

*The Texan from Tennessee,
James L. Vaughan*

By Helen Vaughan Michael



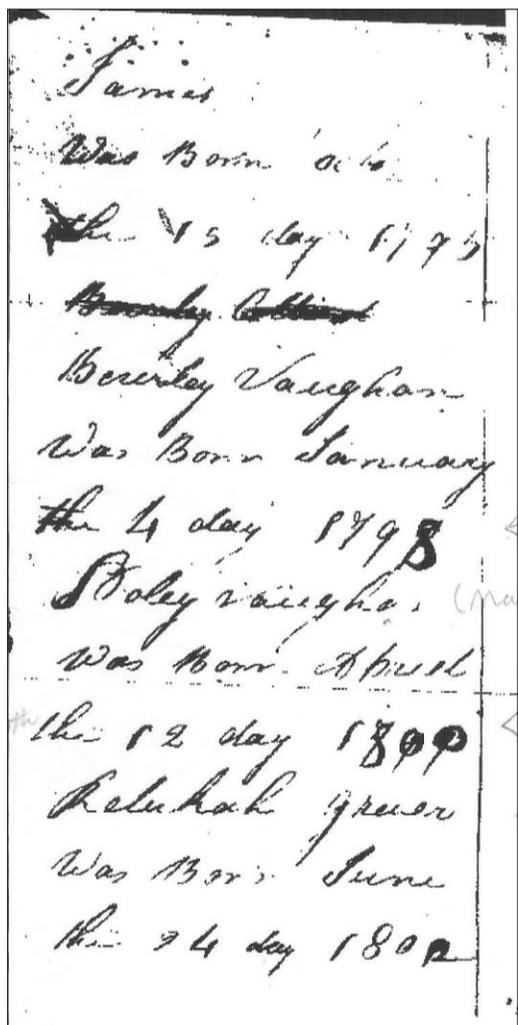
*William Crump Callicott, Texas Ranger
Cousin of James L. Vaughan*

To every thing there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven—a time to love and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. Ecclesiastes 3.

1. From Virginia to Parts Unknown, 1795-1820's

Life began for James L. Vaughan in Halifax, Virginia where he was born in 1795 to John and Nancy Callicott Vaughan. Mother Nancy recorded his birth, their firstborn, in her Day Book:

James Vaughan was born October the 15 day 1795.



When he was a small boy his family moved from Virginia to Hawkins County, Tennessee. He lived in Hawkins until he was at least twenty years old. An older cousin, thought to be the daughter of William and Fereby Vaughan, was a neighbor; her name was Martha Patty. In 1815 her family moved west. About this time, when she was twenty-eight, and he was only twenty, James L. married Martha Patty, and within five years they also moved west, to White County, Tennessee, where they were the parents of three little boys—Benjamin Franklin, William, and Maborne.

The Virginia-born James L. Vaughan continued to go West. Indications are that he left Tennessee as early as 1830. After what was a brief detour to Indiana with his brother Beverley, he headed to Texas with his second wife and their two small sons. In December of 1841, his father, John Vaughan, regretted his absence as he wrote out his will, believing James L.

Vaughan to be in “parts unknown.”

His elderly father in Tennessee, a gunnery sergeant in the artillery of the Continental Army during the American Revolution, would have been pleased to know where his son had actually gone, because after James

settled his family in Texas, he fought in the Texas Revolution of 1836. As early as 1834 his new family was known there. In sworn statements two witnesses say that they knew him, his wife, and his children—his second family--in Gonzales, Texas-Mexico.

In fact, he went on to serve in a war in a place that would become the Republic of Texas. In 1835 Gonzales, he joined the Texicans in their fight with Mexico, and he stayed to fight again during the next ten years of ongoing disputes between Texas and the cruel military dictator, General Santa Anna. All the while, he made Texas his home.

Name	205	250	77	400	763	205	323	347	410	367	152	2	107	1	2	94	36	18	7	97	62	25	10	12	4	5	1	11	
Shadrach Montgomery	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Beverly Vaughn	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
James Vaughn	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Joseph Collier	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Richard Arnold	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
George Hovary	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
James Smith	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
John Anderson	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Joseph Barber	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Robert Jones	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Thomas Crawley	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
James Smith	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Joseph Smith	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Robert Walker	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
David Smith	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mary Morgan	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
William Allen	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
John Thompson	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
John King	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Abraham King	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
William Scott	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
David Adams	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Peter Hall	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Federal Census of 1820 White County, Tennessee

It is certain that by 1820 he had left the house of his father. The 1820 census for White County, Tennessee included James, his brother, Beverley, and several members of his extended family. He and Beverley lived in separate, but neighboring households. James and Martha Patty's family of five is easy to recognize because of the unique age difference between a younger man and his older wife:

After 1820, this particular family unit, **(third from top)**, with its exclusive age markers, disappears from all known records, and James L. Vaughan left the house of Martha Patty and their three boys. His second family is next recorded in parts unknown. Martha Patty never remarried

and ended up in Arkansas near her aging parents; in 1834 her ex-husband, with his new family, was known in Gonzalez, Texas-Mexico.

While there are 1825 and 1826 records showing a James Vaughan surveying in Western Tennessee with members of the Vaughan family, the missing middle initial is peculiar. In Texas the *L* is included on over thirty documents—even on affidavits, which he signs himself. In addition, his father used this piece of his son's identity:

1841 Will of John Vaughan excerpt:

Sixth. Whereas my sons Beverley Vaughan and James L. Vaughan has gone to parts unknown, if they should return within two years after my death, I do give and bequeath to them one dollar each.

Perhaps the *L* stands for *Ligon*; Ligon Vaughan was the brother-in-law of his mother, Nancy Callicott; he died right around the time James L. was born. Ligon most likely was a close relative of his father, perhaps even a brother. The initial seems to have meant a lot to James L.'s elderly father, as it did to him. His signature is never without it.

Two Sons: Half-brothers—Elijah Calvin and Benjamin Franklin Vaughan



When he left his first Martha and their three sons he may have returned briefly to Hawkins County. He began a new family with a new Martha; John, born in 1829 Tennessee or Indiana, and Elijah, born somewhere between Tennessee and Indiana in 1832, were their sons. But with Moses and Stephen F. Austin, and others, colonizing Texas, James L. was overtaken by wanderlust, and he headed west, ending up in Gonzales. Over the jagged rocks on the lonely trail to the unknown parts of Mexico the new family traveled into new territory. Not many wagon trains headed in that direction, but the ones that did were filled with Tennesseans. Several of them, along with James L. Vaughan, were destined to play a hero's part in Texas history.

As a boy he had grown up in the house of a father who was a Revolutionary War hero who had served with George Washington at Valley Forge and who was trained as a teenage gunner under General Henry Knox to fire cannons at Cornwallis and the British. Years of Fourths of July celebrations, and also having brothers who were named after Revolutionary heroes, had left their mark. He named a child, Benjamin Franklin, as had his father, and though the son of James L. most likely received the hero's name secondhand--after his Uncle Ben--a patriotic tradition carried on. By 1830 a revolution was brewing in the Vaughan family's Tennessee backyard and calling for help—from the Texas territory to Tennessee, from whence even Davey Crockett heard the call. It is little surprise a Vaughan did also. Sam Houston, another adopted Tennessean, answered Texas as well, and for many years he and JLV were neighbors in Independence, Washington County, Texas, at the same time he was well-remembered in their section of East Tennessee. *Sam Houston statue, right.*

James L. started a new life with a new family and left the land of his father to go to the Texas territory where he fought against Mexico, and there he stayed until he died, sometime after 1862.



Jas L. Vaughan appears claiming one league and labor of land. Has taken the oath prescribed by law. Witnesses John Bailey and Joseph Greer being sworn say. Bailey says he knew the applicant in Texas in 1834 as also his wife and children. Does not know that he participated in the War. Greer says he knew the applicant in Gonzalez in the year 1834 as also his wife and children.

Texas State Genealogical Society. Stirpes, Vol. 13, Numbers 1 and 2, March and June 1973, Mary Barnett Curtis, editor, Journal/Magazine/Newsletter, June 1973.

2. Gonzales, Texas, in Parts Unknown, 1832-1842

First, he settled in Gonzales early in the 1830's with his new family. He stayed in Gonzales up to the year 1844. In legally notarized papers two witnesses testified that they knew him there, early on. (*See above*) John Bailey and Joseph Greer swore they knew the applicant, James L. Vaughan, and that they also knew his wife and children as early as 1834.

These were dangerous times in Gonzales--first it was the Comanche, then, the Mexican Army marched on the town. Opportunities arose for warriors to shine. JLV's records say he became a superb soldier. Enlisting October 17, 1835, he was responding to Mexico's attack on his town. History calls the m el e the Battle of Gonzales.

The Tex-Mex confrontation had been looming over the horizon of the wild country for some time. After Mexico became free from Spain in 1821, it began colonizing north of the Rio Grande—today's State of Texas. To help hold off the hostile Comanche natives, colonies of U.S citizens were recruited to develop the area. The John Bailey and Joseph Greer document is one of a few surviving Gonzales papers left to tell that the second family of JLV was one of those who came.

Gonzales was one of the earliest of the Anglo-American settlements. It was in the DeWitt Colony of Impresario Green DeWitt; its residents pledged allegiance to Mexico, its laws, language, religion, and customs. As a legal and pledged citizen JLV should have become Catholic, learned to speak Spanish, and could not enslave other men. If accepted, he would be given land which he could live on and develop.

From the first day on, Indian attacks had been a problem for the colonists, and the Gonzales settlers owned a cannon which the Mexican government gave them to ward off the Comanche. When it became apparent that the settlers would not keep their pledges, the little town became the site of the first skirmish of the Texas Revolution when the Mexican Army tried to

take back the cannon. The ensuing confrontation was the spark that started the war and made Gonzales into the "Lexington of Texas."

There were only eighteen men in Gonzales when a company of Mexican soldiers marched from their headquarters in San Antonio to retrieve their big gun. On October 2, 1835, the men waved a homemade flag in the face of their foes with the words "Come and take it" sewn across it.

The Gonzales men beat back the attack, and they kept the cannon. One likes to think James L. Vaughan, son of Gunnery Sgt. John Vaughan, got a chance to fire it. He signed up with the Army of the Texas Republic fifteen days later and was soon a captain noted by fellow rebel, William Barrett Travis, for his ". . . daring valor, firmness, and perseverance." With a cannon and a homemade flag waving over it, the war was on.



After five months of fighting, in a letter to Gonzales from the Alamo, on February 19th Colonel Travis reassigned Captain Vaughan as recruitment officer. Travis urged him to recruit from Gonzales to the Rio Grande and to send help in a hurry. It happened that after the newborn Texas army had taken the Alamo in December, the Mexicans wanted it back.

Before handed the assignment as Commander of the Alamo de San Antonio de Bexar, Travis himself had been unhappy about being the officer in charge of recruiting. He was happy enough to get out of the duty, and his words of praise for Captain Vaughan in his dispatch clearly stated he felt fortunate to have a man of Vaughan's caliber to take over for him.



Travis, letter, February 19, 1836.

Travis, William B., to J. L. Vaughan. February 19, 1836. Typescript copy in Biographical and Historical Files under Travis, W. B., TSLA.

Commandancy of Bexar
Febry 19/ 36

Capt. J. L. Vaughan
Army of Texas
Sir

You are hereby required to proceed forthwith on the Recruiting Service— You will take up the line of march from the Town of Rio Grande, from thence to Pictis, thence to San Juan de Mat., thence to Aguaverde, thence to San Fernando, thence to Laredo, thence to Revilla, thence to Alcantro, thence to Rinosa, thence to Comargo, from thence to Florido, & thence to Mataroras [sic] where you will make your Headquarters until you receive further orders,—

You will make regular reports from all the places above named,—and make as many recruits as possible at each place—taking care that when you shall have form(e)d a company to forward the same to this post,—and proceed to recruit other companies as fast as possible,—

Enclosed you have the General Instructions for the recruiting Service, by which you will be govern'd in all cases,—

You have been selected for this Service on account of your distinguished public Services, your well known patriotism, daring valor, firmness and perserverence—It is therefore expected and required that this order will be executed with promptness and dispatch, & it is hoped & confidently believed that my expectations will be fully realized.

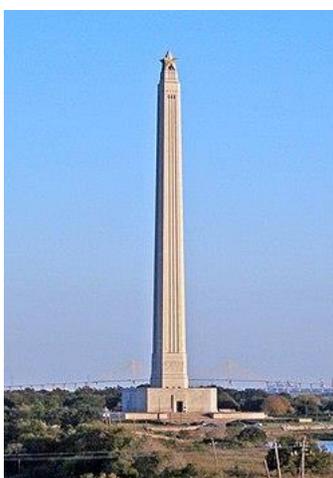
I have the Honor to be
Yr. Most Ob. St.
Warren Barret Travers [sic]
(scroll)

P.S.

The situation of enemy must not be lost sight of, you must report weekly in relation to him—

In March, before and after the Alamo massacre, refugees from San Antonio fled to Gonzales; seventy miles to the south, it was the nearest town. General Sam Houston was there organizing the Texas army when recruits filed in. After the Alamo, it would not have taken much effort on Captain Vaughan's part to recruit a Texan. In fear that Gonzales was next in the

sights of General Antonio López de Santa Anna and the Mexican army, Houston ordered the town burned and began his famous “Retreat to Victory,” as it is now called. The civilians, including the wife and children of James L. Vaughan, ran for their lives in what became known as the Runaway Scrape. The new Texas Army ended up on the banks of the San Jacinto River, nearly to the Gulf of Mexico. There, they won the Battle of San Jacinto on the afternoon of April 21, 1836 and won Texas.



The San Jacinto Monument

Sam Houston’s defeat of Santa Anna made him the greatest hero Texas ever had, but his victory did not end the trouble with Mexico. For years—until 1848--Mexico tried to get its land back from the booming Republic, and eventually, the State of Texas. In 1842 JLV was involved in a resulting border clash, and in a signed and notarized statement makes a final mention of Gonzales, in his own words. Several affidavits tell of the good fortune he had in missing out on the tragic Mier Expedition.

The 1842 Mier Expedition was an ill-advised and ill-conceived military invasion of Mexico that ended in tragedy. In the year 1842 the Army of the Republic of Texas conducted a campaign on the border in which JLV was under the command of General Somerville. He was mustered into the service of the Republic of Texas the 17th day of Oct 1842 and furnished his own horse, arms, and equipment—which meant, even from the beginning, he was a man of property. He served as a private in a company commanded at that time by William S. Fisher and served in that unit until Fisher crossed

the Rio Grande, against orders, to attack the town of Mier. Sommerville kept Vaughan and most of his force with the camp guard on the East Bank of the Rio Grande River and led them back to Gonzales. Fisher's men were all wiped out or captured with their attack on the Mexican town.

In 1852 JLV signed a paper for E. H. Vincent, swearing that Vincent had been an actual member of the Expedition and that the two had met in Gonzales:

1842 Mier Expedition Affidavit

The State of Texas}

Harris County}

Before me, Augustin C. Davis Notary Public in and for said County, this day personally appeared James L. Vaughan of Washington County, _____, who being by me duly sworn, declared that he was in the Mier Expedition in the year 1842 as a member of said Expedition during its captivity and march to Mexico, that he knew E. H. Vincent as a member of said Expedition, ___ also that he became acquainted with said Vincent at Gonzales on its ___ march, and knowing that said Vincent continued a member of the Expedition, and returned in company with him after his release to the Colorado.

James L. Vaughan -- Given to and _____ before me the 14th day of December AD 1852, _____ my hand NS Official Seal.

Aug. C. Davis

Not. Pub.

Harris Co.

Transcription by Helen Vaughan Michael

When he swore "that he knew E. H. Vincent as a member of said Expedition, ___ also that he became acquainted with said Vincent at Gonzales," and signed his name to the statement, it became the last mention of Gonzales in his records. His 1852 Mier affidavit and others were taken in Harris County, but by then he had left Gonzales and in the early 1850's resided in Washington County. Thus he lived in or around the burned out Gonzales area at least until the 1842 Mier Expedition, the year of his father's death, when his whereabouts—and therefore, his heroics--were unknown to John Vaughan. Since the prisoners taken captive in that incident were not returned until President of the Republic of Texas, Sam Houston, obtained their release in 1844, it can be figured that he was in Gonzales, alone, for close to ten years. During the years of the Texas Republic and after the United States' war with Mexico his name appears on over thirty papers. Unfortunately, his wife and children are only remembered once--in colonial Gonzales--and are never mentioned in Texas Republic or Texas State records.



3. *With William Barrett Travis, 1835-1836*

The October call to arms out of the “Lexington of Texas” rallied rebellious Texicans to Gonzales. One who came running had reason to be especially angry. William Barrett Travis, who had been arrested for making trouble, had just been released from confinement in what amounted to no more than a kiln where adobe bricks were baked. He may have arrived too late for the action at Gonzales, but he went after the Mexicans with a vengeance. That is to say, he went after their horses and brought back a fine remuda of cavalry mounts, which he gave to the cause.

After the fight over the big Gonzales gun that autumn, one battle followed another into the first week of December. Two months of fighting would leave William Barrett Travis and James L. Vaughan well acquainted with one another.

As winter approached, enraged Texas rebels had put under siege the Mexican forces which were headquartered at the Alamo mission in San Antonio. The Texicans kept their army captive until its capitulation on December 6, 1835. The Mexican surrender of the mission fort left the Texas military well-armed with artillery to complement the Travis herd of horses. The Texicans felt like the war was won.



But, soon, the old church had to be defended.

In defending the Alamo, Travis held up General Santa Anna long enough for the Texicans, with General Sam Houston as their leader, to build up an army. While Houston’s ability to whip an army into shape out of nothing

can't be denied, without Travis and the men at the Alamo, he would have had no time, or the recruits, to build an Army of Texas. Travis's Alamo stand inspired new recruits, and his orders for James L. Vaughan helped to sign them up.

Soon after the Texas Revolution began Travis had started out as the recruiting officer. He had difficulty finding colonists to enlist. "Volunteers can no longer be had or relied upon," he wrote to acting governor Henry Smith. When he sent his urgent letter of February 19th to JLV in Gonzales, the recruiting situation had grown desperate, but it quickly changed with the Alamo massacre and perhaps with a new zealous patriot in charge. By the time men began swelling the ranks of Houston's army, it was JLV who was in charge of signing up new soldiers. By military standards, Houston's men had started out as little more than a small militia of individuals bent on settling personal gripes and complaints against Santa Anna's dictatorship. When Texicans heard of the reports coming out of San Antonio, Houston became the head of a larger army of men who were inspired to. . . "Remember the Alamo." If Captain Vaughan was as tough a soldier as Travis believed him to be, and did nothing but follow orders, he played an important part in building up Houston's troops.

JLV's papers make it clear that he and Travis knew each other well; before JLV's appointment as recruitment officer, his papers say he bought a horse from the Colonel. The Colonel's brief rustling career provided him with a few from which to choose, but the price of the horse Vaughan bought from him suggests that it was his own horse he sold. Students studying Texas history will read about Travis selling his horse to raise money to buy himself a Colonel's uniform. He never got to wear the uniform he ordered, but JLV got to ride his horse.

It's obvious that the patriotic valor displayed by JLV in their earlier battles caught the attention of Colonel Travis. By February, placing him in charge of recruitment in the area, Travis was calling him, "*Capt. Vaughan.*"

Travis took command of the Alamo in December; within two months, when having more men became vital to saving the Alamo, he handed over his recruitment job to JLV. Travis happily gave up his recruiting duties, but wanting to look fit for the higher office, he quickly sold his horse to get the wherewithal for a new uniform. JLV paid \$80.00, good money, for Travis's horse. When Travis reassigned his duties to Captain Vaughan, Vaughan was unquestionably well-mounted for the task.

JLV's army pay sheets describing his former financial dealings with Travis are dated March 8th, after the fall of the Alamo; Travis's recruitment

orders came little more than a couple of weeks before it fell. Hundreds of recruits did show up at Gonzales, but too late to save Travis and his men at the Alamo. Tragically, not the fastest steed in Texas could hurry the needed men to the besieged Alamo. Still, the tone of the dispatch was exclusive, approving of Captain Vaughan's war against the enemy thus far. Travis, always eloquent, used language that indicated trust--and hope. JLV was known as a valiant patriot, he said, who would carry on and never give up. The sale of the horse looks like it could have been between close army buddies

Military service was rendered by JLV at least from 17 Oct 1835 to 24 March 1836, according to three of his paysheets. During this period of time he and Travis could have fought beside each other in the Battle of Gonzales, 2 Oct 1835; the Battle of Goliad, 9 Oct 1835; the Battle of Concepcion, 28 Oct 1835; and attended the surrender of Mexico's General Cos in San Antonio, 10 Dec 1835. His service, and the purchase of Travis's horse, is indicated by three original pay sheet transcriptions.

Transcription of Document #1 pay sheet:

#409

\$14

See 424 Book B

James L. Vaughan

Appointed 8th March 1836

By illegible signature, Auditor

Military Service

17th Oct 1835 To 24 March 1836

No Draft 521 (Star Seal)

A second document, a scribbled, detailed record of the first transaction, is addressed to "Washington," and the purchase of W.B. Travis's horse is written up in this paper. "Washington" refers to Washington on the Brazos, where government representatives were trying to carry on after their declaration of independence of March 2nd. Washington on the Brazos is near present day Navasota in Grimes County, and the Republic of Texas got its start there on the banks of the Brazos River. A town called Independence, nearby, is the place where both JLV and Sam Houston settled after the war.

Of his fellow soldiers, William B. Travis died along with Davy Crockett, James Bowie, and other volunteers, many of whom hailed from Tennessee. Happily, JLV's pay sheets are dated March 8 and 24, and thus, he was able

to join his more fortunate fellow Texans in their later call to, "Remember the Alamo."

***Transcription of
Document #2 pay sheet:***

Washington

*Before me John Willowby, auditor,
comes James L Vaughan and says the
annexed instruments is just true and
original and he owes the Government
nothing.*

*Sworn to 8th March 1836
before Wm. Mitchell, auditor
His account column:*

<i>Horse</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>	
<i>Illegible</i>		<i>50.00</i>
<i>in ___ of W.S.Blount</i>		<i>6.00</i>
		<i>100.00</i>
<i>Amt of demand</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>	
	<u><i>86.00</i></u>	
	<i>\$14.00</i>	

*Horse bought of
Govt. W.B. Travis
now holds his note
for \$80.00
6.00on ___ of W.J. Blount
86.00*

***Scribbled column with marked
out lines:***

*and about which ought to be settled
on by amt, but he having drawn for
the whole of his amt takes the... (here,
not marked out) ...draw of his six
dollars out of this account by consent
of James L. Vaughan now here
present and consents to the ___ which
he owed Wm S. Blount for saddle.*

Page 1

*The six dollars taken out on account
of Wm. S Blount answers for amt due
from him to government for a Spanish
Blanket and pair of shoes— ___
Mitchell, auditor (a guess at
signature)*

Page 2

424

\$14

James L. Vaughan

Filed, 8th March 1836

*Examined same day Admitted to audit
for One hundred dollars. I Deducted
the amount of eighty Dollars for a
Horse purchased by him from the
government and six dollars on
account of Wm. S. Blount the amount
to be drawn for is fourteen dollars.*

___ Mitchell, auditor

Approved March 8th 1836

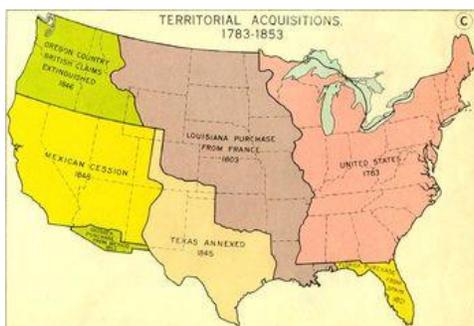
(H. C. _____ Quartermaster)

+

521

Transcribed by Helen Vaughan Michael

4. In the War with Mexico, 1836



Texas, In The Beginning

The fall of the Alamo became Santa Anna's Waterloo—an appropriate epithet for the man who saw himself as the Napoleon of the West. The 187 men who fought against his Mexican legions inspired out-numbered and out-gunned soldiers thereafter to “Remember the Alamo” regardless of the battleground.

There is no known service record that places James L. Vaughan at the Battle of San Jacinto, but records are incomplete in war. Travis's orders for him to set up headquarters at Matamoras were certainly overridden by Santa Anna and the carnage wreaked on the Alamo and at Goliad by the Mexican Army. All of Anglo Texas headed east—even Houston's Army, and there is no reason to think that, alongside his new recruits, he did not accompany Sam Houston out of the fired town of Gonzales on the way to the fateful battleground on the San Jacinto River. He may have ridden the best horse in Houston's cavalry.



Lone Star Flag

Colonel Joseph Bennett, was there; he commanded the left-flank of General Houston's Texas Army and broke open the Mexican artillery barricade. All the while the Twin Sister cannons blasted the center, and the infantry broke through the other side, yelling their battle cry, “Remember the Alamo!” It was over in eighteen minutes, but that is when and how Texas

soldiers won Texas and won for themselves thousands of acres of land. Col. Bennett is significant to their settling the wild territory, because after the war Houston appointed him to one of the first ranger companies in charge of guarding South Texas settlements against Mexican banditos, Texas outlaws, and the unconquerable Comanche. A cousin of JLV, William Crump Callicott, was one of these early lawmen. They were called Texas Rangers.

William Crump Callicott



While Sam Houston became Texas's greatest hero, how sad it is that published historians were unable to find or use any of the records that exist on James L. Vaughan. His contribution to the war was significant. It seems unfair that his aging father in Tennessee did not hear the name of his son honored as did the kin of General Houston and Davy Crockett, his fellow Tennesseans. Of his many records, none is so exciting as the letter from Colonel Travis praising him as a soldier and authorizing him to recruit men for the defense of the Alamo. Captain Vaughan surely looked with pride on the recruits his efforts brought into Gonzales, because within two months new recruits made up the core of Houston's army which defeated Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto.

5. Land Records of James L. Vaughan, 1847-1874

Pay records for soldiers in the Texas Army were eventually used as proof of service by hundreds of Texans who made land claims, and Sam Houston offered his soldiers plenty of prospects in Texas real estate. When Houston became the first President of the Republic of Texas he was faced with an angry, unpaid army on one hand and an angry army of Mexicans who wanted their land back on the other. Believing that the Texas Rangers could defend Texas against Mexico, he reduced the size of the Texas Army by giving indefinite furloughs with a paid trip home to soldiers who wanted to leave Texas. To those who wanted to stay and settle the new Republic he gave them each a part of Texas--1280 acres of it. The officers, who were trying to start the rebellion, lost much of their audience.

**Texas General Land Office
Land Grant Search**



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County: Live Oak

Abstract Number: 467

District/Class: San Patricio 1st

File Number: 000156

Original Grantee: Vaughan, James L

Patentee: Shaw, James B

Title Date:

Patent Date: 03 Jul 1847

Patent No: 439

Patent Vol: 5

Certificate: 602

Part Section:

Survey/Blk/Tsp: 37

Acres: 4604.60

Adj Acres:

Remarks:

The Texas Revolution was as fortunate in its leadership as the United States had been in its revolution against England. Houston had led his impossible troops to an improbable victory. James L. Vaughan for instance was a forty-year-old farmer. After the war, Houston's decision on how to handle his unpaid troops and unruly officers influenced James to stay in Texas. He stayed, but without his family. The land deal Houston offered him was too good to refuse and turned him and other soldiers into huge landowners. On reflection, he looks like a lonely forty-year-old soldier who farmed during peace time--which there was precious little of in early Texas.

Much of the bounty the soldiers received was parceled out in 320 acre increments. Land grant records say that James L. Vaughan received a share of these increments in South Texas. Most of his bounty acreage was in and around Gonzales.

With added research into Texas land grant history it is possible for state and county land records to further identify James L. Vaughan's land claims.

Further investigation into the origin of Live Oak and Nueces Counties may link his documents. The Nueces County entry may reflect a change in counties after the 1845

annexation of the state, and may actually be the Live Oak County, 4,620 acres, listed on the 1860 census; it almost matches the 4604.60 in his 1847 Live Oak survey. If not, JLV earned a lot of real estate for his service in the wars Texas fought against Mexico--almost 10,000 acres.

**Texas General Land Office
Land Grant Search**



This file needs professional conservation work. [Follow me](#) to be a part of Save Texas History !

County: Kinney

Abstract Number: 590

District/Class: Bexar Bounty

File Number: 000733

Original Grantee: Vaughan, James L

Patentee: Vaughan, James L

Title Date:

Patent Date: 11 Jul 1849

Patent No: 386

Patent Vol: 5

Certificate: 227

Part Section:

Survey/Blk/Tsp: 284

Acres: 320

Adj Acres:

Remarks:

Land Office copies of Nueces, Live Oak, and Kinney County properties:

February 15th 1847

Abstracts of Land Claims Compiled from the Records of the General Land Office of the State of Texas, 1852.

San Patricio Dist

Vaughan, Jas. L.

4605 A.

Cls 1t

Nueces Co., Surv 57, Sec 2, On Spring Creek.

Land patent granted by the State of Texas, 1849

VAUGHAN, JAMES L.

Received BtyWnt 227 for 320 acres from AG on 15 Feb 1847 for service from 17 Oct to 15 Dec 1835.

320 acres in Kinney Cty

12 July 1849.

Pat 386 Vol 5 Abst 590 GLO File Bexar Bty 733.

After 1852, while still living in Independence, he made a claim in Nueces County and moved to the area sometime before 1860.

6. Independence, Washington County, Texas, 1843-1852

James L. Vaughan's service records in the Texas military date back to the Texas Revolution. Legally, the man was owed a 1,280 acre Head Right for his service. He claimed many additional acres and bought even more land in the Washington County area of the Brazos Valley.

After the Texas Army defeated Mexico's Santa Anna, the soldiers who fought the war were unpaid. A new government was formed and fashioned a constitution for running the Republic of Texas. General Sam Houston was elected its first president. Thus, Texas had a framework for governing. What it didn't have was money. The new country was in debt.

What Texas did own was land. Much of its debt was owed to the men who had fought and defeated Mexico, and the unpaid army was grumbling. President Houston was forbidden by the new constitution from disbanding an unpaid army, so he offered furloughs and paid trips home to the troops who wanted to leave and Head Rights to anyone who wanted to stay and settle in Texas. Texas may have been broke, but it owned a lot of land. JLV and the soldiers in the Texas Army won a huge section of Mexico for the new Republic, and JLV began claiming—and buying his share right away.

From the town of Gonzales of the 1830's, and away from the devastation of war, he moved east--momentarily to the town of Houston, and then into the Brazos Valley—the very place of the birth of the Republic of Texas. No mention of him being in Gonzales appears after 1844.

In 1846, after statehood, he was still claiming land from the Republic era in the South Texas area, but he settled—along with Sam Houston—in the town of Independence, Washington County. As early as 1843 he bought a league of land on the Navasota River which runs into the Brazos River where Brazos and Washington counties meet about twelve miles east of Independence. According to the Brazos Co. Deed Book B, p.90 (27 Feb. 1843),

James L. Vaughan gave land on the Navasota River to an unnamed Methodist Church "in the neighborhood known as Ferguson's Settlement" for "the building and supporting parsonage"; the land was in the league originally granted to Augustus WILLIAMS & sold by WILLIAMS to James L. Vaughan; it bordered lands granted to Joseph FERGUSON & Robert FERGUSON; church trustees were Alexander THOMPSON, Hugh B. KING, James W. SCOTT, Joseph FERGUSON, Eli H. MITCHELL; witnessed by Samuel BURTON & J.I. BOWMAN

Because of the volume of material which bears his name in Washington County, it could be assumed that the Ferguson Settlement in Brazos County was nearby, and probably adjoining, his Washington County address. Plus, his papers originated, were signed, and/or sworn to in Independence for nearly a decade.

Between his stay in Gonzales and Independence, he stopped off for a brief sojourn in Houston, Texas in 1837—applying for back pay from the war. Sam Houston lived there during this same time period. After the war he held an address in Harris County, where, in the year 1839, an unclaimed letter waited for him at the Houston Post Office. (Bottom Left.) William B. Snodgrass and William Snodgrass, possible relatives of his and associates of his friend, Hollowell Old, are on the same list. There is no mention of his wife and children in Houston.



Map of Texas with Brazos Valley and Brazos River highlighted.

The family of JLV escaped Texas with their lives during the war and never came back. In 1840 a woman and two little boys that could be his family are listed with his brother Beverley in Madison, Arkansas. There are census returns in Madison in the years 1850 and 1860 on a family that is positively his second wife and their two sons who are listed at or near the 1840 residence of his brother and also near his two adult sons, Benjamin Franklin and William. Benjamin Franklin claimed he and William had two half-brothers named John and Elijah. These are the names of the family in Arkansas in 1850 and 1860 which are associated with his second wife, Martha, a single mom. Beverley's sons are also in Madison in 1847.

Between 1840 and 1860 JLV was filing away documents in Texas.

While he was fighting the war his wife and two small sons escaped Santa Anna, bandits, Comanche arrows, sickness, and drowning. Since so many other women and children died during the Runaway Scrape, they surely had the help of a well-seasoned traveler. It is known that a group of the refugees split off to the northeast and made it to Nacogdoches and that Martha and her sons made it a little further to Madison, Arkansas.

Considering that the two brothers

LIST of letters remaining at the Post-office in the city of
of Houston, on the 31st day of March, 1839.
Seely 1 nos. 0
Scott Thos.
Snodgrass wm B
Settle & Williams,
Snodgrass wm.
Scott Geo
Upham Geo B
Underwood w
Vaughan James L
Vicar James,
Warras & Jones,

seemed inseparable, and since Beverley's whereabouts were unknown during this time—even though his sons definitely lived there--perhaps it was he who led them to safety in Madison.

By 1851, JLV's residence was Independence, Washington County, Texas, and no family members show up in his numerous Washington County records. With or without his people, he prospered in what is now called the Brazos Valley, and he owned enough land there to give some of it to the unnamed Methodist Church, with enough left over to farm—and, if they had been there, to raise a family. His family in Arkansas prospered, so he may have helped them as well.

After moving out of Gonzales, he became a resident of Independence, Texas for quite a spell. His papers are dated, starting from his gift of two lots to the Methodists out of a league he purchased in 1843, and they stack up in Washington County until 1852. Documents out of Independence, Washington County continued his solitary Texas odyssey, but they don't complete it. Some of the later papers are written by him and bear his signature, but other than proclaiming that he was a soldier and a landowner, there is little else said about him.

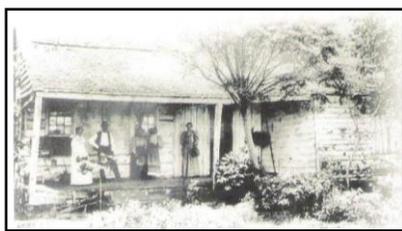
--During his stay in Independence he announced a trip he was planning for a return to Tennessee.

--He would see his neighbor Sam Houston serve as President of the Texas Republic, and after statehood, see him elected Governor and Senator.

--A final war with Mexico was fought. Then, in 1847 and 1849 he claimed more land out west and--about ten years later--moved to one of his claims. All in all, he thrived in Washington County, but the more peaceful Texas became, the less that is heard of him.



Post Office



1850 Houston home in 1897



Independence, Texas

JLV and the family of Sam Houston were neighbors in a small community. Old soldiers that they were, it's likely that they knew each other and saw each other often when Houston, a statesman and elected official, was in town. With so much in common, they may have even enjoyed each other's company.

Alongside Houston's generosity, JLV's gift to the Ferguson Settlement Church in 1843 indicates that during the years the two men lived in Independence they were community-minded, with both making financial contributions to local religious and educational organizations. It is strange that both men purchased land, when thousands of acres were theirs for the claiming. But then, perhaps it's not so strange when it is remembered that the creed of JLV's father had been to take no more than was needed.

"I have *anuff* to do me," the elder Vaughan would answer when he was urged to claim his war pension—a lesson he left for his other children as well. By 1860 the two youngest sons of JLV in Arkansas were both merchants with property. Taking the example of his father to heart, it may have been JLV—who, records show, had enough money to do him—who helped John and Elijah get their start.

After settling down in Washington County, JLV began tending to paperwork necessary to making his various claims. In January of 1851 he filed for compensation for the Sommerville Campaign, a part of the 1842 Mier Expedition.

That same year, 1851, he began to prepare for a trip home—a trip to Tennessee and Virginia—which he announced in a Washington County, Texas newspaper:

5 gr. 3 85	Remember it is to be had at	Galveston Dec. 27th, 1850
0 " 7 70	HARMON & LEVINSON'S,	Administrat
4 00	the <i>cheapest</i> store in Brenham.	THE undersigned, having
17 00	v2n4 1y	been chief-justice of Austin
4 87	NOTICE	bonis non, cum testamento
ia,	TO THE GOOD CITIZENS OF TEXAS:	William Pryar, deceased,
2 20	I expect to leave this State, about the fifteenth	County court of said County
grs, 5 80	of May, for the States of Tennessee and Virginia,	having claims against the
" 2 00	and Col. A. M. Lewis is my lawful agent and attorney—in fact, for all law and law cases.	hereby notified to present
" 2 30	JAMES L. VAUGHAN.	scribed by law.
" 3 25	Washington, Jan. 21st, 1850. n3 3t	v2n1 6t
	Citation.	Administrat
\$1 00	STATE OF TEXAS, } To the Sheriff of said	THE undersigned, having
ed, 90	COUNTY OF WASHINGTON. } County. GREETING:	been chief-justice of Austin
1 00	WHEREAS , Samuel Edny has filed his petition	estate of William B. Harrison
93	in the District Court of said county, stating	tember term of the county
	that Wm. Smith and George C. Bruner entered into	D. 1850; all persons having
	an agreement to convey to petitioner one-quarter of	of said Harrison, are hereby
		within the time prescribed
		v2n1 6t BENJ.

Lone Star and Southern Watch Tower, Washington, Texas, Saturday, April 21, 1851

Arriving from Parts Unknown

It would be interesting to know with whom he visited in 1851 Virginia, and if he stopped off to see his wife and sons—and even Beverley—in Arkansas, but in Tennessee, he evidently returned to his childhood home in Hawkins—now, Hancock--County. His mother was still living, but his father had died in 1842, and on his return ten years afterwards, JLV found his brother Samuel's young family living in the old home place.

Other siblings— John, Jr., Benjamin, Nancy, Mary Polly and Martha lived nearby. One sister, Mahala, had joined their father in the hereafter. Two sisters had moved west and Beverley was believed by his Tennessee family to be in Arkansas. His widowed mother, Nancy Callicott Vaughan, was living with Mary Polly's Gilliam family.

Before her death in 1858 Nancy filed for a pension based on John Vaughan's service in the American Revolution. Four affidavits are made in her application which place James L. Vaughan in Texas, but more importantly describe him as he appeared in recent sightings in Tennessee; no mention of her long lost son is mentioned in her own paper. . . .

Thomas and Lilborn Davis, . . . And we further state that the said John Vaughan with the said Nancy his wife had raised several children the most of which we are presently acquainted with and that from the appearance they are about the ages which said Nancy states in her declaration . . . Our hand and seal this 3rd day of February AD 1858

George Anderson, . . . that they raised several children, about eleven, which was all acknowledged by them both to be legitimate, that James was always said to be the eldest, and that from his acquaintance and from his, the same James', appearance he must now be about 63 years of age . . . on this 28 day of May 1858.

James Ford, Justice of the Peace, Hancock County

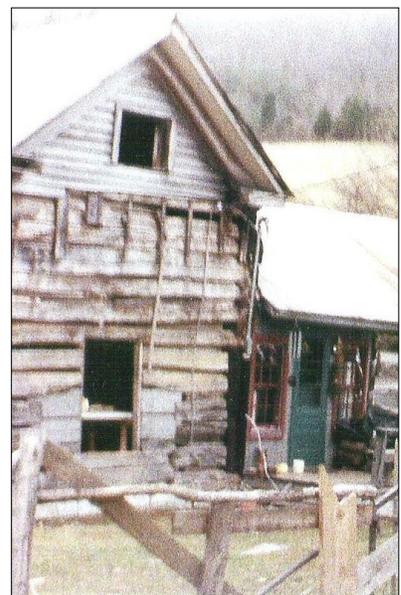
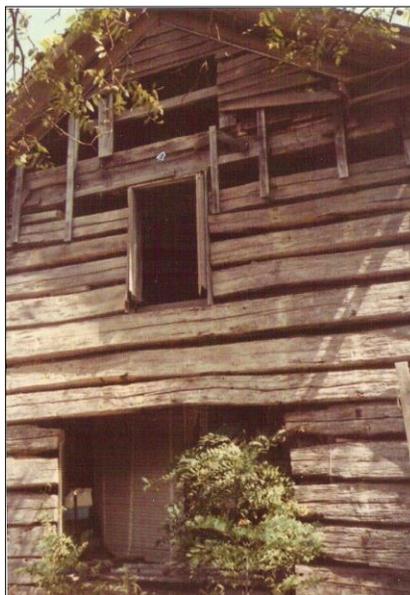
*John M. Charles, . . . they raised several children that was acknowledged to be legitimate, that James was always said to be the eldest, and from my acquaintance with him, he must from his appearance now be the rise of 60 years of age . . . I further certify that James Vaughan aforesaid moved from here to Texas Sworn to, Subscribed, and witnessed before me this 2 day of June AD 1858,
Wm Hutchisson JP, For Hawkins County*

Benjamin Vaughan, . . . Be it remembered that on this 28 day of May AD 1858 . . . that the last account I had of James he was in the State of Texas. In witness I do here unto set my hand and seal the day and year aforesaid

Below, pictured left: --from around the corner and down the hill, the old road trailing away from the childhood home of James L. Vaughan. Mabel Harp Photo, 1997.

Center photo: Timbers of original John Vaughan home in Tennessee in which the last 9 of James L.'s siblings were born.

Right: 20th century restoration of his father's house begins.



His aged and ailing mother died in September of 1858, and two years later his brother Benjamin moved to Texas. James L. Vaughan, born in 1795, was sixty-three years old in 1858. In 1855, when he was sixty, newspaper ads continuously showed he was a traveling man, and he may have returned once again to see his Tennessee family, to whom he appeared to be on "the rise of 60 years of age."

1855: A Guest At The Cassimir House and pictured, Kinney Stage

**ARRIVALS AT THE CASSIMIR HOUSE,
FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 9th, 1855.**

G A Hayward & lady, G W Wyalt, J W Turley, Thomas Howard, F H Collier, Capt Blair USA, D M Stapp, J A Hughson, J D Brooks, J F Brooks, Mr Green, Wm Greer, Benj D Wheat, J F Green, lady and svl, C H Jordan, J Turner, Capt Jos Cathcart, H Seeligson, Jas Cummings, Ellis Jones, R D Balleff, G W Rhymes, W C Cowan, W P McCombs and lady, E L Marchans, O P Lewis and lady, R McNamara, W M McConnell, Misses M & E Clarke, Mrs D Cleason, George Walker, J F Stokes, Grandison Ruby, S G Powell, Miss Powell, Mrs Tharp, Miss E Seaborn, W J Olarke, Jas S French, Douglas Tyler, J M Levyson, B B Deacon, G W Phoenix, J V Cook, S T Davidson, T Byrne, jr., F Thomas, J Seely, Dr Fenner, W Alexander, Stewart Simpson, A Henderson & ldy, P Morrill, H Lyons, D Williamsod; John Sharky, B Richardson, Jas L Vaughn, J C Wilson, B R Peck, T D Clearman, M



FACILITIES FOR TRAVEL IN WESTERN TEXAS.

Persons visiting Western Texas, or who are desirous of doing so, are hereby informed that the Coaches of the Western Texas Stage Company, leave the Cassimir House, opposite Powder Horn Wharf, on Matagorda Bay, every day on the arrival of the steamships from New Orleans, and every other day of the week, (Saturday excepted). Running to

SAN ANTONIO,	AUSTIN,	SEGUIN,
WACO,	BELTON.	BRAUNFELS,
SAN MARCOS,	GONZALES,	LOCKHART,
YORKTOWN,	VICTORIA,	PORT LAVACCA,

and Western Texas in general. Affording the business traveler great despatch, and emigrants every facility for exploring this delightful region.

Returning from the interior, the Coaches of this Company run in close connection with the steamships, which take their departure for New Orleans from Powder Horn Wharf.

An Agent of the Company ever ready to answer questions and receive money will be found at the Cassimir House, Lower Indianola. B. A. RISHER,
For Western Texas Stage Company.

Western Stage Itinerary to Cassimir House on Matagorda Bay

In May of 1855 he registered as a guest at the Cassimir House, an inn for travelers. It was located at Matagorda Bay, Texas, about one hundred and twenty miles from the town of Independence by stage. The stage line, with a depot in Independence, ran from Waco, Belton, and Austin to Matagorda and posted its itinerary for Cassimir House tenants.

The route back to his boyhood home by way of New Orleans and, from New Orleans on to Tennessee by riverboat up the Mississippi, was well-traveled.

James L. was certainly a memorable character back in his hometown and may have made a bit of a hit with his kin. Coincidentally, about this time, amongst the children of his siblings—his grown nieces and nephews—*James* began to be a popular name for their newborn baby boys. By the end of the century James Vaughan was also a popular name in Texas.

With time out for the first trip in 1851, back at his home in Texas, James L. started in on his paperwork. From January 6, 1851 to March 10, 1852 he worked out of Independence, seeking for himself and others back pay for military service. He had several wars to work with and his personal claims were approved. Some documents bear his signature:



Captain of Volunteer Army of Texas, 1837.



Vincent/Mier Expedition Affidavit, 1851.



Power of Attorney, 1852.



For Value Received, 1852.

Transcriptions of James L. Vaughan papers, 1851-1852, Washington County

Affidavit, Jan 6, 1851, Washington County

The State of Texas}

Washington County}

Personally came and appeared before me Jno. B. Root , Notary Public -----commissioned,

Thomas S. Smith who after being sollomly sworn deposeth and saith that he served on the Mier Expedition under the command of Genl Sommerville and Col Wm S. Fisher and that he was personally acquainted with James L. Vaughn and Said Expedition and that said Vaughan was mustered into the services of the Republic of Texas, on or about the 17th day of Oct 1842—in a company commanded at that time by Capt William S. Fisher, afterwards by Capt C. Buster, and served in said command until Col Fisher crossed the Rio Grande to attack the Town of Mier at which time he was left with the camp guard on the East Bank of the Rio Grande River. And deponent further saith that he believes said Vaughan furnished his own horse, arms, and equipments. Thos. S Smith

In testimony whereof I hereunto sign my name and affix the impress of my official Seal this 6th day of Jan 1851.

Jno. B. Root

Notary Public

WC_____

Norris affidavit, Jan 6, 1851, Washington County

The State of Texas}

County of Washington}

Personally appeared before me John B. Root—Notary Public in and for the County aforesaid, J. M. Norris, who after being by me first duly sworn Says that he Served in the Campaign of 1842 under General Sommerville and that James L. Vaughan was with the Expedition, but when he came into the service or how long he remained he does not recollect he further states that he does not know that said Vaughan was mustered into the Service or discharged. James M. Norris

Sworn to and subscribed before and this 6th day of Jan 1851

Thomas B. Root

Notary Public

W. C.

Power of Attorney Document, 6th day of January 1851, Independence, Texas, p.2

The State of Texas}

Washington County}

Know all men by these presents, That I, James L. Vaughan, have nominated and appointed and by these presents do nominate , Constitute, and appoint Thos. S. Smith of the above named county and state my True and Lawful attorney to ask for, demand, and

receive for me and in my name all the pay, either in money or Land now due and coming to me for servis rendered in the army of the Republic _____ of Texas _____ on a campaign in the year 1842, under the command of Genl Summerville and Col. Wm. S. Fisher and he is hereby authorized to recipt of the same for me and in my name do and perform all things necessary to be done, for the adjustment and collection of the same, hereby satisfy and confirming all the acts and doing of my said attorney Legally done in the promises in Testimony of all of which I have hereunto signed my name and affixed a _____ for _____ at the Town of Independence this 6th day of January 1851.

James L. Vaughan. Seal

Smith, Notarized, John B. Root,
Jan 1851

The State of Texas}

County of Washington}

Before me Jno. B. Root, a Notary Public duly qualified and acting in the county aforesaid do hereby certify that James L. Vaughn _____ has personally this day appeared and acknowledged the execution of the foregoing instrument of writing for the principle use and consideration therein expressed. In testimony wherein I hereunto Sign My name and affix the impress

Of My Official Seal the 6th day of Jan 1851.

Jno. B. Root
Notary Public
WC

Nunn receipt, March 10, 1852,
Washington County
(unreadable top of page) No 1n 3Y
J. L. Vaughan

2nd Class

For value received I assign
The within to S. H. Nunn.
Witness my hand and seal This
10th day of March 1852.
James L. Vaughan seal
The State of Texas}
County of Washington}

Before me W. A. Higgins,
Chief Justice Washington County
personally appears James L.
Vaughan to Mr. Will K _____ who
acknowledges to Mr. Chisom he
signed sealed, and delivered the
within instrument of S. H. Nunn for
a valuable consideration and
authorizes him to receive the
money owed Elia Sa _____.

Given under My hand and the seal
of the County Court _____
P__haw this 10th day of March,
Ano 1852

W. A. Higgins
Chief Justice, WC

Received payment in full For the
entire certificate
March 19th 1852
S. H. Nunn

7. The 1860 Texas Census

Page No. 51

SCHEDULE 1.—Free Inhabitants in Asheville **in the County of** Lincoln **State**
of Texas **enumerated by me, on the** 10 **day of** June **1860.** H. J. Williams **Ass't Marshal**
Post Office Asheville

Dwellings houses, or other buildings, in the order of visitation.	Family number in the order of visitation.	The name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1860, was in this family.	Description.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age.	Value of Estate Owned.		Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	Attended School within the year.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.
			Age.	Sex.	Color.		Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Elizabeth Smith	11	F					Mississippi			
		John	21	M		Householder	✓		do			
		Abraham Hill	24	M		do	✓		Texas			
511	512	William A. B.	40	M		Blacksmith	✓	2100	North Carolina			
		James L. Vaughn	50	M		Farmer	✓	1000	Virginia			
513	514	J. S. James	20	M		do	✓	2000	Illinois			
		Esther	20	F					Illinois			
		Abraham	15	M		Householder	✓		Texas			
		James	9	M					do			
		Josephine	7	F					do			
		Isabella	5	F					do			
		Esther	5	F					do			
		Andrew	1	M					do			
520	521	John H. H. H.	30	M		Farmer	✓	1500	Illinois			
		Abraham	10	F					do			
		Mary	14	F					Texas			
		John	8	M					do			
		Louis H. H.	9	F					do			
		Benjamin H. H.	21	M		Householder	✓		Virginia			
522	523	L. S. S.	31	M		Lawyer	✓	500	South Carolina			
		Mary	22	F					Louisiana			
		Elizabeth	8	F					Texas			
		J. S. S.	21	M		Lawyer	✓	200	Kentucky			
524	525	John H. H.	31	M		Farmer	✓	100	Arkansas			
		Esther	24	F					Mississippi			
		John	1	M					Texas			
		Francis	2	F					do			
		Henry	10	M					do			
		Thomas	17	M		Householder	✓		do			
		William H. H.	32	F					North Carolina			
526	527	John H. H.	31	M		Farmer	✓	1500	South Carolina			
		Sarah	10	F					do			
		James	11	M					Louisiana			
		William	11	M					Arkansas			
		William	9	M					do			
		Mary	7	F					do			
		Thomas	5	M					do			
		Edwin	5	F					do			
		Esther	2	M					do			

39 No. white males, 21 No. colored males, _____ No. foreign born, _____ No. blind, _____
 No. white females, 11 No. colored females, _____ No. deaf and dumb, _____ No. insane, _____
 9,290 29,812 No. idiots, _____ No. paupers, _____ No. convicts, _____

On the 1860 U.S. Census James L. Vaughan was living south of San Antonio in Oakville, Live Oak County. He was born in Virginia in 1795. He is listed as a farmer. A forty-one year old Hollowell Old lives with him. Hollowell was born in North Carolina in 1820, and "stockraiser" is his occupation. Their South Texas neighbors, the James and Hickock families, claim that they are related to each other. Since Beverley has a family in Illinois, their Illinois origins, along with their eye-popping names, are conspicuous—if not suspicious--in this sparsely populated land of cattle raisers and cattle thieves. In the future, Hollowell marries one of the James daughters. Up north in Hunt County, Texas, where it is safer, members of the Snodgrass family are boarding with Hollowell's kin.

James L. and Hollowell were two of a rare breed of hardy cattlemen and farmers who settled the wild country after statehood, from Nueces County out to far West Texas. In 1860 they were under the still meager protection of a chain of U.S. Army posts. They continued to need protection from the Comanche. These settlers moving onto Indian lands and arousing native hostilities, as has been said, resulted in the establishment of the Texas Rangers, but it was hardly enough.

From the Gulf of Mexico up to the Red River and the Texas Panhandle there were fewer settlers than there were cows. Prior to the Civil War, Texas needed more white people and openly hoped they would come with their hard working slaves.

During the Civil War both armies needed Texas cattle to feed their soldiers. Cattle drives to the North started up towns, built roads, lay railroad tracks, and put up the first fences around the Chicago Stock Market.

8. Vaughan Migration to Texas



Beverley's sons, Randolph and Beverley Jr. died in the fighting for Mexico City. Pictured: American troops occupy the city. A peace treaty was signed February 2, 1848.

According to the 1847 US Army Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914, three Vaughan boys—James H., Randolph, and Beverley--enlisted to fight in America's

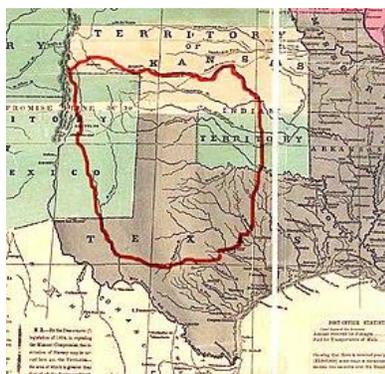
War with Mexico. These were sons of Beverley Vaughan, and thus James L. Vaughan's nephews. In the past Beverley, Sr. and his brother had kept close by one another from birth, to Tennessee, to Indiana, and maybe in Texas and Arkansas. During Beverley's elusive travels about the land, the one constant, like the North Star, was his closeness to his brother. It would not be beyond reason to suspect that at some time his travels may have taken him to Texas to be with James L. If his soldier sons were roused by events in Texas enough to get to the war, JLV's nephews would be first in a line of Vaughans to be charmed by the new state. Keeping in mind the words of tribute paid to Captain Vaughan by William B. Travis, the inspiration for his nephews enlisting in the United States' fight with Mexico may have been both the land called Texas and an uncle called Captain James L. Vaughan.

The connection to his brother's family continued in 1862 with his nephew, James H.—a likely namesake—becoming a licensed stockbroker in the up and coming Chicago cattle market. James H., the only nephew who survived the Mexican War, had an inside track to the cattle in Texas if he wanted it. Since there were men killing each other to get into the Texas Longhorn market, it does not seem likely that James H. would have ignored his uncle's huge ranch. Added to this gossamer fact is a ghostly link: in the vast emptiness of JLV's South Texas the name of Beverley impressed someone enough that another Vaughan child was given the name; in 1959 a Ben Beverley Vaughan died in Hale County; Ben Beverley was a

descendant of another Vaughan clan, but Hale County was also home to a number of JLV's kinfolk whose descendants abide to this day in this distant neighborhood of West Texas.

In any of his mysterious absences Beverley himself could have made the trip to visit his brother. Texas was a good place to hide out. His first wife accused him of being a gambler, and gamblers do make enemies. If they are too good they may take money off of a sore loser; if not so good, they can mount up bad debts to dangerous people, and in the Old West many debtors, as well as card counters found themselves needing just such a place as Texas to hide. The two brothers had outlaw nephews out of Tennessee who would find refuge in Texas under assumed names for decades. Coincidentally, along the secretive path of his unending travels, at least once, Beverley was known to have used an alias.

James L. Vaughan is connected by place and name patterns to other Vaughans in Texas; names, including Looney, Ferebee, Davis, Snodgrass, Mahala, Huldah, Paralee, Pleasant, and on and on and on are numerous in Hunt, Denton, Fannin, and Grayson Counties where descendants of the old patriarch John Vaughan settled. These patterns can be traced back to Tennessee through Arkansas, North Carolina, Mississippi, and Missouri. A David Vaughan out of Barry County, Missouri, who may be either a grandson or nephew of James L., is living in Vaughantown in 1910 next door to George Washington Vaughan, Sr. who most certainly is a nephew of JLV and a Snodgrass in-law. Family lore has it that descendants of Maborne, son of JLV, out of Madison, Arkansas, became farmers in South Texas, with one becoming a Texas outlaw. James L. and Hollowell Old have kin living in the same household in Hunt County. In 1865 Mr. Old names his newborn son, James. Finally, James L. Vaughan had brothers named both Ben and Beverley. Examples of linking names, dates, and places are too numerous to all be coincidental.



Comanche Territory of 1800's

By 1865 a number of *James Vaughans* had arrived on the Texas frontier. One agent's report tells of a youngster the Rangers had not been able to protect. The Salt Fork Red River is almost two hundred miles of sandy water streaming across the Llano Estacado of far West Texas. To the

CAMP ON SALT FORK, }
 Nov. 3rd, 1865. }

To all whom it may concern:—I have recovered from the Kiowa and Comanche Indians eight prisoners whose names are as follows, viz:

Mrs. Caroline McDaniel's.
 (An infant) Rebecca Jane McDaniel's
 James Taylor (small boy.)
 Dorcas Angeline Taylor (" girl.)
 Alice Almada Taylor, girl 9 or 10 years.
 Master James Vaughan (as near his name as can be ascertained)
 Master _____, (name not known but supposed to have been taken somewhere in Texas)
 Mrs. Elizabeth Sprague—all of whom are now on their way home.
 Mahala L. L. McDaniel's, a small girl, was given me, but she is too far off to get her this time—but they will give her to me the first time the bands of Kiowas meet me.
 Mrs. L. Sprague has suffered much, and it is hoped that all will try and alleviate her sufferings, and aid her in her business all in their power. Her child will be got from the Indians soon, I have no doubt—as many of the good Chiefs and head men are determined she shall have her child, and have told me so.

J. H. LEAVENWORTH,
 U. S. Ind. Agent,
 SHERMAN, Tex., Dec. 26.

Comanche warriors who lived there, the isolated Vaughan ranch land to the south was just one painted horseback away.

With good reason people didn't want to take their families too far into parts unknown. Thanks to the adventuresome spirit of early pioneers like JLV, they didn't have to. Regardless of Comanche bands and outlaw gangs, the Vaughans were coming anyway. Brother Benjamin arrived in 1860 with his family. He and his wife, Eve Everheart, and their three sons, Andrew and twins, Jacob and John, settled in Kentucky Town, Grayson County, near Sherman, Texas.

Samuel Alexander Vaughan arrived in Kentucky Town ten years later. A nephew of James L. and Benjamin, he was born in 1850 in

Tennessee. He went to work in 1871 driving a herd up the Chisholm Trail to Kansas, the railhead to the then booming Chicago Stock Market. He helped drive 1,500 cattle over the Chisholm Trail, starting from the San Marcus River, the last big herd to go through Sherman. Samuel Alexander was a kinsman of JLV, and the cattle he went to drive in 1870 may well have come from a herd his uncle started on his ranch near the San Marcus River.

Pictured, Below: a herd of Texas Longhorns being driven along by a cowboy such as Nephew, Samuel Alexander Vaughan, pictured Right.





In 1876 George Washington Vaughan, Sr. (Pictured, left), another nephew, arrived with his family. At the Red River border they caught sight

of a lone Indian on horseback watching them. From across the river, the Vaughan children were mesmerized by the sparkle of a metal ring in his nose. The shallow river was frozen in ice and treacherous with quicksand. GWV drove their wagon across with two mules, and the mules along with fifty cents in his pocket were all the treasure he owned. He could not read or write, yet within a few years he was a wealthy man, with a fine farm near Kentucky Town. (See

book article, right) It was said he made his fortune selling horses and mules to the US Army to be used against the Indians. It took good stock to compete with the Comanche. It would be interesting to see where the stock, which he bought and sold, came from.

A corral of fine Vaughan mules, pictured with herdsmen Benjamin and Josephus Chaney, Kentucky Town in-laws of George W. Vaughan.



GEOERGE W. VAUGHAN was born in Hancock county, Tennessee, October 1, 1846. His father, Samuel Vaughan, was a native of the same county, was born about 1809, and died in 1861. He was a farmer by occupation. His wife bore the maiden name of Malvina Church. She was born in Hancock county, Tennessee, about 1815, and died in 1887, the mother of fourteen children.

George W. Vaughan is the seventh child born to his parents. He was reared on a farm in Tennessee and lived there until 1865, when he moved to Bourbon county, Kentucky, remained there until 1867, then went to Barry county, Missouri, and in 1874 to Hunt county, Texas; the following year he moved to Arkansas and in 1876 moved to Grayson county, Texas, and settled near Ida, where he owns a fine farm.

In 1862 Mr. Vaughan joined the Confederate army as a private in Company G, Second Tennessee cavalry, but was afterward transferred to Company F, Sixteenth battalion, and served until the war closed. July 29, 1868, he was married to Miss Caroline Snodgrass, who was born in Barry county Missouri, and is a daughter of Anderson and Elizabeth Snodgrass, of the same State. To this union have been born five children, namely—Samuel H., Bettie A., Wiley, John and Aubra. Mr. Vaughan is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and of the Farmers' Alliance.

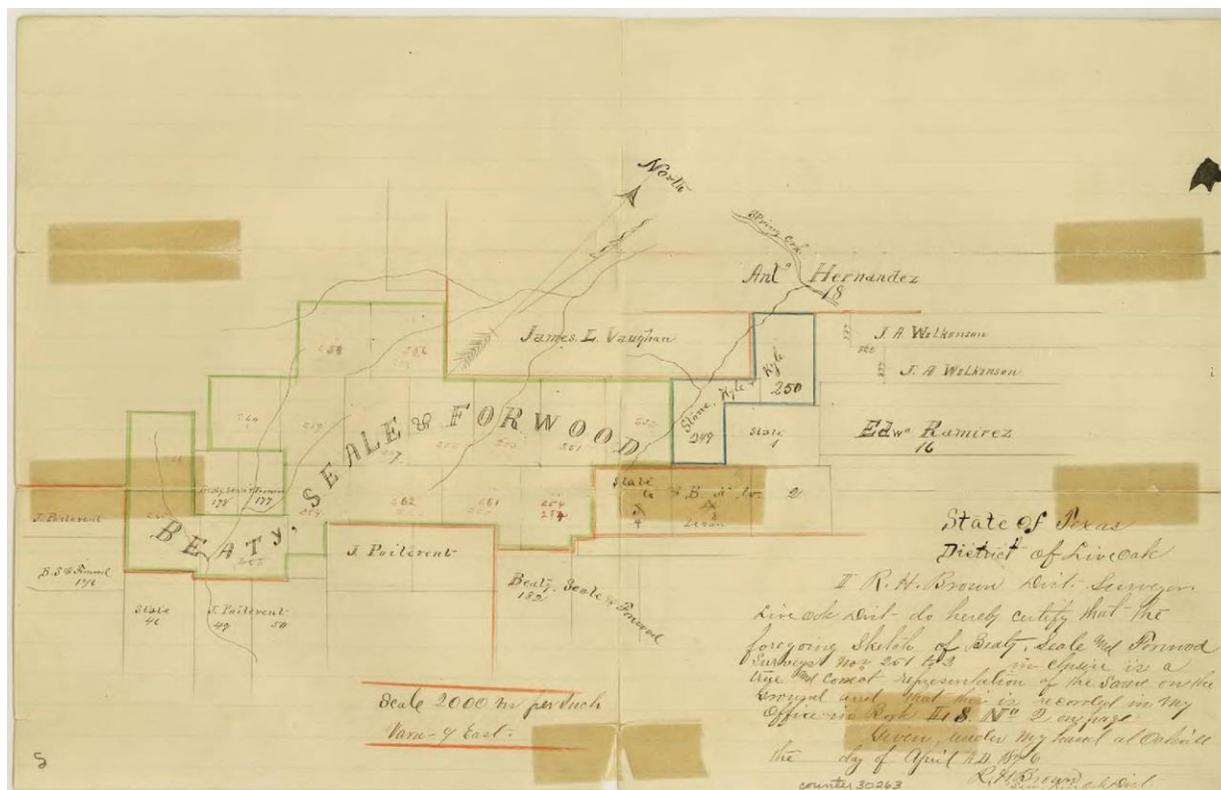


Neighboring Hunt County gathered up Vaughans like bees on a Texas bluebonnet. Samuel Alexander spent nine years in Hunt County. George Washington was there as well, and his Tennessee siblings, nieces, and nephews showed up later. From this northeast corner of the state many of the families migrated west into the neighboring counties of Fannin, Grayson and Denton. They were still a safe distance from the big ranches that were building up in the territory of renegade Comanche out west and down south in the beautiful Hill Country of Austin, Oakville, and San Marcus. Families liked safer places. But trail hands and cowboys went where the work

was, and joined up with hardworking farmers and stock raisers who had jobs for them. They drove herds north toward the Chicago stockyards where other stockmen and stockbrokers along the way waited on fine farms and at railheads to buy their cattle, horses, and mules. JLV's nephew, James H., had a brand new \$10.00 Illinois license as a Cattle Broker as early as 1862.

Some Texas outlaws were family members. The errant son and grandsons of his sister, Nancy Vaughan Hickman, laid low—using assumed names--in Red River Valley communities around the turn of the century. The granddaughter of Samuel N., his brother, was married to one of them. According to family lore, his own grandson, John Henry Vaughan, Sr., the son of Maborne, was another of the state's many outlaws. His image, from a wanted poster, bears a striking resemblance to Elijah and Benjamin Franklin, JLV's sons--that is to say, his uncles. *(Photo, Above, Left, John Henry Vaughan, Sr.)* It was told at Vaughan gatherings and recorded by family scribes that John Henry rode with the James or Dalton Gangs. He was also known for robbing trains and stealing horses, they said. He ran from the law from Missouri, into Oklahoma, and down into Texas, bringing his family with him. Some of John Henry's children were born in Texas.

Family records, census records, army records, and land records indicate that the parts unknown in which the Virginia-born James L. Vaughan vanished did indeed turn out to be Texas. The war records of the Army of the Republic of Texas show that James L. was another Tennessean who answered the call to fight against Santa Anna. Addresses on and included in his papers are for Gonzales, Houston, Independence, and Oakville.



1874 Map of Kinney Land Claim for James L. Vaughan & September 3, 1895 Trustee Sale

Vaughans whose ancestors hailed from Tennessee were well represented in Texas by the end of the century, but it was James L. Vaughan who led the way into Comanche Territory, who helped defeat Santa Anna, who survived constant warfare with Mexico and Mexican banditos, and who helped establish law on the dangerous Texas frontier. But like old soldiers are supposed to do, in the end, he would simply fade away. In the end, except for his name appearing on maps of old land claims, the 1860 Census is the final written record found on James L. Vaughan in Texas.

Epilogue

Tuesday the 3rd day of September, 1895 a small part of James L. Vaughan's Kinney County land was to be sold off in a Trustee Sale at the Bexar County Courthouse door. This is the last record of his distinctive name appearing on a Texas document. One hundred years before this day, his life's odyssey began. Appropriately, the words of his mother and father provide all the anchor a researcher is obliged to haul in before setting sail behind the wake he left on his meandering way to parts unknown. He was born in Virginia in 1795, his mother wrote, and his father said that they named him, James L. Vaughan.

Timeline

Birth 179515 Oct Halifax, Virginia, USA

Marriage to Martha Patty Vaughan1815 Age: 20 Hawkins Co, TN, USA 1st marriage was to his cousin who was 8 yrs his sr.

Residence1820 Age: 25White Co, TN, USA Census marks the unique age differences between James L. and Martha Patty. Includes their 3 sons by age. .

Residence1820 Age: 25 White, TN, United States

Marriage to Martha A Vaughan1828 Age: 33TN, USA 2nd marriage, 2nd Martha, may have taken place in Indiana, indicated by some records.

Residence1834 Age: 39 Gonzales Co, TX, USA See: "James L. Vaughan in TX," a biography , by Helen Vaughan Michael @ <http://www.childresscousins.org> .

Military1835 Oct Age: 40 Gonzales Co, TX, USA Record of Enlistment & Pay

Military183618 Feb Age: 40 Gonzales Co, TX, USA Letter from Wm B Travis at the Alamo to JLV, Gonzales .

Address1839 Age: 44 Houston, Harris, TX, USA Lost letters at Houston PO, with Snodgrass link. .

Residence1842 Age: 47Gonzales Co, TX, USA Signatures from papers proving James L Vaughan's location in TX from 1842-1855.www.childresscousins.org <http://www.childresscousins.org> .

Property1849 11 Jul Age: 53 Kinney Co, TX, USA TX Lnd Title Abstracts; Grantee: James L. Vaughan; Certificate: 227; Patentee: James L. Vaughan; Patent Date: 11 Jul 1849; Acres: 320; Dist: Bexar; Co: Kinney; File: 733; Survey/Blk/Tsp: 284; Patent # 386; Patent Volume: 5; Class: Bexar. Bty

Residence1850 Age: 55 Washington, TX; J A Snodgrass 36 Elvira Snodgrass 28 Leroy Snodgrass 9 Jno Jackson 7 G M Dallas 5 M P Snodgrass 2 Albert Snodgrass 3 (Link to 1860 Hollowell Old and GW Vaughan, p8)

Residence1850 Age: 55Washington, TX; William Snodgrass 50TN See: Catharine Snodgrass 52 Nancy Snodgrass 25 Malinda Snodgrass 22 Hodge Snodgrass 20 J N Snodgrass 19 M J Snodgrass 14

Residence1858 Age: 63TX, USA From his mother's pension Application--brother Benjamin's affidavit: "the last account I had of James he was in the State of TX."

Description1858 Age: 63 Hawkins Co, TN, USA Records indicate that JLV returned to TN and VA in the 1850's. Several individuals describe him as looking 60+ yrs.

Residence1860 Age: 65 Oakville, Live Oak, TX, USA

Aft 1862 Age: 67 Illinois Res. of Nephew, James H. Vaughan--Beverly's son, applied for Cattle Broker License, 1862 Illi. U.S. IRS Tax Assessment Lists, 1862-1918 abt James H Vaughn State: Illi; Tax Year: 1862

Death1862after Age: 67TX, USA

Trustees Sale.

THE STATE OF TEXAS,
COUNTY OF BEXAR.

Whereas, on the 13th day of September, A. D. 1895, Amanda J. Dignowity did execute and deliver unto S. Lavanburg her certain promissory note for the sum of eight thousand (\$8,000) dollars, due three (3) years after date, with 9 per cent interest per annum from date until paid, interest payable semi-annually; and for the purpose of securing the payment of said note, said Dignowity did, on the 14th day of September, A. D. 1895, execute and deliver unto A. H. Frank a certain deed of trust, which is duly recorded in the records of Kinney County, Texas, in vol. B 4, on pages 109-112; whereby said Dignowity conveyed unto said Frank the following described property, to-wit:

All lying in the County of Kinney, in said State of Texas, on what is known as Zaquette or Pinto Creek, and on the east bank of the same, and more particularly described as follows:

First: Six hundred and forty acres of land known as survey 3816, on Bluff Creek, 3 miles N., 65 W. from Brackett, and made by virtue of special act certificate No. 14-50, issued to C. C. Gibbs, April 23, 1881, and by said Gibbs transferred to Amanda J. Dignowity, October 3, 1881, and to her patented April 18, 1883, by patent No. 126, vol. 31.

Second: Two hundred and fifty acres of land, more or less, out of survey No. 260 for 640 acres, patented to Walter P. Lane, September 28, 1854, by patent No. 312, vol. 2, and that portion of said survey east of said Pinto Creek, bounded on the west by said creek, on the east by survey No. 253, on the north by survey No. 251, and on the south by the line of fence established by the Dolores Land and Cattle company.

Third: Three hundred and ten acres of land, out of survey No. 283, made by certificate 3626, and patented to John Cotton, assignee of Willard Chamberlain, July 10, 1849, by patent No. 394, vol. 5, and being the same land conveyed to U. L. Dignowity by Henrietta A. Harris and James W. Harris, by their attorney in fact, G. F. Hodges, less ten acres sold, out of the S. E. corner, to Jane F. Hudson.

Fourth: One hundred and sixty acres of land, being the south one-half of survey No. 234, of 320 acres made by virtue of bounty warrant No. 227, issued February 15, 1847, to James L. Vaughan, and to him patented July 13, 1849, by patent No. 350, vol. 5.

And whereas, there has been released from the lien of said instruments, the following portions of the above land, viz:

Five hundred and four acres out of the M. F. Hernandez survey aforesaid, according to release of record in Bexar County, in vol. 88, p. 163.

Also about 40 acres of said survey, being the land subdivided into the town of Van Raub, according to release recorded in Bexar County, in vol. 74, p. 566.

And whereas, all the indebtedness evidenced by said writings has become due and is not paid (except interest to June 1, 1895).

Now therefore I, the undersigned substitute trustee, by virtue of the power so conferred, will sell the above described lands, (with the exception of what has been released as aforesaid) and a homestead of 200 acres in the said Wm. Head survey, No. 33, before the Court House door of Bexar County, Texas, at public outcry, to the highest bidder for cash, on Tuesday, the 3d day of September, 1895, between the hours of 10 a. m. and 4 p. m., and after the sale I will execute to the purchaser a good and sufficient fee simple warranty deed of said premises.

This August 13th, 1895.

JOHN BRIDGES,
Substitute Trustee.

8 13 21t

Source

James L. Vaughan in Texas, Helen Vaughan Michael



