

## MEIR EXPEDITION – NOTABLE

Compiled by Carl Langford

Quoted from "A MAN CALLED JIM" by Anemone Love Binkley, who quoted from " I WENT TO MEIR" Jacob W. Hartman. Hartman's description, "**I, Kegans, Price, Sylvester and Hodge** were detailed to make their way a distance of one hundred and fifty yards to take an intersection, when they began to draw fire from the Mexicans who were stationed on the flat buildings. Hartman was chosen by the other four to station himself on top of the only two story building, to be in a position to stop the rifle fire. Before leaving, **Kegans** looked up at Hartman, a five foot four inch man and laughing said "Now Little Jake, don't fly off your perch, we will be back for you in a little while." After Hartman's anger died down from this insult of being called "Little Jake" instead of a more dignified Jacob, his anger and resentment turned into admiration for the four young men.

Hartman described it in these words: "Through the eyes of a small man, fifteen years their senior, they appeared to be perfect specimens of manhood, tall, muscular and supple as is found only in the young. My gaze fell on **Kegans** as he crouched behind and ox cart, and I reflected on our conversation only minutes before, when he had teased me about my perch. I searched the laughing face my memory produced, and I could find no mockery, no unkindness, only good humor which seemed to be so much a part of **John's** makeup. He was larger then any of the rest of us, standing well over six feet and over his big frame was spread at least two hundred pounds of muscle. At this point, he moved from behind the cart and ran on down the street from doorway to doorway, moving his big body quickly and with a gracefulness and agility that seemed to be inherent."

John Ross Kegans portrait



Hartman relates further: "After an interminable length of time, **Price** hurried around the bend in the street. I strained my eyes to see if the others followed, and my throat tightened as I saw **Sylvester**, then **Kegans**, and finally **Hodge** round the bend, kneeling and firing as they came. The group paused a few minutes and exchanged fire with some Mexicans in the street behind them, then I saw them relax, laugh with each other and almost as one, turn and look in my direction. As the four grinning faces hurried toward me I realized their official objective had been to take the intersection from the enemy, but they had added an unofficial objective of their own, to rescue me as soon as possible. Now, I began to understand very faintly the spirit of the **Texans** which set them apart from the rest of the people the world over."

"**Perote Prison**, originally known as the **Castle of San Carlos** located in the Western State of Vera Cruz. It was constructed over seven years in the 1770's to guard one on the main trade routes and served as a depository for treasures awaiting shipment to Spain. It was a massive stone fortress covering 26 miles with a moat around it. The Mexicans used it for some 300 prisoners of the ill fated Santa Fe Expedition in Dec 1841, plus 200 of the Dawson & Mier Expedition prisoners, and sixty of the Baxter's from San Antonio arrived on 22 Dec 1842. A Lot more can be found on conditions there at [militaryhistoryonline.com](http://militaryhistoryonline.com)".

## GENEALOGY

Compiled by **Carl Langford**

**Coleman Cemetery: John Ross Kegans** born 17 Apr 1817 Mo., died 22 Dec 1897 McKinney, Collins Co., Tx., Son of *James William Kegans* born 30 Mar 1778, died 16 Sep 1826, Washington Co., Tx., a Capt. in the American Revolution, mar'd *Mary (Anna Maria) Wolf* born 22 Apr 1780. **John R. Kegans, mar'd Clarinda "Clara" Pevehouse** 18 Feb 1845 Ft. Bend Co.,Tx., born 19 Jun 1824 Ark., died 14 Apr 1898 Coleman Co., Tx., her Father, was James Pevehouse. Her, Grandfather, **Alexander Hodge** (1757-17 Aug 1836), mar'd Ruth Hodges. Also, a veteran of American Revolution. and was one of the Original Old 300 Settlers brought to Texas by Stephen F. Austin. Later, 1824 he began his trip to TEXAS. He further states his sons and son-in-law (John Kegans) were active in the Texas Revolution. **Fag# 8935191.**

**John Ross Kegans**, memorial on FindAgrave, states he was a veteran of the *Meir Expedition* and spent time in the Perote Castle prison in Mexico. The **Meir conflict took place in 1842**, against the Mexicans. He would be around 25 years old during this period of time. This is when one in ten died who drew the **Black Bean** and were shot by the Mexicans. The rest were placed in prison and treated badly until were released 14 Sep 1844.

After his release from prison he mar'd *Clarinda Pevehouse Kegans* on 18 Feb 1845. On 1850 Census, Fort Bend Co. Tx. Only, wife Clarinda listed with 3 young children, James B., John F. & Mary C., on 1860 Census, Bell Co. Tx., he has a family of seven children. **Note:** He was on the Bell Co. Tx. tax roll from 1858 to 1884. John's age now 43. This seems to be right for the age of 25 at Meir and comments made in the article, **Fag# 37249597.**

**Children of John Ross & Clarinda Pevehouse Kegans :** **(1)** *Mary Clarinda Kegans* born 19 Dec 1845 Fort Bend Co., Tx. mar'd 22 Dec 1866 *James Moore Williams* born 10 Jun 1844, died 1 Dec 1902, **(2)** *James Bingham Kegans* born 22 Dec 1847 Fort Bend, Tx., died 12 Jul 1935 McKinney, Collins Co.,Tx., mar'd Eliza Eleanor Williams. **(3)** *John Hamilton "Hamp" Kegans* born 17 Jul 1849 Fort Bend Co, Tx., died 10 Oct 1926 Tulia, Swisher Co., Tx. buried Atoka Cemetery, Coleman Co., Tx. mar'd *Emily "Emma" Elizabeth Thompson*, mar'd (2) Agnes Elizabeth "Aggie" A.E. Burnett 15 Aug 1885 at Content, Runnels Co., Tx. **(4)** *Sallie Kegans* born 11 Dec 1850, died abt 1855.

**(5)** *Eliza Jane Kegans* born 1 Jan 1853 Tx., died 1 Sep 1910 Bell Co., Tx. mar'd Charles Hiram Thompson. **(6)** *Nancy Eleanor Kegans* born 1 May 1855 Oenaville, Bell Co., Tx., died 9 Feb 1956 Bell Co., mar'd William T. Tweedle. **(7)** *Elsie Kegans* born 18 Feb 1858 Oenaville, Bell Co., Tx., died 1900, mar'd John Watson Tweedle (1851-1938). **(8)** *America Kegans* born 13 Aug 1859 Oenaville, Bell Co., Tx., died 7 Mar 1936 Colorado City Mitchell Co.,Tx., mar'd William Marion Green (1854-1930). Tx. Ranger. **(9)** *Nellie "Nell" Gray Kegans* born 3 Jan 1861 Oenaville, Bell Co., Tx., died 26 Feb 1949 Coleman Co., Tx. mar'd Lucien Love. **(10)** *William "Will" Foster Kegans* born 1 Dec 1865 Oenaville, Bell Co., Tx., died 29 Mar 1948 Sherman, Grayson Co., Tx. mar'd Mary Alice Woods on 31 Dec 1885. **Fag# 37249597.**

**Note: Clarinda Pevehouse** wrote her memoirs about her life as a small girl, and how she met her husband, how her family members escaped Gen. Santa Anna's armies and hid in brush and could here gun fire, when the battle of San Jacinto happened, about her husband, John Ross Kegans, Meir Expedition, she danced at a Ball with Sam Houston and was at the ceremony lowering the Republic Flag of Texas and raising the U.S. Texas Flag. Above, all remembering her beloved grandfather, Alexander Hodge. There are 5 pages of life's trials as she grew up, that will give you goose bumps. [This is also an article posted on PVGS website]

**Thanks to Stacy A.** for posting information about John Ross Kegans, Meir Expedition Veteran, on Cemetery Memorial and providing a copy of Clarinda's memoirs. Stacy has done a great job in providing information to online sources to keep this family, well documented. Along with other sources, book, census, findagrave sources, etc. help provide data for this article.

If, you would like to visit these Kegans family memorials go to Coleman Cemetery Office and ask them to take you there (in different parts). I could give the location, but since there are no location markers on any of the cemetery burial locations, it would do no good.