

TEXAS CENTENARIAN NATIVE HAMILTON COUNTY

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of Frontier Days.**

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Though 1,000 miles removed from the scenes of his youth and middle life, Mr. Shirley recounts today with approximate accurateness, at the age of 112 years, the happenings in his native state during the first three-fourths of the Nineteenth century.

Mr. Shirley is a descendant of long-lived ancestors, many of whom lived several years beyond the century mark. Living the hardy life of pioneers they hunted, fished and trapped, engaging in farming only as necessitated by their immediate needs and spent much time out of doors, making them a vigorous, healthy and strong race.

When 85 years of age, Shirley married the second time. A daughter by this marriage, Mrs. W. W. Waters, lives with her husband and 2-year-old daughter at Mesquite, Tex. She is 21 years old and bears a striking resemblance to her father. Mrs. Sadie Pitts is Mr. Shirley's eldest child. She is 87 and lives at Burneyville, Okla.

There is a more authentic record of Mr. Shirley's age than for most men who have lived so long. Dr. W. J. Johnson, who was also reared in Hamilton county, Tennessee, practiced medicine for many years at Round Rock, Tex. Thirty years ago Dr. Johnson was 82 years of age and he said at that time that Mr. Shirley was one or two years older than he. Older men and women who came here from Tennessee were past 90, and they had known Mr. Shirley all their lives. None of the figures given by them indicate that he is less than 112 years of age now.

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B. L. ("BLACK") SHIRLEY, 112, WITH MRS. W. W. WATERS, 22, HIS DAUGHTER.

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Didn't Drink Much.

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During the fifteen years following the close of the war Mr. Shirley continued to live in the mountain home. About 1880 there was a great migration of people from East Tennessee westward, due to the exhaustion attendant on the close of the war, and from the rigorous government which accompanied the period of reconstruction. The main route followed the course of the Tennessee river, round the escarpment of the Cumberland plateau into the West Tennessee valley and thence to Texas.

The Hutchinsons, Doughtrys, Colliers and other families who were to become pioneers in the development of Weatherford and surrounding territory came to Parker county, Texas. Along with them came B. L. Shirley, then 60 years of age, but as proven by later events, in the prime of life. He came with the spirit of a pioneer, and put in over thirty years of hard work before he was ready to retire. Con-

ditions were vastly different from those in the mountains of Tennessee, but he adapted himself, learned the ways of frontier life in Texas, accumulated property and made a place for himself in the community where he lived.

One of the men now living in Weatherford who knew Mr. Shirley in the old state is John R. Brown, who served forty years as a peace officer and four years as sheriff of Parker county. Mr. Brown was reared in the same Tennessee community with Mr. Shirley and remembers him well as a boy. For a number of years Mr. Brown was constable at Springtown, and was well acquainted with him there.

Active at 55 or 60.

"B. L. Shirley was as active at 75 or 80 years as most men are at 35," Mr. Brown said. "He could do a good day's work, could take care of himself in a scrap and handle an unruly team of horses with ease. Folks at that time did not think of Shirley as an old man."

Old timers who knew Shirley in his childhood and early manhood describe him then as a wary and aggressive man, at a time when most men have retreated to the chimney corner, content to spend the remainder of their lives with a favorite pipe and the jolly reminiscences of other days.

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was long and the work was hard, but he remembered the principles of living engendered in his mind in Tennessee and lived accordingly.

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The nearest railroad point was Weatherford, eighteen miles away, and Fort Worth, one of the largest cities of the Lone Star State today, was thirty miles distant. The old settlers there were still talking of the Indian raids which had ceased only a few years before. They had seen their cattle and horses stolen and neighbors murdered by the fierce Comanche Indians, who had been the terrors of the West.

Recalls Indians.

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As the year passed many settlers found their way to Parker county, some coming in wagons, horseback, and about finding most of the country trail heavily wooded, they killed trees, built homes and began a struggle for existence in a primitive environment. Instead of a busy market place began to dot the hills and plains, and the old log cabin gradually disap-

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The present generation can hardly understand the conditions which pioneers had to combat with over 100 years ago. Large families were the rule, so much so that a large number of children were an asset. Practically, the only records kept were those in the family Bible. It was seldom that a notice of a birth was published in a newspaper or any record made in a clerk or registrar's office.

Blind for Two Years.

For the past two years Mr. Shirley has been almost totally blind, but his general health has continued good. He recalls names of old friends and incidents of his early life readily, and likes to talk with his visitors.

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Mr. Shirley has seen Tennessee develop into a flourishing state, well deserving of the title "Mother of the Southwest." He has seen Texas expand until today miles of railroad and paved highways replace the old Chisholm trail, the pony express and the narrow, winding trails made by the Indians. He has, indeed, lived during a century of construction and development in every phase of the arts and sciences.

ALPHONSO MANGO TAKES PRIZE FOR VITAMIN 'C'

LONDON (AP)—Alphonso the mango, bids for the world's first prize for vitamins.

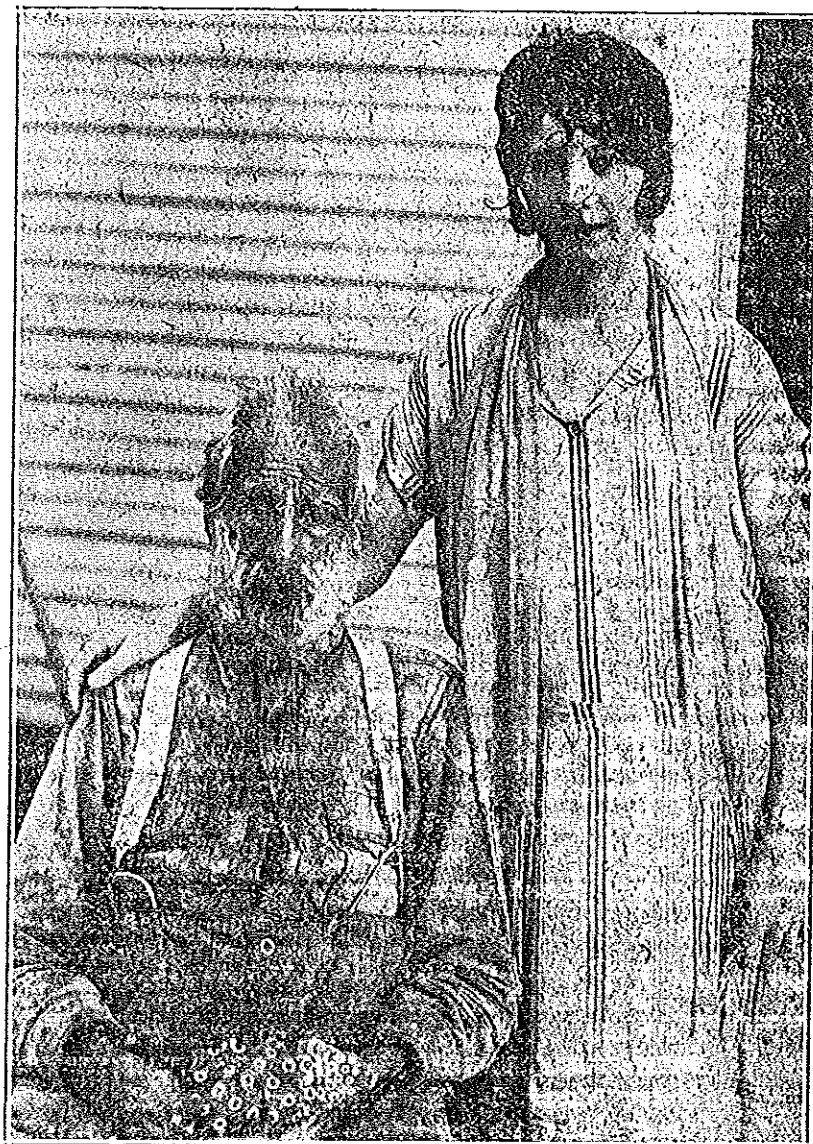
The mango, which grows primarily in India, is already known all over the east as the yellow, squishy, juicy fruit that can only be eaten with safety in a bath. Its new honors are accorded it in a report by the British scientists, Miss Edith Parry and Dr. Solomon Zilva.

Recalling that all mammals are known to be rich in vitamins, they say that Alphonso, the mango, is the fruit richest in the vitamin, and that it is the most potent natural source of Vitamin C, a substance that protects against scurvy.

Alphonso, it appears, contains six times as much of the vitamin as the most potent apple known, and its content of Vitamin A, which is believed to protect against goiter and beriberi, is equal to that of citrus.

Many Producing Exports.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Exports of "Commonwealth" mangoes, more than 14,000 tons, were shipped last week, were mostly to the United States and Canada for export in 1931.



Uncle B. L. (Black) Shirley of Springtown, as announced Friday, visited Weatherford and the County Fair Saturday, in company with his wife. Mr. and Mrs. Shirley were brought over from Springtown Saturday morning by W. A. White in his closed car, and it was a great day for the old people. They were the recipients of much attention from friends and acquaintances, and the public generally was very curious to see one so old as Mr. Shirley, who is now 108 years of age, has one daughter 16 and another 87 years of age. At 11 o'clock Mr. and Mrs. Shirley attended the Old Settlers' meeting and heard the address of Judge James C. Wilson. At noon they were to the Texas Cafe, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Plumlee of Millsap, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Doughty, W. A. White and a Herald reporter, and the party were luncheon guests of the cafe. Mr. and Mrs. Shirley returned to their home at 3 o'clock, well pleased with their visit to the city and the fair. Above is a picture of Mr. Shirley and his 16-year-old daughter.

1927-7

FALL?

And there was the Judge Carter grist mill near where the Weatherford Steam Laundry is now located, and the Farmers Alliance Mill on Water street -- you had about forgotten it, hadn't you?

And on Fort Worth street where the ice plant is now, we had the Carson & Lewis Flouring Mill.

And I will never forget the Arkansas Wagon Yard where the Post Office is now located. One reason for not forgetting it, is my horse was locked up in there one night and I had to get a room and spend the night in Weatherford.

And as to churches, I believe there is not a church building standing that was here when I came to Weatherford. New ones have taken their places -- quite an improvement in architecture, but I fear real spiritual Christianity has not progressed proportionately.

Of course you remember Sam Jones and E. O. Kroll and their meetings and Sam's slogan, "Quit your meanness." And if he had added, "and serve the Lord," it would have been better.

Do you remember when the Populist party carried the county? That's when I quit politics. I saw members of the same church get mad and shake their fists in each others faces. But wait a minute -- No, I will not say anything about Hoover Democrats. Arthur Brisbane has already said plenty. And "Bugs Baer" has said enough about politics to make any thinking man think before he goes into it, especially a Christian. He says, "World politics: right now is like old Mississippi River poker game. The smart played, chewed tobacco and expectorated on the table because it was dangerous to turn your head a second."

Well, now did you know we used to have street cars here? Well, we did. They were propelled by Donkey Motors. I have ridden them, clear outside the city limits. The car barns, or donkey barns were out south -- just west of the old sanitarium.

I bought my first book in Texas from Neal Betty, who had a book store about where the Parker County Abstract Co. is now located.

Oh, there are so many things, I will desist, and ask some of the real old timers to write.

W. F. Myers.

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(The Chattanooga Times: Chattanooga, Tenn.
Sunday, May 15, 1932)

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Before the first railroad was laid in the United States, before Morse perfected the telegraph or Samuel Guthrie discovered chloroform, B. L. ("Black") Shirley, of Springtown, Parker county, Texas, was born in the mountains of East Tennessee in Hamilton county about 1820.

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As the years passed, more settlers found their way to Parker county -- some coming in wagons, horseback and afoot. Finding most of the country heavily wooded, they felled trees, built homes and began a struggle for existence in a primitive environment.

Homes of a more modern type began to dot the hills and plains, and the old log cabin gradually disappeared. Graveling and widening of roads was begun, and buggies replaced the historic stage coaches used to convey passengers and baggage.

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MRS. ELIZABETH ANN CURRY RECALLS DAYS WHEN POLK WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT.

(By Violet Roberts)

If Ponce de Leon had not considered the discovery of Florida sufficient exploration and continued his journey as far as Tennessee, who knows but what he might have found the Fountain of Youth and Beauty which caused him to leave his native haunts of San Servae, Leon in 1513 to search for the water whose curative power was said to enable one to live indefinitely.

There is no doubt that the "Mother of the Southwest," as Tennessee is affectionately called, has produced as many, if not more, centenarians than any other State under the Stars and Stripes, and Parker County marvels in her opportunity to foster many

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The Everett Shelby Family July 29, 1948. Front: Martha, Margaret, Everett, Shirley, Johnnie, Virginia. Back: Ronnie, E. C., Nanette, Mary Helen, Eddie, Hal.

EVERETT C. SHELBY

Everett C. Shelby came to Dickey Community in 1895 at the age of seven with his parents and the Cherry Family by train from Hardin County, Tennessee.

He was married to Easie Maude Butler May 28, 1911 and they had eleven children; Hal Butler, Johnnie Louise, Ronald Chandler, Julia Margaret (deceased April 22, 1975), E.C. Jr. (deceased October 21, 1978), Mary Helen, Nanette, Edwin Neal, Virginia Nell, Martha Ruth and Shirley Jean.

Everett worked at the Machine Shop and on the Railroad. Then he worked for the Independent Water and Light Co. when it was owned by several men in New York (later it was sold to Texas Power and Light). Years later he worked for the City Power and Light where he was the first engineer at the plant on Ft. Worth Street. Then transferred to Water Department where he retired from the City of Weatherford March 31, 1958. He has been a Mason for over fifty years, Past Fire Chief of the Weatherford Fire Department. Everett designed and built the first fire alarm system used in Weatherford and this alarm box is currently on display at the Texas Firemen's Museum in Grand Prairie, Texas.

Easie died July 27, 1948. Over the years they had lived in homes on Baylor, North Elm and Hobson Streets. Everett celebrated his 91st birthday February 23, 1979; still walks from his home to town, attends Couts Methodist Church and enjoys eating at the Dairy Queen on Palo Pinto. He has four great-great-grandchildren, thirty seven great-grandchildren and twenty-six grandchildren.

BLACKMON L. SHIRLEY

Blackmon L. Shirley, said to be the oldest man in Texas, was born in 1819 away up in the Sezuatchie Valley of East Tennessee, near the town of Pikeville, situated some forty miles north of Chattanooga in the mountains. He was one of the youngest of 15 children. There he grew to young manhood reared among prevalent hard times of his day. His father died from a cancer caused by an amateur or so called "Doctor" trying to cure a wart on his hand. His mother died giving birth to twins. The twins died also.

Blackmon had married a Wellington and to this union were born five children, Sarah Jane Shirley (Fitts), Kittle Shirley (Fitts), Jo Shirley (Casey), Margaret Shirley (Freeley) and Jess Shirley.



Three generations — Blackmon Shirley Family, Vineta, Black and Fil

"Black," as he was called, was 44 years old when the Civil War started, but his age didn't keep him from shouldering a rifle and marching away with the Fifth Tennessee Infantry, Company F, under Colonel Shell. Before he returned to his wife and 5 children he had gone marching through Georgia with Sherman.

Mr. Shirley's wife died soon after the war and he married Cassie Elizabeth Dilbeck. To this union were born two children, Jim and Fielander Shirley. When his eldest daughter and her family came west they wrote such glowing accounts of the Big West that her father packed up and came along, settling in Parker County one and a-half miles east of Springtown on a hill, on 219-acre farm, which was then the Fort Worth road.

Jim Shirley died at the age of 18. Fielander Shirley married Zerena Edith Holman who also had come from Tennessee with her mother, Ruth Regina Martin Holman, and 6 children, whose husband had died in Tennessee. The children are as follows: Zerena Edith (Shirley), Annes Holman (Burkhalter), Corda Holman (Wilmoth), Jemima, Willis Holman and Lewis Holman.

Fielander and Edith made their home on land joining Black's farm. To this union was born Cassie Vineta Shirley.

In the year 1909 Black's wife Cassie died. Later Black married Annie Moore who had moved near his farm from Arkansas with six children as follows: Exie, Maudie, Ethie, Allan, Claud and Coleman. To this union, when Black was 90 years old, was born Gladys Shirley. When she became school age Black took her to school on his "old grey mare" barebacked! The

next year he moved to the next house from the school known as the Sis Ackard home.

Here at this home he lived until he died with influenza and pneumonia at the age of 114 years. Funeral services were held at his home as his wife was ill with influenza. Burial was in the Springtown cemetery. There he awaits the resurrection of his body. He became a Christian in the year 1920.

Surviving at this date are his daughter Gladys Shirley and her four children, Roylene, Billie Joe, Shirley and Don. Also a granddaughter, Cassie Vineta Shirley Wood, who still owns the Fielander Shirley farm at Springtown. She is married to Dee Edward Wood. To this union were born Gale and Carol Wood. Gale is married to Barbara Ann and lives in Fort Worth. They have one child, David Randall Wood. The old Shirley farms are still very interesting and have gone through three generations. Cassie Vineta Shirley Wood

DONALD RAY AND LINDA GAIL (HUNT) SHIRLEY FAMILY

Donald Ray, better known to his friends as Duck Shirley, is the son of Lynn and Oma Shirley, was born March 26, 1941 in Lazy Bend. Linda Gail (Hunt) Shirley, am the daughter of Gorman Boone Hunt and Delia Allen Hunt, was born February 26, 1942 in the Stephenville Hospital in Erath County.



Donald and Linda Shirley with Donna and Dianna

Donald's parents still live in the Brock community and he has one sister who lives there also. My mother still lives in Lipan and I am the only child. She is a beautician in Lipan. Donald's dad is a farmer and his mom is a nurse. Donald has lived most of his life in Parker County except what little time he lived in Breckenridge. He graduated from Brock High School in 1959 and started to Weatherford College, and also took a job at Southern Airways in Mineral Wells, Texas. Soon the college stopped and he was working full time. He worked at Southern for 13 years. He started out as a tug driver, then mechanic, test pilot, and then he became a supervisor. He worked there until Southern closed down in 1971.

I lived all my life in Lipan (Hood) County. Went to Lipan High School all 12 years and I graduated from there in 1960 as Valedictorian of my class. My father was the banker at the First National Bank of Lipan for 33 years. He had heart trouble and died May 26, 1956, when I was only 14 years old. Donald and I met at a basketball game when I was 16, and we went together off and on until 1960, and we got engaged the night I graduated from High School. I went on to business school for 5 months and got a job at the First National Bank in Weath-

Blackmon L. Shirley



The oldest man to be presented in this book is Blackmon L. Shirley who saw things happen through a century and 14 years. This life began in the famous Sequatchie Valley in Eastern Tennessee near a little town called Pikeville in 1819. When the Civil War came along Shirley was 42 years old, but he entered the Union Army, joining the 5th Tennessee Cavalry, and served throughout the war. Little is known about his early life in Tennessee, other than that he was one of a family of 15 children, most of whom were long-lived. He had one brother who was 101 and several brothers and sisters who lived to be almost 100.

He was 61 years old when he came to Texas in 1880, but this did not daunt him. He bought land east of Springtown and became a prosperous farmer. His first marriage had been in Tennessee. His second wife was Cassie Dilbeck, whom he married in Parker County. Thirty-six years ago he married Mrs. Annie Moore, a widow and mother of five children. She presented Black Shirley with a daughter when he was 92. That same year, 1911, he was baptized into the Church of Christ.

Mr. Shirley firmly believed in the simple style of living, a belief bolstered by stern necessity in the younger years of his life and by habit during the later years of his life. This made him the wonderful piece of human machinery that he was and it kept him in such physical condition that, until the time when he was 100 years old he was still doing many chores about his farm and could ride a horse about the place looking after his cattle and fences. For nearly one hundred years he had his "mawnin's mawnin" and used tobacco in some form during that period of time. He once said: "My father used to line up the whole family before breakfast and give each member of the family from the baby up a little shot of corn licker. None of my family were ever drunkards either." He quit his "mawnin's mawnin" when he was 107 because he did not like the "blind t'ger brand." His death came in 1933 in Springtown and at his funeral, to top the rarity of his 114 years, was the presence of two daughters, Mrs. Sarah Jane Fitts, 91 years old, and Gladys Shirley, 22 years old, a difference of 69 years in their ages. His other children at the funeral were: Another Mrs. Fitts, who was 90; Mrs. Casey, 86; Mrs. Freiley, 84; John; and Filander who lived near Springtown.

his longevity to the nips of good "corn likker" that he had had before prohibition, to plenty of horseback riding and a good strong plug of tobacco.

Shirley swore off drinking after the passage of the prohibition amendment. The contrast between the "rotten bootleg stuff" and the old mountain liquor on which he had been "raised" prompted him to swear off. "My father used to line up the whole family before breakfast and give each member from the baby on a little shot of 'likker,'" Shirley often told friends. "None of my folks was hard drinkers, either, and my oldest brother was 101 when he died and I had several brothers and sisters that lived to be almost 100."

Serving in the Union Army during the Civil War, Shirley was the oldest Union veteran living. He was with General Sherman on the famous march to the sea. His first wife died shortly after the war and he married the second time before coming to Texas about 1880. After the death of his second wife, Shirley married Mrs. Annie Moore about 25 years ago.

Although there are no available birth records to establish the exact age of the man, his birth date has been established almost certainly as 1819. He was born in the famous Sequatchie Valley near Pikeville, the youngest of 15 children.

One of his favorite stories was an account of his saving a preacher's family caught in a mountain blizzard in a country where the survival of its perils makes sturdy folk. The preacher and his family sought Shirley as a guide when they decide to move to a new home "out on the mountain" in the dead of winter. Nearly frozen, they arrived at the home and found that all the available wood was too damp to fire by friction and they had neglected to bring fire with them. Shirley rode a pony through the blinding storm four miles to get a chunk of fire.

Although Shirley was brought up in a home where whisky was regarded as something of a necessity, his father had his own ideas about gambling. His youngest son bet a pair of boots on the Polk-Clay presidential race and was scared to wear the boots after he won them because he was afraid his "pappy would tan my hide for gamblin'."

Shirley never substituted modern games or inventions for the horseshoe pitching contests and saddle transportation of his day. He didn't care for baseball games, movies or automobiles. After he gave up horseback riding, he rode in an automobile just two or three times and declined firmly ever to get in one again. When he attended services at the Church of Christ during the last days of his life, he rode in a wagon or buggy.

Survivors are five daughters, Mrs. Sarah Flitts of Burneyville, Okla.; Mrs. Mary Freely and Mrs. Kitty Flitts of Electra; Mrs. W. H. Casey of Paradise and Mrs. W. W. Waters of Springtown, and two sons, J. C. and F. L. Shirley of Springtown.

Mrs. Sarah Flitts is 92 years old and Mrs. Waters is 21.

Funeral services will be held at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon at the home in Springtown. Burial will be in Opal Cemetery. The body is at White's Funeral Home.

FEBRUARY 18, 1933

Parker County Patriarch, 114, Dies at Home in Springtown

Special to The News.

WEATHERFORD, Texas, Feb. 17.—B. L. (Black) Shirley, 114, died at his home in Springtown, eighteen miles north of here, early Friday morning.

His age was well authenticated. He served in the Union Army from Hamilton County, Tennessee, during the Civil War. Some of Mr. Shirley's friends claim he was the oldest man in Texas.

He came to Texas about 1880 and had lived at Springtown since. His oldest daughter, Mrs. Sadie Flitts of Burneyville, Ok., is 87, and his youngest, Mrs. W. W. Waters of Springtown, 22. His other surviving children are Mrs. Mary Freely and Mrs. Kitty Flitts of Electra, Mrs. W. H. Casey of Paradise, J. C. and F. L. Shirley of Springtown.

He was married three times. Funeral services will be held Saturday at 2 p. m. at Springtown. Burial will be in Opal Cemetery.

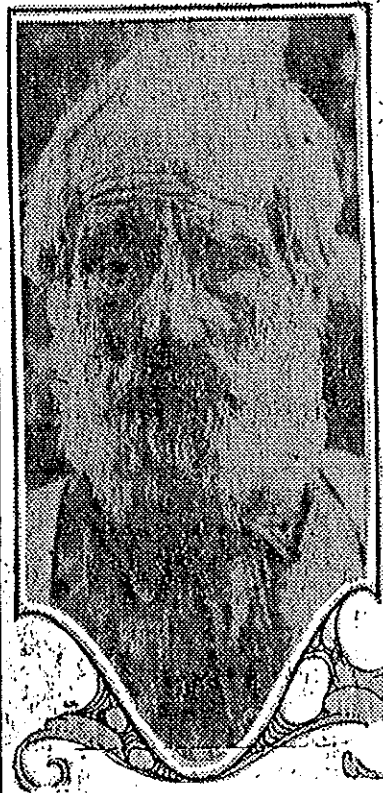
Mr. Shirley was born in Sequatchie Valley in East Tennessee, and was the youngest of a family of fifteen children. He grew to manhood in the Tennessee mountains, married the first time and had five children when the Civil War opened. Three years after the war ended, his wife died, and ten years later the family emigrated to Texas. Mr. Shirley having married again. They settled in Parker County, where they have since resided, and where Mr. Shirley found



B. L. SHIRLEY

his third wife, following the death of the second.

Mr. Shirley was active and rode horseback at 80, but had spent most of his last two years taking things easy.



B. L. (Uncle Black) Shirley, who died Friday morning at his home at Springtown at the age of 114.

Springtown Man, 'Raised on Likker,' Dies at Age of 114

Black Shirley, Springtown's Methuselah, who rode horseback about the road of Parker County long after his one hundredth birthday and whose youngest daughter was born when he was 92 years old, died Friday morning at the age of 114.

A familiar character in the Springtown community for the last 50 years, Shirley came to Texas in a wagon train from the mountains of East Tennessee, where all strangers were regarded as "revenooers" and family feuds were not unfamiliar.

Extremely active until two years ago, Shirley did chores about the house and rode horseback into town practically every day. He attributed his longevity to the nips of good "corn likker" that he had had before prohibition, to plenty of horseback riding and a good strong plug of tobacco.

Shirley swore off drinking after the passage of the prohibition amendment. The contrast between the "rotten bootleg stuff" and the old mountain liquor on which he had been "raised" prompted him to swear off.

"My father used to line up the whole family before breakfast and give each member from the baby on a little shot of 'likker,'" Shirley often told friends. "None of my folks was hard drinkers, either, and my oldest brother was 101 when he died and I had several brothers and sisters that lived to be almost 100."

Serving in the Union Army during the Civil War, Shirley was the oldest Union veteran living. He was with General Sherman on the famous march to the sea. His first wife died shortly after the war and he mar-

Flexan, 113, Went for Ride in Auto

B. L. Shirley of Parker County, Father of a Daughter 21 And Another 86, Will See His Twenty-Eighth Presidential Election This Year.

By Violet M. Roberts.

THE November election will be the twenty-eighth time a President of the United States has been elected during the life of B. L. Shirley of Springtown, Parker County, Texas. Mr. Shirley has also the distinction of being the father of a daughter, 21, and another 86 years of age. Mrs. W. W. Waters, the younger, lives at Mesquite, Texas, and Mrs. Sadie Fitts resides at Burneyville, Ok.

"B. L. Shirley is 113 years of age, having been born in 1819, one year prior to the birth of my father, who was a first cousin of Mr. Shirley's stepmother," Mrs. Dave Everett, resident of Weatherford and Parker County for almost half a century, explained recently in discussing her relation to one of the oldest men in Texas. She lived in the same county in Tennessee where Shirley lived.

The authenticity of Mr. Shirley's age is farther verified by John R. Brown, Weatherford, who served forty years as a peace officer and four years as Sheriff of Parker County. He was reared in the same Tennessee community with Mr. Shirley, and remembers him well as a boy. After the Shirleys moved to Springtown, Mr. Brown was Constable there and renewed his acquaintance with the family.

Rode Horseback at Eighty.

"Mr. Shirley was as active at 80 as most men are at 35," Mr. Brown said. "He could easily do a day's work without excess fatigue, rode horseback often and cultivated his farm. Few people knew that he was an old man."

Shirley was born in Sequatchie Valley, East Tennessee, near Pikeville, some thirty-five or forty miles north of Chattanooga, the youngest of a family of fifteen children. He grew to manhood in the mountains, amid all the struggles and hardships of pioneers over 100 years ago. When he was very young, his home burned and all family records were destroyed. He does not remember the month of his birth, but the year is fairly certain.

Mr. Shirley married Mary Frances Worthington and at the time the Civil War began they had five children, the oldest one being Mrs. Fitts of Oklahoma. Other children by this marriage still living are Mrs. Margaret Freely of Electra, Mrs. Josie Casey of Paradise and Jesse Shirley of Wichita County, Texas. Mr. Shirley fought all through the Civil War in Company F, Fifth Tennessee Infantry, under Colonel Shell.

Three years after the war his first wife died, and ten years later the family emigrated to Texas. Previous to the emigration Shirley had married Miss Cassie Dilbeck, and Philander Shirley, a son who lives at Springtown near his father's home at this time, was the only child by this marriage.

There was a great migration of people from East Tennessee westward at that time, and the Shirleys came along with the Hutchersons, Doughitys, Coliheses and other families who were outstanding pioneers in the development of Parker County. Stories of Indian raids were still being told when they arrived in Texas, but Shirley has seen the small community where he settled develop into a prosperous and thriving town. He has been living in the same community since he came to Texas in 1880.

Companion Today.

After the death of his second wife

Mr. Shirley married Mrs. Annie Moore of Parker County, and Mrs. Waters was the only child of this marriage. Mrs. Moore was a widow with five children, several of whom still live at Prescott, Arkansas where Mrs. Moore lived before coming to Parker County. She is living at Springtown now, and is Mr. Shirley's constant companion even though there is over fifty years difference in their ages.

Mrs. Waters, the youngest daughter, is a graduate of the Springtown High School, has been married several years, and is the mother of a 2-year-old daughter. She bears a striking resemblance to her father, who was 81 years old when she was born.

Mrs. Fitts has had an active and

eventful life of her own. She married W. H. Fitts when a young woman in Tennessee, and it was partly due to her enthusiastic letters about Texas that her father moved to Texas. After living in Parker County for a time she moved to Oklahoma. Five years later she and her husband moved to Cooke County, Texas, just across the river. They lived there for a while, but returned to Burneyville.

Since her husband's death twenty-one years ago Mrs. Fitts has operated a hotel in Burneyville.

Eleven children were reared by Mrs. Fitts. She also assisted in the rearing of three grandchildren, taking on when it was a baby.

"I have lived through two great wars of this country," Mrs. Fitts said, "and knitted socks for soldiers in both of them. I have seen all the changes from oxwagons to airplanes, and I am wondering what will come next."

"My father has always been a man of immense vitality," she continued. "I never knew him to be ill in my life, except when he had an



Mrs. Sadie Fitts, oldest daughter of Shirley.

attack of malarial chills. He was sick only a few days then.

"I continued to visit the old home at Springtown each year or so after moving to Oklahoma, and have kept in close touch with my father. Up until the time he was 100 years old he would ride horseback around in the neighborhood, and over his farm. It was only four or five years ago that he quit overseeing his farm work. He would have some one drive him in a buggy. He bought an auto one time several years ago, but had his back hurt, he had an accident, and would not hurt, refused to ride again in an automobile.

"One thing which fixed the age of my father in my mind was a statement of Rex Smith, son of my uncle Martin A. Smith. I saw him on the 100th anniversary of his father's marriage. He said that Martin Smith had often told him that my father was a boy about 11 years old at the time his father was married. That was two years ago, and would indicate that my father is 113, as he estimates his age.

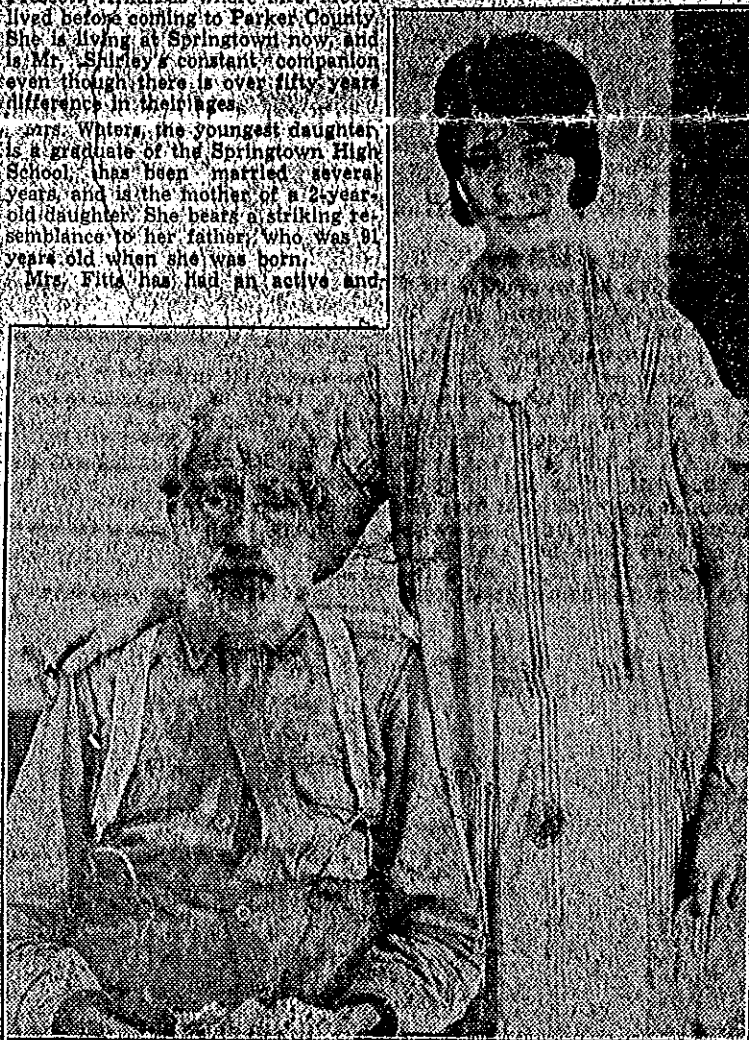
Bought Home From Indian.

"When we moved to Burneyville we bought the two-story house, where I live now from Wes Burney, a Chickasaw Indian, who once owned thousands of acres of land along Red River in the Southern Indian Territory. It was for this Indian that the town of Burneyville was named. The lumber to build the house had been hauled by oxwagons from Sherman, Texas, more than fifty miles away."

Had B. L. Shirley started a diary at 12 years of age, and have written only ten words a day, he would now have manuscripts containing 369,650 words, equivalent to several modern novels in length. In such a diary there would be a record of the most momentous events of the world's history. Vast political changes have been made. The man who has lived through the last 100 years has witnessed more progress in science and invention than had been made in the 2,000 years before.

A century has not seemed long to Shirley, for his enthusiasm to live has grown with the years. When questioned about his age, he smiles and replies:

"How time does fly!"



B. L. Shirley and his youngest daughter, Mrs. W. W. Waters of Mesquite.

CERTIFICATION OF VITAL RECORD

PARKER COUNTY
WEATHERFORD, TEXAS

PLACE OF DEATH
STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF Parker
CITY OR
PRECINCT NO. 2 No. 638 Street 638
If in an Institution, give name of Institution instead of Street and No.

Length of residence in city where death occurred... yrs. 1 mos. 1 days 1 How long in U. S. if foreign born? yrs. 1 mos. 1 days 1

FULL NAME
OF DECEASED B. L. Shirley

Residence: No. 1819 Street East Tenth If non-residence give city, or town and state Weatherford Tex

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS		MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
1. SEX <u>Male</u>	4. COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	5. Single Married Widowed Divorced (Write the word) <u>Married</u>	21. DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) <u>Feb. 17</u> 19 <u>33</u>
6. If married, widowed, or divorced HUSBAND of (or) WIFE of		22. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from <u>Feb 11</u> 19 <u>33</u> to <u>Feb 17</u> 19 <u>33</u>	
7. DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, and year) <u>1819</u>		I last saw him alive on <u>Feb 16</u> 19 <u>33</u> ; death is said to have occurred on the date stated above, at <u>1:30 P.</u> m. Date of The principal cause of death and related causes of importance were as follows: <u>Influenza</u>	
8. AGE <u>14</u> Years <u>—</u> Months <u>—</u> Days If LESS than 1 1 day, <u>—</u> hrs. <u>—</u> min.		Other contributory causes of importance:	
9. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as spinner, sawyer, bookkeeper, etc. <u>Retired Farmer</u>		Name of operation <u>—</u> date of <u>—</u>	
10. Date deceased last worked at this occupation (month and year) <u>—</u>		What test confirmed diagnosis? <u>—</u> Was there an autopsy? <u>—</u>	
11. Total time (years) spent in this occupation <u>—</u>		23. If death was due to external causes (violence) fill in also the following: Accident, suicide, or homicide? <u>—</u>	
12. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or country) <u>East Tenth</u>		Date of injury <u>—</u> 19 <u>—</u>	
13. NAME <u>Jessie Shirley</u>		Where did injury occur? <u>—</u> (Specify city or town, county, and State)	
14. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or country) <u>Tenn.</u>		Specify whether injury occurred in in- dustry, in home, or in public place.	
15. MAIDEN NAME <u>not known</u>		Manner of injury <u>—</u>	
16. BIRTHPLACE (City or town) (State or county) <u>not known</u>		Nature of injury <u>—</u>	
17. INFORMANT <u>W. A. White</u>		24. Was disease or injury in any way related to occupation of deceased? <u>NO</u>	
(Address) <u>Springtown Tex</u>		If so, specify <u>—</u>	
18. REMOVAL Date <u>2/18</u> 19 <u>33</u>		(Signed) <u>Wm Roberts</u> M. D.	
19. REMOVAL <u>W. A. White</u>		(Address) <u>Springtown Tex</u>	
(Address) <u>Weatherford Tex</u>			
DATE AND SIGNATURE OF REGISTRAR <u>18</u> 19 <u>33</u> <u>I. O. Fann</u>			

CERTIFIED COPY OF VITAL RECORDS
STATE OF TEXAS - COUNTY OF PARKER

I hereby certify that this abstract of birth facts
has been provided to this office by the Texas
Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics,
from a document officially in its custody.

Jeane Brunson
County Clerk/Registrar

By: Kay Stowe
KAY STOWE

DATE ISSUED 04-22-96

LAMINATION MAY VOID CERTIFICATE.
This copy not valid unless prepared on
engraved border displaying seal and
signature of Registrar.

ANY ALTERATION OR ERASURE VOIDS THIS CERTIFICATE

Funeral Notice

Friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited
to attend the funeral of

Mrs. Sallie K. Huddleston

Services will be conducted from the Hitson Church at 3 p.m.,
Saturday, January 12th, 1929, by Rev. J. L. Gentry.
Interment in East Cemetery

Under Direction of
Barrow Furniture Co.

Born Oct. 8th, 1879
Died Jan. 11th, 1929

STATE OF TEXAS
CERTIFICATION OF VITAL RECORD

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

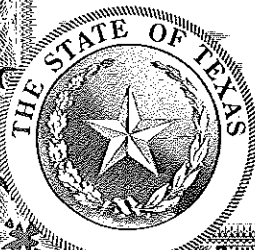
TEXAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH			Reg. Dia. No. _____ Registered No. 2966
1 PLACE OF DEATH County <u>Fisher</u> City <u>Hamlin</u> No. <u>2</u> St. _____			H. O. V. S. D FORM
2 FULL NAME <u>Sallie H. Huddleston</u>			RESIDENCE , No. _____ St. _____ (If nonresident give city or town and State) Length of residence in city or town where death occurred <u>2</u> yrs. <u>8</u> mos. <u>20</u> ds. How long in U. S., if of foreign birth? _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds.
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS			
3 SEX <u>Female</u>	4 COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	5 SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED (write the word) <u>Married</u>	
6 DATE OF BIRTH <u>Oct 8</u> <u>1879</u> (Month) (Day) (Year)			
7 AGE If less than 2 years state if breast fed _____ If less than 1 day _____ <u>49</u> yrs. <u>3</u> mos. <u>3</u> ds. Yes _____ No _____ hrs. _____ mins.			
8 OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession or particular kind of work <u>Housewife</u> (b) General nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer) <u>Farming</u>			
9 BIRTHPLACE (State or country) <u>Tenn.</u>			
10 NAME OF FATHER <u>J. A. Fealey</u>			
11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or country) <u>Unknown</u>			
12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>M. Shirley</u>			
13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country) <u>Tenn.</u>			
14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE (Informant) <u>L. M. Huddleston</u> (Address) <u>Hamlin Tex</u>			
15 Filed <u>Feb 28</u> 192 <u>9</u> <u>A. Edmundson</u> Registrar.			
PARENTS		MEDICAL PARTICULARS	
16 DATE OF DEATH <u>Jan 11</u> 192 <u>9</u> (Month) (Day) (Year)		17 I HEREBY CERTIFY , That I attended deceased from <u>Jan 11</u> 192 <u>9</u> , to <u>Jan 11</u> 192 <u>9</u> , that I last saw him alive on <u>Jan 11</u> 192 <u>9</u> , and that death occurred on the date stated above, at <u>1</u> p.m. The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows: <u>apoplexy</u> <u>9 1/2</u> (duration) yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds. Contributory (Secondary) <u>arterio-sclerosis</u> (duration) yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds.	
18 Where was disease contracted? <u>at home</u> If not at place of death? _____ Did an operation precede death? <u>no</u> Date of _____ Was there an autopsy? <u>no</u> What test confirmed diagnosis? <u>no test</u> (Signed) <u>J. F. Taylor</u> M. D. <u>1115</u> 192 <u>9</u> (Address) <u>Hamlin</u> State the disease causing Death, or in death from Violent Causes, state (1) Means and Nature of Injury, and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal or Homicidal.		19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL <u>East Lawn Hamlin</u>	
20 UNDERTAKER <u>Barlow & Son</u>		DATE OF BURIAL <u>Jan 12</u> 192 <u>9</u> ADDRESS _____	

PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD

Where Stillborn Given as Cause of Death, file Birth Certificate. Every item of Informant, should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important.

FORM 51b

K031065



This is a true and correct reproduction of the original record as recorded in this office. Issued under authority of Section 191.051, Health and Safety Code.

ISSUED FEB 01 2001

Debra F. Owens
DEBRA F. OWENS
STATE REGISTRAR



ANY ALTERATION OR ERASURE VOIDS THIS CERTIFICATE