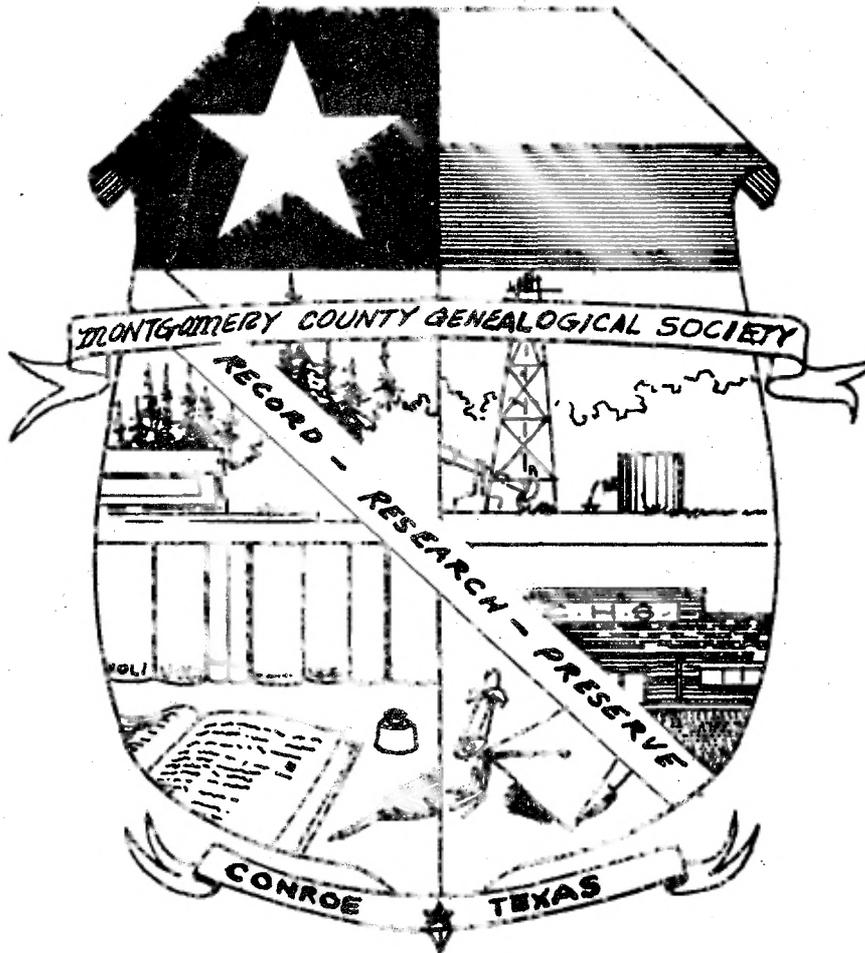


Montgomery County Genealogical Society



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THE OLD IRION PLACE

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The IRION Family's long occupance of the R. S. WILLIS home of Montgomery, Texas has caused it to be remembered as "the old Irion place."

Both WILLIS brothers built new homes in 1854. The brothers' lives seem to have run parallel in many ways. They both married Montgomery girls about the same time.

Richard WILLIS was the younger and he came to Texas in 1837, a year later than his brother. Richard, when a boy of sixteen, was eager for adventure. He rode horseback all the way from Maryland to Texas with friends of his father with a wagon train.

After getting a start in business, he married Narcissa WORSHAM. She had vivid memories of coming in a wagon from Alabama to Texas in 1829 as a small girl. She was the daughter of Jeremiah WORSHAM, a member of Austin's second colony.

Their home was pleasantly situated with a wide lawn, dotted with beautiful oaks. Some of these trees still live. This was an ideal home for children; they could romp and play in perfect freedom, learn to ride on gentle horses inside the grounds, and still be under watchful maternal eyes. The big oaks were fine for swings. More than one generation of the romantically inclined young people used this lawn as a favorite place for moonlight picnics which was a social diversion of that decorous age.

Richard WILLIS preceded his brother to Houston by several years, for in 1862 the R. J. PALMER family lived in the home. Soon after this, the place was

bought by Dr. J. L. IRION.

Dr. IRION came to Mongtomery in 1851 as a young man beginning the practice of medicine. He married Miss Anna GRIGSBY. She was an ideal helpmate for a doctor: a woman of great strength of character, very clearminded and practical.

The Irion's only son, a doctor, settled in the northern part of the state. The only daughter, Mrs. Lucy IRION MORRIS, continued to live with her parents after her marriage.

Of an artistic beauty-loving nature, she and her mother made a charming hospitable home. It attracted friends of similar tastes with whom she loved to share her books and pictures.

The lawn was again the scene of boyish pranks and games, played by Mrs. MORRIS' young son and his friends.

Dark and tragic moments must have been experienced on these grounds too: when anguished, hard-riding men came in the night to summon the doctor to some loved one miles away, who might even then have been dead.

Dr. IRION was of the type that has disappeared. He was a friend and confidant, as well as physician of a whole countryside. No weather too cold or night too stormy for the country doctor to go where he was needed.

The old doctor with his little black medicine case, walked with a slight limp and was a familiar figure on the streets of the town.

In his old age, he was a tragic figure because after his wife and daughter died, the home became a lonely place with only the doctor and his son-in-law (who cared for him) in residence. The young grandson was away at school.

Dr. IRION died on the last day of 1904 and when the bells that night rang out the old year there was

a deeper sadness in them.

The place changed owners two or three times, until it was bought nineteen years ago by Mr. & Mrs. Philip BERKLEY. Both are members of families who have been identified with Montgomery history for nearly a hundred years. They and their children have a strong affection for this old home.

* * *

HELP WANTED!!

Queries free to all members of
Montgomery County Genealogical Society

JACQUES Desire info on family of Joseph R. JACQUES, b.
PAPINEAU Canada 1832/42. m. 2 or 3 times; 2 wives named
FONTAINE Mary. Was shoemaker Hancock, MI by 1886, in
St. Paul, MN 1900. Known children: Alphonse
Edward, Alex, Felix and possibly Joseph and
Emanuel. Son Edward m. Siscerrene (Cicerine)
PAPINEAU St. Paul 31 Oct 1886. Moved to Milwaukee
WI by 1906. d. 30 Aug 1923 St. Paul while on a
visit. Siscerrene was dau. of Joseph-Medric
PAPINEAU (ca 1826 Canada--ca 1918 Milw) and
Henriette FONTAINE (ca 1831 Canada--ca 1904 MN?).
Have PAPINEAU line and related lines to 1600's;
will exchange.

Jeane Herman Jacques
11418 Timberwild, The Woodlands, TX 77380

COLEMAN Who were parents of Samuel Pinckney COLEMAN? b. GA
SPARKS ca 1800/20. m. (1) SPARKS? or WEEKS? Wife d.,
WEEKS child Eliz. left with g.parents. Samuel went to
MASSIE TN and built flatboat with ca 15 other men, float-
ed down Cumberland River to MS, down Miss. to
Red River, "poled" up Red River and landed Port
Caddo ca 1838. m. (2) Nancy Ann MASSIE 1841, went
back to AL(?), got child Eliz from first wife's
parents and returned to TX. Any family info
appreciated.

Norma M. Ray, 104 Kenwood Dr., Conroe, TX 77301
