

DEWITT COUNTY HISTORY



**THE HISTORY
OF
DEWITT COUNTY, TEXAS**

By
The DeWitt County Historical Commission

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companies to be canned and relief. the flood, that got all the crops the family's livestock, Temple his father-in-law he was not any longer; so Mr. Klokau Lawrence Keesling, and the to the Carl Schorre place at next year, T.K., his younger and his younger sister, Hazel, Cecil, Odell and Billy, and to school with Arlene at Ratcliffe School). The Schorre taught at Arnecke- all this bunch transferred to T.K. got to high school he bus. After graduation in the Livestock Commission and Hansen Feed Store Creamery. He attended the sale ever held in Cuero Through his school days he factored screw worm cases He went in the Air Force in and was discharged in 1947. he worked at the Cuero Company and for El-Raleigh Blackwell at the sale Texas. He also traded cattle school, he received a Lone Star



Mr. and Mrs. Temple Henry Chaddock.

Chaddock married Julia Le- Comstock, Texas. She has Mary and Barbara, one T.K. and Julia have three Lynn, who married Roger engineer for Exxon Corpora- School teacher and Dea- Church. They have two sons, Machinery Martin; 2) Raleigh Myra Warner. They Amy Elizabeth. Mark is a Ruth Anne Chaddock is a Brothers and Barnum and

Mr. Chaddock was born in Valley View on March 17, 1897 and went to school at Valley View School near Cheapside. He entered the Army on September 13, 1918 and served in Company A, 2nd Developing Battalion, 155th Depot Brigade at Camp Lee in Virginia.

Mrs. Chaddock, formally Mary Klokau, was born September 27, 1902 in Inez, Texas. She grew up and went to school in Clinton, Texas.

They were married on December 21, 1920 in Clinton and lived on a farm near Yorktown. During this time their two eldest children were born. After four years, they moved to the old Klokau farm. Eventually Mrs. Chaddock gave birth to two other children on this farm. Temple Kaye was the only child born away from the farm. He was born at the Klokau house on the outskirts of Cuero.

The five children of Temple Henry and Mary were: 1) Evelyn Grace, who married Kirksey Bennett of Cuero and now lives in Beeville. Their children are, Mary Temple, Suellen and Pamela Grace; 2) Clarence Alden, who married Willene Sutton of Aransas Pass and now lives in La Porte. Their children are, Sharon Amelia, Don Rodney, and Holly Ann; 3) Temple Kaye, who married Julia Martin of Comstock and lives in Cuero. They have three children: Rebecca Lynn, Raleigh Mark, and Ruth Anne; 4) Kyle Afton, who married Lillian Whitehurst of Beeville and lives in Richmond. They have three children: Michael Albert, Mary Margaret, and Mitzi Dawn; 5) Hazel Marie, who married Clarence Eugene Buck of Bay Minnette, Alabama and lives in Houston, Texas. They have three children: Clarence Eugene, Jr., David Wesley, and Kenneth Paul.

After the flood in 1936, the family, and livestock saved from the flood, began a new life near Ratcliff (Five Mile). They lived here until 1944 when Mr. Chaddock went to work with Amerada and Mrs. Chaddock moved to Cuero with the three younger children (Temple K., Kyle, and Hazel). In 1945 she began traveling with Mr. Chaddock and the two youngest children. After his retirement twenty years

later, they moved back to Cuero where they live now.

by Kyle A. Chaddock

CHISHOLM, RICHARD H. AND FAMILY

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The two Chisholm brothers, Richard H. and Richard A., along with their sister Lourena, migrated from Scotland to Virginia and then to Green DeWitt's Colony in Texas in 1828.

Richard A. Chisholm never married according to descendants of his brother's family and no further record was kept on him.

Lourena Chisholm married James H. Hallmullen in DeWitt County on March 15, 1849. Lourena (Chisholm) Hallmullen mysteriously disappeared one day while going from the ranch to Goliad for supplies. Members of the family found her horse and rig by the Guadalupe River crossing, but they could find no trace of Lourena.

Richard H. Chisholm married Hardina Taylor. Hardina Taylor was the daughter of Josiah and Hepzibeth (Smith) Taylor. Hardina had one sister, Johanna, and six brothers - William Riley, Creed, Josiah, Pitkin, Rufus, and James. Richard H. Chisholm started "Chisholm's Ferry" across the Guadalupe River in 1838. The ferry was located near the point where Chisholm Creek met the Guadalupe River. Richard H. Chisholm donated 640 acres of land for the townsite of the county seat for DeWitt County. He was unsuccessful at first, but the county seat was eventually established at the townsite of Clinton, Texas, near Chisholm's Ferry.

Richard H. Chisholm and Hardina (Taylor) Chisholm had two sons - Bradford A. and Glenn Thornton Chisholm and a daughter - Mary Ann Chisholm. Richard H. Chisholm died April 8, 1855.

Bradford A. Chisholm married Harriett Courtney and they had four children - Ida, Olie, Emma, and Richard T. Chisholm. Richard T. "Dick" Chisholm and his second cousin, William P. "Buck" Taylor were shot and killed by Bill Sutton and his friends on Christmas Eve, 1868, in Clinton, Texas. There was a disagreement between the Taylor and Sutton factions about the reason for the killings, but there was no question about who did the killing. "Dick" Chisholm was about 20 years old when the shooting took place.

Glenn Thornton Chisholm married Jane P. Fore on May 27, 1852, in DeWitt County. They had six children - George Lankford, Jessie, Effie, Cora, Annie, and Daniel Fore Chisholm. Glenn Thornton Chisholm was the retail boss for Crockett Cardwell when he put his first herd of cattle together and drove them from DeWitt County, up the "Chisholm Trail" to St. Joseph, Missouri, in 1866. The Chisholms of DeWitt County claimed that the "Chisholm Trail" was named for Glenn Thornton Chisholm because he set the path on the first trail drive. Glenn Thornton Chisholm was accidentally killed by a freight wagon that rolled over him when a breast chain broke while he was going up a steep hill. He was buried by the wagon trail near Burnet Texas, in March, 1892.

by T.K. Chaddock

CHADDOCK, TEMPLE HENRY AND FAMILY

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Mary Ann "Annie" Chisholm married John Roebuck Kelso in DeWitt County on August 14,

1856. John Roebuck Kelso was the son of James Kelso and Rhoda Roebuck, daughter of John Roebuck – American Revolutionary soldier. John Roebuck Kelso's father was a brother of Alfred Kelso, Sr., who fought in the Battle of San Jacinto. Mary Ann (Chisholm) Kelso and her husband, John, had seven children – Winchester, Frank Hubert, Hardina, Rhoda, Fannie, Jessie, and John Clyde Kelso. Mary Ann (Chisholm) Kelso died about 1878. There is a possibility that John Clyde Kelso was the son of John Roebuck Kelso's second wife, Jane P. "Jennie" (Fore) Chisholm Kelso, Glenn Thornton Chisholm's widow and John Roebuck Kelso's sister-in-law.

by Joe Hugh Hutchins

CILFONE, CHARLES AND LOIS ALVARADO FAMILY

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Charles Jacob Cilfone, Maclovía (Uresti) Alvarado and Barbara Jean (Iverson) Cilfone, 1987.

Lois Josephine Alvarado Cilfone was born in Cuero, Texas on August 5, 1927. Her parents are Jacob Alvarado and Maclovía Uresti whose story is written separately. Lois attended St. Michael's School and later graduated with honors from Cuero High School in May 1945. She studied piano with Miss Julia Fey, the organist at St. Michael's Church, and played at recitals for several years. Lois graduated from Draughon's Business College in San Antonio, Texas on June 19, 1946. She also took night courses at St. Mary's University for four years.

Lois became a legal secretary to San Antonio's former district attorney, John R. Shook. When the Korean War broke out in 1950, she became a civil service stenographer at Fort Sam Houston and later a medical secretary. Lois married Lieutenant Charles Joseph Cilfone on August 28, 1954, at St. Mary's

ment at Tokyo International Airport. He made captain in 1955. They lived at United Nations Command Headquarters, Far East in downtown Tokyo near Emperor Hirohito's Imperial Palace, and drove past this beautiful setting daily on their way to work. Charles was commander of the postal squadron handling all mail coming into and out of the Far East and Lois was secretary to the Staff Judge Advocate. After three years, he was transferred to Washington, D.C.

They lived in Scottsdale, Arizona where their son, Charles Jacob was born on August 4, 1958. They moved to San Antonio and Catherine Marie was born in September 15, 1959; Patricia Lucia on May 16, 1962; and Lois Annette on August 28, 1963. Charles was promoted to Major in the U.S. Air Force Reserves in 1962.

In the 1960s Lois worked at the Lackland Air Force Hospital, Kelly Air Force Base and was secretary to the president of Our Lady of the Lake College. In the 1970s Lois served as secretary and president of the Catholic Committee on Girl Scouting for the Archdiocese of San Antonio. On May 31, 1978, Lois was commissioned a Yellow Rose of Texas by Governor Dolph Briscoe.

Charles Joseph Cilfone was born in Chicago, Illinois on January 6, 1920. His parents are Nicole Cilfone of Campobasso and Lucia Savatio of San Marco la Catola, both mountain villages near the city of Foggia near the Adriatic coast of Italy. Charles graduated from McKinley High School in Chicago in May 1937. His three brothers and 4 sisters also graduated from this school. He attended Loyola University in Chicago, St. Mary's University in San Antonio and St. Sofia University in Tokyo.

Charles was drafted for World War II in 1942, became a cadet and later a navigator/bombardier. While stationed near London, he participated in missions over Holland, France and Belgium. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, Presidential Citation, Purple Heart and several oak leaf clusters.

While in his 20s, Charlie travelled throughout the United States selling chemicals and cleaning compounds to the institutional trade. In 1958, he became a self-employed real estate broker and an official of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in 1964 until his retirement in January 1980. He was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Law at the University of Texas at San Antonio, the year of its creation in 1969.

Their son, Charles Jacob graduated from the University of Texas in Austin in May 1981, is a petroleum engineer, a licensed private pilot and a May 1989 graduate of St. Mary's University School of Law. He is now an associate in the law firm of Adams and Graham in Harlingen. He married Barbara Jean Iverson of Fargo, North Dakota on May 2, 1987, at St. Mary's Church in San Antonio, Texas. "B.J." received her degree in Interior Design from the University of North Dakota and works for an oil and gas company.

Their daughter, Catherine Marie received her business degree in Finance and Marketing from St. Mary's University graduating Cum Laude in May 1983. She is now Director of Student Activities and Special Events at Incarnate College where her husband, Gerald Thomas McCarthy, is vice-president at the college. Gerald, of New York, received his bachelor and

the St. Mary's University Chapel.

Patricia Lucia graduated Cum Laude from Texas Tech University in May 1985 with a degree in History. She is now a second year student at the University of Texas in Austin on a full academic scholarship.

Lois Annette (Sita) graduated from the School of Business at the University of Texas Austin also in May 1985. She manages a unit apartment complex in Austin, Texas.

Charles and Lois Cilfone have travelled the United States, Mexico, the Orient, Europe, and have lived at 134 Postwood Drive in northwest San Antonio, Texas for 30 years.

by Lois Alvarado Cilfone

CKODRE (DORECK) FAMILY

Early County Settlers

Joseph Lawrence Ckudre and his wife Minnie Ann Tolbert Ckudre were representative of the hardy stock of people who populated DeWitt County. A look at them and their forebears can tell us why. Joseph was born February 5, 1877 most probably in Galveston. At a very early age he already had a reputation for working with horses. At the age of four he was out looking for work to support himself. He travelled to the Butler Ranch in Karnes County to ask for work, whereupon the patriarch of that infamous family told him to get his property, as he was only a child and not a man enough to do ranch work. He went on to the Davy area of DeWitt County where he went to work for the Weldon Ranch. By about age twenty he was the foreman of the Weldon and Lackey ranches!

Joseph L. Ckudre's father was Charles Doreck, who emigrated from Germany after his first wife died. Doreck left behind a daughter who was a Catholic nun there, and brought with him the four sons, Lawrence, Frank, Emil, and Herbert Doreck. Not much is known of these children. However, Charles married Minnie Hoffman when she was eighteen years old. She too had come from a town in Germany with her aunt and uncle, the Gertrude family, coming into this country through Indiana. To their union here in Texas, several children were born: Dr. Mary Wilson (a pediatrician), Ed Doreck, Joseph Doreck-Ckudre, Lottie Bowman (a teacher), Josephine, married to a Captain McKee, Annie Mchlovsky (sp), and Gertrude LaVander. Some years after the last child was born in the Galveston area, Mrs. Doreck made the decision to leave her husband, probably for self-preservation. Giving the children their choice of parent and name to remain with, she had her name officially changed to Ckudre, a rearrangement of the letters in Doreck. It was said she had a lawyer do this in Matagorda County, but no actual court record is shown there. Perhaps it was done somehow in Galveston County. Two children also had their name changed: Joseph and little Gertrude. Minnie (now Minnie Hoffman Ckudre) had no intention of being found by Charles. She divorced and left town. She eventually came to what is known