

MEMOIRS OF CORNELIA MARTHA LAWRENCE BARBER

The names BARBER, DUGAT, and HARTMAN, are familiar ones to historians of South Texas because they were among the earliest Anglo settlers of Refugio, Bee, and Aransas counties. Earlier, they, along with their ancestors the LAWRENCES, FISHERS, BLANCHETTES, and BREAUXS were also among the first settlers of east Texas' Chambers and Liberty counties, all predating the Revolution. Joseph LAWRENCE, reputed to have sailed with privateer Jean LAFITTE, arrived in the 1820's. His two granddaughters, sisters Henrietta and Cornelia LAWRENCE married brothers Albert and Amos Joshua BARBER in the 1870's. Cornelia and Josh raised their family in Chambers county and later moved to Mineral and Beeville, in Bee County. In the 1930's their youngest daughter, Lucille, took an interest in family history and carefully recorded information from her oldest relatives around the state. Among them, of course, were her parents. She compiled "memoirs" for each of her parents. Amos Joshua's memoirs were published by Lucille's friend Flavia FLEISCHMAN in Old River Country, along with excerpts from Cornelia's. Amos Joshua's have appeared subsequently many times, but so far as I know Cornelia's memoirs have not appeared anywhere else.

In 1994, through the help of Texas historians Villamae WILLIAMS, Rachel (KELLY) ATCHISON, and Neale RABENBURG, Lucille's son George TAIT was located in southern California, along with all his mother's papers. Included were a draft of Cornelia's memoirs and the photographs reproduced here. All of Lucille papers, including sixty years of personal diaries and her genealogical material have been donated to the Barker History Center of the University of Texas at Austin and are available to researchers there.

Amos Joshua's memoirs tell the story of a boy growing up in east Texas--cow punching, swimming rivers, and hunting wolves. Cornelia's memoirs, quite naturally, give another view of the same families--beaus, dances, and household work. The following, from an early draft, has been edited only for spelling (where I'm sure) and punctuation for readability. My own occasional notes are included in parentheses and italics.

-Alan BARBER

I was born May 24, 1861 at Old River, Texas, Chambers Co.--second daughter of Celina BLANCHETTE LAWRENCE and Daniel Jerry LAWRENCE.

The first thing I remember was Father coming home from the Army on a furlough. As he rode up to the fence Mother ran out to meet him and he leaned over and kissed her before he got off his horse.

Later just before the war was over two of the boys we knew deserted and came home; one night they came with some young people to our house and begged Mother to let them have a dance there. She refused at first but they begged until she consented. In the middle of the evening Papa came home (the war was over) from the army and appeared in the door in uniform; the deserters saw him and ran and jumped out of the window. When they saw it was Papa they were mad because he didn't call out who he was. He said he didn't think he had to in his own house.

I remember going to Emily ICET's house (Mrs. Wm ICET) and seeing cousin Emily BLANCHETTE ICET (Henry's mother) weave cloth and seeing her throw the shutters back and forth. I would have given anything to have thrown the shutters, as she handled them with such speed--I can see now the loom room; it was a north west room off the back of the hall.

William Icet ran a big boat between Old River and Galveston which carried freight and produce.

Henrietta (*Cornelia's sister, older by one year*) and I were both christened in the Catholic church. There was no church there but the priest came around once or twice a year from Galveston or Liberty, baptizing and hearing confessions. I have forgotten who our godparents were, as we attended the Methodist church since there was no other nearby. We all finally joined the Methodist church. Henrietta's godparents were Caroline Blanchette and ?.

Children in those days didn't have all the toys to amuse them. Henrietta and I used to put tin pans on our heads and run down to Aunt (Negro) Harriett's house on the gully, with them rattling and making all kinds of noise. There was a thick plank over the gully; when it rained the gully used to be a raging torrent. Once when it was like that Mother told us not to cross it; of course that is just what we did. As we stood on the plank with the water rushing over our feet a little snake washed over and bit me on the toe. It just stung a little, but I was afraid to tell it since we had disobeyed Mother.

My grandparents, Pierre and Celina BLANCHETTE, had a great many slaves but both died before I was born and I don't remember what became of the property or slaves, except old Aunt Harriet and her two children, Louise and Zorrie, lived with us. Papa built them a little house near ours. After the war there was a big negro scare about 1865 or 66. A rider from Dayton came and warned everyone to get together and leave as the Negroes were coming to kill all the white people. Papa took us in a skiff across to Lawrence Island where Uncle Robert LAWRENCE and Uncle Baptiste DUGAT lived. Theirs were the only two homes there, and there were great crowds of people at both houses. We stayed at Uncle Baptiste's. I think we all stayed several days. The men went back and were armed and guarded the road to Dayton. The Negroes never came, of course, and we all went back home after the scare.

Many times men would come to our house and call Papa out and talk to him for hours, sometimes all day, begging him to join the Ku Klux Klan, but he never would. He said he didn't believe in getting mixed up in it. He had a wife and children to protect. There were many outrages committed and laid to the Klan that they didn't do. Also many Negroes were killed and blamed on the Klan.

One night while Aunt Harriet was away nursing a sick WHITE woman; some men came, set fire to her house, and killed her daughter Louise, who was about 15. She was in bed. They had not intended to kill Louise; it was the men they were after. There were two men staying there, Frank and ? , but they escaped by climbing up in the rafters. Zorrie was small then and was with his Mother that night. They set fire to the house, but the men escaped through the flames when the house began to burn. They had shot at the bed thinking that the men were in it. I shall never forget poor Aunt Harriet coming to us the next morning wringing her hands in grief over the tragedy of her child, and Mother comforting her; they stayed with us until Papa built them another house. Albert CHARLIE and Bill DUNCAN were two of the men in the negro raid that night.

About 1868 or 69 Henrietta and I started to private school on Lawrence Island. Papa would take us over in a skiff on Monday mornings and come for us Friday afternoons.

Miss Laura ANDERSON (later married to Willie MILLS) taught upstairs in Uncle Robert LAWRENCE's home. The pupils were: Charles LAWRENCE; Lottie and Emma WOOTEN from Wallisville (Lottie was crippled and limped when she walked; Emma was my age and we played together); Wash and Johanna STUBBS, Old River; three or four of Hugo FRANSSSEN's children, Hugo Jr., ? , ? , ? , Old River; Henrietta and I.

It was my first time away from home and oh how homesick I was--I cried many many nights. One day Aunt Josephine (CLARK) LAWRENCE came in my room and found me crying. She asked me what was the matter. I was afraid she might punish me if I told her I was homesick so I told her I had the stomach ache so she gave me a big dose of paregoric.

All the other pupils went home at night except Henrietta and me and of course Charles was already at home.

After school in the afternoons, Miss Laura taught us dancing. She taught us the schottice, the waltz, "Put Your Little Foot", "Coming Thru the Rye".

I went about two years to this school as well as I can remember. Then we went to a little public school on the mainland down the river about a mile south of where we lived.

In May 1870 I was nine years old and we moved from Old River to Barber's Hill. They moved the dining room and kitchen of Uncle Pierre's house first and we stayed in that til they moved the main part of our house and then they put all together and built two more rooms. The day they moved the main house a bunch of us went down. Amanda, Elsa, Adaleasa, we children and a bunch of us went over on Old River when they moved the main house out to the Hill. They cooked up cakes and pies, baked chicken and dressing and took along and we all rode in the house drawn by oxen across the prairie. We had the best time--just like a picnic--all singing and having a good time. We went to school at the little school on the Hill then.

On Sundays we rode horseback three miles down to Morgan's school to Sunday School. We carried our nickels in little beaded bags with handkerchiefs stuffed in on top, that we carried on our wrists. On our way home we would run our horses from Fisher's Island as hard as we could til we got to the "Hill". Lit and Ella BARBER started going with us too.

Uncle Pierre BLANCHETTE had one arm shot off in the war. Mother kept the bones for a long time wrapped and in a box. After Uncle died I remember Marie sending a note by Joe, a little boy to tell Mother to come as she was ill. After she died Joe came to live with us.

One of the first dances I remember attending was at Sol WILLIAMS (who married one of Dr. MORGAN's nieces from the north) on Old River. The large front room was cleared of all the furniture for dancing. That night was the first time I ever danced with a man. Ed LONG (Taylor Long WINFREE's brother) who lived on Cotton Bayou, came across the floor and asked me to dance with him. I was scared to death, but I did. He was a grand dancer, after a little we were the only two on the floor dancing the schottice, not many could dance it. Most all could waltz--Henrietta and I had been taught both by Miss ANDERSON at private school. Most of the dances were square dances and were called by some one.

We always rode horseback to the dances and wore great long riding skirts with our party dress wrapped up and in the huge pocket in our riding skirt. When we got there we hung our skirts on our saddles, went in and put on our dancing frocks. Papa has taken us to many a dance and danced the whole night through; we would get home at daylight.

Once we were at a dance at Uncle Larry (*Eularian*) DUGAT's on Cotton Bayou. It was foggy when we started home; we rode and rode and finally ended up back at Uncle Larry's. We started out again; this time we let the horses have the rein and they brought us straight home through the fog. We always went in big crowds, perhaps six or eight: Adaleasa, Ella, Lit, Elmer BARBER, Papa, Henrietta and me.

Another we went to often to dance was at Mr. William SMITH's on Cedar Bayou; they had three girls and two boys: Ann SMITH (married DONALLY), Lizzie SMITH (married Sol FISHER), Mary SMITH (married Kelly JENNISEE), Johnnie SMITH, Amos SMITH.

Once I remember seeing Ann--she was the oldest and leader of everything--all dressed in a white dress grinding coffee for their guests. There were always stacks of cakes.

Every girl in the country who married had a big wedding supper and dance so there were many of them to go to. Some of the ones I attended were the BARBER girls: Amanda, Ella, and Lit.

Martha and Amanda FISHER on the Bay; I was bride's maid to Amanda and Elmer BARBER when they married, Feb 4, 1876. Robert BARROW was best man. Of course we both wore white. They had a long supper table in the yard with everything imaginable to eat. We danced in the house. Miss Helen BRYANT and a lot of Cedar Bayou people were there at the wedding--she gave me the nicest compliment I ever had by saying the bride's maid was better looking than the bride. Amanda was older than I was, but was my dearest friend always.

Some of the boys I used to dance with were: Ed LONG, nice looking, good dancer but too old for me; Manse MATTHEWS, of Cedar Bayou (I went to a dance with Manse); Eiff MCLEAN, from Cedar Bayou; Robert HARTMAN, crippled; Albert BARBER; Alford MILLS, from Cotton Bayou worked for Papa; (these last three tried to go with me and I wouldn't go with them); and Josh BARBER--married him.

Once at a big picnic and dance at Cedar Bayou Manse MATTHEWS was walking with me to the dance when Adaleasa got in between us to go with him; when we got there he asked me for the first dance and never did even dance with her. She was a young widow and wanted to get married again. Another time we were coming home from Cedar Bayou--Eiff MCLEAN was riding home with me when Adaleasa rode her horse in between us (it was customary for the man to always ride on the girl's right side); when Adaleasa did this he rode along awhile then raised his hat and said good-bye and turned back.

Once they were having a church meeting at Cedar Bayou, a boat came up the Bayou to the Hill; we all went back on the boat and stayed on it while we attended church: Mary SMITH, Amos SMITH, Elmer BARBER, Ella BARBER, Lit BARBER, Mrs. Adaleasa HARTMAN, Henrietta LAWRENCE, and I, Cornelia LAWRENCE. A widow and her two daughters, from the north I think, came down to the boat and asked us to come sleep at their house; they were lovely people, but I have forgotten their name. They lived across the Bayou on the Chambers County side near the church.

Now that I look back I know that we dressed better than any of the other girls; Mother always saw to that. Lit would have on her party dress that had been freshly done up and we would have new ones on. Some of my dresses that I remember were: 1. A very thin material called "berage" (Fr.), a rose background with a grey or silver stripe, made a tight waist or basque with a very full skirt and deep hem. 2. White with a little black figure--very full skirt; Mother made our dresses but paid someone to put the hems in, which was done beautifully and couldn't be seen at all. 3. I've had lots of white organdy dresses all ruffled up and then the simpler ones were made of lawn, some with dots or figures. We often wore great wide sashes. I had one sash of red, and one of black that I remember; most of our things we bought from peddlers, who came around three or four times a year. And then we shopped at Doctor Morgan's store at Cedar Bayou, also at MILAM's store, also in Galveston. There was a store three miles out on the prairie run by Mr. MABRY, southwest of the Hill. Once a crowd of us were coming home from Cedar Bayou we stopped by to see Mr. MABRY, our former teacher; he was so glad to see us he had a drawing of some kind. We all took chances and I won the lucky number, and got some beautiful material for a dress. It was white with yellow flowers with wide black lace for trimming. I was so happy over it (this was about 1877).

ELLISOW's boat used to come up to the Old SMITH place near the Hill laden with goods, and we all went down and bought things, then on special occasions went to Galveston on the boat and shopped. My trousseau was bought in Galveston by my father; my dress was white silk mull with ruffles and a wide white ribbon sash, a wreath of orange blossoms and a wedding veil. My second day dress was a medium blue beraige (?) made basque style, white silk gloves, and white lace handkerchief; Adaleasa made my dress. Another dress was of flowered material worn with a plain black coat, and a dark red wool dress.

About 1876, when my sister Henrietta married Albert BARBER--Lit and Robert BARROW stood with them--Papa offered her \$100.00 cash or a big wedding supper and dance. Henrietta took the supper and dance, but he gave her the hundred dollars too. When I married I chose the \$100 instead of the supper and dance, but he didn't give me both as he did her. But he did build me a nice brick chimney to make up for it (most people had mud or clay and mortar). Henrietta was real mad about it, but I didn't remind her of her supper and dance and the money too.

Josh and I were married at 4 o'clock, December 19th 1877 at my home. Cindy DUGAT and George TRUSCOTT were married at the same time. My dress was white silk mull with ruffles and a wide white ribbon sash, a wreath of orange blossoms, veil, white gloves and lace handkerchief. Adaleasa made my wedding dress. My second day dress was of medium blue beraise (?) or beraige, a French word, made basque style.

Cindy had run away from home about a month or two before because of her stepmother, Aunt Helen STUBBS, Wilburn DUGAT. Her sister, Marcelete MACKEY, made her dress, which was like mine and made the same.

It poured down rain all morning but cleared up in the evening, but was cold enough for a big fire in the fireplace. There were only about seventeen or eighteen there; Mr. MCGEE performed the ceremony in our big room. Afterward coffee and cake were served; we stayed there a week then moved to "The Hill". Cindy and Mr. TRUSCOTT boarded there all that winter until school was out in the spring--also summer. Then she went to her sister's where her baby was born in September. My baby was born November 1, 1879; we named her Beulah Leanna.

While I lived at The Hill I took cook weeks with Estelle and Bertha (*Josh's sisters*) cooking. Will (*Josh's younger brother*) was small and of course at home. Alford MILLS was staying there then; that was all the family except Mr. and Mrs. BARBER. They always had lots of company and family to come often so when I was ill and couldn't take my turn in the kitchen I went back to Mother's place and stayed. Their house plan was like this--later

the dining room and kitchen were moved to the east.

Our baby was about six weeks old when we moved to our new home. Our own home was finished in Decem-

ber 1879; we didn't have much money so it was small like this:

I sold some cattle and put that money into the house.

The following year, 1880, October 16, we lost our baby; she died of membrane croup. We had Dr. MORGAN and he did all he could.

Our first son, Daniel Amos, was born the following year, October 14, 1881. Dr. MORGAN, Aunt Harriet (colored) and Mother were with me.

In the spring 1882, sister Ada and Jim DUTTON were married. I made her dress of white material; there was no one but the family present. They went down to his father's place on the Bay to live.

September 29, 1883, our daughter, Julia Ada, was born. Mrs. BARBER and Aunt Harriet were with me, but no Doctor. I was suffering very much--Amos was only two and sitting on the porch with his father, he got up and came to my room, pulled a chair up to my bed, leaned over and kissed me without saying a word, got down and went back on the porch. Mrs. BARBER and Aunt Harriet said "How sweet of him", he knew his mother was suffering and wanted to comfort her.

February 13, 1886, another son was born; we named him Archibald Albert. In January 1884 Papa came by one very foggy morning and said "I'm going to be married today" (*His wife Celina had died in 1882*). I ask if he had told the children, and he said no, he was afraid they would tell it; he told them he was going to spend the night at Uncle Bud's on Cedar Bayou. Adaleasa and Runa (*Varuna HARTMAN, Adaleasa's daughter by her first husband E. G. HARTMAN*) had gone down to Nora's on Cedar Bayou so they (*D. J. LAWRENCE and Adaleasa*) married from there and came back to her place for a few days, before she moved over to his home. Not long after that I went to church with Julia a babe in arms. Papa asked me to go home with them to spend the day, he was carrying the baby when we caught up with him and he said, "Adaleasa said she wished she had a baby girl just like this

one". Adaleasa was embarrassed and said, "I didn't say anything of the kind".

July 1892 when Archie was about six and a half years old we were attending a camp meeting on Cedar Bayou. He heard someone mention the children taking whooping cough; it scared him so he didn't turn loose of my skirts the whole time. He was always a Mama boy, and held on to me every where we went. He would go up to "The Hill" alone to play with Arthur, or "Whistle", as he was known.

July 1892 Julia and Archie got whooping cough, very bad case (Amos had already had a light case). They had a pet chicken and used to catch crickets for it. One day they raised up a big iron and the chicken dashed under to get the crickets or bugs, but the iron was hot from the sun shining on it, and they dropped it on the chicken. I heard them screaming and ran out. The chicken was crippled but not dead, so we propped it up in an old wooden stirrup and it lived. Later it began to lay and we missed it for about a week and found it under a basket half dead and starved.

Another time while they had whooping cough the preacher, Brother HOLT, came. He drove a horse to a gig; sometimes rode horseback; he never would tie his horse, but just ride up and drop the reins. That meant that Amos would always have to go chase the horse. This time he was in the gig, but as usual didn't tie him; Julia and Archie were playing outside and began to chunk the horse, and of course he ran away with the gig and Amos had to go catch him. The children got scared of punishment and ran over to the school house and hid under on the sills. It began to rain so we had to send Amos over and promise not to punish them, and say it might kill them if they got wet, with the whooping cough.

Mr. BARBER built the first school house and church with timber cut from his land years ago, about 18???. Church services were held there two or three times a year, then oftener later on. Mr. Barber took the lead and was always responsible for the minister and his family. When he died in 1885 we had been married seven years, and it fell to our lot to take care of the ministers. Amanda BARBER used to say she thought it was a shame that we always had to take the preachers but no one else offered, and she didn't either. Years later when Ocia MCLEAN married Zack WILBURN and came there to live she did church work, taught a Sunday school class, and helped raise money but she didn't take the preachers in her home many times; that always fell to us.

Sometimes we would have the Presiding Elder SEARS and his wife, Brother HOLT and his wife, and two children, all at one time from Friday til Sunday night. Of course I had no help but I cooked and served all the meals and didn't miss a church service. Mrs. SEARS asked how I did it, but I always baked pies, cakes and bread before they came; we always had plenty of chickens, eggs, butter, milk, bacon, sausages, and a good garden the year round. It rained often in east Texas so we could have a year round garden. It was not a matter of food, but only the work involved.

When we had a protracted meeting Mr. and Mrs. HOLT and children would stay with us a week. We had another old man, a Mr. WEAVER, who lived on Cedar Bayou and went around preaching. He had two boys, Walter and Benny. We attended a camp meeting on Cedar Bayou. After every service old Mr. WEAVER would call out in a nasal voice "W-a-l-t-e-r, go find Benny". We had heard his call every night after service, whining out and it had gotten to be a joke. That fall on a cold day he was at our house. He and Mr. BARBER were sitting by the fire place in the living room waiting for supper, when I heard Julia and Archie slip up to the key hole of the front door and in a loud whine say "W-a-l-t-e-r, go find Benny". In a moment I heard their father's footsteps--clop, clop--and the children made their usual run through the entry and out under the house.

Mr. BARBER had nicknames for each one of the children, Amos was Cooney, Julia was Sis, Archie was Billy, and Lucille, Baby. One time one of the preachers was at our house and heard Dad call Archie, Billy--well after awhile the preacher called Archie, William. Archie was very indignant, and said "My name is not William,

it's Billy". Christmas eve Uncle Addison BARBER took the children Amos, Julia and Archie down to ILFREY's store and bought their Christmas things.

December 25--9 am, Christmas morning I got my wish--a blue-eyed, golden-haired girl was born to us, Dr. MORGAN and Aunt Harriet (negro) and Grandmother BARBER were with me; we let Barnie MILAM, who was teaching school at the Hill name the baby Lucille Lorine. Sister Ella was living with Tincie then but she came up and stayed two weeks. Lucy came with her, but only stayed one day. I got out a nice dress to wear that Sunday they came, but couldn't get in it and had to wear a mother-hubbard. Papa came over that morning and brought Freeman to see the baby; he went back and told Adaleasa "Cornelia has the ugliest baby I ever saw". My family was complete now with two boys and two girls, one boy and girl were brunettes and the other two blondes. Amos, Julia and Archie came home that Christmas morning and could hardly wait to get home and see the baby. Julia said she knew what was happening. They had spent the night over at Amanda WILLIAMS.

In 1882 or 83 Hettie Fisher WILBURN used to be a thorn in our sides after Mother died and Tincie, age 12, Robert, 10, Ella, 8, kept the house and cooked and took care of Charles, 5, and Vesta, 3. Hettie used to come over and snoop around, raise up the covers on the beds to see if the sheets were clean, look at the floors, and in the kitchen to see if things were clean. While the children stood around and watched her, then she'd go on back home.

When Hettie married Ben WILBURN her parents objected so she had to run away. They objected because he was an illegitimate child. He even had a brother Luther, who was illegitimate. Finally their mother married old Nick WILBURN, and she gave them the name. Everyone called her old Mrs. Nick. When Hettie's girls got up pretty big she told them a sordid story about their grandmother, so one day old Mrs. Nick was there visiting and Sarah and Amanda said, "Grandmother, what was Papa's real name?" and just laughed--and the old woman got so mad.

When Hettie and Ben first married they lived upon the ridge "The Gus BUCK Place". Their third child Canny died, they couldn't stay there any longer so they moved in the house with Mother and Papa on Old River, and just stayed on and on until after Jerry was born, then they bought land and moved out to the Hill. Cad WILBURN built their house, then Papa bought land from him and built his house out there, and added on it from time to time.

Hettie used to come to my house and look around; once when I had new red curtains in my front room and dining table with beautiful carved legs, she demanded to know where I got them. The curtains were bought at Cedar Bayou, but alas, the table legs were sawed from a four poster bed to make the table. Willie ICET, a cousin, who was a cabinet maker had made the table. He also made me a tall secretary desk stained and finished a dark color. I had a nice round drop leaf table, chairs, an old clock and a pair of large Bristol vases, and several four poster beds--one with a tester that I used to have in my room and drape with a bobnet mosquito bar, tied back in the day time with a ribbon. When the boys got large enough to sleep upstairs I put two beds up there, one I had bought from the Halls, who lived up at Hatcherville, and were moving back out west.

I remember when Amanda and Mary FISHER married Frank FITZGERALD and Taylor WINFREE, it was freezing weather, as it doesn't do nowadays; it was too cold for Mother to get out and take the children, but Papa got dressed and tied his head up and rode all the way down on the Bay to the big double wedding, supper and dance. That was the time the setting hen froze to her eggs. She was in an ash-hopper, which was a barrel on a slanting platform chained to the smokehouse wall, shucks in the bottom then the ashes poured in on top. Pour water on top then it dripped through the ashes and shucks into a trough made to catch it which was a red lye substance to put on cracklings in the wash pot to make lye soap.

Another time about 1884 or 85 when everything was frozen hard, I looked out and saw the children, Ella,

Charles, and Vesta coming; they had to cross the drain or levee over near WILBURN's where their children had been making mud pies on the plank crossing the day before, now they were frozen hard and Vesta, age 5, fell off in the icy water of the drain. I heard her screaming so I went down to meet them, got her in and dried by the fire. I told them it was too cold for them to be out at all but Ella said, "They wanted to get rid of us". Adaleasa used to let them play on an old horse they would lead up to the porch and jump on its back.

Mother always had a buggy and would come by for me after I married and take me places. Our first buggy we bought from the ILFREYS for \$20.00; it was practically new but they were getting a two seater for their growing family.

One time soon after we got it Julia hitched up and went over to Papa's. When she started home late and came through the big gate and got out to close it the horse started out in a gallop for home. Julia started screaming and running after him all the way home. I heard her and saw what was happening and thought sure when he came through our big gate he would tear the buggy up so I ran out to close it, but too late. He came on through and galloped up to the yard and stopped.

Sister Tincie and John ILFREY were married July 7, 1889 in the afternoon at the Scattering Islands, where they were holding a meeting. They stayed at her home that night--Ada was there with her children. The next morning Ruby opened the door and wandered into the room looking up at the pictures on the wall. She never looked toward the bed until Johnnie said, "Go on out Ruby and close the door".

They went to Cedar Bayou to live and boarded at Sarah ILFREY CASEY's until they bought his uncle Charlie ILFREY's house.

Tincie didn't think Johnny's sisters, Bessie and Josie liked her. Soon after they married, Johnnie gave her a piano and she was taking music lessons--she received a comic valentine of a woman rared back and singing at the piano. Tincie always thought Bessie and Josie sent it. They were always jealous of her because she was so pretty.

The next year Ella went to live with Tincie; she did all the work for \$5.00 a month the first year. The second year ??? She stayed there about two years then came and stayed with us while she was making her wedding clothes to marry Tom MCLEAN. There never was a girl more in love than she was. I believed she would have died if she hadn't gotten him. Tommy used to go with Amanda WILBURN, since his sister married Zack WILBURN. Mrs. WILBURN (Hettie) was very jealous of Ella and wanted Tommy to marry Amanda. She used to say "I'd rather be tall like Manda than all up in a wad like Ella".

THE CHURCH

We used to do a lot of things to make money for the Church. Once I had an ice cream supper at my house. We worked so hard turning freezers for so much ice cream. The cakes were all donated; I had them locked up in the kitchen. When I went in to start serving there was Zack WILBURN and ??, they had climbed through a kitchen window and were cracking and eating up a sack of walnuts I had. I just looked at them but didn't say a word; I considered telling Ocia but I didn't.

Another time I put on a home talent play at the school house. Frank BARBER helped me. We had a tableau with Julia and Emily BARBER kneeling in prayer, with their long hair hanging down. Frank put in too much of the tableau powder; when he lit it there was so much smoke it nearly choked everybody and made everybody cough.

Much later we had box suppers and the boys bid on the decorated shoe boxes filled with food without knowing whose box they were getting. When they found the owner of the box they ate with them. Once Amos got Alice

HATCHER's box--Ollie WILBURN went around telling everyone in a loud mocking voice, "Oh, Amos has to eat with Alice HATCHER", "Amos has to eat with Alice HATCHER", right before Alice too. We were late starting that night. The SHEARER girls were always late for everything. It was all over when they finally came. It was most embarrassing, so I asked Amos and Monroe to buy their boxes and eat another supper. They wanted to be with the girls anyway. Someone said about dark they saw one of the SHEARER girls riding to the store bareback for some sugar to make a cake, at that time of day.

Some time after Papa and Adaleasa married Hettie said to me "Tincie is getting better now; she was all stuffed up."

Kate ICET HANKAMER came to see me once with her little boy about Amos' age. He was a very bad child, would cry and slap his food out of his plate. Kate noticed Amos eating and acting like a little gentleman. She said, "Doesn't he ever cry?". I said "Very seldom". The Hankamer's years later had a store at Sour Lake. I went there once when I visited Ada and met Kate's boys. She was the second wife; She took care of the first Mrs. HANKAMER until she died then married Mr. HANKAMER and had a bunch of children of her own.

Amos was the best of all of my four children. At age four I used to give him a bowl of cracked pecans and he would go outside and pick them out for himself. He would play for hours alone.

Mr. BARBER gave me a horse named "Old Chunk". I was very happy to have a horse of my own. I am not sure what his daughters thought of it but not long afterwards Amanda WILLIAMS sent one of her boys over and asked Josh for my horse to go to the store. He let them have it. I wouldn't have minded if she had asked me for it.

After Grandpa LAWRENCE's wife, Harriet HANEY (*Henrietta Harriet FISHER, daughter of Mary Ann RUHL by her first husband, Samuel FISHER; her third husband and Harriet's step-father was James HANEY*) died he married a widow, old Mrs. CHARLIE with one son, Albert (always some question about his birth). Albert was grown and married to Absolie ?? , and they had a little girl Tiny, whom he used to leave at our house for weeks at a time (wife and baby) while he rode the prairie. All this when I was a child at home. I was much older than Tiny however; I am trying to establish the time or date approximately.

Dr. HARTMAN lived across Old River up in the woods. They had a house full of children, Ed, Urier (*Uriah*), Willie, Robert, Mary, and Becky. Mary married Joe KILGORE and lived out on the prairie. Their children were Lena, Willie, Charles, Elmer, John, Hartman, and Maggie.

Becky married Dr. GRIFFITH and lived down from the Hill near Old River woods. Their children were Amos (married WILLIAMS), Gaak (married MCKAY), Mildred (married ICET), Susie (married ?).

Ed HARTMAN married Adaleasa FITZGERALD, Urier HARTMAN married Jeanette ? (*MCNEECE*), Willie and Robert never married. (*Actually, Willie married Rozela CROSS*).

After Mrs. HARTMAN died Dr. HARTMAN married a lovely aristocratic woman, Mrs. CRAIN from Galveston. When he died she went back to Galveston to live but used to visit her step-daughter Mary KILGORE all of the time. They came up and spent the day with me once and used to go to church all the time. She had two sons Frank, that lived at Cuero or Victoria, I'm not sure which. She slipped on a banana peeling in Galveston and broke her hip; she died from it.

Mrs. CRAIN told me when her first baby was very young she decided she would go calling; she hadn't been anywhere in so long and she had such a good time she forgot all about leaving her baby and stayed on and on. Not until she saw the servants laying the table with white cloth for supper she realized the time and sped home. She was

a good friend of mine and I have her picture now.

After we moved to the Hill our cows used to go back to our old place at Old River when turned out, then Papa would send Henrietta and me on horses to bring them home in the afternoon. Once we got lost and couldn't find the place and had to come home without them.

Between 1871 and 1875 when I was a little girl about nine years old I remember two first cousins coming to our house from Liberty. They were Divige (girl) and her brother Bico. Their last name is TOUPS. Ate supper and dressed for a dance at Uncle Larry DUGAT's down on Cotton Bayou. I believe Mother and Papa went with them to the dance. I don't remember seeing these French first cousins but once, but they were the best looking people I had ever seen; both were brunettes with olive complexion and very well dressed. I shall never forget how handsome they were and how I admired them.

Uncle Joe DUGAT lived at Dayton. He had a son Joe, whom they called "Buffalo Joe"; he was very large. He married Jane BARROW who had a brother Hayden BARROW.

During the time we moved to the Hill, during 1870, Tincie was a baby. I was nine, the oldest of four little girls. Mother had pneumonia; she was very very ill and unconscious. She barely knew any of the Hill people, but Amanda BARBER came over and got Tincie a baby and kept her up at the Hill so Mrs. BARBER could nurse her. Will was a baby then too. She would bring the baby back in the afternoon for a little while each day. When Mother got better she told me the terrible dreams she had had of someone offering her bread with butter and when she would reach for it they would draw it away.

I remember when I was a child, perhaps nine or ten or eleven, a young doctor HANNON came to Cedar Bayou--a large handsome Irishman, he lived somewhere out on the prairie and had a slate on his door telling people where he was. If someone came and wanted him, they wrote on the other side and when he came home he would go on to the next patient.

Dr. MORGAN and SCHILLING didn't like it at all as he was taking so much of their practice away from them. He was engaged to "Absolea" FISHER ?, the widow of Amos FISHER (Hettie's oldest brother).

I remember I was with Mother and a group of women up at Mrs. BARBER's at "The Hill", (they were building the dining room and kitchen wing and only the foundation was finished). We were all sitting on the cross sills; Absolea was visiting there from Old River when the news came that Dr. HANNON was drowned while crossing the Bayou--his horse was found tied to a tree. There was some talk that it wasn't an accident, but of course he could have gone to sleep and fallen out of the skiff. He was so busy and going all the time.

My impression is that it was up the Bayou in the woods near the Old SHEARER house (of course it wasn't there then) and he lived some way out of the woods. There was sadness that day when the news came.

Absolea later married Albert Charlie (Papa's step brother) whose mother separated from old man Charlie and then she married Grandpa LAWRENCE. They had a little girl they called Tiny. Albert used to bring them to our house and leave them on us for weeks and weeks, while he worked cattle.

Absolea had a sister Jeanette ? (*MCNEECE*) who married Uriah HARTMAN, no children.

I have seen many alligator when we lived on Old River. They used to catch my uncle's hogs on Lawrence Island. When he would hear one squealing he'd get his gun and run down and shoot the alligator. That was the cause of his death; he got too hot running down to the river.

In the summer of 1884 Amos had a very high fever for several days and was real sick; we had Dr. MORGAN come. When he got well he couldn't walk; the Dr. said fever had settled in his legs. I think now he had a light case of polio.

Shortly after that we went to a big meeting at Cedar Bayou. Julia was a baby--I carried her and Mr. BARBER had to carry Amos, he still couldn't walk without falling. He crawled around, for ever so long.

They had those big Camp Meetings every year; we always went. Mrs. BARBER liked to go and none of her other children would ever take her. Once I remember we took Lily BARBER; she was so glad to go, as she didn't get to go very much.

We had our big tent that they used on a "cow hunt"; I cooked up a lot of food to take along. We took mattresses, children and all in a big wagon as every one else did and stayed a week. One time I went home for a day and night, made bread and cooked up a lot more food, then went back.

About 1890 I took the children (?) Amos and Julia and rode down on Old River to our old place to gather plums (three miles). Aunt Harriet still lived there in the house Papa had built her in a grove of beautiful trees or a gully. She fixed a table with a white cloth on it out under the trees and served us a nice lunch--home made light bread, milk, butter, and preserves. We gathered our plums in a big pillow slip sack. Amos carried them on his horse home.

When we were cooking for Henrietta's wedding supper--there were Aunt Harriet and Emily both colored--Mother, Adaleasa, Henrietta, Ella BARBER and I. I was sick that day with cramps as I had gotten my feet wet. Mother told me to go lie down, which I did. Then Ella came in and woke me to get up and come help. Aunt Harriet, after she mixed her cakes used to put them in a churn and churn them to make them light, and they were really good.

In 1880 or 1881 I sold two gold rings, one a double heart and the other a signet ring to Freelan DUGAT and with the money (I've forgotten how much) bought our big family Bible. It was shortly after the death of our baby. I wanted a good Bible with a place for a record of our marriages, births and deaths.

I remember once at Mineral Mrs. Matt WILLIAMS, a very comical widow who lived on a ranch near us with her grown son, George, who also had a great sense of humor. She was bitten by a rattle snake on the lower leg while out gathering agaritas. Stella and Amos had just married so it must have been about April 1904 or 05. Stella and I went to see her; she was telling us about the snake bite. They sent for Dr. Charlie REAGAN to come from Oakville. When he came she held her skirt right tight around her leg just above her knee and said to the Dr. "That is just as far as you are going to see."

Beryl was the cutest of all our grandchildren. She was the nervous type and into everything. She asked questions constantly--she used to say "Where you gone-ne?" "What you do-ne?" all in one breath.

They lived just down the road from us, about a block. On cold winter mornings she used to get up about daylight. They would dress her and turn her loose. She would hit the trail to our house. Her grandfather would be up drinking coffee, but sometimes she would come before the fires in the fireplaces would be made.

Uncle Larry lived on Cotton Bayou between The Hill and DUTTONS--somewhere in the woods near the DUTTONS.

Uncle Baptiste lived on Old River beyond the ICET Place.

Uncle Joe DUGAT lived on the Hill before we ever moved out there or even before Grandpa BARBER. Then he moved to Dayton or Liberty.

Robert BARROW and I stood up with Amanda FISHER and Elmer BARBER when they married--a big dance and supper down on The Bay.

My best friends through the years: Amanda FISHER; Nora HARTMAN; Lit BARBER; Henrietta LAWRENCE; Jack GRIFFITH; Almaw (MERRITT) FISHER--older than I, she did the work at Uncle Robert Lawrence's when Henrietta and I went to school there; Mary WINFREE, was a good friend always; Cousin Mattie DUGAT; and Stella; Cousin Matt PAGE; Cousin Alda (MALEY) SMITH; Cousin Nannie MALEY, Janie and Alda; Mrs. GARNER; Mrs. RANKIN; Irene GARNER; Mrs. Bill CRYER; Mrs. Dan CRYER.

Beeville Friends, not in order: Cousin Ellie DUGAT, Mrs. MILLER, Mrs. RITTENHAUR (Sally), Mrs. Maude POTTER, Estelle DUGAT, Cecile PARTAIN, Mrs. Will SMITH, Mrs. R. J. DOBIE, Mrs. GRIFFIN, Mattie HATCHER, Mrs. John WILSON, Mrs. Ruf MILLER (Lena and Lola MILLER), Mrs. REESE, Mrs. BORROM, Mrs. Mary BARROW, Mrs. L. GRIFFIN (later years), Jennie DUGAT, Nellie HALL, Maude HOWARD, Bess MCKINNEY, Rae Wood WELDER, Mrs. NATIOUS, Mrs. IRVIN, Mrs. DAUGHERTY, Mrs. STRAUSS.

Some Beeville parties: Mrs. GRIFFIN and I went together one time to a party at ? We didn't have a car, if we did neither could drive. So we walked together. Mrs. CLARE gave a reception and shower for Lola when she and Joe married and I was in the receiving line. Other parties at: Mrs. Jim RAY, Imogene HALL, Lola and Lena MILLER, Mrs. GEFFERT, Mrs. Sid HALL, Mrs. Ernest MILLER, Mrs. J. C. BEASLEY.

When Beryl was about a year old Stella and I had been to Mrs. CLARK's home and we were driving a black fiery horse that was always raring to go as soon as anyone got in the buggy. Stella got in first, I handed her the baby (Beryl) and then ran to the horse's head to keep him from raring up and backing into the fence. Stella had the reins instead of the baby and she fell out on her head. We could tell she was badly hurt; she didn't even cry and I thought she was dead. I told Sam to get me some water quick; he brought me a dipper full and I bathed her face. We drove to the store and told Amos to get the doctor quick. Dr. BECKER came on to the house (they were living in Julia's house then), examined the baby and bluntly said "I believe her neck is broken". Stella, who was pregnant and very weak, almost fainted.

I think that was the last time we ever drove that black horse. Another time at about the same age, she was badly hurt. Sidney and Dora were there; Beryl was just learning to walk. She started toward Dora and staggered and started falling and hit her head on the corner of Dora's chair. It raised a knot as large as an egg. Dora made no effort to help her; Stella told me that afterward, that Dora could have saved her by just putting out her hand. Instead she just sat there calmly.

From our house I heard her screaming and saw Amos outside walking her in the yard. I ran down there and saw the bump she had gotten--Amos was crying too.

When Beryl was about two years old Stella was getting her daily bath ready and had her every day clothes laid out on the bed when she turned her back to regulate the water and came back the plain panties had been put back in the drawer and the panties with lace had been put in their place. And there stood Beryl with a cute little innocent look.

Beulah was one of the best babies I ever saw; she was just like Amos was. She would sit for hours on the floor and play--never gave anyone any trouble. Once after Papa and Adaleasa moved to Houston I was there on a visit--we were alone and Papa walked along beside me and put his hand on my shoulder and said "You look so

much like your Mother, only her hair was as black as a coal." He never mentioned Mother around Adaleasa.

Uncle Jerry and Aunt Sarah FISHER lived down on the Bay--he was about the most prosperous cattle man around there. They had the following eleven children: Amos, Sol, Hettie, Ann, Mary, Joe, Ben, Amanda, Martha, Matt, and Henry. After their children were all married and had homes of their own Joe WILBURN, an orphan, lived with them and worked for them.

One day in 1878 when Uncle Jerry had gone to drive the cows up, two men came and asked Aunt Sarah for some coffee and cotton to plug their boat up. When she left the room to show Joe where the cotton was, one of the men hit her over the head with a pistol. Joe screamed "You've killed Aunt Sarah!" Then they made him look down the barrel of their gun while they searched the house for money that they kept in the house. After the men left Joe saddled his horse and rode to Sol FISHER's to give the alarm. Soon all the people at The Hill knew about it and armed themselves to try to find the robbers. It was night by then and they lost the trail. They boarded the train at Dayton and were caught the next day some where on the train in east Texas. One man jumped from the train and was shot. The other man, MERRETT, was caught. The other was GOODNIGHT, who was killed. Most of the money was recovered. It was said that the Fisher's daughter-in-law, Absoley FISHER, Amos' wife, had told the men about the money being kept in the house. When it all came out her sister Jeanette (Mrs. Uriah HARTMAN) said "What is the matter with my fool sister?"

When Amos and Absoley were married they lived in the house with Uncle Jerry and Aunt Sarah. His parents and she knew all the places they hid their money. Amos was sick all the time. One day he asked her for a drink of water but she went right on with her knitting; so he grabbed it and threw it in the fire. She scratches his face. A few days later he died and the scratches on his face and neck were still there.

Later she married Albert Charlie (LAWRENCE). He wanted to be known as a LAWRENCE, his step-father's name. They had a little girl Tiny.

She told the men the money was kept in trunks under the bed and in some shoes hanging on the wall. They found the money where she told them but failed to find \$600.00 hidden in lid of a trunk. She told them not to hurt the old man as he had always been kind to her but she didn't care what they did to Aunt Sarah.

Children of Celina DUGAT by her first husband Joseph L. Dugat:

Joseph L. DUGAT Jr. died 1834; had twelve children; married Sidney P. DUNCAN

Charles E. DUGAT married Mary A TEAR; had five children

Peter DUGAT married Susan WINFREE; had four children

Margaret Jane DUGAT married John A. WILLIAM; had three children

Zimilia DUGAT married Julia Ann WINFREE; had one child

Baptiste DUGAT married (1) Martha LAWRENCE; had two children, Marselite and Lucinda

Baptiste DUGAT married (2) Helen STUBBS WILBURN; had six children

Leona DUGAT died

John DUGAT moved to Louisiana; located heirs living in Algiers, LA 1835-36 (?)

Eulalie DUGAT married Beasley PRUETT; had one child; 12-26-1816 to 9-21-1874

Eularian DUGAT married Marcelite WINFREE; had eight children; one son Eularian still living

Euphemia DUGAT married Joseph TOUPS; had eight children

The final page of Cornelia's memoirs contain the following notes with no explanatory text:

died 1849 or 1850
Allen VINCE married Matilda BIL-
BURN widow 3 children

John VINCE- son of Allen VINCE was alive in 1850-51
1. Johanna married a Mr. WREDEN as Johanna WHITE
2. Mary Ann married a Mr. MCLAUGHLIN as Mary Ann WHITE
3. William married twice, one son from this union
half-brother to John VINCE--died 1868

William WILBURN had 5 children

1. Marie married (1) Pierre BLANCHETTE--one son Joe died April
6, 1921 (2) Bill DUNCAN--Marie died 1873
2. John married Helen STUBBS--one son William non-compos-men-
tis, died in Austin 1913
Helen WILBURN married Baptiste DUGAT.
3. Diz SISASTRIS Died Sept. 11, 1906 widow survives
4. Jack William JACKSON
5. Isabel--one grand-child living

Land in question Wilson STRIEKLAND 1/3 League--1847, Montgomery Co. Texas

Allen VINCE acquired 1/2 of land for surveying and locating and acquired other half for a debt owing Allen VINCE; amount to \$200.00

Dr. Thomas A. STANWOOD father of Eugenie STANWOOD who married:

- (1) Mr. MOUTON--nephew of Governor of Louisiana
- (2) Mr. B. HARDIN--her true love