's wedding, she rode in a sleigh to the home of Jess Batts where she attended her second and last dance. The next day she was compelled to spin cloth all day as punishment as her parents were opposed to dancing. Not so much the dance as the intoxication and some questionable characters who attended.

A quilting party at the Batts home was an eventful occasion.

"Apple peelings" furnished entertainment for social evenings. The apples were put out to dry next day.

When the apples were finished, songs were enjoyed by all and games were played such as "trip" and "snap."

One song she remembered was:
"Of all the crimes that ever have been
The selling of liquor is the greatest sin
It has caused more misery, pain and woe
Than any other crime on earth I know.

Chorus:
"Get out of the way you liquor seller,
You've ruined many a clever fellow.

"It has caused the children to cry for bread
And hungry they were sent to bed
And caused the children's bitter cry
And tears to stream from the mothers' eyes."

Repeat chorus:

A favorite song of the slave girls was "I wish I was Single Again."

"When I was single I lived at my ease
Now I have married a husband to please
Four little children we have to maintain
Oh! how I wish I was single again.

"The first thing is "Mama, I want a piece of bread."
The next thing is "Mama, I want to go to bed."
While my husband is scolding
And wishing they were dead.

"By washing and ironing I now have to do
Spinning and weaving I must remember too
My floor is to scrub, the spring to go to
My children are crying, oh! what shall I do?"

In the spring of 1869, while Grandfather John Baker
was in Polo on business, he met a young Confederate
soldier seeking employment. As was the custom then, he
invited the young man home for dinner. The soldier, John
Alexander Good, was employed by Grandfather to remodel the
Baker home and it was in this manner that Sarah Baker met
her future husband.

On November 13, 1869, at the home of the bride's
parents, Sarah Baker and John Alexander Good were united
in marriage. Rev. Robert Hanna, cousin of the bride,
performed the ceremony.
The bride wore a brown worsted dress with brown velvet trimmings. Only a few close friends and relatives were present.

The bride's parents being well advanced in years insisted that the young couple remain with them. During the four years spent in this home, the couple worked and saved enough to purchase a 160 acre farm two miles south of Polo in Caldwell County. It was a cash deal with the exception of $160.00 which was paid the next spring from the sale of hogs.

Two children were born while in the Baker home, Elizabeth Bay Good, August 19, 1870, and John William Leslie Good, January 22, 1872. After moving to their own farm, two more children came to bless their home, Ariminda (Kinnie) Good born January 7, 1876, and Thomas Baker Good, born November 14, 1877.

For years Grandfather John Baker longed to move to Texas. Finally he sold his Missouri property to "Grandma Bettag" but just before the move, war was declared between Texas and Mexico. He then gave up the idea of moving to Texas and bought 400 acres of land near Polo, Missouri, and lived there until his death. Some of his land was bought for $ .25 per acre.

Grandfather's description of the beauty and fertility of Texas and the long cold winters in Missouri caused my parents, John Alexander and Sarah Baker Good, to decide to move to Texas. They rented their farm in Missouri and advertised their household goods for sale. Sales were popular and well attended. Everything was disposed
of but the bedding, dishes, a brass kettle, meat, lard, dried fruit and clothing.

On March 29, 1831, Willie Houston, a nephew, moved the family and their baggage in wagons to Lathrop, Missouri, where they caught a train for Texas. Their hired man, John Straube, accompanied them. They carried $2000 in "greenback" and silver secreted in their clothing. Mother had $1000 in a bag pinned to the top of her corset.

Their first Texas home had a large fireplace. One brick in the hearth was removed and a space made underneath to store their money. Banks were not accessible then. I recall playing with quart jars of silver dollars that were kept behind the sheets in a piece of furniture called a press.

Grandfather John Baker bought 510 acres of land in Sulphur bottom in Delta County on May 27, 1848.

My parents arrived in Sherman, Texas, April 1, 1831, and spent the night and then to Honey Grove on April 2, where they secured conveyance to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Hunt, sister and brother-in-law of Sarah Good. Lizzie was 11 years of age, John 9, Minnie 6 and Tom 4. The family bought their first bananas on the train coming to Texas but would not eat them.

After visiting in the Hunt home a few days they secured a two room house with a porch across the front located on the Gray place and resided here four months. This place is now occupied by a farm family on Farm to Market Road 64.

In July Father bought 180 acres of land from a Mr.
Williams and the family moved to the place now known as the Good homestead four miles west of Cooper in the Goods Chapel community. The farm originally belonged to Mr. Yates who had built a two room house and a log store-room just west of the main house. This store room was used as a kitchen and dining room by the Goods until an addition was added, then the store room was used for a meat house. The addition was four rooms across the front, two below and two upstairs with a hallway between the old and new portion. A stairway was in the rear of the hall. A large kitchen was added north of the dining room. A two-story porch extended across the front with banisters above and below. A porch extended across the east side of the kitchen with an enclosed cistern near door.

The house was painted white with green trimmings, the windows were shuttered, and lightning rods adorned the roof and gave shelter. A large bell on the kitchen was used as a dinner bell, also tolled in an emergency.

A large ash hopper was in yard north of kitchen when lye was needed for soap making, water was added to the ash hopper and the drainage caught.

An orchard extended from the back yard west to a wooded pasture with a winding stream. Cotton, corn, grain and live stock were grown on the farm. The garden occupied the space between the home and barns to the north and furnished abundant vegetables for home use and to divide with the neighbors.

Adjoining farms were bought until the homestead consisted of fifteen hundred acres.
Two children were born after moving to Texas, Robert Henry and Una Pauline Good.

In 1892 the family rented the farm and moved to Cooper for school advantages. They occupied the Oliver house on west Dallas Avenue where Lundy Hooten, Jr.'s home now stands. After school closed, they returned to the farm.

Lizzie, Johnny, Minnie and Tannie continued to attend Prof. Mayo's school in Cooper.

Minnie married Lawrence Milo Killer October 30, 1894.

Lizzie and Rev. C. W. Glanville were married November 18, 1894.

John Good and Sarah Ann Rattan were married February 4, 1900.

The next year the Goods purchased a home in northwest Cooper from J. H. Grizzle and moved November 12, 1901. Tannie assisted with the moving which was accomplished with horse drawn wagons, then he left for Henrietta, Texas, where on November 14, 1901, he was married to Kaudie Lee Tisdale.

The bride and groom moved into the vacated farm home of the Goods and farmed the land.

Relatives and friends were frequent visitors in the Good home. The school teacher, Sylvester Pickens, was a boarder in our home when I started to school.

The ministers and their families were entertained on fourth Sundays, when services were held at Good's Chapel and also during the summer revival meetings.
After moving to Cooper, the famous Rev. and Mrs. Abe Bulkey were entertained in our home during two weeks of revival. Rev. Bulkey referred to us during his sermons as "Brother Good, Sister Good and Little Goodie."

Excerpt from the Hamilton Advocate, November 2, 1939, Hamilton, Missouri:

"The Baker family always stood high in the community -- a glance at their family alliance shows the best names in that district."

Sarah Baker Good inherited many fine qualities from her Tennessee parents. She frequently told us that we had Irish, Scotch, Welsh and German blood flowing in our veins and the combination should make good citizens provided they were mixed in proper proportions.

Sarah Baker was considered the most beautiful girl in Bay County, Missouri. She was five feet four inches tall and slender during her youth. Her skin was fair and without blemish, and hair and eyes were brown.

She presided over her home with grace and poise. She was patient, considerate, modest and unassuming, seemed to never tire in her labors of love and mercy. By example and precept, she tried to lead her children into the higher and nobler life.

After Father's death, October 7, 1925, she moved across the street and lived in our home until her passing. For twelve years she walked with a crutch due to a paralytic stroke that affected her right side. Although a partial invalid, she never gave up. She embroidered, pieced quilts and read. She was mentally alert to the last, took a keen interest in her family, her friends, her church and her country.
On August 9, 1939 she quietly took her departure for the world beyond the skies.

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The Quitaque Ranch was first established by George and Jim Baker (cousins of Grandfather John Baker of Polo, Missouri).

"In 1869 the Baker Brothers, who had been ranching in San Saba County, gathered their cattle and started north on the Horsehead Trail and then west to the Pecos. It was impossible to drive through the Panhandle country on account of the buffalo and red herdsmen (Comanche Indians).

"The Baker herd consisted of nearly 3000 head of good Texas cattle. All went well until they got to the head of the rain Concho. This was the last water before starting the long drive of 100 miles from the Concho to the Pecos.

"That night after the cattle were bedded down, the first guard had just come in and the second had taken the herd. A band of Comanches charged down on the herd yelling and shaking buffalo robes thus stampeding the herd. George Baker was lying on his bed near the wagon. At the first yell he was up, his bridle in one hand and shotgun in the other loaded with buckshot. He ran to his horse which was staked near his bed. The remuda came by on a run. Most of them were hobbled. He saw a man coming on a dead run after them. Without ever looking further than to see that it was a man and thinking it was an Indian, he shot. He saw the man fall. He mounted his horse and headed off the stampeding horses.

"About that time one of his men rode up. He said, ‘Work these horses back to camp, I believe I shot one of the Indians, will try to get to William and the herd.’ He heard the cattle bowling, being a stock herd, they soon stopped. The cows were bowling for their calves. The Indians had gone.

"Baker then went back to see what he had killed. He soon found the dead man, got off his horse and turned him over, and to his horror, he saw he had shot the horse herder, a boy who had been with them some years. He called to the men to come quick. All they could do was carry the body to camp. It is needless to say how it affected Baker. He never got over it and to the last of his life, regretted the hasty way he shot.

"As soon as day broke, they rounded up the cattle and found all but about 200. They found the trail of these but decided it was no use to follow them. It was a big party of Indians. The first thing to be done was to bury the herder and get ready for an early start next day. They had no further trouble and got to the Pecos, drove up the Pecos and finally stopped on the Dry Cimarron."
They ranched there until the buffalo were killed off, then started their cattle back to the foot of the plains in Motley County, Texas.

"In 1940 Baker Brothers sold their cattle to Fellop & McCoy, lumbermen from Wisconsin. C. J. Wearin bought a one-third interest in the herd pulling his "hat" cattle in as part payment.

"The Baker Brothers cattle were always marketed in Kansas City, Missouri. They averaged 1100 pounds each and sold for 5 cents per pound."

The Baker Brothers visited in the John Baker home in Polo, Missouri, when passing through to sell cattle.
The early record on the Good side was copied by C. Ware of Chucky, Tennessee; from the Bible of the late Mary Jane Kurdo of Jonesboro, Tennessee, niece of my father, John Alexander Good.

Jacob Good (my great grandfather) was born in Rockingham County, Virginia (thought to be a descendant of the Jacob Good who moved from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, to Rockingham County, Virginia, in 1795). Born Died
He moved from Rockingham County, Virginia to Green County, Tennessee, in a covered wagon drawn by six big horses.

Jacob Good married (Mary or Margaret) Whistler. The Goods were Pennsylvania Dutch.

Jacob Good learned to speak English after moving to Tennessee.

The Good homestead is located eight miles from Jonesboro and the home where my father was born is near 125 years old and occupied by the Good descendants.

Son of Jacob Good and Margaret Whistler Good:

John Good (my grandfather) born January 21, 1802 in Rockingham County, Virginia. Died December 15, 1892 at his country estate near Jonesboro, Tennessee.

Married to Elizabeth Hannah Humphreys. Elizabeth Hannah Humphreys born April 16, 1813, died December 1, 1876 at family home near Jonesboro, Tennessee. She was Scotch Irish and strict Presbyterian.
Elizabeth Hannah Humphreys was daughter of William Leslie Humphreys and Rebecca Hannah Carson Humphreys (my great grandparents on Humphrey side).

William Leslie Humphreys born September 27, 1785, died October 13, 1865, age 79 years, 11 months, 11 days.

Rebecca Hannah Carson Humphreys, born 1787, died October 19, 1838, age 51.

Marriage date February 7, 1807.

The Humphreys homestead was located near Jonesboro, Tennessee.

Daughter of John and Elizabeth Hannah Humphreys Good (eleven children born to this union):

1. Isabel Jane (Bell) Good, born September 13, 1834 near Jonesboro, Tennessee. Died December 27, 1891 at the home of Mr. A. F. Davis. Married James Sheffy, school teacher and Baptist minister. Seven children born to this union as follows:

(a) Mary Elizabeth Sheffy born 1860 in Arkansas. Died February 1946 in Dallas, Texas, buried in Wolfe City, Texas. Married William Utley, born 1855 in Arkansas, died April 1910 in Dallas, Texas, buried Wolfe City, Texas. One son born to William and Mary Sheffy Utley - John W. Utley born 1894, died in 1902 in Red River County, Texas.

(b) Martin Sheffy born 1855 in Arkansas, died June 1920 in Ballinger, Texas, buried Wolfe City, Texas. Four children born to Martin and Laura Sheffy. Two daughters died in infancy and two sons: Clifford born in Faulkner County, Arkansas, and Bedrick born November 8, 1895 in Wolfe City, Texas.

(c) Louella Sheffy born January 12, 1862 in Arkansas, died July 12, 1892, in Sulphur Springs, Texas. She taught school in Arkansas and Texas (never married).

(d) John K. Sheffy born 1857 in Arkansas, died July 1908. Attended school in Fayetteville, Arkansas (never married). He invented
railroad coupling pin and wrench. Died of creeping paralysis at the home of his sister, Mary Utley, and was buried in Wolfe City, Texas.

(e) Janie Sheffy born September 6, 1867, in Arkansas, died June 16, 1894, Arbala, Texas. Taught school in Sulphur Springs, Texas. Married Dr. A. F. Davis, railroad agent in Sulphur Springs before he studied medicine. Two children born to this union: A. F. (Happy) Davis born Sulphur Springs, Texas, address 2618 Peabody Street, Dallas, Texas; Janie Lou Davis born August 28, 1893; died January 20, 1896.

(f) Minnie Sheffy (no record) Married Mr. Maddox and died of blood poisoning caused by stepping on a nail the first of their marriage.

(g) Ida Sheffy born August 28, 1875 in Arkansas, died January 26, 1909. Married her brother-in-law, Dr. A. F. Davis, after death of her sister Janie. Both became drug addicts.

Daughter of John and Elizabeth Hannah Humphreys Good:

2. Mary Ann (Polly) Good born February 21, 1836, died April 2, 1918. (Never married).

Daughter of John and Elizabeth Hannah Humphreys Good:


Son of John and Elizabeth Hannah Humphreys Good:

4. John Alexander (Aleck) Good (my father) born May 24, 1880 at the Good homestead eight miles east of Jonesboro, Tennessee. Died October 7, 1925 at his home in northwest Cooper, Texas, cause of death cerebral hemorrhage.

Married November 18, 1869 to Sarah Melvina Baker.

Sarah Melvina Baker Good born February 17, 1850, six miles north of Knoxville, Missouri. Died August 9, 1939
at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Una and Lundy Hooten, Cooper, Texas, cause of death heart attack.

John Alexander Good attended school in and near Jonesboro, Tennessee. At the beginning of the Civil War, he volunteered for service in the Confederate Army and was a member of Company I.D.K. of the cavalry army of General John Hunt Morgan and Captain Tipton known as "Morgan's Raiders." These Raiders figured in many daring expeditions through Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio. In a bend in Ohio River, northwest of Cincinnati, the Raiders were surrounded and captured by the brigade of General Shakelford. J. A. Good remained in Federal prison in Chicago, Illinois until the exchange of prisoners at the close of the war (eighteen months). While returning home, he was stricken with measles and was given food and shelter by kind hearted sympathizers. A generous merchant, observing his ragged uniform, fitted him with a completely new outfit - hat, shoes and suit.

It was a happy yet sad reunion that awaited the returned prisoner of war - his twin brothers were war casualties.

Good fortune awaited him when he journeyed to Missouri seeking employment for there he met and married the most beautiful girl in Ray County. Sarah Baker was the youngest daughter of a pioneer family of prominence.

John Alexander Good had blue eyes, brown hair, rather heavy set, five feet nine inches tall and very erect. He had the true Dutch characteristics of thrift, close bargaining and very cautious in business and also
like his ancestors renowned for his good faith, honesty and frankness.

Although he had learned the carpenter's trade in youth, after moving to Texas on April 1, 1881, he devoted his energies to raising live stock, farming and banking. He helped organize the Delta National Bank of Cooper, Texas, and served as a director until his death.

The Goods were instrumental in building the Long Taw School and Good's Chapel church, giving the land for both and the lumber for the church.

The family was industrious, frugal and sagacious. No crime nor disgrace has marred the family record. All affiliated with the Methodist Church.

John Alexander and Sarah Baker Good died leaving to their children a modest inheritance of this world's goods and a rich inheritance in right living.

Twin sons of John and Elizabeth Hannah Humphreys Good:


They joined Confederate Army at age of eighteen. William Franklin was killed in 1863 by a stray bullet passing through his tent. Grandmother Good gave her sons a Testament apiece when they entered service and William Franklin was lying on his cot one night reading from his Testament when killed. He was buried at Vicksburg, Pennsylvania.

Jacob Allison returned home and died one month later (1863) of "fever" and was buried at Fairview, Tennessee.

Daughter of John and Elizabeth Hannah Humphreys Good:

8. Eliza Caroline Good, born August 16, 1850, died March 6, 1900 in Jonesboro, Tennessee. Married John Wattenbarger. Three children born to this union:


(b) James Newton Wattenbarger born Jonesboro, Tennessee, died in Reed Memorial Hospital in Cooper, Texas, January 9, 1938, buried at Shooks Chapel.

(c) William Arthur Lee Wattenbarger born Jonesboro, Tennessee.

Son of John and Elizabeth Hannah Humphreys Good:


(a) James Paris
(b) John Edgar
(c) Charles Homer
(d) Lizzie May
(e) Effie Jane
(f) Cordie Cornelius

Son of John and Elizabeth Hannah Humphreys Good:

10. James K. Polk Good born March 17, 1855 near
Jonesboro, Tennessee, died December 30, 1917. Married Margaret Pierce 1903. Margaret Pierce Good's second husband named C. Ware of Chuxcky, Tennessee.

Son of John and Elizabeth Hannah Humphreys Good:


* * *
As I have been chosen to give my war record, I will take for my theme, General Morgan's Raid through Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio. Previous to the raid I shall speak of, we had spent a month on the borders of Tennessee and Kentucky feeding and preparing our horses, and living on the fat of the land. On the 1st day of July, 1863, General Morgan marshalled his forces which consisted of about 2800 men with 4 light pieces of artillery. Early on that morning we came to the Cumberland River, which was a raging torrent from summer rains. We had a small skiff to cross the men on, but had to swim the horses. I was in the first batch of 20 that crossed, leading the lead horse by the skiff and the rest followed. When we reached the opposite bank we corralled our horses, mounted and sent out pickets to the different roads to watch for the Blue-coats, for we well knew that they would try to prevent our crossing.

In about two hours we saw a long line of Blue-coats coming; waited till their advance came in range, when we fired on them and reported back to command. Captain Tipton ordered Company I.D.K. to mount and we went to meet them; formed our line on crest of cedar brake to await results. We hadn't long to wait, till we saw a long line. After emerging from timber they formed in the valley below, threw out a skirmish line and prepared to attack. About that time we heard the boom of artillery. We knew what that meant, for Morgan had crossed farther.
up the river with part of command and attacked them on the right flank. Those Yanks appeared to understand the signal for we could hear the order "about face; forward, march, quick time." In less time than it takes me to tell it the field was clear. (And to tell the truth I was rather glad they left.)

After the above episode they gave us a clear track. We marched leisurely along until the 4th when we came to Gnu River. There the Yanks had a stockade defended by a few hundred men. Part of two of our regiments charged the place but failed to take it. Passed around and went on to Lebanon; there we encountered a full regiment of Yanks posted behind brick walls, and they appeared not to want to surrender, but we charged and they hoisted the white flag. Marched them 9 miles to Bardstown and paroled them. (You old soldiers well remember this was the day that Vicksburg surrendered and Lee was preparing to leave Gettysburg with his shattered ranks. The Colonel commanding the regiment at Lebanon had a brother commanding a regiment in Morgan's command. I did not see them meet, but it was said they did not embrace each other very cordially. After disposing of prisoners at Bardstown we started North towards the Ohio River, with the purpose of crossing at Brandenburg. The above named place, Brandenburg, is 75 miles Southwest of Cincinnati. I want to say here that we were treated royally by the citizens and even the Yanks stayed well out of the way. On the morning of the 8th there was a detail of 50 of the best mounted men sent forward to make arrangements for
crossing the Ohio. We arrived on the banks about noon. Soon learned there would be a steamboat by. We made arrangements to have her land. Persuaded some citizens to carry some trunks and boxes on the wharf. (You old soldiers know how easy it is to persuade citizens.) In a short time the boat hove in sight; we had citizens to hail her and when she landed, we took charge. In a short time we heard the whistle of another boat coming down the river. We used the same tactics and ere long we had two fine steamboats tied to the wharf. Each boat carried about 150 men with horses. You see we were well heeled for crossing.

While waiting for the command to come up a curiosity seized us to see what the trunk contained on the wharf. The first one examined, we learned very soon did not carry paraphernalia for soldiers. About this time some one hailed, "Here, Good, is a new shirt." They knew that I was about out of that needed garment, so I divested myself of my torn and soiled garment and threw it in the river and proceeded to dress up. Lo and behold, this garment had been made for a 400 pound man. The shoulders hung to the elbow, collar large enough for a horse, but then you see my garment was in the river and there was no alternative but to wear it. That shirt was big up, big out and big down.

About dark we had all crossed the river safe and sound. We rode out a few miles from the river and bivouaced for the night. My company camped in an oat field that had been cut and shocked. We let the horses eat oats while we slept.
On the morning of the 9th, the bugle sounded "saddle up" and in a short time we were on the road north. The first town of any size was Corydon, Indiana. There were a few hundred there and they refused to surrender when requested. We prepared to charge them, raised the yell and shot over the town. The bluff worked and up went a white flag. After taking possession of the town, concluded to dress up. So I went in a store. It happened to be run by a Dutchman. He asked me "vat he could show me." I told him I would like a suit of clothes. He showed me a very fine suit, Prince Albert style. That with the shirt I got at the river with collar and tie; My, but I was dressed.

After leaving the above place, we traveled Northeast passing through various villages and towns. Passed through Richmond and over the beautiful Midland valley. The vast country had been unsoiled by the hand of war and prosperity was evident on every hand. We passed Northeast through the state and came into the state of Ohio North-west of Cincinnati. I was with a crowd of 20 that drove the pickets into Cincinnati. (And I think 'till this good day those Yanks were scared, that is from the way they ran.) We passed to the North of Cincinnati by Jackson, Washington and various other towns of more or less note. On the 19th day of the month we arrived on the bank of the beautiful Ohio but his time we had no boats to cross on and the river had risen 5 feet or more. That delayed us 'till next morning. About the time all was ready to cross, the Yanks came up from the rear and prepared to
attack us. That was Sunday and I think the hottest day I
ever saw. (I suppose the shot and shell had something to
do with the temperature.)

I have never been able to understand why those Yanks
treated us so impolite. We had ridden 20 days unmolested,
captured everything before us, and just as soon as they
found us in a big bend in the river in their own country,
they went to shooting at us. I don't think they treated
us nice.

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