

MORRIS-DUCK

In the period between 1852-1856, a group of settlers left Somerset, Kentucky, and traveled to Texas.

Included in this party were George Washington Marion Duck, age twenty-five, his wife, Evaline, age twenty-four, and their children, Sarah, age three, and Mary Ellen, age one. [With them were E. D. Compton and his wife, Martha Jane, the sister and brother-in-law of G. W. M. Duck.] — ~~WRONG~~

This party stayed a short time in Palestine. E. D. Compton and his wife went on to Taylor.

The balance of the party went to Atascosa County and founded the town of Somerset.

In 1856 a daughter, Mahalia Elizabeth, was born to the Ducks. She was the first Anglo girl born in Atascosa County, and in later years became Mrs. Edward Morris.

In 1873 G. W. M. Duck became sheriff and the family moved to the county seat, which at that time was Pleasanton. He remained sheriff until 1892. He was reported to be one of the few peace officers that carried no gun.

The Ducks built a home on acreage abutting the north side of the old Pleasanton Cemetery. Here they raised a family of nine children: Sarah (Thomas), Mary Ellen (Johnson), Mahalia Elizabeth (Morris), John W., Clementine (Keisel), Evaline (Yates), Martha, Virginia (Lyons), and Georgia (Rocha).

Virginia Duck married Jim Lyons, who was the tax collector for many years. They were known as Aunk Dink and Uncle Jim. Judge W. J. Bowen, in performing their marriage, remarked that it was the first time he had changed a Duck to a Lyon. Mahalia Elizabeth Duck married Edward Morris in about 1873. Edward Morris is reported to have been a Civil War orphan and was raised by Captain Tom. Edward was born in 1851 and died in 1919. Born of this marriage were seven children: Evaline, who married Alexander Hamilton Camp, had four children: Walter, Martha Bell, Ruth (Dikes), and Marian (Kyle). John W. Morris married Maude Thomason and had four children: Evaline (Downs), John D., William D., and Harry H. Arthur D. Morris married Ruth Thomason and had Maurine. Eddie married Clarence Woodlee and had three children: Bobbie (Henry), Roger, and Edward. Marion Duck Morris married Marguerite Clark and had two children: Mildred (Smith) and Ed West. Marion Rachel Morris died at age twelve and Ada Pearl Morris died at age one.

Evaline Duck died in 1891 and her husband, G. W. M. Duck died in 1899. Edward Morris died in 1919 and his wife, Elizabeth died in 1927.

Submitted by William D. Morris, Great-grandson.

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