GENEALOGY FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF AN HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGIST: BEARD HOUSE, MILANO, TEXAS 1891-2014

Donny L. Hamilton
Texas A&M University
Realization!

If I can find information on a person who died in 1679, I can probably find information on my own family.
Buy an Old House

Inherit a New Family
My first visit to the house 2008
Beard House – 1906

Lt. to Rt. Amanda & George Beard,
Amanda’s mother, Mary E. Harrell, and Nephew, James S. Beard
Coleman Campbell Beard and Louisa A. Stratton [great-grandparents of James Stanley Beard]

James Sevier Beard and Mary Aline Thomas [parents of James Stanley Beard]

James Stanley Beard and Annie Gladys Nix

Compiled by Brian Beard
George W. Beard, Builder of the Old Rock House 1857-1927

George W. Beard Is Buried at Milano

George W. Beard died at his home, the old rock house, near Milano Sunday and was buried at Sand Point Cemetery Monday. Mr. Beard had resided in that community since 1884, with the exception of a year spent in Ohio. His parents, Coleman C. and Louisa Stratton Beard, were pioneer settlers and reared a family of prominent citizens. Coleman C. Beard was four years in the Confederate service, and died shortly thereafter and left a widow and children to fight the battle of life without a husband and father. Educational opportunities were poor, but by home study and extensive reading, George became a well informed man.

In 1906 he and Miss Amanda Harrel of Calvert were united in marriage. One son, George H. and the wife together with two brothers, the Hon. C. M. Beard of Milano and Andrew Beard of the valley country, survive him.

Deceased had been a consistent Christian and a member of the Christian church fifty years. Rev. Dan Bounds of Rockdale conducted the funeral and a large concourse of relatives and friends attended the services. The floral offerings were profuse and beautiful.

Misses Leila Woolley and Lillian Atkinson and Mrs. Kathryn K. Robbins, Judge John Watson, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Beard, and Mrs. W. P. Woolley attended the funeral of Mr. George W. Beard of Milano Monday.
Married 1851 to Coleman Campbell Beard (1833-1867)
Children:
James Clay 1852, ARK
Elizabeth, 1854, ARK
Isaac Andrew, 1855, ARK
George William, 1858, ARK
Campbell G. 1861 – Parker, TX
Coleman C. 1865, Milam, TX
Civil War Pension Application
Civil War Pension

Involuntary; Sworn to in presence of

I, W. M. Crawford of Poochil Parish, by

Name, W. M. Birthday, Age, 72 years old

Residence, Poochil Parish, by

P. O. Poochil, N. H. N. X. 2

Do personally know Mrs. L. L. Beard, whose widow

is an applicant for Pension. Yes

I know him since 1860, there in Poochil Parish.

I do know that he enlisted in the Confederate

service and served as a soldier.

His enlistment in Gen. Taylor's Battalion in Mason

County, N.C. in 1862. He served about 3 years.

Just as a private. Was volunteered.

A soldier, and served about 3 years.

There is no question. I did know him went in

Gen. Taylor's Cavalry and served as soldier.

I never knew of any other soldier of the same name

serving in the same command. I am certain

the name is Beards. He is identical to the same Beard.

He served honorably until the surrender.

He never deserted the service. His arm was

bitten by a dog.

W. M. Crawford 1804

The 22 of July 1904, N. M. Crawford

W. M. Crawford
Rock house of ages

Anthropology prof renovating South Milam landmark

BY MARIE BARKER
HOME & GARDEN WRITER

LANG—In rural green, sun-drenched hamlets, stories of ghosts and hauntings become common, and so is the case with the "old house" off Texas 20 about two miles north of Milam. Dr. Danny Hamilton, head of the Anthropology department at Texas A&M University, has taken on a "ghost of love" to restore the 120-year-old home site, starting with the historic former tenancy house.

Hamilton has visited the site and told him of folklore stories of haunting ghosts, doors moving of their own accord and voices of the dead. He said in a recent interview that the house was built in 1896, before the county seat was established.

Dr. Danny Hamilton, head of the Anthropology department at Texas A&M, is renovating the Beaud House north of Milam. The house has been a "source of love" and Hamilton hopes to see it restored as a Texas Historical Landmark.
Newton Ohio  
2-28-93  
Mrs. L.A. Beard  
Milano, Tex

Dear Mother - your letter of 15th this inst to hand. I was very glad to hear from you, was thankful that you were well. I am well at present & doing very well considering the cold weather, we had 1 snow here that stayed on the ground 6 or 7 weeks. The mercury has been as low as 20 degrees below zero. The 20th of this month the mercury stood at zero. We had a big snow storm 3 or 4 days ago. The snow was about a foot on a level. it is warmer now.

2] and is thawing, but there is snow on the ground yet. People that has been raised in the south cannot imagine the great wealth & improvements there is here compared to the south. I have been in a iron foundry here & seen the great stream of liquid iron pour from the furnace like water running from a spring. I have been in a jug and crock factory & seen them making crockery there. I have seen slays flying over the snow by the hundreds. have seen the great rivers frozen over solid with ice & seen people skateing on the rivers. People here "say this has been the coldest winter they have seen here for 18 yrs." I have stood the cold better than I estimated I could.

3] Tell Jimmie to write to me & be a good boy & to make a good and useful man. Tell him that I had the nicest Christmas & new years dinner he ever saw or perhaps he ever will see in Tex. I can not tell when I will be in milan, may be there 15th of Mar or 1st of Aprl. I trust you all will take good care of my tools & personal property. I hope you will keep well and do well. I have only been gone a short time, but it seems to me a whole year. but memory recalls your familiar motherly face with it's years of toil and pain passed and gone by, you may have the same love for me you had when I was a boy. memory may recall the baby kisses & dimple fingers

4] and rosey cheeks of 34 yrs ago; but where are they now. you should remember that I have the mind of a man instead of the mind of a boy. you can control a boy, but should not want to control a man. Home should be a place of hapiness and not a place of discontentment. I have been with you so long that I am not satisfied a way from you but neccesity demands it. I do not want you to worry your mind about me and make yourself sick for you have suffered Enough. If any of you get dangerously sick you may write me. I wish you all success & a happy life. write soon

Respectly, GW Beard

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NOTE, Jimmie is GW's nephew, James Sevier Beard, son of GW's oldest brother James Clay Beard and his first wife who died in childbirth.
When was the rock house built?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>RELATION</th>
<th>PERSONAL DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>RACE</th>
<th>NATIVITY</th>
<th>OCCUPATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Reed, George</td>
<td>Head</td>
<td>M 61 M 61 M 61</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>Farm Laborer</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Mabel</td>
<td>Wife</td>
<td>M 30 M 30 M 30</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Illinois</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Charles</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td>M 18 M 18 M 18</td>
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<td>Student</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Harriet</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Hattie</td>
<td>Daughter</td>
<td>F 14 F 14 F 14</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>Housewife</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>Daughter</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Paul</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>Daughter</td>
<td>F 3 F 3 F 3</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>Housewife</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 1910 Census shows the family living in Milan, Texas.
The Beard House has become an icon of the county.
Mary Beard Haley, born in the house October 1932
House Plan
Old Hudson Store in Milano
Closest Parallel to the Beard House – constructed in 1893
Satellite & Soil Map
Spring Recorded In List of Texas Springs
The Spring Head
View across pond, spring to house
Transportation to town – 3 miles
Farm Layout
Farm Layout
My son

James C Beard mooved hom in February the 12th ) 1878(

Carried off With him and received all That he made on my land in )1877( Which was 100 one hundred bushels of corn 2 bales of Cotton and a remanant 2 bales of hay. also seven hundred pounds of pork and its lard. one Set of House Loggs. one Set crib loggs. one Horse bridle and saddle. one yoke of cattle one bedquilt. one set of pillows one set of yers ? and plow tools. 2 Estry meethogs 2 Sows and pigs 4 Shoates
Successful Farming
G.W. appears several times in the Milano Gazette from 1919-1925:

Milano Gazette, July 5, 1919: Local News Items Round About Town

Mr. G.W. Beard left a couple of whopper onions of the Australian Brown variety at the Gazette office one day this week that beat anything we have seen in the onion line. One of the onions he brought weighed two pounds. Mr. Beard says he planted the seed in February of 1918 and then planted the sets that fall, so the onions have been almost a year and a half in attaining the huge and wonderful growth.

Australian Brown Onions

Milano Gazette, November 29, 1919: Mr. G.W. Beard says: This great scarcity of farm labor is going to mean a serious matter if present conditions keep up. People are just simply refusing to work on the farms even at good pay for their work. They prefer to work in towns and cities. There must be a back to the farm movement sometimes, and if it doesn't materialize in due course of time, then the people who go to the stores to buy their flour and clothing will some day find there isn't any to be bought. The young men of today who are making big salaries had better save the greater part of it and buy a farm as soon as they can.

Milano Gazette, June 4, 1921: Mr. G.W. Beard of the Cedar Creek Country brought in two crates of tomatoes Monday of this week, May 30, which were, as far as we know, the first tomatoes of the season. They were good ripe tomatoes, of [illegible transcription] pack and were sold to the J.D. Peeples store at $2 a crate. This is about a week late for the first crate of Milano tomatoes, which usually arrive in the local market in May 24th to May 26th.
Chimney
Family Conflicts

Signed by:
G.R. Hurt
A.T. Stovall
G.D. Woods
Aldine Beard
Edd Bullard
O.P. Lagrone
C.L. Martin
C.M. Beard

Summit, Texas
Dec. 6, 1916

To George A. Beard:

In the undesignated patrons of R.T.25 #3 and who travel the R.T.5 road from Summit to Milans hereby request that you do not fence up same or otherwise change it from its present location, where it has been located practically more than thirty years.

G.R. Hurt
A.T. Stovall
G.D. Woods
Aldine Beard
Edd Bullard
O.P. Lagrone
C.L. Martin
C.M. Beard
**Name:** Andrew J. Stovall  
**Age:** 31  
**Birth Year:** abt 1849  
**Birthplace:** Texas  
**Home in 1880:** Milam, Texas  
**Race:** White  
**Gender:** Male  
**Relation to Head of House:** Self (Head)  
**Marital Status:** Married  
**Spouse's Name:** Mary J. Stovall  
**Father's Birthplace:** Alabama  
**Mother's Birthplace:** Illinois  
**Neighbors:** View others on page  
**Occupation:** Farmer  
**Cannot read/write:**  
**Blind:**  
**Deaf and dumb:**  
**Otherwise disabled:**  
**Idiotic or insane:**  
**Household Members:**  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrew J. Stovall</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary J. Stovall</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Stovall</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda M. Stovall</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhoda Ann Stovall</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary L. Stovall</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Marriage Record.**

The STATE OF TEXAS—COUNTY OF MILAM,

We, any Ordained Minister of the Gospel, Judge of the District Court, or Justice of the Peace:

You are hereby authorized to solemnize or join in the HOLY UNION OF MATRIMONY

Andrew J. Stovall

Mary Elizabeth Beall

in accordance with the Laws of this State, and that you make due return of this your Authority to my office, within sixty days from the date hereof, certifying how you have executed the same.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND and Seal of office, this day of _______ A. D. 18__.

[Signature]

Clerk C. C., M. C.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, That the above License was executed by me, joining the within named parties in the HOLY UNION OF MATRIMONY, this day of _______ A. D. 18__.

[Signature]

Clerk
Land Deeds

1880, 1893, 1943

STOCK FORM No. 90L
WOLF PUBLISHING CO., HOUSTON

NAME OF COMPANY
Rockdale, Texas
Date: June 1943

Check No. 15041 SS 36.00

Dollars, for the credit of persons named below in amounts stated in payment of

annual delay rental

under Oil and Gas

Lease of Lands in the State of Texas from July 3rd, 1943, to July 4th, 1944, covering the hundred seventy-four and one-half (1741/2) acres of land, more or less, in two tracts of fifty acres and sixty-two acres, out of the Joseph Cottle Survey, in Milam County, Texas, as per lease dated July 3rd, 1943, recorded in Vol. 69, page 607, Oil & Gas Lease Records of Milam County, Texas.

Lease No. 44

For Credit of

Amount

County

Acres

827.60

Milam, Texas

1741/2

Please sign and return to:

(Manuscript)

The Rockdale State Bank

(Manuscript)

Rockdale, Texas

CASHIER

Walter Bruce, a widow, of Milam, Texas, and George H. Beard and wife, Ophealia, of Houston, Texas, and

Walter Bruce, of Houston, Texas, and

Besie Bruce, of Houston, Texas,

Walter Bruce, of Houston, Texas,

Walter Bruce, of Houston, Texas,

Walter Bruce, of Houston, Texas,

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Walter Bruce, of Houston, Texas,

Walter Bruce, of Houston, Texas,

Walter Bruce, of Houston, Texas,

Walter Bruce, of Houston, Texas,

Walter Bruce, of Houston, Texas,

Walter Bruce, of Houston, Texas,

Walter Bruce, of Houston, Texas,

Walter Bruce, of Houston, Texas,
My first visit to the house 2008
Current State of Renovations
Henry .44 Lever Action Rifle
1860

The Henry Original Rifle
Made in America for the first time in 150 years
Ceramics
Snuff Bottles
Bottles
Doors
Clearing
Living Room
North Fire Place HEARTH – 2nd floor
North 2\textsuperscript{nd} Floor Room
Hooks
Ceramic Oddities
Nails
Pressed Tin
Painting

Gift from Mark Elliot, delivered by T.C. & Renee Sadler of Cameron, TX
The End