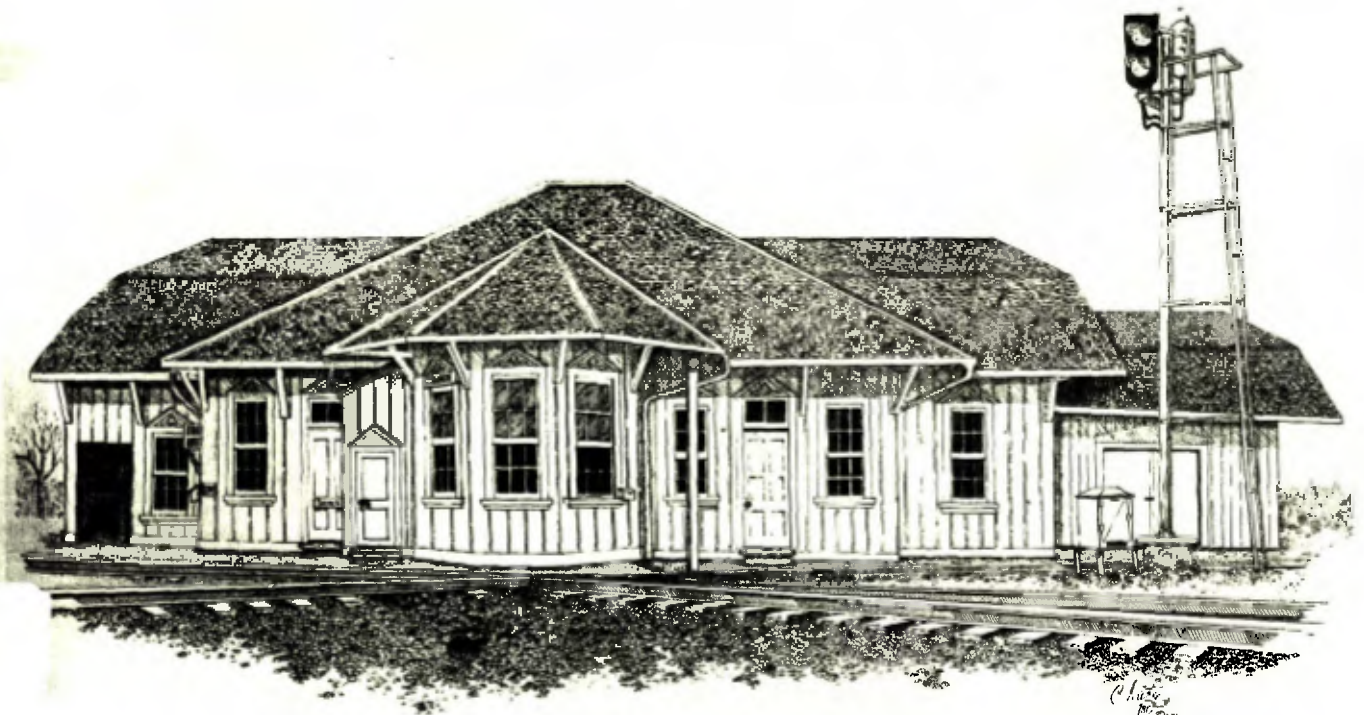


MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORY 1981

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Conroe Train Station

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— Pat Poland

ANTHONY MARTIN: EARLY SETTLER OF TEXAS

Anthony Martin, born in Baden-Baden, Germany in 1799, came to this country in the late 1820's and settled in Allegheny Township, Cambria County, Pennsylvania. There, 18 October 1831, he married Mary Ann Habermacher, daughter of Thomas and Mary Habermacher. The Habermacher family had emigrated from France also in the late 1820's.

Thomas Habermacher and his family left Pennsylvania in the early 1830's and came to Texas, settling near what is now Sugarland. Anthony and Mary Ann Martin remained in Cambria County, Pennsylvania until near the end of the 1830's when they also left and joined the Habermachers in Harris County, Texas. The Martins lived in a small house on the south bank of Buffalo Bayou, near the Allen boat landing.

Mary Ann had a sister married to Fred Peynghaus, a blacksmith in Montgomery, Texas, and apparently business opportunities looked good around Montgomery, so in the late 1840's, Anthony Martin moved his family to Montgomery and opened a tannery. In 1851, he bought 30 acres of land in the William Atkins survey, four miles east of Montgomery. He lived and operated his tannery in this location until his death. He was forced out of business in the middle of the Civil War due to scarce material. Anthony died 26 October 1884. Mary Ann died 6 December 1887. They are buried on the old home place. This place is four miles east of Montgomery, on the west side of Highway 105, across the road from the present Fisherman's Reef Marina.

Anthony and Mary Ann had eleven children. Five of them, Catherine, Mary Ann, Joseph, John and William were born in Pennsylvania. William, died at birth. Casper, Clayborn and his twin brother, Phoebe and her twin sister, Sarah, and Francis were born in Texas. Casper died at an early age and is buried near grandfather's home near Addicks. Clayborn's twin brother died at birth, Sarah died at the age of 18 and is buried with her mother and father. Clayborn never married and died in 1891 at the age of 48 and was buried with his mother and father. John and Clayborn were both veterans of the Civil War. John was a private in Company K, 20th Regiment, Texas Volunteers, C.S.A. and Clayborn was a private in Company C, 17th Brigade Infantry, C.S.A. Of all of Anthony's children, only John remained to raise a family in Montgomery County. After the Civil War, John and Clayborn returned to Montgomery County and went into partnership, farming and raising cattle. In 1873 they started gathering acreage four miles south of Montgomery at Spring Branch. In January 1876, John Martin married Josephine Gaines Moore. to this union was born six sons: John William (Will), Joseph Benson (Buck), Isaac Lafayette (Stump), Anthony

Henry, George Lewis and Andrew Jehu (Dock). John Martin died in 1904 and is buried in the Martin Cemetery on the old home place. Five of the six boys and their wives are buried in the same cemetery. Will left early for the railroad and is buried in Grimes County, Nava-sota. Early settlers, Anthony and Mary Ann Martin, have a number of great-grandchildren living in Montgomery County still farming and raising cattle.

— John I. Martin

ANTHONY MARTIN

Anthony Martin was born in Baden, Germany in the year 1799. He started the long journey to America with his step-father and step-sister. While in route to America their vessel was caught in one of the frequent Atlantic storms and shipwrecked. After floating around in a lifeboat the party landed in Nova Scotia. Anthony's step-father died there probably from his exposure in the lifeboat. Anthony and his step-sister made the rest of the trip to America alone. Anthony first started settling in Pennsylvania where his boat landed.

Mary Habermacher was born in Comstock, France, on March 6, 1813. Mary received a diploma as a medical nurse in Colfax, France. She came to America with her parents. Their family was of the Catholic religion. They first settled in Pennsylvania.

Anthony Martin and Mary Habermacher were married in Susquehannah County, Pa. on Oct. 18, 1831.

Katherine, their first child was born in Pa. The 1850 census of Montgomery Co., Texas shows that 2 more of their children were born in Pa, Mary and John.

According to a descendant of Anthony's and Mary's, they started their journey to Texas in about the year 1839. Their plans were to settle the land allotted to them in Robertson County by the Mexican Government.

According to the same descendant, Anthony was part of the group in 1842 helped chase the Mexicans back into Mexico.

Anthony came to Houston to receive an allotment for some land. The deed in the Land Grant Office says the allotment was in Milam County.

On his way to Houston he stopped by Montgomery to visit the Yokisch family. Anthony had known this family back in Pennsylvania.

Anthony bought thirty acres of land from the Yokisch and set up a tannery. William Harley Gandy in History of Montgomery County, Texas said, "An early industry in Montgomery County that did not survive was a tannery established by Anthony Martin in 1843. This tannery was operated until the middle of the Civil War when materials became scarce and Martin was forced to close".

Anthony and Mary had three more children while living in Texas. Anthony died Oct. 26, 1884. Mary died Dec. 6, 1897.

Their children: Catherine, born 9-1-1832; Mary Ann, born 9-18-1833 died age 96 or 97; Joseph, born 9-24-1834 and died the same year; John, born 3-27-1836, died 1904 (our grandfather); William, born 11-7-1837 and died at birth; Casper, born 8-4-1839, died

4-4-1847 and buried at grandfather's, Thom Habermacher, home place on Buffalo Bay about three miles south of Addick, Texa Clayborn and twin brother, born 10-5-184; the second died at birth; Phoebe and twin siste Sarah, born 12-2-1845. Sarah died 9-18-186 and was buried on a hill just south of her hom where her father, mother and brother, Clab are buried. Phoebe died 1-30-1920 was burie in Sherman, Texas. Francis, born 8-4-185 and died 10-6-1927 and buried at Shermar Texas. Uncle Will called her Aunt Lizzie and h gave me this record on 4-19-1962, from Joyc Martin Price.

— Narcissa Martin Boulwar

BENJAMIN THOMAS CASTILE MARTIN

In December 1872, Benjamin Thomas Castile Martin came to Montgomery County Texas from Dale County, Alabama with his parents, Benjamin W. and Phabra Martin Benjamin Thomas Castile "B.T.C.", born 2: May 1867 in Dale County, Alabama, was the youngest of seven children. "B.T.C." Martin married Alabama Mathews on 19 January 1888 in San Jacinto County, Texas. Alabama "Bama" Mathews was born 3 July 1870 in the portion of Polk County, Texas that later became part of San Jacinto County, Texas. "Bama's" parents, John Washington and Sarah Williams Mathews, had come to Texas from Clarke County, Mississippi. "B.T.C." and "Bama" Mathews Martin bought farm land ten miles east of Willis near Peach Creek. This property was near his parents home. Sarah Williams Mathews having been widowed in 1881, made her home with her daughter "Bama's" family.



Benjamin Thomas Castile Martin

"B.T.C." Martin was a hard working farmer. In addition to corn and cotton, he grew sweet potatoes, water melons, and other vegetables. He milked a number of cows and

ma" made butter. They raised chickens had plenty of eggs. "B.T.C." made fre-t trips to the sawmill towns of Fostoria, ber and Waukegan to sell vegetables, et potatoes, watermelons, milk, butter eggs. They raised hogs and the smoke-se was always full of cured pork. "B.T.C." his own syrup mill and made syrup from sugar cane he raised. This syrup was ed in barrels. The sugar that formed in the orn of the barrels was used for making erves. The corn was taken to the mill to e corn meal. Flour and coffee were about nly food stuffs the family had to buy.



Alabama Mathews Martin

Bama", a small fair-haired woman, made family's clothes and quilts. She worked l in the vegetable garden and in the fields. s and girls alike helped with all farm work. here were nine children born to this cou- All nine children were born in Montgom-County.

1) Oscar M. Martin born 26 January 1889 ried Minnie Purvis. Oscar died 9 Novem-1917 while in the service of his country in 'ld War I. There were no children of this riage.

2) Minnie Florence, born 27 December 0 married Johanathan Newton Parker on December 1906 in Montgomery County. dren of this marriage are (1) Joseph Carl, 1 17 October 1907 married Zelda Mae ertson (2) Ina Lee, born 1 January 1909 ried William Dixon Perry (3) Bessie Flor- born 17 August 1910 married Joseph in Jones (4) Floyd Franklin, born 17 May 2 married Priscilla Gaskai (5) John Ben- , born 19 April 1915 (6) William Omar, n 25 December 1916 (7) Jana Maye, 1 19 Feb. 1921 married Forrest Eugene oks, (8) Edith Evelyn, born 30 April 1923 ried J.C. Stuckey (9) Jean Lunelle, born 9 l 1928 married Era Herman Batts. Minnie tin Parker died in 1976.

3) Emma Lou, born 20 January 1892 mar- Berry W. Walker. (See Berry W. Walker y)



seated Minnie Florence Martin Parker, standing L-R Benjamin W. "Willie" Martin, Emma Lou Martin Walker, Lee Martin, May Martin McKnight, Rosa Martin Haynes, Lillie Belle Martin Bullard.

(4) Benjamin W. "Willie", born 27 Jan. 1895 married 10 March 1915 in Polk County, Texas, Dedie Swinton. Children of this mar-riage are (1) Edwin (2) Doris (3) Henry Albert "Pete" (4) Sidney B. (5) Nelly Dale. Benjamin W. "Willie" Martin died 8 January 1973.

(5) Lillie Belle, born 6 May 1897 married on 3 January 1915 in Polk County, Texas, Penn Bullard. Their children are (1) Minnie Belle, born 26 May 1916 (2) N.C., born 17 August 1918 (3) James Howard, born 14 July 1920 (4) Robert Love, born 6 November 1922. Belle Martin Bullard is now a widow and lives in Livingston, Polk County, Texas.

(6) An infant, born dead 29 August 1899.

(7) Lee, born 22 October 1900 married 19 March 1922 in Polk County, Texas, Hazel Haynes. Their children (1) Dorothy, born 5 January 1923 (2) Oscar Lee, born 16 Novem-ber 1924 (3) Melford Haynes, born 20 June 1929. Lee and Hazel Martin live near Living-ston, Polk County, Texas.

(8) May, born 15 December 1902 married on 24 December 1921 in Polk County, Texas, Walter L. McKnight. Their children (1) Gordon L., born 4 October 1922 (2) Billie Louise, born 1 November 1924 (3) Mack Eugene, born 30 August 1934. May Martin McKnight lives in Houston, Harris County, Texas.

(9) Rosa, born 7 March 1905 married on 12 October 1922 in Polk County, Texas, Leonard Haynes. Their children (1) Leonard, Jr., born 22 July 1923 (2) Kenneth Eugene, born 25 May 1925 (3) Mary L., born 17 February 1927 (4) Billie Jean, born 21 April 1929 (5) John Gerald, born 14 August 1935. Rosa Martin Haynes lives in Polk County, Texas.

"B.T.C." and "Bama" Mathews Martin's children attended school at Lawerance school on the old Willis-to-Coldsprings Road, Turkey Creek School and a school in the Owen Walker home.

This family moved to Polk County in 1910. The move took about three days. In addition to "B.T.C." Martin's wagon loaded with the family's belongings, there were several neigh-bors who took their wagons loaded with the Martin family's belongings to help with this move. They made camp at night beside the

road. This move included moving chicks, cows, pigs, corn from the corn crib, meat from the smokehouse, canned goods, barrels of syrup in addition to furniture, clothing and kitchen ware.

In Polk County "Bama's" health began to fail. She would have days when she could not leave her bed because of severe headaches. Alabama "Bama" Mathews Martin died 1 March 1918. She was buried in the Bole Springs Cemetery in Polk County, Texas.

B.T.C. Martin loved to hunt. He hunted deer and squirrels. He also enjoyed hunting and trapping wolves. Game was plentiful in Mont-gomery and Polk Counties. Benjamin Thomas Castile Martin died 2 November 1931. He was buried beside his wife in Bole Springs Cem-etery in Polk County.

— Melva Yates Whitehead

BENJAMIN W. MARTIN

In September 1872, Benjamin W. Martin and wife, Phabra, sold their property in Dale County, Alabama and made preparations to move their family to Willis, Montgomery County, Texas.

Benjamin W. Martin was born 5 September 1823 in South Carolina to parents who were both born in North Carolina (probably John-son County, North Carolina). His wife, Phabra (family tradition indicates her maiden name was Andrews), was born 28 July 1824 in Dar-lington County, South Carolina. Both of her parents were also born in South Carolina. Ben-jamin and Phabra were married about 1846 probably in Dale County, Alabama.

The oldest of Benjamin and Phabra Mar-tin's children, Stephen W., was born about 1848. When the 1870 census was taken Stephen W. was married. He, his wife and two female children were living near his parents when this census was taken. As to whether he came with his parents to Texas, no record has been located to indicate he left Alabama. But neither has he been located in Alabama after this 1870 census.

Benjamin W. Martin was one of the charter members of the Ozark Baptist Church founded

23 August 1848 in Dale County.

Benjamin W. served with the Confederacy during the Civil War. And probably the hardships following the war were the reason for his move to Texas. Many other Dale County families moved to Montgomery County, Texas during the same time period. Benjamin W. Martin and his family left Alabama by boat. Arriving on the Texas coast they boarded the newly laid railroad to Willis in Montgomery, Texas arriving in December of 1872. They spent several months in Willis before purchasing property approximately 10 miles east of Willis near Peach Creek.

John Samuel, second child of Benjamin W. and Phabra Martin, born about 1849 in Dale County, Alabama came with his parents to Montgomery County. Here he married (1) J.G. Moore on 22 March 1876 (2) Mrs. Mellissa McKnabb 1 September 1889. There are no known children of the first marriage. There are two known children of the second marriage: Joseph A. born July 1890, and William Henry born April 1892. Records of this family after 1900 are scant. Family tradition indicates they moved to Houston, Harris County, Texas shortly after 1900.



Benjamin W. Martin

Margaret Elizabeth, third child of Benjamin W. and Phabra Martin, born 15 January 1852 in Dale County, Alabama came with her parents to Texas. Sherrod Moses Mathew followed the Martins to Texas seeking to marry Margaret. Margaret and Sherrod were married 12 October 1873 in Montgomery County. Children of this marriage were (1) Ular Agnes, born 26 August 1876 (2) Alice Lavonia, born 10 February 1881 (3) Arris Meiggi, born 4 November 1884 (4) Minnie Carl, born 21 Mary 1887 (5) Henry Carlton, born 22 February 1890 (6) Moses Gordon, born 24 August 1891 (7) Alvin Rosmand, born 16 July 1893. For a number of years Sherrod Moses and Margaret Martin Mathews owned and operated a store at Teddy, Texas in Montgomery County. Benjamin W. and Phabra Martin made their home

with this family during their last years. Many descendants of this family still make their home in Montgomery County.

Harriet Louiza, fourth child of Benjamin W. and Phabra Martin, was born 27 July 1856 in Dale County, Alabama. Harriet Louiza married John. B. Hale on 23 December 1875 in Montgomery County. The known children of this marriage are (1) Bell (2) William A., born September 1879 (3) Darcus D., born 14 May 1884 (4) Selvester, born October 1885 (5) Ella O., born 13 February 1884 (6) Annie L., born November 1888 (7) Lucy C., born November 1890 (8) John Thomas, born March 1893 (8) Malasia V., born 27 August 1894. This family moved to Jasper County, Texas shortly after 1900. Other grandchildren accompanied the elderly Benjamin W. Martin on train trips to visit John and Lou Martin Hales's family after this move. Many descendants of this family still live in Jasper County.

Henry Oliver, fifth child of Benjamin W. and Phabra Martin, born 8 May 1859 in Dale County, Alabama. Henry Oliver married Sina B. Kimmy in Montgomery County on 9 October 1879. Known children of this marriage (1) Viddie (2) Redden E., born November 1882 (3) John B., born July 1885 (4) Thomas O., born Mary 1888 (5) Maggie E., born May 1891 (6) Dove A., born July 1893 (7) Lula B., born May 1896. Henry Oliver Martin operated a cigar factory in Willis for a number of years. He then had a livery stable in Conroe. Shortly after 1900 Henry Oliver Martin moved to Houston in Harris County Texas.

Ghazhan Ann, sixth child of Benjamin W. and Phabra Martin, born 22 June 1861 in Dale County, Alabama, married William R. Gunter on 22 July 1880 in Montgomery County, Texas. Children of this marriage (1) William J., born May 1881 (2) Benjamin Berry, born September 1884 (3) Callie D., born May 1887 (4) David, born May 1892 (5) Corra Bell, born January 1896 (6) Jimmy, born after 1900. This family lived in the area of Willis. Many descendants of this family are still in Montgomery County.

Benjamin Thomas Castile, seventh and last child of Benjamin W. and Phabra Martin; was born 23 May 1867 in Dale County, Alabama. Benjamin Thomas Castile Martin married Alabama Mathews in San Jacinto County, Texas on 19 January 1888. Children of this marriage are: (1) Oscar M., born 26 January 1889 (2) Minnie Florance, born 27 December 1890 (3) Emma Lou, born 20 January 1892 (4) Benjamin W., born 27 January 1895 (5) Lillie Belle, born 6 May 1897 (6) Lee, born 22 October 1900 (7) May, born 15 December 1902 (8) Rosa, born 7 March 1905. This family lived in Montgomery County until 1910 when they moved to Polk County, Texas.

Due to poor health Benjamin W. Martin applied for and received a Confederate Veterans pension in 1900. Benjamin W. and Phabra Martin spent their last years in the home of Sherrod Moses and Margaret Martin Mathews. It was here that Phabra died on 13 September 1900. Phabra, a small dark-haired woman, was sitting in a chair on the porch when death came very quickly.

Benjamin W. Martin in the last years of his

life made frequent trips to the home of other children. The grandchildren were delighted to see their frail, gray-haired grandfather coming down the road with his walking cane. Benjamin W. M. died 6 June 1910 and was buried in the C. Grove Baptist Church Cemetery by his wife, Phabra.

— Melva Yates W

SARAH WILLIAMS MATH

Sarah Williams Mathews, her first husband John Washington Mathews, and their children moved in 1869 to the portion of Polk County, Texas that became San Jacinto County in 1870. This family had lived in Clarke County, Mississippi prior to coming to Texas. John Washington Mathews fought for the Confederacy. He was taken prisoner at the Battle of Vicksburg, released, and told to go home. He went home but rejoined the fighting.



Sarah Williams Mathews

John Washington Mathews married Sarah Williams on 30 October 1845 in Surratt County, Alabama. Sarah Williams was born 1829 in Dallas County, Alabama. John Major and Mary Rose Williams Mathews, youngest child of John Washington and Sarah Williams Mathews, was born 3 July 1870. On 19 January 1888 Benjamin Thomas Castile Martin married Sarah Williams Mathews in San Jacinto County, Texas. They lived in Montgomery County.

John Washington Mathews had three children: (1) Benjamin W. Mathews, born March 1881. After the marriage of Benjamin W. Mathews to Benjamin Thomas Castile Sarah Williams Mathews made her home in Montgomery County.

Grandma Sarah Mathews was a member of the household of Benjamin Thomas Castile and Alabama Mathews. Sarah worked in the vegetable garden and assisted with household chores like churning the milk to make butter, cleaning laundry. A chore that she took particular interest in overseeing was the drying of peaches. Some of the peaches were used to make preserves by adding the sugar that had been in the bottom of the barrels of the years syrup. Peaches were also used to make cobbblers or to eat as fresh fruit.