

The Giddings News
February 27, 1920

BIRTHDAY DINNER.

On Tuesday, February 17th, Mr. W. A. Knox celebrated his 70th birthday. It was especially enjoyed by him because of the fact that Mr. and Mrs. Harry Knox and their young son, Erlin Preston, came from their home in Brownwood to be with him. Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Knox of Dime Box and Mrs. Monroe were also present.

Presents and greetings from other members of the family and friends added to the pleasure of the day.

Mr. Knox came to Giddings in October 1871, and there is no other person here who has been a resident as long as he has been.

On coming here, he succeeded Stuart and Majr in the Commission and forwarding business, the H. & T. C. R. R. having just been completed to Giddings. After one year he formed a partnership with J. A. Nesbit, father of Mr. Allen Nesbit, which continued until 1878. After that date, he entered the general mercantile business in which he remained until 1906. Since that time he has been President of the Citizens State Bank. In 1875 he was elected county treasurer and served fourteen years.

Mr. Knox came to Texas in 1851, before any railroads were built in this state, and while camping on the Brazos River his father killed 9 deer and 18 turkeys, which were used as food for the family and slaves the remainder of their journey. He located on the Yegua near Dime Box, which was at that time in Burleson County, Lee County not having been organized until 1874. The nearest cotton market was Houston, the cotton being hauled on ox wagons, which were used to bring back supplies, requiring about four weeks to make the round trip.

At the outbreak of the civil war, Mr. Knox was attending Soule University at Chapel Hill, which was later removed to Georgetown under the name of Southwestern University. He was pursuing his studies with a view of becoming a physician. With the first call of volunteers he enlisted in the Second Texas Infantry under Col. John C. Moore. He served the four years of the war, being made Lieutenant and adjutant in '61. He was in the Battle of Shiloh where he had a hat brim shot off; was afterwards at Iuka and Corinth where his friend Col. Rogers was killed. Next, he was in the Battle of Chickasaw Bayou where his Col. was again killed. After that he was in the fight at Fort Pemberton, and then at the siege of Vicksburg where he was wounded by a piece of shrapnel steel, and for a time was supposed to be dead. He considered himself fortunate to be allowed to partake of mule meat, which was a delicacy reserved for the sick and wounded.

At the close of the war, he returned to his home on the Yegua and was married in 1870 to Miss Beattie Williams and has been a resident here since. Mr. Knox is not only one of the oldest residents of this county, but he is considered one of the most progressive citizens as well. He has at all times been a leader for doing for the betterment of the town, county, state and country. He has always been a great help in supporting schools, churches and everything for the good and betterment of his country. He is the father of a large family all of whom he spared no expense in educating his children, sending them away to attend colleges after finishing their schooling at home. He comes from the Presbyterian church family and has lived and practiced such belief in his every walk of life. He no doubt today possesses as many friends as any one of his acquaintance, and witnessing the fact that his next birthday he will reach the four-score mark, he today is able to get around and as many say, looks as well as he did years ago. In fact one man was heard to say that he went to work for him 28 years ago and he believes he looks as well today as he did then. Another said he had known him for over 25 years as he believed he looks better now than when he first knew him. His many friends extend hearty congratulations and wish for him many more such pleasant birthdays.