

Eveliza Chaney, Texas Matriarch

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Introduction

The following material is another installment in the continuing series of articles on the many descendants of Christopher Chaney, Texas Patriot. Each article focuses on the family of one particular individual, his or her spouse, and their children. For the present installment, the focus is on the family of Eveliza Chaney, one of his six known daughters. Hopefully, the following will provide some new and interesting family history for other researchers. Of course, it is hoped that others will step forward with new information.

Coming of Age in Southwestern Virginia

1. **Eveliza Chaney** was born October 1, 1819 in Washington County, Virginia, the daughter of Christopher and Rebecca Chaney.¹ It is presumed that she obtained at least some formal education in the local schools. In her later life, it is apparent that she was literate and more than capable of signing her name. She was just sixteen years old when her parents brought her to the Texas frontier at the height of the Revolution. One can only imagine how it broke her teenaged heart to leave her comfortable and familiar circle of friends. Perhaps she left a beau behind and nursed her broken heart all the way to Texas.

Life in early Sabine County was difficult, especially after her father died in 1836. As one of the older children, she probably worked in the fields as well as cared for her younger siblings. She married John W. Cauble one of her neighbors. John was born February 12, 1816 in White County, Tennessee. He was the son of Peter Cauble (1786-1870) and his wife Mary Rotan (1794-1860), who were early settlers in Tyler County, Texas. However, John W. Cauble was the first of his immediate family to come to Texas. As is most often the case, most women left few records in early Texas. Their lives must largely be inferred from the records left by their father and by their husband. Eveliza, at least at first, is typical in that regard.

On September 6, 1839, John W. Cauble received a conditional certificate for a third class headright grant of 640 acres of land.² John claimed to the Sabine County Land Commissioners that he had arrived in Texas on Christmas Day 1837. However, as a single man when he arrived in Sabine County, he should have been entitled only to 320 acres of land. Evidently, John and Eveliza met and married soon after his arrival, probably in early 1838. Because the early county records were destroyed when the courthouse burned in November 1875, the date of their marriage has not been found.

In the summer of 1838, Vincente Cordova, a Mexican government agent, led a band Mexicans and Kickapoo Indians in a rebellion against the authority of the Republic of Texas. As soon as he learned of

¹ *Christopher Chaney, Texas Patriot*, Texas State Genealogical Society Quarterly, *STIRPES*, Volume 41, Number 2, June 2001.

² Conditional Certificate No. 64, File No. Nacagdoches-3-428. All headright grants, field survey notes, and land patents at the Archives and Records Division, Texas General Land Office, Austin, Texas.

Cordova's force, General Thomas Rusk raised a group of local militia to attack the Mexicans. On August 12, 1838, J. W. Cobble enlisted as a corporal in Captain David Renfro's Company. Each man mounted and armed himself at his own expense. Corporal J. W. Cobble was paid \$12.50 for his service through August 26th, when the company was discharged.³ Unfortunately, the muster rolls do not indicate what service the boys from Sabine County rendered during those two weeks in August. In fact, it is unclear whether the boys even left Sabine County. President Sam Houston squelched Rusk's plans for an attack, instead the President demanded that the Mexicans return to their homes. Perhaps the Sabine County militia were disbanded at that point. Perhaps they saw other service on the frontier.

In 1839, John W. Cauble first appears on the Sabine County tax rolls.⁴ He was assessed for one land certificate for 640 acres, but no other personal property. No further record of John and Evaliza has been found in Sabine County.

Moving to Liberty County

The young couple moved to Liberty County, near to where his parents as well as his brothers and sisters lived. They settled in a small hamlet that later became known as Peach Tree Village, located approximately 1.6 miles northwest of Chester in present day Tyler County. His parents erected a fine log cabin, which recently was restored and designated an historic landmark. Several family reunions have been held there. John is listed on the tax rolls there in Liberty County for the years 1840, 1842, 1843, and 1844.⁵ In each of those years he paid the poll tax, but was assessed for neither personal nor real property. No doubt he earned his living by working on someone else's farm. But that would not last long. It is intriguing to opine that Evaliza encouraged her husband to work on his own account rather than work for someone else. From then afterward, John and Evaliza began an almost never ending effort to purchase cattle, other livestock, and their own land. In 1845, John was taxed for eighteen cattle and one horse, in addition to one white poll.

In 1846, Tyler County was organized from a section of Liberty County. John appears on the tax rolls of the new county that year with no real property, one horse valued at \$30, and thirty cattle valued at \$60.⁶ On May 15th of that year, John enlisted in Captain Wood's Company, 2nd Regiment of Texas Mounted Volunteers for service in the Mexican War.⁷ His name appears on only one extant muster roll dated July 11, 1846 at Point Isabella, Texas. His younger brother, Isaac Butler Cauble, also appears on that same muster roll. The muster roll indicates that he enlisted on June 22, 1846. However, the company, which was composed primarily of men from Liberty County, was mustered out of service less than four months later on October 2, 1846 at Monterey, Mexico. Unfortunately, no further record of his military service survives. It seems likely that his regiment served with General Zachary Taylor in capturing the Mexican

³ Davis, K. H., *East Texas Militiamen, 1838-1839, Nacogdoches County, Sabine County, San Augustine County*, Pages 20-25. Ericson Books, Nacogdoches, Texas, 1992.

⁴ Real and Personal Property Tax Rolls, Sabine County, Texas, 1837-1910. All Texas real and personal property tax rolls at Archives Division, Texas State Library, Austin, Texas.

⁵ Real and Personal Property Tax Rolls, Liberty County, Texas, 1837-1875.

⁶ Real and Personal Property Tax Rolls, Tyler County, Texas, 1847-1910.

⁷ Compiled Military Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served in the Mexican War from Texas. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC.

fortified town of Monterey after a hard fought, five-day battle in September 1846.

After their war experiences, John and his brother returned home to Tyler County where they paid the poll tax in 1847. John also was assessed for \$10 cash on hand, but no other property. John arranged for his 640-acre headright to be surveyed in Smith County on October 20, 1847.⁸ The tract was located on the Neuches River about eleven miles southwest of Tyler. By 1848, his family's economic fortunes had improved greatly. He paid taxes for three horses assessed at \$100 and forty cattle assessed at \$120. Through hard work and perseverance, his fortunes continued to improve. In 1849, John paid taxes on three horses worth \$180 and seventy cattle worth \$280.

In the 1850 Census, John W. Cauble is listed as 34 years old and born in Tennessee.⁹ His real estate was valued at \$500. His vain wife Eliza is listed as 26 years old and born in Virginia, although she was nearly 31 years old at the time. Living in their household were their five children. John owned no slaves. His farm consisted of 45 acres of improved land and 645 acres of unimproved land all of which was valued at \$690.¹⁰ He valued his farm implements and machinery at \$25. He owned five horses, twenty-two cows, two oxen, forty cattle, and twenty swine, all valued at \$500. His farm produced two hundred bushels of indian corn, one bale of cotton, twenty-five bushels of sweet potatoes, fifty pounds of butter, and \$50 worth of slaughtered animals.

A comparison of the census schedules with the tax rolls is instructive. The fact that he paid no tax on any real estate in 1850 indicates that he leased the land for cash or a share of the crops. At the first of the year, John owned only two horses valued at \$125. It seems doubtful that he acquired all of the livestock and crops before the census was taken that year. More likely, John was adept at hiding livestock and other personal property from the local tax collector. In 1851, John was assessed for a 60-acre tract of land valued at \$200. The tract was part of the Aranja Headright and was located on Russell Creek. Unfortunately, no deed has been found that records his purchase of that property.

Going to the Texas Frontier

Whether he abandoned the 60-acre tract for which he paid property taxes in 1851 or sold it is not known. No deed of sale was recorded in Tyler County. On May 19, 1851, John obtained an unconditional certificate from the Liberty County Land Commissioners for his 640 acres of land in Smith County.¹¹ The final patent confirming his title to the headright was issued March 8, 1852.¹²

In late 1851 or early 1852, John moved his family west to McLennan County. He first appears there on the 1852 tax rolls.¹³ That year, John paid taxes on seven horses valued at \$240, fifty cattle valued at \$250,

⁸ Field Survey Notes, File No. Nacogdoches-3-428.

⁹ 1850 Census, Population Schedules, Tyler County, Texas, Page 173. All Texas census schedules at Archives Division, Texas State Library, Austin, Texas.

¹⁰ 1850 Census, Agricultural Schedules, Tyler County, Texas, Page 11.

¹¹ Unconditional Certificate No. 55, File No. Nacogdoches-3-428.

¹² Patent 293, Volume 8, File No. Nacogdoches-3-428.

¹³ Real and Personal Property Tax Rolls, McLennan County, Texas, 1850-1871.

and one wagon valued at \$100. In 1853, John paid taxes on nine horses worth \$250, fifty cattle worth \$250, and twenty hogs worth \$60. He also paid taxes on his headright grant. The tax roll indicates that his headright consisted of a 420-acre tract of land on the Neches River in Cherokee County. But, the tax roll is incorrect, as his headright consisted of 640 acres on the Neches River in Smith County.

There was little or no settlement in present Hill County until after Fort Graham was established in 1849. Soon after that some settlement began along Noland's River. Hill County was created by an act of the Legislature on February 7, 1853. But, it was not until about 1854 that any notable settlement began in Hill County. John W. Cauble and his family were among the first settlers of Hill County. It is presumed that he arrived there just before registering his stock marks and brand on October 10, 1853.¹⁴ His marks consisted of a crop and two splits in the left ear and an underbit in the right ear. His brand consisted of two consecutive capital letters "J", the second one upside down.

The following year, John is listed on the tax rolls of Hill County with a 150-acre tract of land in the Cross Timbers assessed at \$225, one horse at \$50, and two cattle at \$60.¹⁵ The tract was part of the P. Hartgraves Headright. On March 7, 1854, John Cauble purchased that tract of land from Mary Taylor for \$150.¹⁶ On the tax rolls of 1855, John was assessed for only fourteen horses worth \$500 and forty cattle worth \$240. That he was an astute land speculator is evidenced by the fact that he doubled his money by selling that tract for \$300 to Eliza Carmichael on May 8, 1854.¹⁷ One presumes that he utilized the proceeds from that sale to purchase two other tracts from T. N. McKee & Co. on April 16, 1855. The first tract from the William Quirk Headright contained only 20 acres. The second tract consisted of 498 acres along Aquilla Creek out of the northeast corner of the William Quirk Headright. He paid a total of \$1,094 for both tracts.

About this time, the town of Woodbury also grew up on land from the William Quirk Headright.¹⁸ Reverend Thomas N. McKee, who came to Texas in 1844 as a missionary from Tennessee, played a significant role in getting settlers to the area around Woodbury. He was the second minister of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The Aquilla congregation erected a log structure for their religious services about one mile north of Woodbury on the same grounds as the old cemetery. Most of the early settlers in the neighborhood attended that church. In 1855, the tax assessor recorded a census of the free white population between the ages of six and sixteen years then residing in Hill County.¹⁹ John Cauble is listed as parent or guardian. In his household were their four school-aged children, Elvira, John, James, and Napoleon.

¹⁴ Marks and Brands, Hill County, Texas, 1853, Page 3. Hill County Courthouse, Hillsboro, Texas. Hereinafter cited as Hill Brands.)

¹⁵ Real and Personal Property Tax Rolls, Hill County, Texas, 1853-1883.

¹⁶ Land Records, Hill County, Texas, Deed Book H, Page 146. Hill County Courthouse, Hillsboro, Texas. (Hereinafter cited as Hill Deeds).

¹⁷ Hill Deeds, Book H, Page 148.

¹⁸ Hill County Historical Commission, *A History of Hill County, Texas, 1853-1980*, Page 349. Texian Press, Waco, Texas, 1980. (Hereinafter cited as *History of Hill County*.)

¹⁹ Scholastic Census, 1854-1855, Texas Education Agency Record Group, Hill County. Archives Division, Texas State Library, Austin, Texas.

In 1856, John paid taxes on his new real estate valued at \$1,054, seventeen horses valued at \$600, forty cattle valued at \$400, and a wagon and oxen worth \$150. On May 15, 1856, John W. Cauble for "*the natural love and affection and the further consideration of \$1000*" sold to his wife Eveliza all of his personal property whatsoever, including thirty head of cattle and twenty head of horses, and all of his real estate in Hill County.²⁰ The same deed was also filed for record in Johnson County on August 8, 1868.²¹ Why he sold his property to his wife is uncertain. Was he attempting to avoid the eventual probate of his estate, hiding assets from a creditor, or no longer wished to manage his affairs? Regardless of his motives, on the 1857 tax rolls, Eveliser Cauble is listed as the owner of real estate worth \$1,054, nineteen horses worth \$760, forty cattle worth \$200, and one wagon and oxen worth \$100. Her husband John that year only paid his poll tax.

On September 13, 1854, John appointed Peter Ragsdale of Cherokee County his attorney to locate and obtain a patent for 640 acres of land in Cherokee County.²² In return for those services, Peter Ragsdale would receive a one third interest in John Cauble's land. On December 7, 1855, John recorded his headright grant in Smith County with the Hill County Clerk.²³ On September 20, 1857, John sold his interest in his 640-acre tract in Smith County to Thomas McKee and Nathan Kellough for \$1,054.²⁴

In spite of the fact that Eveliza was the actual owner, John was assessed for both the family real estate and personal property in 1858. Their 491-acre tract was assessed at \$1,916. Thus, they seem to have sold 36 acres of their land. But, no deed recording such a sale has been found. Perhaps a resurvey revealed that the tract was smaller than first thought. John also was credited for the taxes on nineteen horses worth \$570, fifty cattle worth \$250, and one wagon and oxen worth \$200. In 1859, John again was credited with paying the taxes on a 495-acre tract worth \$1,500, thirty-two horses worth \$1,600, fifteen cattle worth \$450, as well as oxen, sheep and hogs worth \$525. When comparing the various tax rolls, one is struck by two things. First, the exact acreage changes somewhat from year to year, almost as if it made no difference in the amount of tax owed. Second, horses were valuable assets worth significantly more than an acre of land.

In 1860, John reported to the census enumerator that he was 44 years old, was a farmer, owned personal property worth \$5,260 and real estate valued at \$4,000, and had been born in Tennessee.²⁵ Eveliza reported incorrectly that she was 38 years old and also had been born in Tennessee. Actually, she was 40 years old and born in Virginia. One assumes, apparently, that the vain Eveliza shaved two years from her age. But, how can the error in her place of birth be explained satisfactorily? Perhaps, the enumerator erred or one of the children reported the wrong age and place of birth to the enumerator. Living with them were their six children: Elvira, John, James, Napoleon, Rosanna, and Lucinda. John owned no

²⁰ Hill Deeds, Book H, Page 581.

²¹ Land Records, Johnson County, Texas, Deed Book E, Page 455. Johnson County Courthouse, Cleburne, Texas. (Hereinafter cited as Johnson Deeds.)

²² Land Records, Smith County, Texas, Deed Book H, Page 21. Smith County Courthouse, Tyler, Texas. (Hereinafter cited as Smith Deeds).

²³ Hill Deeds, Book H, Page 432.

²⁴ Smith Deeds, Book K, Page 57.

²⁵ 1860 Census, Population Schedules, Hill County, Texas, Page 29.

slaves.

His farm consisted of 66 acres of improved land and 434 acres of unimproved land and was valued at \$4,000.²⁶ He valued the farm implements and machinery at \$250. He owned forty-seven horses, twenty cows, seven oxen, forty cattle, three hundred twenty sheep, and twenty swine, all valued at \$4,440. The farm produced four hundred fifty bushels of wheat, four hundred fifty bushels of indian corn, twenty bushels of oats, two hundred pounds of wool, fifty bushels of barley, \$225 of produce, one hundred gallons of molasses, and \$900 of animals slaughtered. In 1860, John was listed on the tax rolls with a 500-acre tract worth \$2,000. It is no surprise that he downplayed the value of his farm to the tax assessor. He also paid taxes that year on thirty-seven horses worth \$1,750, fifty cattle worth \$300, two hundred thirteen sheep worth \$639, and miscellaneous property worth \$371.

The Civil War Years

Fate smiled on John Cauble and his family. Economic times were good, even though the ominous storm clouds of war were fast approaching. In 1861, the tax rolls show that the value of his 500-acre tract increased to \$2,500. He paid taxes on sixty-five horses worth \$3,250, one hundred cattle worth \$500, five hundred sheep worth \$1,500, and miscellaneous property worth \$395. The onset of the Civil War was kind to Texas farmers. The Confederate government was a buyer of agricultural production with a large appetite. While Texas was spared the ravages of warring armies, farming and ranching became more difficult with the young men away in the army. The husbands of John and Eveliza's eldest two daughters were away in the Confederate Army. Their two eldest sons also enlisted in the army. Still at home were their three young children. No doubt, working the family farm became more difficult for both John and Eveliza. In 1862, John was taxed for the same 500-acre tract of land, but only forty-six horses worth \$2,300, one hundred cattle worth \$500, two hundred fifty sheep worth \$750, and miscellaneous property worth \$400.

No one named Cauble appears on the 1863 tax rolls. But, as the war dragged on, life on the farm became more difficult. In addition to his own family, John and Eveliza no doubt helped to care for their two married daughters, both of whom had small children. With most of the able-bodied men away in the army, the Texas frontier was left mostly undefended against marauding Indians as well as outlaws. Thus, the Texas State Troops were organized to protect the frontier from Indian depredations and maintain the peace at home. J. W. Cauble enlisted in Company G, 1st Regiment, 2nd Brigade of Texas State Troops at Hillsboro on March 18, 1864 for six months.²⁷ Probably because he had military experience, John was appointed 3rd Sergeant in Captain W. A. Surgnier's Company from Hill County. When he enlisted, he was 46 years old, too old to see active duty in the regular army. At enlistment, his horse was valued at \$600 and his arms were valued at \$100.

In late 1864, word reached home that their son John had been killed in action at the Battle of Poison Springs, Arkansas. The year 1864 was a bleak one for the Cauble family. With all of the adult menfolk away in the army, the women and children were left to manage and operate the family farm. Prices for everything began to escalate significantly. The 500-acre family farm was still assessed at \$2,500. John Cauble also is listed on the tax roll with a \$1,000 Confederate Treasury Note and livestock worth \$3,700. By the end of the war, the Confederate economy virtually had collapsed. Rebel money was worthless and

²⁶ 1860 Census, Agricultural Schedules, Hill County, Texas, Page 15.

²⁷ Texas Military Records, Confederate Muster Rolls, 1861-1865. Archives Division, Texas State Library, Austin, Texas.

prices were soaring. In 1865, the family farm was assessed at only \$1,647. John paid taxes on forty horses worth \$1,320, fifty cattle worth \$200, and one hundred seventy sheep worth \$340.

The following year, their land's value had improved to \$2,000. The assessed value of their livestock also improved. Their forty horses were worth \$1,600, fifty cattle were worth \$250, and one hundred ninety sheep were worth \$475. On September 7, 1866, John and Eveliza Cauble sold their family farm on the waters of Aquilla Creek to John J. Inge for \$2,500.²⁸ The contract of sale specified that John Inge pay \$300 at the sale and execute four promissory notes for \$550 each bearing interest at eight percent. The first note was payable in one year, the second note in two years, the third in three years, and the fourth in four years. All of the notes could be discharged in "*good merchantable Wheat at one Dollar per bushel to be delivered on said premises.*" The contract further provided that if, at any time, the buyer failed to pay any of the notes, then the buyer would forfeit the premises, all he may have paid, and subject himself to removal from the premises. When the notes were satisfied, then a deed would be made to formally record the sale. Because no deed was ever recorded, John Inge must not have been able to satisfy the notes. How much was forfeited and when the premises were vacated is not recorded.

Soon thereafter, John and Eveliza moved to Johnson County where John appears on the tax rolls in 1867.²⁹ He was taxed for two tracts of land with a combined worth of \$633. The first tract was Lot No. 7 from the division of her father's headright. The second tract was an 80-acre part of the T. F. Edwards Headright. Unfortunately, no deed has been located that records his purchase of that second tract. In addition, John paid taxes on forty-five horses worth \$1,530, eighty-one cattle worth \$420, four hundred sheep worth \$600, and miscellaneous property worth \$240.

Widowhood and Reconstruction

Neither John nor Evaliza were listed on the tax rolls for 1867 and 1868 in Hill County. According to his tombstone, John W. Cauble died on June 23, 1868. Presumably, he died in Johnson County, but was buried in the old Woodbury Cemetery in Hill County. From the ravages of weather or modern vandals, his tombstone now lies on its back in a small patch of briars near the grave of his son Napoleon. No record of any probate for his estate was recorded in Hill County or Johnson County. However, the old family farm in Hill County was subdivided into lots and sold off piecemeal. The sales were recorded in the following series of deeds:

1. On April 7, 1867, Eveliza Cauble sold one 50-acre lot to James S. Carmichael for \$200.³⁰
2. On January 7, 1871, Eveliza Cauble sold one lot of 50 acres and a wood lot of 8 acres to James M. Moore for \$450.³¹
3. On January 27, 1871, Eveliza Cauble sold a 57-acre lot to her son James P. Cauble for

²⁸ Hill Deeds, Book J, Page 625.

²⁹ Real and Personal Property Tax Rolls, Johnson County, Texas, 1855-1883.

³⁰ Hill Deeds, Book N, Page 120.

³¹ Hill Deeds, Book Q, Page 142.

\$5.³²

4. On the same day, Eveliza Cauble sold the adjoining 50-acre lot to her son Napoleon B. Cauble for \$5.³³
5. Again, on the same day, Eveliza Cauble sold one lot of 50 acres and a wood lot of 8 acres to her daughter R. A. Eberhart for \$5.³⁴
6. On December 28, 1871, Eveliza Cauble sold one lot of 40 acres and one lot of 8 acres to R. B. Stewart for \$600.³⁵
7. On April 26, 1875, Daniel Stuckey and his wife, Eveliza, of Grimes County sold her interest in the remaining 160 acres to James S. Carmichael for \$3,000.³⁶

Eveliza signed all of the deeds. Although John had paid taxes on five hundred acres of land for many years, his farm actually consisted only of approximately 481 acres. Just why only three of their children were provided the opportunity to purchase land at such preferred prices remains unexplained. Perhaps their legacies consisted of cash, livestock, or other personal property.

The children of John W. and Eveliza (Chaney) Cauble were:

2. i. Mary R., born November 23, 1838 in Sabine County, Texas.
3. ii. unknown, born circa 1840 in Liberty County, Texas.
4. iii. Elvira B., born circa 1842 in Liberty County, Texas.
5. iv. John W., born circa 1844 in Liberty County, Texas.
6. v. James K. Polk, born March 14, 1846 in Liberty County, Texas.
7. vi. Napoleon Bonaparte, born September 29, 1848 in Tyler County, Texas.
8. vii. Roxanna B., born December 29, 1850 in Tyler County, Texas.
9. viii. unknown, born circa 1852 in McLennan County, Texas.
10. ix. Jesse Lucinda, born January 1855 in Hill County, Texas.
11. x. unknown, born circa 1857 in Hill County, Texas.

³² Hill Deeds, Book M, Page 593.

³³ Hill Deeds, Book O, Page 259.

³⁴ Hill Deeds, Book 16, Page 156.

³⁵ Hill Deeds, Book P, Page 118.

³⁶ Hill Deeds, Book R, Page 399.

Now a widow, Eveliza stayed on their family farm near Cleburne in Johnson County. In 1868, Mrs. E. Cawble appears on the tax rolls there with her husband's two tracts of land together worth \$700. She also was assessed for the taxes on thirty horses valued at \$1,000, fifty cattle valued at \$200, three hundred sheep valued at \$300, and miscellaneous property valued at \$150. The tax rolls for 1869 are very feint and too difficult to read.

On January 20, 1870, Eveliza Cauble of Hill County sold Lot No. 7 from the division of her father's headright to Sarah A. Young, the wife of Dr. A. Young, of Johnson County for \$1,735.³⁷ Known as the Cauble farm, Lot No. 7 consisted of 173½ acres of land one mile east of Cleburne. After the sale, or possibly before, Eveliza moved back to Hill County to be nearer to her children. In the 1870 Census, Eva E. Cauble is listed as 46 years old, keeping house, with personal property worth \$500 and real estate worth \$1,500, and born in Virginia.³⁸ Then fifty years old, Eveliza shaved four years from her age. Living with her were her son-in-law George Wood and youngest daughter Jesse Lucinda. Her farm consisted of only five acres of improved land and was valued at \$50.³⁹ The farm implements and machinery were valued at \$10. She owned three horses and five cows worth a total of \$200. The farm produced fifty bushels of indian corn, one bale of cotton, one hundred pounds of butter, and \$5 in slaughtered animals. The tax rolls that year indicate that she owned a 50-acre tract valued at \$150, but the land was listed under the name of her son Napoleon as her agent. She also paid taxes on nine horses worth \$360, four cattle worth \$40, and miscellaneous property worth \$40.

In 1871, Mrs. E. Cauble is listed on the tax rolls with a 300-acre tract worth \$1,500. The tract is shown as part of the T. N. McKee Headright. The amount and value of her personal property that year was the same as the previous year. On March 2, 1871, Eveliza sold 100 acres from her undivided interest in her father's headright in Mills County to her daughter Mary R. Hughes for \$1 and her love and affection.⁴⁰ In 1872, she paid taxes on only 149 acres of land worth \$802, six horses worth \$105, six cattle worth \$16, cash on hand of \$800, and miscellaneous property worth \$5. From the tax rolls it is apparent that Eveliza was no longer managing a large scale farm or livestock operation. Evidently, her small scale operation provided enough to meet her needs.

Remarriage

In 1873, she was taxed for a 276-acre portion from the William Quirk Headright valued at \$2,760, two horses valued at \$50, seven cattle valued at \$35, and miscellaneous property worth \$10. Thus, it seems that there never was a T. N. McKee Headright. Rather, the tract was the part of the William Quirk Headright that John Cauble had purchased from T. McKee in 1855 and that became known as the Cauble farm. Eveliza married her brother-in-law Daniel Stuckey on August 24, 1873, just one month after the death of her sister Mahala.⁴¹ The marriage license was returned by Rev. H. D. Bantaw. At the time,

³⁷ Johnson Deeds, Book F, Page 411.

³⁸ 1870 Census, Population Schedules, Precinct No. 1, Hill County, Texas, Page 16.

³⁹ 1870 Census, Agricultural Schedules, Precinct No. 1, Hill County, Texas, Page 3.

⁴⁰ Land Records, Mills County, Texas, Deed Book E, Page 206. Mills County Courthouse, Goldthwaite, Texas. (Hereinafter cited as Mills Deeds.)

⁴¹ Marriage Records, Hill County, Texas, Book 1, Page 23. Hill County Courthouse, Hillsboro, Texas.

Eveliza was not quite 54 years old. Daniel, by contrast, had just turned 81 years old. So far as can be determined, no children were born of this marriage.

In 1874, Mrs. E. Stuckey was assessed for just 160-acres of land in Hill County valued at \$1,175 and no personal property of any kind. The couple moved back to Grimes County, where Daniel was then living. That same year, Daniel paid taxes there on his 214-acre tract of land, four horses worth \$200, twenty cattle worth \$60, and miscellaneous property worth \$632.⁴² In 1875, the following year, Daniel Stuckey paid taxes on his same tract of land as well as three horses worth \$75, twenty-five cattle worth \$85, and miscellaneous property worth \$140. That same year, Mrs. E. Stuckey appears on the tax rolls of Hill County charged with the taxes for her 160-acre tract of land but no personal property.

On April 21, 1875, Thomas Eberhart of Johnson County sold a 160-acre tract on Buck's Creek to Daniel Stuckey of Grimes County for \$1,000.⁴³ The land, located about thirteen miles southwest from Cleburne, was part of the Seavers Headright. Just five days later, Daniel and Eveliza sold their 160-acre tract of land in Hill County to James Carmichael for \$3,000.⁴⁴ It is presumed that they then moved to Johnson County, although they do not appear on the tax rolls there until 1878. That year, E. Stuckey was charged with the tax on the 160-acre tract valued at \$860, two wagons at \$50, two horses at \$40, fifteen cattle at \$90, seventeen hogs at \$8, and personal property at \$62. In 1879, Daniel Stuckey was listed on the tax rolls with their real estate, one carriage, three horses, seventeen cattle, sixteen hogs, and miscellaneous property. On November 28, 1879, Eveliza Stuckey sold her remaining interest in her father's headright in Mills County, some 217 acres of land, to her daughter Mary R. Puckett and her second husband Captain Jackson Puckett.⁴⁵

In the 1880 Census, Daniel is listed as an 84-year old farmer born in South Carolina.⁴⁶ Eveliser reported that she was 58 years old and had been born in Virginia. This time, she shaved only three years from her true age. She also reported that both her parents were born in Virginia. Living with them were a laborer Joseph Davis, aged 16 and born in Alabama, a black servant Ellen Stuckey aged 15 and a black laborer General Stuckey aged 12. It is presumed that both Ellen and General were children of one of Daniel's former slaves. The Stuckey farm consisted of 50 acres of tilled land and 100 acres of unimproved land and was valued at \$1,800.⁴⁷ The farm implements and machinery were valued at \$50. The livestock was valued at \$400 and consisted of four horses, one ox, twelve cows, fourteen cattle, twelve swine, and twenty poultry. Total farm production was valued at \$250 and consisted of eleven calves, three slaughtered cattle, four hundred pounds of butter, two hundred dozen eggs, one hundred fifty bushels of indian corn, fifteen bushels of oats, forty-three bushels of wheat, and three bales of cotton. For the tax assessor, Daniel valued his farm at only \$500 that year. He also was charged with the taxes on one carriage, twenty-seven cattle, and thirteen hogs.

⁴² Real and Personal Property Tax Rolls, Grimes County, Texas, 1846-1910.

⁴³ Johnson Deeds, Book N, Page 73.

⁴⁴ Hill Deeds, Book R, Page 399.

⁴⁵ Mills Deeds, Book K, Page 177.

⁴⁶ 1880 Census, Population Schedules, Johnson County, Texas, Enumeration District 82, Sheet 20.

⁴⁷ 1880 Census, Agricultural Schedules, Johnson County, Texas, Enumeration District 82, Sheet 15.

On July 9, 1881, Daniel and Eveliza Stuckey of Johnson County sold their farm to her son James P. Cauble for \$800.⁴⁸ Both of them signed the deed. Sometime prior to the sale of their farm, they moved to Hood County. In 1881, Daniel Stuckey paid taxes in Hood County on two carriages, buggies, or wagons valued at \$75, two horses valued at \$25, twenty eight-cattle valued at \$206, seven hogs valued at \$14, and miscellaneous property valued at \$4.⁴⁹

Again Widowhood and Remarriage

According to his tombstone, Daniel Stuckey was born on August 4, 1792 and died on January 1, 1882. He was buried at the Rock Church Cemetery, about seven miles southwest of Tolar in Hood County. No probate was filed for his estate. The following year, in 1882, Mrs. E. Stuckey paid taxes on sixteen cattle valued at \$160. Nothing further on Daniel and Eveliza Stuckey has been found in Hood County records.

At the age of 67 and twice widowed, Mrs. Eliza Stuckey married the widower Presley Webb in Hood County by license dated November 9, 1886.⁵⁰ Their license was returned by Rev. A. Long. That year, Presley Webb paid the taxes in Hill County on a 95-acre tract of land valued at \$665, a 35-acre tract valued at \$100, a 100-acre tract valued at \$100, one carriage, buggy, or wagon valued at \$20, five horses valued at \$150, twenty-three cattle valued at \$185, nineteen hogs valued at \$15, and miscellaneous property valued at \$5. He does not appear on the Hill County tax rolls thereafter.

Presley Webb was born March 9, 1816 in Alabama.⁵¹ He married his first wife, Tyressa Basham there on October 15, 1835. They moved to Texas in 1853 near Whitney in Hill County. About 1860, he obtained land near Peoria, where he moved his family. He was an excellent man and a leading citizen of Hill County.⁵² His first wife Tyressa died July 26, 1886 and was buried at the Peoria Cemetery. He did not remain a widower for long, as he married the widow Eveliza later that autumn. Presley Webb died on March 9, 1889 and was buried next to his first wife.

Homesteading in the Oklahoma Territory

By 1900, Eveliza Webb had accompanied her daughter Jesse and son-in-law George Wood, to Day County, Oklahoma Territory, where they were enumerated in the census.⁵³ She was listed as a widow named Elizabeth Webb, who was born October 1819 in Virginia. She was the mother of ten children, only three of whom were then living. Thus three children apparently died young as seven others who lived to adulthood have been identified. Based upon the birth dates of the seven known children, the three children who died young were born circa 1840, 1852, and 1857. Eveliza's father's place of birth is listed

⁴⁸ Johnson Deeds, Book 39, Page 562.

⁴⁹ Real and Personal Property Tax Rolls, Hood County, Texas, 1867-1899.

⁵⁰ Marriage Records, Hood County, Texas, Marriage Book C (1883-1891), Page 130. Hood County Courthouse, Granbury, Texas.

⁵¹ *History of Hill County*, Page 435.

⁵² A. Y. Kirkpatrick, *The Early Settlers Life in Texas and the Organization of Hill County*, Page 50. Reprinted by Hill County Historical Society, Texian Press, Waco, Texas, 1963.

⁵³ 1900 Census, Population Schedules, Day County, Oklahoma Territory, Dewey Precinct 4, Enumeration District No. 41, Sheet 9. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC.

as Kentucky and her mother's as Virginia.

On March 22, 1904, Eliza Webb filed her homestead proof with the General Land Office at Kingfisher.⁵⁴ In it, she testified that she had built a dugout house, fourteen by twenty-eight feet in size, during the fall of 1897. Additional improvements included fences, a well, and orchard lots. She claimed to be a widow, aged 83 years old, born in Virginia, with no family. She had resided on and cultivated the land continuously since December 9, 1898. Further, she had not been absent from her farm, except to visit relatives, owing to her age and blindness. She stated that it was convenient for her to stay by herself. She filed an application for a Homestead Grant for her 160-acre tract in Day County on August 15, 1904.⁵⁵ Just two days later, on August 17th, she sold her homestead grant to her son-in-law George W. Wood for \$1,000. Day County was discontinued in 1906, and the homestead where she lived was made a part of Roger Mills County.

According to her tombstone, Elisa Webb was born October 1, 1819 and died February 20, 1907. She was buried in the Dewey Cemetery, situated in the northeastern portion of present day Roger Mills County. No probate was filed on her estate. However, a patent was issued to her for the homestead on May 24, 1907.⁵⁶ Some family researchers have noted that her name was misspelled on her tombstone. That certainly is correct. However, her son James P. Cauble stated that while she often was called Eliza or even Elizabeth, her name was Eveliza.⁵⁷

Conclusion

Eveliza spent most of her long life, some sixty-one out of eighty-seven years, in Texas. Just sixteen years old when her father died, she helped her mother and siblings manage and operate the family farm. Married at a young age, she helped her husband build a homestead out of the east Texas wilderness. They brought their young family out to the frontier to raise horses and cattle and to farm. During the difficult years of the Civil War, Eveliza was left to manage the family farm operations while her husband and sons were away in the army. All of this after birthing as many as ten children. After her husband's early death, Eveliza again was left to manage the farm and operate the homestead. She continued to buy and sell property and manage her own farm. Obviously a strong woman, she outlived two more husbands and then carved a new homestead out of the Oklahoma prairie at the age of seventy-eight! She was a true matriarch indeed.

The foregoing article summarizes all that is known about Eveliza Chaney and her three husbands, John W. Cauble, Daniel Stuckey, and Presley Webb. The author is indebted to the staff of the Texas State Land Office, Texas State Library, various county courthouses, Dallas Public Library, and Clayton Library in Houston for their patience, knowledge, and assistance. Special thanks are due to the author's cousin Julia Cauble Smith for her insightful review and valuable suggestions. The author invites comments, questions, as well as suggestions for further research from all readers.

⁵⁴ General Land Entry Files, Final Certificate No. 8396, Homestead Application No. 15743, Homestead Proof, Testimony of Claimant. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC.

⁵⁵ Land Records, Roger Mills County, Oklahoma, Final Receipt Book 3, Page 237. Roger Mills County Courthouse, Cheyenne, Oklahoma. (Hereinafter cited as Roger Mills Deeds.)

⁵⁶ Roger Mills Land Records, Patent Book 5, Page 251. .

⁵⁷ Johnson Deeds, Book 70, Page 473.

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