

Pioneer Man - John B. Bachman  
by Carl Langford

BACK GROUND: John B. Bachman born Carroll, MS. on 30 May 1820, died 7 May 1906 Coleman Co., Tx. His Father, John Bachman (1774 - 1860) Barnwell Co., SC., & wife, Mary Catherine Barbara Benecke (Binnike), she died 1827.



John B. Bachman, Texas Ranger served under Capt John Bird according to Cemetery Memorial, which I believe was placed by DAR but no markings as to that taking place. Unable, to find John's name in any records with regards to the Texas Ranger's in any records available. In researching, Capt John Bird had a command in 1836 with muster call records that do not indicate John B. being in the Company. He would have been 16 at this time. Capt John Bird, took another command in April 1839 and took out a group of thirty-five men total on an excursion which resulted in "The Bird Creek Indian Battle" (May 1839).

As stated in DAR write up, John's oldest sister had settled in Austin's Colony in 1835 and married to John Atkinson. He was under command of John Bird. In a Muster call 1839, a John Atkinson was not present, unknown why, John B. volunteered to go in his place. Capt Bird took his men to Temple to get control on the Indian invasions.

Twenty-three of this group was from Bird's company and 12 from Lt. Evans Company. In the writings, it states 22 men from Lt. Evans Company remained at Ft. Milam plus several men of Capt Bird's company. (I believe John B. Bachman maybe in this group. (May was his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday). With him that young and inexperienced, I think maybe they would have left him at the Fort.

About 5 mi out of Ft Smith (Bell Co.) they encounter some 27 Indians and gave pursuit. The Indians would let them almost catch up and then speed off. After about 11 miles from the Fort Smith the Indians joined up

with 40 more and they found themselves surrounded and lured in to a trap. Upon find a ravine they made their stand. Late on about 240-300 Indians joined in the attack against them. The site is 7 mi NE of Belton and markers in Temple. The Creek would be named for Capt Bird after the battle.

The battle continued all day long with one charge after another. During one lull in the actions Capt Bird climbed upon the bank to talk to his men, when from 200 yards away an arrow was launched and hitting Capt Bird in the heart. (26 May 1839). At night fall, with fifty Indians killed and one chief, they couldn't get enough warriors to lead a charge and gave up. The Rangers suffered three officers and two enlisted men killed. An Indian made a shot as they were leaving, It was recorded as the luckiest or unluckiest shot with a bow and arrow, depending where you stood. An arrow shot from that distance rarely hit its target but this time it did. In the write up of participants listed in the battle and John B. Bachman not found on it. A complete account of the battle can be found on the Internet, under Captain John Bird.

John B. remained in the Rangers to help turn back the Mexican invasions, by the leaders then. In 1843, he returned to Miss. and married Mary Catherine Ritchie daughter of Hugh Williamson Ritchie and wife, Ester Alexander. After marriage they returned to Texas and had eight children. The seventh, being Ray Bachman, the father of Mrs. Raymond Swafford who wrote an account for DAR. In 1846, with the Mexican War going on, he answered the call to duty and reported to Palo Alto in Cameron County. In 1853 the State of Texas, after becoming a republic, awarded him \$53 for services rendered.

John B., Bachman found in 1870 DeWitt Co., Tx., age 50, wife Eliz. Caroline Ritchie 43, Children: Mary E (23), Jos W R (20), Charles M E (11), Jas F. R. (Ray 7), Sarah A E. In 1900 Census, Coleman Co., Tx. John B. age 80, wife Eliz. 73 mar'd 55 yrs (1845). One child, Ray 37, printer. John B. dies in 1906, Unknown what happened to wife, Eliz Caroline Ritchie.

Son, Ray Bachman married Lumina Dumas Boyd in 1904. In 1910 Census, Martin Co., Tx. Ray Bachman & Lumina, two girls age 4 & 3.. In 1920, they are in Parker Co., Tx. with children, Minnie R. (14), Marianna (13). In 1920 Census, Ray B. (67) & Lumina (49) raising veg's. Weatherford. Ray Bachman born 25 Nov 1862, died 17 May 1949. Lumina (Minnie) born 1880, died 1953. Father: Joel Benjamin & Matilda Lumina Boyd. Both buried Oakwood Cemetery, Parker Co., Tx.

Marianna married James Porter Haritos. Both buried East Greenwood, Weatherford, Parker Co.,Tx. FindAGrave.com links: John B. Bachman FAG# 23250901, Ray B. FAG# 28220430 from these others can be accessed.

I know of no write ups on this Marker. I believe the daughter not listed here to be Minnie R. Bachman Swafford the writer of the DAR paper, I just found in DAR volume 1.

**Note:** It's my understanding a Mr. Patterson purchased the Platt 1, Block 22, Lot 1 for Mr. Bachman. The Santa Anna Cemetery map has Patterson as owner of it. There's a story here, but can't remember it. The Memorial indicates buried on lot of unknown location. By the powers of dowsing no grave at the location by Memorial, but by walking over the lot, only one grave found at the now present spot of the Memorial. I never found where his wife was buried.

This compiled from several data sources. If anyone has any info on this family and would like to share, please call.