

## **Early Coleman Co. Pioneer – Malcom Hunter**

by Carl Langford

*Malcom Hunter* born 21 Aug 1806 McNairy Co., TN. and left the county in 1857 heading for Texas. At this time Texas was covered with virgin grasses waist high and lots of wild game. This was available to all those brave enough to take on the unknown and the Indians. Around 1829, Malcom married Nancy Henderson Haywood (1815-1883) both of TN. He hired ox teams to take the family to Grayson County, Tx. where they lived for 3 years arriving there about 1857. In 1860 the family moved to Coleman County and settled on the Jim Ned Creek south of Camp Colorado. In the fall of that year Malcom and his sons cleared the land of trees and built a house by the spring of 1861. In the fall they sold corn to the Government at Camp Colorado. General Smith removed his men and supplies from Camp Colorado to Federal HQ in San Antonio and the Camp was left to the County. A militia was organized by Capt. Ike Mullins serving as Company Commander. The Confederacy furnished the men with equipment which was kept at Malcom's house. These men served as a home guard for many years, which Malcom's sons were members. Malcom with his strong leadership Coleman County was organized, when the 165 mile trip to Austin by horseback was made. He was elected County Judge following a meeting held in June 1866 at Camp Colorado.

Man's quest for riches sometimes gets the best of him, especially if its gold. Malcom's last adventure was such when a man was told were gold was hidden. This came about in January of 1867 when an man named Jacob "Jake" Snively camped on the Jim Ned near the Hunter home, who had served Texas President's Houston and Lamar as staff officer, with him was ex-ranger, former soldier Col. Wm. C. Dalrymple, and Moses Bradley Carson, the older brother of Kit Carson. Jake had held a dying soldier whose last words were of gold in the Eagle Mountains some 100 from El Paso. After planing session on how to get the gold, Jake thought it would take 40 men to get it from the Apaches.

Col. Dalrymple said he could do it with 10 selected men, leading the list was Moses Carson, Malcom and sons Warren and Abe, plus others. Jake promised each an equal share of the gold. On 23 Feb 1867, a train of 12 pack animals left Coleman County using the Old Butterfield Overland Stage trail, camping that night on Kiowa Creek.

The next morning 200 Comanche and Kiowa warriors began to advance on the group. With blazing pistols they charged through the attaching Indians for a ravine to ward off the attach. During this dash Malcom was knocked from his horse, Warren, borrowed Jake's famous gray "Charlie" made a dash through the horde of Indians and picked up his father. After making it back to cover a dozen bullet holes found in his clothes, with one bullet hit in his hip. They helt out until sunset when the Indians withdrew and traveled by night with Malcom on the only horse the Indians didn't kill, to

Coleman County.

Malcom recovered but never really well again and died 10 Jan 1872 buried in Mud Creek Cemetery, with wife and other members of the family. Unknown how many children born looks like 11-14 with 3 dying in TN. A full account of this family can be found in Coleman History book page vol 2 pg 756 by Charlotte Simms. Also Fag# 23520512.