

## **William W. Hunter - Early Times**

by Carl Langford

*Mr. William Washington Hunter*, born 11 Apr 1850 in TN., son of Malcom Hunter, was known to be oldest man in Coleman County, coming to Santa Anna in 1860 some 76 years ago, at age of 10 yrs and grew here among the frontiersman without much educational or religious training, but possessed many good traits of a pioneer lad. At the time he came to this country there were no towns, only a few government posts Camp Colorado, Fort McKavitt, and a few others in the western part of state. The family came to Grayson Country when at age 7 and on to Coleman. He married Louisa Fiveash in 1871 and fourteen children were born to them. He was a charter member of the Eureka Baptist Church in his early years. The Church was near where he lived for several years before moving to Santa Anna. (The Eureka Church was still standing in the early 1950's).

Mr. Hunter was a peculiar man in some ways but a simple one in other ways and possessed many good traits of a pioneer citizen. Indians were around in the part of Texas and he remembered a number of Indian raids that took part here in his early days. He wrote about some of his early days, but wouldn't let the editor of paper print them, only after his death.

William W. Hunter remembers When: The family learning to live on the wild game that covered the rolling prairies, with deer, antelope, wild turkeys, and Buffalo. Remembers climbing to the top of a bluff overlooking the Jim Ned and seeing the prairie black with buffalo. On a hunting trip with his father they stop their horses on a Knoll south of their home and seeing hundreds of buffalo. His father saying "We will call this place "BUFFALO".

As a lad of eleven going with dad to Camp Colorado and meeting General E. Kirby Smith, Camp Commander. The Commander gave his dad a steel hand mill. It was nailed to a tree the their home for and neighbors to grind corn.

The day he went to his sister's house, Louisa who married Issac Blackwell, and lived down by the Jim Ned Creek at a place called Blackwell's Crossing and Indians tried to steal horses from nearby pasture.

He was one of the volunteers who followed Ike Mullins in pursuit of Indians who had killed Mrs. Bill Williams and her son in Brown County and taken the young daughter captive. They rode hard for two days and one night and found the body of the girl.

In 1873, William drove 320 head of cattle through Sherman, Texas into what was then Indian Territory and selling them. In 1875, hauling his corn crop, a thousand

bushels, to Fort Concho, and sold it to the commissary for \$2.50 per bushel.

William and older brother, John, kept the stage stand on his place at Turkey Water on Mud Creek. The Pony Express was the only through transportation and the stage line that ran from Ft Worth Tx. to Yuma, Az. with a stand every twenty miles, where they stopped twice a day and changed horses. The stage would blow a horn when in hearing distance, and the Hunter boys would have four horses ready for them when they stopped. This stand was the nearest stop to Camp Colorado, the location of the only Post Office in Coleman County. Then the Hunter boys would carry the mail on to the Camp.

The Hunter Family were charter members of the Eureka Baptist Church. As recorded Coleman County Vol 47, Pg 521 William set aside one and half acres to be use for church purposes. Land will be revert back if it ceases to be a church site, William Hunter told his daughter, Clistie shortly before his death "I do not want one tear shed when I am gone, I want you children to have only pleasant memories of the last time you will all ever be together." William W. Hunter died 27 April 1836 and wife Louisa preceded him 5 April 1926.

Children: Enoch, Nancy L., Sarah E., Selimi A., Clistie, Effie J., Destie M., Lillie P., Ivy M., William M., Nettie L., Ernest R., Roy B., & Ruth B. Hunter. More detailed family history can be found page 758 in Coleman History Book. Fag# 23607074.