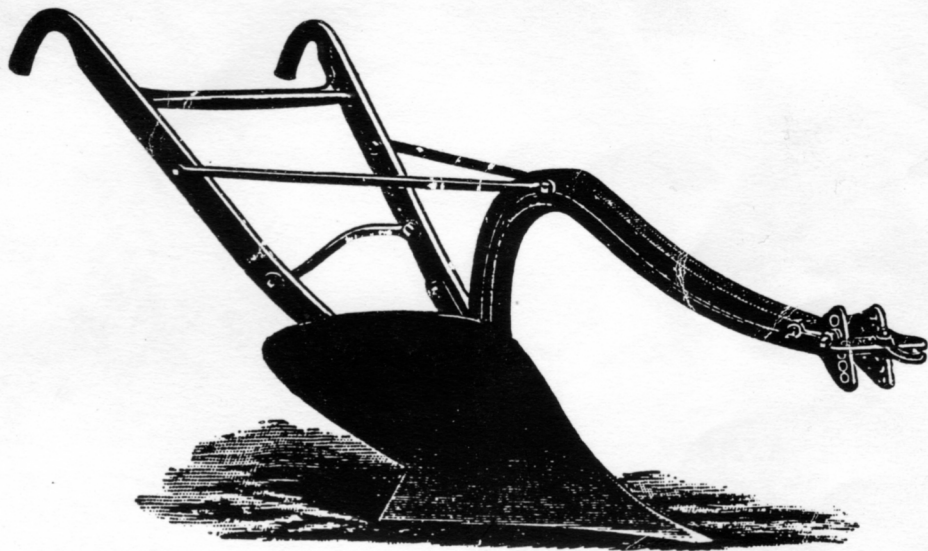
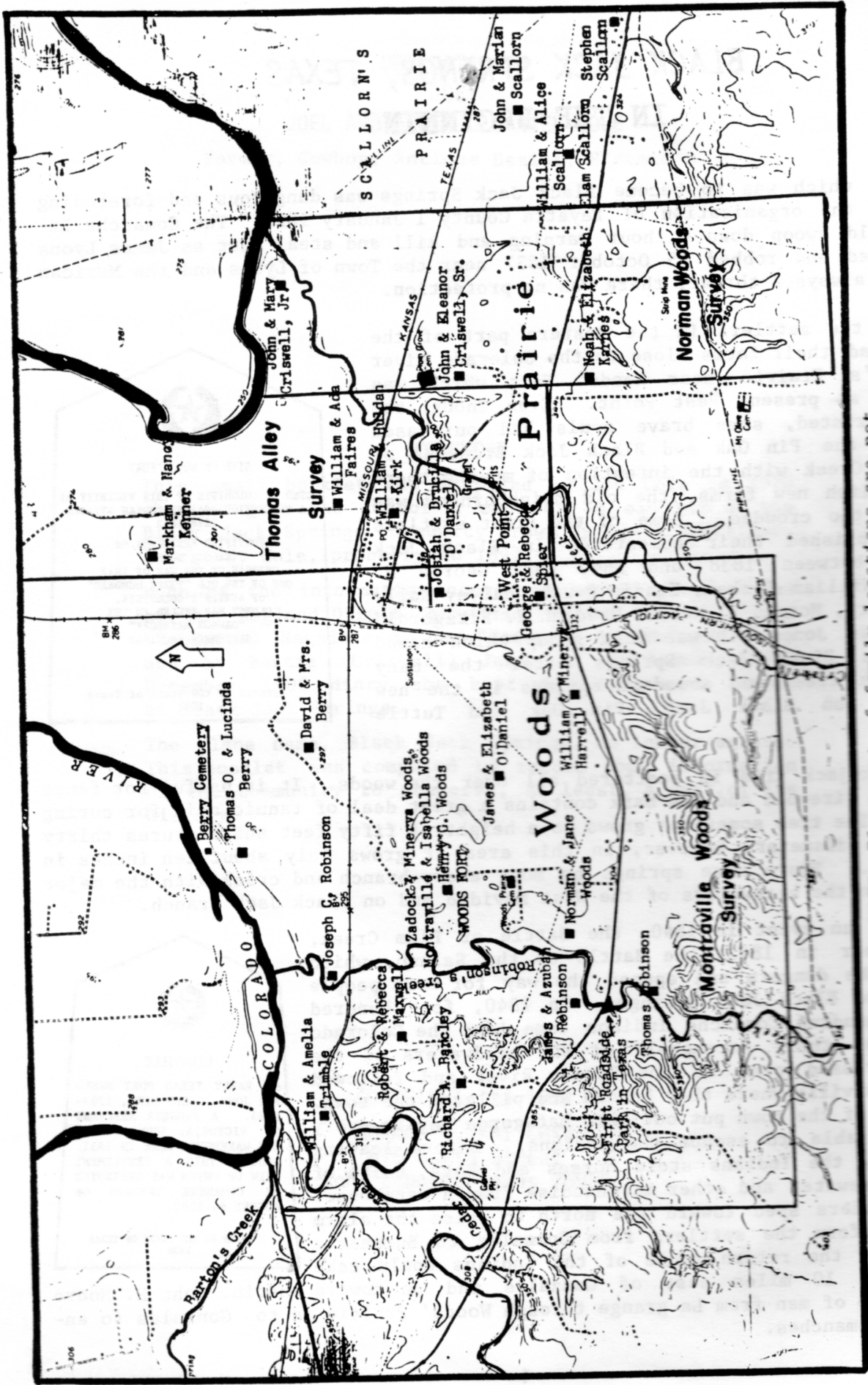


BLACK JACK SPRINGS
TEXAS



BY
NORMAN C. KRISCHKE

WOODS PRAIRIE



NOTE: Placement of family locations are not accurate. Names are entered close to actual location to show families living in the area in the 1830s.

CATTLE BRANDS

LEROY V. CRISWELL	LC	4 APR 1838
JOHN H. MOORE	M	26 OCT 1839
NORMAN & HENRY G. WOODS	R	JAN 1840
ELIZABETH KARNES	K	FEB 1840
WILLIAM CRISWELL	V	17 FEB 1840
JOSIAH O'DANIEL	O	MAR 1840
MONTRAVILLE WOODS	M	MAR 1840
WILEY M. JONES	J	JUN 1840
JAMES H. CRISWELL	C5	24 AUG 1846
CANDACE FITZGERALD	8	3 NOV 1847
EDWARD MANTON	E	23 MAY 1851
THOMAS BERRY (filed by wife)	TB	20 SEP 1851
GEORGE W. TUTTLE	T	18 OCT 1851
JOSEPH C. ROBINSON	R	27 FEB 1852
JESSE GREEN	G	5 APR 1852
KENZIE ROUTH	I	6 APR 1852
NEWTON SCALLORN	NS	1 NOV 1852
MARY R. CRISWELL	52	11 JAN 1853
MARY E. CRISWELL	HC	21 FEB 1853
ELIZABETH A. CRISWELL	EC	8 APR 1853
CHARLES LUKE (Luck)	8L	31 MAY 1853
JACKSON C.C. SMITH	JCCS	7 MAR 1854
JOHN A. NULL	MN	3 APR 1854
D. BRADDOCK	DI	24 MAY 1860
JAMES ROBINSON	JR2	27 JUL 1869
J.E. CRISWELL	Jo2	2 MAY 1871

LIFE ON THE FARM AT BLACK JACK SPRINGS, TEXAS
as depicted by excerpts from the
DIARY OF ELIZABETH (CRISWELL) JONES
January 1, 1896 - 28 December 1900

ELIZABETH (BETTIE) JANE CRISWELL, born 5 May 1846 at Black Jack Springs, Texas as the third child of William Vanoy and Mary Elizabeth (McMicken) Criswell, married John Calvin Jones at Oso 7 November 1865. J. Calvin, born 2 March 1843, was in the Confederate States Army. Elizabeth died 6 April 1919 and J. Calvin died 23 March 1926; both are buried in Pin Oak Cemetery also known as Black Jack Springs Cemetery.

They had seven children:

1. Sarah (Sallie), born 13 February 1867, married Allen Franklin Jackson in 1883, died 30 November 1947. She is buried in Pitman Cemetery, Muldoon.
2. William Thomas (Tom), born 20 October 1870, married Bertie Langston 12 January 1892, died 29 September 1939. He is buried in Pitman Cemetery.
3. Charles (Charley), born 9 July 1873, married Lutisha Minor 16 December 1896, died 27 July 1954.
4. Minnie, born 5 April 1875, married Louis Homuth 9 October 1898, died 16 October 1950.
5. Lillie, born 16 October 1877, died 1 April 1879. She is buried in Pin Oak Cemetery.
6. Gazza (Gazzie), born 6 September 1884, died 21 July 1888. She is buried in Pin Oak Cemetery.
7. Clarice, born 5 March 1890, married Rudolph Bethke in 1910, died 2 May 1954. She is buried in Smithville.



J. CALVIN

CLARICE

ELIZABETH

EXCERPTS FROM BETTIE JONES' DIARY

1896:

FEBRUARY

- 2 Obediah Thomas Fitzgerald died the 1st of February; will be buried in Black Jack Springs Cemetery.

MARCH

- 27 Planted cabbage and watermelon in garden
- 28 Planted 2 acres of corn
- 29 Went to Allen Jackson's today, Sallie is sick.
- 30 Planted more corn. Blue norther blew in.

APRIL

- 3 Sleeted today. Planted garden with beans, peas, squash, okra, watermelon, musk melon, cucumber, butter beans, pepper, popcorn, radish, sunflower seeds and broomcorn seed.
- 8 Bees swarmed. Hived the bees. Mrs. Hall buried in our graveyard. (Black Jack Springs Cemetery)
- 9 Set a hen. Planted sugar cane.
- 15 Good attendance at the cemetery meeting, cleaned cemetery and had a picnic there.
- 21 We went to San Antonio to see the Battle of Flowers and other sights. (By train). Turkeys hatched tonight.
- 27 Finished grubbing the bottom land. (Tuttle Creek)

MAY

- 5 Went down to Praha to spend my 50th birthday at ma's. (Mrs. W.V. Criswell who lived about a mile east of Praha)
- 8 Chopped cotton.
- 9 Sold pigs at La Grange.
- 14 Set Potato slips; reaped first mess of beans.

JUNE

- 13 Made two white bonnets; ironed.
- 15 Made more bonnets; had our first watermelon today.
- 20 Calvin to La Grange to get a buggy.
- 26 Went to Sullivan Cemetery to a meeting.
- 29 Calvin cleaned out the well today. Mrs. Lori Ray died Saturday and was buried in Sullivan Cemetery

JULY

- 3 We all went to picnic at Muldoon.
- 4 Calvin went to La Grange to get a buggy for ma.
- 12 All to birthday dinner and ice cream supper at Billie Fitzgerald's but me. Mrs. Haywood Moore and Bob spent the day with me.
- 31 Hauled fodder from bottom.

AUGUST

- 3 Canned a dozen jars of fresh peaches this morning.
- 6 Allen hauled his lumber from Engle to fix his house.
- 8 Took broom corn to the factory.

SEPTEMBER

- 10 Miss Bettie Ray died today. Finished third bale of cotton today which was ginned at Horstmann's Gin.
- 14 Picking cotton.
- 15 Myself and Mrs. Ben Moore went down to visit ma at Mulberry (Praha).
- 18 Maggie Speed spent the day with me.
- 19 Calvin hauling corn and picking cotton. Made soap. Opened a barrel of flour.

BETTIE JONES' DIARY, page 2:

- 22 Calvin to broom factory for brooms.
- 25 Picked our first bale of cotton.
- 28 Finished quilting out my quilt.
- 30 Ida went to a party at Tip McComic.

OCTOBER

- 1 Brought in our last load of cotton.
- 4 Mrs. Bell and Jennie came over this morning and then went to Will Arnold's.
- 5 Mrs. Routh and Mrs. Robinson came over and spent the day with us.
- 8 Calvin and Billie Fitzgerald went to La Grange to hear Govenor Culberson.
- 11 Henry Hale shot and killed himself accidently at 2pm not more than 100 yards from our house by carrying a loaded gun in his buggy with him and his family. The buggy struck a stump and the gun went off.
- 12 We all went to Henry's burial this evening. Calvin carried Minnie to Mr. Jones for her to take the mail hack back to her home.
- 21 Had our cemetery meeting today.
- 24 Calvin to Horstmann's Mill and had 400 lbs of corn chopped up for his hogs.
- 26 Aunt Sallie Ray died today after an illness of 8 months and 17 days.
- 27 Bertie and myself to Flatonia to see Aunt Sallie Ray buried. Ida stayed with the children and washed today.
- 29 Calvin still down working for ma on a stable; went October 25th.

NOVEMBER

- 3 Election day. Bryan is Democrat and is for free silver.
- 8 All went to Preaching to hear an old Baptist Preach.
- 11 Digging our sweet potatoes today; still picking cotton. Hauled wood.
- 12 Calvin to Mulberry to pick up ma's hogs.
- 13 Calvin to La Grange to sell his and ma's hogs.
- 16 Calvin builds his potato shed today. Pugh Criswell came to visit.
- 17 Ma and Nig (former slave who elected to stay with Mrs. Criswell after she was freed) came to visit today.
- 18 Calvin and Clarise went to visit Lee Criswell today who will be moving to Wharton County.
- 20 Calvin hauled a load of wood to Flatonia for Alf. Routh.
- 24 Mrs. Ray, Mrs Bob Speed and Maude Bushwar came to visit today.
- 28 Very cold. Tommie came over and helped kill our first hog weighing 248 lbs.
- 30 Sleeted and snowed a little.

DECEMBER

- 1 Calvin finished his hog pen and we penned up his fattening hogs.
- 2 Calvin salted his meat down and Tommie hauled his hogs and corn here.
- 5 Carried our 4th bale of cotton to the gin.
- 7 Calvin to La Grange to take a load of cotton seed to the oil mill to exchange for hulls and meal.
- 16 Went out to Charley and Laula's wedding.
- 17 Informal dinner for Charley and Laula. Allen Jackson, Billie Fitzgerald, Mrs. Colston families, Ma and Nig, Jim and Dan Bell and John and Henry McMicken all here.
- 23 Baking for Christmas.
- 26 Last bale of cotton taken to Kauffman's; also cotton seed.
- 28 Calvin to La Grange with another load of cotton seed to exchange for hulls and meal.
- 30 Opened a barrel of flour.

BETTIE JONES' DIARY, page 3:

1897

JANUARY

- 2 Calvin and Will killed our last two hogs.
- 3 Spent the day at Billie Fitzgerald's for a special New Year's dinner.
- 6 Started plowing land for a spring crop.
- 16 Mailed out my seed order.
- 23 Hung the meat in the smokehouse.
- 26 Found a turkey nest.
- 29 Old Cricket died today. Made soap.



MAIL HACK

FEBRUARY

- 1 Split posts for fencing.
- 3 Took my carpet balls to Mrs. Chambers to weave carpet.
- 16 Broke up the land in my garden today.
- 17 Started garden. All the men went out on a coon hunt.
- 20 Calvin and Will to the bottom to fix fence where a tree had burned down on the fence and broke it.
- 23 Tore up two old mattresses and made one good one from them.
- 27 Rescued my carpet today from Mrs. Chambers.

MARCH

- 3 Set my goose eggs this morning. We all went to the schoolhouse in the afternoon to be present at the exhibition given by the teacher, Miss Emma Walker, on the last day of her school.
- 4 Myself sick with "La Grippe". (Flu)
- 5 Clarise's 7th birthday.
- 8 Calvin to John McComic to help him burn out ants. Will Nevins, negro help, left us this morning for parts unknown.
- 10 Calvin planted 3 acres of corn, the crows having pulled up the first stand.
- 13 Had a fish fry down at our bottom field.
- 19 Set 18 goose eggs this morning.
- 24 Calvin branded and altered the yearling; also altered Mike, the mule.
- 27 Calvin & Charley help take up Henry Hale in forenoon. Turkey hen hatching.
- 30 Mike, the mule, run off today. Planted cotton.

APRIL

- 3 To Kauffman's for a barrel of flour. Calvin found our mules over by Mrs. Dunn's.
- 5 Minnie's birthday today, 22 years old. Set first hen on chicken eggs.
- 7 Went out to Mr. J. Williford and Mrs. Berry's, stopping awhile at Tip McComic's and found him very low. Went back in the evening and found he died a little after 3 pm.
- 8 Tip McComic buried in our cemetery today.
- 21 We all went to the cemetery meeting today and taken our dinner. Had a pleasant time. Minnie came out in the mail hack and went with us.
- 25 Milked the cows in a hard rain.

MAY

- 1 Myself and Clarice went up to Allen's to take our potato slips to Allen as Calvin would not set them out here at home.
- 9 Went to church and heard a good sermon from Brother Shook and Gallaway.

JUNE

- 3 Ida & I went to Mrs. Pettus' burial this afternoon at the Sullivan Cemetery.
- 6 We had a singing at our house this evening.
- 20 John McComic, Ira and myself went to the church today and organized a Sunday School.
- 22 Calvin & Allen at Billie Jackson's for a stump pulling.

BETTIE JONES' DIARY, page 4:

JUNE

28 Calvin and Clarice went to Ma's today to help her rob her bee gums.

JULY

3 We all went to church at Muldoon tonight being the first night of a protracted meeting held there by the Baptist preacher by the name of Mews from Weimar.

11 Full week of church; tonight at the arbor. Langston, the Singer Sewing machine agent from La Grange, came by.

26 Went after our molasses today.

27 Calvin hauled his first load of shingles and lumber for his barn.

29 Sun eclipsed this morning.

31 Had an ice cream supper here.

AUGUST

— 7 Sallie's baby born this evening (Robert Vanoy Jackson). Calvin laid up with a boil.

SEPTEMBER

14 Robbed the bees.

22 Made yeast cakes.

25 Hauled Our 5th bale of cotton.

26 Will Routh will move to Runnels County Wednesday 29 September.

OCTOBER

25 I taken Clarise up to school today at Bethany School. Eldon, age 5, (son of William T. Jones) got his arm broke in the cemetery at La Grange.

NOVEMBER

— 15 Mr. Frick died at 11 o'clock today.

17 Buried Mr. Frick in our cemetery (Pin Oak) this afternoon.

21 Picked my geese this morning for feather bed.

DECEMBER

2 Calvin gone to Flatonia to pay last debt on our home land.

5 Daughters Sallie and Minnie went to Ivey's Schoolhouse to church but no preacher appeared.

9 Calvin to La Grange to sell our turkeys; got a good price.

— 11 Grandma Lettitia Jones died today.

12 Buried Grandma Jones in Pin Oak Cemetery today and laid her beside her husband, Thomas Jones who died in 1892.

— 22 Charley and Lutisha's baby born today, their first born.

25 Santa Claus bogged up in the mud and did not get here with much for the children.

1898

JANUARY

4 Martin Moore's little girl died of diptheria.

5 Martin Moore's oldest girl, Maud, died today with diptheria.

9 19 little turkeys hatched.

15 Bertie & I wanted to go up to Mrs. Amanda Callaway's burial but it was too cold.

17 Made soap. William Thomas (Tommie) son, went to Muldoon today to hear Dan Ray's trial.

20 Our sow had six pigs. Fixed the hog tank.

31 To Muldoon to pick up pear trees Uncle Ed sent up.

BETTIE JONES' DIARY, page 5:

FEBRUARY

- 10 Rain storm, (Tuttle) creek up higher than it has been in several years; wated all over out bottom field.
- 12 Set dominicked hen today.

MARCH

- 3 Clarice & Lina went up to Bethany School; Lina going to closing of the Colored School. Bathany School closes today.
- 10 Picked geese.
- 18 Molly and Mary came up this evening to go with us to the concert given by Miss Emma Walker, teacher.
- 19 Set 19 goose eggs. Mrs. Washington died yesterday morning. Mr. J.C.C. Smith died last Tuesday, 15th; also Miss Tillie Loessene died on the 15th.
- 28 Goslings hatched today.

APRIL

- 17 Aunt Mary Criswell was buried this evening at Flatonia; she died on the 15th. She was the wife of John Y. Criswell who died 7 October 1896.
- 27 Set 7 goose eggs and 18 Guinea eggs.

JUNE

- 27 Calvin went to Muldoon today after a kraut barrel.
- 30 Calvin & Tommie hauled railroad ties.

JULY

- 6 Put up a barrel of kraut.
- 27 The men went on a wolf hunt and they got one.

AUGUST

- 12 Charley began work at the oil mill in Flatonia.
- 14 Calvin had a cow's horn to the doctor today. (Probably to a veterinarian for treatment of an infected horn.) Myself sick with a bad cold in head and throat.
- 17 Got a great deal worse in the evening and had to send for doctor.
- 21 Myself still not able to do anything.
- 24 Myself doing better; helped clean out our well today.

OCTOBER

- 4 Heard the first geese going south today.
- 5 A.E. Ballard & Minnie McNatt were married today. Cotton sold for 4½¢ per pound.
- 9 Visited Mrs. Gorham for dinner.
- 26 Dan Bell and Mary Criswell married.

NOVEMBER

- 4 Calvin & myself went up to Mr. Cole's today to get our stock of fruit trees.
- 9 Sleeted and snowed all day. Very cold. Killed hogs.
- 27 Moon eclipsed tonight.

1899

JANUARY

- 23 Mama died at 2 o'clock this morning. (Mary (Polly) E. (McMicken) Criswell).
- 24 Buried Mama in Black Jack Cemetery.
- 26 Divided Mama's household goods up between us three girls. (Elizabeth Jones, Mary Ann Lyons and Lillie Waddill)
- 31 Made sausage meat and smoked it.

FEBRUARY

- 11 Temperature down to 0 degrees; sleetng and snow.

BETTY JONES' DIARY, page 6:

MARCH

- 18 Calvin and I to Flatonia and planned to go to Mulberry but Calvin (age 56) taken on too much drink so we went home.
- 19 Calvin not feeling good today.
- 29 Tom & Charley is going to help dig grave for Kenzie Phillips; he died yesterday and will be buried in our cemetery.

APRIL

- 2 Clarice and the Frank Speed children and Eldon Jones, her cousin went to schoolhouse for Easter egg hunt.
- 9 To Muldoon to hear Brother Bigley and then went to Arthur Ballards for dinner.
- 17 Calvin to La Grange to bring out my mother's tombstone.
- 19 We went to cemetery meeting and put up Mama's tombstone; pretty blue marble.

MAY

- 17 Calvin & Charley working on stock tank. Clarice & I went up to be present at the closing of Mr. Henry's School at Bethany Schoolhouse.

JUNE

- 16 Myself sick. Started to Red Rock to see a doctor; stayed at Allen's.
- 17 Went to Red Rock.
- 18 From Red Rock went through Delhi and Jeddo on to Allen's.
- 19 Arrived home this morning.
- 26 Miss Walker started her music school.
- 29 Miss Walker's second lesson.
- 30 Miss Walker's third lesson.

JULY

- 4 Tom & Charley went to play baseball at Crownover's.
- 9 Calvin, Effie & Clarice to a singing at Mr. Bob Jones.
- 14 Made kraut.
- 20 Miss Walker's music school closed today and had singing in afternoon. At night we went to a Methodist & Baptist meeting combined at Muldoon.
- 30 The 13-day meeting closed today at the Methodist Church at Muldoon. Calvin and Ida Jones were baptised into the Methodist Church today. Brother Waugh did most of the preaching.

AUGUST

- 2 Started working on our new house. Tore down some of the old house. (New house near Allen F. Jackson's Place in the S. St. John and Thomas Toby Surveys)
- 3 Tearing down the old house.
- 5 All hands working on our house but the boys quit at noon to go to a ball game.
- 7 Calvin and Mr. Bob Jones and the boys building on our house.
- 8 Building on house.
- 9 All hands working on our house.
- 10 All hands working on our house.
- 11 Calvin, Mr. Jones and Tom working on our house.
- 12 All but Charley worked until noon on our house.
- 14 All hands worked on our house today but quit for awhile until the cotton and other crops are gathered.
- 24 Drove the cows to Pin Oak Creek for water; our stock pond drying up.

OCTOBER

- 9 Calvin & Charley boiled all the wagon and buggy wheels in coal tar. Clarice started to school today.
- 17 Calvin went to the cemetery today to put some posts around our lot.
- 18 All went to the cemetery meeting which was well attended.

BETTIE JONES' DIARY, page 7:

1899

NOVEMBER

- 4 Calvin & patrons of the school is fixing up the schoolhouse.
- 11 Calvin over to the schoolhouse repairing the teacher's home. Six miles to Bethany School.
- 14 Calvin took me to Muldoon to take the train to Yoakum to see the fair. Will return into two days.
- 25 Calvin underpinning our house.
- 29 Calvin helping Mr. Langston on Bob Speed's chimney.

DECEMBER

- 4 Calvin and Tommie went to the Muldoon Rock Quarry to get some hearth rocks.
- 5 Calvin & Charley killed hogs today and took meat to Smithville to sell.
- 19 Calvin went to Flatonia today to pick up some groceries he had ordered from Houston.
- 22 Calvin and Mr. Langston fixing our hearth today.
- 23 Calvin stripped up the west end of our kitchen this morning. Calvin went to Muldoon and came home drinking.
- 25 The musical boys of the neighborhood serenaded us tonight with some sweet music (Christmas caroling)
- 30 Four wagons moved Charley up on the old John Jones Place.

1900

JANUARY

- 3 Calvin, Mr. Green and Tommie went down to Mulberry to begin tearing down Mama's new rent house there that we bought to move it up here (lumber probably used on their new house)
- 4 Charley went down to Mulberry to bring a load of lumber.
- 13 Clarice attended the W.O.W. supper at Muldoon. (W.O.W. Hall still exists in 1992)
- 22 Mr. Green and Little Calvin went to Mulberry after the remainder of the lumber but did not bring it all. Allen Jackson died this evening at 1 o'clock. Went up to Billie's (Jackson) where Allen died at age 29 years, 7 months and 21 days.
- 23 Buried Allen in Black Jack Springs Cemetery.
- 24 Calvin and Green gone to Mulberry after the last load of lumber.
- 25 Calvin and Green working on the house.
- 26 Calvin and Mr. Green & his wife went to grub in the new land.
- 27 Calvin and Green working On house.
- 29 Calvin, Tommy & John Langston worked on the house in the afternoon.
- 30 Tommie, Charley & John Langston worked on the house today.

FEBRUARY

- 2 Calvin & Mr. Green worked on the house, not finished yet.
- 4 Wrote letters to Sister Josie, Uncle Jim McMicken and H.E. Criswell.
- 5 Working on house.
- 6 Working on house.
- 7 Working on house.
- 8 Calvin & Green is finishing the house.
- 12 Sallie's baby born today. Named her Alan Fay Jackson after her father; she never saw her father.

BETTIE JONES' DIARY, page 8:

1900

APRIL

- 9 Mr. George W. Cole went to see Sallie on lodge business to settle Allen's insurance.
- 10 The dam broke in Austin and flooded parts of La Grange; the water coming nearly up to the square.

MAY

- 21 Rained another gully washer; hailed.

JUNE

- 2 I cut & made me a hubbard today.
- 4 Rebuilt the dam at the tank which broke last Friday, 1st June.

JULY

- 4 Calvin painted the buggy.
- 7 Cleaned out our well.
- 17 Too wet to plow.
- 21 Aunt Candace Fitzgerald came to visit.
- 23 Aunt Candace got very sick.
- 25 Aunt Candace got worse today.
- 27 Aunt Candace got much worse this morning and I sent for Billie Fitzgerald. Phoned for her daughters Mrs. Arnold and Mrs Hale to come.
- 28 Aunt Candace died this evening at 3:20 pm.
- 29 Aunt Candace buried in Black Jack Springs Cemetery beside her husband Ob- ediah who died Feby 1, 1896. She was 84 years old.



AUGUST

- 15 The church meeting at Muldoon closed today after going on for 19 days with about 63 additions to the church and the same number of conversions.
- 21 Calvin dropping for water here in our yard. (Dowsing or water witching) (Apparently the Joneses are living at the new house and also, from time to time, at the old house in the J.B. Tatum 1/3 League.)
- 24 Calvin dropping for water 4 days and found a promising place.

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Cousin Dolph and Amanda Hale stayed with us last night.
- 2 We all went to the unveiling of Allen Jackson's monument in our cemetery.
- 14 Calvin bored in our well in the forenoon. (Possibly a 12 inch hole with a 3 inch casing; machinery to bore such a well was available at that time.)
- 26 Old Spot, Mama's dog, died this evening.
- 29 Sallie Jackson, Billie & Ira went to Smithville to take Effie to train to go to school at Buda.

OCTOBER

- 7 Calvin went to Flatonina to see how bad Henry McMicken was hurt at the mill explosion on 5-Mile Creek.
- 10 Henry doing as well as he could do.

NOVEMBER

- 4 Calvin is to haul lumber this week. (Probably for addition to basic house)
- 6 Calvin hauling lumber.
- 7 Calvin at Sallie's at work on house.
- 8 Calvin at Sallie's.
- 16 Calvin at Sallie's at work.
- 21 Calvin at Sallie's at work.
- 27 Calvin at Sallie's at work.

1990

DECEMBER

- 4 Cattle destroyed lots of Calvin's cotton.
- 6 Calvin went to Sallie's to work on our house.
- 18 Calvin working on house.
- 19 Calvin came home at noon and we began to load up the wagon he brought to move.
- 20 Calvin went with our first load of house plunder this morning.
- 21 Calvin went up to Sallie's with another load; I went along.
- 22 Calvin and Ira both went after two loads today & back tonight.
- 24 Calvin & Ira went down after two loads today.
- 25 Billie Jackson and family and Mrs. Bob Jones taken dinner with us. Louis and Minnie Homuth were to come but didn't get here.
- 28 Calvin & Ira going after the last load. (And the Calvin Jones family has moved to the new house.)

SO ENDS THE DIARY.

The people of Black Jack Springs and individual families were very close-knit each doing for the other when the need arose. Crops were planted and gathered for a neighbor or family member where there was sickness. There were visits at different homes almost every Sunday. The whole community was a "family".

