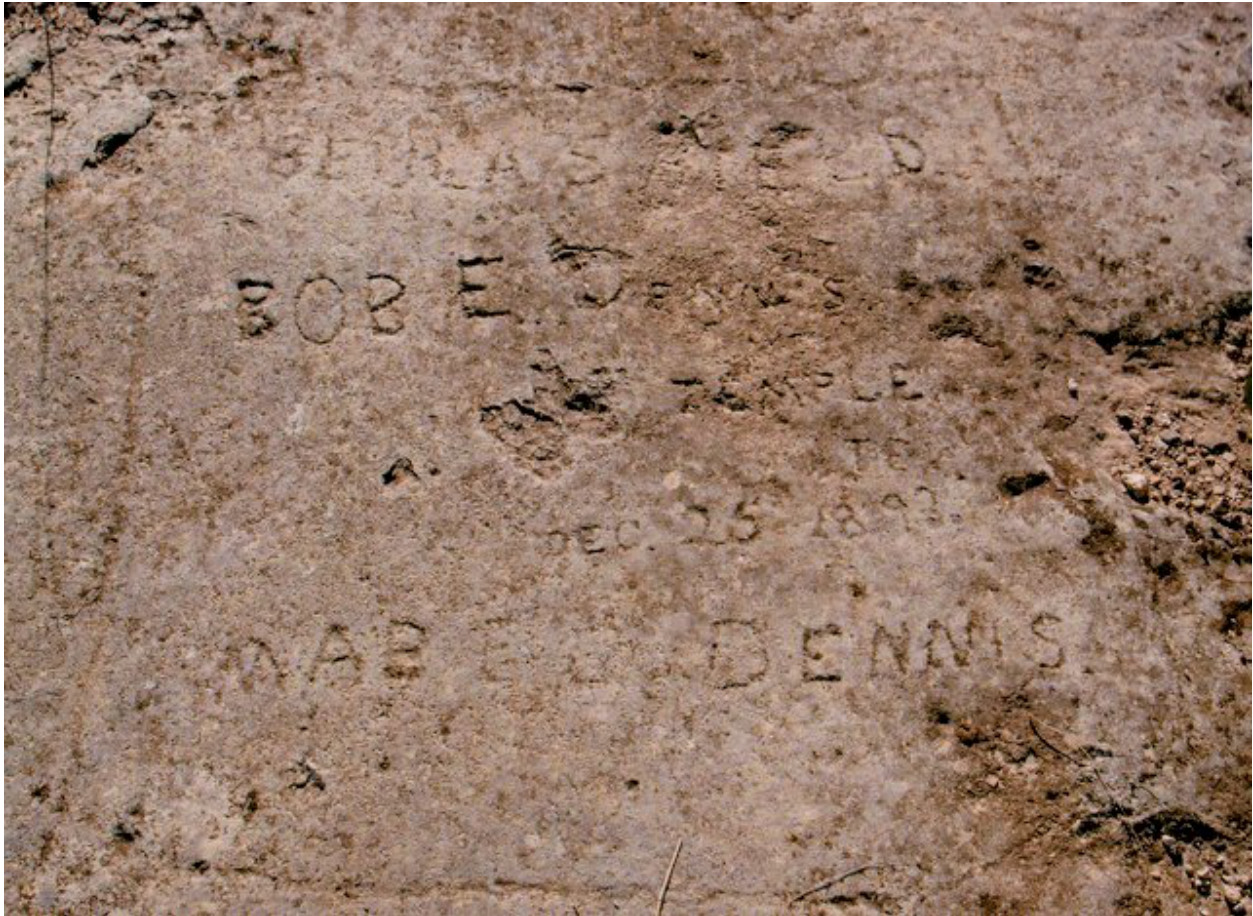


Carved In Stone

By Carl Langford



(Photo by Pastor Ron Moore)

On top of West Santa Anna Mountain these names are carved on a rock. They left their mark on the mountain on **25 December 1892, Temple, Tx. (Bell County), Bob Dennis, Mabel Dennis, Beula Shield (Teenagers).**

With the Completion of the Gulf Colorado-Santa Fe Railroad in late 1886-87, later on to Ballinger and San Angelo. Passenger trains ran sometimes 15 times a day up and down to Coleman, Brown & Bell County Co. Tx. These three teenagers climbed the mountain and carved their mark on it Christmas Day. It is also found that the two from Bell County had an Uncle working for the railroad, as brakeman (probably got a free ride).

Unknown how they met up with Beula Shield, daughter of Leon L. Shield, who had sold his store in Trickham, moved from there, to the Gap in 1892 and built a store, Later built another store 2 blocks north of railroad depot. He amassed about 20 different businesses and left Jeff Davis Allen in charge of the first little store in the Gap. (per family history page 1056). She married, Adolph "Dol" Russell Brown, on 27 Feb 1905. Beula born 13 Nov 1876, died 1909. She

was working at the bank as a Cashier. A. R. Brown died 19 Nov 1947 Coleman Co., Tx. buried Platt 2, Block 128, Lot 4, and Beula buried Platt 2, Block 121, Lot 1 in Santa Anna Cemetery. **FAG #44614917**. They had one child named Shield Brown went to school in France and became a doctor and married Mary Rogers (both buried Austin Memorial Park, **FAG # 38846659**).

Upon researching these names, I found the **John Campbell Dennis**, (born 30 Mar 1853 Ark., died 30 Dec 18 Bell Co.,Tx.) Family living in Bell County on 1900 Census with wife Mary Victoria Bridges, Children: **Robert (Bob) E.** born 2 Jan 1876, **Mable F.** born 1878, **Rena Eliz.** born Feb. 1884 & **Hubert A.** born Aug 1891, all in Bell County.

On, **Robert Edward Dennis (Bob)** death certificate, born 2 Jan 1876, age 70, Bell Co., Tx. Occupation a RFD mail Carrier retired and drowned in a creek, found dead 2 Feb 1946 Bell County (You might wonder how a 70 year old man could drown in a Creek?). He married **Bertha May Linton** 31 Jul 1919 Bell Co., Tx. born 14 Jan 1891 Ark., died 9 May 1945 Troy, Bell Co., Tx. of breast cancer, Father L. F. Linton and Mother, Bewley of Ark.: Buried Hillcrest Cemetery Bell Co., Tx **FAG # 31302743**

Mable Dennis born Feb. 1878, married 16 Feb 1899 to **Thomas (Tom) J. Darling** born Kansas on 22 Aug 1870, died 2 Sep 1956, Post Maser in Temple for many years (retired). I couldn't place her with the family on paper, she missed the 1900 Census for the family, when she married. She wasn't with any other Dennis families in Bell Co., Tx. They had a family of 5 boys and a girl, 2 boys died early. Son, Thomas Darling Jr. served US Army WW II. Mable died in 1925 at age of 46 leaving an almost grown family. Unable to find a death-cert. for her. Buried Hillcrest Cemetery. **FAG #31302739**.

Rene E. Dennis born Feb. 1884 married John Wesley Nichols, a cotton or cattle buyer, in 1910. She born 27 Feb 1884 Tx., died 13 Nov 1969 San Diego Co., Calif. Buried Hillcrest Cemetery, Bell Co., Tx. **FAG #31409121**.

Hubert Allen Dennis, born 26 Aug 1891 Bell Co., Tx.. In 1910 Census, he is listed as 19 years old, occupation as Ball Player and married Daisy Middlebrook of Ala. living in Okla. City in 1930 & 1940. So did he play professional base ball? (Couldn't find him with a ball team). In 1920, we find him still in OKC, Occupation, Foreman for Interstate Compress Company. In 1921, the Traders Compress Company built a cotton compress and warehouse at the intersection of East Reno and Eastern avenue in OKC. The last bale of cotton was shipped from this location in November 1969, and the structure was razed in March 1970. So this was probably where he worked. Unable to find any further data on this family.

Only child, Daughter of Robert's (Bob): **Anne Elizabeth Dennis** born 4 Aug 1920, Bell Co. Tx. married George Austin Blackburn 24 Mar 1942 in Bell Co., George A. Blackburn died 7 Sep 2000 San Diego, San Diego Co., Ca., He buried at Ft. Rosecrans Nat'l Cemetery. MSgt US Army (with his rank, probably in WW II and retired from the service). **FAG #7210363**.

On Christmas day 1892 three teenagers grabbed a chisel & hammer and said "let's climb the mountain and chisel our names on a rock". It probably took couple of hours to carve that many letters in the rock. I can here them as they were climbing down, "We made our mark on the mountain, I bet no one will really care or will find it." Well, I'm sure it was discovered years

ago. Now, 121 years later, we know who these teenagers were and how life treated them. So, when you are born, your name is placed in the Book of Life, if on a Mountain, or in the Criminal system. You are who You are and your name can be tracked back through your life to your birth, your grandpa and great grandpa and even far beyond. If you happen to find the Rock on the mountain stop a moment and visualize these kids carving there name on the rock. By listening real close, you may even hear the hammer striking the chisel.

NOTE: FAG # is the number which a memorial can be accessed on internet **findagrave.com**.