

de Stolfe
Journal ★★★
Broadsheets

Albany Courthouse Square

Visited on August 10, 2021

All photos are by RG de Stolfe, except where noted.



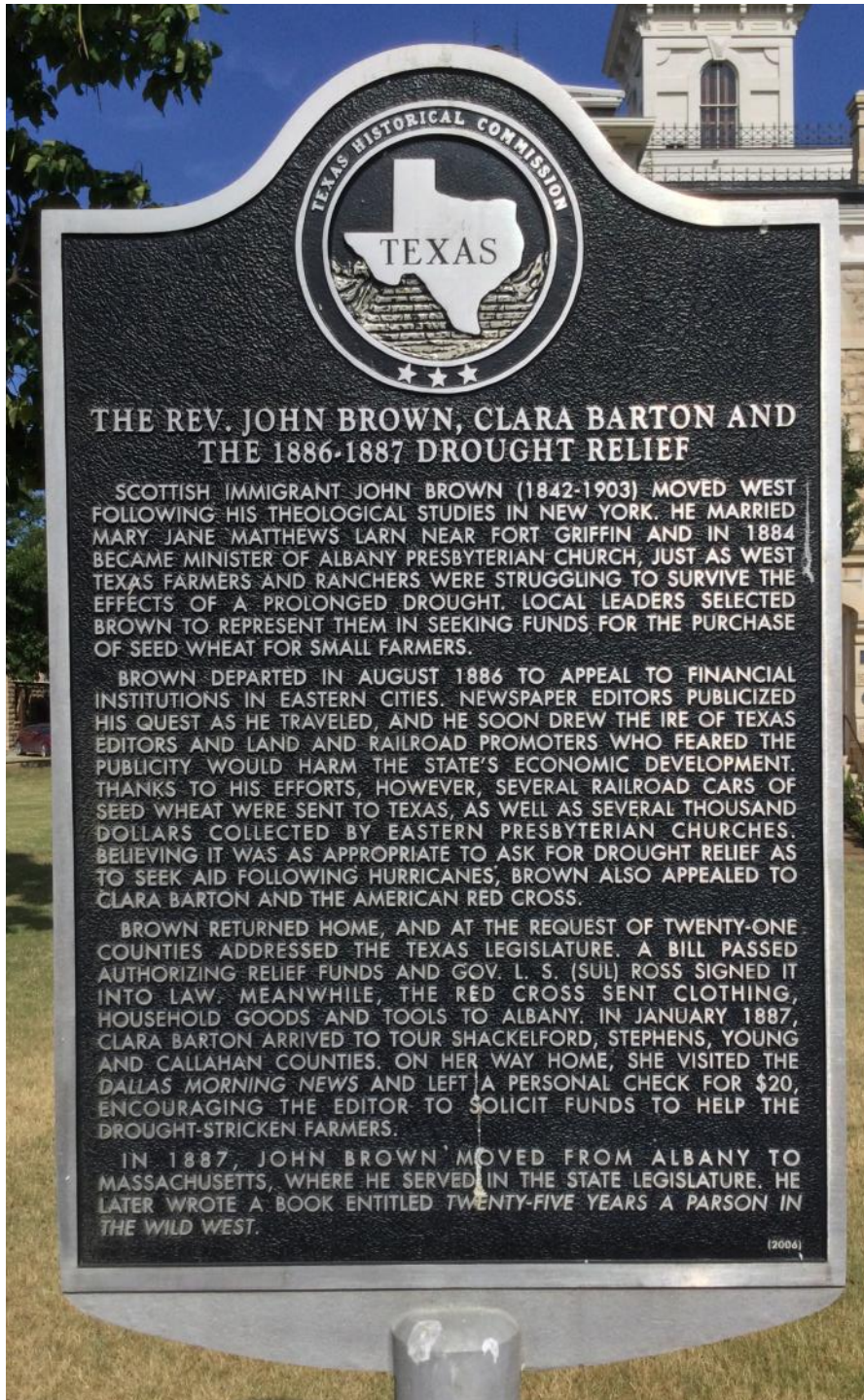
I had no specific time frame to get back to Lubbock after a trip to Fort Worth other than wanting to be near home before dark. I took Highway 6 from I-20 to Albany. Once arriving in Albany, I stopped at the town square for a little while. However, I first drove by and was going to continue on until I decided to turn back to look at the courthouse and the square.

The square and courthouse were vaguely similar to the square in Snyder, but it was much larger. The Shackelford County Courthouse itself was awesome and the grounds around it were immaculate. There was a formal concrete walkway in the grassy area a distance from the building that went all the way around the building. And along this sidewalk were various historical markers and other monuments or memorials. Off to the one side of the courthouse was a fun and fancy gazebo that looks like it is probably used often.

In the next block over to the east is the original jail for the county. Today, the building is part of the Old Jail Art Center. (I went there one time in the late 2000s.)

On at least two sides of the courthouse across the streets are the rows of businesses typical of this style of city layout. It is likely that the other two streets at one time also had rows of businesses. But, if they were there, they are long gone now. These remaining buildings were really neat, especially on the one side, and generally consistent with the styles of buildings around the turn of the century.





THE REV. JOHN BROWN, CLARA BARTON AND THE 1886-1887 DROUGHT RELIEF

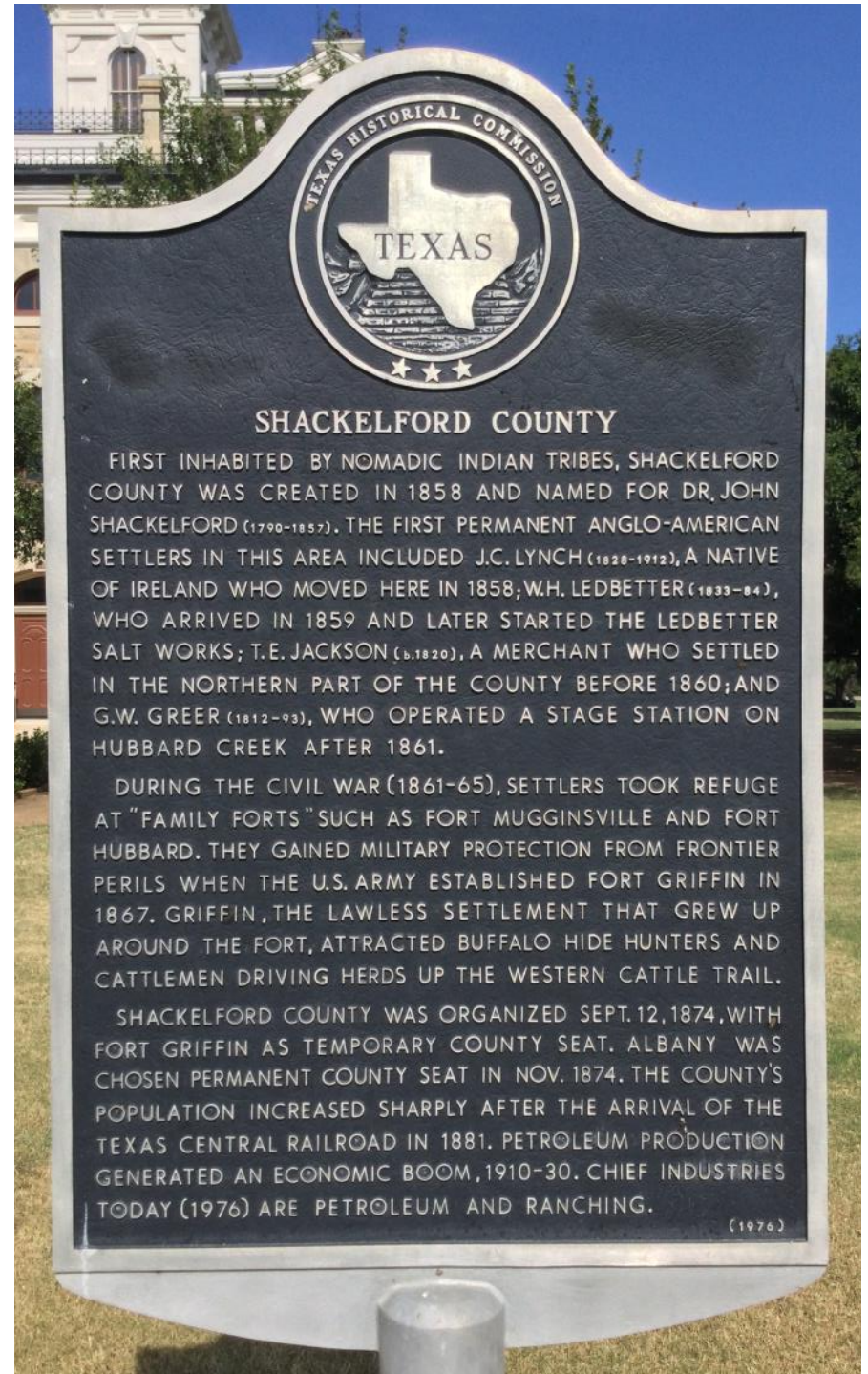
SCOTTISH IMMIGRANT JOHN BROWN (1842-1903) MOVED WEST FOLLOWING HIS THEOLOGICAL STUDIES IN NEW YORK. HE MARRIED MARY JANE MATTHEWS LARN NEAR FORT GRIFFIN AND IN 1884 BECAME MINISTER OF ALBANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. JUST AS WEST TEXAS FARMERS AND RANCHERS WERE STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE THE EFFECTS OF A PROLONGED DROUGHT, LOCAL LEADERS SELECTED BROWN TO REPRESENT THEM IN SEEKING FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF SEED WHEAT FOR SMALL FARMERS.

BROWN DEPARTED IN AUGUST 1886 TO APPEAL TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN EASTERN CITIES. NEWSPAPER EDITORS PUBLICIZED HIS QUEST AS HE TRAVELED, AND HE SOON DREW THE IRE OF TEXAS EDITORS AND LAND AND RAILROAD PROMOTERS WHO FEARED THE PUBLICITY WOULD HARM THE STATE'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THANKS TO HIS EFFORTS, HOWEVER, SEVERAL RAILROAD CARS OF SEED WHEAT WERE SENT TO TEXAS, AS WELL AS SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS COLLECTED BY EASTERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES. BELIEVING IT WAS AS APPROPRIATE TO ASK FOR DROUGHT RELIEF AS TO SEEK AID FOLLOWING HURRICANES, BROWN ALSO APPEALED TO CLARA BARTON AND THE AMERICAN RED CROSS.

BROWN RETURNED HOME, AND AT THE REQUEST OF TWENTY-ONE COUNTIES ADDRESSED THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE. A BILL PASSED AUTHORIZING RELIEF FUNDS AND GOV. L. S. (SUL) ROSS SIGNED IT INTO LAW. MEANWHILE, THE RED CROSS SENT CLOTHING, HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND TOOLS TO ALBANY. IN JANUARY 1887, CLARA BARTON ARRIVED TO TOUR SHACKELFORD, STEPHENS, YOUNG AND CALLAHAN COUNTIES. ON HER WAY HOME, SHE VISITED THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS AND LEFT A PERSONAL CHECK FOR \$20, ENCOURAGING THE EDITOR TO SOLICIT FUNDS TO HELP THE DROUGHT-STRICKEN FARMERS.

IN 1887, JOHN BROWN MOVED FROM ALBANY TO MASSACHUSETTS, WHERE HE SERVED IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE. HE LATER WROTE A BOOK ENTITLED TWENTY-FIVE YEARS A PARSON IN THE WILD WEST.

(2006)



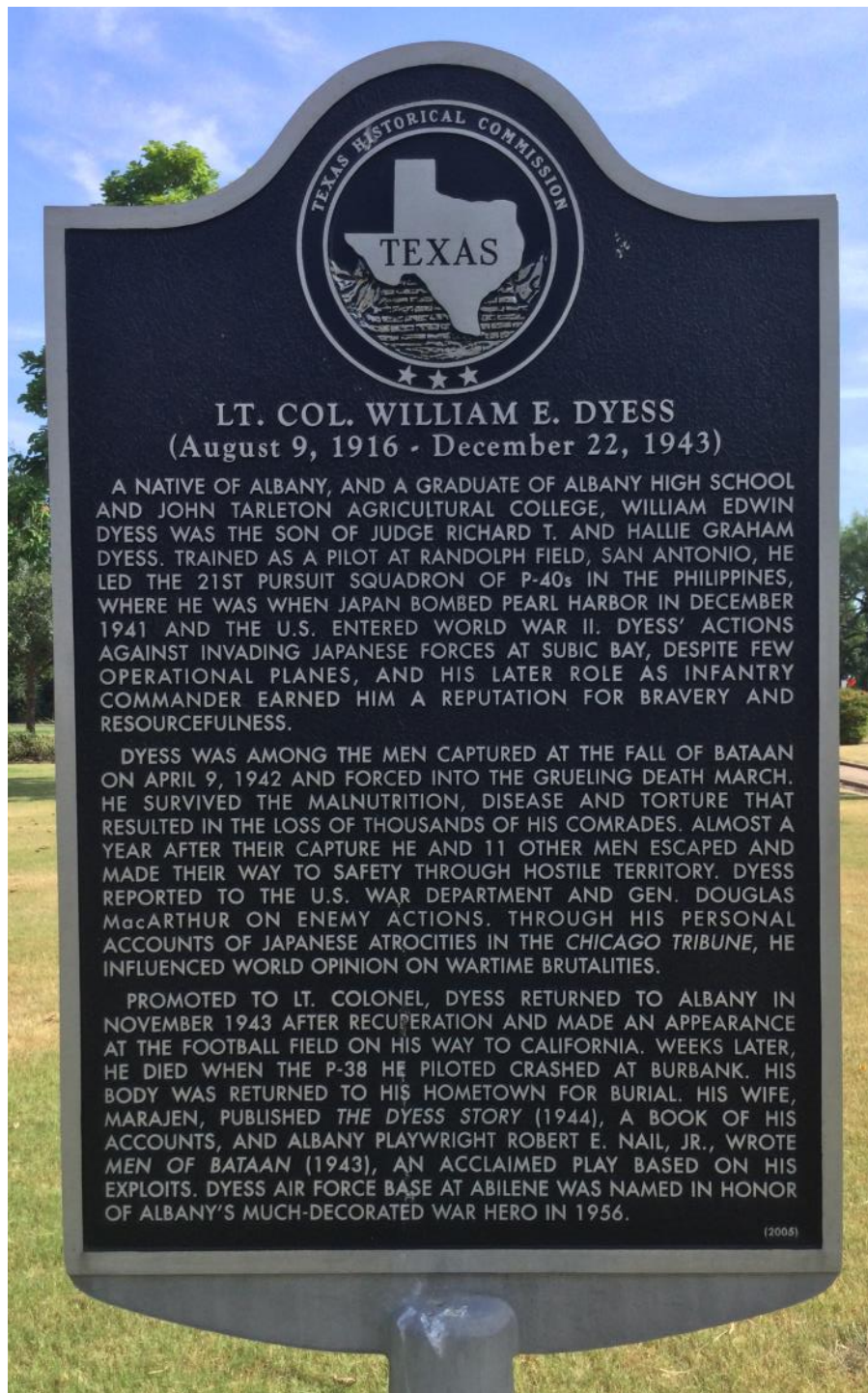
SHACKELFORD COUNTY

FIRST INHABITED BY NOMADIC INDIAN TRIBES, SHACKELFORD COUNTY WAS CREATED IN 1858 AND NAMED FOR DR. JOHN SHACKELFORD (1790-1857). THE FIRST PERMANENT ANGLO-AMERICAN SETTLERS IN THIS AREA INCLUDED J.C. LYNCH (1828-1912), A NATIVE OF IRELAND WHO MOVED HERE IN 1858; W.H. LEDBETTER (1833-84), WHO ARRIVED IN 1859 AND LATER STARTED THE LEDBETTER SALT WORKS; T.E. JACKSON (b.1820), A MERCHANT WHO SETTLED IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE COUNTY BEFORE 1860; AND G.W. GREER (1812-93), WHO OPERATED A STAGE STATION ON HUBBARD CREEK AFTER 1861.

DURING THE CIVIL WAR (1861-65), SETTLERS TOOK REFUGE AT "FAMILY FORTS" SUCH AS FORT MUGGINSVILLE AND FORT HUBBARD. THEY GAINED MILITARY PROTECTION FROM FRONTIER PERILS WHEN THE U.S. ARMY ESTABLISHED FORT GRIFFIN IN 1867. GRIFFIN, THE LAWLESS SETTLEMENT THAT GREW UP AROUND THE FORT, ATTRACTED BUFFALO HIDE HUNTERS AND CATTLEMEN DRIVING HERDS UP THE WESTERN CATTLE TRAIL.

SHACKELFORD COUNTY WAS ORGANIZED SEPT. 12, 1874, WITH FORT GRIFFIN AS TEMPORARY COUNTY SEAT. ALBANY WAS CHOSEN PERMANENT COUNTY SEAT IN NOV. 1874. THE COUNTY'S POPULATION INCREASED SHARPLY AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF THE TEXAS CENTRAL RAILROAD IN 1881. PETROLEUM PRODUCTION GENERATED AN ECONOMIC BOOM, 1910-30. CHIEF INDUSTRIES TODAY (1976) ARE PETROLEUM AND RANCHING.

(1976)



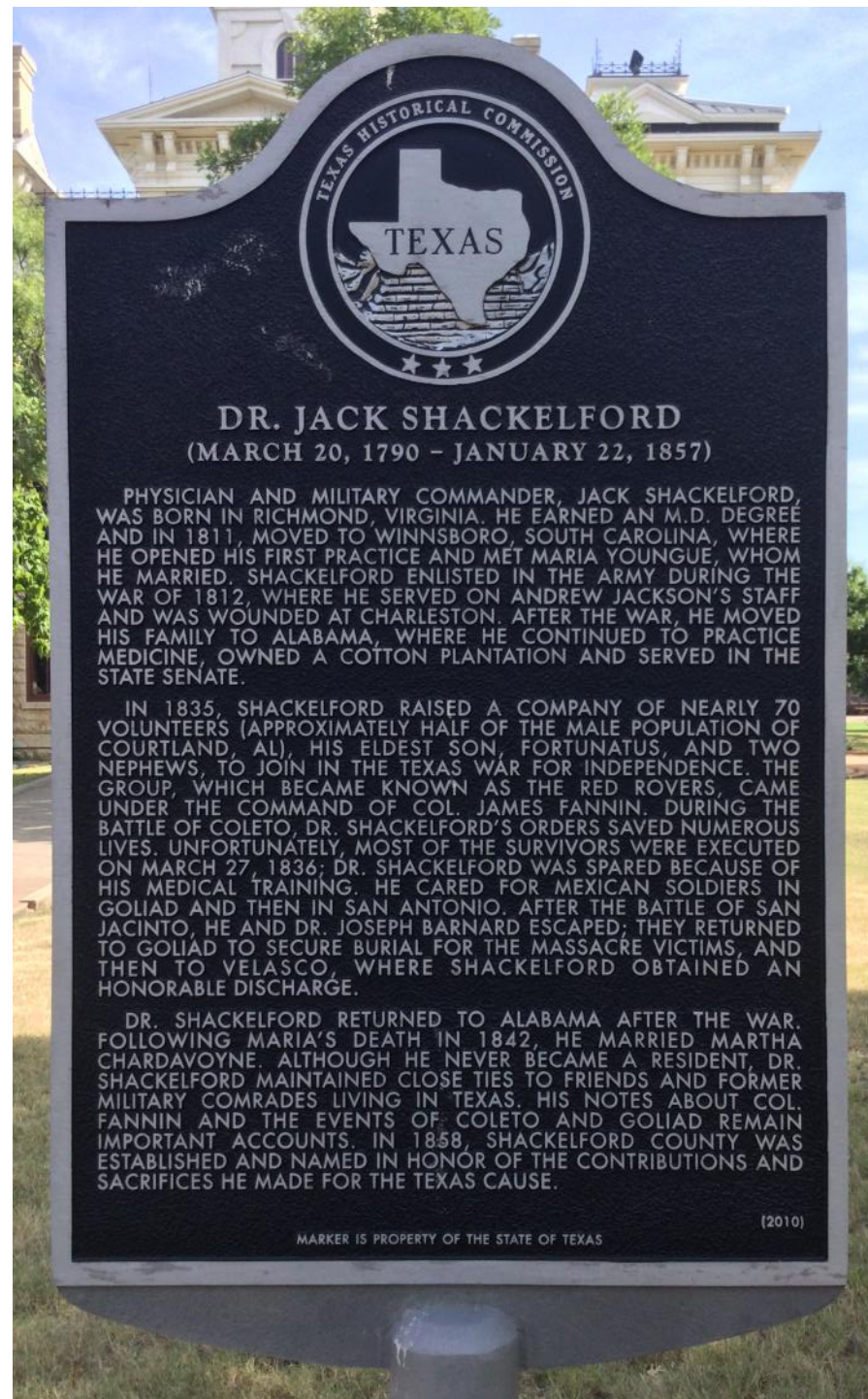
LT. COL. WILLIAM E. DYESS
(August 9, 1916 - December 22, 1943)

A NATIVE OF ALBANY, AND A GRADUATE OF ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL AND JOHN TARLETON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, WILLIAM EDWIN DYESS WAS THE SON OF JUDGE RICHARD T. AND HALLIE GRAHAM DYESS. TRAINED AS A PILOT AT RANDOLPH FIELD, SAN ANTONIO, HE LED THE 21ST PURSUIT SQUADRON OF P-40s IN THE PHILIPPINES, WHERE HE WAS WHEN JAPAN BOMBED PEARL HARBOR IN DECEMBER 1941 AND THE U.S. ENTERED WORLD WAR II. DYESS' ACTIONS AGAINST INVADING JAPANESE FORCES AT SUBIC BAY, DESPITE FEW OPERATIONAL PLANES, AND HIS LATER ROLE AS INFANTRY COMMANDER EARNED HIM A REPUTATION FOR BRAVERY AND RESOURCEFULNESS.

DYESS WAS AMONG THE MEN CAPTURED AT THE FALL OF BATAAN ON APRIL 9, 1942 AND FORCED INTO THE GRUELING DEATH MARCH. HE SURVIVED THE MALNUTRITION, DISEASE AND TORTURE THAT RESULTED IN THE LOSS OF THOUSANDS OF HIS COMRADES. ALMOST A YEAR AFTER THEIR CAPTURE HE AND 11 OTHER MEN ESCAPED AND MADE THEIR WAY TO SAFETY THROUGH HOSTILE TERRITORY. DYESS REPORTED TO THE U.S. WAR DEPARTMENT AND GEN. DOUGLAS MACARTHUR ON ENEMY ACTIONS. THROUGH HIS PERSONAL ACCOUNTS OF JAPANESE ATROCITIES IN THE *CHICAGO TRIBUNE*, HE INFLUENCED WORLD OPINION ON WARTIME BRUTALITIES.

PROMOTED TO LT. COLONEL, DYESS RETURNED TO ALBANY IN NOVEMBER 1943 AFTER RECOVERY AND MADE AN APPEARANCE AT THE FOOTBALL FIELD ON HIS WAY TO CALIFORNIA. WEEKS LATER, HE DIED WHEN THE P-38 HE PILOTTED CRASHED AT BURBANK. HIS BODY WAS RETURNED TO HIS HOMETOWN FOR BURIAL. HIS WIFE, MARAJEN, PUBLISHED *THE DYESS STORY* (1944), A BOOK OF HIS ACCOUNTS, AND ALBANY PLAYWRIGHT ROBERT E. NAIL, JR., WROTE *MEN OF BATAAN* (1943), AN ACCLAIMED PLAY BASED ON HIS EXPLOITS. DYESS AIR FORCE BASE AT ABILENE WAS NAMED IN HONOR OF ALBANY'S MUCH-DECORATED WAR HERO IN 1956.

(2005)



DR. JACK SHACKELFORD
(MARCH 20, 1790 - JANUARY 22, 1857)

PHYSICIAN AND MILITARY COMMANDER, JACK SHACKELFORD, WAS BORN IN RICHMOND, VIRGINIA. HE EARNED AN M.D. DEGREE AND IN 1811, MOVED TO WINNSBORO, SOUTH CAROLINA, WHERE HE OPENED HIS FIRST PRACTICE AND MET MARIA YOUNGUE, WHOM HE MARRIED. SHACKELFORD ENLISTED IN THE ARMY DURING THE WAR OF 1812, WHERE HE SERVED ON ANDREW JACKSON'S STAFF AND WAS WOUNDED AT CHARLESTON. AFTER THE WAR, HE MOVED HIS FAMILY TO ALABAMA, WHERE HE CONTINUED TO PRACTICE MEDICINE, OWNED A COTTON PLANTATION AND SERVED IN THE STATE SENATE.

IN 1835, SHACKELFORD RAISED A COMPANY OF NEARLY 70 VOLUNTEERS (APPROXIMATELY HALF OF THE MALE POPULATION OF COURTLAND, AL), HIS ELDEST SON, FORTUNATUS, AND TWO NEPHEWS, TO JOIN IN THE TEXAS WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE. THE GROUP, WHICH BECAME KNOWN AS THE RED ROVERS, CAME UNDER THE COMMAND OF COL. JAMES FANNIN. DURING THE BATTLE OF COLETO, DR. SHACKELFORD'S ORDERS SAVED NUMEROUS LIVES. UNFORTUNATELY, MOST OF THE SURVIVORS WERE EXECUTED ON MARCH 27, 1836; DR. SHACKELFORD WAS SPARED BECAUSE OF HIS MEDICAL TRAINING. HE CARED FOR MEXICAN SOLDIERS IN GOLIAD AND THEN IN SAN ANTONIO. AFTER THE BATTLE OF SAN JACINTO, HE AND DR. JOSEPH BARNARD ESCAPED; THEY RETURNED TO GOLIAD TO SECURE BURIAL FOR THE MASSACRE VICTIMS, AND THEN TO VELASCO, WHERE SHACKELFORD OBTAINED AN HONORABLE DISCHARGE.

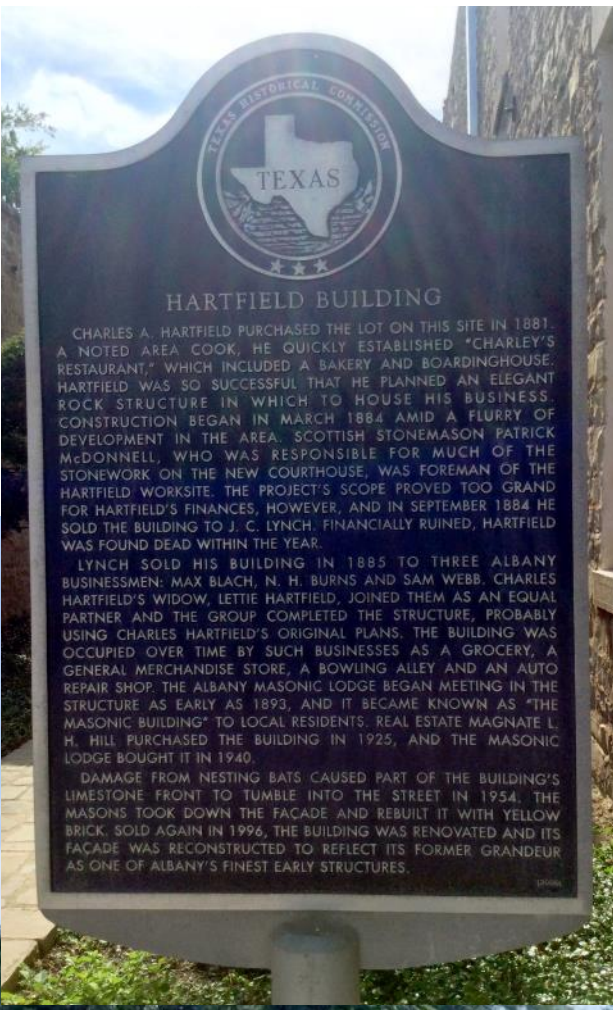
DR. SHACKELFORD RETURNED TO ALABAMA AFTER THE WAR. FOLLOWING MARIA'S DEATH IN 1842, HE MARRIED MARTHA CHARDAVOYNE. ALTHOUGH HE NEVER BECAME A RESIDENT, DR. SHACKELFORD MAINTAINED CLOSE TIES TO FRIENDS AND FORMER MILITARY COMRADES LIVING IN TEXAS. HIS NOTES ABOUT COL. FANNIN AND THE EVENTS OF COLETO AND GOLIAD REMAIN IMPORTANT ACCOUNTS. IN 1858, SHACKELFORD COUNTY WAS ESTABLISHED AND NAMED IN HONOR OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND SACRIFICES HE MADE FOR THE TEXAS CAUSE.

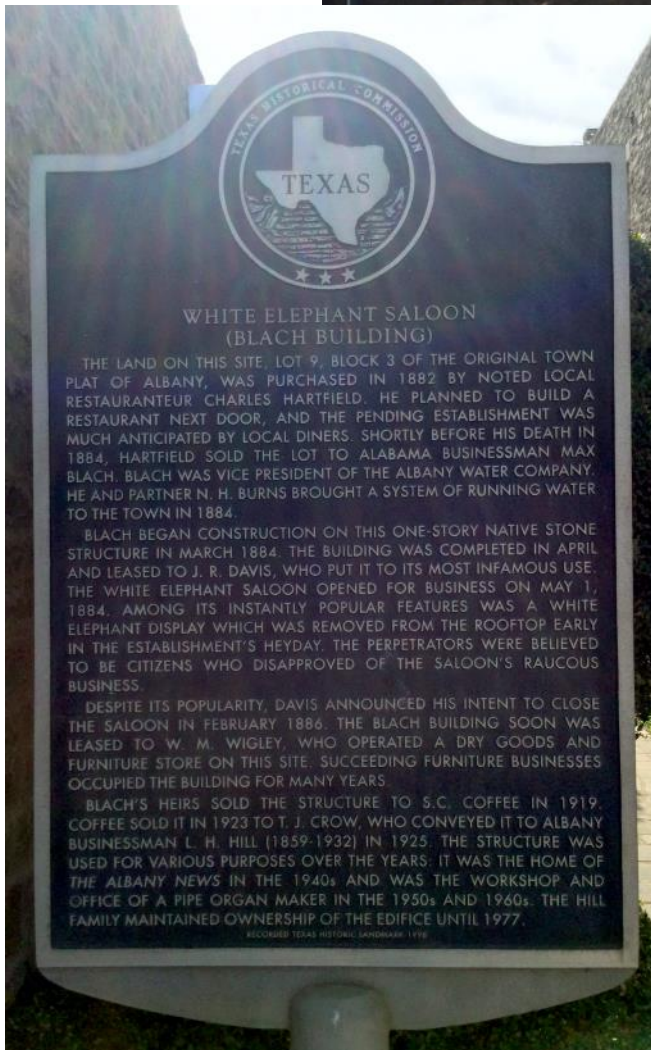
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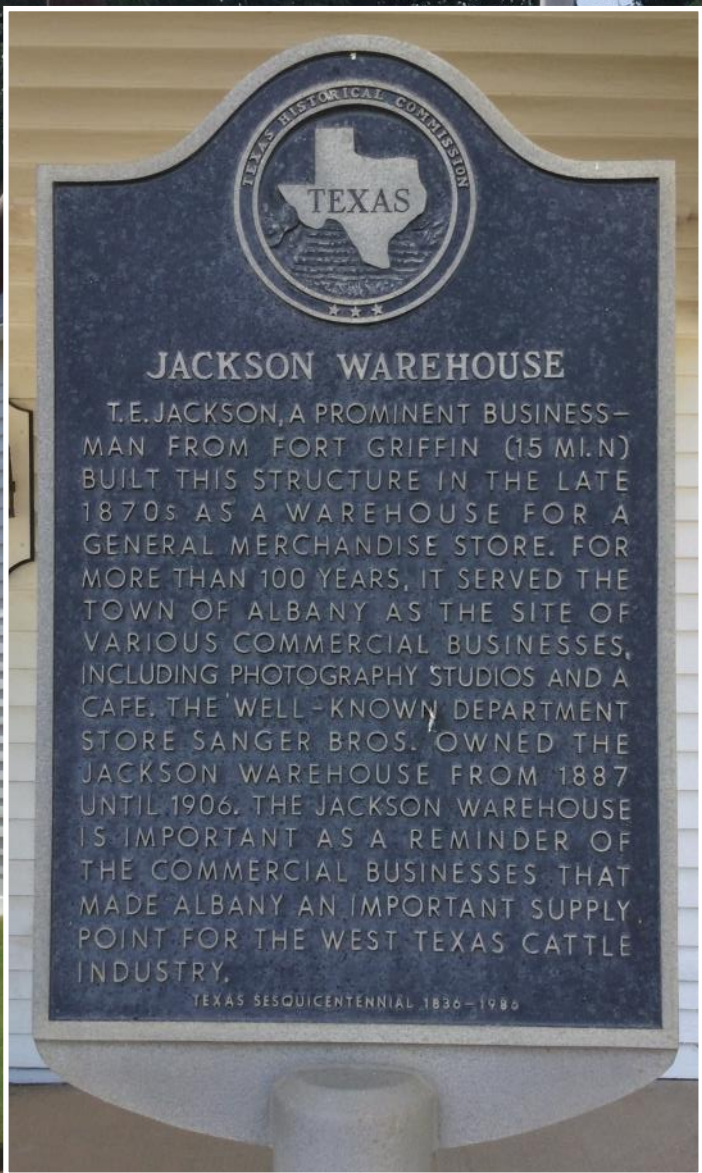
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de Stolfe Journal ★★★ Broadsheets

I hope you enjoy these de Stolfe Journal Broadsheets!

I started these broadsheets as a means to reduce the number of pages for the regular journal issues. (And let's face it, you don't have time to read 50+ pages of the regular journal when not every topic in them might be of interest to you!) My broadsheets are single topics of special interest in a horizontal page format and restricted to ten pages or less (usually).



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de Stolfe Journal.....

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