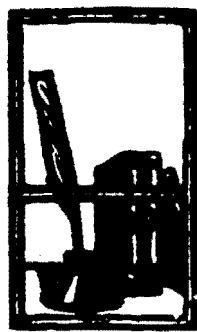


# *Thomas Puckett*

of

*Travis County, Republic of Texas*

(His Ancestors and Descendants)



*By*

SUE PUCKETT PEYTON

1955



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Your author and compiler of this brief genealogical history of THOMAS PUCKETT (1792-1868), his ancestors and descendants, and in part certain allied families (about 1664 to this date), has received valuable assistance from many sources and all such aid is greatly appreciated.

Especially acknowledged is the considerable assistance rendered by my brother, Mr. Herbert L. Puckett, Big Lake, Texas, who through correspondence and other personal efforts over several years secured much pertinent material. Also, grateful acknowledgment is made to my brother's son, Major Floyd A. Puckett, U. S. Army, who, while serving in England during the years 1953 and 1954, made or caused to be made a check and examination of official English records in London and in the County of Dorset, as well as church records, researches by professional genealogists, and other records in those places, whereby historical facts were assembled which confirmed an old Puckett family tradition that the Puckett family group had its origin in England.

Also, to Mrs. Edna Payne Caskey, faculty member of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, goes my sincere thanks for much valuable material and particularly the use of the letter from Caleb Garrett to her mother, the former Miss Emma Puckett, dated April 17, 1887, which contained many intimate facts about the life of THOMAS PUCKETT.

Finally, grateful acknowledgment is made to Miss Irene D. Gallaway for use of references and other source material in her booklet compiled in 1931, entitled *Puckett Points*.

SUE PUCKETT PEYTON

Houston, Texas  
June, 1955



# Thomas Puckett

of

TRAVIS COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

*(His Ancestors and Descendants)*

All official English records and documents which were examined in preparation for this story show the Puckett family group had its origin in the County of Dorset and nearby counties in the southwestern part of England many centuries ago. These facts of the family origin accord with old traditions of the American branch of the Puckett family group. When the family by that name came into existence is not known but it was a large group in the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. This is revealed in part by the considerable number of their children who were christened during the period 1573 to 1709, and included the Charles II and Oliver Cromwell era, as disclosed by the Parish Register, Dorset, Portisham Register No. 1. The Pucketts are mentioned in some detail in the files of the Society of Genealogists, Chaucer House, Mallet Place, WC London, and in the Dorset Records preserved in the House of Lords, and designated THE DORSET PROTESTATION RETURNS, 1641-42. The records mentioned and others show that many persons named Puckett emigrated from England to settlements or Crown Colonies at Salem, Massachusetts, and in Virginia, beginning about the year 1628. Although it has not been possible to determine with certainty that John Puckett, who settled in Henrico County, Virginia, about 1664-1665, as set forth hereafter, emigrated from Dorset, England, but it seems apparent he did so.

## ANCESTORS OF THOMAS PUCKETT

According to the official records of Virginia Land Grants, certain lands were granted to John Puckett. One such grant was issued January 27, 1665 (Book 5, page 589) for 500 acres of land in the County of Henrico, Parish of Bristol, it being stated in the grant that the land was due Puckett for transportation of ten persons, being 50 acres for each person. Also, from statements in the grant and evidence in other public records and court proceedings of Virginia, it is apparent that John Puckett arrived and settled in Henrico County, Virginia, as early as 1664-1665. John Puckett died in Henrico County within the period from 1675 to 1677, and he died testate, although his Will can not now be located and its terms are not known. Henrico Records No. 1, page 35, include a court entry as of December 1, 1677, whereby Anne Puckett, widow of John Puckett, was authorized to Probate his Will and she was named as the executrix of said Will. Moreover, such records disclose that John Puckett and wife, Anne Puckett, had three sons, John Puckett (Jr.), born about 1654; William Puckett, born about 1657; Thomas Puckett, born about 1658; and two daughters, Ruth, who married Richard Womack; and Mary, who also married a Womack. (Henrico Records, 1679)

John Puckett (Jr.) married Elizabeth Allen but their succession will not be further considered.

Thomas Puckett, third son of John and Anne Puckett, married a Womack and, except as mentioned in this paragraph, said Thomas and his succession will not be further considered. In the year 1712 (Henrico Records, 1714-1718), Thomas Puckett conveyed all of his land and moveables to his son William Puckett (the younger) in order that the son could pay the debts of his father and maintain him during the latter's natural life. Thomas Puckett died prior to February 8, 1716, since on this date (Book 1714-1718) William Puckett, known as "Wm. the younger", son of Thomas Puckett, deceased, and Wm. Puckett, son of William Puckett, senior, conveyed a part of 700 acres which had been granted to Thomas and William Puckett by patent, 1682. The William Puckett named as one of the grantors in this deed is the same as William Puckett, Jr., son of William and Anne Puckett mentioned in the next paragraph hereof.

William Puckett, second son of John and Anne Puckett, married a woman also named Anne, and it is surmised that she, too, was born Womack. William Puckett and wife, Anne, had a son who was named William, and herein called William Puckett, Jr. The available records examined do not show for certain that any other child was born of said marriage but from numerous references in court proceedings, wills and deeds it seems apparent that William Puckett and wife, Anne, had another son who was named Womack Puckett.

As a little "human interest" touch, the court records examined from 1684 to 1694 show that it was customary to give age in making depositions or in giving testimony and sometimes relationship. So, from such records, we find that John Puckett made a deposition concerning the killing of a steer; William Puckett made depositions about theft of hogs and attack by Indians; Thomas Puckett made a deposition about the theft of cows. Also, John and William Puckett were fined for fighting, and Thomas Puckett was fined for saying he was drunk and William Puckett for swearing nine times. The men of that time seemed to have agreed to report the times they swore, because the records contain long lists each month giving the times.

That part of the Puckett family which subsequently emigrated to the Republic of Texas (now State) and is the principal subject of this article, is directly descended from William Puckett, one of the three sons of John Puckett who settled in Henrico County, Virginia, about 1664-1665, as will be disclosed by the records and source references hereafter mentioned.

William Puckett, Jr., son of William, Sr. and wife, Anne, married Mabel (Mable) Walthall, probably in the year 1715 or soon thereafter. William Puckett, Jr. died (date unknown) and his widow, Mabel Walthall Puckett, and Womack Puckett were married in 1720 or before that year. (Orphans Court Records, Book 4, 1677-1739) So far as available records examined are concerned there was no issue of the marriage of William Puckett, Jr. and Mabel Walthall. The Will of Richard Walthall in Henrico Records of 1715 listed nine children, one being Mabel and one Dinah (also spelled Diana). Henrico Records, Sept. Court of 1714, include the Will of Dinah

Walthall, dated October 1, 1715, probated March 5, 1716, and shows an obvious antipathy to her Puckett neighbors, judged by the following provisions of her Will: "If my sister Mable does marrie with William Puckett I give her one shilling. If she does not marry with none of the Pucketts, then my new goods to be divided between my sister Anne and my sister Mable." Nevertheless, records above noted disclose that Mable (Mabel) first married William Puckett, Jr. and after his death she married Womack Puckett about the year 1720, or before that year. For reasons stated, it seems apparent that Womack Puckett was a brother of said William Puckett, Jr.

The Bristol Parish and Vestry Book and Register for Lunenburg County, Virginia, (carved out of Henrico County), lists two sons born to Womack Puckett and wife, Mable, the first being Ephraim, on January 24, 1721, and Isham, on October 14, 1723. Isham (Isom) is the male lineal ancestor of the Pucketts and kindred who are the subject of this article and no attempt will be made to follow the subsequent family history of Ephraim Puckett.

The Welcome Garrett Genealogy in the Newberry Library E.7 G 202, Chicago, has been used as an authentic source of information for part of the Isom Puckett family history. As hereinafter related, members of said Garrett family and said Puckett family intermarried and from their associations as such related families and as neighbors for a generation or more a history of one family group necessarily included a substantial part of the history of the other. Thus, the Welcome Garrett Genealogy sets forth that Isom (Isham) Puckett (born 1723, son of Womack and Mabel Puckett, Bristol Parish Register) and Isom's wife Martha, had seven sons, namely: Isom (Jr.), Thomas, Page, Solomon, Womack, John and Daniel.

Thomas Puckett, second son of Isom and Martha Puckett, is the male lineal ancestor of subjects of this article and only his line of descent will be pursued. Thomas Puckett was born about the year 1750, in Grayson County, Virginia, and he died in Surry County, North Carolina, after February 26, 1805, and before March 6, 1809. Thomas Puckett married Mary Taylor, daughter of Daniel and Betsy Taylor. This Mary Taylor had four brothers, namely: William, Joseph, John and Daniel, and said Taylors are reputed to have been related by blood to General Zachary Taylor who became President of the United States.

The children of Thomas and Mary Taylor Puckett were two daughters and eight sons, namely: Richard, Benjamin, Isom, Betsy, Anna (both daughters died in infancy), Daniel, Zachariah, Thomas, Joseph (married Mary Garrett), and James, all of whom were born in Grayson County, Virginia. All were Quaker preachers except Joseph and James. Some taught school, all were farmers and Joseph was a tanner. Thomas Puckett, husband of Mary Taylor Puckett, served in the Revolutionary War as a soldier in the Virginia Infantry, but his rank is not available. His name appears in a War Department record under the heading: "A List of Soldiers of the Virginia Line on Continental Establishment who have received Certificates for the balance of their full pay agreeable to an Act passed November Session 1781." All of said sons served in the Revolutionary War, with the possible exception of the two youngest, Joseph and James.

Grayson County, Virginia, and Surry County, North Carolina, in part have as their common boundary the line between said States. The records do not reveal, nor does family tradition, when the family of Thomas and Mary Taylor Puckett moved from said Grayson County to said Surry County but it is certain such a move was made. Recorded in Deed Book N, page 76, records of Surry County, N. C. is a deed bearing date March 6, 1809, in which the grantors and grantee are stated to be "all legatees of Thomas Puckett, deceased," and whereby there was conveyed to Thomas Puckett, Jr. a tract of land of 100 acres, more or less, on the waters of Little Flat Shoal Creek in Surry County, N. C. This deed was signed by all of the above named sons of Thomas and Mary Taylor Puckett, except Zachariah, and Thomas Puckett, Jr., who was grantee.

Also, from said Welcome Garrett Genealogy, we find that Richard Puckett (first son of Thomas and Mary Taylor Puckett) and his wife, Hannah (surname not known) had seven sons and five daughters, namely: David, Thomas, Isom, Moses (wife Betsy), Joseph, Lewis, Richard, Elihu, Lavina, Phoebe, Mary and Nancy. Hannah Puckett, widow of Richard, and their foregoing named sons and daughters are the parties who joined in a power of attorney, dated September 19, 1832, recorded in Vol. U, page 288, Deed Records of Surry County, N. C., and wherein it was stated that Hannah Puckett and the other parties were the legal heirs and representatives of Richard Puckett, deceased, of Vigo County, Indiana. An item in the Wabash Courier of October 21, 1843, told of the death of Hannah Puckett at the home of one of her sons in Honey Creek Township, Indiana, on October 14, 1843, being 73 years of age. Richard Puckett, son of Thomas and Mary Taylor Puckett, and Thomas Puckett, son of said Richard and Hannah Puckett, are direct male lineal ancestors of the subjects of this article, and only their line of descent will be followed herein. Thomas Puckett, who was a son of Richard and Hannah Puckett, is the primary subject of this narrative.

## **DESCENDANTS OF THOMAS PUCKETT**

From this point in the story of Thomas Puckett of Travis County, Republic of Texas, we come to the actual history of the man, both factual and traditional, and of his lineal descendants who are a part of this story. Of necessity there must be omitted from this recital a large number of persons who either bore the same surname or other names from inter-marriages and who were collateral kindred of Thomas Puckett.

Based upon detailed information in said genealogy of Welcome Garrett and his descendants, made at Muncie, Indiana, in 1909, as the same related to the Puckett family, and relying partly on well-known traditions in the Garrett and Puckett families, we find that Thomas Puckett, son of Richard and Hannah Puckett, was born July 25, 1792, in Surry County, North Carolina, that Thomas Puckett and Nancy Tarvin Early were married January 20, 1817, and that Thomas Puckett, then a citizen of Travis County, State (formerly Republic) of Texas, died at the home of his son-in-law, Caleb Garrett, at or near Tuscola, Illinois, November 14, 1868, while on a business trip to that place.



Nancy Tarvin was born October 25, 1792, in Baldwin County, Alabama. Before her marriage to Thomas Puckett she had been married to a man whose surname was Early and who had died. Of the marriage to Early two children were born, namely: Malissa Early and Isabelle Early. Nancy was a daughter of William Tarvin and wife, Mary Miller Tarvin, both of English parents. William Tarvin came to America and thence to Alabama about 1787. In addition to Nancy, there were born to William and Mary M. Tarvin, a daughter, Elizabeth, and four sons, namely: Elisha, Elijah, Zilphah and John. Nancy Tarvin Early Puckett died at Austin, Texas, April 16, 1859.

Caleb Garrett married Irene Puckett, a daughter of Thomas and Nancy Early Puckett, but no child was born to this union. Caleb Garrett had intimate personal knowledge of the Thomas Puckett family and of their many activities. Caleb had more than the usual education for the time and place and he was a prosperous and influential man in the State of Indiana and for a time served in the Indiana legislature. The matters here related with respect to Thomas Puckett were gathered largely from personal letters and obituaries which Caleb Garrett wrote.

(1) *Excerpts from letter of Caleb Garrett to his niece, Miss Emma Puckett, dated April 17, 1887, at Tuscola, Illinois.*

"Your grandfather Thos. Puckett was a man of stern views and decided in manner. Strict obedience to his plans was law. He laid upon himself herculean tasks and undertakings. He left North Carolina and came to Ohio about the year 1812, in time to volunteer in the last (war) with us and Great Britain. He went through immense hardships in the North until he was detailed to guard prisoners from near Detroit to where or near where Cincinnati now stands. Soon as he was discharged and could get ready he took his little assets and wended his way to old Fort Harrison, Indiana, where the country was wild and overrun by hostile Indians, where men were shot down from ambush almost daily, by the savages. One man was shot dead from his horse while he and Mr. Puckett were riding together. Mr. Puckett, as soon as the Indian trouble subsided, laid a claim to some land situated on the east side of Fort Harrison Prairie, went to work and improved the land, and the place was called Puckettsville. Soon after, the Gov't. to reward the Canadian deserters, gave them many choice tracts of land and, among others, Mr. Puckett's land fell to them, and he had to seek a home and land elsewhere, which he found at the south end of the same prairie, where he bought a tract of very excellent land and made it his family home until early in the year 1837, when he made arrangements to move to Texas."

(2) *Obituary of Thomas Puckett, written by Caleb Garrett, and copied from the original.*

"Thomas Puckett was born in the State of North Carolina, Surry County, July 25th, 1792, started for the State of Ohio July 12th, 1812. Enlisted in the service of the United States in the fall of 1813, and sometime after was detailed to guard British prisoners from Canada to Cincinnati, Ohio, and soon after honorably discharged. On the 23rd of

March, 1815, he left Clermont County, Ohio, for Vigo (then Knox) County, Indiana, and eight days thereafter he landed at Fort Harrison on the Wabash River, and from there to Kentucky and bought cattle and drove them out, and most of them were killed by hostile Indians, but with what was left he did well.

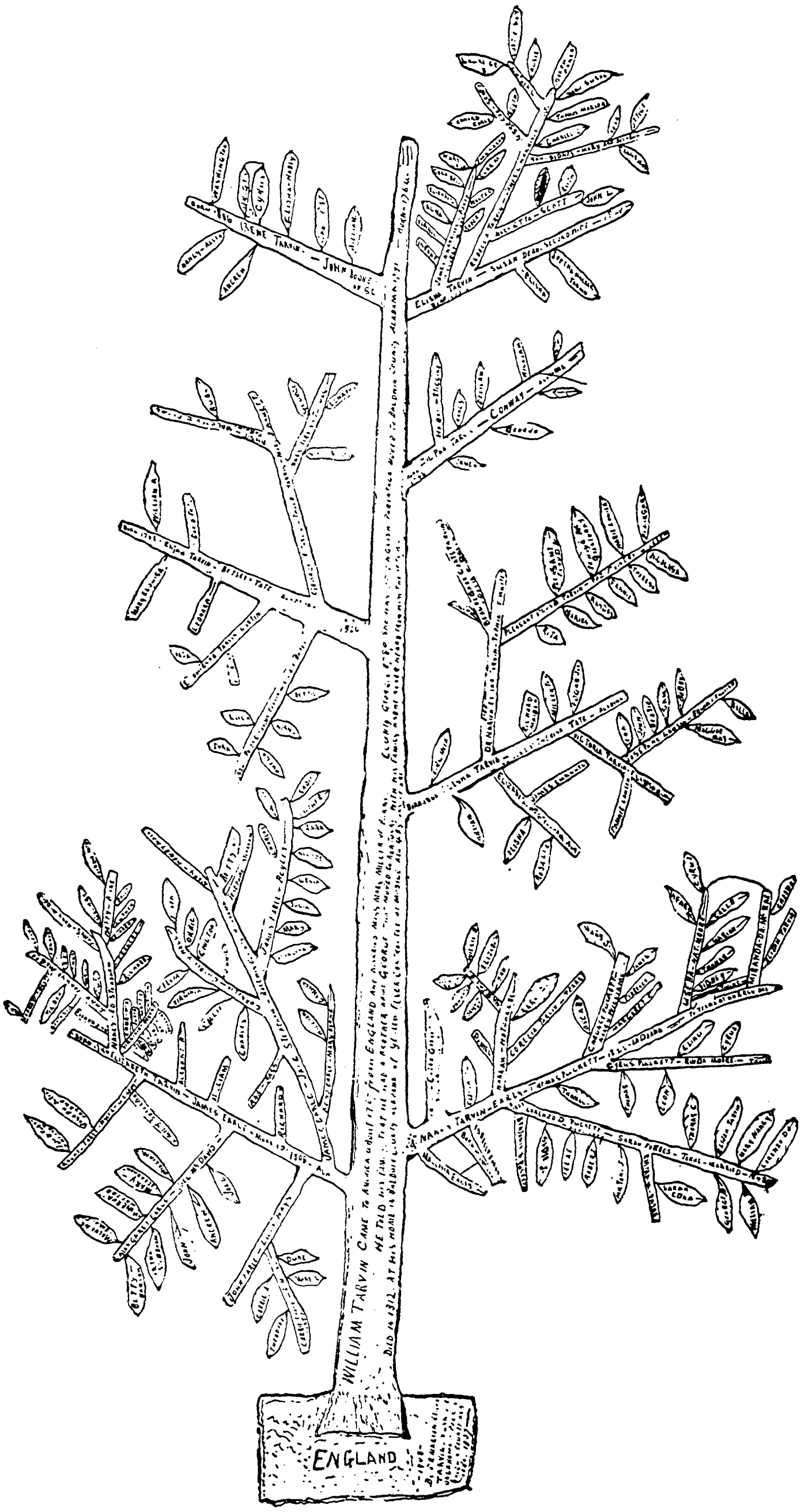
Then with others he built a number of shanties, or cabins, fenced and broke 100 acres and planted in sod corn and called the place Puckettville, the following spring he and his company broke up the same ground and had it ready to plant in corn, when the Canadians, with US patents claimed the land and took possession.

On the 27 of April 1839 he started with his family in flat boats to Texas and some two weeks thereafter he in company of his son, Lorenzo D. Puckett started to Texas with a drove of forty odd horses and mules, on the first day of July following he met his family on Bayou De Glaze, Louisiana, and there entered their wagons and on the 30th of the same month crossed the Sabine River at Thompsons ferry, and after traveling ten weeks landed at Pecan Grove twelve miles east of Austin City, Travis County, Texas, where he has resided ever since. Died ('Cedars' Douglas County, Ill.) November 14th, 1868, at precisely 4 o c P. M. and was buried at the Lester graveyard on the East bank of the Okaw River on Sunday Nov. 15th, at 4 O. C. P. M."

(3) *Thomas Puckett, fact, story or legend about the Bear, taken from the History of Vigo County, Indiana, pages 167-168:*

"The current story is that Puckett was hunting bear one day about twenty miles south of Terre Haute. He had been hunting cows the day before and started up a bear, but having no gun he left it to wait until he could go home and get his rifle and return and kill it. If he had made any positive arrangements with the animal it forfeited all claim to integrity by running away before he got back to the trysting place. This provoked the man to go out the next day in the general hunt for bear. He finally came across one lying on the sunny side of a hill sleeping. He got close enough to examine it and was amazed at its size and corpulency. He reflected that if he killed it where it lay that he could not get it home, and it was doubtful if he could even carry the hide. Being a man of quick conclusions and having the courage of his convictions, he approached the sleeping monster and woke him up with some general observations about the weather. The bear raised its head, gaped widely, winked at him with its off eye, licked out its tongue in a friendly way, and laid down its head for another snooze.

Puckett now spoke in a deep stern bass voice and ordered bruin to rise and start for town, and backed up this language with a punch with the muzzle of his gun. The bear was soon on its feet, but was either perverse or didn't know the way to Terre Haute, and started off in a graceful fat-bear waddle toward Vincennes. Puckett headed him off and made him reverse ends, but there was much zig-zagging on the way, yet the general trend was about right. But these by-plays of the animal made





him travel nearer forty miles than the twenty he could have made it in if he had gone as the crow flies. The result was that when within seven or eight miles of town the bear laid down for the last time, and neither moral nor any other suasion could make him budge an inch. He was then ruthlessly slain and skinned, and the immense hide was seen by nearly every one of the then settlers of Vigo County, as confirmation of the story. There are no fossil remains now left of this 'bear story' except the country over which he drove it, and most of this is fenced up. The reader must draw his own morals of this 'bear story', because Tom Puckett was a harmless, inoffensive man, who was a rough carpenter that could build round-log houses with dirt floor that were a credit to the guild of contractors and builders. He had little odd ways, and sometimes they might be termed eccentricities, yet they were a necessary part of the man—without them it would not have been compelled as now to place this little laurel bud upon his obscure grave. He has long since gone where they neither drive bears nor are driven by them. He died intestate—much in the same way he lived out his days.

'Old Tom Puckett', so every one called him, died in Douglas County, Illinois, in 1868. As early as 1839 it got to be too thickly settled on the Wabash for Tom, so he emigrated to Texas and became a jolly cowboy. Texas was then a Republic, and the old Vigo bear driver was out of the United States for a short period of his life. He 'fit' the greasers, and when Texas became a State he engaged in driving Texas cattle to the North. Finally, when very old he drove up and the hardships were too great for him, and he was stricken with his first and last sickness."

*From page 427, History of Vigo County, Indiana, by H. C. Bradsby, is found this paragraph:*

"One of the most singular citizens of Vigo County was Tom Puckett, living about four miles south of Terre Haute. With all his oddities, Tom was a good man, and remarkable for his courage and endurance."

*From History of Vigo and Parke Counties, Indiana, by H. W. Beckwith, the following statements and accounts have been taken:*

Page 24. "Among the very early settlers of the county (with many others) was Thomas Puckett. These settled in the county prior to 1818."

Page 47. "We must not fail to notice a famous "character" in his day, Tom Puckett. He was one of the first settlers of this county, and was at Fort Harrison in 1814. He was in the government employ, in some capacity or other, and was remembered for many years as the oldest resident in the county." Here then followed the celebrated 'bear story' with details about as set out above.

*The following excerpts have been taken from C. C. Oakey's Greater Terre Haute and Vigo County:*

Page 150. "The second house built by Dr. Modesitt on the site of the first cabin built in Terre Haute was put up by Tom Puckett and another man."

Page 157. "Tom Puckett was on Fort Harrison prairie as early as 1814, and he claimed to have built the first log cabin in Terre Haute near the Modesitt house on the river bank. He was also one of the party with Joseph Liston, who had the distinction of turning the first furrow in this township and county. One of Puckett's companions in hunting was Dr. Thomas Parsons, who was here as early as 1819. Puckett emigrated to Texas in 1839, and in the late sixties drove some cattle to Kansas, which was too much for the pioneer of seventy-five years, and he died soon after in Douglas County, Illinois." The famous 'bear story' duly embellished was retold by the author and will not be repeated here.

## **THOMAS PUCKETT AND FAMILY IN TEXAS**

Thomas Puckett and Nancy Tarvin Early, a widow, were married at or near Terre Haute, Indiana, in 1822, and they and the children born of their marriage emigrated to and settled in Travis County, Republic of Texas, the new home having been acquired about the month of October, 1839. In addition to the family group just mentioned, the move from Indiana to Texas included Malissa and Isabelle Early, Nancy's children by her former marriage, and also three children of Isom Puckett, a brother to Thomas, namely: Thomas Harvey Puckett, Micajah Puckett and Hannah Puckett, who later married William Rush.

Further concerning said Isom Puckett children, the following is from a treatise entitled "Indian Wars and Pioneers of Texas", on page 542: Thomas Harvey, Micajah and Hannah Puckett were children of Isom Puckett and wife, Edith Garrett Puckett, who came from North Carolina and settled near Terre Haute, Indiana, before the year 1825. The parents of said three children died before they were taken to Texas by their uncle, Thomas Puckett. Thomas Harvey Puckett and three older brothers, William, Richard and James P. Puckett, enlisted in the Mexican War, while on a visit to Indiana. The three elder brothers were killed in the battle of Buena Vista. Thomas Harvey Puckett served in Co. H, 24th Texas Regiment until captured at Arkansas Post, but escaped by swimming the Arkansas River, and was discharged at New Orleans. After discharge he moved to Helena, Karnes County, Texas, where he established his home and reared his family. Micajah Puckett disappeared in 1845-1846, and was supposed to have lost his life in the Mexican War.

The children born of the marriage of Thomas Puckett and Nancy Tarvin Early Puckett were as follows:

1. Irene Puckett, born February 8, 1818, Terre Haute, Indiana, married Caleb Garrett, December 22, 1840, at Austin, Texas.
2. Thomas J. Puckett, born March 31, 1820, Terre Haute, Indiana, died in 1836.
3. Hannah B. Puckett, born June 24, 1822, Terre Haute, Indiana, married Wm. S. Hotchkiss September 8, 1841, at Austin, Texas.
4. Lorenzo Dow Puckett, born April 25, 1825, Terre Haute, Indiana, married Sarah Forbes November 8, 1854, at Austin, Texas, died March 29, 1900, Nocona, Texas.

5. Chauncy R. Puckett, born August 10, 1827, Terre Haute, Indiana, married Nancy Williams, June 20, 1853, Austin, Texas.
6. Demas Deming Puckett, born March 4, 1829, Terre Haute, Indiana, died in infancy.
7. Cyrus G. Puckett, born January 31, 1831, Terre Haute, Indiana, married Rinda Moore, March 6, 1867, died May 29, 1901.
8. Miranda Puckett, born February 27, 1833, Terre Haute, Indiana, married Alexander McRae, April 17, 1873, at Austin, Texas.
9. Uceba Puckett, born February 27, 1833, Terre Haute, Indiana, married Nathaniel Moore January 12, 1854, at Austin, Texas.
10. Elijah F. Puckett, born October 27, 1835, Terre Haute, Indiana, died about 1863 while on expedition to the Mexican border, bachelor.

Thomas Puckett lost no time in acquiring land in the Republic of Texas after his arrival from Indiana. The first such purchase seems to have been on August 12, 1839, from Adolphus Sterne, who executed a warranty deed to Thomas Puckett for five hundred dollars covering a tract of land in Nacogdoches County, a part of the Francisco Vilanova grant, the deed being now of record in Vol. F, page 41, Deed Records of Nacogdoches County, Texas.

The old home place of Thomas Puckett, where he settled in Travis County, Republic of Texas, was conveyed to him by warranty deed, dated October 29, 1840, from John Cartwright, for \$2400 cash, the land being one-fourth of one league (1107 acres) on the East bank of the Colorado River and out of a league of land granted to John Burleson by the Mexican Government, the deed being recorded in Vol. "A", pages 186-187, Deed Records of Travis County, Texas. Further, concerning the old Thomas Puckett home place, there is in the Texas State Library, Archives Division, Austin, Texas, a MSS by Brown, styled "Annals of Travis County" which contains a short biography of our Thomas Puckett. The following paragraph is copied from said MSS:

"His (Mr. Puckett's) dwelling, built of large elm logs was on the South side of the old stage road to Bastrop and La Grange. This was the first stage stand out of Austin, where the horses were changed. Oldtimers will remember the stage stand, the large Pecan trees near by, and the well of cold water, where travelers halted to quench their thirst. Just beyond a few hundred yards, in sight of the highway, could be seen the brush arbor of the old Puckett camp-ground, in the midst of a large Pecan Grove."

The old Puckett home place is on what is known as the Webberville Road and adjacent to Hornsby Bend of the Colorado River.

After Texas became a State in 1845, Thomas Puckett acquired many tracts and parcels of land in Texas, mainly in or near the City of Austin and particularly in the years 1848 and 1849. These acquisitions are set forth either in patents in the archives of the General Land Office of Texas at Austin or in deeds recorded in the office of the County Clerk of Travis County, Texas.



No attempt will be made here to continue the family history of any of the children of Thomas and Nancy Puckett, other than their son Lorenzo Dow Puckett; and, hence, Lorenzo Dow Puckett and his wife, Sarah Forbes Puckett, their children, certain decendants, and inter-married relations will comprise the final subjects of this family history.

## **LORENZO DOW PUCKETT AND SARAH FORBES PUCKETT AND FAMILY**

Except for matters in parentheses by the writer hereof, all excerpts in quotation marks below were taken from a work entitled "History and Biographical Record of North and West Texas" by Capt. B. B. Paddock, Editor, in 1906, Vol. 2, page 268, et seq.

"Mrs. Sarah Puckett, one of the esteemed ladies of Nocona, is the widow of the late Lorenzo D. Puckett and both are descended from honored pioneer families of the Republic of Texas. Mr. Puckett was born in Vigo County, Indiana, April 20, 1825, and was a son of Thomas Puckett of North Carolina, who became a pioneer settler in the Hoosier state. He served throughout the Blackhawk war and was prominently and actively connected with the events that aided in framing the early history of Indiana. He built the first log cabin at Terre Haute and assisted in the development and upbuilding of the new town and county. He became an extensive land owner and a prosperous farmer and was regarded financially as one of the substantial residents of that part of the state. In 1839, on account of the health of his wife, he moved to Texas, hoping she would be benefited by the more genial climate of the south. He took up his abode near where the City of Austin is located and there purchased a large tract of land, which he improved. He carried on general agricultural pursuits and also cattle raising. The state at that time was without a permanent capital and Mr. Puckett was instrumental in the movement which resulted in making Austin the capital city of Texas.

Lorenzo D. Puckett, born in Indiana, was brought to Texas by his father in 1839. After reaching manhood he engaged in the cattle and stock business and located a ranch in Karnes County. (By judgment and decree of the district court of Karnes County, Texas, at Helena, the county site, rendered November 11, 1871, in the case of J. M. Martinez, et al. vs. John Littleton, et al., the plaintiffs dismissed as to defendant Thomas H. Puckett, and it was adjudged that defendant, L. D. Puckett, have judgment for 320 acres granted to Jessie Duran, assignee, by Patent No. 441, Vol. 5. The land so adjudged to L. D. Puckett was part of an original grant of fifteen leagues by the King of Spain made June 7, 1788.) He was then married in 1854, and took up his abode upon his ranch, where he followed farming to some extent and also got a good start in the stock business. He remained there for eighteen years, and was among the prominent and extensive cattle men of the locality. During the period of the Civil War he was detailed for frontier service to look after the war troops and also to secure beef cattle for the army. He drove large herds of



cattle to eastern and southern states, to Louisiana and other places for Confederate troops. He was paid in Confederate money, which at the close of the war was worthless and thousands of dollars were thus lost. During this period, Mr. Puckett was enrolled with the Home Guards for frontier service, and he was in many raids and some hotly contested engagements with the Indians.

In 1872, Mr. Puckett sold out and removed to Williamson County, where he purchased a farm and carried on general agricultural pursuits. Later he built and operated a cotton gin and was quite successful in the conduct of his farming and ginning interests. He remained in Williamson County for eight years, when he disposed of his interests there and removed to Tom Green County, where he again gave his attention to the raising of stock. He thus got a good start, but on account of the drought he had to move his stock, mostly horses, to New Mexico. There, however, a disease spread among his horses and many died, so that Mr. Puckett was a heavy loser. He remained in that state, however, for five years, but finally sold his stock and moved to Montague County. Here he purchased two tracts of land and engaged in farming. He had succeeded in getting a good start and was doing well when he became ill. He lingered on for some time and finally, to be near a physician, removed to Nocona, where he remained until his death on the 29th of March, 1900.

Mr. Puckett married Miss Sarah Forbes, who was born in Tennessee, February 19, 1834. She was the daughter of Collin and Mary (Robertson) Forbes, the former a native of Georgia and the latter of Tennessee. Her paternal grandfather, John Forbes, was a son of Collin Forbes, a native of Scotland and belonged to a wealthy and aristocratic family connected with the nobility. Collin Forbes, however, married against the will of his parents, which incurred the hostility of his father and he was therefore disinherited, so that with his bride he left his native heath and sailed for the new world. He had been reared in the Presbyterian church and never departed from that faith. His son, John Forbes, was reared in Georgia and became a prominent planter and Presbyterian minister. He was drafted for service in the War of 1812, and was proceeding to join Jackson's army at New Orleans when hostilities ceased. He was a well known man, highly respected for his genuine worth, and he died in Mississippi. His wife survived him for some time and afterwards came to Texas, where she died. She was a descendant of an honorable early family of Texas connected with the Hawthornes. In the family of John Forbes were four sons and two daughters: Collin, the father of Mrs. Puckett; Arthur, who died in Mississippi; John, who came to Texas; Robert, a physician who also made his home in Texas; Margaret, deceased; and Mrs. Mary Howard.

Collin Forbes was born in Georgia and spent the greater part of his youth in Tennessee, where he was married. He afterward became an active minister in the Presbyterian church and followed that profession for some years in connection with general agricultural pursuits. He was

strongly solicited to come to Texas during the days of the republic but refused to leave the United States. Soon after the annexation of this state, however, in 1845, he removed to Texas and eventually made a permanent settlement in Travis county not far from Austin. He was a very busy and careful man and he improved a good farm. He also engaged in teaching school and was a pioneer preacher, being one of the first to advocate Presbyterian doctrines in this country. He was closely associated with both the intellectual and moral progress of the community and he organized many churches throughout Texas, becoming a noted minister of his day and a famous Bible student. He died in Williamson County at the ripe old age of eighty-three years, while his wife, who bore the maiden name of Mary Robertson, died at the age of ninety years. She was a daughter of John Robertson of Scotch descent, who was a native of Virginia and he was a wheelwright and farmer. In the family of Collin Forbes were ten children: Elizabeth, Allen, Cynthia J., Mary, Gipson, John, Sarah, Margaret, Harvey and Emily."

Lorenzo Dow Puckett and wife, Sarah Forbes Puckett, had born to them twelve children who, together with said children's issue, etc., are here listed, as well as the spouses of the married persons here named, as follows:

1. Thomas Collin Puckett, born November 17, 1855, Karnes Co., Texas; married Louisa Carolina Darby, October 16, 1879; died November 21, 1918, Brownwood, Texas.

Children: Detailed mention hereinafter.

2. Elijah Tarvin Puckett, born October 19, 1857, Karnes Co., Texas; married Allie Chisholm, Feb. 13, 1895; died June 20, 1906.

Children:

Orson Campbell Puckett, born March 31, 1896; married Alpha Elva James, January 31, 1920.

Mildred Puckett, born February 2, 1898; married Charles Holmes Dunagan, June 16, 1926.

Lora Puckett, born May 19, 1900; died July 7, 1914.

Chisholm Puckett, born February —, 1903; died age 18 months.

3. Mary Nancy Puckett, born August 19, 1859, Karnes Co., Texas; married Lewis F. Hudson, August 2, 1881; died February 27, 1947, Goldthwaite, Texas.

Children:

S. Adelyn Hudson, born July 1, 1883; married John Schooler (now deceased).

Lora May Hudson, born June 29, 1886, died July 11, 1938; married James A. Birdsong (now deceased).

John Clyde Hudson, born October 17, 1888; married Mamie Sherman; died January 13, 1953, Gary Indiana.

Canzada Chloe Hudson, born October 17, 1888; married Dr. Leonard Huddleston.

Orson Dow Hudson, born January 27, 1892; married Ina Townsend.

Mary Elizabeth Hudson, born July 3, 1894; married Albert Sikes.

Lewis Blake Hudson, born September 6, 1896 (bachelor); died August 23, 1942.

4. Lorenzo Dow Puckett, Jr., born January 16, 1861, Karnes Co., Texas; married Dollie Robinson, February 18, 1891. died April 17, 1917.

Children: None

5. Emily Miranda Puckett, born January 28, 1863, Karnes County, Texas, married Sam Tullos Payne, July 28, 1895, died St. Jo, Texas.

Children:

Sarah Edna Payne, born June 26, 1896, St. Jo, Texas, married John Homer Caskey, Ph.D., June 8, 1925.

Grand Children:

Martha Emily Caskey, born July 19, 1926,

Dr. John Homer Caskey, M. D., born October 9, 1928,

Dorothea Payne Caskey, born June 25, 1932.

6. William Bradley Puckett, born October 21, 1865, Karnes County, Texas, married Ella R. Connell, March 15, 1892, died February 27, 1930.

Children:

William Connell Puckett, born July 31, 1894, died May 12, 1895,

Euseba Puckett, born February 3, 1896,

Odys Puckett, born July 25, 1897,

Gladys Puckett, born July 25, 1898,

Harold W. Puckett, born October 9, 1899,

E. Pauline Puckett, born June 12, 1901,

S. Minerva Puckett, born August 14, 1902,

Thomas Collin Puckett, born October 13, 1903,

William Bradley Puckett, born April 30, 1905,

R. Bruce Puckett, born October 12, 1907,

Mildred L. Puckett, born November 3, 1909,

Ella L. Puckett, born June 11, 1913.

7. George Washington Puckett, born October 1, 1867, Karnes Co., Texas, married Frances Adell Huffman, May 12, 1901, died near Mule-shoe, Texas.

Children:

Collin Puckett, born October 18, 1903.

Everett Puckett, born April 8, 1905,  
Joy Frances Puckett, born January 9, 1909.

8. John Milton Puckett, born January 5, 1870, Karnes Co., Texas, married  
Sallie Ann Payne, December 12, 1893, died December 19, 1936,  
San Antonio, Texas

Children:

Milton Clayton Puckett, born October 31, 1894,  
Sadie Winifred Puckett, born September 5, 1896,  
Ernest Dow Puckett, born October 27, 1901.

9. Irene Puckett, born February 16, 1875, Georgetown, Texas; married  
Larkin Wallace Howard

Children:

Taylor Dow Howard, Major U. S. Army, born February 14, 1909;  
married Elizabeth Neely.

10. Robert Irenius Puckett, born February 6, 1877, Williamson County,  
Texas; married Helen Norvill, Dec. 28, 1905; died Big Spring,  
Texas.

Children:

Nellie Mae Puckett, born March 13, 1908;  
Wm. Norvill Puckett, born October 5, 1911;  
Sadie Puckett, born April 30, 1914.

11. Sarah Jane Puckett, born February 5, 1873, Georgetown, Texas; married  
Campbell Parson Chisholm December 22, 1896; died December  
24, 1931.

Children:

Lois Day Chisholm, born September 12, 1897;  
Hugh Puckett Chisholm, born September 21, 1899;  
Rossie Irene Chisholm, born September 9, 1902;  
Ava Bernice Chisholm, born August 27, 1907;  
Milton Raymond Chisholm, born May 12, 1910.

12. Benjamin Donald Puckett, born October 4, 1879, Georgetown, Texas;  
married Annie Temperance Wilson March 1, 1901; died Novem-  
ber 11, 1918.

Children:

Donald Dow Puckett, born July 6, 1903;  
Nellie Elizabeth Puckett, born May 31, 1905.

### **THOMAS COLLIN PUCKETT AND FAMILY**

Thomas Collin Puckett, first child of Lorenzo Dow and Sarah Forbes Puckett, was born in or near the town of Helena, Karnes County, Texas, November 17, 1855, and died in Brownwood, Texas, November 21, 1918.

His obituary was printed in the November 21, 1918, issue of the Brownwood Bulletin, and contained the following:

"Thomas C. Puckett died this morning at 12:40. Thomas C. Puckett was born in Karnes County, Texas, on November 17, 1855. He was married to Miss Louisa Darby of Georgetown on October 16, 1879. He moved to Brownwood from Eastland County with his family in 1900, and he had made his home here since. He was a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church and he had been an active member of the church here until the union. He was a broad-minded man, always ready to help those in distress and need. He had been ill a few days suffering with asthma and heart trouble, however the last evening he seemed to be much better and not until Mrs. Puckett was awakened by his heavy breathing was anyone aware that his condition was serious. Help was summoned at once but he passed away without gaining consciousness."

Louisa Carolina Darby, who married Thomas C. Puckett, was born near Anderson, South Carolina, September 16, 1855. She was a daughter of Rev. James Darby and wife, Elizabeth White Darby. Elizabeth White was born in Ireland of Irish parentage, and when very small her parents and their children emigrated to the United States. Elizabeth White Darby died in South Carolina. About August 12, 1857, her surviving husband and their several children moved to Florida and lived at a place or community called Shell Pond until January 21, 1863. Rev. James Darby died and was buried in Duval County, Florida. Upon the death of her father, Louisa Darby became a member of the family of an older sister, Jane Darby Brinkley, wife of Nathan Gardner Brinkley, and during the War Between the States resided at a village then called Archer Station (now Archer) in Alachua County, Florida, about fifteen miles southwest of Gainesville, the county site. Following the war, the Brinkley family, including Louisa Darby, left Florida and traveled overland to Texas, settling first near Mt. Pleasant, Titus County, in 1872, and a year later they removed to and settled at or near Georgetown in Williamson County, Texas. Additional facts are here copied from the obituary of Mrs. Louisa Puckett in the Brownwood Bulletin of Wednesday, January 9, 1935.

"Mrs. Lou Carolina Puckett, age 84 years, died yesterday afternoon at 6 o'clock at a local hospital after an illness of a few days' duration. Survivors are: two daughters, Miss Bertha Puckett of Brownwood and Mrs. H. C. Peyton of Bartlesville, Oklahoma; two sons, C. D. Puckett of Brownwood and H. L. Puckett of Big Lake.

Mrs. Puckett was born September 16, 1855, at Anderson, South Carolina, and was the daughter of J. W. and Elizabeth White Darby. When a small child she moved with her family to Florida, she being the youngest of seven children. She and her sister moved to Texas in 1870, they being the only survivors at that time. They located at Georgetown where she was married to Mr. Thomas Puckett October 16, 1879. While at Georgetown Mr. Puckett was engaged in the stock business and when they moved to West Texas he was engaged in the same kind of business. They moved to Brownwood 34 years ago and reared their family here.

Mr. Puckett passed away in 1918. Mrs. Puckett was a member of the First Methodist Church."

The seven children born to Rev. James Darby and wife, Elizabeth White Darby, were: John (who died while a soldier in the Confederate Army), Mary, Martha, Jane, Sarah, James and Louisa.

The children and descendants of Thomas Collin Puckett and wife, Louisa Darby Puckett, are as follows:

1. Bertha Gertrude Puckett, born July 17, 1880, Georgetown, Texas;
2. Arthur Lee Puckett, born July 27, 1882, Round Rock, Texas, died December 27, 1898, Rising Star, Texas;
3. Herbert Lorenzo Puckett, born May 15, 1885, Ben Ficklin, Texas, married Cora Viola Simpson, February 28, 1909, Strong, Ark.;

Children:

Collin Obin Puckett, born June 17, 1910, El Dorado, Arkansas, married Lucille Lichten, August 4, 1939, Bartlesville, Oklahoma;  
Ray Herbert Puckett, born December 18, 1912, Brownwood, Texas, married Elizabeth Shannon, June 21, 1941, Houston, Texas;  
Floyd Austin Puckett, born October 13, 1922, Big Lake, Texas, (Major U. S. Army).

Grand Children:

Thomas Collin Puckett, born May 23, 1945, Tulsa, Oklahoma, son (by adoption) of Collin-Lucille.  
Ray Herbert Puckett, born October 26, 1942, Tullahoma, Tenn.;  
Don Shannon Puckett, born September 21, 1944, Houston, Texas;  
Richard Floyd Puckett, born January 30, 1947, McCamey, Texas;  
these last three being sons of Ray-Betsy.

4. Cecil Dow Puckett, born January 31, 1888, Sherwood, Texas; married Mary A. Baker June 10, 1911.

Children:

Ralph Baker Puckett, born November 14, 1912, Nixon, Texas; married Myrtle Henry;  
Nelda Puckett, born December 31, 1913, Nixon, Texas; married Herbert F. Cartwright, June 30, 1934;

Grand Children:

Dorothy Jean Puckett, born to Ralph and former wife, Myrtle Puckett;  
Mary Lee Cartwright, born to Nelda and former husband, Herbert F. Cartwright.

5. Sue Elizabeth Puckett, born April 10, 1891, Sherwood, Texas; married H. C. Peyton, August 21, 1917, Brownwood, Texas.

Children:

Ruth Louise Peyton, born October 12, 1923, Brownwood, Texas;

married Lee Rigsby, Ph. D., July 31, 1948, Houston, Texas.

**Grand Children:**

Stephen Paul Rigsby, born February 2, 1950, Tallahassee, Florida.

H. C. Peyton, husband of Sue Puckett Peyton, was born in Williamson County, Texas, October 5, 1888, son of John Peyton and wife, Ellen Lykins Peyton, both of whom were born in Morgan County, Kentucky. H. C. Peyton is a lawyer.

Dr. Lee Rigsby, husband of Ruth Peyton Rigsby, was born in Hot Springs, Arkansas, August 27, 1920, son of Oscar Lee Rigsby, now deceased, and wife, Pearl Allen Rigsby. Dr. Lee Rigsby is a professor of music in Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida.







