

Out Yonder

Recompiled by Carl Langford

In July 1993 at Brady, Tx. during the Heritage Day festivities honoring Peter Brady and Ben McCulloch, one of Texas most noted heroes, Indian fighter, Texas Ranger and military officer. Our Cousin, a descendant of Ben McCulloch was asked to attend this unveiling of a painting by artist, Frederick Hambly. There have been many stories and articles written about his works. McCulloch descendants have been well known in Coleman County, as long time residents.

San Angelo Standard Times: by Ross McSwain

BRADY, TX. Monday, July 5, 1993: The “fightin’ McCulloch’s” and the Brady bunch - more than two dozen descendants of pioneer frontiersmen Ben McCulloch and Peter Brady – gathered here Saturday to help Heart of Texas folks celebrate their July Jubilee and Heritage Day festivities. The focus point of this year’s Independence Day celebration in Brady and McCulloch County was the unveiling of four large portraits of the men for whom the county and city are named. The paintings were done by noted Arizona western artist Frederick Hambly, a great-great grandson of Peter Brady.

Hambly, who has studied western history and lore since his youth, said he was pleased to have had the opportunity to paint the pictures that will hang in a place of honor at Brady’s Heart of Texas Museum, the former three story-county jail. Each man was featured on horseback in one of the pictures as they perhaps appeared during their active days as surveyors and as members of the Texas Rangers. The other paintings featured them in their later years, while perhaps members of the state legislature.

“You have a very handsome town,” Hambly said with a smile. “I saw the name of Brady most everywhere I looked.” Hambly described the paintings as a “plain labor of love. Peter Brady and Ben McCulloch both deserve more recognition than they have received,” he said. While working on the painting and studying background material on the men, Hambly said, he saw much similarity on the men, as did retired Texas Ranger Bob Favor of Brady. Favor related to the crowd information on Brady and McCulloch’s service as Rangers, the oldest organized police force in America. “There’s no doubt in my mind that these men were acquainted,” Favor said, because the nature of their work brought them together from time to time. “That hasn’t changed much in the Ranger Service.”

Ben McCulloch, who died in the Civil War of wounds suffered at the battle of Elk Horn in 1862, has no direct involvement in the organization of McCulloch County. “In fact, he may never have passed through here,” Favor said. The county was simply named for him to honor his service to both the Republic of Texas and to the state.

Dr. Zenobia Verner (cousin), a professor of English at Galveston College, was chosen to represent the McCulloch family descendants, when city and county officials presented them with special plaques and framed resolution to commemorate the occasion. Among other McCulloch descendants attending were Ben and Ann McCulloch of Millerview, Mrs. Sammy (Betty) Goodwin of Brady, formerly of San Angelo, the Albert McCulloch’s, Kate McCulloch and L. L. Robertson.

“Ben McCulloch was a fighter, and his descendants are fighters as well,” she said. “But we have a different kind of fight on our hands, against drugs, crime, and human suffering. The McCulloch’s will always be fighters for a just cause.” She said. Francis Brady of Lencadia, Calif. a grandson of Peter Brady, said his father, Charles, was Peter Brady’s youngest child. “I guess, I am the closest relative of Peter Brady here today.”

Francis Brady and the artist, Hambly, were spokesmen for the Brady descendants, which included a number of great-great-grandchildren. There were 12 families of Brady descendants attending the event. Carol Brady Gamino and her husband, Augustine, came from Olympia, Wash. Others were from Tucson, Phoenix, Ariz. areas.

Peter Brady helped survey the area of Central Texas in 1845-46 and when he came to a stream he thought it was the Concho River. The stream was named Brady's Creek by his survey crew. Later, when early settlers brought their cattle herds into the area, Brady City was established along side the creek and became over the years an important trading community.

But Brady did not stay in Texas. After helping to complete a 2,200 mile survey for a railroad from Indianoia on the Texas Gulf Coast to San Diego, Calif. the pioneer trailblazer settled in Arizona where he was involved in developing a copper mine, served as an Indian agent at Fort Yuma, and later sheriff of Pima County. He died in Tucson on May 2, 1902, after having helped develop resources in two Southwestern states.

Bert Striegier, Museum board chairman, said the heritage day celebration was set up to honor "the legacy of those who came before.....The only way to forget our heritage is to forget the good that these men (McCulloch and Brady) did" during their lifetimes.

NOTE: Ben McCulloch, an old friend of David Crockett, had planed to meet up with him on way to San Antonio, but Ben became sick with the measles and was bed ridden for several weeks, therefore missed being killed at the Alamo.