



Cauble-Rotan Family Report

December 2009

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Note the date for
Cauble-Rotan Annual
Family Reunion: **12-13
June 2010** at Cook's
Stasney Ranch outside
Albany in Shackelford
County, Texas.

Reconstruction in Texas, 1865-1873

After four challenging years of fighting against Union forces, General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House on 9 April 1865. After the Texans in Lee's army and in other Confederate units were paroled, they began the long walk home. Texas soldiers would find their beloved Texas ruined economically, depressed emotionally, and occupied by federal troops commanded by Major General Philip H. Sheridan, who viewed Texans as the conquered enemy.

Sheridan ordered Major General Gordon Granger and his 1,800 Union troops to Galveston *to take control of Texas*. The conquering force landed at Galveston on 19 June 1865, proclaiming that Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 was law and that the more than 212,000 slaves in Texas were free. Most Texans had fought—not to protect slavery—but to protect their own freedom under states' rights. *Juneteenth* became a Texas celebration after 1865 as it marked the day of freedom for Texas slaves.

President Andrew Johnson appointed Texas Unionist Andrew J. Hamilton provisional governor and he came to Austin on 2 August 1865 to declare his "Proclamation to the People of Texas" that nullified all acts passed by the Texas legislature during the war and that called for a new state constitution, which proved repressive to Texans. Eight years of Reconstruction lay ahead before the gubernatorial election of 1873 allowed Texans to again govern themselves. These were the worst times that Texans of any age endured and our ancestors were among them. Any Christmas celebration during those years can be called *hardscrabble*.

—Julia Cauble Smith

President's Letter

Greetings Kin,

I hope this finds you well and enjoying this Christmas season. This is a special time of the year for most of us when we spend time with family and friends and stop to give thanks for all we have. When we are young, our attention is on receiving gifts and as we get older most of us begin to focus more on giving. There is a certain point in life or age where if we really need or want something, we buy it. By the time Christmas arrives we have nothing to put on a list and that's not bad, but our family members keep asking what we want for Christmas. What I am saying is that as individuals, families, and as a country, we have been richly blessed and for that we should all be very thankful.

I am grateful to each one of you who pays dues, helps with research, attends reunions, or are involved in any way in helping make our Family Association the success that it is. Each one of you is an important part of our family. A special "thanks" goes to Julia for putting together our newsletters and keeping everyone informed on family happenings throughout the year. Julia, I don't know how you can do it at this time of the year but I know many look forward to your Christmas issue. Thanks for your dedication and love of family.

My wish for each of you is that you have a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you next year.

Love, *James*

*Image of James taken by
Rick Cauble E5142*



2002 Cauble-Rotan Reunion: 12-13 June

Christmas During Reconstruction

The Cauble Descendants

By the end of the Civil War, our Cauble and Rotan ancestors in Texas faced hard times—economically and psychologically. **Mary Ann Rotan Cauble** had died in March 1860, before the outbreak of the Civil War. Most of the adult children who lived near **Mary Ann** and **Peter Cauble** in 1850 had died or migrated out of Tyler County to settle on newly-opened land in Hill and McLennan counties.

Their sons, **John W. Cauble** and **Isaac Butler Cauble**, along with kinsman **John Martin Cauble**, had moved their own families to Hill and McLennan counties in the early 1850s. Daughter, **Martha Cauble Green**, lived as a widow with her seven children in Hill County even before the war.

Son **Peter Cauble, Jr.**, had been killed in the late 1850s, leaving his widow, **Nancy Ann Curtis**, to raise their three children without his help. Son **James W. Cauble** was killed in the late summer of 1867, after returning home from serving in Company A, 3rd Battalion, 13th Regiment, CSA, during the war. His widow, **Sarah Ann Butler Cauble**, continued to live next farm to family in Tyler County with her two children until she remar-



ried in the fall of 1874.

The family that lived next farm to Sarah Ann Butler Cauble was that of **Helen Elmira Cauble**, known as **Ann**, and her husband, **Valentine [Bob] Burch**. The Burch family, like many others, had suffered economic decline in the years during and after the war through inflation, higher taxes, the release of their labor force, a slow demand for cotton, and the restrictions of the Reconstruction government. When Peter Cauble faced declining years in the late 1860s, the Burch family moved into the Peter Cauble house at Peach Tree Village to manage his holdings and to care for him.

The Rotan Descendants

Some descendants of **John A. Rotan**, who had died about 1858, remained in Tyler County. His daughter **Mary Ann Rotan** and husband **Peter J. King** moved their family to Hill County before the war. Son **Robert Rotan** had lost his first wife and married a second time in Tyler County in 1871, remaining there for his lifetime. Son **John Willis Rotan** died in 1858 and his widow moved her children to northeast Texas. **Mariah Jane Rotan** and husband **John Martin Cauble** migrated to Hill County before the war. Son **William**



Christmas During Reconstruction

T. Rotan served all of the war in Hood's Brigade and walked back to McLennan County when it ended. **Rufus Rotan** survived the war and married in McLennan County. Daughter **Martha Rotan** was widowed when **Wiley Stamps** died in the war, but she remained in Tyler County. Son **James M. Rotan** served in Kirby's Battalion and returned to marry **Mary E. Payne** in 1866, living out his life in Tyler County. Son **George W. Rotan** had moved to McLennan County before the war and never returned to Tyler County.



Reconstruction Christmas

As Christmas approached in those Reconstruction years, our ancestors must have greeted the season with hopes for a better future and the few supplies they could gather from their farms. Any Christmas dinner would not have been much different from their ordinary fare of fried salt pork, cornbread, sweet potatoes, molasses, and coffee. Wild game was plentiful, but ammunition was costly. And creeks and rivers held fish that may have added to their diets.

Since there were few cook stoves in those post-Civil War cabins, cooking involved the fireplace or outside fires. The cook's clothing

bore singes and burned spots from open fires. When winds blew, dust and ashes settled on the food. Baking was time-consuming. Christmas cookies sweetened with wild honey or molasses took hours; three or four were baked at one time in a skillet over an open fire. Fruit cobblers or biscuits could be baked in Dutch ovens among the fireplace coals when white flour and fruit were available.

To dress the family in clean clothes for a possible church service meant the homemaker first made lye soap from fireplace ashes and household grease or rendered lard. The odorous task required constant stirring over an outdoor fire until the soap was cooked. The hardened lye soap was shredded into a pot of boiling water to wash clothes, which were dried on bushes or fences before pressing with a heavy iron that often needed reheating.

The truth about Christmas during Reconstruction is that it was not much different from any other day in the hardscrabble lives of our ancestors. The hard times that hovered around their cabin doors prevented elegant meals and elaborate celebrations. The joy of Christmas was held in their hearts by their remembering it as the birth of the Christ Child and by their thankfulness for time spent with those whom they loved.

Long-Ago Family Reunion



Image of original photograph was submitted by Kathy Underwood Elkins E9631

On 3-4 July 1949 members of the E family, descendants of **Isaac Butler Cauble E**, held a reunion along with the allied **Underwood** family. They met at Central Texas Baptist Encampment at Latham Springs, five miles southwest of Aquilla, Texas. The image above shows the group in the dining hall, where meals were priced at 50 cents each. A barbeque lunch was served on the Fourth of July. From the announcement, **James Kilgore Underwood E96** appeared to have been in charge of arrangements.

The 1949 reunion invitation stated the following:

We are proud to announce that we have secured the Central Texas Baptist Encampment Grounds for July 3rd and 4th. We feel there is no place in Texas which affords the advantages to be found at this location, plenty shade, cold spring water, swimming pool, seating and eating facilities under one roof, rest rooms and cabins. If you plan to come July 3rd you do not have to bring anything except your bedding, bathing suit and an empty stomach because cots and meals may be obtained at Fifty Cents each with cabins furnished. As already mentioned we are quiet fortunate in obtaining the use of this wonderful place but in so doing we had to assure those in charge that no intoxicating drinks would be consumed on the grounds and we are incorporating his one fact in this letter to show those who confided in us our desire to abide by their rules and regulations.

For more details and the signatures of those who attended the 1949 reunion, see “Long-Ago Reunions of Various Cauble Families,” in the back pages of the scrapbook titled *Our Family Reunions, 2000-Present*. Pages can be scanned and sent by email. Contact Julia or Revis. Among the few alive today who attended the 1949 reunion as adults: **J. D. Biggs E196, Gean and Jack Cauble E1512.**

John Willis Rotan, Jr. RC6

John Willis Rotan, Jr. RC6 (9 May 1859 Polk County, Texas-3 August 1954 Fort Stockton, Pecos County, Texas; buried East Hill Cemetery, Pecos County, Texas) was born to **Zemilia Ann Askew** (26 September 1818 Mississippi-19 June 1915 Hopkins County, Texas; buried Union Springs Cemetery, Hopkins County, Texas) and **John Willis Rotan, Sr.** (10 October 1826 Alabama-19 December 1858 Polk County, Texas). He was a grandson of **John A. Rotan** (1794 South Carolina-by October 1858 Tyler County, Texas). After the death of John Willis Rotan, Sr., in December before John Willis, Jr., was born, Zemilia took her children to live in Hopkins County, Texas, after the birth of her baby in the spring. Her children grew to adulthood there.

About 1889, John Willis, Jr., married **Grace Cobb** (20 March 1867-25 September 1892 Fannin County, Texas; buried Leonard Cemetery, Fannin County, Texas) and fathered three children before Grace's death. Their first child was **Edith L. Rotan RC61** (6 March 1890-7 June 1985 Dawson County, Texas; buried Lamesa Cemetery, Dawson County, Texas) who worked as a schoolteacher and later a nurse. She married first a **Mr. Perry** and married second **Paul Luther Alexander** (26 March 1883 Fannin County, Texas-22 May 1963 San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas).



Edith had no children of her own, but she was stepmother to Dr. **Jack Alexander** and Dr. **Carlos Alexander**.

James Garnette Rotan RC62, also known as **Pierre de Rohan** (29 January 1891 Fannin County, Texas-19 August 1958 Glen Cove, Long Island, New York; buried Long Island National Cemetery, Farmingdale, New York) was the second child of Grace Cobb and John W. Rotan, Jr. He entered the Army on 15 August 1917, where he eventually became a captain. Garnette Rotan was described as tall and slender with blue eyes and dark brown hair. After the war, he lived in New York, where he worked in the arts and founded the American Society of Magazine Photographers.

J. Knox Rotan RC63 (12 September 1892 Fannin County, Texas-12 March 1893 Fannin County, Texas) was born to Grace Cobb and John Willis Rotan, Jr. His mother died a few days after his birth and he lived less than six months.

The widowed John Willis Rotan, Jr., remarried a year after Grace's death. His second marriage was to **Florence Elder** (20 October 1871 Grayson County, Texas-4 March 1959 Fort Stockton, Pecos County, Texas; buried East Hill Cemetery, Pecos County, Texas). They became the parents of three children.

Willis Arlon [Dutch] Rotan RC64 (13 December 1896 Fannin County, Texas-21 August 1983 El Paso County, Texas; buried Restlawn Cemetery, El Paso County, Texas) was the first



John Willis Rotan, Jr. RC6

child of Florence and John Willis Rotan, Jr. He was described as medium height, slender build, light grey eyes, and light-colored hair when he registered for the World War I draft. By the winter of 1920, he was married to **Dorothy Mess Wilson** (1899 Kentucky-unknown) and had a young daughter, **Dorothy Catherine Rotan**, born in 1918. Willis' second wife was **Luna Peyton Blaylock Reagan** (3 March 1893 Pulaski County, Arkansas-6 March 1984 El Paso County, Texas; buried Restlawn Cemetery, El Paso County, Texas). Willis lived in El Paso for fifty years and was a member of First Baptist Church and a fifty-year member of El Paso Lodge 130 AF&AM. He retired from Mortgage Investment Company after twenty-six years.

Oma E. Rotan RC65 (14 September 1900 Fannin County, Texas-12 October 1954 El Paso County, Texas; buried East Hill Cemetery, Pecos County, Texas) was the second child of Florence Elder and John Willis Rotan, Jr. Oma Rotan first married **Oliver Wade Russell** (1892 Texas-unknown), a garage mechanic, and had a son early in 1920. Before the spring of 1930, Oma had married **Fred Hawks** (1895 Tennessee-unknown), who managed a retail grocery. And Oma was a saleslady in the grocery. Oma changed her son's name to *Pat Hawks*. During World War II, she served in the Women's Army Corps and was commissioned as a first lieutenant.

In 1946 Oma Rotan Russell Hawks married **Charles T. Pearce**. That was the same year that her only son, **Oliver Wade Russell, Jr. RC651**, alias **Pat Hawks**, a former Army Air Corps bombardier, was killed in a civilian plane crash near El Paso. He was flying a rented plane that went out of control.

The third child of Florence Elder and John Willis Rotan, Jr., was **John Willis Rotan III RC66** (23 October 1913 Pecos County, Texas-7 May 1977 El Paso County, Texas; buried East Hill Cemetery, Pecos County, Texas). He was a member of Fort Stockton Masonic Lodge 1922 and worked as a tax accountant in San Angelo, Texas, where he had lived for ten years prior to his death.

Note: Research of John Willis Rotan, Jr., family was done by Shirley Culpepper Brooks RC3513 and Julia Cauble Smith H2353. When the genealogy of John A. Rotan's family is completed, it will be posted online with full documentation at www.cauble-rotan.org.

Any researcher needing cited sources for this article before that time may contact the editor.



Christmas in West Texas

Ancestral Homes



The ranch house of Isaac Butler Cauble II E14 family, as shown in this faded photograph, was built about 1906 in western Howard County near the present Elbow Community. From left: Ruby, Stella, James [Buddy], Ennice, Doc, and Mary Elizabeth Cauble; front row: Edith and Rexie Cauble.

Image: Melba Cauble Neel E149 (1913-2002)

Isaac Butler [Doc] Cauble II E14 (23 January 1873 Hill County, Texas-11 February 1949 Howard County, Texas; buried Mount Olive Memorial Park, Big Spring, Howard County, Texas), a son of **Sarah Jane Underwood** and **James Lafayette Cauble**, grew up in Hill County and married **Mary Elizabeth [Lizzie] Johnson** (14 January 1875 Hill County, Texas-1 June 1970 Howard County, Texas; buried Mount Olive Memorial Park, Big Spring, Howard County, Texas), a daughter of **James Carroll Johnson**, on 8 December 1895 at Aquilla, Hill County, Texas. They had three children in Hill County before migrating to Howard County in 1900 where Doc Cauble became a prominent rancher and Hereford breeder. Six additional children—four daughters and two sons—were born in Howard County.

In 1906 Isaac Butler Cauble II began breeding purebred Hereford cattle and was co-organizer of Texas Hereford Breeders Association and Howard County Hereford Breeders Association. Among his noted bulls were Superior Diamond, President Mischief, Diamond D, Beau Diamond, and Beau Mischief. He was a devoted Democrat at a time when Texans remembered the repressive rule of Radical Republicans during Reconstruction, serving as Howard County Precinct 3 Commissioner from 1903-1917. On 20 April 1910, when the U. S. Census was taken, the family continued to live in the above home with their six children. Like 24 million other men born between 1873 and 1900, Doc registered for World War I Civilian Draft in 1917-1918. On 18 February 1920, when the next census was taken, the Cauble family—consisting of the parents and eight of their nine children—lived at their ranch on Garden City Road in Howard County. Isaac Butler Cauble II was a Methodist and a Mason.



Image: Vietnam Wall Memorial

Prayers

For those serving in the nation's military:

U. S. Air Force: **Stephen Baxter** E75131 in Qatar for a year

Nebraska Air National Guard: **Roxanne Baxter** ME75131

U. S. Army: **Thomas Aquinas Bayer II** MD249211 deployed to Iraq and his wife, **Mary Loughlin Bayer** D249211 in Iraq;

Carol R. [Trey] Caldwell C762121; **Danielle J. Gluck** of C7.12. family; **Luke Hatheway** H51121 in Iraq; **Paul Hill** MH231213; **Lee C. Mahan** of C7.12. family; **Trenton H. Yarter** H29122; **Tanner Green**, allied kin of H2353 family

U. S. Marines: **Brent Cauble** E723312; **Kennith J. Windsor** of C7.12.1111

U. S. Navy: **Brandi Baize** E722222S; **Pamela Burns Howell** H12611;

Michael Douglas Hunt E146121 on a nuclear submarine;

Hayden Green, allied kin of H2353 family

Those who have had surgery, accident, or illness:

Carolyn Cauble Long H2362

Jessica Hibbs HA51421

Monell Henry Speer H2312

Pat Cauble MH1321

Sylvia Caldwell Rankin C7621

Tommy Leonard MH23611

One who has passed:

Ruthann Virginia Sammons Cauble MH112 (11 December 1919 Malta, Montana-14 December 2009 Arlington, Tarrant County, Texas; buried Moore Memorial Gardens, Arlington, Tarrant County, Texas) was born to **Jim** and **Mable Sammons** and married **Andrew Daniel Cauble** H112 (8 February 1914 Jayton, Kent County, Texas-12 April 1999, Arlington, Tarrant County, Texas; buried Garden of The Old Rugged Cross, Moore Memorial Gardens, Arlington,

Tarrant County, Texas), second son of **Jessie Hart** and **James William Cauble** H11, on 21 January 1940 in Los Angeles, California. Ruth was a poet and a fiction writer; she published her works in *Echoes* and *Medicine Man Magic*. Andrew Daniel and Ruthann lived in Arlington, Texas, and were the parents of four children—**Barbara Cauble Holland** (1941-1994), **Margaret Cauble Donovan**, **Andrew Daniel Cauble II**, and **Toby Raymond Cauble** (1946-1990).

Texas Cauble Family Association

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Dan Cauble H1321, chair,
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Dan Chick H23531, for the Board
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Kiefer Cauble H2361 and **Aubry Nell**
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Julia Cauble Smith H2353 and **Al**
Roy Hughes C14232 and **Lue**

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Visit our website: www.cauble-rotan.org

**12-13 June 2010: Cauble-Rotan Family Reunion at
Stasney's Cook Ranch, Albany, Texas. Please come!**

Look for this sign →



Texas Cauble Family Association was created 29 May 1989 at Crawford, Texas. It was organized with bylaws 31 July 1993 at Roby, Texas. It operates as a Section 501(c) 6 organization under the Internal Revenue Code.

Statement of Purpose

This genealogical newsletter is distributed online. It is dedicated to documenting the lives of Peter Cauble, Sr. (1786 NC-1870 Tyler Co. TX), his wife, Mary Ann Rotan (1794 SC-1860 Tyler Co. TX), and their thousands of descendants. The aim is also to report the news and genealogical research of Texas Cauble Family Association.

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