

July 18, 1924

## Knox Family Reunion

On Thursday, July 10th., a goodly number of the descendants of Captain William Alexander Knox, one of Lee County's pioneers, together with their families, gathered together at the old Knox homestead on the Yegua on Dime Box (San Antonio) Prairie, to enjoy a good old fashioned barbecue dinner and spend the day living over again the good old times each of them had had while living and visiting at the dear old place. The event was planned by Mrs. Fanny Knox (widow of the late Robert A. Knox, and for the past forty-nine years mistress of the mansion) for the purpose of encouraging the entire family connection in the making of real homes, by inspiring in them a love for home and home-ties, a respect and reverence for those who have gone before them and impressed upon them the importance of keeping up the good old family religion.

By the noon hour all of the guests had arrived (there being about eighty or ninety) and everything being in readiness for the hungry crowd, they were called out under the spreading branches of one of those magnificent live oak trees which stand in the front yard where seats had been placed for their accommodation, and after Rev. Robert Knox, D. D. had said the blessing, the entire assemblage began to relieve the table which stood on one side of its burden of barbecued veal, mutton and pork; bread, pickles, salads, etc.; and when this task was fairly well accomplished they were confronted with a big serving of cake and ice cream. A tub of ice-lemonade and a barrel of ice water, with cups all around,

stood in convenient places and invited those who were thirsty to come and drink. After all had eaten to their hearts' content, they sat down and began to tell each other how glad they were to be present, and how they wished certain other members of the family could have come. This seance was soon interrupted, however, by the hostess rounding up a number of her grand-children and having them baptized. Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Tipton, presenting their two youngest, Charlotte and Edward; Mr. and Mrs. John Knox, the twins, John and Robert; and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Oxford and their little Martha—Dr. S. E. Chandler and Rev. Robert Knox, D. D., administering the ordinance.

After the children had been baptized, Dr. Chandler in a short impressive talk paid tribute to Captain William Alexander Knox, the founder of the home; enlarging upon his life as a Christian gentleman, and telling of his love for the home and his loyalty to the church, the greatest factor in the preservation of the home. When Dr. Chandler had finished speaking, John Knox was called upon to give a sketch of Knox family history with reference to the founding of the old homestead, etc., which he did by telling about Captain William Knox (his grandfather) and his household, consisting of his wife Lethy Ann and four children, viz: Mary, William, Robert, and Elvira, and about twenty Negro slaves; leaving the swampy bottoms of Red River in Louisiana (where he had lost several children from malaria) and directing their course to the valley of the Colorado, near Bastrop, in search of a more healthful location. He was attracted by the beautiful San Antonio Prairie country through which he had just passed

and being loathe to move on without having another view of the beautiful landscape, drew rein to his horse and pulled aside to the old Bush camp which stood on the west side of Bush branch, and made preparations for spending the Sabbath, for it was Saturday afternoon (November 1851) and he being a strict Presbyterian, believed only in rest and worship on the Sabbath. That on the following morning Rev. Daniel Morse, a Methodist minister who had settled on the south side of the Yegua (what is now known as High Prairie) was on his way to String Prairie to hear Rev. Hugh Wilson, a Presbyterian minister preach; and upon passing the Knox camp he rode by and introduced himself, he being on the look-out for desirable settlers. There was a kind of Freemasonry in the handshake of the two men and they were soon friends. Rev. Morse invited Captain Knox to accompany him to the church service, so they rode together and received religious instructions from the Presbyterian divine.

The day was an agreeable one for the Captain and it changed the destinies of himself and family, for upon seeing more of the prairie country to the north and east; the post oak lands on the west and the dense thickets of the Yegua bottoms on the south, all of which abounded in deer, turkey, and small game (assuring him of plenty of meats for table use) and the fertile soils offering unlimited opportunities to the planter and stock raiser, together with the prospects of being near a Presbyterian church where he and his family might attend regular church services, he was convinced that he had found his earthly para-



disse and within a few days he had purchased a large tract of land (in the vicinity of the spot where he had stopped to spend the Sabbath) upon which he drove down a stake in the presence of his family and said: Here I will build my house. He reminded them that over seventy years ago this same ancestor had planted the acorn which produced the tree that was furnishing the shade for this occasion, and for that alone they should revere his memory. In conclusion he admonished them never to forget the old home nor lose their love for it, or its founder and those who have preserved it; for the Knox home is a landmark on the Yegua and for three-quarters of a century its occupants have stood for truth, honesty and all other Christian virtues and principles, and that it matters not where they may go, nor to what positions they might attain, they will never be more highly respected than in the Yegua country.

Mason Williams (a brother of the hostess) spoke upon the achievements of the family and paid a beautiful tribute to Mrs. Knox as a real home maker; saying in conclusion, we are all here because we love her.

Harry Knox spoke upon the home as the basis of society and good government; saying that it is one of our greatest institutions; and recommended a turning away from the jazz of today back to the old fashioned home and ways of living.

Professor Louis Knox, when called upon to speak, plunged into a narrative filled with romance, narrating his thrilling experiences when a boy visiting Uncle Robert and Aunt Fanny. He said he loved the old place not merely for its home ties and historical associations, but also for the romantic scenes round about it and the experiences

had there in his boyhood days.

Rev. Robert Knox, in order to show the value of the home, told how Korean and all other oriental civilizations would have long, long ago fallen into decay had it not been for their families ties.

One of the most pleasant features of the occasion was a musical program rendered by Prof. Louis Knox and Mrs. M. M. MacFerrin. Prof. Knox giving a number of beautiful violin selections and Mrs. MacFerrin delighting her hearers with several of her most beautiful songs.

The whole affair was such a wonderful success in every respect that every one went away very much pleased with the way they had spent the day, and wondering why Aunt Fanny had not planned such a gathering before. Mr. W. A. Knox of Giddings (now 83 years of age) the only member of the original family still alive, was very much on hand, and was considered by all as the honor guest of the occasion.

Those present from out of the county were: Dr. and Mrs. S. E. Chandler and Mr. Harry Knox and two children from Brownwood; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Knox and son from Brady; Senator and Mrs. R. S. Bowers and family from Caldwell; Prof. and Mrs. Louis Knox from Charleston, S. C.; Mrs. M. M. MacFerrin from Augusta, Ga.; Rev. and Mrs. Robert Knox, D. D. from Korea; Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Williams and three sons from Austin; Mr. and Mrs. Mason Williams from San Antonio; Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Knox from Marble Falls; Miss Irene Knox from Austin; Mr. and Mrs. Moody Wiley and son, and Messrs Robert, Ernest, and Ira Knox from Leander; Mr. and Mrs. Tom Oxford and

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Oxford and family from Elkhart; Mr. and Mrs. John W. Ward and family from Waco, and Mrs. Jones Clements of Thorndale who was a house guest of Mrs. Frank Knox for the week. Henry Knox, a son of one of the old Knox slaves, received three cheers from the whole crowd for the delightful manner in which he had prepared the meats. George Dunlap, one of our highly respected colored men, who in the old days was a trusty roustabout of the late Robert A. Knox was on hand to tell the boys of the narrow escapes he had had in days gone by. Aunt Jude Heslip, who for the past forty-five years has been Black Mammy to Mrs. Fanny Knox's children was busy all day getting acquainted with the great bunch of grandchildren and great grand children she had never seen before.

Those from Giddings in attendance were Mr. W. A. Knox and family, Mrs. W. O. Bowers, Sr. and family; Mrs. W. O. Bowers, Jr. and family; Mr. and Mrs. John B. Knox and family; Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Farris and family.