

## JAMES THOMAS WHITE

James Thomas White was born January 23, 1863 in Athens, Tennessee, and moved to Texas at the age of 4 in a wagon train. His wife was Rachel Catherine Bond, born January 7, 1870 in Doniphan, Missouri. They were married November 24, 1887 in Palo Pinto County. They lived on the place given her by her father as a wedding present until they bought about 200 acres from the John Tarleton Estate on December 20, 1899.

When Thomas Richard White died, February 22, 1907, James Thomas bought some of the land from his brothers and sisters, which with his inheritance, gave him 371 acres. He was a lay methodist who held funeral services, sat up with the sick, and was always called on to come pray for many people. He was Sunday School superintendent for 42 years.

The Whites had four children; Ada Elva, March 7, 1889- September 24, 1973; John Loyd, July 21, 1890- October 8, 1901; Thomas Olon, April 10, 1892- February 13, 1967; Lee Averette, June 11, 1896- June 17, 1967.

## THOMAS OLON WHITE

Olon White was born April 10, 1892 , in the Jacobs Wells community of Palo Pinto County and grew to manhood on Buck Creek. Emily Ann (Emma) Bradley was born December 31, 1889 in Denmark Illinois. She came to Texas in 1910 to teach school at Mineral City (Lyra) near Strawn. She had more than 80 pupils in the primary grade. The next two years she taught the school at Jacobs Wells. She and Olon White were married in Santo on November 17, 1912. Their buggy was followed to the Methodist Church by the newly organized Santo band playing "Dixie", and "Hello Central, Give me Heaven", the only two tunes the band knew. They continued to live on Buck Creek, where their two daughters , Lillie Ruth, October 2, 1913, and Alta Francine, October 25, 1918, were born.

In 1926 they moved to Denton to educate the girls, Emma White also got her degree and taught at Santo four years and one year at Lone Camp . After operating a garage and grocery store, they retired to Stephenville in 1947. Olon died February 13, 1967 and she died October 8, 1970. Both are buried in the Tarleton Cemetery.

## LILLIE RUTH WHITE LAIRD

My great-grandparents, Thomas Richard and Mary Lamar White, came to Texas in 1867 in a wagon train, and Mr. and Mrs. John Christopher and Mary Elizabeth Thannisch Bond came to Texas in 1874 in a wagon train. My grandfather, James Thomas White was born Jan. 23, 1863 In Athens, Tenn., and my grandmother, Rachel Catherine Bond White was born Jan. 7, 1870 in Doniphan, Missouri. They married Nov. 24, 1887 in Padô Pinto county. They bought the headquarters of the Hohn Tarleton Ranch in 1900. I own the home and 100 acres of the land.

In 1910 my mother, Emma Bradley and her sister Ollie Bradley came to Texas from Illinois to teach school, probably for adventure as well as better salaries. Aunt Ollie taught three years at Santo while mother taught one year at Mineral City (Lyra) near Strawn where she had over eighty students in her room and poor living conditions. She taught the next two years at Jacob's Wells, where she met my father, ThomasOLON White. They were married Nov. 17, 1912 in Santo. Santo had jusy organized a band and knew only two tunes. They walked behind the buggy all the way to the church playing "Dixie" and "Hello Central, Give Me Heaven". The minister was Rev. J. J. Rape; it must have been a wonderful "send-off" for that marriage lasted 54 years and 3 months

On October 2, 1913, my mother beat on a plow point with a hammar to call my Daddy in from the field to go for Dr. Joseph Riddle. It rained so much that the horse and buggy had to swim Buck Creek to get the doctor there before I arrived. I was a white, legitimate female born alive until my mother amended the birth certificate and gave me a name in 1969. The house known as the Combs Place was blown away later by a tornado, but Buck Creek remains, my sole monument/

My first teacher was Iris Williamson, and then I had Aunt Ollie for six or seven grades. School was day and night, winter and summer, for she lived with us. No one disobeyed Aunt Ollie without swift and sure punishment. In 1925-26 Aunt Ollie again taught at Santo where we had rooms across the track. Linnie Phillips and I played "one-eyed cat" after school.

In 1926 Mother and Daddy moved to Denton to educate their two daughters. I was enrolled in Denton High School which was a three story building with hundreds of students. I got lost and ended up crying in the Principal A. O. Calhoun's office. He was from Gordon and Santo and knew my parents so he tried to console me. My most remembered experience in Denton High was being told to cook cream of wheat and raisins in a home economics lab. practical. As a poor country girl used to mush and oatmeal, I had never heard of cream of wheat. I mixed the cream of wheat, raisin, and water and baked it ( to a brick-like consistency) in the oven. My grade was 0)

I graduated from North Texas in 1931 at the age of seventeen and went to East Texas to teach school where I met my husband-to-be. It was love at first sight; we had a date that night and ever afterward. We were married on May 26, 1934. We taught in East Texas and A & M ( I taught in A & M Consolidated until we moved to Stephenville in 1941. In 1943 and 1947 our two sons, John and David were born. John presented us with the world's finest granddaughters and David gave us the king of grandsons. Vester taught 33 years at Tarleton with a total of 42 years, and I taught 28 years before we retired. I lost him to pancreatic cancer Feb. 9, 1976.