

My name is Joyce Ledbetter Webb. Jean Murph has asked me to tell you a little bit about the Ledbetter Family.

My great-uncle Roy Ledbetter, who was a lawyer in Dallas, wrote a book about the history of the Ledbetter Family entitled LEDBETTERS FROM VIRGINIA. (Show book) He traced our Ledbetter line back to Henry Ledbetter and his descendants. Henry was born in 1721 in Bristol Parish, Virginia. His eldest son was Joel, Joel's eldest son was John, and John's ~~5th~~ son was David—all born in Virginia. Henry and John were both Primitive Baptist preachers. Uncle Roy counted Henry, Joel, John, and David as the first 4 generations of our Ledbetter line. His book ended with the beginning of the 9<sup>th</sup> generation, which were the great-grandchildren of my grandparents.

Notice the simple names Henry, Joel, John, and David.

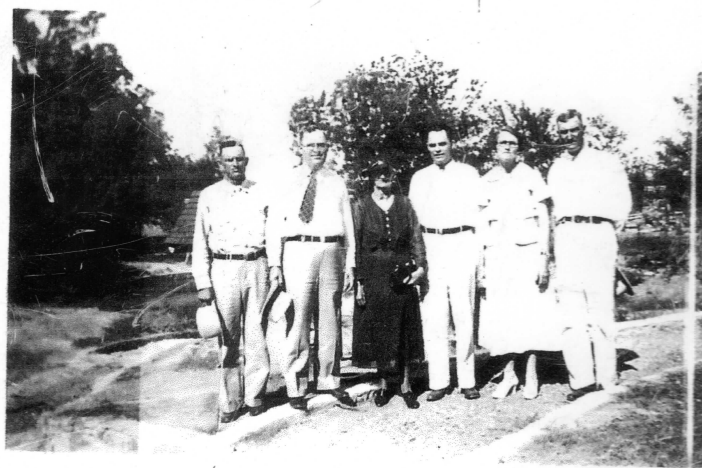
David Ledbetter's 7<sup>th</sup> child was my great-grandfather. He was named Julius Lafayette Ledbetter. He was born in Jacksonville, Alabama, in 1857. He married Emily Elizabeth Littlejohn. They had 2 children born in Alabama, and then they moved to Millerville, Union County, Mississippi, where the other 8 children were born. Of their 10 children only 6 survived to adulthood. (Show Pic of Julius Lafayette and 6 children.)

★(Show Pic of Elizabeth Ledbetter and children from Uncle Roy's book) Name the 6 children.

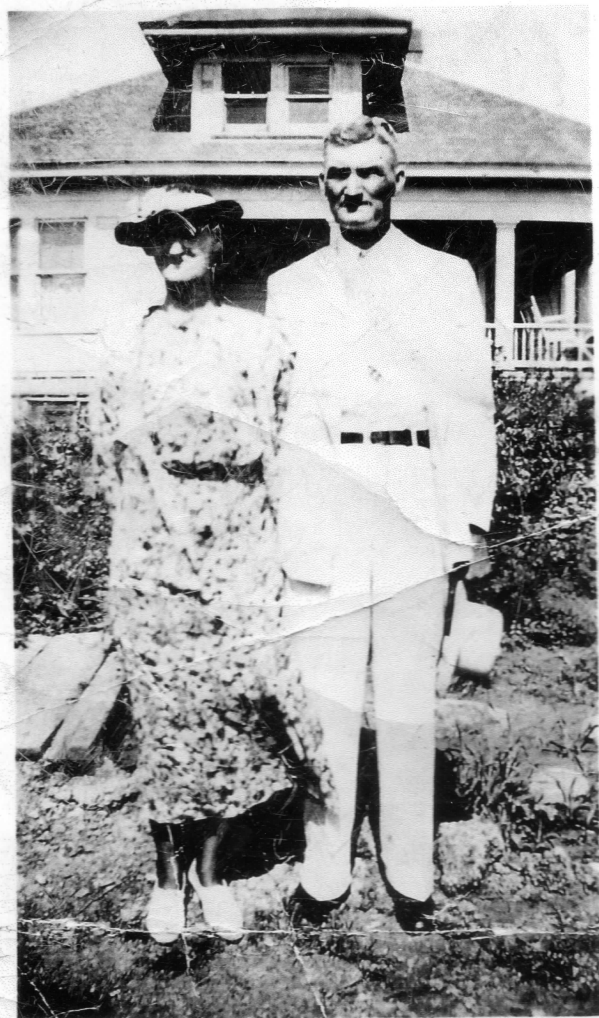
Some of the Ledbetter children thought my brother John Wesley resembled Julius Lafayette so I took this picture of my brother John. It was printed in Elm Fork Echoes by the Peter's Colony Historical Society in Carrollton. ★(Show pic of Julius Lafayette and John Wesley Ledbetter) Both had blue eyes, beards, and a mustache. Both had dark hair.



Julius Lafayette Ledbetter



Ledbetter Children  
 Joe Wesley, Easter May, Theodora May,  
 Roy Clifford, Mary Eugenia,  
 Elector Esterham (Lee)



Mrs. & Mrs. C.E. Ledbetter

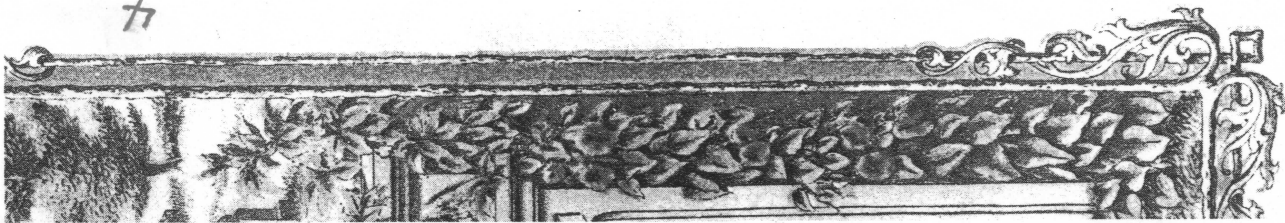


Electon Esterham Ledbetter





Center Front: Emily Littlejohn Ledbetter (1861-1924) and her children: Front left, Mary Norwood; Front right, Docia Conn (1880-1958); Standing Left to Right, Joe Wesley Ledbetter, Roy C. Ledbetter, E. E. Ledbetter (1882-1941), E. M. Ledbetter.



married Archer Fyke,  
John Miller Myers  
William Daniel,



Amy Prudence Myers  
(Mrs. W. T. Squibb)



John Miller Myers



John Wesley Ledbetter, b. Dec. 5,  
1940, great grandson of Julius  
Lafayette Ledbetter.



← Julius Lafayette Ledbetter, b May 30, 1857,  
south of Jacksonville, Ala., d July 29,  
1898, Ferris, Texas. His son Elector E.  
Ledbetter, resided west of Carrollton.

2  
David Bryant and his wife Callie Kennedy also lived in Union County, Mississippi, in Blue Springs. One of their children was Eugenia Bryant. My Mother's family, the Swindles, also lived in Blue Springs, Mississippi and were friends of the Bryants.

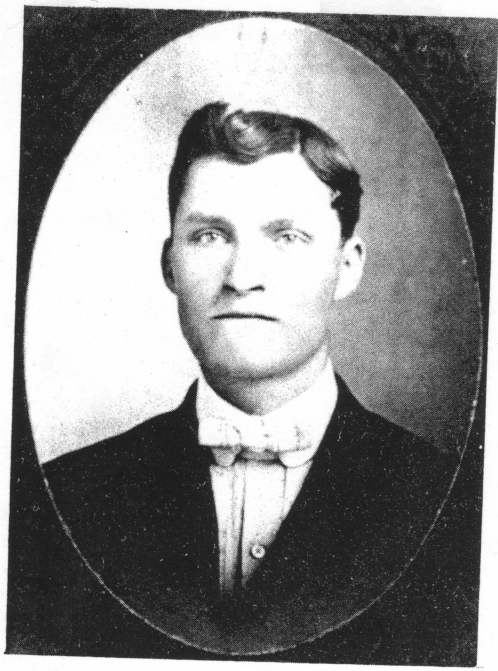
Julius Lafayette and his wife Emily Elizabeth and their six children moved to Ferris, in Ellis County, Texas, in 1907. David Bryant and his wife Callie Kennedy and their children, which included Eugenia Bryant, also moved to Ferris, in Ellis County, Texas about the same time. They knew each other in Mississippi and probably planned to go to Texas at the same time together. The Swindle Family moved to Ennis, in Ellis County, Texas, also.

Julius Lafayette Ledbetter died at the age of 41 and is buried in Ferris, Ellis County Texas. Emily Elizabeth married again after Julius died. She died at the age of 63 and is buried in a private cemetery in Stephenville; her tombstone says Lizzie Briley.

Elector Esterham Ledbetter married Eugenie Bryant in Texas in January, 1908. (Show young picture of EE and Eugenia) To this union were born 4 children, including a set of twins, in Ferris. The children were Leeman Buren twin to Letha Bernice, Arnold David, and Leola Gladys. (Show pic of twins) When the twins were 8 years old in 1916, the Ledbetters bought a 200 acre farm in Carrollton, Dallas County, Texas, halfway between Carrollton and Coppell and moved their family there. The family lived in an old house on the hill west of the road while they built their new home.



*✓ all in collection*



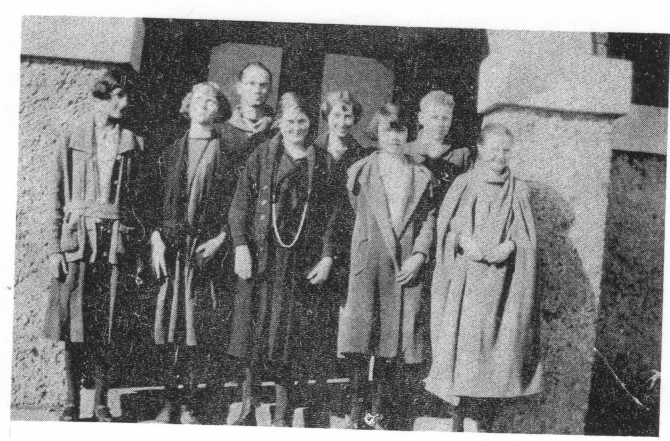
Elector E. Ledbetter  
(1882-1941) b. Millerville,  
Union Co., Miss., d on his  
farm west of Carrollton,  
Tex. Descendant of Rev.  
Henry Ledbetter b. 1721,  
Prince George Co., Va.  
d. 1785, Caswell Co., N.C.



↑ Eugenia Bryant Ledbetter  
(1879-1963) b. Blue Springs,  
Union Co., Miss. dau Aaron  
David Bryant and Callie  
Kennedy Bryant. Buried  
beside her husband at Perry  
Cemetery, Carrollton, Texas.



← Gladys Ledbetter (Wrigley)  
in Nursing School at  
Parkland Hospital in 1933  
Gladys is still working as  
a nurse. She is with the  
Calcosieu Parish Health  
Unit in Lake Charles, La.



→ Bernice Ledbetter,  
Magdalene Thompson,  
Lois Burgess, Beatrice  
Gravley, Miss Watson  
Hughes, Fredda Mayes,  
Howard \_\_\_\_\_, Katie D.  
Pope (1923-24)

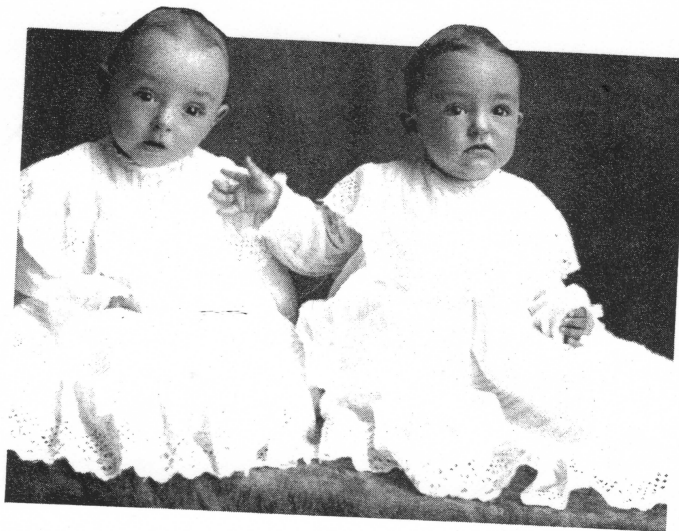
*July 76*



Nov, 1982

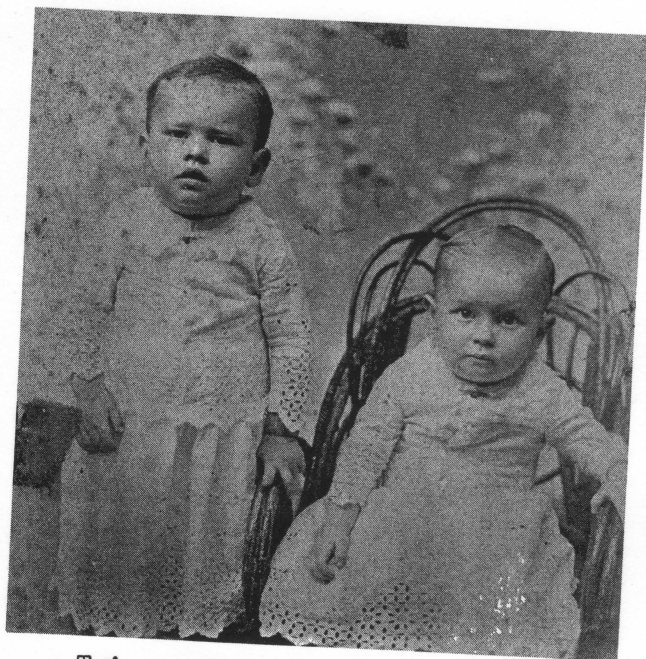
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# Twins



✓  
in  
collection

Twins - Leemon Buren and Letha Bernice Ledbetter



Twins - Roy and Troy Longmire



✓  
in  
collection

Mable Duncan (1894-1965)  
Harrison Duncan (1897-1915)

Grandpa Ledbetter always said Grace before each meal. All the children had to be at the table on time and holding hands.

★(Read Grandpa's Grace.)

★(Show picture of Grandma and Grandpa later in life)

The Ledbetter children attended Bethel School. They walked from their home on the Ledbetter Farm across the hills, known as Caddo Mounds, and waded across Grapevine Creek, which was often icy in the winter time. Along the way, they met other children walking to the Bethel School. One woman often invited them into her home to warm by her fireplace and gave them sweet treats to take to school with their lunches. Later my grandpa built a foot bridge across the creek so the children would not have to wade across the creek. ★(Show picture of Bethel School 1919-1920 and point out Buren, Bernice, and Arnold David)

After moving to their farm in Dallas County, E. E. Ledbetter and wife Eugenia had 5 more children: twins Morris Lee (Bud) and Marjorie (Sis), Mazie Kathryn, Julia Mae, and Henry Alton.

This is the new Ledbetter home built on the farm in Dallas County. ★(Show pictures of new house.) It had a wrap around front porch, with 9 rooms—living room, 4 bedrooms, a larder for meal, flour, sugar with a pantry, a kitchen, a long wide hall, a bathroom (fixtures were added later), and a screened-in back porch, where my grandmother did the laundry. The larder and part of one of ~~one~~ bedroom were later made into a dining room. Outside was a storm cellar, a hen house, a brooder house, an outdoor toilet, a pig pen, a turkey pen, a large box in which to cure and smoke hams and other meats, a windmill, several barns and a garage.

Electer Esterham Ledbetter's Grace  
said at every meal.

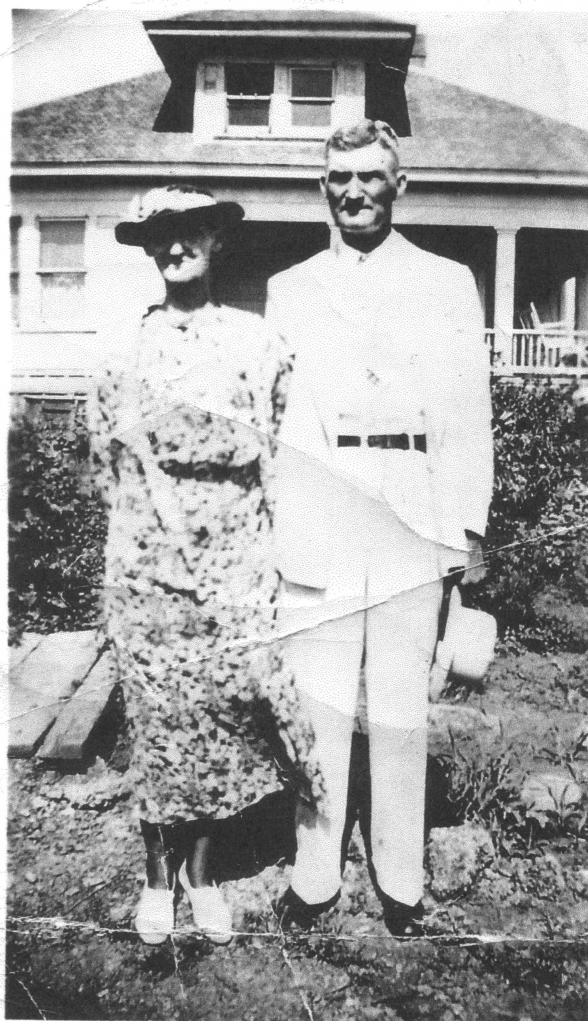
Lord,  
Forgive us of  
our sins, and  
give us truly  
thankful hearts  
for these and all  
Thy blessings.  
Amen



*Elector Esterham Redbetter*

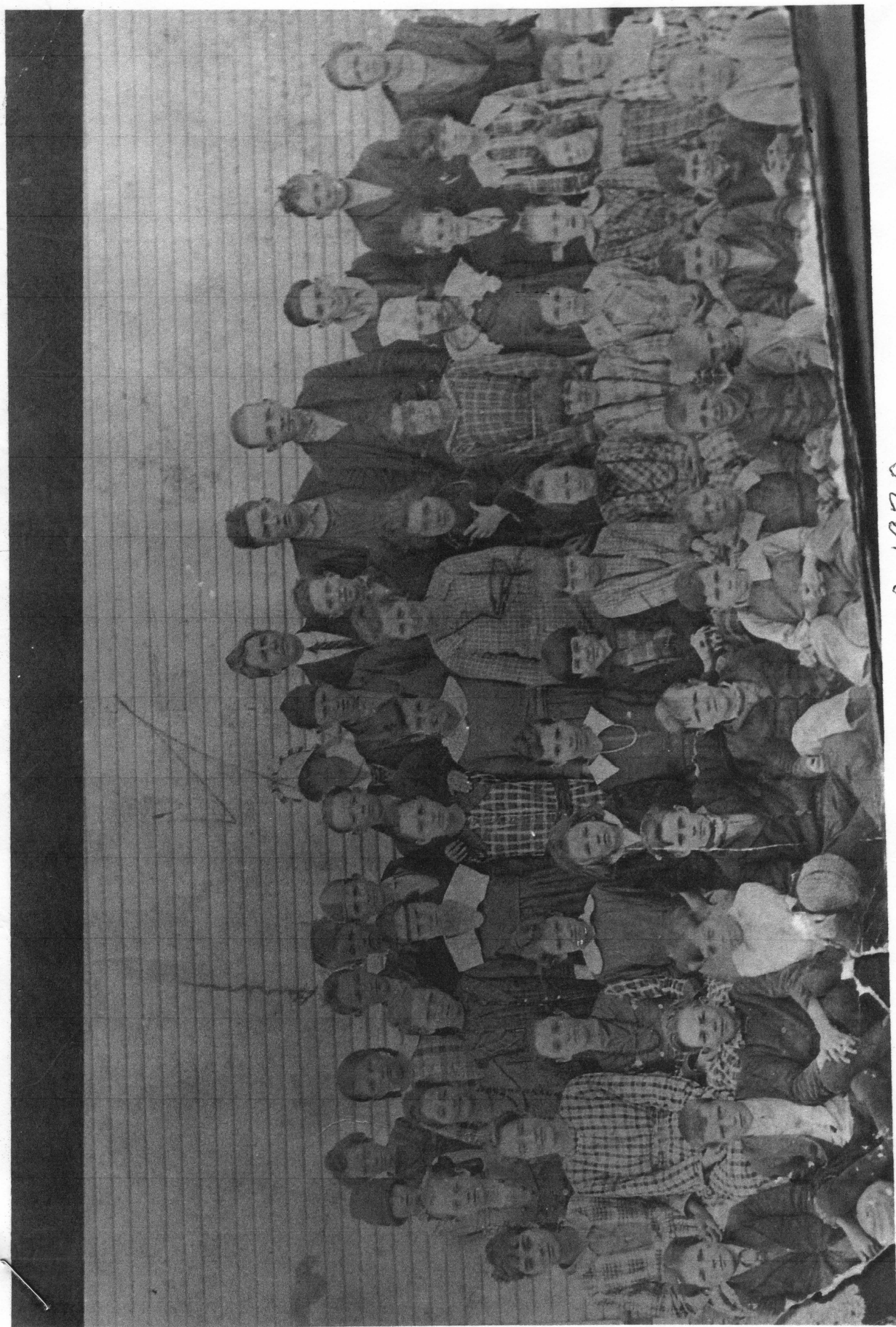


*Eugenia & Elector Esterham  
Redbetter*



*Mrs. & Mrs. E. E. Redbetter*





Bethel School - 1919-1920

# BETHEL SCHOOL--School Year 1919-1920

Top row, 1 to r: Whatley boy (stocking cap), Leuna Whatley, Mary Grasp (pigtails), Buren Ledbetter, Ottinger boy, Oley Wheeler (skull cap), Robert Prater, Miss Rose Collins, teacher in bonnet; Albert Hodges, Ples Corbin, teacher; August Asch, Carter Moore, Jess Hurst, Toy Long, Clarence Houston, Alvin Hodges.

2nd row, 1 to r: Alvina Sasse, Bernice Ledbetter, Magdalene Thompson (note chinaberry beads worn by several girls), Bealer Whatley, Bertie Long, Jennie Lou Ottinger, her cousin Ottinger, Rena Bell Prater, Pearl Moore, Irene Whatley, Gladys McDonald, Elois York.

3rd row 1 to r: Peggy or Pearl Wheeler, Allie Moore, Nettie Long, Ida Mae Ottinger, Mitchie Prater, Elsie Duwe, Mary Waters, Mary Pugh, Erline Hodges, Martha Stout, Jocille York, Althea Cribbs, Mozelle Whatley, last girl not recognized.

4th row, 1 to r: Sammie Long, A. D. Ledbetter, "Boo" and Orville Polk, Claude McDonald, Calvin Hodges, next boy believed to be a Whatley, General Prater, Joe Stout, Tato Asch, Lonzo York, Hixie Barnes, last Willie Sasse.

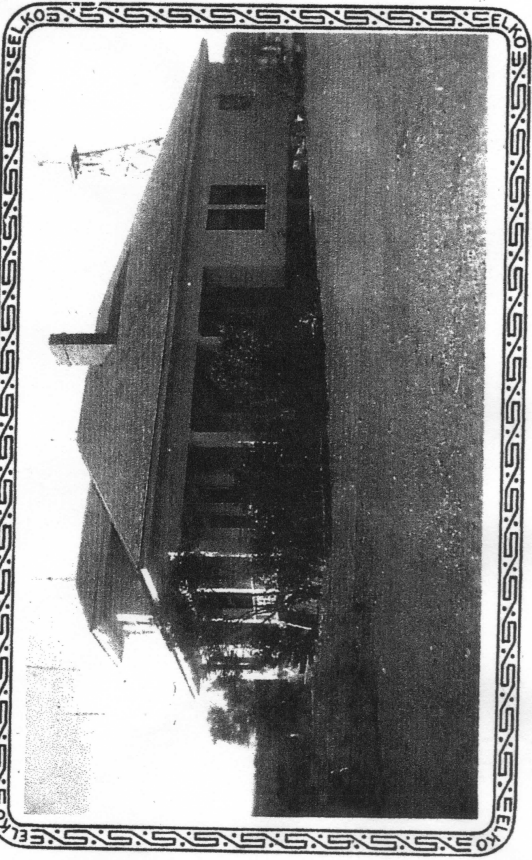
Do you know anyone not identified, or misidentified? Do you know of any name not spelled correctly?

An all-day church affair at Bethel was a memorable occasion, with dinner on the ground and a program which consisted mostly of memorized Bible verses, taught the children by Mrs. George Thompson,

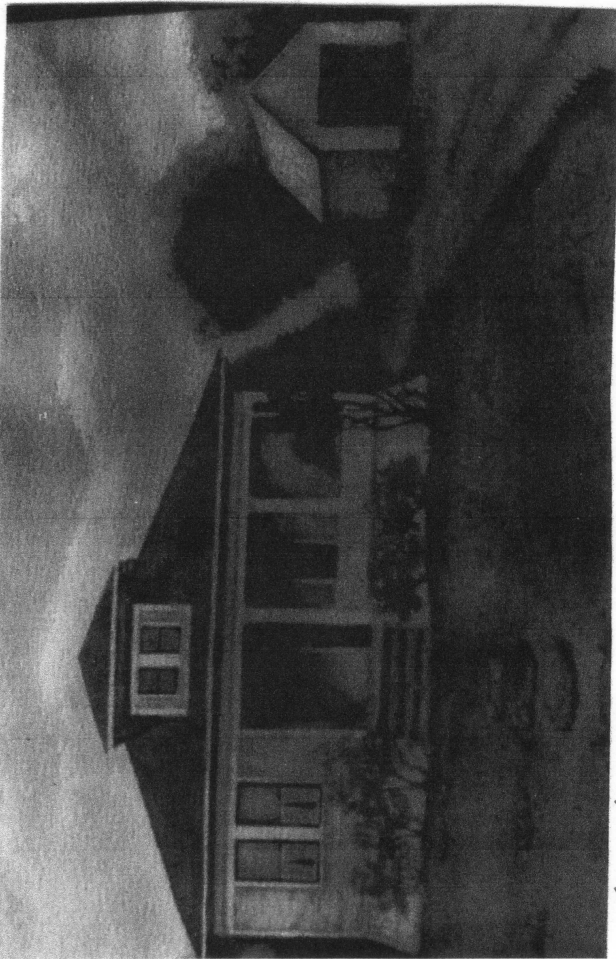
*Back row, 4th from left, B. B. Ledbetter, and row, and 3rd from left, Ruth Bernice Ledbetter, twin, 1st row, 2nd from left - A. D. Ledbetter*

row 4th from left: Leema  
"1 adhoton. 2nd from left

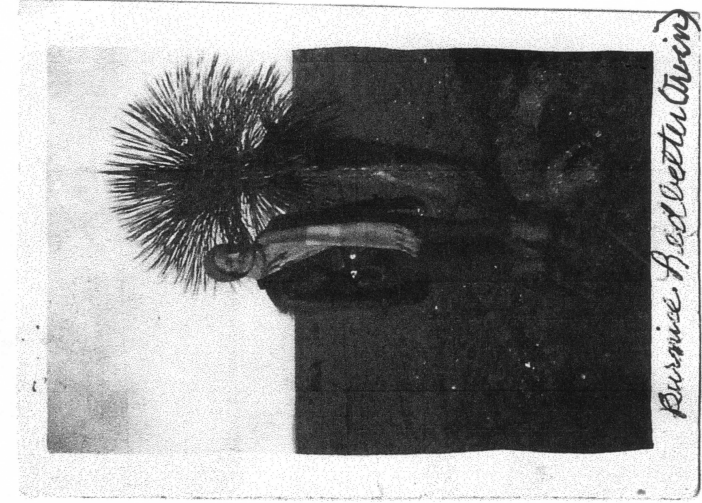




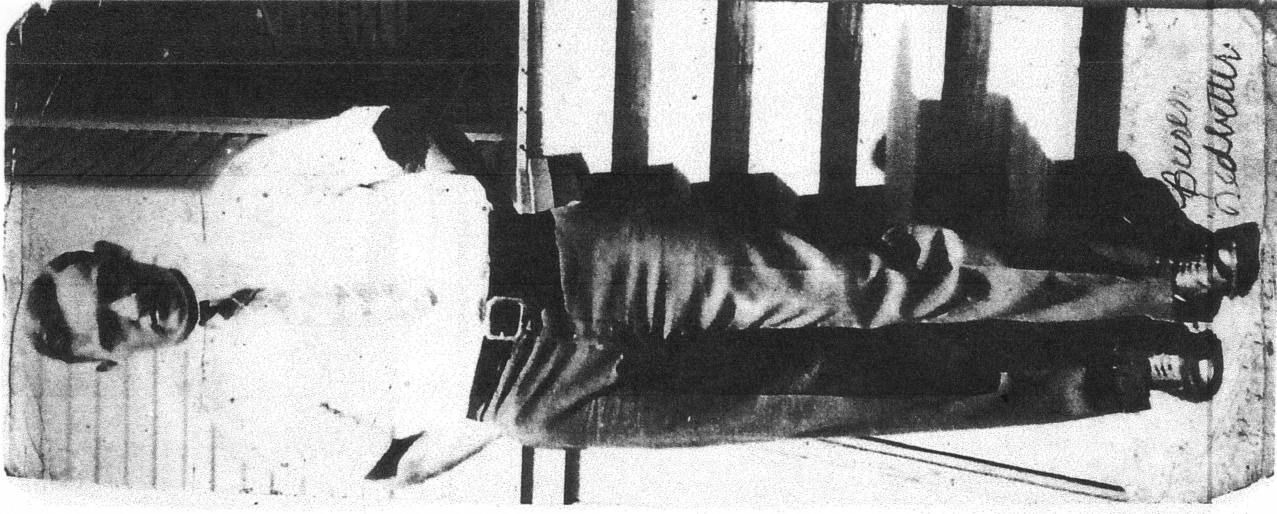
Ledbetter's new home



Front view of Ledbetter's home. This picture is a painting by Anita, Bernice Ledbetter Graham's daughter about 1975.



Burnice Ledbetter living



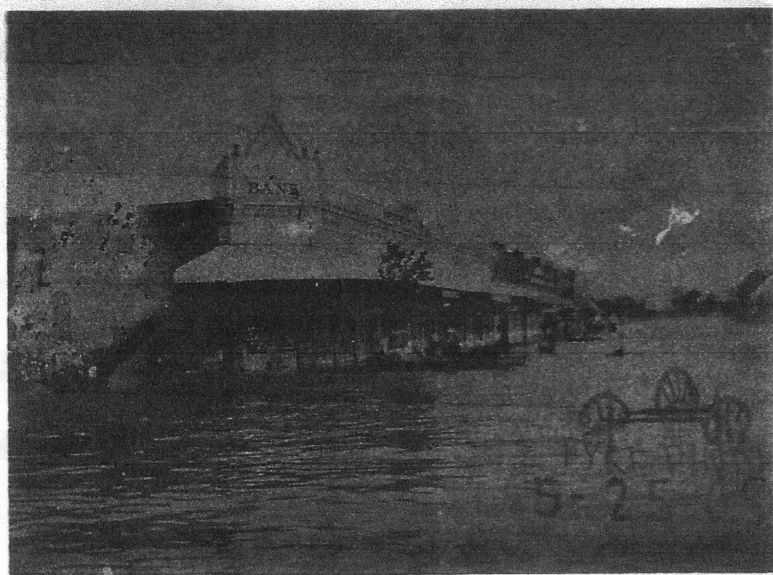
Burnice Ledbetter's twin

17A



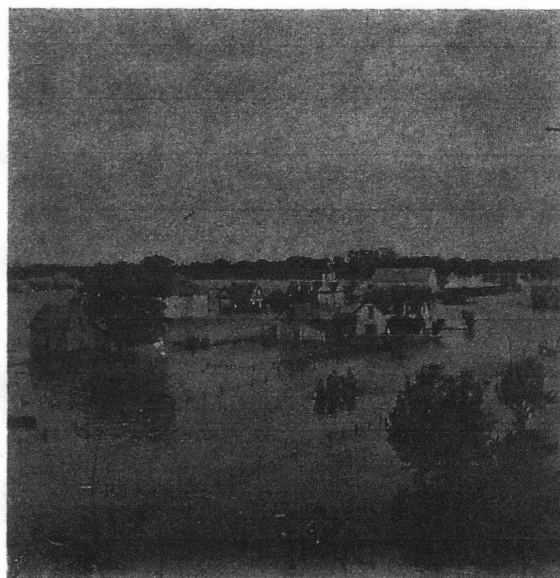
1908 Flood  
Looking west from the northeast corner of  
the Carrollton square

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1908 Elm Fork of Trinity River  
on Carrollton Square

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Trinity flooded in  
Carrollton in 1866 and 1890  
& many years later.



The eastern end of the Ledbetter Farm was about a half mile west of the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. The farm was in the flood plain. In 1908 before the Ledbetters bought the farm, the Trinity River flooded so much that it flooded the businesses on the square in Carrollton, and I heard men rode horses that swam across the square. I know the farm that the Ledbetters later bought flooded for years while we lived on the farm. One year the flood water came all the way to the Ledbetter Road right across from our house.

★ (Show drawing of Ledbetter Farm House from Hackberry Road at the top of the hill and explain about flood and the road change)

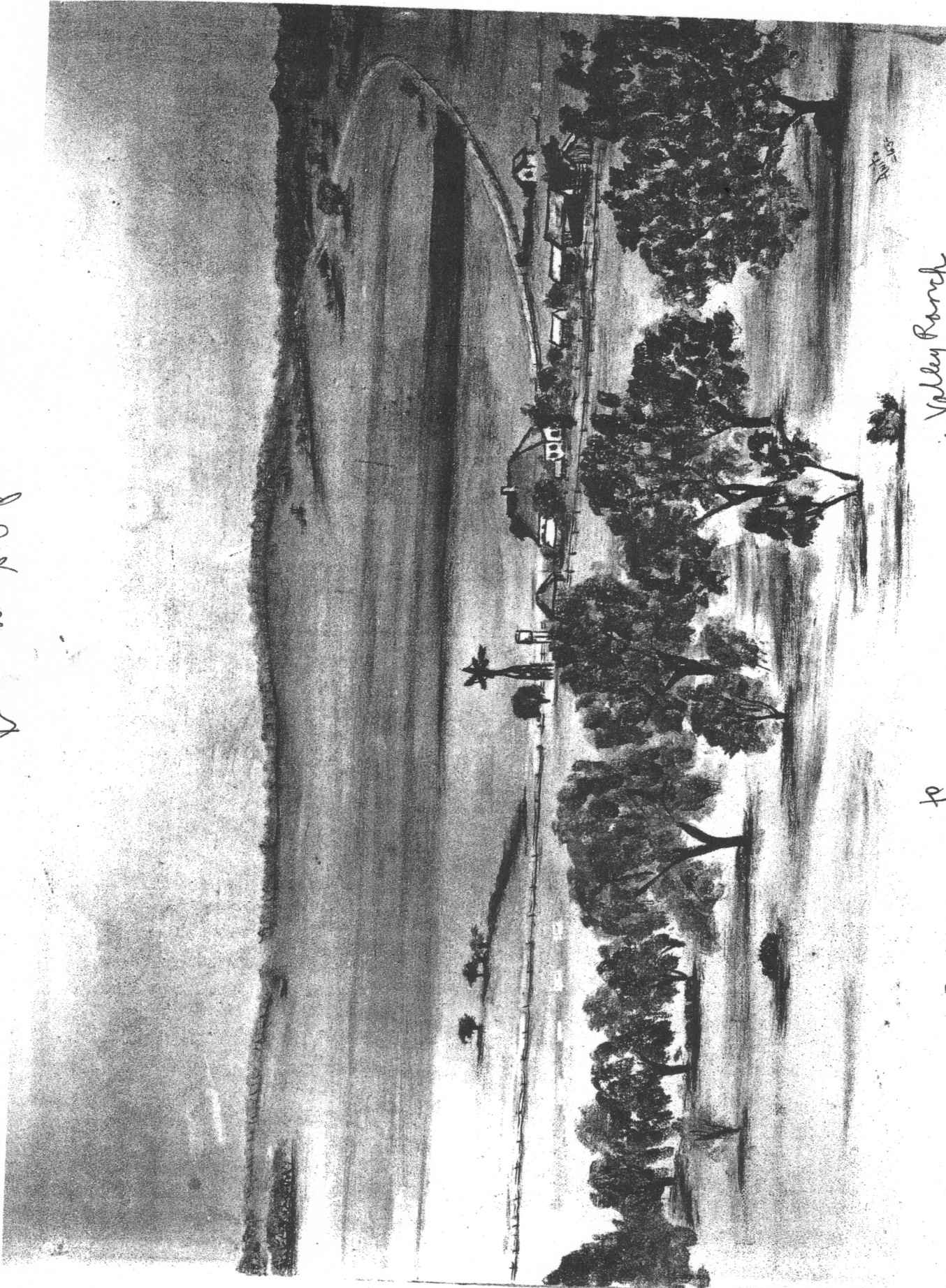
The Ledbetter family was very large by now, and they lived in Coppel, Carrollton, Lewisville, Dallas, Stephenville, and Lake Charles, Louisiana. To keep in touch the Ledbetters started celebrating with a Ledbetter Reunion. The first Ledbetter Reunion was held at Coppel Park in August, 1937.

★ (Show first Ledbetter Reunion held at Coppel Park, August, 1937)

★ (Show babies at First Ledbetter Reunion and names; the oldest grandchild Betty, A. D.'s daughter, was 3 and not in the baby picture. Back row: Gladys and her daughter Lora Wrigley; second Marjorie and her daughter Barbara Lowry. Front Row: Margarette, Roy's wife, and her daughter Nancy Ledbetter; second Trudy and her daughter Martha Ledbetter, fourth (This is Mary Ledbetter Norwood's daughter in law, Elinor, and her son David Norwood.) And last and least Pearl and her month old daughter Marian Joyce Ledbetter. My twin sister Mary Janice died in the hospital when she was 3 days old.

①  
no big grass.

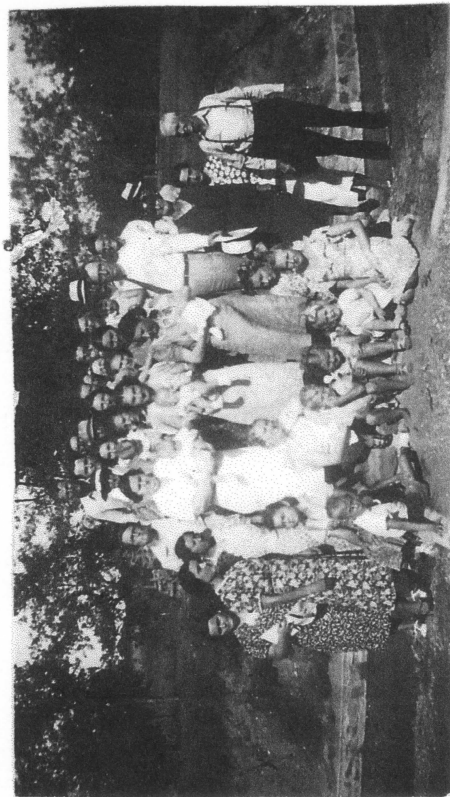
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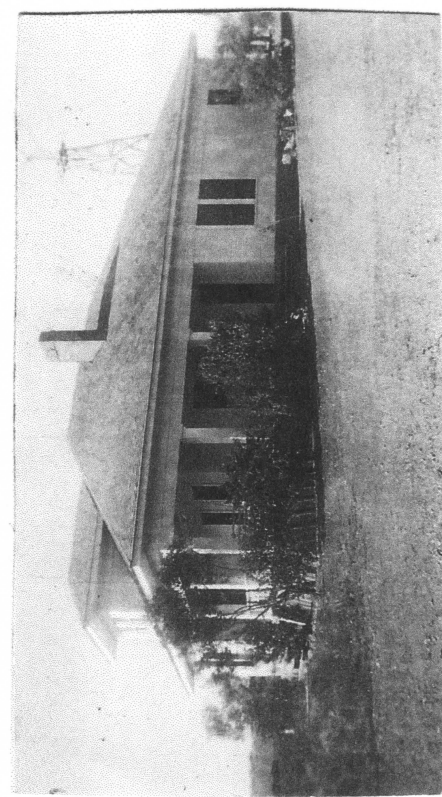
to  
Looking south at E. E. Ledbetter homeplace and 200 acre farm on Ledbetter Road, west of Elm Fork River.  
in Valley Ranch

July 76

west side



First Ledbetter Reunion held at Coppel Park in August, 1937.



E. E. Ledbetter home on Ledbetter Road between Carrollton and Coppel, Texas.



Ledbetter grandchildren - Anita, Graham, John Ledbetter, Katha and Betty Ledbetter, Joyce Ledbetter, Barbara Lowry



First Ledbetter Reunion held at Coppel Park, August, 1937. Joyce Ledbetter, W. H. and Martha Pearl in bonnets on bottom right.





First Ledbetter Union, August, 1937, Coppell Park.  
Back row: with hat Morris Lee (Brother) Hazel  
Kathryn, Leola Gladys, Letha Bernice, Marjorie,  
Leeman Buren, Julia Mae, Arnold David,  
Henry Alton.



Ledbetter Family later. Bernice, Buren (twins)  
Gladys, Marjorie, Morris Lee (twins).  
front row: Eugenia, Kathryn, Julia, Henry



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✓(Show First Ledbetter Reunion and the 9 Ledbetter children years later when they had all married except Henry.)

In later years the Ledbetter Reunion was held at White Rock Lake. The reunions were always held in August, the hottest time of the year. This particular picture was probably made about August, 1946.

Even later the Ledbetter Reunions were held at the Dallas Power and Light Lake near Coppell and in Ledbetter homes.

✓(Show Reunion near Coppell at Dallas Power & Light Lake.)

The Ledbetter family grew corn and cotton and had several big gardens on the farm. They also had cows, horses, and pigs. Even though the Ledbetter farm was closer to Carrollton, the Ledbetter Family did more business in Coppell than in Carrollton. The Ledbetter cotton was ginned in Coppell, the Ledbetters bought groceries in Coppell, my Mother did her laundry at Mrs. Johnson's laundry mat, my Dad and my brother John got their hair cut at Harwell's Barber Shop, my Dad played dominoes at Coppell and walked from the farm across the hills and farmland to Coppell, and my parents had many friends in Coppell they visited and who visited them. Weldon and Zelma Plumlee, Don and Vanera Plumlee, Joe and Blanch Thweatt, and Red Trigg. Six of the Ledbetter grandchildren attended Coppell Elementary School. They were Barbara Lowry, Joyce and John Ledbetter, and Margaret, Virginia, and Alice Albright. They were students when the school burned. Some had classes in the lunchroom; other students were bused to Carrollton.

Grandpa Ledbetter had 9 granddaughters before he ever had a grandson. Buren and Pearl Ledbetter had a son named John



Ledbetter Reunion - 1946,  
White Rock Lake, Dallas

MADDOX STUDIO  
11712 E. ELM, HILLSBORO, TEXAS

Kedbetter Kurnison

Reorder no. ~~111~~ 8.5

Paul Kedbetter, second from left  
Elbert Abbott, behind Paul  
Margorie Yellon, Nora Kedbetter  
Lester Barnes, in front of Nora  
Betty Robertson, behind Nora  
Grandma Eugenia Kedbetter, with  
her w/ white bow on it  
Barbara Bryant, in front of old white  
faced man, then, Martha Kurnison

Property of Joyce U.  
Regul 2100  
Paula Duran Kedbetter, Mrs.  
Mrs. W. H. H. John Kedbetter  
right in front of Bureau.  
A. D. Kedbetter, second from





Ledbetter Reunion, Coyprill, Dallas  
Power & Right Lake 6/5/88



Ledbetter Cousins' Reunion, Lloyd and  
Joyce Wilds Home, Hanger 10/8/88  
Joyce, Heather and Betty, Martha and David,  
and Barbara,

# REUNIONS NOT TO DO



Ledbetter Cousins' Reunion Hanger, Home of  
Hanger and Joyce Wilds, 10/8/88



Wesley on December 5, 1940. Grandpa Ledbetter would come down to see John every day and told everyone he wanted to buy John his first overalls, but Grandpa Ledbetter died in 1941 at the age of 58 before John was old enough to wear overalls. Eventually, Grandpa and Grandma Ledbetter had 17 granddaughters and 8 grandsons.

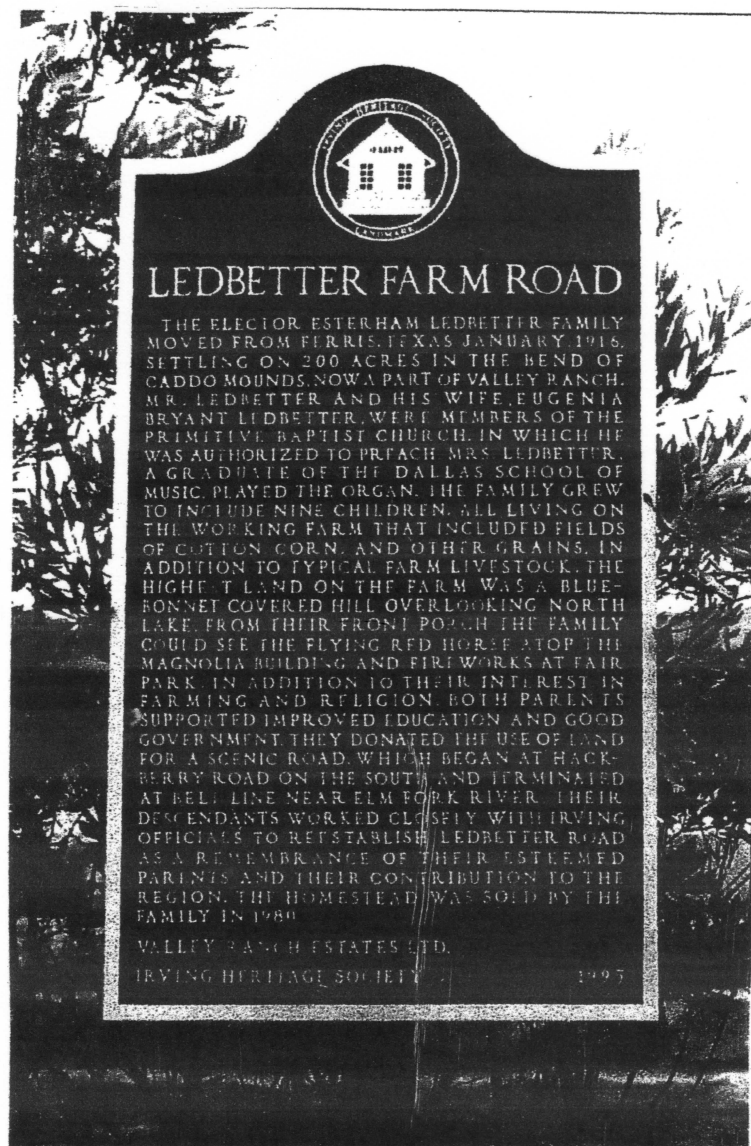
Grandpa Elector Esterham Ledbetter was born in 1882; my dad Buren Ledbetter died in 1982 so their lives spanned 100 years. And my Dad who had suffered a stroke on New Years' eve in 1981 lived with us for 6 months. He died at my house on July 9, 45 years on the same day as my twice sister had died.

All the Ledbetter children had died by 2011; Morris Lee (Bud) died first at the age of 63 in 1979; his tiwn sister Marjorie was the last Ledbetter child to die at the age of 75 in 2011. Seven of the Ledbetter grandchildren have died also.

An historical marker was dedicated after the Ledbetter Farm was sold. This marker was dedicated on May 16, 1995. It is located in a Cul d' Sac on the hillside near the southern side of the Ledbetter farm.

★ (Show Ledbetter Farm Historical Marker)

★ (Show picture of the Ledbetter children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren attending the Historical Marker Dedication.



## ■ Historical marker dedication set for Ledbetter area

In conjunction with the celebration of the 22nd annual National Historic Preservation Week, Valley Ranch will be the site of a ceremony to dedicate an historical marker noting the location of the former Ledbetter family homestead and development street named "Ledbetter Court."

City officials, local preservationists and Ledbetter family descendants will join David Weekly Homes for a grand opening celebration and luncheon to include the dedication of the plaque from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The actual plaque dedication will be at noon.

The Elector Esterham Ledbetter family moved from Paris, Texas in January 1916, settling on 200 acres in the bend of Caddo Mounds, now part of Valley Ranch. Ledbetter and his wife, Eugenia Bryant Ledbetter, were members of the Primitive Baptist Church, in which he was authorized to preach. Mrs. Ledbetter, a graduate of the Dallas School of Music, played the organ.

They donated use of land for a scenic road, which began at Hackberry Road on the south and ended at Belt Line near Elm Fork River. Their descendants worked closely with Irving officials to re-establish Ledbetter Road as a remembrance of their parents and their contribution to the region.





Joyce Ledbetter Webb, daughter  
James Webb Sullivan & Rogers  
Ellis Sullivan.



Virginia Wright Posen, Joyce Webb, Leatha  
Ledbetter Sloves, James Sullivan, Betty Robertson

Children attending were: Bernice, A. D. and wife Lenora, Gladys, Marjorie, Kathryn and Julia and Henry's wife Virginia; grand-children: Betty and Leatha, (A.D.'s daughters), Joyce (Buren's daughter), Barbara (Marjorie's daughter), Margaret and Virginia (Kathryn's daughters), Anita (Bernise's daughter), Linda (Morris Lee's daughter), and Bryant (Julia's son); great-grandchildren: Jennifer (Buren's granddaughter), Lauren (Henry's granddaughter, and Terri (Marjorie's granddaughter), and Hogan Ellis Sullivan (Buren's great-grandson).. Hogan's mother gave him the second name Ellis because both of his great-grandparents, Buren and Pearl Altom Ledbetter were born in Ellis County, my Dad in Ferris and my Mother in Ennis.

Buren, Arnold David, Morris Lee, and Henry Ledbetter are all buried in Hilltop Cemetery in Carrollton. Elector Esterham and Eugenia Ledbetter, Mary Janice Ledbetter (my twin), Kathryn and Elbert Albright, Marjorie and Harold Yelton, and their grandson Mark Hand are buried in Perry Cemetery in Carrollton.

I want to recognize some of the grandchildren of Elector Esterham and Eugenie Ledbetter who are here today. Margaret Stockard and Virginia Polser, daughters of Kathryn Ledbetter Albright. And Margie Ledbetter, who was married to my brother John Wesley Ledbetter, Buren Ledbetter's son.