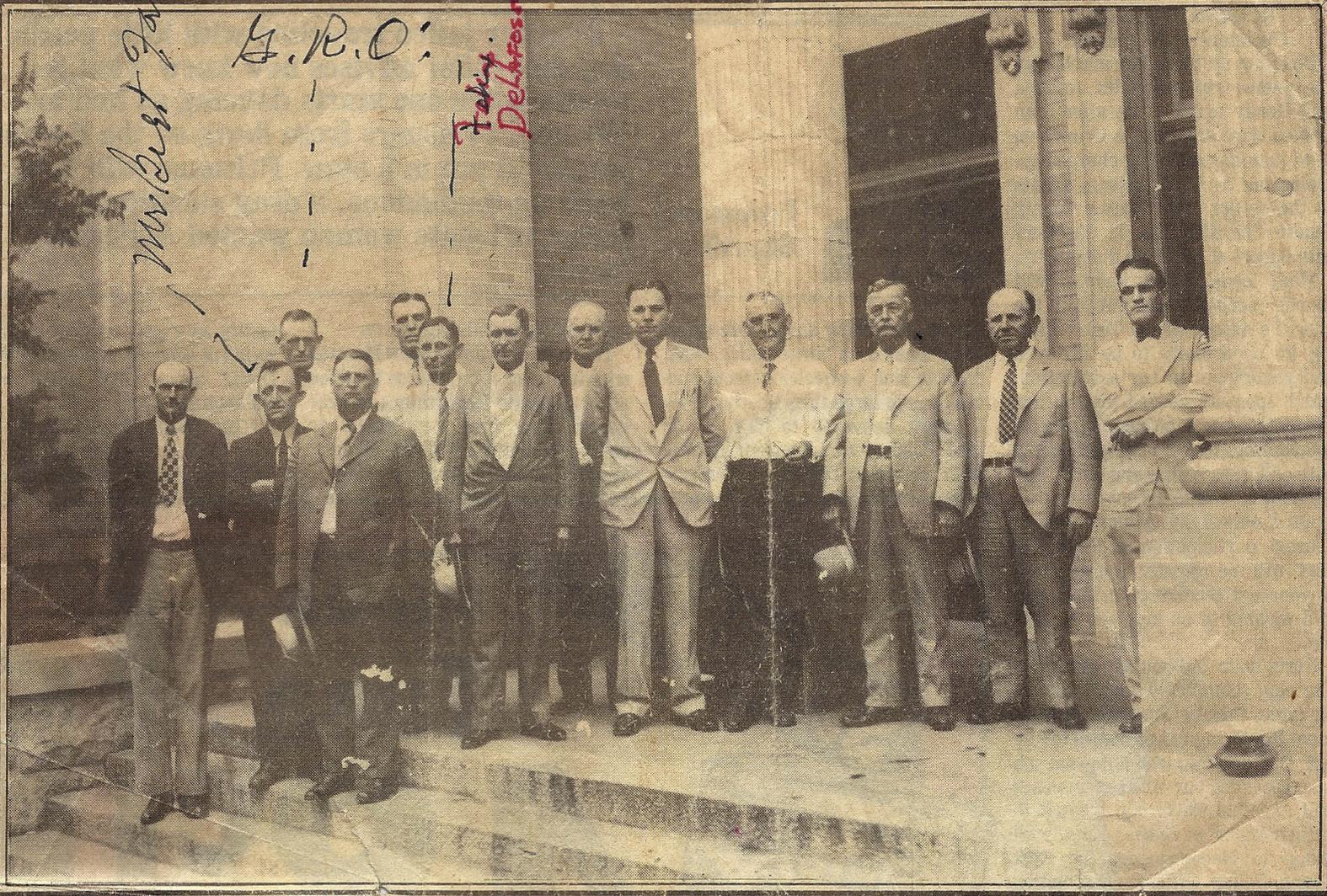


# Seems Like Only Yesterday



## Baker's dozen

That's how many gentlemen are pictured on the steps. Here's someone's chance to be a smartypants and tell us who these fellows are. Frankly we don't know ourselves and neither did the person submitting the photo. We'll award the \$5 prize to whomever can first tell us where this photo was taken. Call "Seems Like Only Yesterday" at 872-3931.

(But we'd still like to know who in tarnation these guys are.)

□□□  
 We were pleased at response to our April 26 contest photo, right. We now know these men were law men and jurors in a 1930s Navarro County murder trial. The story, said Mildred Howell who called in, was that B.R. Adams killed Orville Mathis over an election bet in Dallas. She said a Dawson man hung the jury. When the jury foreman asked his problem, the fellow responded that it was raining, so he couldn't get work and he was getting \$3 a day for being on the jury.

Several folks tried to help identify these people, including winner Alma McCrary. The results: far left, Sheriff Rufus Peveyhouse; second from left, Burt Farmer; third from left, bow tie, Felix LaFosse or George R. "Red" O'Neal; center, white suit, Clark Butler; to C.B.'s right, Bud Kelley, jailer; second from right, S.Z. "Zeb" Burk; far right, E.K. Howell (Mrs. Howell's husband).

0 - annen over  
 erves furnishing  
 ild abuse victim  
 d. Vandalism at







Hey Ross, Ryan - family info...

This guy is who I, and YOU, Ross, were named for. We always called him "Uncle Ross", but he was actually our great uncle. He was BudO's MOM's baby brother, and quite a man of respect. He was a self-taught attorney - back in those days - early 1900's - there may have been law schools, but you could also become a lawyer by studying on your own and passing something like today's bar exam, and that's what R. R. did. He was Navarro County Judge in 1912 - 1916, was also in the Texas State Legislature. He kept his law office in downtown Corsicana upstairs in the Corsicana Daily Sun newspaper building, which was a big granite building with big columns and grand granite stairstep entrance, one of the most impressive structures in town, gone now. It actually sat empty when I was in high school and junior college, and one of my big regrets is that I did not arrange to go in there and go through Uncle Ross' old office (sneak in?) - I just know there would have been some cool stuff. I do remember his office door - lower half dark wood and upper part opaque glass stenciled "R. R. OWEN - LAWYER" (didn't say Attorney At Law - said LAWYER!). Your Aunt Judy has a card from him from when she graduated high school and he and his wife sent her a check. Get this - in 1881, he and his sister Nannie (your great-grandmother) and their whole family, plus cousins and friends - came to Texas from Mississippi - in a COVERED WAGON! We have a copy of a letter describing their over five week journey. "Nineteen souls, in three ox-pulled wagons, venturing out into an unknown country", it says. Most of

the men, and older boys WALKED most of the way, leading the oxen. Hard to imagine, isn't it?

Love You Guys, Dad

\*\*\*\*\*

OH! I just found some more stuff on him on the Navarro Historical Society web site:

**OBIT - DECEMBER 10, 1965**

**Robert Ross Owen, Judge**

**R. R. Owen, Judge**

**R. R. Owen, 86, Dies Thursday (Dec 9, 1965), Rites Friday**

**Judge R. R. Owen, 86, long time attorney and active in politics many years, 1120 West Fifth avenue, died Thursday morning following an extended illness.**

**Funeral services will be held Friday at 11 a.m. from the Corley Chapel with burial in Oakwood cemetery. The rites will be conducted by Rev. Robert J. Potts, pastor of the First Baptist church, of which he was a long-time member, Sunday School teacher and choir member.**

**Born Feb. 19, 1879 in Hines County, Miss., he came to Navarro county 80 years ago in an ox-wagon train from Mississippi.**

**After teaching school several years, he studied law and was admitted to the bar. He served as Navarro county judge from 1912-1916 and broke a tie-vote in 1915 among the county commissioners to establish the old Physicians and Surgeons hospital on the site that is now Twilight Home in southeast Corsicana. He had his law offices in the Daily Sun Building from 1917 until failing health required he give up practice.**

**Judge Owen served several terms as a Representative from Navarro county in the Texas Legislature and headed the draft board in World War I. He was secretary and a leader in the Navarro county Democratic executive committee and party for many years.**

**Surviving are a son, Robert Owen, Corsicana; three grand-children, six great-grandchildren, and a number of nieces, nephews and other relatives.**

**Nephews will be pallbearers.**

*Note: I know & loved "Uncle Ross" - he also sent me a graduation check! Long before he married, my mother told the story about how she went to a dance in the 3-story 1007 Bldg on the N. end of Beaton st. Shei was before she married daddy, who was Uncle Ross' nephew. Uncle Ross asked her to dance, and during that dance - he looked down at her and said "Aint we got juu, Miss Grace?"*

*Aint we got juu was a popular song then - I am supposing she thei happened about 1918-19.*

*At one time, Uncle Ross, Aunt Ellen, Aunt Maggie Pearl called "Doo" & Walter & me all sang in choir at First Baptist Corsicana. Early 50's*

*Peggy Jarner 6-10-2010*

Papa O'Neal was  
not full blood Irish.

His father Leroy O'Neal  
was not 1st Generation  
Irish.

2nd Great Grandfather was  
William O'Neal was  
Lived in SC (1860 Census)  
3-15-1805.

d. 3-21-1870

B. Carroll Co Macedonia Cem.

See B O'Neal's <sup>notes on</sup>  
chart

Leroy O'Neal generation  
may have been Wm's father

Letter from  
Mrs. S. P. Herren  
Box 784  
Haskell, Texas 79521

Dear Peggy,

Your letter came today and I will forward your copies on to Betty Richards. Also a copy of the legal documents that I sent to you. It has been too bad, still some snow on ground that fell on Dec. 30, that I could get out to have a copy made. Sam and I decided that it was foolish for us to get out and risk breaking alone when we did not have to, our children live away from here.

I will give you a brief sketch of R. W. Herren (Susan Anna Herren Owen's brother, Uncle Bob) as I have heard it in the 42 years I have been in the family.

His father died when he was quite young (11 years to be exact). Dorothy said that he told them that he carried water to the wounded Confederate soldiers. One story says that his mother married again and he did not like his stepfather (I am not sure about this, but his son told it) so the family said they would keep him, feed and clothe him and he was to work on the farm but they only allowed him one meal per day and he saw that he would starve to death, so he ran off and came to Texas. How and when he got to Texas no one knows, but we do know prior to 1874 he was working for Sam Pruitt of Emhouse. (Note: Mr. Pruitt owned the famed Pruitt Ranch NW of the now town of Emhouse). Also living and working for the Pruitts was Mary Elizabeth Benson, a orphan girl. I have written umpteen letters trying to get inform on her, but so far nothing. They married in the Pruitt's parlor February 1874 and all R. W. had then was a team of mules and a stripped down wagon, according to Uncle Gorge Garretson Herren, their oldest son. After they married their honeymoon was a ride to their cabin on Chambers reek where the 2 oldest children were born and I think the last 2, Betty and Bob. Col Sam Pruitt Herren (my father in law) said they had to work very hard, even the mother worked in the field. The Pruitts must have been very, very kind to these two people as from what I could gather, they helped R. W. start farming and in other ways, too. They were very ambitious for their children, sent them all to college. Col. Herren told me that when they came home from college, there was no leaping late. At daybreak the next morning they were handed a hoe and sent to the field. When he was 17 he was keeping a country store for his father. He wanted to put in a larger store and modernize the store, but his father would not, so one day he just left and joined the Army where he distinguished himself and did very, very well. Uncle Gorge must have been a very good teacher because after he moved to Haskell many of his former students would drop by to see him. My husband and I lived on the farm for 15 years, and 4 of those years, Col. Sam Herren was still alive. Every am he would come out and I would make his coffee and he talked to me a lot. He had a very interesting, useful and busy life and I was a good listener. All the Herrens here think that R. W. Herren was a selfmade man and accumulated all the money he had himself. He was very thrifty. The District Judge told me that R. W. Herren, when he came to town instead

ofgoing to the hotel to eat, h would buy cheese ande crackers and sit down on the sidewalk to eat his lunch' many people did that at that time. He was very honest and thrifty and the told timers tell me that he was a very private man, minded his own business and expected others to do the same. He was also a man who didmany kind deeds but told no one - some of those deeds were learned by his family after his death. When his wife died of cancer n 1908,he never married again and said he really couldn't enjoy the fruits of their labor without her. He also told R.W. Herren III that he was hungry many times when growing up. His experiences from 1863 to 1874 would make interesting reading, if we only knew them.

We all think that he saved \$11,000 bait by bit. Anyhow weall owe these 2 people a great debt for what they did. Not only did they provide for their children and grandchildren,but there was oil under the land they bought and it edeucated their 32 great grandchildren. The Herrens have a good standing in Haskell and I think are a credit to Mary Elizabeth andR.W. Herren,as least I hope we are all a credit to them. They might think some of them are extravagant and not working enough. Col. Sam P Herren's and Bob Herren's children still have their inherited land. Bob III bought some of George Garrett's land,but the rest of the 4000 acres have been sold to other people, sad to say. Wehave gotten promises from our 2 girls not to sell our land when we die. So sad to see and sold outside of the family.

This is all true to the est of my knowledge. I talked to 3 or 4 oldtimers that knew R. W. Herren - most of them are dead now.

I do thank you for your letter and the copies, we r e they any help? I do hope so. Also enclosing a copy of my father in law's Army record. His wife said he went as far as he could go without political pull and he was too honest for politics.

Please excuse this writing. My arthritis hit me this a.m.

Sincerely

\  
Ernestine Cox Herren

P.S. On reading your letter I noticed that I forgot to answe your question:

R. W. Herren, according to a local paper, was here in 24 March 1900 and made offer for land. Then again on Sept. 8 1900, he moved to his ranch. Since the abstract shows that he bought his land August 1900. He must have gone back to avarro County and moved his wife and Bob to HASKELL County in September. Betty was in Baylor Belton at that time. When she came home at Christmas she came by train, the railroad had been damaged by rains and was late by several days. R.W.Herren and his son Bob had gone in a wagon to eet her = so had to sleep in wagon and makeout best they could. When she got off the train in cold ranay weather and ouur landscape is very dreary and brown in winter she was met by two family members rather grubby and un-neat as they did not have a change of clothes. Dorothy said Aunt Betty was not well impressed with West

News - Here's the Draft! (Almost)  
Peggy 9-13-11

Nov. 16, 1980  
Rt. 2, Box 59E  
Trang, 24, 75789

Dear Peggy,

All of my family was up and out of the house early yesterday morning and since I was all alone decided it would be a good time to do a little "research". Got your letter with all the attachments out and started re-reading it for probably the 25th time. Betty Richards and I had already established her great great grandmother Elizabeth Porter Owen and my husband's great great grandfather Draper R. Porter were brother + sister. This time when I read Draper Johnson's letter I realized his mother was Draper's only daughter, Sara Elizabeth Johnson and Draper, her son, was named for her father Dr. Owen. The Uncle Jeff Porter he mentions was Jefferson Davis Porter, Sara's youngest brother and Draper Porter's youngest child. Wonder if any of Draper Johnson's descendants are still in Dallas? That's where he lived in 1957 when he wrote to his brother Griffin.

Need  
youngest  
names

Jefferson  
Davis  
Porter ? →

I learned our Martha Elizabeth was not born an Owen. She was a Newsom, married Francis Owen first, then George Porter. Bobbie Thornton got me straight on that.

(name) / your address  
11-3-8 1900

Was thinking of you & thought I would  
let you know the status.  
Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,  
Mildred Steele

Received  
11-3-8  
1900

2114500

WAR DEPARTMENT  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE  
STATEMENT OF THE MILITARY SERVICE OF

George Owen,  
private, Company B, Bradford's Corps of Scouts and Guards,  
Confederate States Army.

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The records of this office show that George Owen was enlisted November 17, 1864, at Brandon, Mississippi, as a private of Company B, Bradford's Corps of Scouts and Guards, Confederate States Army; that he surrendered at Citronelle, Alabama, May 4, 1865, and that he was paroled at Jackson, Mississippi, May 13, 1865.

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Official statement furnished to Hon. R. R. Owen, County Judge, Navarro County, Corsicana, Texas, January 20, 1914.

By authority of the Secretary of War:

J. H. McRae  
Adjutant General.

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1404 South Main St.  
Henderson, Texas  
February 19, 1964

Dear Peggy,

I am glad to give you the information I have, It seems Grandma thought she was taking care of the parole by keeping it folded as it is almost worn out. It is almost 100 years old too. Mama gave it to Sue when she was studying the Civil War in college.

When Uncle Ross was County Judge in 1912, he wrote the War Dept. and I am sending you a copy of the letter they sent him concerning Grandpa's war record. He gave the letter to Grandma.

Their births are written on ordinary paper which has been folded also and so old it is in pieces. I have all these under glass trying to preserve them.

Everytime mama went to the Woodman Circle, it was my job to stay with grandma and keep the kids. Grandma told me about her family but if she ever called them by name I don't remember. So you have as much information there as I do. Clarabelle gave it to me too.

Here are the births:

George Washington Owen was born on  
the 8th of October in the year 1846

Susan Anna Herren was born on the 5th of  
February in the year 1848

Also - G.W. Owen and Susan Anna Herren were married  
on the 27th of January in the year 1864.

I have often thought of writing the Archives at Vicksburg but just never gotten around to it. I hope you have good luck.

*Laura*

# Owen Family

## Great-Great grand parents

Gadi Owen

Bettie Owen

Garrett Herren

Nancy Herren

## Great Grand parents

George W. Owen Oct. 8, 1846 - Aug. 6, 1912

Susan A. Herren Owen Feb. 6, 1848 - Feb. 1, 1929

## Children

1. George Garrett Owen Jan. 28, 1867 - July 10, 1941
2. R. Bernice Sept. 5, 1868 - Aug. 6, 1878
3. Bettie April 5, 1870 - 1945(?)
4. Anner Oct. 27, 1872 - Aug. 2, 1882
5. Nannie Nov. 18, 1874
6. Julia May 11, 1877 - 1945(?)
7. Ross Feb. 9, 1879
8. Mattie Aug 1, 1881 - Sept. 5, 1881
9. Ada Dec. 9, 1882 - May 6, 1900
10. Martha Feb. 22, 1885 - Oct. 25, 1885
11. Maggie (Kate) Feb. 6, 1887 - 1955