

**FAMILY HISTORIES**  
**of**  
**HENDERSON COUNTY, TEXAS**  
**VOLUME II**  
**1846-1993**

**A Collection of Family Sketches and  
Biographies of the People of Henderson County**



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cane bottom chairs. He drove up in the front yard to let us out and my fellow was there with a bunch of boys in the yard and I started to get out and my dress got hung on the chair. There I was hanging. Uncle Albert had to come help me down. We all got tickled and could not stop laughing. We went to the outdoor toilet and stayed there as long as we could, but didn't dare look at each other.

One day a handsome young man came to see Aunt Bell and Uncle Albert from Corsicana. He looked good to me but he didn't pay much attention to me, but he came back in a month or so and he noticed me more. He was Uncle Albert's brother's son, Jesse Cook. After that trip, he wrote me a letter and I was thrilled over that.

Then he came over real often, but that summer, I was going to school and was planning to start teaching school. Uncle Billy had me a school at Frankston, Texas. But Jesse wanted us to get married. I wrote Pa Pa to send me some money to buy what I needed and he did. He sent me money every month and he would get Winnie to help him buy me things to wear. We wore the same size and she could please me. I had cute things to wear. Aunt Bell could sew and if I was called on to be in anything she always fixed me up and I felt good. I came home from Uncle Billy's and we got married at home with some of my friends and family there.

So these are some of my life's events. I was blessed with a nice husband and three lovely children and lots of grandchildren, great-grandchildren and a great-great granddaughter. I have had a good life, thanks to the good Lord.

P.S.: I forgot to tell about Mama having our pictures made. It was 15 miles from LaRue to Athens. Mama made us new white dresses. She dressed us alike. We had to leave real early in the morning in a wagon, she took our things to put on after we got there. We had all this in a wagon yard. She dressed us. Put blue ribbon on Ethea Mae's hair, pink on me. We had a little pin Uncle Billy sent us while he was in Denton and she pinned that on us. We had on hi-top black button shoes and had curly hair. She really worked on that. Every hair and curl just right. After she dressed us, we couldn't sit down, it would mess us up. We had cheese and crackers for lunch and it was always dark when we got home. We were so tired. Pa Pa would go to Athens to get things we needed and Mama was scared to be alone after dark. One time he and a man went and dark came. Mama was so upset, she finally got a quilt and took us to a field (a watermelon patch) and called our dog. He was a big red and white dog. We loved him and he loved us. Mama put us on the quilt and we sat there until we heard the wagon coming. Pa Pa laughed at her for going to the watermelon patch.

## \* CICERO WITT CORLEY



Papa Corley and big fish

Cicero Witt Corley was born March 12, 1887. His parents were Valentine C. Corley and Martha Elizabeth (Grissom) Corley. At the age of six years old his father died, leaving his mother to raise him and his sister and two brothers, on a country farm North East of Murchison, Texas, better known as Shady Grove Community. He had to quit school at an early age to do farm chores for his family. He then later married Lillian E. Cantrell. He bought a small farm near where he was born, North West of Opelika.

To this marriage was born three girls and two boys. At an early age, he became very active in politics. He was elected Justice of Peace of Henderson County, Precinct 3. He was the Bard of Shady Grove, writing to the Athens Daily Review for several years, which he enjoyed very much. When the oil boom came to Opelika, he worked for McElreath and Suggeth leasing land and buying royalty. He also worked for Lone Star at the Opelika plant, where he retired. In 1948, he won a trip to the World Series by entering a contest sponsored by KLIF in Dallas, Texas, on "Why I would love to go to the World Series." The game was between Boston Braves and Cleveland Indians. It was played in Boston, Mass. He made the trip by train. After retiring from Lone Star Gas, he became a farmer and rancher where he was active in Agriculture. He was a devoted 3rd Degree Mason, and with his Masonic Lodge members he helped several children and families over his lifetime. After his wife died, his health failed him and later he preferred going to Park Highland Nursing Home, instead of living with any of his children.

He died December 12, 1980, at the age of 93. Edith Owen

## JOE DOUGLAS COSTLOW FAMILY



Joe Douglas Costlow



Melba Motes Costlow

Joe Douglas, the son of Joseph O. Costlow and Vina G. Brasfield, was born in the Centerview Community south of Larue, near the Henderson/Anderson County line on March 18, 1929. He died April 23, 1976.

He started school at LaRue, and transferred to LaPoynor when LaRue and Poynor consolidated in 1936, and graduated there in 1943. He grew up in that area, except for a brief time in the Modoc Community, and at Davey Lake (now Glad Oaks) where his dad was caretaker. The family also lived in Texarkana, Texas, for a brief time during World War II.

After high school, Douglas worked in Or-