



History of The Moore-Hancock Farmstead, Austin, Texas

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Based on the application submitted by Karen S. and Michael B. Collins to the Texas Historical Commission and the National Register of Historic Places for historic landmark designation, 1992, with minimal revision and additions in 2025

INTRODUCTION

On January 6, 1989, my husband Mike and I purchased lots 15 and 16, block 32, Rosedale H Annex, Austin, Texas, on which stand the log house and outbuildings addressed as 4811 Sinclair Avenue. At that time, nobody knew when the house was built or by whom. I began research to answer that question at the same time that we began uncovering and restoring the log house.

A starting point was a list of owners of the tract of land on which the farmstead stood using deed records.

Thomas Jefferson Chambers received title to eight leagues (35,424 acres) from the government of Mexico in June, 1835. His title was certified by the Republic of Texas in 1838 and was filed in the General Land Office of the Republic by February, 1840.

George W. Spier received a certificate for a head right league of land (4,428 acres) from the Republic of Texas. He filed a survey for that land on February 24, 1838, and the title was issued by the General Land Office on March 21, 1841, even though this land was in the Chambers tract.

On February 24, 1838, George W. Spier gave a title bond (sold) to Gideon White 1237 acres out of Spier's head right league. On April 26, 1841, Spier's heirs filed a warranty deed to Gideon White for his 1237 acres.

On October 25, 1842, Gideon White died and his wife, Elizabeth White, inherited his property.

On October 15, 1846, Elizabeth White and other heirs of Gideon White deeded 521 acres of the original 1,237 acres to White's daughter, Elizabeth Ann Moore, wife of Martin Moore.

On April 10, 1866, Elizabeth Ann Moore sold the 521-acre tract inherited from her parents and containing the farmstead to John Hancock.

On July 19, 1893, John died and his wife, Susan E. Hancock, inherited his property.

On December 11, 1899, Susan E. Hancock sold 188.3 acres containing the farmstead to Franz Fiset.

On February 8, 1902, Franz Fiset sold 67.71 acres containing the farmstead to J.P. Wallis.

On February 7, 1946, J. P. Wallis sold 1.86 acres containing the farmstead to Hilliare F. Nitschke.

On August 30, 1952, Hilliare F. Nitschke sold lots 15 and 16, block 32, Rosedale H Annex, containing the farmstead to Harry G. Newton.

On August 25, 1953, Harry G. Newton conveyed title to lots 15 and 16 to T.E. Fisher of Calcasieu Lumber Company to satisfy mechanics' liens against the property.

On February 11, 1954, T.E. Fisher sold lots 15 and 16 to Alfred Cromeans.

On February 21, 1961, Alfred Cromeans sold Lots 15 and 16 to Mabel Ross Huggins.

On December 9, 1985, Mabel Ross Huggins died and grandchildren Raymond Boyd and Lillian Boyd Zurovetz inherited lots 16 and 15 respectively.

On January 6, 1989, Raymond Boyd and Lillian Boyd Zurovetz sold lots 16 and 15 to Michael B. And Karen S. Collins.

Land ownership, however, did not tell us when or by whom the farmstead buildings were constructed. I researched as thoroughly as possible every land owner to see who had the reason, resources, and opportunity to build this complex of farm buildings. Documents indicated that Elizabeth and Martin Moore built the farmstead about 1849.

In addition to historical research, we hired an historic architect, James Bigger, to help document architectural features. And we, along with numerous volunteers, put in over 8,000 man hours doing the archeology that Mike, a professional archeologist, felt necessary. Both the architectural study and the archeological evidence supported a construction date of 1849.

Following is documentation of the Farmstead's date and builders, 1849 by Elizabeth and Martin Moore, along with stories of the interesting characters leading up to its construction and of later use by the Moore and Hancock inhabitants.

The history of the Moore-Hancock Farmstead, 1827 to 1900, is a microcosm of the history of Texas, complete even with a famous gunfighter whose daughter produced the only living descendants of the original builders, Elizabeth and Martin Moore.

Chapter 1

THOMAS JEFFERSON CHAMBERS

The land on which the Sinclair Avenue log structures stand was part of Stephen F. Austin's "Little Colony." The Mexican government signed a contract with Austin in 1827 to introduce one hundred families into the area. The boundary between Austin's Little Colony and the grant to the north, later known as Robertson's Colony, was the watershed between the Colorado and Brazos rivers. This boundary followed a ridge which varied in distance northeast of the Colorado River from 8 miles to about 20 miles, and is today the line between Travis and Williamson counties. The Colorado River was the boundary between Austin's Little Colony and Milam's Colony to the west. (1)

For settlement of these families, Austin could receive “premium” lands-land for himself. For each 100 families settled, an empresario was entitled to slightly over five leagues of land for his own. Austin, however, assigned any premium lands due him in the Little Colony to his Secretary, Samuel M. Williams. (2)

But Stephen F. Austin had decided to purchase some of the land for himself. He planned to make his home in an eleven-league tract which he instructed Sam P. Browne to survey in the early 1830s. Austin was precise about the location of this tract. It was to be “located on the east side of [the] Colorado at the foot of the mountains above Tannehill.” (3) Tannehill’s land lay in present-day east Austin. S.F. Austin continued describing the tract he wanted reserved for himself: “...it was surveyed by S.P. Brown—has a good deal of rich land, and fine pasture for sheep and horses and is well watered with springs.” He wanted the tract to take in “500 varas at least above the big springs at the foot of the mountain.” Austin also wanted 1/4 league located on the west side of the Colorado River just opposite the big springs. “The 1/4 sitio at the falls is all high mountain— has some timber and plenty of rock, no land. But I want the falls for a very special object and therefore wish them to lie in the center of this tract on the river.” “I shall fix a place on the Colorado at foot of the mountains to live, and wish for those location my own use and not to sell.” (4)

Austin reminded Williams several times to be sure that the eleven-league area was secured. In December, 1835, Austin was under the impression that the eleven leagues had been secured in Williams’ name. Austin wrote to his brother-in-law, James F. Perry, on December 25, 1835, that he had instructed Williams “to transfer the eleven league tract of mine which is in his name to you or to me, or give some memorandum how that tract stands—it was selected by me on the east side of Colorado at the foot of the Mountains, surveyed by Sam P. Browne. All these matters should be settled or reduced to writing so as to be understood in case of death...” (5)

Something happened, however, and title to most of the land selected by Austin was issued by the Mexican government on June 30, 1835, to Thomas Jefferson Chambers. Chambers received eight leagues as partial payment for his services as Superior Judge of the State of Coahuila and Texas. Those eight leagues started at the Colorado River on the south, at Bull Creek on the west, and at Canadian Street [now R.T.Martinez Jr. Street] in Austin on the east and ran north to the Williamson County line, encompassing much of the future Austin. It included the falls at the foot of the mountain described by S. F. Austin and the land on which the Sinclair Avenue log structures stand. This was the first recorded title to the Moore-Hancock Farmstead land. (6)

Chambers and Austin were first friends, and later enemies. Chambers had been in and out of Texas since 1829. He was familiar with the area later to be Travis County partly through his surveying work and partly because of his legal defense of Sterling C. Robertson in Robertson’s dispute with Austin over the area north of the Little Colony. Chambers was licensed to practice law in Mexico. In his efforts to help Robertson, he made serious charges against Austin. (7) Then, in 1835, he laid claim to land which Austin wanted. It is unknown, however, if S. F. Austin or his agent, Samuel M. Williams, knew about Chambers eight-league claim. Austin died December 27, 1836.

After Texas won its independence from Mexico, the Republic set up a land office to confirm legal titles received from the Mexican government prior to 1836 and to issue new titles. The land office did not begin operation until February, 1838. Chambers’ title to the eight leagues covering Austin was certified in 1838 and filed in the General Land Office of the Republic of Texas by February, 1849. (8)

Meanwhile, the Republic of Texas processed titles to the same land in the names of others, among them George W. Spier. Though the surveys were filed in 1838 and 1839, actual titles were not issued in many cases for several years. By 1839, however, “It seems that the eight leagues claimed by Chambers had been almost covered by new surveys, either in ignorance of Chambers’ grant or in the belief that his claim was fraudulent.” (9)

There was ground for believing that Chambers’ claim to the eight leagues around Austin was not valid. Chambers became a naturalized citizen of Mexico in 1830, but he had been appointed Surveyor to the Secretary of the State of Coahuila and Texas in 1829. He received eleven leagues of land for his services. In 1834, he was appointed Attorney General for Coahuila and Texas. During the two months he held the position, he drew up a new judicial system for Texas which was accepted by the Mexican government. In it, he allowed the Superior Judge (himself) an annual salary of \$3,000 which in land he figured to be thirty square leagues (or 133,000 acres). Even though he never was able to organize the court system in Texas, he claimed a whole year’s salary. His total land claim, then, amounted to forty-one leagues when Mexican law forbade a Mexican citizen from owning more than eleven leagues. Yet, the Mexican government issued titles to all forty-one leagues to Chambers. (10)

In 1839, the Republic of Texas government condemned 5,004 acres for the capital city and paid the “second” title-holders, not Chambers, for the land. (11) In 1840, Chambers discovered the problem with his eight leagues in and around Austin but was too busy for a few years trying to stave off creditors to act. In 1850, however, he sued the owners whose lands were in the eight-league area he claimed, but outside the 5,004 acres condemned for the capital. In Chambers vs. Fisk, those landowners included Martin Moore and his three brothers-in-law, Josiah Fisk,

Enoch Johnson, and Edward Seiders, and John Hancock. The litigation continued in Travis County, and then in Williamson County, for seven years. In 1857, the district court ruled against Chambers. He appealed to the Texas Supreme Court which, in 1859, reversed and remanded the case for a new trial thus establishing the probable validity of Chamber's title. The case dragged on for 20 more years. (12) "Finally most of the settlers outside the town limits compromised with Chambers because they grew tired of the expense and annoyance of litigation." (13) That meant that they paid Chambers or his heirs again for the land which they had earlier purchased or been granted from the Republic of Texas or from previous owners.

Chambers' heirs petitioned the State for compensation for the 5,004 acres condemned for the capital. The State of Texas in 1925 finally paid Chambers' heirs \$20,000 for the land occupied by the capital. In all, conflicts stemming from Chambers' claim lasted 75 years. (14)

Martin Moore and his brothers- and sisters-in-law refused to settle with Chambers. In 1866, John Hancock bought the Moore tract; he also owned another 600 acres of the contested land which he had purchased from Rebecca Spier and Miriam Spier Scallorn. Several landowners, among them J.D. McGary, hired John Hancock, a lawyer specializing in land law, to represent them in the suit, Chambers vs. Fisk. But, in 1869, McGary claimed in a letter, John Hancock settled for himself alone with Chambers' heirs, leaving the other land owners to fend for themselves. (15)

Many landowners did settle with Chambers' heirs; numerous releases are recorded in the deed records of Travis County. There is no record in the deeds from Chambers heirs releasing Hancock's land. But there is a record of a sale of the land from Chambers' heirs to H.N. Duble, and from Duble to John Hancock. This second deed was not filed until after Hancock's death (1896). Because of the McGary letter and the Duble deed, it is clear that Hancock's claim was settled and the property which included the log house on Sinclair Avenue ceased to be in contention. (16)

Chambers was a very unpopular person in Austin because of this suit which clouded land titles for many years and hampered the settlement of Travis County. Chambers was disliked throughout the state as well as in Austin for his defense of Sterling Robertson against Stephen F. Austin in 1830. It did not surprise many when Chambers was mysteriously assassinated on March 15, 1865, at his home in Chambers County. (17)

Chapter II

GEORGE WASHINGTON SPIER

On February 24, 1838, George W. Spier filed with the Republic of Texas General Land Office a survey for his head right league of land. The tract he selected was in Travis County in the area claimed by Thomas Jefferson Chambers, and included the land where the log house on Sinclair Avenue is located. (18)

George W. Spier was in Texas in 1835 or earlier when Texas was still a part of Mexico. (19) His head right, issued by the Republic of Texas, apparently was not originally granted by the Mexican government though one deed made reference to a possible filing in Mina. (20)

George Spier served with the Federal Army of Texas under R.M. Coleman, Captain of the Mina Volunteers. (21) This unit was among those who advanced upon San Antonio in December, 1835, forcing Mexican commander, Martin Perfecto de Cos, to surrender on December 10. (22) Spier's army pay was audited at San Felipe in February, 1836, and he was paid \$20.66 for his 31-day service. (23)

Spier was in Fayette County when news of the fall of the Alamo arrived. He and most of the other residents fled east. When they were unable to cross the Colorado River, Spier volunteered to take a ferry boat to LaGrange so residents of Fayette County, who were fleeing the troops of Santa Anna, could cross. The group then went east to Washington County and stopped. When news of the Texas victory at San Jacinto reached Washington-on-the-Brazos, the party (probably still including Spier) returned to Fayette County. (24)

By October, 1836, Spier was well established in Fayette County. His plantation was on the road from San Felipe to Bastrop. In that 90-mile stretch, there were three postmasters. G.W. Spier was postmaster "at his plantation" in the stretch between Electra and Bastrop. As postmaster, Spier was required to keep his office open all day when the mail arrived (once every two weeks) and at other times to deliver mail on demand at reasonable hours. He also had to publish a list of unclaimed letters every three months and send those not claimed to the dead letter office. Every three months, he rendered his accounts and vouchers to the Postmaster General. Spier's house remained a post office until 1839. (25)

Spier was married to Rebecca Jane, Gilliam. He had been married previously and had at least one child, a daughter, Miriam. Rebecca was from South Carolina and born about 1793. It is unknown where George was born or his birthdate. (26)

George Spier's head right league was filed on February 24, 1838. (27) Starting that day and over the next ten months, Spier sold 1237 acres to Gideon White, 1107 acres to Norman Wood, and 1182 acres to Thomas or David Adam's. At his death, he had not sold quite all of the league. His widow, Rebecca, sold 256 acres to John Hancock, and his daughter Miriam's estate sold another 311 acres to John Hancock at auction for \$3.00 per acre in 1853. (28) Since Spier sold 1237 acres to White on the same day that he filed for title, it appears that Spier had no intention of living on that tract.

George Spier was an active citizen. He was a Justice of the Peace of the First Militia District of Bastrop County in April, 1837. (29) In 1837, Spier was a commissioner for the road on the west side of the Colorado River running from La Bahia crossing on the Colorado to Gazley Creek and thence to the Mina crossing on the Colorado. (30) Indians stole his wife's horse in 1837 (the last such recorded incident in Fayette County's history), and George registered a brand on 24 May 1837. (31) Spier was listed in the Fayette County tax rolls for 1837 and 1838. (32) The County of Fayette was created out of Bastrop County by the Congress of the Republic of Texas December 14, 1837. Congress established a Board of Land Commissioners, and George Spier was appointed or elected to that Board in 1838. Spier was also a juror on the first district court jury of Fayette County on October 22, 1838. (33)

Spier died on December 29, 1838. His estate consisted of: (34)

63 hogs value \$78

4 sows and 20 shoats value \$64

5 cows, calves, 2-year-olds value \$70

2 yoke oxen value \$110

mare and colt value \$75

1 rifle gun value 15

1 surveyors compass value \$40

2 silver watches value 40

Farming utensils value \$29.50

1 writing desk and pocketbook value \$4

1 saddle and 1 grindstone value \$12

1 log chain value \$4

1 due bill on James King 10 October 1828 value \$23.75

1 note on demand on Cyrus K. Gleason 19 Nov 1836 value \$40

1 due bill on Hill & Johnson 6 Sept 1835 value \$40

1 ten dollar bill on the Bank of W. States payable at Philadelphia, letter H, No. 135315 value \$10

1 note on W. Pinckney Hill due 25 Dec 1838 value \$100

1 title bond on Isaac Decker for 1/2 league, 22 June 1836

1 title bond on Oliver Buckman for 1/2 league, 2 Oct 1837

1 title bond on Norman Wood for 400 acres 10 July 1838

1 obligation on John ? For 1000 acres 7 June 1838

From other records, his estate included:

1476 acres value \$1000

400 acres value \$400

And in 1849 when his estate was finally closed, it also included:

1 negro girl, Mary value \$550

1 3-year note on Thomas Adams value \$309

1 note on Wm. Paris for 800 acres

1 note on Thomas Blair value \$40.95

George Spier's daughter, Miriam (born about 1818), married John Wesley Scallorn, a surveyor who came to Texas from Tennessee in 1835 with other members of his family. He was a San Jacinto veteran and received 960 acres of land for his military service. He married Miriam June 20, 1839. They had one child, George Wesley Scallorn (who had seven children). John was killed in the "Dawson Massacre" near San Antonio September 18, 1842. (35) Miriam married a second time January 22, 1846, in Fayette County to Thomas Jefferson Scallorn, Sr. (his second marriage also), first cousin to her first husband. They had two children, Elizabeth R. born 1846, and Tabitha A., born and died in 1850. Miriam also died in 1850. Miriam left a homestead of 200 acres out of the Harriet Cottle head right and one

negro girl, Mary. (36) Spier's widow, Rebecca, continued to live on her half of the 400-acre tract which had been her home before her husbands' death. She helped organize Fayette County's first baptist church in April, 1839. (37) After Miriam's death in 1850, she lived with Thomas J. Scallorn and her two step-grandchildren in Fayette County. (38) In 1860, she was living with the Drisdale family in Fayette County. (39) She died July 28, 1868, in Fayette County. (40)

In summary, George Spier was a hog farmer living in Fayette County who used his head right league in Travis County to raise some cash. The same day Spier filed for title, he sold a portion of his head right league to Gideon White. The evidence indicates that Spier made no improvements to his league, and when Gideon White purchased 1237 acres, there were no structures on that land.

Chapter III

GIDEON WHITE

In 1837, when Gideon White left Alabama for Texas, he was not a young man. He and his wife Elizabeth had at least five children: Cornelia Jane, Elizabeth Ann, Louisa Maria, Rebecca Caroline, and Narcissa Lucinda. The oldest was born in 1821 and the youngest in 1828.(41) The 45-year-old White was referred to as "Old Gideon White" by one early Texan who knew White in Bastrop County in 1838. (42)

Born August 2, 1793, in South Carolina, Gideon White emigrated from Dallas County in flat south-central Alabama probably to Brazoria County on the Texas coast. White returned to Alabama in January, 1838, to bring his family-a wife, five daughters, and eight slaves. (43) The 1830 census of Dallas County, Alabama, showed White owning eight slaves. By 1840, he owned eleven: one man, two women, and eight children. (44)

In Brazoria County, White knew Edward Seiders and may have engaged him as a partner or manager. When White arrived back in Texas in 1838, he may have landed at Harrisburg. (45) In 1838, the entire entourage, including Seiders, moved to Bastrop County. (46)

White immediately purchased a land certificate from Samuel W. Crawford for 1280 acres for \$175. The land was unlocated so White selected a tract in Bexar County. The next month, February, 1838, he purchased 1237 acres of land from George W. Spier of nearby Fayette County for \$1.00 per acre. This land was in present-day Travis County. Perhaps to raise money for this tract, White sold a bounty warrant for 320 unlocated acres to Ed Burleson a couple of weeks earlier for \$500. (47)

When Austin was selected as the new capital of the Republic, White must have been pleased with his choice of land. His 1237 acres would start at the northwest edge of the city of Austin's outlots and run north for several miles. His tract of land included some of the best water along Shoal Creek. In the southwest corner, he had the springs which later were named for his son-in-law, Edward Seiders. The bulk of his land was prairie but did include at least two groves of oak trees. Very little cedar grew on his land. (48)

The White family stayed in Bastrop County until mid-1839. When the government moved from Harrisburg to Austin in September, 1839, White helped haul the archives. White, then, moved his family to Austin in the summer or fall of 1839. Seiders very likely preceded White to Austin and established a grocery/liquor business in Austin while it was still known as Waterloo. (49)

White either hired someone to build, or he and Seiders and male slave, Sterling, built a log house on the west side of Shoal Creek near the springs (later called Seiders Springs) at the southern end of his tract. Frank Brown described White's house as a double pen log cabin with passage between and said it was built about 1839-1840. Terry G. Jordan, *Texas Log Buildings: A Folk Architecture* (University of Texas Press, Austin, 1978) documented professional migratory log structure builders in Texas, and it was possible that one of these built the house. There were also a number of carpenters and builders in Austin in 1839-1842, including Abner H. Cook (who built at least one log house and a log church), H.B. Hill, V. Henri h, J.G. Beaty, W. Haley, Thos. W. Ward, and Robert Linsey. (50) White's descendants do not know of any other structures built by White on the 1237 acres.

Land fraud was a serious problem in Texas in 1839 and the early 1840s. White's only title to his 1237 acres was a title bond from George W. Spier who died shortly after the transaction. Finally in March, 1841, the General Land Office issued Spier's estate a title to Spier's league, and, after a decree from the Fayette County Probate Court, Spier's estate made good the title bond. On April 26, 1841, White received title to the 1237 acres. (51)

In March, 1842, the Mexicans under Rafael Vasquez invaded Texas and captured San Antonio. Residents of Austin and vicinity (population then over 800) hurriedly left. Gideon White was one of only two dozen families in and around Austin who stayed. (52)

With so few settlers in the area, the Indians began more frequent raids to reclaim their hunting grounds. There were numerous deaths among the Austin settlers in 1842, including George Dolson and John Black near Barton Springs, and William Fox on Shoal Creek. The killings got closer to the White home in the late summer of 1842. Judge Jayne, living almost due east of White, was killed in his front yard and his son kidnapped. And also in late summer, two young men, Pyron and Donovan, traveling the road from Austin to Brushy Creek in a party of five (where present-day Burnet Road is located) were killed just northwest of the Lunatic Asylum (present-day Austin State Hospital) probably on White's property. White moved his family into town, perhaps living in a boarding house or in one of the many vacant buildings. (53)

White and Seiders, and possibly, Sterling would go out to his country land to look after things. The 1839 tax rolls show that White owned only three horses or mules (no cattle). The 1840 tax rolls show only two horses or mules (no cattle). By the fall of 1842, however, he owned a yoke of oxen, two horses, five cows and calves, three yearling cattle, and two pigs. (54)

On October 25, 1842, while on his land near Shoal Creek, Gideon White took his "fine large-bored gun" and left his house alone. He was killed by Indians near present-day 38th Street. The closest thing to an eyewitness account was written a few days later by Charles DeMorse, an editor and former resident who was visiting Austin at the time. "The day before we left Austin, Mr. Gideon White, well known in the region as a most valuable and worthy citizen, was killed within half a mile of his own house on Shoal Creek, by a party of about a dozen Indians. He probably fired his rifle as they bore down upon him, and then ran into a thicket where he was found in a few minutes after shot in several places. The report of the guns was heard by his family, and by a person passing, who carried the news to town. A party of citizens came out in time to see some of the Indians as they returned, but it was nearly dark and no pursuit could be made. The Indians were supposed to be Wacos, and left with such precipitation, that they did not scalp him. This was after the time appointed for the treaty at the Waco villages. Mr. White killed one of the Indians." (55)

In later years, the accounts of White's murder varied in many details. Some stories which found their way into print many years later reported that White was mounted, some that he was not. Some said he was scalped. Some said that he killed two Indians rather than one. Some stated that there were only three Indians that attacked him.

At his death, Gideon White's estate consisted of the following property as inventoried by W.W. Hornsby, A.F. Boyce, and Reuben Hornsby: (56)

- 1 negro man Sterling value \$700
- 2 negro women Maria and Eda value \$1000
- 1 negro boy Dick value \$325
- 1 negro boy Allen value \$300
- 1 negro boy Bob value \$300
- 1 negro girl Susan value \$300
- 1 negro girl Mary value \$200
- 1 negro boy Davy value \$200
- 1 negro boy Stephen value \$150
- 1 negro girl Emily value \$150
- 1 negro boy Zeno value \$100
- 1 wagon and harness value 150
- 1 block value \$60
- 1 log chain value \$6
- 3 shovel houghs value \$18
- 3 bull ? ploughs value \$18
- 1 shot gun value \$20
- 1 gauges value \$10
- 1 looking glass value \$5
- books and material value \$15
- 1 grindstone value \$4
- 1 steel mill value \$5
- 1237 acres at \$.50 per acre value \$618.50
- 4 feather beds value \$100
- 1 mattress value \$10

auger axes value \$110
 kitchen furniture value \$20
 loom value \$10
 8 chairs value \$8
 2 smoothing irons value \$3
 shovel and tongs value \$2.50
 2 spinning wheels value \$12
 coffee mill grater value \$2
 ? lamp value \$5
 plates and dishes value \$5
 2 side saddles value \$5
 1 table and 3 bedsteads value \$13
 2 trunks and 1 chest value \$5
 2 stone, 5 razors value \$5
 5 cows and calves value \$30
 3 yearlings value \$18
 1 yoke oxen value \$40
 1 horse value \$40
 1 mare value \$60
 2 sows value \$6
 1 large plough value \$6

Total Estate value \$5042.20

Widow Elizabeth began to settle her husband's estate in 1843. In his will, Gideon White gave one negro to each daughter. The rest of his estate went to his wife. But, he then stated, that when his wife should die, his estate should be equally divided among his five daughters. Either he or Elizabeth made a map of an equitable division of his 1237 acres. The two oldest daughters were to receive large tracts in the northern three-quarters of the 1237-acre tract. The three younger daughters were to receive much smaller tracts nearer town with water and/or improvements (at least one log house and possibly a cultivated and fenced area). (57)

By 1842, daughter Cornelia Jane was married to Enoch S. Johnson, a disinherited young man of good family North Carolina. In 1843, daughter Rebecca Caroline married James W. Thompson, son of W.W. Thompson, hotel owner and one of Stephen F. Austin's original colonists. In 1844, daughter Elizabeth Ann married Martin Moore from Ireland, Austin's first merchant. In March, 1846, daughter Louisa Maria married Edward Seiders from Maine who was recuperating from tuberculosis and was one of Austin's first grocers. (58)

In 1846, widow Elizabeth transferred title to the 1237 acres to her five daughters. Louisa Seiders got 52 1/4 acres; Narcissa White (whose guardian was Edward Seiders) got an adjoining 67 4/5 acres. These two tracts were in the southernmost part of the 1237-acre, had Shoal Creek crossing the southwest side, and had the outlots of Austin for an eastern boundary. Either Narcissa (unmarried at that time) or Louisa Seiders got the piece of property with the house. The Seiders family lived in the house until the 1870s. Caroline Thompson got 70 acres just north of her sisters' tracts with a short stretch of Shoal Creek on the west side. Elizabeth Moore and Cornelia Johnson (the two oldest daughters), each inherited 521 acres of land, less valuable because they were unimproved acres and farther from town at a time when Indians were still active in the area. Elizabeth's tract touched on Shoal Creek in the southwest corner. These transfers were made in return for a legal agreement signed by all five daughters and their husbands (or guardian, in Narcissa's case) that they each would pay Elizabeth \$20 per year and any additional amount needed for medical treatment for the rest of her life. (59)

In 1846, Edward Seiders had married the middle daughter, Louisa. She was 20 years old and he was 33. Louisa inherited 52 1/4 acres and slave, Sterling, in 1846. Louisa's sister, Caroline Thompson, inherited 70 acres in 1846 which she sold immediately to Thomas Osborne (the Thompson's went to California with James' father in 1849). (60) Seiders purchased that tract from Osborne in 1847. Edward was legal guardian for Narcissa, the youngest, until she married Josiah Fisk, a lawyer from New York, in 1848. In 1849, Seiders purchased the tract inherited by Narcissa. By 1850, Seiders owned 188 acres of the Gideon White tract. In that year, he moved from Austin to that land and lived until the 1870s in the log house built by Gideon White. (61)

It is not known if widow Elizabeth and her daughters lived in Austin after Gideon's death in 1842 or moved back out to the country. Indian raids continued for several years. For example, in June, 1843, a group of forty Indians came into Austin and killed William Bell and a young boy named Lockett and kidnapped two children along Waller Creek (just east of present-day I35). The Indians were pursued north for five or six miles passing near or through White's land. And in November, 1844, Indians kidnapped William (10) and Jane (12) Simpson on Shoal Creek. Jane was killed that

day near the future residence of George W. Davis (present-day Northwest Park and pool area which was northwest of and adjacent to White's land) but William was ransomed and returned to Austin in February, 1845. (62)

If the Whites stayed in Austin, there were numerous places they could have lived. Daughter Rebecca Caroline's husband, James Thompson, was the son of boarding house owner W.W. Thompson. There were plenty of vacant houses as well. Julia Lee Sinks noted: "The capital of the republic was desolate, vacant houses on all sides. People moved into whatever tenement they thought most conducive to safety or convenience." (63) It is unlikely that Caroline or Narcissa ever lived on their country tracts since they sold them soon after receiving them. The Johnsons and Moores did live on their country tracts certainly by the 1850s and possibly before. Louisa and Edward Seiders remained in town until 1850 when they, too, moved to the country to live in Gideon White's log house.

There is no evidence of any improvements made by Gideon White or any other person to the 521-acre tract of land inherited in 1846 by daughter, Elizabeth Moore.

Chapter IV

ELIZABETH AND MARTIN MOORE

Early in the Moore's ownership of this tract of land (1846-1866), many improvements were made including a residence and fencing. At the time, the Moores were a well-known family in the town. Both had been in Austin while the log government buildings were being built for the government of the new Republic of Texas. They were among the very earliest pioneers of Austin.

Martin Moore (middle initial possibly M or A) was born in Ireland about 1816. (64) He arrived in the Republic of Texas in May, 1838, with the intention of settling permanently in Texas. Within one month, he had purchased 767 acres, and also was granted 320 acres by the Republic (the amount usually granted to a single male or a man who is married but without his family) in Washington County on March 14, 1839. (65) He may have been in LaGrange, Fayette County, between May, 1838, and October, 1839. (66)

In 1839, Austin was selected as the new capital of the Republic of Texas. In Austin, lots were sold in August and government officials arrived in October. Noah Smithwick was in early Austin and noted the "firsts." Jacob Harrell and Richard Bullock had the first hotels, and "the first two men to venture into the mercantile line were Martin Moore and Blessin [sic], both Irish." (67) The Republic of Texas Army Quartermaster purchased goods from Martin Moore as an individual and from Moore & Blessing in 1839 during Austin's first few months of existence. (68)

Moore & Blessing were also in the food business. In the first issue of the first newspaper published in Austin in November, 1839, was the following advertisement: "Moore & Blessing's Fancy and Plain Bread, Biscuit, and Pies Bakery, Congress Avenue, Austin." (69) They supplied wine as well: in June, 1840, the County Commissioners reimbursed Moore & Blessing \$15.00 "for sundry eatables" with \$2.00 for wine. (70)

Moore's partner, Henry Blessing, arrived in Texas on September 6, 1838, on the steam packet, Columbia. (71) He was 23 years old and listed himself as a merchant. In November, 1838, Blessing purchased a lot "with buildings" in the town of Washington for \$1000. Word was received the next April that Austin was to be the new capital, and in May, Blessing sold his lot and buildings for \$1280. Like Moore, Blessing had also received 320 acres from the Republic in Washington County on March 14, 1839. (72) Blessing and Moore were the same age, both were Irish, and they were both in Washington County at the same time. They may have met in Washington County before coming to Austin in 1839 or they may have met earlier, but they were in business together by October, 1839, in Austin.

It is likely that Moore & Blessing operated their business from a tent for the first year or more. Most businesses in Austin in 1839 and 1840 began in tents, even restaurants and hotels. By January, 1840, Austin had nine stores, nine drinking houses, six gambling houses, and six inns in addition to government buildings and private residences. (73)

In addition to general merchandise, groceries, and bakery goods, they also operated a money lending business under the name Blessing and Moore for a short time. The partners failed to pay their 1840 taxes on time and were cited as delinquent in June, 1841. (74) But, on the whole, the partners must have prospered.

In the four to six years of their partnership, Moore & Blessing patented and purchased 1,800 acres fourteen miles northeast of Austin, five town lots, and three outlots: lots 3 and 4, block 59 (southwest corner of East 6th and Neches), lots 3 and 4, block 68 (north side, second block of East 6th), lot 5, block 19 (200 block west side of Congress Avenue), outlot 77, Division D (40 acres), and outlots 3 and 4, Division O (10 acres each). (75)

They built a structure for their store operations and living quarters on the two lots in block 68, then Pecan Street and now East Sixth Street. An early resident recalled: "Some of the business houses on Pecan Street were those of Martin Moore, M. Ziller, F. Dieterich, and others." (76)

In the early 1840s, Moore & Blessing sold such items as:

- muslin-\$.37 per yd.
- osnaburg-\$.31 per yd.
- matches-\$.25 per box
- flax thread-\$3.00 per lb.
- glue-\$4.00 per lb.
- sad irons-\$.96 each
- nails-\$.25 per lb.
- black ink-\$.50 each
- oil-\$7.50 per gallon
- lathe nails-\$1.50 per lb
- window glass-\$50.00 per box
- manila rope-\$2.50 per lb.
- soap-\$.50 per bar
- callemel-\$8.00 per lb.
- coffee-\$.20 per lb.
- cornmeal-\$1.00 per bushel
- brooms-\$6.00 each
- braburg-\$.31 per yd.
- water buckets-\$1.00 each
- pen knives-\$3.00 each
- tape-\$.25 per bunch
- brogans-\$10.00 each pair
- paint brushes-\$1.00
- tumblers-\$.50 each
- candles-\$1.00 per lb.
- sperm candles-\$1.00 per lb.
- butcher knives-\$4.00 each
- bed cord-\$2.50 per lb
- horse shoe nails-\$4.00 per lb.
- tobacco-\$.66 per plug
- sugar-\$.17 per lb.
- flour-\$.08 1/2 per lb.
- bacon-\$.12 per lb.
- selleruter-\$.50 per lb.
- patent thread to make cartridges-\$3.00 per lb.
- Dr. Thrushton's Fever Pills, 25 to the box-\$.25 per box

This list of goods was compiled from invoices in the Texas State Archives of various branches of the Republic government (executive, treasury, land office, comptroller, senate, house, quartermaster, war, navy, and Indian affairs) as well as from records of the county government and district court, all of which purchased goods from Moore & Blessing. (77)

Moore & Blessing also sold supplies to the Santa Fe Expedition: (78)

- pen knives
- brogans
- rope
- irons
- horse shoes and nails
- butcher knives for "presents to the Tonkaways"

Members of the expedition began congregating around Austin in 1841. One of the encampments was at White's spring, and the ladies of Austin visited this encampment. This place probably was the springs on Shoal Creek owned then by Gideon White and later called Seiders Springs. (79) The Santa Fe Expedition left Austin in June, 1841, and was captured by Mexican troops. Most of the members of the expedition were imprisoned and not released until April, 1842. (80)

In February of 1842, President Sam Houston, expecting trouble from Mexican troops, began urging that government records be removed from Austin. The Congress did not act on his suggestion. For temporary safety, the chief clerk of the state department buried the archives under the post office. (81)

On March 5, Mexican commander Rafael Vasquez invaded Texas and occupied San Antonio. The shocked population of Austin and vicinity (about 800) fled east. Only about two dozen families, among them Gideon White's northwest of town, and 35 single men, including Martin Moore in town, remained (another account says 35 men and 8 or 10 women were left in Austin). The number of enslaved people is unknown but White alone had 8 to 11. One of the single men was George M. Dolson who, with Charles King, operated a business on Congress Avenue. (82) On the next day, Martin Moore joined Captain Dolson's company of Travis County Minute Men. (83) Dolson and his company were "one of the first to repair to San Antonio when it was captured by the Mexicans in March...and brought back to Austin the first intelligence of its fall." (84) Moore served with Dolson for six weeks, receiving payment for "services on the Vasquez Campaign in 1842" at the rate of \$22.50 per month. (85)

Because of the invasion, the capital was moved from Austin first to Houston in September, 1842, and later to Washington-on-the-Brazos. The capital did not return to Austin until July, 1845. (86) Moore stayed in Austin through those bad times, 1842-1845, while most residents, including Moore's major competitors, Francis Dieterich and Lamar Moore, stayed away from Austin. (87) Those who remained were counting on the capital returning to Austin, but this was far from a sure thing. William Bollaert, a visitor to Austin in 1843, wrote: "...few houses appeared inhabited and many falling to decay." "The President's house looked gloomy, the streets filled with grass and weeds... Alas! Poor Austin, thy seven hills are nearly deserted, exposed to the marauding of the Comanches..." (88)

During those bad years, records show that Moore served on a grand jury in the spring of 1843, and also in April he registered a brand with the county clerk for Moore & Blessing: MB. (89) He apparently amused himself playing cards. In the fall of 1842, the district criminal court indicted Martin Moore and Henry Blessing for "unlawfully playing at cards." The case was dismissed in the spring of 1844. But that spring, Moore again was indicted for "permitting cards to be played in his house" and also for playing cards himself (this indicates that Moore had a house by 1843). Also in 1844, Moore was involved in an "affray" (fight) but no details are extant. (90)

At the end of 1842, President Houston, rather than return the government to Austin, instead sent for the government archives, which included the Land Office records. Citizens of Austin forcibly prevented their removal because it was felt that the capital would have to return to Austin if the archives were retained. Thomas W. Ward, Commissioner of the General Land Office, also stayed in Austin. Martin Moore and John Grumbles were selected by Austin citizens to talk to Ward about returning the documents to him if he promised in writing that the papers would not be removed from Austin. They may have also asked him to re-open the Land Office in Austin. In March, Moore and Grumbles reported that Ward refused to talk to them, calling them ruffians. But, something happened because by the end of the year, Ward, also an Irishman like Moore, had reopened the land office in Austin. He operated without the benefit of the rest of the government (including the treasurer) and thus had to charge his supplies. Moore & Blessing carried Ward and the Land Office on their account books for an entire year, January 1 to December 31, 1844, before receiving payment. (91)

Moore's partner, Henry Blessing, was in Austin part of the bad years, but apparently was in Washington by 1844. Francis Dieterich, a competitor of Moore & Blessing, followed the government to Washington where he opened a store in 1842. In March, 1844, Dieterich was in partnership with Blessing. (92)

Before he married, Moore had purchased at least 767 acres in Washington County, 1920 acres in Bexar County, plus half of the 1800 acres and 8 town lots owned by Moore & Blessing in Austin. He also owned another 320 acres in Washington County and ten horses. His business again was delinquent. 1844 taxes, but Moore & Blessing had \$1000 worth of merchandise at that time. (93)

On December 20, 1844, Martin Moore was married to Elizabeth Ann White, 22-year-old daughter of Gideon White (deceased) and Elizabeth White. They were married in Elizabeth's home by James M. Long, Chief Justice, Travis County. This was the 33rd recorded marriage in Travis County. (94)

Six weeks after his marriage, Moore received title to 6,400 acres of land in Fannin County at \$2.00 per acre from the Republic of Texas. (95) He sold 4,800 acres to Henry Blessing for \$5000 and the remaining 1600 acres to Henry Sampson of Harris County for \$1600. (96)

Moore purchased and sold numerous tracts of land over the next 15 years, probably with a profit in most deals. For example, on August 12, 1845, he filed purchase of a land certificate for 1/3 league of land in Harris County for \$40. Three days later, he sold it for \$60. (97) Moore was not shy about suing to collect debts. From 1841 to 1855, Moore

sued at least seven times to collect a debt and won every suit. (98) Among those he sued were Tom Ward and Michael Ziller.

Moore was also the defendant in several cases, some civil and some criminal. Thomas Ward (possibly the Mayor at that time) sued Moore twice in 1845, and later Moore was sued by Michael Ziller, G. Harrison, and others. The Republic of Texas indicted him for retailing merchandise and liquor without the proper licenses and for an "affray" in which he was involved. (99)

Even though Elizabeth Moore's father had died in 1842, his wife had been unable to settle his estate because of the chaotic situation in Austin. Most of the population had deserted the place and legal requirement for giving notice to creditors was nearly impossible. It was not until 1846 that Elizabeth Ann Moore received legal title to the 521 acres from her parents' holdings. She did, however, bring separate property to the marriage in addition to the land.

The tax rolls of 1845 show Martin Moore to own: (100)

5858 acres of land (this figure probably included the Travis, Bexar, and Fannin counties land) worth \$2929-Elizabeth would not have received title to her 521 acres at this time

8 town lots (this included Moore & Blessing property in which he owned a half interest)

2 negroes under 10 years and 1 negro over 10 (one or all of these slaves were inherited by Elizabeth)

1 gold watch (Elizabeth had a gold watch as her separate property)

By 1846, Gideon White's estate had been settled and , jointly, Elizabeth and Martin held legal title to substantial taxable property: (101)

500 acres worth \$500 originally patented by George Spier (this would be the land Elizabeth inherited from her father's estate and which was transferred to her officially in 1846)

5 negroes worth \$1100 (three were slave children inherited by Elizabeth and two belonged to Martin)

4 horses worth \$120

200 cattle worth \$120 (this is the first year Moore owned cattle)

1 watch worth \$60 (probably Elizabeth's)

1280 acres worth \$640 originally patented by C. Parrish

320 acres worth \$160 originally patented by L. Werten

738 acres worth \$369 originally patented by Moore & Blessing

Outside Travis County, Moore owned

3200 acres in Fannin County and 1920 acres in Bexar County.

Also in the tax rolls, the partnership of Moore & Blessing owned:

lots 3 and 4, block 68, worth \$1000 (this is where their store and living quarters were located)

lots 3 and 4, block 59, worth \$200

lot 77, Division D, worth \$40

lot 5, block 19, worth \$40

lots 3 and 4, Division O, worth \$160

In the spring of 1845 and again in the fall of 1848, Texas filed charges against Moore & Blessing and Martin Moore, individually, for selling liquor and merchandise without the proper licenses. (102) Moore's partnership with Blessing broke up by 1844, and by 1846, Henry Blessing (and wife, Susan Tetar) was a resident of Comal County and had sold his half share in their joint property to Martin Moore (lots 3 and 4, block 68, for \$1000). (103)

Martin Moore paid taxes on 4 horses worth \$155, 150 cattle worth \$524, . and merchandise worth \$2000 in addition to land and town lots in 1847. He also changed his brand to remove Blessing's initial. This new brand, registered on May 16, 1848, was a cursive lazy M. In June, 1848, Martin and Elizabeth actually filed the deed dated 1846 giving them title to the 521-acre tract she had inherited, but they were keeping livestock and paying taxes on that tract by 1846. (104)

Moore advertised his cattle business instead of his mercantile business from 1846 to 1849. (105) In 1849, Moore again advertised as a merchant in the newspaper with new partner, Captain D.C. Cady. That year, 1849, was the only year in which the partnership Moore & Cady paid taxes; their merchandise was worth \$5000. In October, 1849, Moore & Cady were trying to collect on their accounts. On February 16, 1850, in the Texas State Gazette appeared the following classified ad: "Gabriel's Trumpet! Last Call! The undersigned would, in the most delicate manner possible,

inform those indebted to them that after the 15th of March next, their accounts will be left with a person who is paid for collecting. Moore & Cady." Cady went to California, not to return until 1853. Though Moore and Cady were apparently still technically partners in 1854, the partnership had problems. In the mid-1850s, Moore received "counsel and advice" from Edward R. Peck "in the matter of copartnership heretofore existing between Moore and Cady." (106) In the 1850 census, Moore is listed as a merchant worth \$8000, a fairly wealthy man in those times. (107)

Over one third and maybe close to one half of the heads of households in Austin owned slaves at this time. On Dec. 15, 1846 the Moores sold Negro children Mary age 8 and Ujena aged about 2, "slaves for life", for \$550 [\$22,000 in 2025] to Sarah Lee, wife of Joseph Lee of Austin. These are the enslaved children inherited from Elizabeth's mother earlier in 1846. They likely were the children of White's adult slave Eda who was given to Elizabeth Moore's sister, Narcissa Fisk, by their mother Elizabeth White. (108)

On October 18, 1847, Martin alone sold a woman named Larrey age 24, her child Mary age 2 1/2, and her infant for \$675 [\$27,000 in 2025] to Salina Ann Conner of Austin. There is no record of when or how they became his property. He could have received them as payment for goods or obtained them by an unrecorded sale. He imported goods from Galveston, Houston, and New Orleans for his store and could have purchased them (or maybe just Larrey) in one of these places. He owned Larrey for at least a year or maybe two according to tax records and sold her and her two children soon after she had a baby. (109)

On October 5, 1849, they sold Allen age 13 "slave for life" for \$500 [\$20,000] to A. B. Hemphill of Fayette County. Elizabeth had inherited Allen from her father's estate, and he had been with them for several years. Likely his mother was Eda or Maria. (110)

After placing an ad in the Austin newspaper seeking to buy a house servant, on November 14, 1849, Elizabeth bought Harriet age 21 "slave for life" for \$600 [\$24,000 in 2025] from Mary Ann Wallace. Harriet had previously been owned by John Craft. (111)

Beginning in 1846, Martin began advertising cattle for sale. He owned 200 head by then. Martin may have rented or otherwise obtained the labor of enslaved persons, possibly including Renty, to tend his cattle. But by 1853-54 Martin was listed as Renty's owner. Renty (Reno, Renta) Lott was born ca. 1830 in Florida Territory and arrived in Travis County in 1842 as an enslaved twelve year old. No bill of sale or gift for Renty is known but he appears as Moore's taxable "property" worth \$1,000 in 1854 (\$37,000 today). Martin had about 45 horses and 200 head of cattle so Renty likely was a cowboy and horse wrangler. (112)

By 1848-49, the Moore family was in the process of moving from town to the tract of land inherited by Elizabeth. The following paragraphs give ample evidence of the change. Perhaps the most telling evidence is the very large increase in the tax value of the 521 acres. In 1849, the tax rolls valued that land at \$1.00 an acre, the value placed on the land when White purchased it in 1838. For eleven years, the value had not changed. In 1850, that land had quadrupled in value to \$4.00 per acre. At the same time, neighboring sister-in-law Cornelia White Johnson's 521 inherited acres increased from \$2.77 to \$4.88 per acre (they had made improvements to their land before the Moores improved theirs). But W.D. Parris land just west of the Moores stayed at \$1.00 per acre. (113)

There is also substantial evidence that the Moores were no longer living in either of the two houses in town which they owned. In 1851, the district court paid \$12 to Martin Moore for the use of a house for a district courtroom during the fall term. In 1853, Moore leased a house with back room and stables for a year to H.L. Upshur for an office. In July, 1853, Moore rented a house to John Costley (clerk of the district court) for \$10 per month. This house was on lot 3, block 68 (beside or part of the store building). Costley rented the house until October, 1855. And at the time of his death, rent payments were due to Moore. (114)

In November, 1852, Moore placed the following ad in an Austin newspaper: "For Sale or Rent. A small farm, adjoining the City of Austin, having 10 acres enclosed by a good fence, with comfortable buildings, and ten acres of rich prairie land adjoining." This 20-acre farm would be lots 3 and 4, Division O, just east of present-day I35, south of the State Cemetery. In the ad, Moore gave his address as "Martin Moore, 4 miles north of Austin." Even using today's roadways, the log house is almost exactly 4 miles from the intersection of Congress and 6th, the center of town in 1850. (115)

All during the 1850s, the Moores are listed as residents of the area along the Upper Georgetown Road (present-day Burnet Road). That road had been in use since before 1842 when two young men, Pyron and Donovan, were killed by Indians just north of the Lunatic Asylum. By 1848, the Travis County Commissioners had appointed Enoch S. Johnson, Moore's brother-in-law, overseer on that road (the Johnsons had moved from Bastrop in 1848 and were living on and making improvements to their land next door to the Moores). In 1853, the Upper Georgetown Road was declared a First Class road and qualified for compulsory labor for its upkeep. Each year, beginning in 1853, the

county commissioners' court appointed an overseer of the road and listed "the hands living" along the road who were required to work on the road. Precinct One of the Upper Georgetown Road (from the limits of Austin to Walnut Creek) was to be worked by: Enoch Johnson (overseer), Martin Moore, Lacy McKinzie, Daniel McKinzie, Wm. Allison, William Robertson, and Mr. Saunders and son in 1853. From 1853 through 1858, Martin Moore was named. After 1859, his widow, Elizabeth, was named until 1863 when the court stopped listing those who lived along the road. (116)

There are other indications that the Moores were concentrating their resources and attention on the 521-acre tract inherited by Elizabeth. Elizabeth's acreage was mainly prairie and had very little access to water. The purchase of 18 8/10 acres in 1854 from neighbor, John Hancock, would have given the Moores better access to water. But in addition to water, the Moores needed building materials. As commonly happened, owners of land in and near Austin purchased small tracts in the hills for building material and firewood. In September, 1848, Moore purchased 25 acres of cedar land from Josiah Fisk, his brother-in-law. The log house and barn on Sinclair Avenue were built entirely of cedar logs. In 1853, he purchased another 75 acres of cedar land from Fisk likely for fencing and other construction. (117)

In 1858, Martin Moore and a neighbor, Dr. C.W. Philips, had a dispute about the boundary between their two tracts of land. They filed an agreement in the Travis County Courthouse in which they both recognized "the northeast corner of the said Philips land now established by setting a large rock in the corner of the said Moore's fence at a point about 250 or 300 yards S 70 to 80 degrees W of the said Moore's residence." The rock had a P carved on the west side and an M on the east side. The property line followed Moore's cedar fence and Philips' stone fence south. Working backwards from land plats using these figures placed the location of this residence approximately where the Sinclair Avenue log house stands today. (118)

Armed with the evidence that the Moore's residence in 1858 was the log house and that the tax rolls showed improvements in the acreage in 1849, the most likely single year for construction of the farmstead was 1849. Architectural evidence also points to a construction date of 1850 plus or minus five years. Historic architect Bigger found shingles on a portion of the log house roof which dated to approximately 1870. And those shingles were nailed to replacement lath as well as to original lath. Given a 20-year life for a wood shingle roof, the original lath would date to approximately 1850.

There was also abundant archeological evidence of a mid-century occupation by a middle to upper class family. Republic of Texas military uniforms could have belonged to Moore. A large variety of shell, bone, and china buttons and sewing paraphernalia may reflect Elizabeth's access to their mercantile inventory. A piece of a child's school writing slate had the names "Kathryn," "Kate," "James," and "Bessie." Martin and (Bessie?) Elizabeth's oldest child, born in 1846, was named Kathryn but called Kate, and their second oldest was named James. Pieces of china, parts of gold watch chains and fobs, fragments of china dolls, and numerous marbles and beads indicate a family with children lived here.

The Moores were fairly wealthy people engaged in stock raising and farming during the 1850s. Martin Moore was a member of the Odd Fellows, Milam Lodge No. 23 and occasionally served as an officer. The IOOF met every Tuesday evening. (119) Martin Moore was Catholic, a good enough Catholic that his children were baptized by a priest and his wife converted to Catholicism in 1856. There is a good possibility that Moore helped build the first Catholic Church in Austin, a stone building called St. Patrick's, constructed in 1852 at Brazos and Ninth. (120)

Even as a rancher and farmer, Moore continued to be active in town for the first half of the decade of the 1850s. Two entirely separate sources have connected Martin Moore with construction of the 1853 Capitol building. The evidence is sparse but there is a good probability that Martin Moore took up the contract for the foundation of the 1853 Capitol. Work was begun on March 6 and by the first of summer, he had dug ten feet into the ground, laid the foundation rock, and grouted the stones for the 140' x 90' building. For his work, \$4,500 was paid. A report in the Austin newspaper in July, 1852, said there was "admiration and unqualified approval...in regard to the style and finish of the foundation of the new Capitol." Other contractors, Charles McGehee, A.E. Moore (of Bastrop), Abner Cook, and John Brandon, had the contracts to build the three-story structure and finish the inside. (121)

Life in the country was not without its headaches. In 1855, drought set in. In 1856 and again the next year, there was almost complete failure of crops. The winter of 1856-1857 was so severe that thousands of cattle died and orchards were killed. Grasshoppers ate what few plants managed to germinate. But the Moores fared exceptionally well. In 1855, the Moores had 30 horses and 60 cattle, in 1856 they had 30 horses and 70 cattle. In 1857, when so many cattle died, the Moores increased their herds to 36 horses and 80 cattle. (122)

In addition to nature's vagaries, human desires also caused Moore some problems. In 1850, Thomas Jefferson Chambers got around to suing 46 landowners in the area he claimed had been granted to him by Mexico in 1835.

The suit was in progress in the courts all of the 1850s. Lawyers (John Hancock among them) were hired to defend the Moores and others. This suit placed the Moores' title to Elizabeth's inherited land in question. (123) In 1854, another suit was filed against Moore and many others by Elias M. Smith which placed Moore's title to his town property in question as well. Smith claimed to hold title to most of Austin by a transfer from the heirs of Samuel Goucher. This suit, like many others, may have been filed more to obtain compromises from timid settlers than with the expectation of winning. Nevertheless, owners, like Moore, had to hire lawyers to defend them. This suit, like the Chambers suit, dragged on for many years, first in Austin and later in New Orleans. Moore was among those who refused to settle. (124)

And just before his death, Martin Moore was sued yet again. In 1859, George Hancock brought suit against Moore who, he said, "with force and arms and with strong hand entered...and took possession" of the tract of land just to the east of the Moores' farm. This land had belonged to Cornelia and Enoch Johnson (the Moore's relatives) until 1858 when the Johnsons sold most of it to Abner Cook who two days later sold it to Hancock. (125)

In December, 1859, Martin Moore attended the Odd Fellows meeting in Austin and, when returning home, had a terrible accident. Reported by the Southern Intelligencer (Austin, Texas), 4 Jan. 1860: "Died At his residence, three miles from Austin, on the 17th inst [December] Martin Moore. Mr. Moore was one of the first settlers in this city. He left Austin on Tuesday evening on a young horse, carrying a gun and other articles, when, about half way home it appears that his horse took fright and threw him- his foot hanging in the stirrup until he was dragged some distance, when the stirrup leather broke. He was found speechless on Wednesday morning, and lingered until Saturday night about 12 o'clock. He leaves a wife and five children to mourn his loss." He was 43 years old.

Martin Moore's estate was inventoried and appraised by Edward Seiders (his brother-in-law), James O. Doxey and James Lensing (both long-time neighbors). (126)

The estate included the following community property:

- 1280 acres in Hays Co. value \$640
- 640 acres in Burnet Co. value \$320
- 640 acres in San Patricio Co. value \$320
- 100 acres in Travis Co. value \$200
- 640 acres in Burnet Co. value \$320
- 18 8/10 acres in Travis Co. value \$376
- 1/2 lot 77, Division D (20 acres) in Austin value \$800
- 1/2 lots 3 and 4, block 68 with improvements value \$1200
- lot 5, block 68, unimproved in Austin value \$600
- 1 ox wagon value \$100
- 1 horse wagon value \$75
- 1 carriage value \$75
- 5 yoke of oxen value \$225
- 5 3-year old steers in Lampasas Co. value \$50
- 95 head of stock cattle in Lampasas value \$712
- 35 head of stock cattle in Travis Co. value \$225
- 55 head of stock horses and mates value \$2475
- 21 head of stock hogs value \$15
- 1 negro man named Renty, age 30 value \$1400
- household and kitchen furniture value \$150
- farming utensils value \$50
- 3 guns value \$30

List of debts owed to Moore:

- Mr. Hannig account for house rent value \$24.41
- Mr. Chisum note for balance of house rent value \$7.25
- Mr. Summers account for rent value \$12.50
- Sinnet Mussett note due 1857 value \$41.20
- Josiah Fisk note due 1856 value \$27.05
- Samuel & Masson note due 1859 value \$500

Samuel & Mosson note due 1859 (the appraisers stated the last two notes were probably uncollectable. This apparently was the sale of 1920 acres in Fannin County originally granted to Hoefler which had a problem in the title.) value \$500

Separate property of Martin Moore:

- 1/2 lots 3 and 4, block 68 in Austin value \$1200

1/2 outlot 77, Division D in Austin value \$800

Separate property of Elizabeth Moore:

521 acres in Travis Co. value \$8336

1 negro woman Harriet, 32 years value \$1000

1 gold watch and chain value \$50

At his death, his and Elizabeth's community assets amounted to \$13,400 (over half a million dollars today). Plus Elizabeth's separate property, mainly her inherited land with their farmstead, was valued at another \$10,000. They both were considered fairly wealthy.

In March, 1860, three months after Martin's death, widow Elizabeth Moore sold 1/4 of outlot 77 to Albert G. Buddington, a butcher from New York, for \$800 and the remainder in 1865 and 1868, to Buddington for \$900. (127) But Elizabeth apparently was not in Travis County during the summer of 1860 because Martin does not appear in the mortality schedule nor Elizabeth in the household enumeration of the 1860 federal census taken in July, 1860. She may have been away for a period of mourning but she soon returned. When daughter, Kate, married 20-year-old English-born Ben Thompson of Austin, in 1863, Kate was said to be "a most estimable lady, the daughter of Mr. Martin Moore, a well-to-do farmer, who resided near the city." (128) Martin, of course, was dead when Kate married. With this wedding, Elizabeth Moore became the mother-in-law of a gunfighter who had already killed two men and who reportedly was to kill more than 30 in his lifetime.

Elizabeth stayed in her log home probably through the Civil War and then moved into town. She sold her homestead with house and outbuildings to neighbor Judge John Hancock possibly as part of an agreement for him to defend her new son-in-law on murder charges. Her son-in-law, Ben Thompson, was tried for the murder of John Coombs in 1865 and found not guilty. (129)

Widow Elizabeth increased the horse herd to over 70 and kept more than 100 head of cattle until well after the Civil War. After selling her farmstead, she pastured her horse herd in Austin on land she owned where William Saunders lived. She judiciously sold livestock and land over the years to support her family. (130)

Martin and Elizabeth had five children: 1) Kathryn (Catherine) "Kate" L., born in 1846, married to Ben Thompson November 26, 1863; five children, Ben Thompson, Jr., and Kate F. who lived to adulthood (though Ben Jr. died about 23 unmarried), and three who died very young, Mary Elizabeth, William J., and Augusta Lorraine; 2) James G., born about 1848, resided in Austin, unmarried, died a pauper in 1905; 3) Louisa, born in 1853, probably not married, died in 1871 in Galveston, no children; 4) Mary "Mollie", born in 1855, married Henry D. Conner in 1873, died in Austin in 1887, no children; and 5) Sarah "Sallie" born in 1859, married first to James K. Farrell in 1873, remarried to Fred R. Arlitt, lived in Travis County in 1894, no children. Elizabeth herself died at age 51. (131) Out of five children, only Elizabeth and Martin's daughter Kate and her husband, Ben Thompson, produced a grandchild. That single grandchild had only one child whose three daughters insured that there were living descendants of the builders of the Moore-Hancock Farmstead.

Chapter V

JUDGE JOHN HANCOCK

Unlike Martin Moore, who has been largely unknown in Austin's history, John Hancock's contributions have been well-known though not unanimously admired. Hancock was a lawyer, a state district judge, a state legislator and a U.S. Congressman, but he was also a Unionist and had to flee Texas in fear of his life during the Civil War. The years before and during the Hancock family's ownership of the farmstead also adds a complex chapter to the African American history of Austin because many of Hancock's enslaved people were his kin. Three or four of his slaves were his sons and others his half siblings.

John Hancock was born in Jackson County, Alabama (northeast corner of the state) on October 24, 1824, one of the youngest of 10 living children of John Allen and Sarah Ryan Hancock, both from Virginia. He attended East Tennessee University and then studied law in Winchester, Tennessee. He was admitted to the Alabama bar in 1846. He came to Texas in 1847 following six other siblings including his three older brothers, Lewis Swanson, William Ryan, and George Duncan. He soon began practicing law with partner Andrew J. Hamilton in Austin. (132)

John's older brother, George D., had come to Texas in 1835 and was a veteran of the Battle of San Jacinto. He opened a mercantile business in LaGrange, then Bastrop, and finally in Austin in 1845. Hancock's other siblings settled near Onion Creek south of Austin. (133)

When Hancock settled in Austin in 1847, his appraised worth for tax purposes was \$530: one negro value \$500 and a watch value \$30. In 1849 he also owned a horse and some books. He boarded at Swisher Hotel. (134) In 1851, Hancock began acquiring many tracts of land, including two in the Spier league next door to Elizabeth and Martin Moore. From 1852 to 1860, John Hancock bought, or received as payment for attorney's fees, twenty-two tracts totaling about 6700 acres. (135)

In 1851, when John was 26 years old, he was appointed judge of the Texas Second Judicial District Court. From 1852 on, he was referred to as Judge John Hancock. (136) A district judge had a grueling schedule. Twice a year, Hancock held court in seven different counties. The spring term began the first Monday of March and the fall term the first Monday of September. The first four weeks of each term were spent in Travis County. Then Hancock traveled to Hayes County (one week), Guadalupe County (one week), Caldwell County (one week), Fayette County (two weeks), Bastrop County (two weeks), and Burnet County (one week). He then had a three month break before the next term began. Hancock was paid \$437.50 for each three-month session as a district judge. (137)

In 1852, bachelor Judge John agreed to raise the two youngest orphaned sons of his brother. They came with seven slaves willed to them by their father. The Judge had just purchased good farmland next door to the Moores. So he ordered built a headquarters log house for his use and small houses for the slaves. He also brought an overseer from Alabama to live on his Spier headquarters tract and oversee the work of his slaves as they cleared land and planted crops. By 1853, Hancock's total worth for tax purposes was \$13,490, making him a wealthy man. He owned in Travis County 430 acres of Spier league land, 1280 acres on Walnut Creek, 575 acres southeast of town plus three town lots. He also owned four horses, and three yoke of oxen to help clear land and plant. (138)

1855 brought major changes to Judge John's life. He resigned his judgeship and married Susan Elizabeth Richardson (granddaughter of Asa Brigham). He also had two children: a mulatto son, Hugh, with enslaved Eliza, and in a couple of months, a white son, Edwin, with wife Susan. Then when his father died intestate late that year, he went to his former home in Alabama to get nine family slaves (three young men, two young women, two older women, and two little children) and brought them to his headquarters. By this time, five small houses had been built behind a comfortable log house used by Judge John when he spent time on his farm. (139)

He concentrated on his law practice and ran unsuccessfully for Congress while still expanding his farm operation. In 1860, Hancock was elected Representative from Travis County to the Texas legislature on the Union ticket. He believed that seceding from the Union was not a good option for slave-holding states and attempted to find a compromise. But a realistic appraisal of the state of the country led Hancock to send his two young mulatto sons and their mother to the safety of Oberlin, Ohio, thus freeing them. (140)

A special convention of 174 delegates sanctioned by the legislature to vote on secession assembled in Austin in January, 1861. Only eight of the 174 delegates voted against secession. Texas withdrew from the United States and joined the Confederate States of America. Each member was required to take an oath of allegiance to the Confederate government, and when Hancock refused, he was expelled from the Texas Legislature. (140)

When Ft. Sumter was fired upon and the war began, Judge John's two nephews he was raising joined the Union Cavalry to fight against their neighbors. From April 1861 to April, 1864, Judge John was able to remain in the south as a non-combatant. During that time, it was said that "he declared his Union sentiments to anyone desiring to employ him as an attorney, thus allowing the visitor the privilege of withdrawing his request for Hancock's services." (141) During the war, Hancock "practiced in the State courts but refused to conduct any legal business in the Confederate courts, or in any way recognize their validity or constitutionality." (142) Meanwhile his law partner, Charles S. West, had entered the Confederate Army in 1862 and rose to judge-advocate of the Trans-Mississippi Department. (143)

In 1864, Hancock defended four men arrested because they were Unionists and secured their release. (144) This case drew attention to him, and even though Hancock had been granted an exemption from military service in the Confederacy by Colonel John S. Ford, he became nervous. Apparently, he was being threatened with compulsory military service in the Confederacy from another source. Hancock asked to be allowed to accompany Col. Ford to Mexico for safe passage. Ford refused safe passage, but allowed him to go at his own risk. (145)

On April 20, 1864, Hancock left Austin and his wife and small son, Edwin, and headed for Mexico. From there he traveled to New Orleans which was held by Union forces. In his exile, he worried about his family. When the rebels refused to negotiate a peace, Hancock believed that only an invasion of Texas would stop the war and he was active in recruiting a Cavalry company to go to Texas. In his diary, he wrote "...it seems the sword alone must settle this great calamity." (146)

On April 10, 1865, news reached New Orleans of significant Union victories and an imminent end to the war. Hancock was called upon in June, 1865, by envoys from the Governor of Texas, F.R. Lubbock, and Confederate General J.B. McGruder, to arrange terms of surrendering the Confederate Army of Texas. He and fellow exile (and Austin neighbor) Dr. W.C. Philips, returned to Austin in time to greet the Union-acceptable provisional Governor of Texas, Andrew J. Hamilton, who had been Hancock's very first law partner back in 1847. (147)

One of the major issues of the war was slavery which the South tried to protect by withdrawing from the Union. Hancock returned to find his 26 now freed slaves facing an uncertain future. According to recent DNA results and family stories, most of his slaves were Judge John's blood kin. Among his slaves were his mulatto son, Orange, born in 1837, his half brothers, Payton, Rubin, and likely Salem, and numerous other half siblings and half cousins, most if not all born on a Hancock plantation in Alabama or Texas and most fathered by a white Hancock. After learning of their freedom on June 19, 1865, some, like son Orange, went to the nearby Holman farm and got his wife and children, who had been owned by another man, and brought them to his cabin on the Judge's land. Others, like half-brother Rubin, probably moved in with his wife's recently freed family. Some like probable half-sister Jemima, who married Wash Corzine, moved away. Family stories among descendants of some of these former slaves agreed that Judge John had helped them begin their free lives by providing paid work and temporary housing and possibly more. (148)

In 1866, Judge John purchased the 530 acre neighboring farm from widow Elizabeth Moore which had a large log house and numerous other buildings. Son Orange and his family and probably others lived in this house for up to four years. It was only a five minute walk from the Hancock headquarters and slave houses where they had lived in the 1850s and 1860s during slavery. The Judge hired freed slaves by the month, paying them to continue doing what they had done as enslaved people, which allowed them to accumulate savings. They worked clearing land, planting and harvesting crops (including wheat, rye, oats, barley, and cotton), and tending livestock (including horses, mules, oxen, cattle, 18 milk cows, and 100 sheep). (149)

Upon his return to Austin in 1865, Hancock and West resumed their law practice with the same feelings of friendship and respect they had enjoyed before the war. Hancock claimed "When the war was over, I knew no feeling of enmity or unkindness towards any one on account of differences on the question of secession." (150) His two nephews, William and James, whom he had raised and who joined a Union cavalry, resumed friendship with the neighboring Davis boys who had fought on the Confederate side. But many Austinites were not so forgiving. (151)

In January, 1866, delegates were elected by the people to a convention to rewrite the Texas Constitution so that it would conform to the requirements necessary for Texas to be readmitted to the Union. Among the most prominent delegates was John Hancock "always a staunch [sic] opponent of secession, but now inclined to a moderate policy." (152)

The first skirmish between Unionists (radicals) and secessionists (conservatives) occurred immediately. Conservatives objected to the convention having to take the constitutional oath. Hancock offered the first of several clever compromises when the differences threatened to disrupt proceedings. (153) The Convention eventually wrote amendments to the constitution. John Hancock was the leader of a delegation of four Texans that traveled to Washington to successfully present Texas' bid to President Andrew Johnson for reentry into the Union. (154) An election was then held for governor and state legislators, and in August, the new legislature began work.

It's first job was to select two United States senators, and among the top four candidates was a willing John Hancock. (155) The legislature, however, had a majority of secessionist conservatives, and even though Hancock had proved himself a moderate unionist, he was not selected. (156) Instead, the legislature selected two uncompromising secessionists, neither of whom could take the test oath or iron clad oath which was required of all officials of the United States: "I, (A. B.), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I have never voluntarily borne arms against the United States since I have been a citizen thereof; that I have voluntarily given no aid, countenance, counsel, or encouragement to persons engaged in armed hostility thereto:..." (157) Flake's Bulletin (Galveston) expressed the opinion that Hancock's defeat was because he COULD take the test oath, and added "It is clear that the legislature does not want its Senators admitted..." to the United States Senate. (158)

As predicted, Congress refused to seat the Texas delegation. Furthermore, the Texas legislature rejected the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which guaranteed ex-slaves extended civil rights. (159) Texas had lost its chance to be readmitted into the Union under the reconstruction plan offered by President Johnson. As it happened, it did not matter, for Congress, objecting to the "soft" handling of the defeated states by the President, took over reconstruction. Beginning in 1867, Texas and the other Confederate states entered a seven-year period of turmoil under congressional reconstruction, felt by many to purge and punish.

In 1868, a new constitutional convention met and wrote amendments acceptable to a now radical U.S. Congress (Hancock was not among them). Instead of a freely elected government or even martial rule, Texas in reality was governed by appointees of the radical governor, E.J. Davis. This intensified distress from disastrous crops and falling land values; taxes were increased; and finally in 1871, the first mass resistance to the "carpetbaggers" began. (160)

In the late 1860s, Hancock had declined to run for Congress though he was petitioned. Instead he concentrated on his personal affairs. By 1870, Hancock appeared to be a wealthy man. He spent about \$28,000 buying town lots, including widow Elizabeth Moore's three lots in block 68. He also made substantial improvements to his Spier headquarters holdings. He tore down his original log home in the oak grove built about 1853 and built a large two-story home. A lane ran from Burnet Road west to the entrance with an arch displaying the name "The Oaks." Five small slave or tenant cabins stood to the north (behind) the main house served by a haul road from Burnet Road. The original kitchen was a separate building which was also to the north. A rock spring house was on the west side of the house. A long stone watering trough and fish pond stood in the yard under the trees. Across the front of the house was a porch and in front, a circular drive. The house was probably built by George Fiegel, contractor. To the west was the barn and stable area. (161)

In 1870, there were ten people living in the main house. In addition to John, his wife, and son, were nephew William L. and wife Eudocia, James Doughtry (56-year old Alabama former overseer), John and Sarah Alford (servants from Ireland), and two black youths, James Cook and John ?. The tenant houses (most or all log) on the farm housed farm workers. The first listed in the census held the black families of George Dickerson and George Goodron. In the second house lived two black families which may have been former slaves of Elizabeth Moore (Ujena and Mary and mother Eda/Ida). In the third lived a 50-year-old black woman from Alabama with two children. In the fourth house were the Jesse Holman family, in-laws of Judge John's mulatto son, Orange. In the next two houses were two Mexican families named Martinez. And in one more house was the black family of James Hill. (162)

Hancock accepted the nomination for the 1870 election as the Democratic candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives. He was elected and traveled to Washington D.C. in time for the beginning of the session. (163) Hancock apparently served the state of Texas adequately, and was re-elected in 1872. In 1873 a new election in Texas according to the new constitution was held and radical governor, E.J. Davis, lost. He refused to turn over the government to duly elected officials, appealing instead to President U.S. Grant to keep him in office by force if necessary. At this time, John Hancock and Clinton Giddings, Texas Congressmen in Washington, persuaded Grant not to sustain Davis by force. Confederate Colonel John S. Ford later counseled "The people of Texas should not forget the noble and necessary labors of those gentlemen, performed in one of the most important crises which has marked the history of the State." (164)

Hancock served as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for three terms, March, 1871, to March 3, 1877, when he failed to be renominated by the Democratic Party in Texas. (165) In 1871, Hancock had been the only Unionist during the war who became a member of the congressional delegation after Texas was admitted to representation. He was in Congress long enough to be in a strong position to defend Texas' interests, a political consideration which should have carried weight. But, in 1876, there was a resurgence of open bitterness against those who had not supported the Confederacy, and the party did not renominate Hancock for Congress. (166) This action was noted in the North as evidence of Texas' stubborn attachment to the same principles which brought on the war.

Hancock, when asked about other political aspirations, replied: "No, sir, my political career in Texas is ended. I know the consequences of my Unionism." (167) During the time in which Hancock had been in Washington (he was gone four or five months at a time), his farm and stock raising operations were handled by his nephews, William and James, whom he had raised "...almost as sons to me." (168) They also started a dairy on the Moore land in response to a demand for butter which far surpassed the supply in the early 1870s. In 1880, James and his wife and children may even have occupied the large log house, now the Moore-Hancock Farmstead, which was the only house on the dairy tract. Both William and James were ostracized because of their Union military service. (169)

John Hancock was an avid farmer all his life. He experimented with crops, stock, and farming methods. The Hancocks were among the first to grow wheat- first at brother William Hancock's on Onion Creek in the 1840s and later at John's farm. In 1872, he was producing wheat, barley, and red oats. He also grew sweet potatoes which most farmers did not. In 1861, Hancock had started raising sheep. His flock increased from 150 to 500 by 1866. In 1867, he sold all his sheep and soon began raising mules. His mule herd increased from 20 in 1871 to 68 by 1893. (170)

Hancock also raised and trained race horses. Surprisingly, he allowed his dairy wagon drivers to use his race horses to pull the brightly colored milk wagon. Hancock had his own jockey and used to hold horse races on his farm where betting was allowed. He frequently sent his horses to England by ship to compete. Hancock was on the Board of Directors and served as President of the Capitol Jockey Club in the 1870s. (171)

In 1880, Hancock's nephew and manager, James, received a shipment of twenty carp because John had heard they were very good-tasting and would "improve" the nation's fauna. Hancock had a spring near his house on Hancock Branch, and this may have become his carp pond. By 1884, reports began to reach Washington about how bad the fish tasted. And in 1885, the Texas legislature abolished the fish Commission which had been in charge of breeding and distributing carp in Texas. (172)

Hancock, always ready to try new things, also imported a bird which he had heard would rid his cotton crop of boll weevils. The birds arrived in little white boxes from England probably in the 1870s. The birds were released, but later it was learned that they did nothing to improve the boll weevil problem. But English sparrows thrived here displacing native birds. (173) Hancock was one of the first to try Capt. Tevis' self-adjusting windmill in 1879. (174)

In other aspects of his life, John Hancock was equally forward-looking. In 1852, he was one of four commissioners chosen for Travis County to look into the feasibility of steam boat navigation. And in December, 1852, he and two others were selected by the Austin Masonic Lodge to petition the legislature for a charter for Austin Masonic High School. (175)

Beginning in 1852, Hancock became involved in railroads. He was appointed by the legislature to the Provisional Railroad Association to work for a railroad line between Austin and the coast. In 1854, he was one of a group of seventeen men who successfully bid to build a railroad through Texas. The plan was to construct the Mississippi and Pacific Railroad from Texas' eastern boundary to El Paso. The State would pay a bonus of 10,240 acres of land per mile of constructed track. The group deposited \$300,000 in stocks as security. The deal fell through, however, when the Governor declared the value of the stocks to be less than \$300,000. (176)

Hancock retained his interest in railroads, however. In 1869, he started lobbying for railroad subsidies in an effort to get a railroad into Austin. The legislature had provided for land grants to railroads to encourage building track in Texas (16 sections per mile of track), but Hancock believed a subsidy was called for of \$20,000 per mile of track in addition to the land grant. Hancock and others planned to delay the militia bill, a favorite of radical Governor E.J. Davis, in the hopes that they could force passage of the subsidy bill. At one point, only one more vote was needed and Hancock was accused of offering a bribe of \$3000 to a Senator for his vote. The Senator attempted to trap Hancock and his two partners, but Hancock dropped the proposition. After a quorum-breaking incident resulting in the arrest of 13 senators, the affair was investigated but no action was taken against Hancock or any others. (177)

Hancock was also active in trying to get a dam built across the Colorado River in Austin. (The first dam was built in 1860 to operate a mill just below Austin but washed out.) In 1873, a charter was granted to John Hancock and others to erect a dam across the Colorado River. The charter elapsed and the dam was not built. A dam was finally built without Hancock's help in 1893. (178)

In 1874, John Hancock and nine others bought 250 acres for \$25,000 and offered part of the land for a fairground in a lease or purchase arrangement. In 1875, Hancock and ten others formed the Capital Fair Association which bought 85 acres for a fairgrounds. The Association created \$17,000 of shares in the Fair Association. Hancock served as a director for several years, the board usually meeting in his law office. As late as 1885, Hancock was active in the fair, serving as the superintendent of the speed ring in that year. (179)

In 1881, Hancock was drafted to help locate the University of Texas at Austin. He made speeches favoring the site of Austin, and his efforts (plus an ingenious wording of the ballot by A.P. Wooldridge and support by others) helped Austin win the main university over Tyler, Houston, and Galveston. The medical branch, however, went to Galveston. (180)

As a judge, Hancock had been prompt and dignified, instituting time saving measures and tightening up procedures. Twelve of his decisions were appealed to the Texas Supreme Court; of those, eight were reversed and remanded, four were affirmed. As a congressman, Hancock was not an accomplished speaker, but he was deliberate and thorough. Among his accomplishments in the United States Congress was the changing of the policy of the government toward allowing Indians to leave reservations at will. In the 1870s, Texas complained of raids and murders committed by Indians newly confined to reservations primarily in Oklahoma where they were protected from Texans' attempts to punish or control them. The change in policy championed by Hancock restricted hunting trips and stopped those raids into Texas. Hancock also was working to stop depredations on the southern border with Mexico. He was one of a delegation which presented information to the President about the problem. For his constituents, he was diligent about sending copies of important speeches and news to various newspapers, and he was responsible for having the Texas Military Institute in Austin designated an official recipient for government documents. (181)

Hancock was retired from political life from 1877 to 1883. He concentrated on farming (he had 900 acres under cultivation), practicing law, and constructing buildings in downtown Austin. (182) In 1883, Hancock formed a partnership with N.G. Shelley which lasted until John's death. Also in 1883, John was elected again to the U.S. House of Representatives for a two-year term. (183) His term ended in March, 1885, and he returned to Austin. By 1891, Hancock was completely disabled by a brain disease. His financial affairs were in such disarray that his son, Edwin, petitioned the court for, and was awarded guardianship of, his father. While Edwin paid bills and tried to figure a way to reduce the debts, nephew William managed the dairy and rest of the farm. John required a live-in nurse and expenses were heavy. John Hancock died July 19, 1893, at his home, The Oaks. He was 69 years old. (184)

Though John's son Edwin Brigham married and had three children, the line stopped with Edwin's grandchildren. John Hancock had no known white descendants but through his mulatto sons, Orange, Hugh Berry, and possibly Isaac, he had hundreds of black descendants. The Hancock Neighborhood, Recreation Center and Golf course were named for John's nephew, Lewis, who became mayor of Austin. Other than Hancock Drive, the only landmark still bearing Judge John's name is the Moore-Hancock Farmstead.

Chapter VI

AFTER HANCOCK

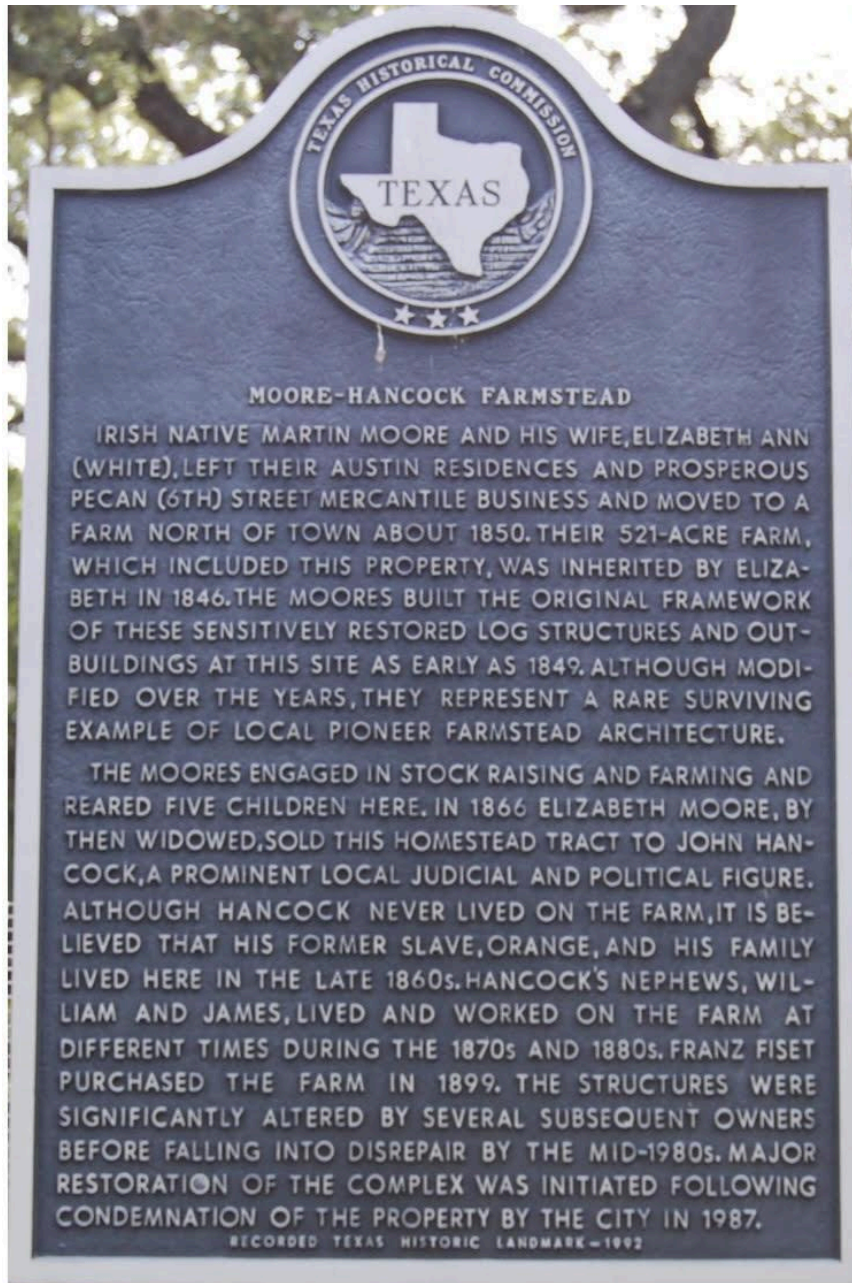
Lawyer Franz Fiset, brother of Edwin Hancock's wife, Marie, handled the Hancock guardianship and probate in 1891-1893. He bought some of the Hancock holdings in northwest Austin including The Oaks house and dairy tract in 1899. Fiset rented the dairy tract to the Carl Peterson family, 1899-1901. He then sold the southern part to the Petersons in 1901 and the northern 67.7 acres, with the old log house in 1902 to John P. P. Wallis, an English immigrant. John and wife, Hulda from Sweden, operated a dairy here for many years. In 1910, they hired Will Peterson, a carpenter and neighbor, and Colorado Lumber Company to enclose the log walls of the house, both inside and outside. From that time forward, no logs could be seen in the house until 1989. The Wallises had no water in the kitchen, no cook stove, no electricity and no toilet until 1947. But they did have a telephone.

The next owner, Hilliare F. Nitschke, platted the Rosedale Subdivision in the 1930s in such a way that the back of the house faced a new street, Sinclair Avenue, and the front faced the backyards of new houses built on Ramsey Avenue. Effectively the back of the house had to become the front. The little log barn and rock summer kitchen with root cellar and well then appeared to sit in the front yard.

In 1952, Dr. Harry G. Newton purchased lots 15 and 16, block 68, where the log house, barn and summer kitchen were located. He hired Calcasieu Lumber Company to add rooms to make the log house and barn into a three-family rental unit. Around the ruins of the rock kitchen he moved in parts of two other houses and created a 3-bedroom rental house. Both structures were covered with asbestos tile siding.

After Newton defaulted on payment and after a brief ownership by T. E. Fisher of Calcasieu Lumber Company, the two lots were purchased by the Alf Cromeans family in 1954. In 1961, Cromeans sold to Mabel Ross Huggins. Her grandchildren sold the two lots with three structures to Karen and Mike Collins, January 6, 1989.

Four times, lucky events kept the log house and outbuildings from disappearing. When James and William Hancock started a dairy and used the house for its headquarters, it added another 30 years to its life. Then in 1910 the professional and total covering of the log walls by the Wallises gave the house a 40-year lease on life as a modern-looking structure. By 1952, when it was seriously dilapidated, an eccentric who loved old things, Dr. Harry Newton, saved it by making it into valuable rental property. And finally, in 1989, after the city condemned the house, Karen and Mike Collins, at the right time of life, happened to spot it, and the restored house became their home for 35 more years. After nearly two centuries, it is the last log house on its original site in Austin.



FOOTNOTES

- (1) Eugene C. Barker, *The Life of Stephen F. Austin, Founder of Texas, 1793-1836* (Texas State Historical Society, Austin, 1944), 125-126; Jerry Sadler, *History of Texas Land* (General Land Office, Austin, 1964), 9; Frank Brown, *Annals of Travis County and the City of Austin* (Typescript, Austin History Center, n.d.), Appendix: 67
- (2) S.F. Austin to S.M. Williams, April 4, 1830, *The Austin Papers*, edited by Eugene C. Barker, *Annual Report of the American Historical Association* (U.S. Government Printing Office, 1928), II: 357.
- (3) S.F. Austin to J.F. Perry, April 20, 1833, *The Austin Papers*, II: 956-957.
- (4) S.F. Austin to S.M. Williams, May 8, 1832, *The Austin Papers*, II: 770-771.
- (5) S.F. Austin to S.M. Williams, May 31, 1833, *The Austin Papers*, II: 983; S.F. Austin to J.F. Perry, December 25, 1835, *The Austin Papers*, October 1834-January 1837, edited by Eugene C. Barker (University of Texas Press, Austin, n.d.), III: 295.
- (6) Travis County, Texas, *Deed Records*, C: 419.
- (7) Barker, *Life of Austin*, 315-316.
- (8) Sadler, *History of Texas Land*, 9; Llerena B. Friend, *The Life of Thomas Jefferson Chambers* (MA thesis, University of Texas, 1928), 114-119; Travis County, *Deed Records*, C: 419; B: 173.
- (9) Brown, *Annals*, 13: 33-37; Friend, *Life of Chambers*, 105.
- (10) Friend, *Life of Chambers*, 11-50; James M. Day, "The Diary of Major General Thomas Jefferson Chambers," *Texas Military History*, 4: 224. There is a theory that T.J. Chambers' uncle, Talbot Chambers, Commissioner of Coahuila and Texas (according to Frank Brown) may have helped his nephew get illegal title to the eight leagues.
- (11) Brown, *Annals*, 4:49.
- (12) Friend, *Life of Chambers*, 114-120; Texas District Court (Travis County), *Civil Minutes* B: 272; C: 149, 183; E: 725; *Opinion of the Supreme Court of Texas*, Austin, October 1858, No. 1333, *Chambers vs. Fisk*, Appeal from Williamson County (Civilian Book Press, Galveston, 1859).
- (13) Friend, *Life of Chambers*, 120.
- (14) Travis County, *Deed Records*, 374: 204.
- (15) J.D. McGary to Captain T. Chubb, February 1, 1869 (Pease Papers, Austin History Center). In this letter, McGary explains that Hancock was supposed to be representing the landowners but since he had settled for himself, McGary was writing to Chubb (part of the Chambers' family) to "compromise our part in this suit."
- (16) Travis County, *Deed Records*, S: 290-294; 104: 241.
- (17) Friend, *Life of Chambers*, 176.
- (18) Texas General Land Office, Abstract 697, File #61, George W. Spear, Bastrop County, I: 136.
- (19) Republic of Texas, *Audited Military Claims* (Texas State Archives, Austin), 304-170.
- (20) Travis County, *Deed Records*, A: 4; Virginia A. Taylor, reprint of *Index to Spanish and Mexican Land Grants in Texas from The Spanish Archives of the General Land Office of Texas* (Lone Star Press, Austin, 1955), contains no grant to G.W. Spier though there is one to his relative Abner B. Spear (page 243).
- (21) *Audited Military Claims*, 304-170.
- (22) Texas State Historical Association, *The Handbook of Texas* (Austin, 1952), I: 371.
- (23) *Audited Military Claims*, 304-170.

- (24) Julia Lee Sinks, *Chronicles of Fayette* (LaGrange Bicentennial Commission, LaGrange, 1975), 50.
- (25) Telegram and Texas Register, October 18, 1836, report by J.R. Jones, Postmaster General; Ala May Newell, *The Postal System of the Republic of Texas* (MA thesis, St. Mary's University, San Antonio, 1940), 64-65; Post Office Papers of the Republic of Texas, 1836-1839, edited by James M. Day (Texas State Library, Austin, 1967), 37, 90; Post Office Papers 1839-1840 (Texas State Library, Austin, 1967), 69.
- (26) Biographical Files, Fayette Public Library, LaGrange, Scallorn Family, Spier Family; U.S. Federal Census, Fayette County, Texas, 1850 (Microfilm, Texas State Archives).
- (27) Texas General Land Office, Abstract 697, File #61, George W. Spear, I: 136.
- (28) Travis County, Deed Records, A: 4, 336; D: 151; I: 200; 105: 247.
- (29) Bill Moore, *Bastrop County, 1691-1900* (Norte Press, Wichita Falls, 1977), 58.
- (30) Kenneth Kesselus, *History of Bastrop County, Texas, Before Statehood* (Jenkins Publishing Co., Austin, 1987), 186-187; Bastrop County Commissioners Court Records (Bastrop County Courthouse); Telegraph and Texas Register, December 16, 1837.
- (31) Sinks, *Chronicles*, 42; Bastrop County, Mark and Brand Book, May 24, 1837.
- (32) Fayette County, Tax Rolls (microfilm, Texas State Archives), 1837, 1838.
- (33) Sinks, *Chronicles*, 58.
- (34) Fayette County, Probate Records, A: 35, Inventory; Fayette County, Tax Rolls, 1840; Travis County, Deed Records, 313: 90-93.
- (35) Biographical Files, Fayette Public Library, Scallorn Family.
- (36) Ibid.
- (37) L.R. Weyland and H. Wade, *An Early History of Fayette County* (LaGrange Journal, LaGrange, 1936), 221.
- (38) Census, Fayette County, 1850
- (39) Census, Fayette County, 1860
- (40) Biographical Files, Fayette Public Library, Spier Family.
- (41) Sharon Johnson, Gideon White (Typescript, Texas State Library, Genealogy Family Files); Myrtle Seiders Cuthbertson, *The Seiders Family* (Typescript in Cuthbertson's possession).
- (42) John Holland Jenkins, *Recollections of Early Texas* (University of Texas Press, Austin, 1958), 56, 163.
- (43) Grave Marker of Gideon White, Oakwood Cemetery, Austin; Travis County, Probate Records, #166.
- (44) Census, Dallas County, Alabama, 1830; Bastrop County, Tax Rolls, 1840.
- (45) Cuthbertson, *The Seiders Family*; Bastrop County, Deed Records, C: 94, says "Gideon White of Harrisburg County."
- (46) Cuthbertson, *The Seiders Family*; Jenkins, *Recollections*, 269; Brown, *Annals*, 9: 14.
- (47) Bastrop County, Deed Records, C: 94, 459; B: 69.
- (48) Travis County, Deed Records, B: 330, 332; C: 113, 344; Brown, *Annals*, 10:33.
- (49) Jenkins, *Recollections*, 56; O.H. Williams Papers, Biographical Notebook (Typescript, Austin History Center.), 234.

(50) Cuthbertson, The Seiders Family; Austin Bulletin, December 10, 1841.

(51) Handbook of Texas, II: 22, 834; T.R. Fehrenbach, Lone Star: A History of Texas and the Texans (Collier Books, New York, 1980), 282-283; 261; Bastrop County, Deed Records, C: 459-460; Travis County, Deed Records, A: 336-338; 105: 247.

(52) Brown, Annals, 9: 4-7; Austin Daily Democratic Statesman, August 4, 1875; Fehrenbach, Lone Star, 261; Handbook of Texas, II: 834.

(53) Julia Lee Sinks, Reminiscences; Early Days in Texas (Typescript, Barker Texas History Center, University Of Texas, Austin), 5, 38-39; Jenkins, Recollections, 163; Austin Record, January 21, 1870; Brown, Annals, 9: 29-36; New Orleans Picayune, October 3, 1842: Brown, Annals, 10: 32-34 has the wrong date for the Pyron and Donovan killings.

(54) Bastrop County, Tax Rolls, 1839, 1840; Travis County, Tax Rolls, 1840; Travis County, Probate Records, #166, inventory."

(55) Jenkins, Recollections, 163; Clarksville Northern Standard, December 3, 1842.

(56) Travis County, Probate Records, 166, inventory.

(57) Austin City Gazette, June 24, 1843; Travis County, Probate Records, 166, will, unfiled partition map.

(58) Travis County, Marriage Records, I: 48, 17, 51, 39.

(59) Travis County, Deed Records, B: 311, 330, 332; C: 113, 344.

Travis County, Deed Records, do not have the original deed to Caroline Thompson. The deed to Osborne is recorded in B: 424; Johnson, Gideon White; Austin Daily Democratic Statesman, March 19, 1882; Brown, Annals, 13: 57.

(61) Cuthbertson, The Seiders Family; Travis County, Marriage Records, I: 39; E.M. Pease Papers (Austin History Center), 422: 11, 19; History of Texas together with a Biographical History of Milam, Williamson, Bastrop, Travis, Lee, and Burleson Counties (Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago, 1893), 308; Travis County, Deed Records, D: 31, 633.

(62) John Henry Brown, Indian Wars and Pioneers of Texas (L.E. Daniell, Publisher, Austin, n.d.), 102; Clarksville Northern Standard, March 2, 1843, August 27, 1842; Texas Indian Papers, 1844-1845, edited by Dorman H. Winfrey (Austin, Texas State Library, 1960), 144, 191-192; Brown, Annals, 10: 46-49.

(63) Sinks, Reminiscences, 100.

(64) Census, Travis County, 1850; Texas Second District Court (Travis County), Civil Minutes, A: 53 gives Moore a middle initial M. However, records of the Oakwood Cemetery in Austin gave him a middle initial A.

(65) Gifford White, 1840 Citizens of Texas, I, Land Grants (Ingmire Publications, St. Louis, Missouri, 1983), 179; Washington County, Deed Records, B: 353.

(66) Cuthbertson, The Seiders Family.

(67) Noah Smithwick, The Evolution of a State (Gammell Bookbinders, Austin, 1900), 262.

(68) Index to Payments Made by Wm. Cooke, Quartermaster Genl., 1839 (Texas State Archives, 401-1131).

(69) Austin City Gazette, November 13, 1839. The advertisement carried a date at the bottom which referred to the time the ad was placed. The date on this ad was October 29, 1839.

(70) Travis County Commissioners' Court, Minutes, A: 18.

(71) Republic of Texas, Customs House Records, Passenger Lists (Texas State Archives, 4-26/66, folders 4 and 7).

(72) White, 1840 Citizens, 23; Washington County, Deed Records, C: 168, 169, 177, 474.

- (73) Brown, *Annals*, 6: 14; John E. Weems, *Dream of Empire* (Simon and Shuster, New York, 1971), 168; Dora Dieterich Bonham, *Merchant to the Republic* (Naylor Co., San Antonio, 1958), 94.
- (74) *Austin City Gazette*, June 9, 1841.
- (75) Travis County, Deed Records, A: 237; B: 18, 19, 59, 189; Travis County, Tax Rolls, 1841-1846.
- (76) *Austin Record*, January 14, 1870 (Typescript, Austin History Center).
- (77) Republic of Texas, Audited Civil Service Claims (Texas State Archives, 304-3 and -22); Republic of Texas, Audited Military Claims, 304-103 and -152; Texas Indian Papers, 1844-1845, 278.
- (78) Republic of Texas, Audited Military Claims, 304-152.
- (79) Sinks, *Reminiscences*, 88.
- (80) *Handbook of Texas*, II: 729.
- (81) Brown, *Annals*, 9: 4-5.
- (82) *Ibid.*, 9: 6-7, interview with Sara Whipple; *Austin Daily Democratic Statesman*, August 4, 1875.
- (83) Republic of Texas, Public Debt Record (Texas State Archives, 304-237).
- (84) *Austin City Gazette*, August 17, 1842, obituary of Dolson.
- (85) Republic of Texas, Public Debt Record, 304-237. Edward Seiders, who would become his brother-in-law, was also on the Vasquez Campaign according to O.H. Williams Papers, Notebook.
- (86) *Handbook of Texas*, I: 85.
- (87) Brown, *Annals*, 15: 41; 21: 89.
- (88) W. Eugene Hollon and Ruth Latham Butler (Eds.), *William Bollaert's Texas* (University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1956), 196, 198.
- (89) Texas Second District Court (Travis County) Civil Minutes, A: 207; Travis County, Mark and Brand Record (Austin History Center), I: 74.
- (90) Texas Second District Court (Travis County), Criminal Minutes, A: 185, 195, 286, 290, 310, 317, 332; B: 35; Texas Second District Court (Travis County), Civil Minutes, A: 144, 192.
- (91) *Clarksville Northern Standard*, May 1843; Republic of Texas, Audited Civil Service Claims, 304-22.
- (92) Texas Indian Papers, 1844-1845, 5; Second District Court (Travis County), Minutes, A: 243; Bonham, *Merchant to the Republic*, 139-143.
- (93) Travis County, Tax Rolls, 1843-1844.
- (94) Travis County, Marriage Records, 1: 17.
- (95) Texas General Land Office, Index to Patent Records, Fannin County.
- (96) Fannin County, Deed Records B: 495, 504; E: 72-82, 86-102; I: 398, 422.
- (97) Travis County, Deed Records, B: 61, 64.
- (98) Second District Court (Travis County), Civil Minutes, Books A-F.
- (99) Second District Court (Travis County), Civil Records and Criminal Records. Some of the early cases have no cause number and some with a cause are on microfilm in the District Clerk's Office. Other cases can only be followed

in the Minutes, Books A, B, C, E, and F. The index to early criminal cases is incorporated in the civil index; in Book A, the index is incomplete.

(100) Travis County, Tax Rolls, 1845.

(101) *Ibid.*, 1846.

(102) Second District Court (Travis County), Criminal Minutes, Book A: 33, 333; B: 35.

(103) Travis County, Deed Records, B: 382; C: 381, 383; Travis County, Marriage Records, 1: 46; Travis County, District Clerk Civil Fee Book, A: 40 (on microfilm in the District Clerk's office, Austin). Henry Blessing married in February 1845. He moved to Comal County before October 1846, and his divorce from Susan Tetar is the very first entry in the Comal County deed records. In October 1846, Blessing got land from the German Emigration Company and lived in New Braunfels until his death in 1852. At that time, he was married to a woman named Rosina, and had a daughter named Anna Maria. Blessing and John Meuseback seriously injured each other in a quarrel at New Braunfels in 1851. Comal County, Deed Records, A: 1, 4-5; C: 13; Clarksville Northern Standard, May 3, 1851.

(104) Travis County, Tax Rolls, 1847; Travis County, Mark and Brand Record, I: 74; Travis County, Deed Records, C: 344; Travis County, Tax Rolls, 1846.

(105) Brown, Annals, 12: 43.

(106) *Ibid.*, 14: 33; Second District Court (Travis County), Civil Records, Cause #784; Texas State Gazette, February 16, 1850; October 6, 1849.

(107) Census, Travis County, 1850.

(108) Travis County, Deed Records, B: 311, 344; E: 358.

(109) Travis County, Deed Records, N: 469.

(110) Travis County, Probate Records, 166; Bastrop County, Deed Records, G: 5.

(111) Austin State Gazette, October 27, 1849; Travis County, Deed Records, D: 78.

(112) Brown, Annals, 12: 43; Texas Voter Registration List, Travis County, 1867-1869; Travis County, Tax Rolls, 1854.

(113) Travis County, Tax Rolls, 1849, 1850.

(114) Travis County Commissioners Court, Minutes, A: 148; Travis County, Deed Records, F: 372; Second District Court (Travis County), Civil Records, Cause #510; Travis County, Probate Records, 268, inventory.

(115) Southwestern American, December 1, 1852. He sold the farm to E.R. Peck in 1854 for \$1000: Travis County, Deed Records, H: 8.

(116) Travis County Commissioners Court Minutes, A: 95, 101; B: 107, 119, 264, 278, 323, 358, 377, 381; C: 25, 27, 31, 164, 194, 200, 222, 226, 229; D: 514, 526, 258; E: 161; G: 137; George Studer (Austin), interviewed by Karen S. Collins, July 21, 1989. Mr. Studer, employed by the city roads department, has made overlay maps based on the County Commissioners' Court Minutes.

(117) Travis County, Deed Records, B: 460; C: 415; F: 385, 384. The mountain cedar which grew on the hills just west of Shoal Creek was actually Ashe Juniper.

(118) Travis County, Deed Records, M: 502.

(119) Southwestern American, June 30, 1852.

(120) Sacramental Records, St. Mary's Cathedral, Austin, Texas (microfilm, Catholic Archives, Austin), I: 3, 8; Mary Starr Barkley, One Hundred Years (Best Printing Co., Austin, 1952), unnumbered pages, briefly recounts the story of St. Patrick's and the rock church constructed in 1852.

- (121) Texas State Gazette, March 13, 1852; April 17, 1852; July 10, 1852 (quote), May 5, 1855; Daily Democratic Statesman, February 28, 1882.
- (122) Brown Annals, 18: 25-27; Austin American, April 25, 1915; Travis County, Tax Rolls, 1855-1857.
- (123) Second District Court (Travis County), Civil Records, cause #26 (papers missing from the courthouse); Civil Minutes, B: 272; C: 149, 183; E: 725; Brown Annals, 13: 33-37.
- (124) Brown, Annals, 16: 33-37.
- (125) Second District Court (Travis County), Civil Records, Cause #1841.
- (126) Travis County, Probate Records, 268, inventory.
- (127) Travis County, Deed Records, O: 179; Q: 723; R: 356.
- (128) W.M. Walton, Life and Adventures of Ben Thompson, The Famous Texan (Published by the Author, Austin, 1884), 12; Travis County, Marriage Records, 2: 145.
- (129) Travis County, Deed Records, R: 356; Floyd B. Streeter, Ben Thompson, Man with a Gun (Frederick Fell, Inc., New York, 1957), 79-80.
- (130) Travis County, Tax Rolls, 1861-1868; Travis County, Deed Records, R: 356, 409; T: 556.
- (131) Travis County, Deed Records, Q: 438-440. Elizabeth Moore continued to live in Austin in the 1870s until she traveled to New Orleans where she died. Travis County, Deed Records, 129: 539-540, affidavit; 326: 400, affidavit.
- (132) Handbook of Texas, I: 763; James D. Lynch, Bench and Bar of Texas (published by the author, St. Louis, 1885), 422.
- (133) Handbook of Texas, I: 763; "Diary of Edwin B. Hancock," edited by Ford Dixon, Texana, 3: 297; Brown, Indian Wars and Pioneers, 253; Brown, Annals, 7: 77; Census, Travis County, 1850; Census, Bastrop County, 1850; Census, Jackson County, Alabama, 1830.
- (134) Travis County, Tax Rolls, 1848-1850.
- (135) Travis County, Deed Records, Books E-O (use index for many Hancock entries).
- (136) Texas State Gazette, March 6, 1852; Second District Court (Travis County), Civil Minutes, C: 185-188; F. Lotto, History of Fayette County (Sticker Steam Press, Schulenburg, Texas, 1902), 203; Brown, Annals, 13: 15; 15: 34; Biographical Encyclopedia of Texas (Southern Publishing Co., New York, 1880), 51.
- (137) Texas State Gazette, May 28, 1853; State of Texas, Appropriations Ledger 1851- (Texas State Archives, 4-20/274), 37, 120.
- (138) Bastrop County, Texas, Probate Estate Case Files, 1852, W.R. Hancock, division of estate, 13 Jan. 1853; Travis County, Tax Rolls, 1853.
- (139) Second District Court (Travis County), Civil Minutes, E: 505, 508; Lynch, Bench and Bar, 425-426, 422-523; Travis County, Marriage Records, I: 222; Galveston Weekly News, December 11, 1855; Cleveland Leader, Cleveland Ohio, "Hugh Hancock," October 29, 1880; Jackson County, Alabama, Probate Division, John A. Hancock Estate sale, Will Record K: 48-49; Virginia Leberman, The Charm of Austin (Typescript, Austin History Center).
- (140) Frank H. Smyrna, "Unionism in Texas, 1856- 1861," Southwestern Historical Quarterly, 68: 185; Fehrenback, Lone Star, 344; Cleveland Leader, "Hugh Hancock".
- (141) Index to Compiled Service Records in the National Archives (microfilm, Texas State Archives, Genealogy Section); John Salmon Ford, Rip Ford's Texas, edited by Stephen B. Oates (University of Texas Press, Austin, 1963), 333-334.
- (142) Biographical Encyclopedia of Texas, 51.

- (143) Handbook of Texas, II: 880.
- (144) Dictionary of American Biography, 8: 220; Lynch, Bench and Bar, 424-425; Ford, Ford's Texas, 333-334.
- (146) John Hancock, Diary (Texas State Archives), 165-166.
- (147) Ibid., 145-146, 148, 106; Dallas Herald, August 5, 1865.
- (148) WPA, Slave Narratives, Emma Weeks (typescript, Austin History Center), 4-5.
- (149) Travis County, Deed Records, Q: 438-440; Slave Narrative, Emma Weeks, 5; Census, Travis County, Agriculture Schedule, 1880.
- (150) Lynch, Bench and Bar, 434.
- (151) Personal Communication, Roy W. Davis, Austin, October 1, 1989.
- (152) Charles W. Ramsdell, "Presidential Reconstruction in Texas, Texas State Historical Association Quarterly, 11: 303.
- (153) Ibid., 11: 304, 307, 309.
- (154) Dallas Herald, May 19 and June 9, 1866.
- (155) Ramsdell, "Presidential Reconstruction", 12: 209.
- (156) Dallas Herald, August 25 and September 1, 1866.
- (157) Ramsdell, "Presidential Reconstruction, 12: 210-211, note.
- (158) Ibid., 12: 211.
- (159) Fehrenback, Lone Star, 401; Ramsdell, "Presidential Reconstruction," 12: 211.
- (160) Dallas Weekly Herald, September 30, 1871; Fehrenbach, "Presidential Reconstruction", 422.
- (161) Travis County, Tax Rolls, 1870, 1871; Leberman, Charm; Personal Communication, Nell and Roy McCutchan, 1991.
- (162) Census, Travis County, 1870. These families were listed after John Hancock's household but before the next land-owning household and were probably renters on Hancock's farm. According to Benjamin Sweet (personal communication, August 5, 1990, at his home in Red Oak, Texas), in addition to the five former slave quarters, there was a log house and small mill on Shoal Creek west of the main house and another small log house between the Hancock house and the Moores' house, both in which he had lived in the early 1900s. Another was about Lawnmont and Burnet, probably one of the five slave cabins.
- (163) Lynch, Bench and Bar, 426.
- (164) Fehrenback, Lone Star, 430; Ford, Ford's Texas, 419.
- (165) Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1262.
- (166) Dallas Herald, May 6 and September 9, 1876.
- (167) Ibid., May 16, 1876.
- (168) Texas State Gazette, October 2, 1852, obituary of William R. Hancock; Census, Travis County, 1860, 1870; John Hancock Diary, 129.
- (169) Daily Democratic Statesman, Austin, September 12, 1880.

(170) Daily Democratic Statesman, Austin, September 3, 1872; July 11, 1878, April 24, 1879; Barkley, History of Travis County, 257; Travis County, Tax Rolls, 1861, 1866, 1867, 1871, 1874; Travis County, Probate Records #1605, Hancock Guardianship Papers.

(171) Edna Turley Carpenter, Tales from the Manchaca Hills, edited by Jane and Bill Hogan (Hauser Press, New Orleans, 1960), 120; Clark, History of Shoal Creek; Democratic Statesman, Austin, September 19, 21, 1876.

(172) Robin W. Doughty, "Wildlife Conservation in Late Nineteenth Century Texas: The Carp Experiment," Southwestern Historical Quarterly, 84: 169-196, note on 176.

(173) Leberman, Charm of Austin.

(174) Daily Democratic Statesman, Austin, March 28, 1879.

(175) Brown, Annals, 15: 39; Texas State Gazette, December 25, 1852.

(176) Texas State Gazette, September 11, 1852; Ford, Ford's Texas, 209.

(177) John M. Brockman, "Railroads, Radicals, and the Militia Bill: A New Interpretation of the Quorum-breaking Incident of 1870," Southwestern Historical Quarterly, 83: 105-122.

(178) Daniel W. Mean, Report on the Dam and Waterpower Development at Austin, Texas (C.V. Seastone Consulting Engineers, Madison, Wisconsin, 1917), 40; Austin Tribune, February 18, 1940.

(179) Democratic Statesman, Austin, September 19, 1874; Daily Democratic Statesman, Austin, January 11, December 8, 11, 1880; February 15, 1882; Barkley, History of Travis County, 324.

(180) Ruth Ann Overbeck, "Alexander Penn Wooldridge," Southwestern Historical Quarterly, 67: 327-342.

(181) Lotto, Fayette County, 204; Lynch, Bench and Bar, 424, 430; Northern Standard, Clarksville, Texas, April 9, 1859; Dallas Herald, April 6, March 2, 9, 23, 1872; Democratic Statesman, Austin, February 15, 1872.

(182) Daily Democratic Statesman, Austin, April 24, 1879.

(183) Dallas Herald, July 14, 1881.

(184) Travis County, Probate Court, Minutes, S: 480; Travis County, Probate Records, 1605, Hancock Guardianship Papers; Galveston News, July 19, 1893.