

ALLRED

1553 - 1961



JAMES V ALLRED

1899 - 1959

WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA - Volume 23 - 1944-45 - Page 32

'ALLRED, James V., Judge: Born in Bowie, Texas, March 29, 1899; son of Renne and Mary (Hinson) Allred; L.L.B. Cumberland University, 1921; married Joe Betsy Miller, June 20, 1927; children; James V., David, Sam Houston. Admitted to Texas Bar, 1921, began practice at Wichita Falls; district attorney same, 1923-25; attorney general of Texas two terms, 1931-35; governor state of Texas, 1935-39; U.S. District Judge, Southern District of Texas 1939-42; practicing attorney 1942. Served U.S. Navy, World War. Member American Legion. Democrat. Member Disciples of Christ Church. Mason (32° Shriner, K.C.C.H. Elk. Club: Optimist Wichita Falls (ex-pres.).'

Re-appointed United States District Judge, for the Southern District of Texas, October, 1949. Home: 412 Del Mar, Corpus Christi, Texas.

Died September 27, 1959, at Laredo, Texas, and buried in Wichita Falls, Texas, following services at Corpus Christi, in the State Capitol at Austin, and in Wichita Falls.

Most of this volume was written by JAMES V ALLRED. He also wrote most of the appendix. The remainder was added by Renne Allred, Jr., in 1961.

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

July 4, 1957

TO:

My Sister: Maurine Christian, (Fort Worth)

My Brothers: Oran, (Fort Worth) Ben, (Dallas)
Ray, (Odessa) and Renne, Jr., (Bowie)

My Sons: James V., Jr., (Houston) William David
and Sam Houston, (Corpus Christi)

My one and only grandchild, Lisa Fa, one year old yesterday!

Last summer Joe Betsy and I visited Dave, 1st Lieutenant, U. S. Army, reserve, stationed at Ft. Eustis, near Williamsburg, Virginia. We decided to return by way of Randolph County, North Carolina, where, after considerable difficulty, we located the graves of William and Patience Julian Allred (our great great grandparents) and found some wonderful folks to whom we are related. I have been telling all of you that I was going to write you about our trip and what we learned, since none of us had been there before and really knew very little about the family. Naturally, I have had to do a bit of checkings since, and to tell the story from William Allred of Randolph County is such a titanic task that I just couldn't bring myself around to the attempt until this day of Independence, 1957.

From the headstone on the grave of William Allred I learned that he was born in 1765...Lying abed this morning reflecting on the signing of the Declaration, I thought, why 'great-great grandpaw William was just a lad 11 years old when that happened. Without doubt his father must have fought in the Revolution just as the family tradition claimed by the Iowa and Utah branches' (with whom we have corresponded in recent years.) For years Joe Betsy has modestly mentioned her descent 'Havilands of Kentucky', and traced her family back to the Revolution. Always she has been good enough sport to laugh when I tried to deflate it with 'Our Allreds come from 'po' white trash!

I'm happy to report that while most of them may be 'po', the trash part was just the joke it was meant to be; and that if any of our children want to, we can prove, on good enough authority to stand up in Court that our Allred forebears also fought in the American Revolution. (1)

Anyway I resolved that this day I would make a start on that report to you.

We boys and Maurine will recall that coming up and until recent years, about all we knew was the story Dad (Renne Allred, Sr., of Bowie, Texas) told on so many occasions, in substance that: His grandfather, Renne Allred, was born in North Carolina; his daddy whipped, or threatened to whip him when he was about 14 years old, and he ran away, joining up with a wagon train to Tennessee, where he married and had two children, William, Dad's father and our grandfather, and Elizabeth, whom we older boys will remember as Aunt Betty Washburn, old and using an ear trumpet when we visited Graham, Young County, about 1910. (EXCERPTS OF LETTERS WRITTEN BY DAD IN 1942 AND 1945 APPENDED, MARKED APPENDIX 'B')

Renne lost his wife in Tennessee, sold out all he had, and took a steamboat from Memphis to New Orleans, accompanied by William (8 or 9) and Betty (5); upon arrival at New Orleans he bought a wagon and team of oxen and started west with an immigrant train bound for Texas; he left the train and struck out north, heading for 'Dugan's Fort' in Fannin County (later Grayson County), from which a friend had written him that 'All you need is salt, seed, powder and lead'; it took him a week to cross the Sabine River - he had to cut a way down the banks and back up, and, at times, through trackless forests; that each night he pointed the 'waggin tongue' toward the North Star.

(1)

'THE FATHER OF PATIENCE JULIAN AND THE FATHER OF HER HUSBAND, WILLIAM ALLRED, WERE BOTH IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. THEY WERE RENNE JULIAN AND WILLIAM ALLRED. THIS IS FROM INFORMATION OBTAINED BY SAM HOUSTON ALLRED IN NORTH CAROLINA AS TO RENNE JULIAN AND OBTAINED BY RENNE ALLRED, JR., IN UTAH AND FROM RENNE ALLRED, SR., BY LETTERS 1942-45 AS TO WILLIAM ALLRED. (SEE APPENDIX 'B'. R.A.JR.)

Renne arrived in the Dugan's Fort country in 1837, where he took up a league and a labour (about 4400 acres) of land. (Note: 1280 acres. Vol. B., p. 25, Fannin Co. Surveyor's records. R.A.Jr.) The Indians killed a man in bed with William one night when, as a boy, he was visiting the Dugan family; (2)

Dad was born near Cherry Mound, north of Bells, in Grayson County (carved out of Fannin County in 1848); he and Mama married in 1890, went to Childress County, where he took up a claim and they lived in a 'dug-out'; he worked as a cowboy on the OX Ranch, where Oran was born; the drought got 'em, and they started back to Grayson County, stopping at Bowie where the stand-pipe (water tower) was being built, and he got a job at 'six bits' a day for himself and his team, hauling rock, gravel and sand; he stayed on at Bowie where the rest of us were born.... and that's about it!

Later in the late '20s Dad heard of an old letter in the possession of some of his kin in Wise County, purportedly written by his great-grandfather in North Carolina to one of his sons in Texas. He secured the original of this from Mrs. S. L. Atkins, then of Paradise, Wise County, a descendant of Elijah Allred. He had a number of photostats made. A copy is appended, marked Appendix 'A'.

The original was faded, but remarkably well preserved. Written in a fine Spencerian hand, it is dated 'North Carolina

(2)

BRIEFLY, THE STORY WAS THAT IT, THE LOG CABIN, HAD TWO ROOMS, SEPARATED BY A THROUGH PORCH - THE TYPE WE SAW AS BOYS, THAT THE OLDER DUGAN BOYS HAD GONE TO SLEEP IN THE BARN SINCE IT WAS MOONLIGHT AND HORSE STEALING TIME FOR THE COMANCHES; THAT THE OLDER FOLKS WERE SLEEPING IN ONE ROOM AND HAD THE DOOR BARRED WHILE WILLIAM, 14, AND ANOTHER BOY OF HIS AGE AND A MAN NAMED FRY WERE TO SLEEP IN THE OTHER; THAT THE BOYS WERE SCUFFLING AND ARGUING ABOUT WHO WOULD SLEEP ON THE OUTSIDE AND WHO NEXT TO THE WALL; THAT FRY, WHO HAD ALREADY GONE TO BED, SAID 'BOYS, STOP IT, I'LL SLEEP ON THE OUTSIDE' AND MOVED OVER; THAT CARELESSLY THEY HAD FAILED TO BAR THE DOOR; AND A FEW MINUTES LATER AN INDIAN PUSHED THE DOOR OPEN, FIRED AND KILLED FRY; THAT WILLIAM JUMPED UP AND DASHED A BUCKET OF WATER ON THE FIRE; THAT THEY HEARD GUN SHOTS AT THE CORRAL AND NEXT MORNING FOUND A DEAD INDIAN THERE. YEARS LATER I FOUND THIS SAME STORY APPEARING IN THE BOUND VOLUME OF FORGOTTEN TIMES, VOL. 3, AS RECOUNTED BY MISS KATE DUGAN, WHO, WITH HER FATHER, MOTHER AND SISTER, EMILY, WAS IN THE OTHER ROOM.

Randolph County, July the 14th, 1843' and signed 'William Allred and Patience Allred', dated (at the end) 'July the 20th, 1843'. The outside of the last page made up the envelope and shows 'New Salem, N.C., 7 mo. 26th'; and over to the right 'paid 25'. It is addressed to 'Elijah Allred, Shreveport, La.... This letter to be forwarded to the Republic of Texas, Harrison County'. You will note that in this letter he gives Elijah an account, so far as he knows, of his brothers; and says:

"I should be glad, heartily glad to see all of my sons that has gone far to the West; but I very little expect ever to see any of them again during my stay in this world; my son RENEE is gone far away from all his connections and I have not had a scrape of a pen from him since he left Tennessee; nor no word or any account of him any way; so I want you to Select the Best Information you can and give me a Schedule of his Standing in life...."

This definitely ties in with Dad's story of the lad who ran away from North Carolina to Tennessee, and thence to Texas. He was not much to talk, Dad said, so it is small wonder he never wrote back. (Renne, you and I have sons who seem to have inherited this latter characteristic.)

The next bit of proof, if it were needed, came to me in 1935, the first year I served as Governor. Hon. Claude Pollard, who defeated me for Attorney General in 1926, forwarded to me a photostatic copy of a page from the 'Biographical Souvenir' of Texas, published in 1889, containing the following account of my grandfather (the 8 or 9 year old boy who came to Texas with Renne in 1837):

"WILLIAM ALLRED, a resident of Grayson County, was born in Henderson County, Tennessee, December 27, 1828, and is the son of Renne and Margaret (Ward) Allred. His father, a son of William Allred, of North Carolina, was born in the latter State, but removed to Tennessee, and thence, in the fall of 1837, to Texas, settling in Grayson County, where he died in 1869. During his life he was a farmer and stock-raiser. His wife, who was a daughter of Thomas Ward, was born in North Caro-

lina, and died in 1833. William is the elder of two living children of his parents, the other being his sister Elizabeth.

"William Allred settled in Grayson County with his parents, in 1837, and has since resided there. Before the war he devoted his time and attention to stock-raising and since then has been a farmer. He owns 231 acres near Norton with substantial commodious buildings and other improvements. In this business he has been successful - the result of his enterprise and industry.

"In the summer of 1862, Mr. Allred enlisted in Company A; Martin's regiment, Confederate States army, and served in the trans-Mississippi department until the close of the war. (3) His record as a soldier, like that of his life in peace, is an honorable one, for he did his duty in all things to the best of his ability.

(3)

A BIT MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT OF WILLIAM'S CONFEDERATE ARMY SERVICE IS CONTAINED IN A LETTER TO MY FATHER, DATED JULY 23, 1934, FROM T. N. FUGATE OF ALVORD, TEXAS, WHO WAS IN THE SAME COMPANY WITH WILLIAM AND REMEMBERED HIM, FROM WHICH THE FOLLOWING IS QUOTED:

"THE COMPANY WAS ORGANIZED AT SHERMAN IN 1862. WITH DICK RANDOLPH - CAPTAIN. COMPANY B, RANDOLPHS COMPANY, & TWO OTHER COMPANYS WENT INTO CAMP AT CAMP REEVES AND WAS KNOWN AS RANDOLPHS BATTALLION. OTHER COMPANYS FROM DIFFERENT COUNTIES WERE JOINED TO THEM AND THE REGIMENT WAS ORGANIZED. MARTIN WAS COLONEL. THIS REGIMENT WAS ENROLLED AS THE FIFTH TEXAS PARTISANS RANGERS. WAS SENT TO THE INDIAN TERRITORY UNDER COOPER TO GUARD TEXAS AGAINST INVASION FROM THE NORTH. THEY WERE AFTERWARDS JOINED TO GANORS BRIGADE. CONSISTING OF THREE OTHER REGIMENTS, GURLEY, DEMORSE AND HARDEMAN. THE LAST WINTER OF THE WAR WE WINTERED AT LANESPORT, ARK. NEAR WHERE THE CITY OF TEXARKANA NOW IS, WERE SENT FROM THERE TO SOUTHEAST, TEXAS. WERE DISMOUNTED AT HEMPSTEAD AND PUT IN THE INFANTRY. IN ROBERTSONS BRIGADE. FORNEYS DIVISION WENT FROM THERE TO HARRISBURG, FROM THERE TO RICHMOND, FORD BEND COUNTY AND WERE THERE DISBANDED AND STARTED HOME."

IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT THIS REGIMENT FIRST WAS ENROLLED AS THE FIFTH TEXAS PARTISAN RANGERS AND WAS SENT TO THE INDIAN TERRITORY. . . THIS PROBABLY EXPLAINS A STORY MY FATHER TOLD ABOUT HIS FATHER (WILLIAM) ALMOST DYING OF THIRST ON HIS WAY HOME FROM FORT BELKAP, NOW RESTORED, IN YOUNG COUNTY, TEXAS.

"Mr. Allred was married in 1851 to Miss Frances Washburn of Arkansas, who died leaving one child, David. Mr. Allred subsequently married Miss Jemima Crawford, by whom he had two children, Texana and Emily J. Again Mr. Allred was made a widower, and afterward he married Mrs. Eliza I. T. Cross, daughter of Thomas Goff. They have six children, Rosa B., Elizabeth, Renne, Allie, William and Mamie. Mrs. Allred has four children by a former husband - Ann, Joseph, Bethel and George Cross .

"Mr. Allred bears an excellent reputation in the community of which he is a member. In his business transactions he is straight forward and honorable, while his private life is without reproach. As he has been prospered in worldly affairs, thanks to his good judgement and forethought, we may look for his further advancement. (Since the above was prepared for the press, Mr. Allred departed this life December 19, 1888.)"

William Allred and 'Granny' are buried at Cherry Mound, Grayson County, where Mama and Dad went to school. In one of my campaigns for Attorney General, I stopped at the little town of Bells and was shaking hands with everyone in the stores on Main Street. A young feller said, 'Allred? We live out on the old Allred place and there are some old tombstones out there but most of 'em have fallen down'.

I learned that the old place was about 7 miles north of Bells and drove out...There they were, just a few stones in an old orchard. But one of them was still half-standing; that is, the slab was in two pieces and the top part had fallen to the ground and the foundation upon which it rested was still there. The part on the ground was marble, bearing the Masonic square and compass; and clearly carved upon it 'Renne Allred', with the date of his birth and death...Raymond went up there, leased for 99 years a sufficient plot to embrace the several graves and had the Masonic headstone restored.

Later at a picnic at Cherry Mound during the time I served as Governor, a man came up to me and said, 'We live out on the old Allred place and there is an old ox yoke out there in the barn... it belongs to the Allred family and you can have it'. Dad was with me at the time. We went by and he said, 'Jimmie, that's the yoke my grandfather used coming from New Orleans to Texas... I saw it many times when I was a boy'. The old yoke is on display in the museum at Ft. Belknap, Young County, where William served for a short time during the War Between the States.

I don't think any of us had ever thought much about our family background until the Texas Centennial in 1936. All of us had been too busy making a living and trying to get a start in life. I had heard of an organization known as the Sons of the Republic of Texas, but it never had occurred to me that we were eligible for membership in it until after I became Governor. I was proposed for honorary membership, and it was discovered that I was eligible. (4)

From the time I was elected Attorney General in 1930, however, I had been receiving occasional letters from Allreds all over the United States inquiring as to my background. Most of them mentioned that their family originated in North Carolina. Up until that time I had no idea there were so many of them - quite the contrary, coming up and running for office I had to spell my name to most everyone I met - the remark often being made that it was an unusual one.

Many of these letters came from North Carolina, others from Iowa, Indiana, Utah, Arizona, Arkansas and Washington State. I do not have these letters, most of which I sent on to my father at Bowie, keeping only copies of my replies. My only alibi for this inattention and the neglect of many other things and people is that when a man is elected Attorney General or Governor, his time is never his own. He never gets to make his own program, or see the people he should see,

(4)
TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP, SOME FOREBEAR MUST HAVE LIVED IN TEXAS DURING THE TIME SHE WAS A REPUBLIC (1836-1846) AND HAVE RENDERED SOME SERVICE - SUCH AS IN THE ARMY, PUBLIC OFFICER, INDIAN FIGHTER, ETC.

or do the things he ought to do. Too many people descend upon him, too many things 'bob-up' that just have to be 'tended to. So I pushed the family correspondence largely off on Dad, who had retired as a rural mail carrier and seemed to enjoy discovering so many wonderful kin.

The earliest letter of which I have a record, dated August 15, 1931, was from H. C. Allred, P.O. Box 156, Alamance, North Carolina, inviting me to attend an Allred family reunion at Gray's Chapel, Randolph County, which was to be held on the third Sunday in September. The following year he wrote to inform me that 'there will be no reunion of the Allred families this year on account of the terrible depression which exists in this part of the Country as the Farmers are almost destitute of crops owing to the severe drought and public work is not fifty per cent normal, but God Willing it will be held at or near the old Homestead of William Allred, Millboro, Randolph County, N.C. next year in September, third Sunday'.

Other letters later on came from James M. Allred, Franklinville, show the formation of an 'Allred Reunion Association' with a letterhead 'Meets Annually on First Sunday in September, Gray's Chapel Methodist Church, Randolph County, North Carolina'. The officers were shown on that letterhead for many years as follows: President James M. Allred, Fanklinville, N. C., First Vice President A. M. Allred, Liberty, N. C., Second Vice President James H. Allred, South Boston, Va., Financial Secretary J. R. Allred, Franklinville, N. C., Corresponding Secretary E. Clay Allred, Franklinville, N. C., H. Worth Allred, Assistant Cor. Sec., Franklinville, N. C. On our trip last summer we learned that James M. Allred, who had so faithfully invited me to come up there year after year, had died and his nephew, C. H. Allred, of Cedar Falls, is now President.

Under date of August 26, 1931, I received a letter of inquiry from William Patterson Allred of Corydon, Iowa, stating that he had been born in Randolph County, N. C., in 1846, and was the son of Mahlon and Eleanor Patterson Allred. (Note from William Allred's letter to Elijah in 1843: 'Mahlon was married the first day of September 1842 to Miss

Nelly Patterson, and living in the House that Stephen lived in but is building a very good house on the premises and has got it up and covered, two stories high'.) We corresponded until his death in 1939, and he visited us in the Governor's Mansion in Austin, in the fall of 1937, when he was 90 years old. He was a grand character, a union soldier at the age of 18, a life-long Republican who had served as Justice of the Peace, County Recorder and a member of the Iowa State Legislature.

In 1853 when 'Patterson' (hereafter called Uncle Pat) was only 7 years old, Mahlon, his father, left North Carolina and moved to Carrol County, Arkansas. In the spring of 1854 he moved to Wayne County, Iowa. He lived there until 1887, he moved back to Carrol County, Arkansas, where he died in 1892. According to the Times-Republican dated Thursday, March 9, 1939, 'Mahlon Allred built the first log cabin in Monroe township on the prairie west of Genoa in section 17, township 67 North, range 20 West'. (5)

In August, 1956, I stood beside the grave of our great-grandfather, William Allred, and his wife, Patience Julian Allred, at Gray's Chapel, a charming country churchyard, about 10 miles northeast of Asheboro, Randolph County, North Carolina. Asheboro is located on U. S. Highways 64 and 220, less than 30 miles south of Greensboro. Joe Betsy and I searched through a number of graveyards and found more tombstones with 'Allred' chiseled on them than we knew existed.

Had I but thought to take with me the file I had assembled during my years as Attorney General and Governor, when I heard from so many Allreds, we would have had no trouble. As it was, however, we finally located some wonderful kinspeople and were directed the following day to two dark brown native stones, the one with 'William Allred, Esq., Born Aug. 8, 1765, Died Jan. 24, 1849'; the other with 'Patience Allred, Born Sept. 15, 1772, Died Feb. 26, 1856'. The letters were fading but still readable.

(5)
THIS WAS THE END OF THE FIRST MEMORANDUM JIMMIE STARTED. THE REMAINDER WAS ANOTHER MEMORANDUM WRITTEN BY HIM WHICH I NEXT COPY, ATTEMPTING TO LEAVE OUT ANY DUPLICATIONS. BUT THERE WILL BE, NECESSARILY, SOME DUPLICATIONS ANYWAY. TO CARRY FORWARD HIS THOUGHTS. R.A.JR.

In between these old monuments, a new marble monument was placed in 1957, with the aid of our kinsman, Colon T. Redding, Route 1, Franklinville, North Carolina. Colon, like us, is a great-great-grandson of William and Patience Allred, being descended from Susan Allred, the only daughter of William and Patience. He it was who led me to the graves. Joe Betsy and I had gone over all of them in Gray's Chapel churchyard the day before, found many Allreds, but not William and Patience, because the letters were just about faded out.

From Colon I secured much valuable information, including the names and dates of birth of the 11 children of William and Patience - taken from the old family Bible, still in the possession of Mrs. Elmer Julian, a cousin of Colon Redding. Here it is as he copied it for me from the Bible:

William Allred was born the 8th of August 1765
Patience Allred was born the 15th of September 1772
Reuben Allred was born the 27th of November 1791
John Allred was born the 11th of January 1794
Stephen Allred was born the 2nd of May 1796
William Allred was born the 11th of October 1798
Elijah Allred was born the 20th of October 1801
RENNE ALLRED was born the 11th of May 1804
Alfred Allred was born the 14th of April 1807
Susan Allred was born the 4th of June 1810
Laban Allred was born the 6th of January 1813
Mahlon Allred was born the 15th of April 1817 (6)

Just to clear the record at this time, especially for our children (when they get interested), here is our order of descent:

William and Patience Julian Allred (our great-great grand parents)

(6)
THE SAME INFORMATION, EXACT NAMES AND DATES, LATER WAS GIVEN ME BY MRS. METTA ALLRED CRAWFORD, 1725 FULTON, EVERETT, WASHINGTON, A DAUGHTER OF MAHLON AND GRANDDAUGHTER OF WILLIAM AND PATIENCE, TOGETHER WITH THE FOLLOWING: 'WILLIAM ALLRED AND PATIENCE JULIAN WERE MARRIED IN RANDOLPH CO., N.C., IN 1790.'

*Renne Allred, (Born May 11, 1804) our great grand-
father)*

William Allred, (our grandfather)

Renne Allred, (our father)

It is to be noted that the given names of William and Renne follow one another through each generation until Dad broke the spell and named none of his boys William. Remembering that Mama was a pretty strong willed person, it may be that she had something to do with this! Joe Betsy and I re-instated the custom by naming our second son William David - for 'Gran' Paw' and Uncle Dave Allred, Dad's oldest brother.

Several things stand out in the letter from William and Patience Allred in the light of subsequent information I have picked up and will discuss, not necessarily in order, in this letter. Perhaps they will throw some light on the many, many Allreds we have met and heard from all over the United States; and why so many of them, like ourselves, are confused about just who their remote ancestors were. These features are:

First: It was a big family - nine sons and one daughter. The lonely old gentleman mentions eight of them by name. Four of them were still in Randolph County: (1) Reuben, who would take a 'dram too many sometimes', was living on the Old Place; (2) John was tending the mill 'that was Coffins in Franklinsville'; (3) William was living on the same place he was living on when Elijah went away; and (4) Mahlon, the youngest, had married MISS NELLY PATTERSON and was living in the house that Stephen lived in 'but was building another and had it up two stories'.

Second: At least four of them had gone 'far away to the West', whom he would be 'glad, heartily glad to see but very little expected ever to see any of them again'. They were: (1) Elijah, to whom the letter was addressed, then living in Harrison County, Republic of Texas, (now Panola County, carved out of Harrison County); (2) Stephen - 'We never know where my son Stephen had got to till we received Elijah's

letter, in which he stated that you were living within about two miles from him'; (3) Renne (our great-grandfather) 'My son Renne is gone far away from all his connections and I have not had a scrape of a pen from him since he left Tennessee; nor no word or any account of him in any way'; and (4) Laban - 'My son Laban has been the most mindful of of any of you in writing to us'. The letter is devoid of any clue as to where Laban had gone, except he must have been one of those who had gone 'far away to the West'.

Third: Not specifically mentioned are Alfred and Susan. Presumably, they were part of 'the rest of my family (that) is living with me'. On the other hand, however, if Alfred was still at home why would the old man be complaining about the feeding of his 'considerable stock' tiring him so badly that he could not stand up to it much longer, and that it was not likely to continue very long 'as I am left single handed to work my way through this world the best way I can'? It could be that Alfred, too, had gone 'far away to the West' but, in that event, it would seem that he would have been mentioned. (Note: From Utah and Virginia Allreds we were informed that Alfred died in infancy. R.A., Jr.)

Fourth: William mentions his two brothers and one sister: (1) 'Your Uncle John', who was scuffling along with a gang of negroes, hard beset, on account of the bad conduct of two of his sons, John and Claburn: a third son, Elisha, was doing very well; (2) 'Your Uncle Samuel', whose father-in-law had gone insane and died; and who also had lost his wife; and (3) 'your Aunt Polly Allred', who had just died. (We found her grave and headstone beside that of William and Patience at Gray's Chapel.)

Fifth: Many of the neighbors and friends who had passed away 'since you went away from this Country'. Among these are many names we noted on the tombstones in the various graveyards when we were looking for our own.

Of all the sons of William and Patience Allred, I am unable at this time to give any authentic account except (1) Stephen and Elijah; (2) Renne; and (3) Mahlon. All of these tie in somewhat as my knowledge of our own descent developed from time to time, principally during my service as Attorney General of Texas (1931-1935) and Governor (1935-1939). Dur-

ing that time I received many letters from all over the United States, principally North Carolina, inquiring as to my background.

One of the great regrets of my life is that I did not accept repeated invitations to attend the Allred family reunion at Gray's Chapel, N.C. while I was Governor. It would have meant so much to all of us; but, of course, I was so terribly pressed all the time. When we finally got over there in 1956, the President, James M. Allred, had passed away.

As stated earlier, had I but taken my files with me, or had I just looked them over before leaving, we would have had no trouble locating the old community and our folks. But we are always too rushed, too pressed, in these times. As a result, we had a hard time, just after driving into North Carolina from Virginia, in learning where Randolph County was located. After unsuccessful inquiries at several filling stations and a curio shop or two, I finally got hold of a highway map which showed county lines in dim blue, and we located 'Randolph County'.

We stopped in Raleigh, the State capitol, but it was Saturday, and all the state offices closed. I located a Mr. Allred in the telephone book, a few blocks away. I walked there and found him to be the manager of a furniture store. Like most of our generation, he didn't seem to know a great deal about our family very far back; but he was from Randolph County and told me his mother, Mrs. Alfred Allred, kept up with such things. He drew directions on the map as to how to reach her home. He was very hospitable and asked us to have lunch with him, but road travel had rendered us hardly presentable. So we made our way toward Cedar Falls (mentioned in the letter of 1843, remember?). Just short of there, we saw a sign 'Allred Grocery'. I breezed in, like I used to do in the rural stores when I was campaigning, stuck out my hand to the proprietor and said, 'My name is Jimmie Allred. I'm from Texas. My great-grandfather was born in this county and came to Texas in 1837. I'm trying to locate the old place, and, if possible, some of our folks'. Well, I quickly found that the Texas breeziness didn't take; the fellow admitted his name was Allred but acted like he thought I was going to ask him to cash a check. He said he didn't know much about the Allred family - and I didn't blame him.

We drove on a short distance to Cedar Falls and saw another store with a sign 'Allred Grocery and Garage'. I went in and met a very nice lady. She explained that her husband was out, but said she, 'His father and mother live in that house right there'. The house was on the same lot or lots as the store, and when I came out I saw that Joe Betsy had gotten out and was talking to an elderly man and woman sitting in rocking chairs on the porch. When I walked up, she introduced them as Mr. and Mrs. Allred, and said, 'Jimmie, doesn't he look like your father?'

This Mr. Allred, James L. Allred, it turned out, did look like Dad, same size, general appearance, pale blue eyes, and smile. And when he talked, his mannerisms reminded me of Dad. His wife, it developed, was the sister of James M. Allred, former president of the Allred Reunion Association, but no relation to her husband, James L. This Mr. Allred didn't seem to know a great deal about his forebears beyond his grandfather; and, of course, I didn't have enough information at hand then to discuss it intelligently with him. He did tell me that he had helped his father to build the adjoining mill and the house years and years ago. (He was 72 when I talked with him).

Finally, Mr. Allred said, 'How'd you like to have a drink of good spring water?' I responded with alacrity, and he led me around the mill, over a footbridge, which he said he had built himself across a rocky creek bed, around to a place just under a bluff from which a tiny stream was flowing. He removed a piece of sheet iron, disclosing a rock-walled, cavern-like place full of clear water. 'Have to keep the varmints out', he said. Then he picked up an aluminum stewpan with handle, dipped some water from the spring and handed it to me, one side slightly upended; but even so, I saw that water was pouring out of two or three holes on the other side, which appeared to have been punched with a nail. 'Them boys play ball up there, and they come down here for the water', he said. 'I don't mind 'em havin' the water, but I punched those holes in the dipper so they'd drink here and not carry off my dipper'. I laughed, and he grinned, winked and said, 'Us Allreds are a little smart sometimes, ain't we?'

The way he said it, his whole manner, was just like talking with Dad again. Although we did not succeed in tracing back to a common ancestor, I am sure it exists...remembering Dad's old example of years of breeding race horses but every once in a while there's a 'throw-back' to an old circus horse. Later, Colon Redding told me Mr. James L. Allred probably was descended from 'Uncle John', who was scuffling with a gang of negroes.

We had misplaced the map Mr. Allred had drawn for us in Raleigh, but in the back of my mind was remembrance of that 'New Salem' on the envelope in the old letter of 1843. So we began inquiring about New Salem and finally were sent from a filling station out into a remote rural area, off the highway between Asheboro and Greensboro. It was just a rural community however, no post office, with grocery store and filling station. No one there seemed to know anything about the old Allred homestead in that community. Finally we were directed to the home, some miles away, of an Allred who was 'a pretty old man'. We finally located this place, a fine, old, two-story house, and found that we were at the home of Alfred Allred, the father of the Mr. Allred whom we had talked with in Raleigh. Too bad we hadn't stayed with the map he drew for us. Alfred Allred wasn't as old as we expected by the words 'a pretty old man'. (Note: Alfred has since died -R.A.Jr.)

He was very cordial and was explaining that his wife was somewhere, when Mrs Allred arrived. She was such a lovely person and seemed so glad to see us. She immediately said, 'Why, I am an Allred myself, no kin to Alfred, but my great-grandmother was Susan Allred, the only sister of your great-grandfather, Renne Allred!' She brought out the family album and showed us a small picture of a handsome young man, and another of a beautiful young woman. Under these were written 'Rennie' (sic) Allred) 'Harriet A. Simmons'. Mrs. Allred's maiden name was Etta Hinshaw. She was the daughter of Renne Hinshaw and Sarah Redding. Her mother was a granddaughter of Susan Allred, whose daughter, Lucina, had married Solomon Redding. Mrs. Allred said, 'My grandmother used to tell me about Uncle Renne coming home from Tennessee and bringing her a pair of shoes when she was a little girl'.

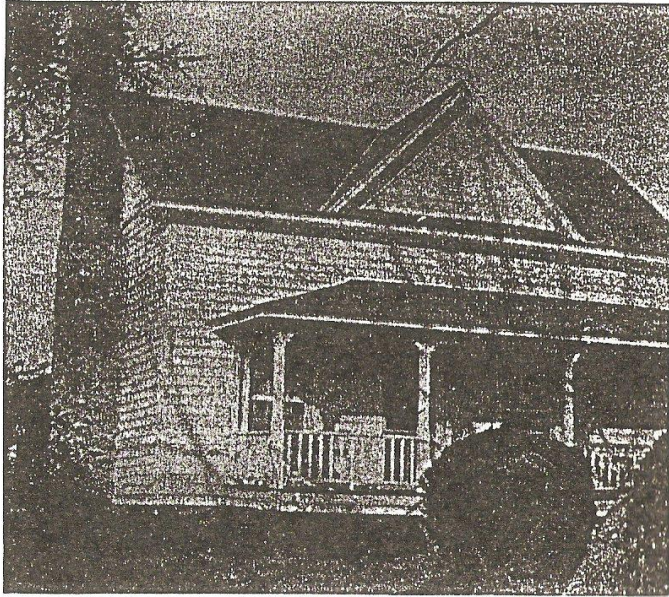
Mrs. Allred, or 'Cousin Etta', was full of energy and exuded enthusiasm. She had just returned from an airplane trip to Port Angeles, Washington, where she had visited two of her Hinshaw brothers. She took us to see her cousin, Colon T. Redding, a great grandson of Susan Allred. He lived near the old family place, post office Franklinville, N. C. He and Mrs. Redding were most cordial.

Colon had in his possession an original deed whereby Stephen Allred had sold to our great-great grandfather, William Allred, 250 acres of land for '75 silver dollars'. It was tradition, he said, that this was just before Stephen left for Texas, and it was supposed that this was the reason he sold the land. Colon told me where William and Patience were buried in the churchyard at Gray's Chapel; also, that the old family homestead was not far from there.

Joe Betsy and I went in to Asheboro to spend the night, notwithstanding the kind invitations of both the Allreds and the Reddings to share the hospitality of their homes.

The following morning, a Sunday, Joe Betsy went to Sunday School and church in Asheboro while I went to meet Colon Redding. I can hardly describe the feelings I had when I stood beside the graves at Gray's Chapel and thought of that wonderful old man, so lonely, with all his boys gone far to the West, and here was one of them returning, many, many years delayed. Or again when I visited the old home, remarkably well preserved and still being used as a home. It was owned by one of the Julian family, well along in years, who had rented it out while she stayed with some of her children.

(IN DECEMBER 1937, COUSIN D.C. NELSON, GIBSONVILLE, N.C. SENT A PICTURE OF THE HOME ABOVE REFERRED TO, AND THAT PICTURE AND AN EXPLANATION CONCERNING IT IS REPRODUCED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE. R.A.JR.)



THIS IS A PICTURE OF THE HOME OF WILLIAM AND PATIENCE JULIAN ALLRED, NEAR MILLSBORO, RANDOLPH COUNTY, N.C., AS IT APPEARS TODAY. THE INSIDE OF THE ROOMS IN THE FRONT PART OF THE HOUSE ARE THE ORIGINAL WALLS AND ARE MADE OF BOARDS APPROXIMATELY 12 INCHES WIDE. THE STAIRWAY TO THE 'LOFT', THE FIREPLACE MANTEL, AND THE CHIMNEY ARE ALSO OF THE EARLY DAY CONSTRUCTION.

THE ROUND SHRUB IN THE FOREGROUND WAS REFERRED TO AS A 'BOX BUSH' AND DUE TO ITS SLOW GROWTH AND PRESENT SIZE, IT IS PRESUMED (BY THE COLON T. REDDINGS') THAT IT WAS PLANTED BY WILLIAM AND PATIENCE ALLRED, ALTHO THIS IS NOT KNOWN FACT.

It was from Asheboro that I called Ray's wife, having learned that he had suffered a heart attack on his birthday-August 8th, which is the same birth date as his great-great grandfather-I found from the tombstone. Ray wanted to know what kind of country it was - it is hilly, rolling, farm country, beautiful timber, a farming country, principally tobacco. I recommend that all of you visit it some time; you'll meet some marvelous people. I want to get back sometime for the family reunion in September.....

It was with a feeling of genuine regret that we left Randolph County, but we already were beyond the deadline which we had set for ourselves for this particular vacation. I have continued, however, to correspond with the folks over there. Mrs. Alfred Allred gave me the two small pictures of Rennie Allred and Harriet A. Simmons. I had them enlarged and sent colored enlargements back to her, wanting to believe, yet somehow doubting, that they were the pictures of our Renne. They were just a bit too good, I thought, to have been made back when our Renne would have been that age. Later I found that I was correct in this and definitely ascertained just who this Rennie Allred and Harriet A. Simmons were. But that's a story which will come along in its natural sequence. (Note: Apparently this story was never written.)

And now, we'd best get back to the Texas Allreds. From the old letter it appears probable that Elijah Allred, to whom the letter was addressed in Harrison County, was the first Allred to come to Texas; and that Stephen was the second. From a History of the Fair-Play Community in Panola County (carved out of Harrison County), written by S. T. Allison of Carthage, Texas, I find this is true. Mr. Allison is a descendant of Elijah Allred on his mother's side. According to him and Mrs. S. L. Atkins of Paradise, a granddaughter of Elijah, Elijah answered Sam Houston's call for volunteers after the fall of the Alamo (March 6, 1836). Mounted on his horse, with only a blanket, frying pan, axe, rifle and a few dollars, he reached Nacogdoches to learn that the Battle of San Jacinto had been won (April 21, 1836), and Texas was free. He therefore settled in what is now the Fairplay Community near Carthage, Texas, made friends with the Indians and pioneered. Later with the coming of other settlers, the Indians went on the war path, and Elijah was made captain and led the settlers against them. When the county was organized, he became the first county judge. He was quite a substantial citizen, a slave owner who opposed secession, yet when the die was cast, did his best for the South.

It will be remembered that in the old letter, William

Allred mentioned that 'We never knew where my son Stephen had got to till we rec'd Elijah's letter, in which he stated that you were living within two miles from him.' So, despite the fact that the letter was not written until 1843, Stephen must have come to Texas before 1837, since, according to Mr. Allison, it is a matter of family tradition that Renne came by there to visit them on his way to Dugan's Fort in 1837, and Renne took the oath of allegiance to the Republic of Texas, as follows:

'REPUBLIC OF TEXAS - COUNTY OF FANNIN: I CERTIFY THAT RENNE ALLRED THIS 2ND DAY OF AUGUST, 1838, PERSONALLY APPEARED BEFORE ME AND MADE OATH THAT HE HAS RESIDED IN TEXAS THE NEXT SIX MONTHS PRECEDING THE DATE HEREOF, THAT HE INTENDS TO RESIDE PERMANENTLY HEREIN, THAT HE WILL SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION OF AND BEAR THE ALLEGIANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS. IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED MY SEAL OF THIS COUNTY. J. G. JOUETT, COUNTY JUDGE. RECORDED BOOK B, P. 126' (7)

Mr. Allison's history of the Fairplay Community is well written and is a fitting account of Elijah, but there is little mention of Stephen. (8)

(7)
GRAHAM LANDRUM IN HIS BOOK 'AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF GRAYSON COUNTY, TEXAS' SAYS (P.1) THAT 'THE REAL HISTORY OF GRAYSON COUNTY BEGINS NO EARLIER THAN 1836 OR 1837.' GRAYSON COUNTY (FORMERLY A PART OF FANNIN) WAS NOT CREATED UNTIL NOVEMBER 3, 1848 (26 TEX 732). LANDRUM SAYS (P.10) THAT 'RENE' ALLRED WAS ONE OF THE EARLY COMERS TO THE COUNTY, THAT 'RENE' WAS ON A COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO LOCATE A ROAD FROM WARREN TO COFFEE'S STATION, AND WAS ON THE FIRST GRAND JURY CONVENED IN FANNIN COUNTY IN 1840. (VOL A. P. 3. DC MINUTES) IN DISCUSSING A TORNADO IN MAY, 1867 (P.85) THAT 'RIPPED THE COUNTY APART', HE QUOTES FROM THE SHERMAN COURIER OF DATE MAY 1867 THAT 'HAIL STONES WEIGHED A POUND' AND THAT 'WE LEARN THAT THE WHEAT CROPS OF 'RAINEY' ALLRED (AND OTHERS) WERE LITERALLY BEAT OUT OF THE EARTH WITH THE HAIL'. RENNE ALLRED'S FINANCIAL WORTH IN 1850 IS LISTED AS LESS THAN FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS. BUT BEFORE HIS DEATH HE IS LISTED AS HAVING REAL PROPERTY OF THE VALUE OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS AND PERSONAL PROPERTY WORTH SIXTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS. THE VOLUME 26 TEX 732 ABOVE MAY BE OF INTEREST TO SOME OF THE DESCENDENTS OF RENNE ALLRED. 1ST. RENNE HAD SUED ONE DANIEL MONTAGUE AND OBTAINED JUDGMENT AT THE NOVEMBER 1846 FANNIN COUNTY DISTRICT COURT. THE SHERIFF LEVIED ON 950 ACRES OF MONTAGUE'S PROPERTY AND IT WAS SOLD TO RENNE ALLRED AND THE SHERIFF GAVE HIM A DEED TO IT ON NOVEMBER 7, 1848. LATER, MONTAGUE SUED RENNE ALLEGING THE SALE WAS VOID BECAUSE 431-3/4 ACRES OF THE 950 WAS IN GRAYSON COUNTY, THE LATTER COUNTY HAVING BEEN ORGANIZED JUST FOUR DAYS BEFORE THE SHERIFF'S DEED. THE SUPREME COURT IN 1861 HELD THE DEED VALID AS TO THAT PART IN FANNIN COUNTY AND VOID AS TO THAT PART IN GRAYSON COUNTY.

This history was written in connection with restoration of the old Methodist Church which Elijah helped to build. Its records were lost in a fire, but it is known to have been organized as early as 1841. Most of the Allred pioneers are buried in the old cemetery, where a picnic and cemetery work-ings are held in July each year.

A few reminiscences of William's service we remember, passed on by Dad, which tie in with the foregoing Fugate account:

(1) He was stationed for a time at Ft. Belknap, (now in Young County, near Newcastle) since he related how he started out for a visit home with a companion on horseback.

Because of this service at Ft. Belknap, which was restored during my administration as Governor, I placed a number of mementos in the museum there, including an enlarged picture of William Allred as a young man.

(2) William told of swimming the Verdigris River to get to, or away from, 'old Banks' Army'.

(3) He walked home when the army was disbanded near Houston. (This would have been about 300 miles.) After the war 'the Yankees come an' got 'im, took 'im to Jefferson, (Texas) an' kep' 'im in a bob wire stockade for six months' (9)

Since this is a rambling account, one other observation of William's I remember, which, I am sure, moulded Dad's attitude about war in general and his opposition to any of us going into the first world war until they made us go. 'It was a rich man's war - all the rich fellers in the community told us to go on and get in, we'll look after your families'.

(8)
LATER INFORMATION SHOWS STEPHEN WAS JUSTICE OF PANOLA COUNTY FOR SEVERAL YEARS BEGINNING IN 1846. THIS WAS AT A TIME (1845-61) WHEN UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF TEXAS THE COUNTY WAS RUN BY A CHIEF JUSTICE AND FOUR JUSTICES. THE CHIEF JUSTICE PERFORMING THE DUTIES NOW PERFORMED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE AND THE JUSTICES PERFORMING THE DUTIES NOW PERFORMED BY COMMISSIONERS AND POSSIBLY JUSTICES OF THE PEACE. R.A., JR.

I gathered that the rich men didn't look after the families very well and that William wasn't much interested in the slave question anyway since he owned none.

All of us will remember how Dad brooded when O.H. was called in the first contingent of the draft in September, 1917 and how, of course, he worried over the rest of us as we went in. During my training days in the Navy, I decided Dad was right about it, although I wouldn't have admitted it for anything in the world - and it turned out to be the best thing I ever did - I would never have been Attorney General or Governor had it not been for my brief war-time service.

Well, that's just about the story concerning Renne and William, so far as I have been able to get it.

(By RENNE ALLRED, Jr. born Bowie, Texas, June 6, 1901)

The foregoing was Jimmie's narration. He wrote some data concerning the offspring of William (our grandfather) which he said he would handle as an appendix 'so that our children and grandchildren may know something of their kin, when they are old enough to appreciate it'. Since he did not complete it, I will try to do so and attach it as Appendix 'C'. All of the wording will not be his, but a large part of it will be.

Before the appendix, however, I want to add some information.

My brother, Jimmie, has detailed in his narrative or in Appendix 'C' the kind of work of our father, Renne Allred, Sr. did, farmer, furniture dealer, and working on the 'stand pipe' at Bowie, etc. Dad later owned and operated a wagon yard in Bowie, where we boys used to 'swop' stickhorses, using the

(9)

ON JUNE 10, 1961, AUNT MAMIE NOE TOLD ME (R.A., JR) THAT SHORTLY BEFORE THE BIRTH OF OUR DAD, GRANDPA WILLIAM GOT LEAVE TO BE AT HOME WITH GRANNY. THAT THE BABY DIDN'T ARRIVE WHEN EXPECTED AND HIS LEAVE WAS ALMOST UP. THAT HE HAD LEFT HOME AND STARTED TO RETURN TO HIS STATION WHEN DAD WAS BORN AND SOME ONE CAUGHT UP WITH HIM AND RETURNED HIM SO HE GOT TO SEE HIS NEW SON BEFORE GOING BACK TO HIS COMPANY.

cowboy jargon, for which we received more than one whipping at the hands of our mother. Dad took an examination and was employed as the first rural mail carrier (1903) out of Bowie. Each of we boys, Elmer to Renne, at one time or another carried the rural mail, Elmer as a regular and the others as substitute. When Dad retired at the age of 65, he and our Mother opened a real estate office in Bowie and for many years they carried on that business.

Velma and I also obtained information in Utah and North Carolina and Jimmie's Sam Houston obtained information in North Carolina which he relayed to me.

Velma and I followed Jimmie's footsteps in Randolph County, met all of those he mentions and some others, and found the new stone which Jimmie mentions as having been put up at the graves of William and Patience with the aid of Colon T. Redding. Mr. Redding told us that after Jimmie came back home, Jimmie wrote Mr. Redding and asked him to arrange for the stone, which he did, and Jimmie mailed his check to pay for it. The first we knew that he had had the stone placed there was after Jimmie's death, in reading his narration of his trip there. Velma and I had told Sam Houston about our trip, as Jimmie had told him of his trip in 1956, and in September of 1960, Sam likewise went there, as is shown in the following paragraph:

At page 2 Jimmie refers to the fact his great, great grandfather must have been in the Revolutionary War. Jimmie's son, Sam Houston, in 1960 visited the Colon T. Reddings and Gray's Chapel, N. C. Sam was told by Mr. Redding that the history as relayed down from his ancestors was that Renne Julian, father of Patience Julian Allred, was in the battle of 'Guilford Court House', Guilford County being where Greensboro, N. C., is the county seat; that Renne Julian, Solomon Trogdon and another man whose name he did not know were captured by a Guerrilla Army at the home place in Randolph County; at that time Patience was a little girl, and when the soldiers came inquiring where Renne Julian was, his wife told him he was not there and Patience spoke up and said, 'No, mama, he is in the barn making a shuck collar'. The three were captured and were being taken to prison, and the first night out they escaped. The third

man was killed, but Renne Julian and Soloman Trogdon escaped by hiding in a hollow log, and they lay there with soldiers on horses jumping over the log. Mr. Redding said that many years later Renne Julian moved to Tennessee, and it was generally believed that when Renne Allred, the first, ran away from home he went to Tennessee to be with his grandfather, Renne Julian.

From the Utah Allreds we received information that the father of Patience Julian's husband William, whose name was also William, was in the Revolution but no data concerning his activities. My Dad wrote us in 1942 he was with Washington's army, according to records received from North Carolina.

At page 11 of this instrument, Jimmie has given our order of descent from William and Patience Julian Allred. Through other sources obtained by Velma and myself on a trip to Utah in 1951, and information furnished by letters from Utah, and by Samuel F. Aldred, Roanoke, Va., we can go back further in the order of descent down to William, the husband of Patience, and so the order of descent from 1553 down to Renne Allred, Sr., our father, is:

- REV. HENRY ALDRED (our GGGGGGGG grandfather, who was living at Worstead, Norfolk, England in 1553)
Father of:
- JOHN ALDRED (our GGGGGGGG grandfather, married Agnes Rolfe, 1583, Worstead)
Father of:
- CLEMENT ALDREDGE (our GGGGGGG grandfather, married Susan Boswell, 1626, Worstead)
Father of:
- CLEMENT ALDREDGE (our GGGGGGG grandfather, married Elizabeth Tilles,)
Father of:
- WILLIAM ALLRED (our GGGGG grandfather, wife - Alice Fallin, Will January 20, 1724, Northumberland County, Virginia)
Father of:

JOHN ALLRED
(Aldred)

(our GGGG grandfather, born May 16, 1706, Wicomico Parish, Northumberland County, Virginia, died after 1756, wife's name unknown)

Father of:

WILLIAM ALLRED

(our GGG grandfather, and three other sons, Thomas, Soloman and John, all born in 1730's - in Northumberland County, Virginia; William Allred 1730's-1825, whose wife was Elizabeth Diffie).

Father of:

WILLIAM ALLRED

(our great-great grandfather, and two other sons, John and Samuel, and daughters, Polly, Elizabeth and Nancy; William Allred, August 8, 1765 - January 24, 1849, whose wife was Patience Julian)

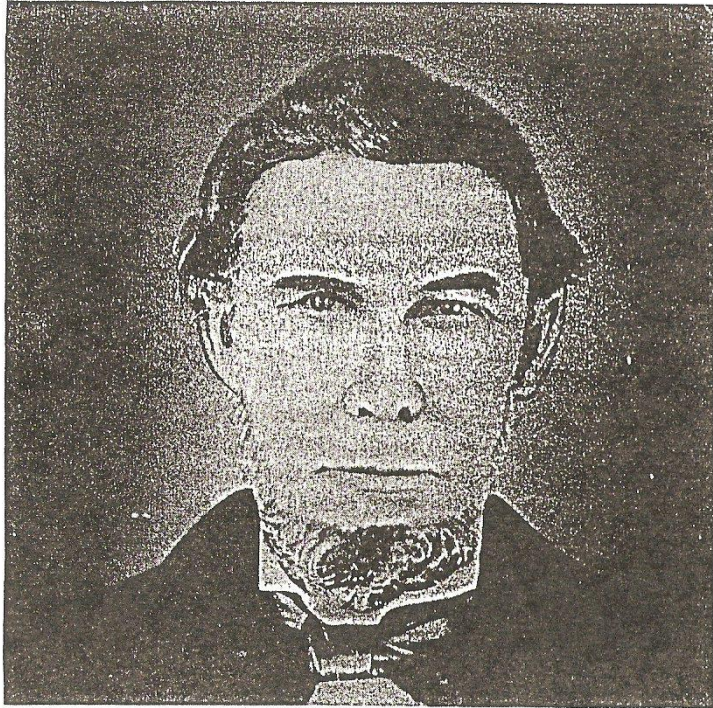
Father of:

RENNE ALLRED, 1st



1804 - 1869

'This is a photograph taken of a painting made in the 1840's'



1804 - 1869

'This is a photograph taken of a painting made in the 1860's'

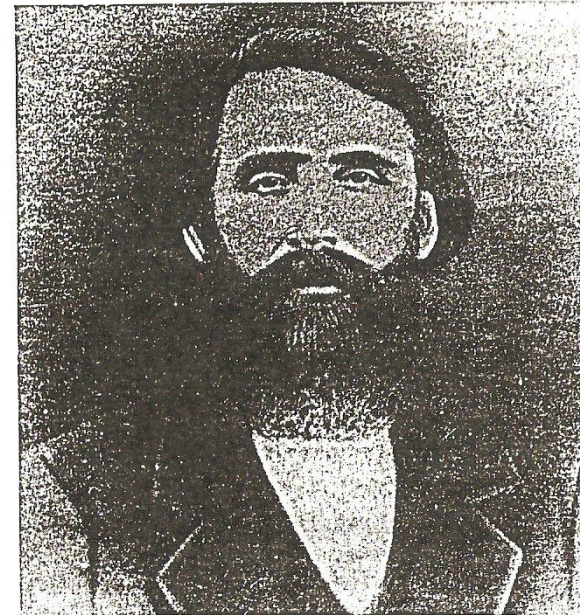
(our great-grandfather, and eight other sons and daughter, listed p. 11 original of this narrative; Renne Allred, 1st, May 11, 1804 - October 19, 1869; first married to Margaret Ward, our great-grandmother, two children, William and Betty; second marriage to Cherrie Cox, 2 daughters, Riddie Jane and Adaline; third marriage to Lydia Lackey, 5 daughters, Chimp, Cyndia, Sousana, Harriett and Vinie, and 2 sons, Albert and Ensley; Lydia Lackey buried beside Renne, 1st, on old Renne Allred home place near Bells, Grayson County, Texas) Father of:

WILLIAM ALLRED



1828 - 1888

This is a photograph taken from a tin-type which was made right after the civil war in the 1860's'

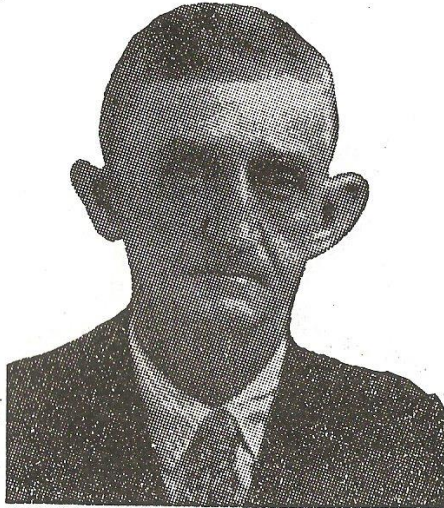


1828 - 1888

'Photograph taken in late 1870's or early 1880's'

*(our grandfather, December 27, 1828 - December 19, 1888; first married Frances Washburn, 1 son, David; second marriage Jemima Crawford, 2 daughters, Texana and Emily J; and third marriage about 1851 to our grandmother, Eliza Isabella Tennessee Goff Cross, who had four children by a former husband, Ann, Joseph, Bethel and George Cross) and in addition to David, Texana and Emily J.,
Father of:*

ENNE ALLRED, Sr.



1864 - 1949

'Picture taken in 1930's'

(our father, and five daughters, Artelia called Telia, who died at the age of 7 years; Rosa Belle; Elizabeth called Babe; Aletha called Allie; and Mamie; also one other son, William. Renne Allred, Sr., 1864 - 1949 married 1890 to our mother, Mary Magdalene Henson, 1871 - 1954, our father and mother buried Elmwood Cemetery, Bowie, Montague County, Texas.)

I have mentioned the Allreds in Utah. Some of the Utah Allreds are descendants of Thomas, born in the 1730's, a brother of William (our ancestor), Solomon and John, the four sons of John (Allred (Aldred), the son of William Allred (Aldred-Aldredge). They have more records of the ancestry I believe, than any one else, at least more than I have ever seen or heard of. That is a part of their Mormon religion, the keeping of records of the families, and most of the names in this volume and appendix are in their records.

At page 13 of this instrument, Jimmie says he is unable to give an account of any of the children of William and Patience other than Stephen, Elijah, Renne and Mahlon. Again from Utah we received information that Alfred died in infancy; Reuben moved to Chatham County; John, who married Mary Spoon 1854, place unknown; William went to Indiana; Susan stayed in Randolph County and is buried with the Reddings at their cemetery (Bethany Methodist); and Laban went to Arkansas. Laban Allred, Huntington, Indiana, a grandson of the William above who went to Indiana, writes he was named after his great uncle Laban, 'who had brothers that went to Texas and also had a brother Mahlon who lived in Iowa'.

Now, for the benefit of our immediate family, children, grandchildren, and their descendants, I want to make three comments:

1. I want to pay tribute to our mother, Mary Magdalene Henson Allred (1871-1954), as Jimmie would have done had he completed this volume. Each of her children who reached maturity attended the Bowie Commercial College, operated by Prof. E. A. Hays, now living in Fort Worth. We called this college the 'Bowie Knowledge Box'. Prof. Hays, now in his 80's, was questioned in 1958, by another old Bowie boy, L. D. Hillyer, Sr., about the Allreds. This conversation was tape recorded, transcribed and a copy furnished to us. Prof. Hays was asked about the Allred 'boys' and who was the smartest, and Prof. Hays said: 'Now, listen, the smartest of the Allreds was their mother, Mrs. Renne Allred, Sr. She raised those boys; She got them all through high school and my business college, and after they had all gotten into Court reporting or the practice of law, and well on their separate

ways to success, she came down to the Bowie Commercial College and told me that she wanted to take the shorthand and typing course... She completed the course in short order. She was the smartest of them all.'

Our mother had a dry wit - she never knew she ever said anything funny, but to us her sayings and writings were jewels.

In 1945 she wrote my wife Velma, a letter telling about making a trip with her sister back to Grayson County, checking on their family tree. Mama said:

"Well, I got to see where all my uncles, aunts and cousins lived, recognized some of their homes, especially the one where the dog bit me and tore my dress when I was 7 years old, been scared of dogs ever since - but that road. West Texas breaks are good by the side of them, straight down hills, not room to stop at bottom but straight up, about 2 miles of this, never was so scared in my life.**** I sat and lived over 65 years of my rugged life and can still see all those hills hitting me in the face.****

I know that if I had to make that trip again and live 65 years in one day, I'd be crazy enough to make it in a plane and hope I'd never get there or back.****

Why grandfather's house on one hill north, cemetery first hill south, great-grandfather's second hill south, and three hills only about a mile apart made it one holy sight for generations, but I've found that the world just goes on in spite of ancestors.****

Let's forget it. Worse than bookkeeping, prefer living in the now."

"Love, Mama."

2. Our sisters, Maurine and Hazel, did not go into Court reporting as did we five boys. Nor did they become law-

yers, as we did. It was our mother's desire that we boys become ministers. (She would finally have been satisfied with one, but never attained her desire.) In addition to the political offices held by Jimmie, shown at the front of this volume, each of the other four have held political office.

Oran was County Attorney of Stephens County.

Ben was District Attorney of the 30th District, comprised of Wichita, Young and Archer Counties.

Ray was County Attorney of Wheeler County, and District Attorney of the 31st District, comprised of Gray, Lipscomb, Hemphill, Wheeler and Roberts Counties.

Renne, Jr., was County Attorney of Montague County and District Judge of Gregg and Rusk Counties, all of the above in Texas.

Although Maurine and Hazel did not become Court Reporters or lawyers and did not hold political office, both attended the Commercial College, became secretaries and later married. Both of them were as politically minded as their brothers. Jimmie was, and we brothers who are still living are, deeply grateful to them for their political assistance.

3. Had our father, Renne Allred, Sr., had the educational opportunities afforded his children, he would, in my judgment, have made a great lawyer. He had the native talent. Some of it is demonstrated by his ability to write the beautiful words which he did write in 1944 following his 80th birthday, as follows:

Houston, Texas
12-26-1944

Dear Renne and Velma:

I don't know if you have heard what the town of Bellaire did for me on my 80th birthday anniversary, which was the surprise of my life. I got a phone call to come to the Bellaire cafe at 2 PM and I came just 7 minutes before that time. I had no time to comb my hair or put on a clean shirt. I supposed the proprietor was going to Houston and was taking me along. I got Joe Betsy to drive me down to get there in time.

When we went in, the house was full. A Judge, lawyer, doctor, preacher, pipe fitters and a hog caller. I was abashed. My mind went from me. I saw a table, a cake two feet long, three stories high with this inscription on top:

"Renne Allred, Sr., 80 years old."

I had never been at such before. I knew I was supposed to say something, but what? I said "Joe Betsy take my place" which she did in a fitting manner and while she was doing that I relaxed and my mind began to function, and I said:

"Friends, I don't know what I have done or said to merit all this. I have been passing and repassing you for two years and know every one of you. Being deaf, I don't know your names. I don't know more than a dozen by name.

Being uneducated, I am short on words and short on language, but had I the learning of Voltaire, the voice of a Beech on a Bryan, I would still lack something to express my appreciation of this occasion at your hands.

I like the little town of Bellaire for it has the blackest land and whitest people on earth. It has more ugly men and more pretty women than any town its size under the canopy of Heaven.

So I thank you again for giving me the greatest reception and largest cake I ever received in my 80 years on Earth."

From the handclapping I think I "kinder" redeemed myself from my former awkward position.

Do you know while Joe Betsy was cutting that cake, a thought ran through my mind. I hated to see the knife go through that name. It had carried honor through four generations in a direct line. Never a debt unpaid nor a contract voided - never took the bankrupt law or

claimed limitation that I ever heard of, and may it ever be so. (10)

You will find that my father's saying is true:

"If you make a bad trade, stick the tighter to it. Your word is worth more than the gain by backing out."

Renne Allred, Sr.,

(10)

WILLIAM, OUR GRANDFATHER, APPARENTLY HAD ONLY ONE LAWSUIT. 84 TEX 104. HE ASSERTED TITLE TO 320 ACRES IN GRAYSON COUNTY, A PRE-EMPTION SURVEY, AND WAS SUED BY FOWLER AND CHISM FOR THE ENTIRE 320 ACRES. THE SUPREME COURT IN 1859 HELD ALLRED'S TITLE TO 160 ACRES WAS GOOD, BUT FOWLER AND CHISM HAD BETTER TITLE TO THE BALANCE. THE 320 ACRES WAS DIVIDED BETWEEN THEM.

CONCLUSION

This volume is presented to you in honor and memory generally of all of our departed kinspeople, and specifically in honor and memory of James V Allred (1899-1959), who started it. Had Jimmie never used that typewriter on July 4, 1957, this volume would not have been completed. It seems appropriate to me at this time to quote a statement made by him when he was Governor of Texas (1935-38), as follows:

"I love Texas because it gave me the breath of life at birth; I love it because my forebears settled here 99 years ago and pledged their posterity to its service. I love it because of its romantic and historic traditions; because of its lands and its people; and because I believe it can be a greater Texas tomorrow and next year than it has ever been before. I want to see Texas grow and prosper; I want only to reflect credit to my native state."

We have tried to keep this volume to our immediate family - from William Allred (1828-1888) on down to the present. Had we not done so, but had attempted to follow the footsteps of all Allreds everywhere, this volume would never have been in your hands.

It is submitted with love and affection to all Allreds everywhere.

Sincerely,

Renne Allred, Jr.
P.O. Box 365
Bowie, Texas
July 4, 1961.

APPENDIX

Appendix 'A' is a copy of letter from William and Patience Allred, written in July, 1843, to Elijah and Sarah Allred, Panola County, Texas.

Appendix 'B' Excerpts from letters written by Renne Allred, Sr., in 1942 to Velma Allred and in 1945 to Renne Allred, Jr.

Appendix 'C' is the family tree from our grandfather, William Allred, to us, our children and grandchildren.

APPENDIX 'A'

Letter written by William Allred and Patience Allred to Elijah Allred and Sarah Allred.

'North Carolina, Randolph County, July the 14th, 1843.

'Dear Son and daughter:

'It is by and through a kind providencial hand that I am permitted to write these lines to tell you that we are yet alive and enjoying moderate health in Common tho often complaining; and we cheerfully hope these lines may find you all in good health. We received your letter bearing date May the 20th and posted June the 5th; on the 11th of July; Which gives us much satisfaction to hear from several of them that we had not heard from in a great while.

'As you requested to know whether the remaining part of my family was married or not, I can tell you that Mahlon was married the first day of September, 1842, to Miss Nelly Patterson; and is living in the house that Stephen lived in, but is Building a verry good house on the premises and has got it up and covered two stories high; the rest of the family is living with me; and as you requested to know how your Brothers were doing, I will give you a Brief Sketch of what I think is their standing in life;

'My son Reubin is living on the Old Place and is working hard and lives as well as his Neighbours But will take a dram too many sometimes, but is not enthrauld nor in debt. My son John is living in Franklinville and is tending the Mill that was Coffins and has bought a lot and has built a verry good house on it and I believe that four or five of his family is working in the Cotton factory at that place and is doing as good business as any family in the place, and I believe Sustains as good Credit as any of the hands in the factory;

My son William is living on the same place he did when you went away and has a large family and is doing very well; he has Built a fraim at the Side and end of his old house and has finished them off very well and has made them Quite

Comfortable; Your Uncle John is Scuffling along with a great gang of negroes hard beset to make matters meet some Owing to the Bad conduct of two of his sons;

'Elisha is doing very well but John and Claburn is doing no good. John's property is under execution and to be Sold next Monday and I don't see any way he has to prevent them from being sold, and he is not all that is Borne down by hard times and no money and it is hard enough for them that tries to pay their debts and I don't see where those that don't try to pay their debts can ground their hope that they would fair any Better.

'You also express a desire to know how your Uncle Samuel Allred and family was doing; I will give you a brief sketch. I believe he is getting along moderately; the hand of providence has Borne down very heavy of late. Some year or two past his old father in law became insane, void of sence or reason, and he took him home to take care of him, which was a great trouble. But some time last Spring he Sickened and Died, and has left him to drag out the rest of his days in trouble and Solitude.

'Elisha Coffin's wife died four or five days before your Aunt Polly Allred; I will give you a list of those who has Died of your acquaintance since you went from this Country. Among the Dead are Benjamin Elliott, George Hoover, Isaac Lane, Reubin Lamb, Robert Murdock, Peter Dicks, Aaron Shaw, Isaac Wilson, Henry Gravin, Manlove Cawsey, Francis Lineberry, John Trogdon & his wife, Elisha Reynolds, Samuel Brown, John Elliott, William Walker, John Moss, William Hogan, Thomas Fentress; perhaps many others not recollected at present;

'As for my Own part I have no reasonable grounds to suppose that I should be far behind them as I am so far advanced as to expect an attact that would sweep me from the Stage of Action and enroll my name in the list that I have just now taken; altho my health with a very few exceptions has been as good through the last winter and spring as to appetite as it ever was in any part of my life; for which Blessing with many Others I desire to be thankful;

'I suppose it is unnecessary to Say much about this Old Country; But I think it would be right to give it a place in my Narrative; produce is plenty and market low Owing I believe to the Bad economy of Our Government: Rulers for ever since the contest has raged so high about Moneyed Institutions that people is afraid to engage money on account of the Scarcity of that article; Before that Embarasment, I thought this Old Country was Improving verry fast; the two Cotten factories one at the Cedar Falls and the other at Coffin's Mill, now called Franklinville, they Manufacture vast quantities of Cotton thread and Cloth and sells thred at ninety cents for five pounds and cloth from eight to ten cents per yard.

'My desire is if you ever receive these lines, that you will be sure to Write to me as soon as Convenient and give me a full description of your country and of its qualities and its government and also the Commonwealth price that land is selling at; for it may happen that Some of Us would take a notion to come to that Country; for it would suit me very well to be in Some Country Where Stock would live the year round without feeding; for I have Considerable of Stock to attend to and it tires me so bad that I can not stand up to it much longer, and where we could live as well as We ever have. But how long it will continue is not likely to be very long as I am left Single handed to work my way through this World the best Way I can;

'I and Mahlon was in Fayetteville some time in May last with Bacon and Whiskey; Bacon was worth from five to Six dollars per hundred, and Whiskey from twenty to thirty cents per gallon; flour is worth about Six dollars per Barrel; and Corn about fifty cents per Bushel;

'We never knew where my son Stephen had got too till we recd Elijah's letter, in which he stated that you were living within about two miles from him; But don't say how rich you are for if there was any surplus there is Some people in this Country that would be very willing to receive it; and if there could be any remedy for this defect it would not be too late to apply it.

'I should be glad, heartily glad to see all my sons that has gone far to the West; but I very little expect ever to see any of them again during my stay in this World; my son Hence is gone far away from all his Connections and I have not had a scrape of a pen from him since he left Tennessee; nor no word or any account of him any way; so I want you to Select the Best Information you can and give me a schedule of his Standing in life; my son Laban has been the most mindful of any of you in writing to Us, and We have Neglected answering his last letter, But now expect to start one with this;

'John McCollom and George Lineberry Died since I commenced writing this letter. We have no account where Stephen's Son Alford is. I want you to tell me; so I Close my Scrabbling Narrative with our Best wishes for your welfare and happiness; so fare well.

To Elijah Allred
and

Barah Allred July the 20th, 1843.

William Allred
and

Patience Allred.'

NOTE: One of the sheets on the back is addressed to 'Elijah Allred, Shreveport, L.A. This letter to be forwarded to the Republic of Texas, Harrison County.'

APPENDIX 'B'

Excerpts from letters written by Renne Allred, Sr., to Renne Allred, Jr., Nov. 4, 1945, and to Velma Allred Dec. 25, 1942.

'It's an established fact that the name Allred was originated in Wales and drifted to England, thence to the U.S.A., at the time that history says the Crown of England issued an edict that all subjects had to join the Church of England, and they were a type of people willing to do anything, but couldn't be made to do 'nothing', so to avoid the consequences that would follow their refusal to join the Church an old Widower and his Son came to this country.'

'William Allred, my grandfather, married a French lady named Patience Julian and to that union was born nine boys and one girl named Sousana. (Susan - 1810 - 1890) I found Sousana through a book agent, when a boy, and had several letters from her. She was an old, old lady when I was a boy. She said for many years they wondered what had become of her brother Renne. William and Patience settled a house at Coffins Mill, N.C.

'This Renne had violated his father's rules in some way that he knew he would get a whipping, so when night came Renne was gone. He struck a train of immigrants going to East Tennessee and told a man that if he would take him along he would build the fires, feed the teams, etc., and he worked for that man a year for his board and clothes. He got afraid his father would find him and struck another man going to Middle Tennessee and made the same trade with him and worked for him a year as previously stated and traded with another man going to West Tennessee on the same basis.

'Then he was 16 and made a real hand but got small pay account of age. He was thrifty and soon accumulated enough to buy him a home and then married. I am sorry I can't remember my father's mother's name (Margaret Ward), but she died shortly after the birth of one boy and one girl. The boy he named after his father, William, and the girl was Elizabeth. We called her Aunt Bettie.

'This William Allred was Renne, Jr's grandfather, and Renne, the first, was his great-grandfather. He was a widower with these two children. He owned his farm and stock and out of debt and that was the basis of his, my grandfather, and his son's religion.

'He had a friend who came to Texas and joined Sam Houston to whip Santa Anna. This friend knew Renne was struggling, and after the war he wrote Renne and a part of the letter read like this:

'Renne, you ought to come to Texas. The grass is as high as a man on a horse and stock lives all the year without feeding and you don't need anything but bread and salt. All kinds of meat, buffalo, bear, deer, antelope, turkey, prairie chicken, etc., and the State is giving all Tennesseans a headright of land.'

'Renne was 32 years old. He soon made up his mind. The next day he announced his farm, crop and stock were for sale, everything except the feather bed, two dogs, the children and their clothing and a rifle, and he fixed a price that was for quick sale. He took the children, dogs and bedding down to the landing of the steam boats on the Mississippi and went to New Orleans.

'When he got to New Orleans a wagon train of Germans were there preparing for an overland trip to New Braunfels, so he bought a yoke of oxen, a prairie schooner, loaded his bedding and finished out his load with meal and salt, and while all the Germans turned to the left, he was headed for Dugan's Fort on Red River (Grayson County). He made about fifteen miles a day. Killed all the meat with that muzzle, a deer rifle. He had no compass but the North Star. After a while his road ended, and he was on land that no white man had ever traversed.

'When he got to the Sabine River, no crossing, he inspected and found the easiest place to dig down, and by going up the river bed he found where he could dig out. It took him seven days to cross, and when across, a big pine forest confronted him. He had to chop many places to get through, but eventually he came to a broad prairie.

'After a long trip, he discovered where wagons had been and followed the tracks to Dugan's Fort and located his headright three or four miles of where Bells is now. The Denison-Bells highway runs through his land and near where he built his home. This was in the summer of 1837. He left Tennessee in the spring of 1837.

'About 3 miles south of the Fort he settled, and his house is near Mill creek. He built the best house in the whole country at that time, 4 rooms with an 8 foot hall running North and South - East and West. And the upstairs was one room 16 X 40 feet, and I have seen 32 men and women dancing in that room at one time, use to have court there, as well as a dancing school and teacher.

'It was after this that the Indians made their last fight in Grayson County though they visited Clay, Montague, Wise and Denton Counties in 1869. About 1000 came through Montague County and murdered the Keenan family near where Geo. W. Henson, Renne, Jr.'s mother's family lived, though she was born later, and her father was one of 40 men to follow them. They overtook them in Denton County and made battle and the Indians win and sent them home, but the 40 men killed several and only one of the 40 got shot which was not fatal. The Indians had only bows and arrows to fight with, but the odds was too great, and they skedaddled home and the Indians had enough and went through Young County back to the plains, killing many on their route. Joe Bryant and the McDonalds of Montague were in this bunch of 40 men. George Henson told me, and I have heard Joe Bryant tell the same and know it's true, while Joe made it Brave they stood the fight and George Henson said; 'we were scared, they were surrounding us and we run like turkeys.'

'I am very proud of my ancestors. They were honest and never wanted a gift. They didn't believe the world owed them a living. All were hard workers at all times.

Renne Allred, Sr.'

APPENDIX 'C'

WILLIAM ALLRED (1828-1888, father of Renne, Sr., and grandfather of Nellie, Maurine, Hazel, Oran, Ben, Raymond, Jimmie and Renne, Jr.) had ten children and four stepchildren. His children were: Dave, Texana, Emily, Rosa, Artelia, Renne, BE., Elizabeth, Allie, William and Mamie. His step-children were Ann, Joseph, Bethel and George Cross.

(1) Uncle Dave (son of William by first marriage), lived for many years near Eliasville, Young County, Texas. We visited him in a covered wagon about 1907; it took us three or four days each way. He lived at that time in a log house but was building a new frame house, hauling the lumber from Graham. We shall never forget the wonderful fishing in the Clear Fork of the Brazos. And I (Jimmie) will never forget nearly drowning in the Clear Fork at South Bend, where we were camped - how Dad pulled me out at the last minute, it seemed to me. Later, about 1910, Dad took Ben, Ray and me by train to Graham at Christmas time, and Uncle Dave met us there. We had another wonderful visit -- Ben and Ray particularly enjoyed the duck hunting. By that time Uncle Dave had completed a beautiful white frame house, which is still standing - but not white and beautiful any more.

Later Uncle Dave sold out and moved to Wheeler County in the Texas Panhandle, living near Mobeetie. Ray and I visited him there about 1928. He and his wife, Aunt Ellen, have since died, and I do not know what became of their daughters: Myrtle, Ethel and another. These two older girls, Myrtle and Ethel, were kodak fans, developing their own films. They visited us one time in Bowie. I remember how Dad laughed when they timidly called him to turn out the electric light (suspended from the ceiling by a long cord.) They were afraid it might shock them.

NOTE: THE INFORMATION LISTED IN THIS APPENDIX IS FROM THE BEST INFORMATION MADE AVAILABLE TO US FROM MANY SOURCES AND IS, OF COURSE, SUBJECT TO CORRECTIONS. WE HOPE THERE ARE NO ERRORS.

- (1) Dave C. Allred, 1852-1935, wife Mary Ellen, 1865-1932, 3 daughters.
- (a) Ethel, unmarried, age 78, lives on old home place at Wheeler.
- (b) Myrtle, age 76, married John Renner, Wheeler, 1 son, 2 girls, and 1 granddaughter.
- (1) Ethel Elizabeth, married F.M. Grimes, 1 child, Elizabeth Frances.
- (2) Willie, unmarried.
- (3) Marguerette, unmarried.
- (c) Viola, married Edward N. Hammer, Clovis, Calif., 2 girls, 3 boys, 8 grandchildren.
- (1) David C., married Marie Garrison, 1 girl, Janice Marie, 1 boy, Edwin Chester.
- (2) Elmer L., married Jennie Fay Harding, 2 girls, Gay Lynn and Judy Lee.
- (3) Dorothy Fay, married John L. Aikman, 2 boys, Jerry Lewis and Dave Lynn.
- (4) Edward O., married Darra Inez Green, no children.
- (5) Mary Ruth, married James L. Opie, 2 boys, Douglas James and Carl Lee.

(2) Texana, or 'Aunt Tex' (daughter of William by second marriage) married R. C. (Uncle Rube) Witcher. They lived in Childress, wonderful people. My first memory of them was when I was campaigning for Attorney General in 1926 and the years that followed.

Uncle Rube and Aunt Tex Witcher had seven children. As of August 5, 1958, according to letter of one daughter, Betty Preston, only three of the seven were living.

- (a) Sam Witcher, the oldest, whose wife's name is Nellie, no children, Monterey Park, California.
- (b) Ollie Witcher, wife Mary Rogers, lives in Childress. One child, Jane, married William Stalling Newberry, Austin, Texas, adopted son W.S. Newberry, Jr.
- (c) Betty, married to Morgan Preston, lives in Childress. They have three children:
- (1) J.M. Preston, Jr., (former County Attorney both Childress and Reeves Counties), wife Billy Jarrrell, Pecos, Texas, four daughters, Betsy, Sally, Mary, and Joann.

- (2) Earl Keith Preston, wife Helen Halliman, Childress, two children, William and Suzanne.
- (3) Betty Jane Preston, married George Bledsoe, Amarillo, Texas. They both teach in Music Department of Palo Duro High School and Amarillo Symphony.
- (d) Doll, now deceased, was married to Owen (Jack) Lancaster and lived at San Antonio. (Jimmie said: 'where they were wonderful friends and hosts in time of need to Ben and his wife, when Ben was stationed at Camp Travis during World War 1; and to Hazel when she worked in San Antonio, in the early 1930's.');
- (e) Chimp Witcher Spencer, the oldest sister, who lived in Eldorado, Oklahoma, and died September 31, 1957. Chimp was the mother of eight girls and three boys, as follows:
- (1) Lillie Spencer married Alex Cooper, three children, D.C., Wanda, Don, Lubbock, Texas.
- (2) Ollie Spencer Carver, two children, Opal and Loye, Lubbock.
- (3) Gertrude Spencer, married David Montgomery, two children, Junior and Delma, Wichita, Kansas.
- (4) Bertha Spencer Brough, one son, Timmie, Morro Bay, California.
- (5) Richard Spencer, wife Jackie, three children, Jimmie, Jean and Dorothy, Huntington Park, California.
- (6) Lether Spencer, wife Buena, two sons, Loyd Lee and David, Reseda, California.
- (7) Lora Fay Spencer, married Gus Riggs, three children, Norma Ray, Don and Almeta, Roosevelt, Okla.
- (8) Roy Spencer, married Leona Hutchinson, seven children, Billy C., Roy Edwin, Aline, Mary Catharine, Wyonna, Janetta and Martina, Eldorado, Okla.
- (9) Jewel Spencer, married Albert Weddle, two children, Geneva and Billy, Eldorado.
- (10) Pearl Spencer, married Don Colwell, three children, Don, Almeta and Pat, Eldorado.
- (11) Belle Spencer, married Bank Weddle, one boy Orvain, Eldorado.
- (f) Myrt Witcher, now deceased, married, wife's name and present whereabouts unknown, no children.
- (g) Willie Witcher, married, wife Eva, both now deceased, four children, L.D. (Lewis), Arthur Ray, Claude, Ruby.

- (1) Lewis Witcher, married, Guyria, one child, Jack, Beaumont.
- (2) Ray Witcher, wife Betty M., Spearman, Texas, three children; Dianna Rae, married to Harry Mason, one girl, Cherye Ann; Robert, Mae Bell.
- (3) Claude Witcher, wife Helen, one child, Donna Dee, married Dwain Gardner, one child, Darrel Gardner, Delta, Colorado.
- (4) Ruby Witcher, married Ernest LeRoy Hedrick, Clovis, N.M. 3 children:
 - (a) Alice Mae Hedrick, married Maj. Wm. Harr- elson, 2 adopted children, Cindy Sue, and Jackie.
 - (b) Alton Don Hedrick, born Alton Don Peugh, legally adopted by step-father as Hedrick. Don's wife named Viola (Vickie) 3 child- ren, Michael Scott, Scotty, Macheal.
 - (c) Erna Lynn, adopted.

(3) Emily J - Aunt Emma (daughter of William by second marriage), who married James C. McCracken. He was the oldest of three orphaned boys who were distantly related to the Allred family and raised up in the William Allred home. They were treated like the other children, and we always called them Uncle Jim, Uncle Dee and Uncle Tom. All three of them lived at or around Decatur in Wise County, Texas, when we were boys. Uncle Dee raised fine hogs and won many blue ribbons at the Dallas Fair. He moved to New Mexico about 1915 and took up ranching near Taos. They had a number of children; the principal ones with which we kept in touch were Christine, who married Roy Coffee, Attorney at Dallas, and Harold, now practicing law in Dallas.

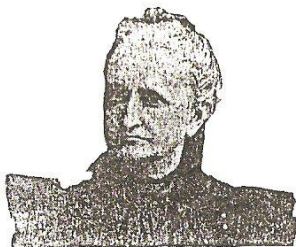
Uncle Jim and Aunt Emma moved to Bowie about 1915 but lived there only a couple of years when he went by wagon to Montana where their son, William, was ranching, and she went to live with her daughters, Mrs. Lewis (Clara) Hays and Faye Estes. They had two other daughters, Mrs. Bessie Deberry, Glendale, Arizona, and Mrs. Hubert (Ollie) Long, Fort Worth. Uncle Tom remained at Decatur until his death. He and Aunt Josie had two sons, Earl and W.R., Jr., both of whom died

many years ago without offspring. They had a number of daughters, Gladys, Berniece, Blanche and another, younger, whose name I cannot remember.

- (3) Emily J. (Aunt Emma, 1859-1920) married in 1876, James C. McCracken (Uncle Jim, 1855-1926), 1 son, William White, 5 girls, Nell, Bessie Lee, Annie Clara, Faye and Ollie Belle.
 - (a) William, (deceased 1940) married Bobbie Lee, 1 child.
 - (1) William Calvin, married Irva Cassady, 3 children, Irma Virginia, Wayne Calvin and Georgia Ruth, Billings, Montana.
 - (a) Virginia married Gordon E. Finley, 4 children, Diane Virginia, Randy Gordon, Craig Allen and Andrea Ruth.
 - (b) Wayne, wife Caroline, no children.
 - (c) Ruth, married W.W. Hoffman, 2 children, Virg- inia Lee and Jerold Russell.
 - (b) Nell, died in infancy.
 - (c) Bessie, married Alfred Estes DeBerry, now deceased, 2 girls.
 - (1) Clara Ophelia, married Robert Edward Arney, now de- ceased, 1 child, Barry Robert, who married Vera Earlene Cross; 4 children, Resa Gail, Kyle Farrell, Erin Lee and Leslie Lynn.
 - (2) Emma Jewell, married Earl Robert Barker, now deceased, 2 sons, Jerry Lee, who married Eloise Barker with one daughter, Kelly Jane; and Robert Estes.
 - (d) Clara, married Lewis Anthony Hays, now deceased, later married B.L. Rose, 4 children first marriage, Donnie Evelyn, Carrol Chesley, Teresa Bo and Julia Bess.
 - (1) Donnie, married William Glen Volkman, 1 child, Donald Glen, who married Carol Kammeyer with 2 children, Vicki and Gene.
 - (2) Carrol, married Lillie McDaniel, second marriage wife named Frances, 2 children by first marriage (Carrol & Lillie).
 - (a) Paula Jean married to Arthur Wayne Fields, 4 children, Virginia Lee, Cheryl Elaine, Rodney Wayne and Teresa Carol.
 - (b) John Lewis, married Doris Mae Johnson, 2 children, David Alan and Susan Michele. and two children by second marriage (Carrol and Frances), Kathy and Lawrence Alan.

- (3) Teresa, married Thomas Earl Carr, 3 children, Stanley Earl, Linda Earlene and David Alan.
- (4) Julia, married Alpha Omega Rogers, now deceased, 3 children, Burl Anthony, Ronald Lee and Christopher Erin.
- (e) Faye, married James R. Estes, both now deceased, 1 child.
 - (1) Douglas Clayton (died age 30) married Mary Ella Austin, 1 daughter, Mary Anita, who married A.L. McClendon, and they have twin sons, Robert Steven and Roger Allen, and 1 daughter, Anita Lee.
- (f) Ollie, married James Hubert Long (now deceased), 1 daughter, Amy Jo, unmarried.

The following seven are children of William Allred (our grandfather) by his third marriage to our grandmother.



Eliza Isabella Tennessee Goff Cross Allred
1832 - 1908

- (4) Rosa B: (Aunt Rosa, 1859-1930, daughter of William) married William Alexander Ayres, who died 1923. They lived - and their bodies are buried - at Woodville, Oklahoma. The original town of Woodville is now covered by the waters of Lake Texoma. William Ayres had 1 son, and 3 daughters by previous marriage: James, died in infancy, Paralee who later married Aunt Rosa's younger brother, William Allred, Mamie married John Woods, and Myrtle married S.W. Henry. Aunt Rosa and Uncle Bill had six children, Clarence, Monroe, Birdie, Earl, Aletha and Ernest.

- (a) Clarence (1881-1902) unmarried.
- (b) Monroe (1883-1961) County Clerk at Madill, Oklahoma for 25 years. Married Martha Johnson, Madill. One child, M.U. Jr., married to Marilyn Coiner.
- (c) Birdie (Gertrude, now deceased) married Ollie Beard (now deceased) six children.
 - (1) Herschel (1907-18);
 - (2) Pauline, married Henry Bomar, Dallas, one child Henry III.
 - (3) O.L. Jr., married Ruth Hilburn, Madill, 3 children, Ruth Ann who died at birth, Logan born 1943 and Ann born 1947.
 - (4) Edwin (1915-27)
 - (5) Wayne, married Rose Mary Whitfill, Madill; one child, Ronald born 1945.
 - (6) Norvell, married Margaret Breckenridge, Madill; 4 children, Herschell, born 1950, Mary Elizabeth 1951, Jane Ellen, 1953 and Nancy Jo, 1957.
- (d) Earl, married Sylvia Baker, Madill, eight children.
 - (1) Clemma, died 1932, married Ruel Little, 1 child, Ruel Edwin, who died at age of 12 years.
 - (2) Veda Frances, married Nathan Kennon, Madill.
 - (3) Ernest Earl, married La Vada Ables, Okla. City, 3 children, Ronald Earl, deceased, Jan who married Dale Young, Ardmore, Mike, age 20, unmarried, Okla. City.
 - (4) Lucille, married John Murray, Madill; 3 children: Richard married JoAnn Moring, Weatherford, Okla. 1 child Deborah Ann; Kenny married Charlene Meeks, Weatherford, Okla; Linda married John D. Rushing, Madill 3 children Patsy Lu, Mark and Alan.
 - (5) James, married Elsie Brewer, Roswell, N.M., 2 children, Donna Kay married John K. Adams, Killeen, Texas, one child Debra Kay; James, Jr., now age 18, unmarried.
 - (6) William Ray, married Martha Conley, 2 children, William Thomas and Robert Earl, Madill.
 - (7) Donald, married Maxine Ketcham, Waurika, Okla., four children Don, Jr., Emily Sue (deceased), Gary and Mary Ann.
 - (8) Evelyn, formerly married Leon Coe, 3 children, Cathy, Connie and David. Evelyn now married Carlos Peek, Midland, Texas.

- (e) Alletha, married Narvell Luttrell, Madill.
- (f) Ernest, (died 1960) married Bessie Steele, Barnsdall, Okla.; 4 children.
- (1) Ernestine, formerly married to Arthur Franklin, 3 children, Junior, Jimmie and Jerry; Ernestine now married to Jack Van Buren, Hutchinson, Kansas.
- (2) J.W., married, wife's name Larry, Salem, Illinois; three children, Wilma, LaTrella and Bill.
- (3) Louis and Louise, twins. Louis married Elnore Wilson, Barnsdall, Okla., 3 children, Judy married to Ronald Powers, Okla. City, and Johnnie and Janie. Louise, married Bernard Elam, Sedan, Kansas, 2 children, Gayle and Gary; Gary married, wife's name Barbara, 1 son James Bernard.
- (5) Artelia, called Telia, born 1861 - died in infancy.
- (6) Renne, our father (1864-1949) son of William, married Mary Magdalene Henson, our mother (1871-1954). They were married in 1890.



(Wedding Picture 1890)

Mama had been married before to James Walker, a school teacher at Cherry Mound, and had one child, Elmer, who was brought up in our home as Elmer Alfred until after he married (Sybil Childs of Bowie); some years after his marriage he got in touch with some of his father's people and decided he wanted to resume his family name, which he did by Court proceeding.

(a) Elmer died in 1915. His widow moved to Los Angeles and remarried. Elmer and Sybil had two lovely daughters, who married the Fenwick brothers.

(NOTE: The brides were given in marriage by their Uncle Jimmie, then Governor of Texas, who took the place of the father at this double wedding. R.A., Jr.)

(1) Carolyn married Kenneth Fenwick, Sacramento, California, one son, Douglas K. Fenwick, born October 6, 1939, and one daughter, Laura Sybil, born November 17, 1951.

(2) Marjorie married Hobart Fenwick, Los Angeles 4, California, three children, Diane, born July-5, 1939, Arthur, born September 25, 1940, and Stephen, born December 13, 1946.

Renne, Sr., and Mary Magdalene had the following children:
 (b) Nellie, who died when six months old and is buried in an unmarked grave at Vernon, Texas.

Mama and Dad had gone west immediately after their marriage; they put all they had in a furniture store at Vernon which 'went broke'. It was there they lost their baby. They went on to Childress County, 11 miles Southwest of Kirkland, and took up a claim, living in a 'dugout' where
 (c) Gran Henderson, the oldest son, was born December 2, 1894. Dad worked for a short time as a cowboy on the OX Cattle Ranch, but the 'drought got 'em' and they started back to Grayson County, stopping at Bowie, Montague County, where (d) Ben was born March 12, 1896; (e) Raymond, August 8, 1897; (f) James V., March 29, 1899; (g) Renne Jr., June 6, 1901; (h) Maurine, August 9, 1906; and (i) Hazel Elizabeth, August 22, 1909.

(c) Gran H. married Katherine Miller, two children,
 (1) Dr. John Caldwell of Houston, Assistant to President University of Houston, married Elizabeth Bode, three children: Susan Elizabeth, Katherine (Kay) and John Renne.

- (2) Katherine Jean, married Jesse Mason, two children, Patti and John. Later Katherine Jean married Joe Harris, five children, Kate, Joe, Jr., Stephanie, Peter and Ben.
- (d) Ben (whose real name is Bernie Pulliam - named for an old family friend) married Nettie Mae Williams, two sons, one who died in infancy, and Lloyd George, with El Paso Natural Gas Co. and lives in El Paso and who in 1952, married Lois Westwood, Denver, Colorado. Lois had a daughter, Valerie, by a previous marriage, and on the wedding day of George and Lois, Valerie said: 'We got married today and my name is now Valerie Allred'. George later legally adopted her. Later Ben married Bessie Wear of Fort Worth, and they now live in Dallas.
- (e) Raymond Sanders (named for another old family friend) married Clara Mae Thompson, two children:
- (1) Mary Virginia, married John E. Stacey of Houston, now a Captain in the Air Force serving in Europe, three children, Janie, Richard Edmond (Dickie) and Stephanie.
- (2) Army First Lt. Raymond Sanders, Jr., formerly married to Lue Sanders, one son, Raymond Sanders Allred, III.
- (f) James Burr V. (I dropped the 'Burr' because the name was too long.) Married Joe Betsy Miller, 1927. We have three boys:
- (1) James V., Jr., of Houston, who 'would be' a lawyer except for his love for flying (Air Force Captain). James V., Jr., married Barbara Mathis, one daughter, Lisa Fa.
- (2) William David, presently with the Associated Press at Montgomery, Alabama. (NOTE: David went to Williamsburg, Va., where he married in June, 1960, Patricia Lee Moyer of Toano, Virginia. They will live in Washington where David, after a Master's Degree from Columbia, will be a Washington correspondent for the Houston Post.)
- (3) Sam Houston (born in the Governor's Mansion at Austin). University Student.
- (g) Renne, Junior (Almond Renne - also named for an old family friend.) Married Lucile Fauble, one son, Renne, III, now a Captain in the United States Air Force, who served during World War II and the Korean War. Renne, III,

married Gloria Gonzales of Laredo. They now live at the Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas. Renne, Jr., married Miss Velma Lee Bunch of Kansas City in 1937, and they now live in Bowie.

- (h) Maurine (Winnie Maurine) married Thomas Jefferson Christian, Jr., Fort Worth, one child, Lucy Carol, who resumed her great-great-grandmother's maiden name by marrying Charles Joe Ward. Lucy and Charles lost their daughter, Carol, at the age of about 18 months, and they now have two children, Charles, Jr., and Ellen Maurine.
- (i) Hazel (Hazel Elizabeth) married in the Governor's Mansion to W.B. Stokes. About a year after their marriage she was killed in an automobile-truck crash, buried at Bowie (1936). They had no children.
- (7) Elizabeth (1867-1936); called Aunt Babe (daughter of William) married Uncle Burr Wright (1858-1925). They lived at Randolph, Fannin County, (later moved to Madill, Oklahoma, where he was City Manager and County Commissioner.) We visited them several times at Randolph, and all remember how jolly Uncle Burr was. I was a particular favorite of his, having been named for him...and for Uncle Jim McCracken and Uncle V (Sterling V) Camp (who really was no kin at all unless it was by distant marriage). Uncle Burr and Aunt Babe lost their first child, a son, born and died November 2, 1887. Their other children included:
- (a) Hennis, the oldest (1888-1949), who became a very successful doctor at New Braunfels before and after his service in World War I. His widow Thekla, still lives in New Braunfels; no children.
- (b) Willie, married P.W. Southerland who died July 1961, Bonham; no children.
- (c) J. Frank, who also lives in Bonham and has been County Tax Assessor-Collector, which position he resigned to be appointed County Auditor of Fannin County. His wife is Lois. They had three children: James F., Jeannette and T.B. (Tibby).
- (1) James F. and wife, Joyce, Texas Co., Farmington, N.M., two children.
- (a) James F. Wright, Jr.
- (b) Dwayne Edward Wright
- (2) Jeannette, married Oris D. Vaughn, Beaumont, one child, Steven Wright, born June 6, 1961.

- (3) T.B. (Tibby), now County Attorney, Bonham, Fannin County, wife Patsy, one child, Tom C.
- (d) Ruby Wright, unmarried, teacher, Oklahoma City.
- (e) Annie Belle Wright, unmarried, Justice of Peace, Oklahoma City.
- (f) Evelyn Wright (1907-1961) married Lynden Hagans, Attorney, Denison, three children, Linda, Paul M. and Ruby Ann.
- (1) Linda married Don Strickland, no children.
 - (2) Paul M. Hagans, unmarried, law student.
 - (3) Ruby Ann married Lelan McCord Rousey, 2 children, Lynda Lee and Sharon Annette.
- (8) Allie - (Aletha) Allred, born 1868, deceased, married Johnnie Ingram, no children.
- (9) William, (1871-1914) married Paralee Ayres. William was a younger brother of Rosa Belle, who had married Paralee's father. Aunt Paralee, in 1961, 87 years of age, lives in Dallas. They had 6 children, Irving Leon, Ninabelle, Robert Monroe, William Alton, Clarence Edwin and Evelyn Durelle:
- (a) Leon, unmarried, now deceased.
 - (b) Ninabelle, now deceased, married Harvey Oler, 1 son, Billy, killed in Phillipines in World War II.
 - (c) R.M., unmarried, now deceased.
 - (d) Alton, married Geneva Taylor, now deceased, Dallas. 1 child, Ann, married Wilbert Lee Templeton.
 - (e) Clarence, died in his early teens.
 - (f) Evelyn, married Charles W. Woolridge, Dallas. 3 sons, Charles William, Jr., Robert Allred and John E.:
 - (1) Charles William, Jr., married D'Ette Dahlhofer, Dallas, 2 children, Chas. Wm. III (Chuck) and Michael Edward (Mike).
 - (2) Robert Allred Woolridge, married Sharon Smith, Dallas
 - (3) John E., Dallas
- (10) Mamie, who now lives at Denison, Texas, (only living child of William), born Oct. 17, 1875, married May 29, 1898, Robert M. Noe (1866-1959), seven children, Lucille, Durelle, Lora, Robert M., Jr., Isabel, Margaret and Mildred.
- (a) Lucille, married Basil Thomson, Waco, Texas; four children, Mary Durelle, Martha Sue, Jane and Basil, Jr.
 - (1) Mary Durelle, married Shuford Farmer, Waco, Texas; one child, Mary Kathleen,
 - (2) Martha Sue, married John Patton Ekiss, Dallas, Texas; two children, Karen Elaine and Lawrence Patton.

- (3) Jane, married Aaron Lee Thomas, Waco, Texas; three children, Aaron Lloyd, Mark Allan and Glenn Scott.
- (4) Basil, Jr., 16 years of age
- (b) Durelle, died at age of 19 years, unmarried.
- (c) Lora, now deceased, married Joe Lawrence Sheldon, Galveston, Texas; two children.
 - (1) Rev. J.L. Sheldon, Jr., unmarried, South Texas.
 - (2) Betty Lee, Galveston, formerly married to Harrold C. Frantz; three children, Margaret Elizabeth, Judy Carol and Jane Elaine.
- (d) Robert M., Jr. married Lois Findley, Denison, Texas; two children.
 - (1) Robert M. III, married Joan Alice Abrahamson; three children, David Curtis, Carl Edward and Judy Lynn.
 - (2) Marian Durelle, married Ralph E. Sallade; two children, Ralph Edward, born 11-24-54 and Mark Allen, born Nov. 24, 1955, died three days later.
- (e) Isabel, married Charles K. Davidson, Colbert, Oklahoma.
- (f) Margaret, unmarried, Denison, Texas.
- (g) Mildred, married W.T. Dickson, Jr., Dallas, Texas; three children, Alice Ellen and twins, W.T. III and Joannie.