

THE GREENBERRY W.-- MARTHA C. LORD FAMILY

The surname Lord is of English origin, and several of the Lord families migrated at various times from England to America during the colonial period.

The Thomas Lord family and a number of others came in the early years to the New England colonies. Thomas was an original proprietor and among the first settlers of Hartford, Connecticut, about 1636. One of his sons, Captain John Lord, fled in debt from an unhappy second marriage to Virginia about the middle of the seventeenth century, and in 1668 was living in Westmoreland County, Virginia. Some of the Southern Lords are doubtless descendants of Captain John.¹

In the eighteenth century sometime before the American Revolution, John Taylor Lord and his brother Benjamin came from England to Pennsylvania. After the war, Benjamin returned to England but John Taylor Lord remained, moved to Virginia and later to South Carolina, where his son John Taylor Lord, Jr., married Peggie Leachman of Anderson District (county). John T., Jr., and Peggie Leachman Lord moved to Georgia, settling near Nicholson in Jackson County. Their descendants now live in Jackson County, Georgia, and elsewhere.²

Greenberry William Lord's ancestry was not connected with the New England Lords, unless it was before they came to America, nor is there known to have been any connection with the Jackson County, Georgia, Lords, though it is thought probable at some point in the ancestry. There is much evidence that Greenberry Lord's early American forebear, Francis Lord, descended from ancestors who had migrated from England to Ireland, and some generations later on to America.³

Francis Lord, the great-great-great-grandfather of Greenberry, lived in the early eighteenth century in Somerset County, Maryland, in an area which was organized into Worcester County in 1742 and was later cut off by the Mason-Dixon Line and became Sussex County, Delaware.⁴ Francis Lord

1 James Savage, Genealogical Dictionary of First Settlers of New England (4 vols., Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1965), pp. 115-117; H. H. Humphries (comp.), History of the Lord Family (Jackson County, Ga.: Mimeographed pamphlet, Annual Reunion, 1st Sunday of September, Black's Creek Baptist Church), p. 13, article by Mrs. E. C. Lyons.

2 Humphries, History of the Lord Family, pp. 2, 3, 4, 8, 11, 12, articles by James Wilson Lord and Doris W. Lord.

3 Letters of David B. Lord, Jacksonville, Fla., to the author, Mar. 14, 23, 1973; David B. Lord to Joseph T. Maddox, Irwinton, Ga., Feb. 17, 1973 (hereinafter cited as Lord to Maddox).

4 Lord to Maddox, Nov. 29, 1972; Will of Francis Lord, Somerset County, Md., Maryland Hall of Records; Lard Records, Worcester County, Md., Liber A, Folio 117, June 8, 1743; Land Records, Sussex County, Del., Liber R 17, Record Book, 1793, Warrant Folio 124.

and his wife Sarah had a son, John, whose wife was also named Sarah. John and Sarah Lord were the parents of William, the great-grandfather of Greenberry Lord.⁵

William Lord was a soldier in the Revolutionary War.⁶ Sometime in the early 1780's, he and his wife Milly moved from Sussex County, Delaware, probably to North Carolina. Their son William, Jr., was born in that state about 1784.⁷ The William Lord family, however, did not remain long in North Carolina, for by 1787 they were living in Hancock County, Georgia. They continued to reside in Hancock County for at least twenty years, until 1807.⁸ In an 1805 lottery, William Lord had drawn a Wilkinson County, Georgia, land grant, and the family probably moved about 1807 to settle on it.⁹ The land was southeast of the present town of Toombsboro near the Oconee River. William Lord was one to the pioneers and founders of Wilkinson County, and this part of the county, as a militia district, was later named Lord's District.¹⁰

William and Milly Lord's son William, Jr., was the grandfather of Greenberry Lord. William, Jr., was born about 1784, as mentioned above, and was probably about three years old when his parents' family moved to Hancock County, Georgia. He went with the family when they settled in Wilkinson County about twenty years later. William, Jr., was a young man then, and may have already married. His wife was Rose Ann, probably Littleton. In his old age William's wife was Sara Ann. maiden name unknown.¹¹

5 Will of Francis Lord; Will of John Lord, Register of Wills, Liber C, Folios 233-234, Sussex County, Del., Probate Records, 1680-1800. The other children of Francis and Sarah Lord were: Randolph, Henry, Thomas, Alexander, Potter, Elizabeth, Sarah, and Mary (Will). In addition to William, the following were named as children of John and Sarah Lord: John, Adam, Isaac Thomas, Wooten, Anna, Unice and Betsy (Will of John Lord).

6 Fern Ivey Lord, "History of the Family Line of Fern Ivey Lord of Lord's District," 1935; Lord to the Author, Mar. 23, 1973; Grant Book, Muscogee [County], District 13-14, p. 29, District 23-24, p. 122, Surveyor General's Department, Atlanta, Ga.

7 United States Census, Ga., Wilkinson County, 1850 (Washington: National Archives, Record Group 29, Records of the Bureau of the Census), Vol. 14, p. 345. William and Milly Lord had at least five other sons: John, Stephen, Thomas, Samuel and Joseph Barnet. There was a daughter, Sarah (Lord, "History of the Family Line of Fern Ivey Lord;" Victor Davidson, History of Wilkinson County [Macon, Ga.: John Ball Chapter, D A R, J. W. Burke Co. Press, 1930], p. 299).

8 Powelton Baptist Church (Hancock County, Ga.) membership roll.

9 Registration for Wilkinson County, Ga., lands, 1805, Lottery Ticket No. 447, in Ga. State Department of Archives and History, Atlanta.

10 Lord to Maddox, Mar. 4, 1969, Sept. 19, 1972; Lord to Mrs. Charles E. Hammer, Charlottesville, Va., Nov. 21, 1972; Lord to the author, Apr. 22, 1973, with map enclosure; Lord, "History of the Family Line of Fern Ivey Lord."

11 Davidson, History of Wilkinson County, p. 380; Lord to Maddox, Sept. 19, 1972, attached note; Maddox to Lord, Dec. 1, 1972; Joseph T. Maddox, Wilkinson County, Georgia, Historical Collections (Irwinton, Ga.: The Author, 1973), pp. 334, 335; Will of William Lord, Sr., in Maddox, Wilkinson County, Georgia, Wills, With Genealogical Information (Irwinton; The Author, 1971), p. 174; U. S. Census, Ga., Wilkinson County, 1850, Vol. 14, p. 345, 1860, Vol. 15, p. 974.

William and Rose Ann Lord had five sons and three daughters. Their son James M. (probably Minton), born in 1814, was the father of Greenberry Lord.¹²

In December, 1832, James M. Lord married Evaline Sanders, about a year older than he. Greenberry William was their second child, born in August, 1837. His first name was often shortened to Green. The other children, Greenberry's brothers and sisters, in the order of birth were: William J., Littleton E., Elizabeth, Stephen Minton (Mintie), and Rose Ann.¹³ Sometime in the early 1860's after Greenberry had married, the James M. Lord family moved to southeast Alabama.¹⁴

William Lord, Sr., had been prominent in the early development of Wilkinson County. In 1808, he was appointed a commissioner of Wilkinson County Academy; in 1811-12, one of the commissioners to select a county seat and to build the county courthouse; and in 1813, he was appointed justice of the Inferior Court.¹⁵ William, Sr., died in 1825, and his son William Lord, Jr., later assumed the title of "Senior." He was seventy-eight or seventy-nine when he expired in September, 1862.¹⁶

The Lords from Francis down to James M. and beyond were substantial landowners, the two Williams, Sr. and Jr., and James M. Lord being relatively large landholders in Wilkinson County and also possessors of considerable other property.¹⁷ The sale of William Lord, Sr.'s property in 1825 included five Negroes. In 1850 William Lord, Jr., had eighteen slaves and in 1860, thirteen. He gave altogether twenty-two Negroes to members of his family, three of them to his son James M. Those apparently were the only slaves James M. Lord had, unless the one he owned in 1860 was in addition to those given to him by his father.¹⁸

12 Will of William Lord, Sr.; Maddox, Wilkinson County Historical Collections, p. 335. The other children of William and Rose Ann Lord were: George W., John, Stephen, Jesse, Nancy, Elizabeth and Milly (Will of William Lord, Sr.).

13 Lord to Maddox, Mar. 4, 1969; U. S. Census, Ga., Wilkinson County, 1850, Vol. 14, p. 354, 1860, Vol. 15, p. 983; Texas, Sabine County, [July 6], 1860, Vol. 9, p. 333; List of births and deaths; Maddox, Wilkinson County Historical Collections, pp. 180, 335. Nancy Minton had been the wife of John Lord, a brother of William, Jr., and thereafter—at least down through the family of James M. Lord, "Minton" as a middle name continued to appear among the Lords (Lord, "History of the Family Line of Fern Ivey Lord").

14 Lord to Maddox, Mar. 4, 1969; Lord to the author, Mar. 14, 23, 1973.

15 Lord, "History of the Family Line of Fern Ivey Lord;" Davidson, History of Wilkinson County, pp. 156, 169, 286; Maddox, Wilkinson County Historical Collections, pp. 7, 115.

16 Lord to the author, Mar. 23, 1973, with inventory of William Lord's property, 1825; Mrs. Willie Mae Weaver, Shreveport, La., to the author, June 18, 1974, enclosure of lineage chart; Maddox, Wilkinson County Wills, pp. 174, 176.

17 Land records Worcester County, Md., and Sussex County, Del.; Wills of Francis and John Lord, see footnotes 4 and 5 above; Georgia Department of Archives and History: Microfilm, Hancock County, Roll 106-146; Lord to Maddox, Mar. 4, 1969, Sept. 19, 1972; Lord to the author, Mar. 23, April 22, 1973; Maddox, Wilkinson County Wills, 174-176; Inventory of property of William Lord, sold Dec. 28, 29, 1825.

18 U. S. Census, Ga., Wilkinson County, 1850, Slave Schedule, Vol. 9, p. 891, 1860, Slave Schedule, Vol. 6, p. 529; Maddox, Wilkinson County Wills, pp. 174-176; Inventory of William Lord property sale.

Throughout their years in Hancock County, William Lord, Sr., and his wife Milly were members of the Powelton Baptist Church, and their son William, Jr., was a "transient" member. In Wilkinson County, William Lord, Sr. and Jr., were early members of Mount Nebo Baptist Church, organized in 1808, the first church in the county.¹⁹ William Lord, Sr., was in 1812 one of the founders of the Myrtle Springs Baptist Church near the present town of Toombsboro. His sons William, John and Samuel were members, and his grandson James M. Lord was very active in that church which after 1837 was Primitive Baptist. James M. Lord served as moderator (presiding officer) of Myrtle Springs Church for a number of periods.²⁰

There was some American Indian blood in the Lord family, whether recent or remote or in what proportion is unknown, but Greenberry Lord's features and those of others indicated it. He was dark complected with high cheek bones and a little above medium size.²¹ In 1857 or '58, at about the age of twenty or twenty-one, Greenberry and Martha, a daughter of Allen Chambers, were engaged to marry. Martha Chambers was about six months older than Greenberry Lord, having been born in February, 1837.²²

The Chambers family was of Scotch-Irish ancestry. Some of them migrated to Maine in the colonial period and possibly from there to Pennsylvania.²³ Others of the family emigrated directly from north Ireland to Pennsylvania, two according to tradition about 1720, and four brothers arriving about 1726.²⁴

From Pennsylvania, some of the Chamberses moved south into Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia. William Chambers, the grandfather of Allen and great-grandfather of Martha, was probably born in Virginia or North Carolina.²⁵ William was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. He was living in Warren County, Georgia, by 1794, and received land grants in that county in 1797 and 1801 totaling 400 acres.²⁶ Sometime before

19 Powelton Baptist Church membership roll; Davidson, History of Wilkinson County, p. 380.

20 Lord, "History of the Family Line of Fern Ivey Lord;" Lord to Maddox, Sept. 19, 1972; Maddox, Wilkinson County Historical Collections, pp. 37, 38.

21 Statements of Dock C. Lord; David Lord to the author, Mar. 23, 1973; Recollections of the author.

22 Statements of D. C. Lord; List of births and deaths; U. S. Census, Ga., Wilkinson County, 1850, Vol. 14, p. 340; Texas, Sabine County [July 6], 1860, Vol. 9, p. 333.

23 Virginia (Virgie) Collier Speights, Hemphill, Texas, to the author, Oct. 16, 1972, reference to United States Census, Maine, 1790.

24 Theodore Chambers, Early Germans of New Jersey (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1969), pp. 290-291; Wayland F. Dunnaway, The Scotch Irish of Colonial Pennsylvania (Chapel Hill, N. C.: University of North Carolina Press, 1944), pp. 61-62.

25 Virgie Speights to the author, Jan. 24, 1974; George Edward Pankey, John Pankey of Manakin Town, Virginia, and His Descendants (Ruston, La.: The Author, 1969), Vol. I, p. 47; U. S. Census, North Carolina, 1790, Heads of Families, p. 83, Caswell County, Hillsborough District and Wilkes County, Morgan District, pp. 121-124.

26 Virgie Speights to the author, Oct. 16, 1972, Apr. 29, 1973; Warren County, Ga., 1794 Tax List; Georgia Surveyor General's Dept., Office of Secretary of State, Atlanta, Land Grant Book 4-Z, p. 541, Book 5-D, p. 466.

the United States census of 1820, William Chambers moved to Wilkinson County, Georgia. His wife's name is not known but William had at least two sons, Joel and Henry. So far as is known, Joel Chambers never lived in Wilkinson County. He died earlier than his father. William Chambers expired between 1836 and 1840.²⁷

Henry Chambers, son of William, father of Allen and grandfather of Martha, was born in 1780 or earlier. Henry's wife was Martha, surname unknown, and she was variously reported as having been born about 1794 and 1800. Henry and Martha Chambers moved to Wilkinson County sometime between 1820 and 1830. Their son Allen and some other children were born before they settled in the county.²⁸ Henry Chambers died in 1840, but his wife Martha lived until 1873.²⁹

Allen Chambers, son of Henry and Martha, was born in Georgia October 1, 1813. Sometime in his boyhood, the family moved to Wilkinson County, and on December 18, 1834, at about the age of twenty-one, Allen married Mary (Polly) Dixon, soon to be eighteen years old. She was born in Georgia on February 20, 1817. Allen and Polly Chambers were the parents of Martha, the bride-to-be of Greenberry William Lord. There were twelve other children, brothers and sisters of Martha: Thomas, Henry, William, Dora Ellen, Mary, Susan, George R., Frances E., Levi (Lee), Winnie, Nathaniel Berrian (Nathan, Nath), and John D. (Jack).³⁰

Simon Peter Chambers and family moved to Wilkinson County between 1830 and 1840, but are not known to have been related to the William Chambers line.³¹

The Chambers families owned considerable property in land and slaves, though not large holders. William Chambers in his latter years had at

27 U. S. Census, Ga., Wilkinson County, 1820, Vol. 7, p. 142, 1830, Vol. 20, pp. 190-214, 1840, Vol. 9, pp. 286-318; Will of William Chambers, Oct. 27, 1836, in Maddox, Wilkinson County Wills, pp. 53-54.

28 U. S. Census, Ga., Wilkinson County, 1820, Vol. 7, p. 142, 1830, Vol. 20, p. 190, 1840, Vol. 9, p. 316, 1850, Vol. 14, p. 340, 1860, Vol. 15, p. 985. The other children of Henry and Martha were: Berrian, John B., Aplin T., Henry Greenfield, Elizabeth Ann, Martha, and probably Bryant and Wilson (Will of Henry Greenfield Chambers, in Maddox, Wilkinson County Wills, p. 52; Maddox, Wilkinson County Historical Collections, pp. 150, 254; Davidson, History of Wilkinson County, p. 297; U. S. Census, Ga., Wilkinson County, 1850, Vol. 14, p. 340; Sale of property of Henry Chambers)

29 Sale of property of Henry Chambers, "first Tuesday in 1840" (probably January, 1941); U. S. Census, Ga., Wilkinson County, 1840, Vol. 9, pp. 286-318; Maddox to the author, Jan. 10, 1974.

30 Edna McDaniel White & Blanche Findley Toole, Sabine County Historical Sketches and Genealogical Records (Beaumont, Texas: Labelle Printing Co., 1972), pp. 7-8 Genealogical Records; U. S. Census, Texas Sabine County, 1860, Vol. 9, p. 331.

31 U. S. Census, Ga. Wilkinson County, 1840, Vol. 9, p. 286, 1850, Vol. 14, p. 382; Maddox to the author, Sept. 15, 1973.

least 355 acres of land in Wilkinson County, and his son Henry apparently owned somewhat more. William had nine slaves, and Henry eight. Allen Chambers bought a Negro man in the sale of his father's property in 1841 and he had only one in 1850. He had no slaves in 1860.³²

The Henry and Allen Chambers families apparently lived in the same area of Wilkinson County as the Lords. Henry and Martha Chambers, along with William Lord, Jr., and his brothers John and Samuel, were members of Myrtle Springs Baptist Church, and in the next generation Allen Chambers and James M. Lord were commissioners of the slave patrol in Lord's District.³³ Members of both the Chambers and Lord families aspired to public office. Henry Chambers in 1834, like William Lord, Sr., in 1813, was elected to a term as justice of the Inferior Court, and various offices were held by the Chamberses and Lords in the century following.³⁴

At least one Lord-Chambers marriage had occurred before that of Greenberry Lord and Martha Chambers. Greenberry's uncle, George W. Lord, and America (Elizabeth), daughter of Henry Chambers, had married in 1840 or 1841.³⁵ Greenberry and Martha probably married in 1858. The Allen Chambers family was then planning to move to Texas, and it was agreed that the newly-weds also would go. The move however, was postponed until after the birth of their first child, a son named James, born about the first of September, 1859.³⁶

It is thought the Chambers-Lord family group travelled by wagon to some Gulf coast port and thence by boat either up the Mississippi and Red Rivers to some point, or up the Sabine River directly to Sabine County, Texas. They arrived in the northeastern area of the county, in the locality later known as Armstreet Community, shortly before the first of January, 1860, and on January 1st occupied a tract of land about two and a half to three miles from Sabine River. The Allen Chambers home site was south-southwest of Patroon Bayou and about six miles north of the village of Milam (see map).³⁷

32 William Chambers Will, Oct. 27, 1836, in Maddox, Wilkinson County Wills, pp. 53-54; Sale of property of Henry Chambers. Henry's slaves sold at prices ranging from \$110 up to \$1,270 for a "boy" (man) and \$1,291 for a girl and her child, totaling \$4,942.50. The total from the sale of his land was \$1,212.25. Allen Chambers was the purchaser of the "boy" for \$1,270, (Sale of property).

33 Maddox, Wilkinson County Historical Collections, pp. 37, 38; Davidson, History of Wilkinson County, p. 210. Patrolmen were posted on roads and byways to intercept runaway slaves.

34 Maddox, Wilkinson County Historical Collections, pp. 114, 115, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121.

35 Maddox, Wilkinson County Historical Collections, pp. 150, 180; Maddox to the author, Jan. 10, 1974.

36 Statements of D. C. Lord; Maddox to the author, Feb. 12, 1974; U. S. Census, Texas, Sabine County, 1860, Vol. 9, p. 333.

37 Interview with Ira Chambers, Natchitoches, La., Aug. 12, 1966; Affidavit of Lee Chambers Re Wm. M. Speights Survey, Mar. 4, 1922, in Conveyance Records, Sabine County, Hemphill, Texas, Vol. 21, pp. 60-61; Robert Emmett Bennett Affidavit in Re John C. Hammock & Ransom Slaughter Surveys of Land, Conveyance Records, Vol. 20, p. 608.

The Armstreet Community Sabine County, Texas (Time Post Office)

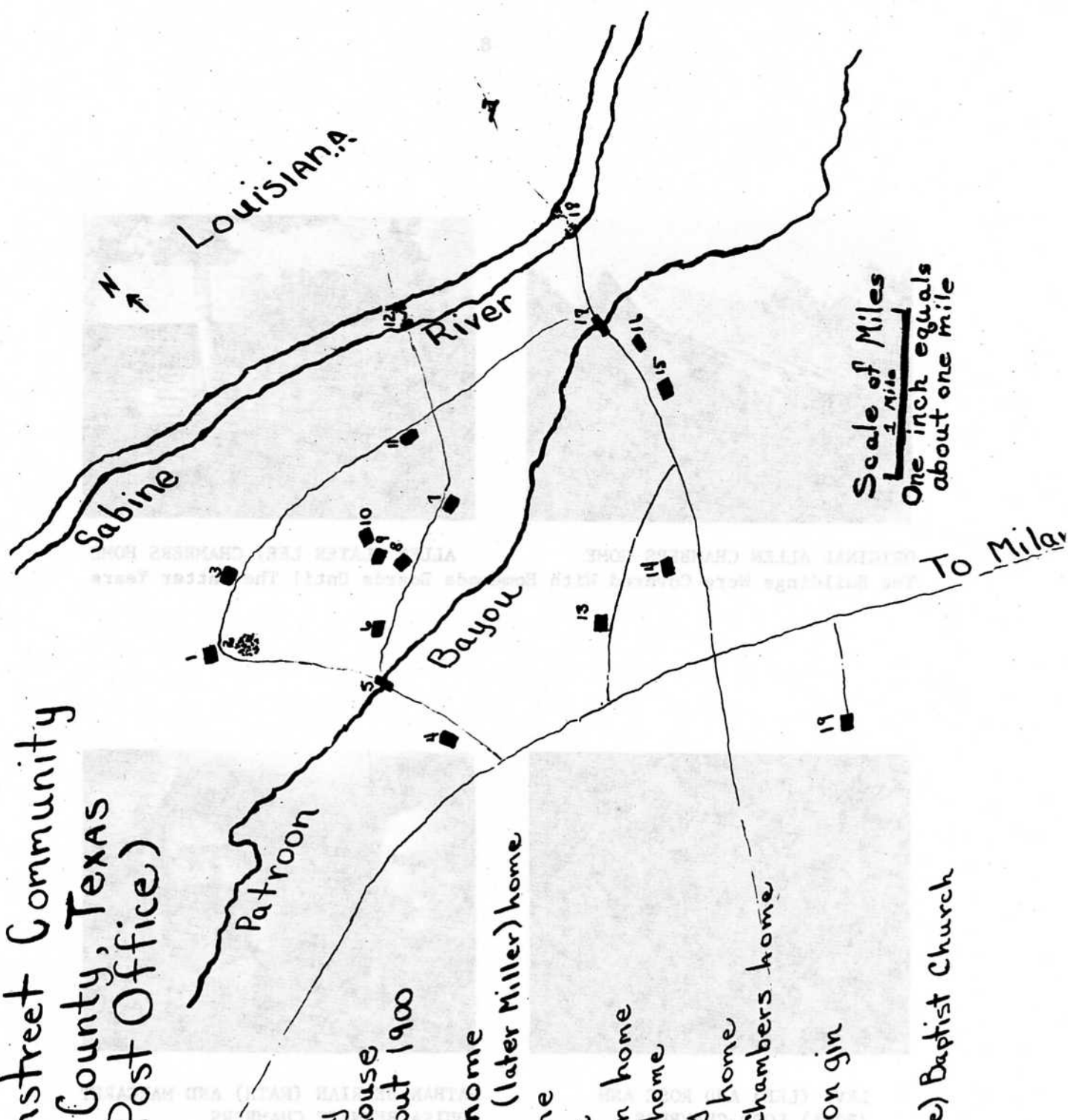
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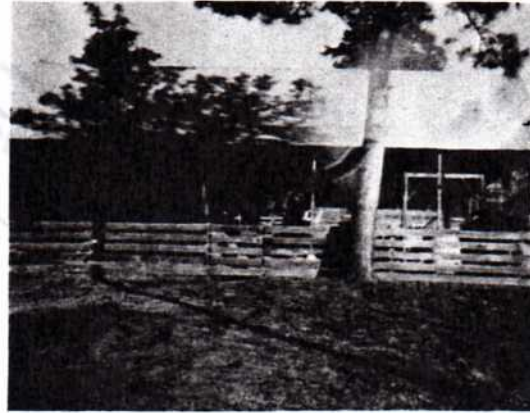
- 1 Bennett Store
- 2 Bennett Cemetery
- 3 Bennett Schoolhouse
- 4 Schoolhouse about 1900
- 5 Upper bridge
- 6 John Dorsey home
- 7 Greenberry Lord (later Miller) home
- 8 Mack Bragg home
- 9 Dock Lord home
- 10 Elijah Fogleman home
- 11 Jack Chambers home
- 12 Chambers Ferry
- 13 Nathan Chambers home
- 14 Allen (later Lee) Chambers home
- 15 Alford's Store
- 16 Jack Lord's cotton gin
- 17 Lower bridge
- 18 Carter's Ferry
- 19 Bethel (New Hope) Baptist Church
- 20 Sexton
- 21 Geneva

21



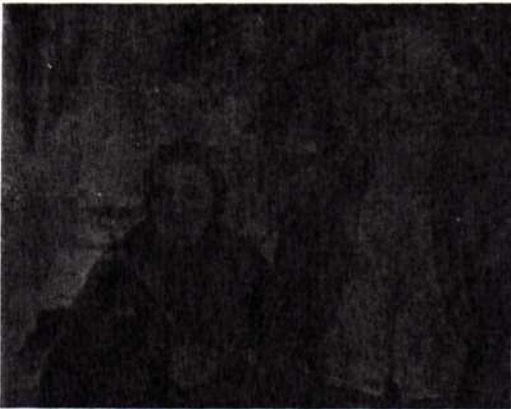


ORIGINAL ALLEN CHAMBERS HOME



ALLEN (LATER LEE) CHAMBERS HOME

The Buildings Were Covered With Homemade Boards Until The Latter Years

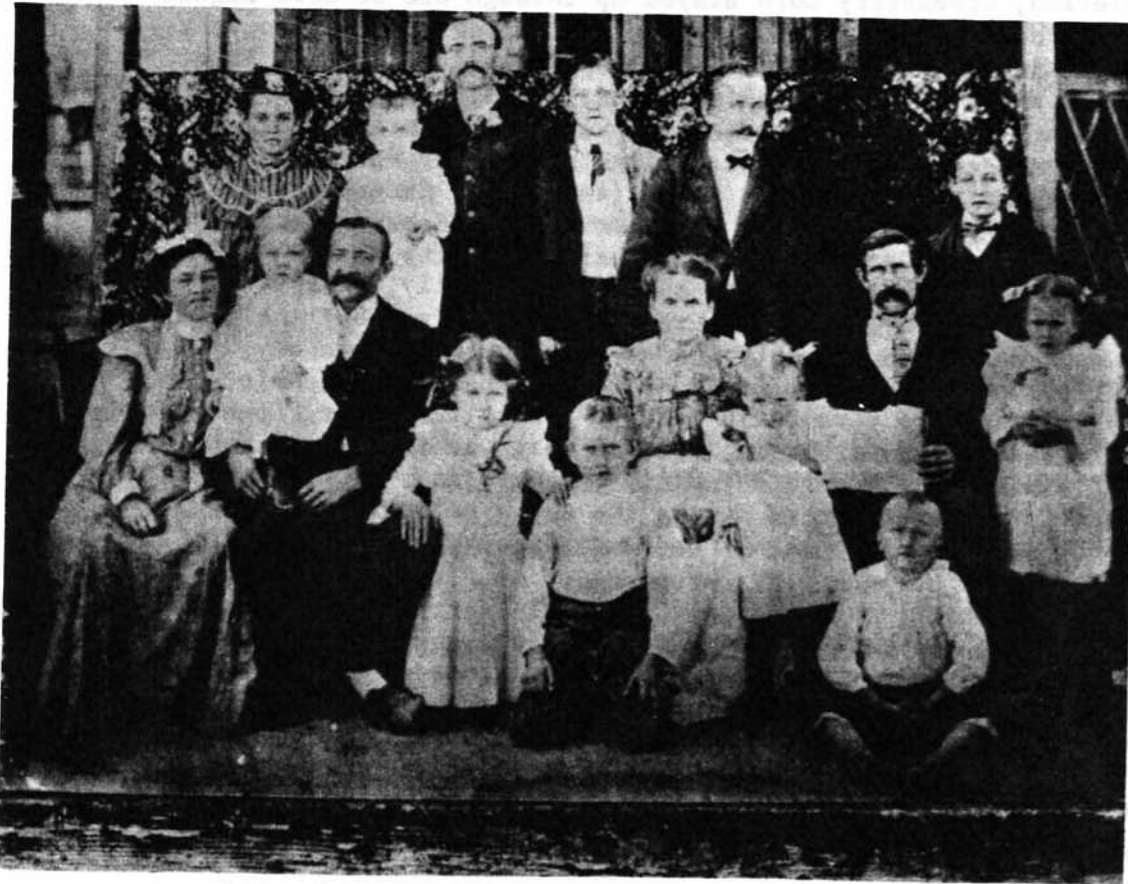


LEVI (LEE) AND ROSE ANN
(ROSA) LORD CHAMBERS



NATHAN BERRIAN (NATH) AND MARGARET
LOUISA BENNETT CHAMBERS

Some of Allen and Polly Chambers' other children also had probably married before the family left Georgia. Several of them married and made their homes in Sabine County, Texas. Levi (Lee) and Rose Ann Lord, youngest sister of Greenberry, married sometime after the family had moved to Texas. George R. married one Mrs. Eliza Chambers in Sabine County. Mary married Burtis C. Bennett; Winnie, John W. Dorsey; Nathan, Margaret Louisa Bennett; and John D. (Jack), Mollie Reeves. Jack Chambers established and



THE JOHN D. (JACK) CHAMBERS FAMILY
(about 1903)

Front row: Dolly Chambers Wharton and Reuben Wharton with their son, Jack, Anna Chambers, Ira Chambers, Mollie Reeves Chambers, Cora Chambers, Jack Chambers, Robert Brittain (son of Celie Chambers Brittain), Nannie Chambers;

Back row: Ida Chambers Williams and Henry Williams with their son, Melvin, John Chambers, Joseph (Joe) Chambers, Frank Chambers.

ran for many years the well-known Chambers Ferry on Sabine River. Allen and Polly Chambers lived the remainder of their lives in and died in Sabine County, Polly in 1878 and Allen in 1884. They were buried in Bethel (New Hope) Baptist Church Cemetery.³⁸

³⁸ White & Toole, Sabine County Historical Sketches and Genealogical Records, pp. 7-8 Genealogical Records; Virgie Speights to the author, Dec. 11, 1973, Jan. 24, 1974; Sabine County Marriage Records, Book 1, p. 69; Recollections of the author.

Greenberry and Martha Chambers Lord probably first settled a few miles farther from the river than the Chambers family, between the villages of Sexton and Geneva in the vicinity of some high hills called "the mountains." There were wild beasts in the woods, and the screams of panthers could be heard at night. When his house was near completion, Greenberry Lord stayed up through one or more nights guarding the doors against panthers until the door shutters could be made and put in.³⁹ In December, 1869, Lord bought a tract of land about a mile and a half from Sabine River, opposite the later location of Chambers Ferry, and the family moved to this place about 1870. This tract included some good bottom land along Patroon Bayou, which flowed into the river some miles below (see map). Greenberry's younger brother, Stephen Minton (Mintie) Lord, moved from Georgia to Sabine County, Texas, in the early 1870's and settled nearby.⁴⁰

Energetic and ambitious to get ahead economically, Greenberry Lord had planned when he moved to Texas to own some slaves, but the Civil War soon came on and he probably was never able to acquire any.⁴¹ He did not volunteer into the Confederate Army but was conscripted (drafted) into service perhaps in 1862 or 1863. It is not known what company or regiment he served in, but his unit was in General John G. Walker's Division which operated mainly in Louisiana.⁴² Little is known about Lord's experiences during the war. He would talk but little about it, but did speak of one engagement in which men fell before the hail of bullets like "broom sage" on fire. This might have been in the battle of Mansfield or at Pleasant Hill. Greenberry's brother, Littleton E. Lord, died of disease during the war.⁴³

The Lord Family doubtless shared the hard times prevalent throughout the South during the years of Reconstruction following the war, but Greenberry Lord was a stout-built, hard and resourceful worker, raised his children to strenuous labor, and they probably had more than the average family.⁴⁴ This undoubtedly was true in later years.

39 Statements of D. C. Lord; Interview with Lela Miller Boles, Bossier City, La., Aut. 11, 1966; Corene Tyler Todd, Bronson, Texas, to the author, Sept. 16, 1972; Conveyance Records, Vol. 12, p. 566. Some wild animal once chased the Lords' son Jim out of the woods (Statement of D. C. Lord).

40 Conveyance Records, Vol. F, pp. 352-354, Vol. I, p. 42, Vol. 29, p. 569; Corene Todd to the author, Aug. 18, 1972; U. S. Census, Texas, Sabine County, 1880, Microfilm Roll No. 325, p. 26; Personal knowledge of the author.

41 Statement of D. C. Lord; U. S. Census, Texas, Sabine County, 1860, Slave Schedule, Vol. 2, none listed.

42 Statement of D. C. Lord; Interview with Ira Chambers; Harry McCorry Henderson, Texas in the Confederacy (San Antonio, Texas: The Naylor Co., 1955), pp. 53-67. No record of Greenberry Lord's Military service is found either in the Texas or National Archives. Many of the Civil War records were lost or destroyed (Archives Division, Texas State Library, Austin, Texas, to the author, Mar. 29, Apr. 5, 1971; National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D. C., to the author, April 19, 1971)

43 Statements of D. C. Lord; Henderson, Texas in the Confederacy, pp. 59-61; Maddox, Wilkinson County Historical Collections, p. 83.

44 Ola Bragg Watson, Bellville, Texas, to the author, Sept. 29, 1969.

Lord operated his farm, a general merchandise store, furnishing customers on credit for the crop season, and ran a cotton gin--at first a horse gin but later one that was steam powered.⁴⁵ Stories were told--doubtless exaggerated--about how Greenberry Lord would work all day and at night peddle the fish he had caught on hooks set during the day;⁴⁶ that when rain beat the open cotton to the ground he would cuss and vow he would dig it out of the dirt; and that he would stop along the road and pick up the pieces of cotton that fell from wagons on the way to the gin.⁴⁷

Although often rough and crabbed in speech, Lord was somewhat indulgent toward his children. He sent them to school, and his daughters



GREENBERRY WILLIAM LORD

44 (continued) In the busy cultivating season he would barely give his children time to eat the noon meal and they could hardly do enough work to satisfy him (Statements of D. C. Lord).

45 Statements of D. C. Lord. The old horse-gin building was still standing in the 1890's, and the long lever was an excellent "flying-jenny" for the children to ride around and around (Recollections of the author).

46 Interview with Ira Chambers.

47 Statements of Louis Fogleman, April, 1959. For at least two generations the Lord family manifested an inclination and aptitude for cotton ginning. Greenberry Lord had three sons--Henry, George and Lee--who were ginners (below, pages 17, 24). Greenberry's brother, Minton (Mintie), was a ginner and had a son, Jack Lord, who ran a gin. Mintie Lord later operated his gin at Noble, Louisiana (Recollections of the author).

were well-dressed at church and social events, sometimes wearing ready-made clothing from their father's store.⁴⁸ He gave each of his children land on which to establish a home. Greenberry Lord made no profession of religion, but sometimes read the Bible on Sunday, and when time permitted, he played the organ in his home. His wife, Martha, who apparently had no formal education, was a tender-hearted and religious woman and exercised a wholesome influence on the children. She and at least some of the children were members of the Baptist Church.⁴⁹

Greenberry and Martha Lord had five sons and four daughters, born in the following order: James A. (Jim), Mary Elizabeth (Lizzie), Susan (Susie), Lorena, Doctor C Cunningham (Dock), Rosannah, Henry Clay, Levi (Lee), and George Washington.⁵⁰ Jim died in young manhood. Doctor C Cunningham never liked his name, and by usage it was changed to Dock C. He usually signed as "D. C. Lord." Likewise, Levi by usage became Lee. In infancy George was not given a name, but was called "Sonny." When he became old enough to want a name he named himself George Washington, but of course continued to be called Sonny for years longer.⁵¹

Lord was a successful farmer and merchant in Sabine County,⁵² but was always looking for better opportunities. Perhaps he was doing well

48 Statements of D. C. Lord; Interview with Lela M. Boles.

49 Conveyance Records, Sabine County, Vol. G, pp. 129, 131; Rapides Parish, Alexandria, La., Vol. L, p. 509, Vol. O, pp. 564-565; Will of G. W. Lord, in Succession of G. W. Lord, No. 550, Probate Docket, 18th District Court, Acadia Parish, Crowley, La.; Statements of D. C. Lord; New Hope Baptist Church, Sabine County, records, July, 1875, July, 1876, 1893, 1894. Martha Chambers Lord could not sign her name (Conveyance Records). James (Jim) Lord, who was several years older than the next child and married young, homesteaded his own land (Conveyance Records, Sabine County, Vol. 10, p. 410). The land deeds to six of the Lord children--in two groups of three each--were made on condition that they "agree to give G. W. Lord and Martha Lord a good and decent support so long as they may live in case that they should need their assistance" (Conveyance Records, Vol. G. pp. 129, 131).

50 U. S. Census, Texas, Sabine County, 1860, Vol. 9, p. 333, 1870, Vol. 17, p. 10, 1880, Microfilm Roll No. 1325, p. 26; Will of G. W. Lord (spelling Rosanna's name "Rosannah"). It is also thought there was a son, Thomas, who died in infancy (Lela M. Boles to the author, Jan. 25, 1971). If so, he was probably between James and Elizabeth.

51 Affidavit of T. L. Reeves and W. J. Bragg, Dec. 3, 1888, in Conveyance Records, Vol. 19, p. 493; Statements of D. C. Lord; Alice Lord Greenlee, O'Donnell, Texas, to the author, Sept. 21, 1972; U. S. Census, Texas, Sabine County, 1880, Microfilm roll no. 1325, p. 26; White and Toole, Sabine County Historical Sketches and Genealogical Records, p. 50 Historical Sketches.

52 R. E. Bennett, Affidavit In Re John C. Hammock and Ransom Slaughter Surveys of Land, in Conveyance Records, Vol. 20, p. 608.

enough despite the hard times when about 1886 or '87 he closed the store at his home, and in partnership with one Jack Jones, opened a general mercantile business and a saloon in Logansport, Louisiana, somewhat more than thirty miles up Sabine River. Jones died and Lord continued alone, but his store business did not prosper. Within a year or two, his credit customers were in arrears to the extent that he could hardly keep up with his payments to wholesalers, from whom he had purchased heavily. Finally, in an effort to forestall legal proceedings to collect from him, Lord accepted the proposal of a Logansport business man, Joel F. Goodwin, to close him out on the pretense of promissory notes due to Goodwin, Simon and Mike Kemp, Jewish merchants in Logansport. Goodwin promised that when the stock of merchandise was sold under foreclosure proceedings, they would deliver all the money from the sale to Lord and also would give back to him the three notes. Accordingly, Lord executed three promissory notes, one note for \$1,000 to Joel Goodwin, one for the same amount to Simon Kemp and another for \$500 to Mike Kemp. Goodwin and Simon Kemp went immediately, on October 8, 1888, to Mansfield, the parish (county) seat of De Soto Parish, Louisiana, and sued for collection of their notes. With writs of attachment, Sheriff L. H. Huson accompanied Goodwin and Kemp back to Logansport and closed Lord's store. Greenberry Lord entered this scheme with very serious misgivings, and after Goodwin and Kemp left for Mansfield he decided to retract the whole plan. He went out on a road to intercept Goodwin and Kemp as they came back into Logansport. But they returned on a road other than the one Lord expected, and when he went back to his store, the sheriff had already closed it.⁵³

\$1000⁰⁰
Logansport, La
August 1st 1888
On or before the first day of October
1888, I promise to pay to J. F. Goodwin
the sum of one thousand dollars for
value received of him with 8% interest
from date til paid

PROMISSORY NOTE TO JOEL F. GOODWIN

⁵³ Bennett Affidavit, Conveyance Records, Vol. 20. pp. 608-609; Simon Kemp vs. Greenberry W. Lord, No. 4424, Joel F. Goodwin vs. Greenberry W. Lord, No. 4425, Records of 10th District Court, De Soto Parish, Mansfield, La.

In suing for the collection of the promissory notes, Goodwin and Kemp had sworn that Lord owed them the amounts specified in the notes, and Goodwin soon realized he had laid himself liable to prosecution and penitentiary penalty for having sworn the lie upon which the legal proceedings were based. Alarmed over the possibilities, Goodwin and Simon Kemp sought to have the suits dropped. To convince the court that Lord had discharged the obligations incurred by the promissory notes, Goodwin and Kemp went to Lord's home in Sabine County, Texas, on October 20, 1888, and compelled him to deed each of them a tract of land, then took the deeds to Mansfield, Louisiana, to present as evidence that the notes had been paid and to have their suits against Lord dismissed. Goodwin promised Lord that he would return the deeds as soon as everything in connection with the suits was settled.⁵⁴

The suits were dropped, but Goodwin did not return the land deeds as he had promised. Lord waited several months until early in the spring of 1889, then engaged Emmett Bennett to go to Logansport to get the deeds. Goodwin was very reluctant to surrender them, but upon being told that Lord had arranged to bring suit for the recovery of his land, that this would probably become known to the authorities in Mansfield and Goodwin's false swearing thus be exposed, he finally delivered the deeds to be returned to Lord.⁵⁵

On behalf of Greenberry Lord, it may be said that he probably hoped that by the plan of foreclosure and sale of goods as proposed by Goodwin, he might raise enough money to pay his most pressing obligations and possibly reopen and continue in business. There was room to doubt, however, whether Goodwin and Kemp would, as they promised, really deliver to him all of the money received from the sale of goods and give back the fake promissory notes. This doubt might account for Lord's effort to call off the whole plan on the day it was set in process.

Whatever his hopes and doubts, Lord had only borrowed a lot of extra trouble to no avail. For his creditors were already moving, and within a short time, sixteen suits were entered against him for collection of amounts ranging from \$2,153 down to \$77 and totalling above \$7,000. His indebtedness included three promissory notes for money borrowed, amounting to \$733, two of the notes at least for short-term loans of four and five months, respectively.

The wholesale merchants charged that Lord had or was about to mortgage and dispose of his property in De Soto Parish with the intent of defrauding his creditors, or giving preference to some of them. They claimed under the law a "vendor's (seller's) privilege" on the merchandise that gave them the right to have the goods seized and sold to pay what was due them before like action could be taken to pay other debts. This privilege was claimed especially under the writ of

54 Bennett Affidavit, Conveyance Records, Vol. 20, pp. 609-610; Vol. G, pp. 283, 286. Lord was afraid of Joel Goodwin, a desperate man who had killed two white men and a Negro (Conveyance Records, Vol. 20, p. 611).

55 Kemp vs. Lord, No. 4424, Goodwin vs. Lord, No. 4425, Records of 10th District Court; Bennett Affidavit, Conveyance Records, Vol. 20, pp. 610-612.

sequestration, which was a court order directing the sheriff to take into his possession and hold designated articles until the court in a law suit decided the rightful possessor. Lord's merchandise, fixtures, store and saloon buildings and lots were seized under writs of attachment and dequestration. In view of the fact that much of the merchandise was of a perishable nature or would deteriorate if held until decisions could be reached in all of the cases, the court ordered the sheriff to sell all of the movable property and hold the proceeds until the court decisions were made. And the thirteen wholesale firms in whose behalf writs of sequestration had been issued agreed that in order to save costs, the sale should be executed jointly, with the proceeds of the articles sequestered for each kept separate. The right of the wholesalers to preference in payment under the writs of sequestration was contested in court. The court decision upheld their claim to preference under the law of "vendor's privilege." This preference, however, did not guarantee that they would be able to collect all that was due them. The seized articles sold in many cases for less than the amount of the debt. In at least four cases the proceeds of the sale was less than half the amount decreed by the court as due. Creditors who could not claim the "vendor's privilege" fared worse in collection.⁵⁶

Lord's creditors doubtless got all of his available resources in De Soto Parish, Louisiana. His credit customers, however, probably owed him altogether a large amount. Soon after his store was closed by the sheriff in October, 1888, he employed Emmett Bennett to collect all accounts due him from his customers in the vicinity of Logansport. When Lord closed his business in Sabine County a year or two earlier, he arranged with one "Judge Goodrich," likely W. F. Goodrich, an attorney in Hemphill, to collect the accounts due him there, and they probably totalled about \$4,650.⁵⁷

The fact that Greenberry Lord's property was scattered in separate areas, in two states, and much of it in the names of his children, probably saved him from further loss. In addition to his holdings in Sabine County, Texas, and De Soto Parish, Louisiana, he had in 1886 bought 120 acres of land in south Louisiana St. Landry Parish. Within the

⁵⁶ Gregg and Son vs. Greenberry W. Lord, No. 4426, Florsheim Brothers vs. same, No. 4427, Yale and Bowling vs. same, No. 4428, A. Sour vs. same, No. 4429, S. G. Dreyfus and Co. vs. same, No. 4430, Susan V. Conway vs. same, No. 4432, E. J. Lehman vs. same, No. 4434, M. Cohen vs. same, No. 4435, Simon Fenchts vs. same, No. 4437, Mack Stadler and Co. vs. same, No. 4439, Graygard and Kearns vs. same, No. 4440, Schwarz and Kern vs. same, No. 4441, Ullman, Lewis and Co. vs. same, No. 4447, Ward & Tull vs. same, No. 4449, William Lindsey Co. vs. same, No. 4450, Records of 10th District Court; Holloway and Gordis vs. G. W. Lord, Justice of Peace Court, Ward 8, De Soto Parish, La., not available; Henry C. Black, Black's Law Dictionary, Third Edition (St. Paul, Minn.: West Publishing Co., 1944), pp. 604, 605.

⁵⁷ Bennett Affidavit, Conveyance Records, Vol. 20, pp. 608-609; Interview with Ira Chambers. Goodrich was called "Judge," although he never served in that capacity (Drayton B. Speights, Hemphill, Texas, to the author, Aug. 16, 1972).

same year, this land was taken into the newly created Acadia Parish.⁵⁸ And in February, 1889, while several of the suits against him in De Soto Parish were yet pending, Lord purchased 180 acres of fertile Bayou Boeuf land, about a mile and a half north of Cheneyville in central Louisiana. He bought this tract in the name of his son Dock, who apparently was to farm it that year. Excessive rain flooded the land, and Dock conveyed it to his brother-in-law Gus Gomer in 1891. Gomer and his wife Rosanna had moved to the place.⁵⁹

Greenberry Lord's purchase of this land in 1889 was probably made with a view to moving from Sabine County, Texas. The failure of his business ventures in Logansport may have influenced him toward that decision. The lure of more fertile land also was probably a moving incentive. The land conveyances, although recorded as transactions of his sons and son-in-law, were financed and planned by the father. The Lord family probably moved to the place near Cheneyville early in 1891. In January of that year, Lord conveyed the home place in Sabine County to his son-in-law John Miller and later in the year transferred title to half of the 180 acres on Bayou Boeuf from his son-in-law Gus Gomer to his son George, then about age fourteen. This left ninety acres to Gus and Rosanna Gomer, and it was Lord's intention to give this tract to his daughter Rosanna as her allotment of land.⁶⁰ Gus and Rosanna deeded from their ninety acres a home site fronting on Bayou Boeuf to Greenberry and Martha Lord "for the term of their natural lives," but they lived there only a few years. Gus and Rosanna Gomer decided to move back to Sabine County, Texas, after the crop season of 1892, and sold their ninety acres. Although Greenberry and Martha Lord held title to their home site on Bayou Boeuf as long as they continued to live on it, and also had the adjoining ninety acres in the name of their son George, they moved by 1895 or before to the 120 acres in Acadia Parish that Lord had bought in 1886.⁶¹

This place in the prairie of south Louisiana was on the eastern border of Acadia Parish about five miles east of the village of Branch in a French community called Coullée Croche (Crooked Gully), the vicinity now known as Higginbotham. The house was an ordinary frame building. Lord soon bought some additional land: in February, 1896, a lot in Crowley,

58 Conveyance Records, St. Landry Parish, Opelousas, La., Vol. T-2, pp. 297-298; Historical Records Survey, La., Work Projects Administration, County-Parish Boundaries in Louisiana (New Orleans: Louisiana State University, 1939), pp. 94, 95.

59 Conveyance Records, Rapides Parish, Vol. L, p. 509, Vol. O, p. 563; Statements of D. C. Lord. Greenberry Lord purchased this land for \$1500.

60 Conveyance Records, Sabine County, Texas, Vol. I, p. 42; Rapides Parish, La., Vol. O, pp. 564-565; Will of G. W. Lord, in Succession of G. W. Lord.

61 Conveyance Records, Rapides Parish, Vol. P, p. 364, Vol. Q, p. 453, Vol. V, pp. 127-128; Interview with Martha Gomer Harvill, Bronson, Texas, Nov. 20, 1972; Personal knowledge of the author.

which he sold a year later; in December, 1896, two arpents (about two acres), a little farther within the border area than his home site; in March, 1897, nineteen and a fourth acres of woodland farther in, west of Bayou Wikoff; and April, 1900, three acres of woodland and about seventy-four and a half acres, both tracts in St. Landry Parish adjacent to his home place.⁶² The two-arpent tract was purchased jointly by Lord and his son-in-law John Thomas (Tom) Woodfin, Lizzie's husband. He and Lizzie had moved from east Texas to Coullée Croche and Woodfin had an interest in his father-in-law's gin and grist (corn) mill which were located on the two arpents of land. Tom Woodfin sold his interest in this land, gin and mill to his father-in-law in 1899, and he and Lizzie may have moved to Crowley at that time. Henry Lord and his family had also moved to some place near his parents, and he and George Lord worked with their father in running the gin and grist mill. It was at that time a good-sized operation with a boiler, two engines, four gin stands, two presses and the grist mill. So far as is known, Greenberry Lord never reopened his mercantile business after being closed out in Logansport, unless he did for a short period at his home in Sabine County before moving to Louisiana.⁶³

George, the youngest of the Lord children, married in 1895 while the family was living in Coullée Croche. He and Henry with their families moved away to west Texas in 1902, and their father, always on the alert for better economic prospects, was preparing to go in 1904. The gin had already been shipped out to Texas. But Greenberry Lord became ill, soon critically, and died on June 24, 1904. The mother, Martha Chambers Lord, was now very frail and in a wheelchair most of the time. George brought her to his home in west Texas and cared for her until her death in November, 1907.⁶⁴

Soon after the death of Greenberry Lord, his daughter Lizzie took steps toward appointment as administrator (administratrix) of his estate. She testified that as the only heir residing in the state, she was entitled to this appointment. In making this claim Lizzie overlooked the fact that her brother Dock lived in Rapides Parish, Louisiana, about seventy-five miles distant, which it seems she should have known. Lizzie, however, was more conveniently situated than he or any other heir, living as she was in Crowley, the seat of Acadia Parish, about fifteen miles from the property. Greenberry Lord had in 1900 made a will relative to the distribution of his property among his children. Lizzie filed this will

62 Conveyance Records, Acadia Parish, Crowley, La., Vol. N, pp. 224-225, Vol. O, p. 327, Vol. P, pp. 128, 173; St. Landry Parish, Vol. U-3, pp. 200-202, Vol. L-4, p. 555; Recollections of the author.

63 Conveyance Records, Acadia Parish, Vol. O, p. 327-328, Vol. T, p. 245; Succession of G. W. Lord, testimony of J. T. and Elizabeth Woodfin; Statements of D. C. Lord; Kathryn Lord Wise, Miles, Texas, to the author, Apr. 15, 1971.

64 Ethel Lord Eckert, Richland Springs, Texas, to the author, Jan. 31, 1972; Kathryn L. Wise to the author, May 13, 1971; Alice L. Greenlee to the author, Feb. 13, 1971, Jan. 14, 1972; Statements of D. C. Lord; List of births and deaths; Succession of G. W. Lord.

with the district court, asking that it be admitted to probate. She testified that the estate owed debts that must be paid, petitioned the court to appoint her as administratrix, and after the legal delay, she was appointed and confirmed, November 26, 1904.⁶⁵

In order to pay the debts of the estate Lizzie received authority from the court to sell the movable property, the two arpents of land with the grist mill, which had not been moved, and the nineteen-acre tract of woodland. The auction sale at the Lord home in Coullée Croche was conducted on February 18, 1905. It included the household furniture, livestock, farm implements, some cotton, corn, potatoes, sugar cane and the two tracts of land. Greenberry Lord's best organ sold for \$11, and an "old organ" for \$1. The sewing machine went for \$1, and the kitchen stove for 70 cents. Lord had a two-wheel road cart, an abbreviated buggy much used in south Louisiana, and it sold for \$2. The more expensive farm implements did better. A mowing machine brought \$13 and the best disc cultivator, \$5. The livestock were the most valuable of the movable property, but did not bring as much as they should. The five mules sold for \$233; five cows with calves, for \$107.50; and six hogs, one with a litter of pigs, for \$34.25. A feather bed estimated at \$5 was not sold, nor were three old wagons appraised for a total of \$17.50 and three yearlings valued at \$30. The total received from the auction sale was \$1,003.90, which was \$327 less than the appraisement total. This deficit was due chiefly to the sale of the livestock and land at figures much lower than their appraised value.

Tom Woodfin was the only member of the family bidding at the sale, and he was the highest bidder for a large proportion of items, notably the livestock, farm implements and the corn and cotton. He bought the five mules and four of the cows with calves. His purchases amounted to a little more than half of the total.⁶⁶

Lizzie's purpose in administering the estate was to sell only enough of the property to pay the debts or financial obligations. Her father owned a bank note of \$500 plus interest, another debt of \$35.25 and taxes on his property, all of which totalled \$573 when Lizzie filed her Provisional Account November 29, 1905. The legal proceedings and fees up to that time amounted to \$466. Included in the costs was a bill of \$175 to Tom Woodfin for attending to the property for seven months at \$25 per month.

A. P. Holt, the lawyer appointed by the judge to represent the absent heirs, opposed Woodfin's claim on the ground that there was no authority in law for such a charge, and he moved that it be rejected. Holt apparently argued that Elizabeth Woodfin, who was being paid for her services as administratrix should have supervised the property or leased the house and land not worked by tenants to a person who would attend to the place. Woodfin testified that he was requested by some of the heirs to look after the Lord property, and that to do this he had left his bicycle repair shop in Crowley which netted him about two dollars a day. Woodfin pointed out that he was charging only for the seven months

65 Succession of G. W. Lord; Personal knowledge of the author; Interview with Irene Lord, Sept. 18, 1973.

66 Succession of G. W. Lord.

from the first of July, 1904, till the auction sale in February, 1905, during which period he stayed at the Lord place all the time, but was not charging for the year following in which he continued to look after the property. Both he and Lizzie testified that they thought no one could have been gotten to move in and care for the property for the use of the house and the few acres not worked by the share tenants. Holt's opposition to Woodfin's claim for \$175 was overruled by the court, and this claim was approved with the other items of the provisional account on March 31, 1906.⁶⁷

In leaving his business and going to the Lord place, Tom Woodfin did not sacrifice as much as his testimony might indicate. He lived in the home, had use of the garden, orchard and other produce, and there were a few acres of land on which he grew cotton. Then he and Lizzie fared well in the auction sale. Woodfin bought the five mules at a price \$117 less than their appraised value, and the cows and calves and some other articles in the auction at bargain prices. Moreover, three yearlings, the wagons and feather bed were not sold, and all of them probably fell to the Woodfins.

The settlement moved slowly in the probate docket, and it was November 27, 1907, when Lizzie filed her "Last and Final Account," which was not yet quite final, for she filed a supplemental account on January 9, 1908. The succession had been in court more than four years, nearly two years had elapsed since approval of the provisional account, and some fees and other costs had continued to mount. The following account combines some of the items of expense, but presents an accurate statement of the settlement:

FINAL ACCOUNT OF ELIZABETH LORD WOODFIN AS ADMINISTRATRIX

Cash on hand January 9, 1908:

From auction sale of Greenberry W. Lord property.	\$1,003.90
Net proceeds of crops and rents, 1905-1907.	619.62
Debts of Greenberry W. Lord:	\$1,623.52
Bank note and interest	\$509.45
Debt to Sully Rayon	35.25
Taxes on property	47.73
	<u>\$ 592.43</u>
	\$1,031.09

Cost of probate proceedings:

Elizabeth L. Woodfin's fees as administratrix . .	\$180.63
Premiums on the bond of the administratrix . . .	90.00
J. T. Woodfin, for attending to the property . .	175.00
Attorneys fees	175.00
Court Costs	26.00
Inventory of property	20.00
Appraisement of property	6.00
Auctioneer	20.54
Advertising	24.00
	<u>\$ 717.17</u>
Balance for distribution among heirs	\$ 313.92

⁶⁷ Lizzie testified that she, her mother and three of the other heirs requested her husband to go to the Lord place and take care of things. She did not name the other heirs (Succession of G. W. Lord, testimony of Elizabeth Woodfin).

The mother of the family, Martha Chambers Lord, had died in November, 1907 (above, page 17). The \$313.92 balance was distributed among the heirs, \$39.24 to each of the seven Lord children yet living, and \$39.24 divided between Susie Lord Miller's children. With this final accounting and payment of funds, Elizabeth Lord Woodfin's administration of the Lord estate came to an end on January 11, 1908.⁶⁸

The succession proceedings had not carried out the major provisions of Greenberry Lord's will, the first part of which was a listing of the property that he had already given to each of his children (land and a horse or mule), ranging in value according to his estimate from \$467.50 to \$1100. "Then at my decease," he continued, "I want all my remaining property sold and those of my children that are behind others in the distribution of property to be all brought up equal to all." The succession proceedings had left unsold the Lord home place of sixty acres in Acadia Parish and three acres of woodland and seventy-four and a fraction acres both adjacent in St. Landry Parish.⁶⁹

Lizzie, who lived at Crowley, close enough to look after land in the Coullée Croche area, seems to have wanted the land divided among the heirs. This would have been much less convenient for those living long distances away. On February 6, 1908, less than a month after Lizzie's administration of the estate had closed, Lee and Dock Lord, Lorena Lord Bragg and Rosanna Lord Gomer joined in a suit to bring about the sale of the land and division of the proceeds among the heirs. A firm of lawyers represented them, and the court appointed an attorney to act for Henry and George Lord and the children of Susie Lord Miller. Lizzie Lord Woodfin, who was conveniently near, was cited to appear in court as a defendant in the suit. The judge also appointed two "experts" to examine the tracts of land and advise whether or not they were susceptible of division among the heirs. They reported that it would be impractical to divide the land equitably. Lizzie did not appear to contest the suit, and after hearing the arguments the court decision was made, March 25, 1908, ordering the land to be sold. It was sold at auction for \$4,288. After the lawyers' fees and other expenses were paid, the net amount to be divided among the heirs was \$3,910.⁷⁰

After this decision, the case was extended, with Lizzie and the four others suing to prevent George Lord from sharing in the distribution of the proceeds of the sale, on the ground that he had received during the life of their father property worth \$1800, which they (or their attorneys) alleged should be added to the fund from the sale of the land. Through

68 Succession of G. W. Lord.

69 Will of G. W. Lord, and auction sale of property, in Succession of G. W. Lord; Conveyance Records, St. Landry Parish, Vol. U-3, pp. 200-202, Vol. L-4, p. 555. In addition to land, he had given Dock a horse and a mule. The will contained an odd expression relative to the property given to George and Rosanna: "I want what may come to George Lord and Rosannah Gomer to be held over in some good man's hands for their children when they may become capable of taking care of same" (Will of G. W. Lord).

70 Lee Lord et al. vs. Henry C. Lord et al., No. 2993 Civil Docket, 18th District Court, Acadia Parish, Crowley, La.

their attorneys, they petitioned the court for judgement directing that the fund of \$3,910 be divided among the other seven heirs, reserving to each of them the right to sue George later for recovery of any part of the excess of his share that he had already received.⁷¹

The basis of this action was the manner in which Greenberry Lord had conveyed to George sixty acres of the Lord home place at Coullée Croche and George's subsequent sale of the land. The father had in March, 1888, executed a document giving the 120 acres in Acadia Parish to Susan and "Sonny" (George) Lord, but it was never deeded to them, and later Susie's part was exchanged for half of the Lord home place in Sabine County, Texas. Then in his will in 1900, Greenberry Lord allotted 60 of the 120 acres to George and in 1902 conveyed it to him not as a gift but as a cash sale for \$700. This was the evaluation Lord had placed on it in his will. The land was deeded to George in April, 1902, the year in which he moved to Texas, and in December of that year he sold it partly on credit for \$1800.

At the time of the suit George Lord was living in west Texas, and answered the charge through his attorney and by sworn testimony. He denied that his father ever gave him property worth \$1800 and asserted that he had bought and paid \$700 for the sixty acres. George readily admitted that he had paid for the land in labor instead of money. "My wife and I both worked for my father three years after our marriage and for our services he deeded me this property." His sister Lizzie's testimony contradicted this. She said that George and wife, who lived in the home with his parents, had nothing to live on except the proceeds of the crops they raised, and therefore were working for themselves. Lizzie overlooked the fact that George and his wife might also have worked to a considerable extent for his father. It is known that George worked in the operation of the gin (above, page 17), which at the peak of the ginning season ran far into the night or even all night. The introduction of Lord's donation document of 1888 and his will of 1900 as evidence probably weighed heavily in convincing the court that it was Greenberry Lord's intention to give this land to his son George and that in fact he had done so. If it had been conveyed to George as an allotment of his parents' property, and not as a sale, it would have been regarded, under the law, a legitimate donation as were the tracts of land given to the other children. But the court was convinced that the transfer of this land to George was a donation in the guise of a sale, and George's subsequent sale of the land made him subject to penalty by judgement for an amount equal to the value of the property. The judge in his decision on November 5, 1909, valued it at \$700 rather than \$1800, for which the suit called. The lawyers appealed the decision to the circuit court of appeal, which declined to take the case for lack of jurisdiction over cases involving so large an amount. It was then appealed to the Louisiana Supreme Court, which on January 3, 1911, affirmed the decision of the district court.⁷²

71 Lee Lord et al. vs. Henry C. Lord et al., Petition filed Mar. 24, 1909.

72 Conveyance Records, Acadia Parish, Vol. Y, p. 931, Vol. D-2, p. 187, Vol. Q-2, p. 9; Lee Lord et al. vs. Henry C. Lord et al., G. W. Lord's donation document, Mar. 20, 1888, Testimony of witnesses, Decision of District Court, Nov. 5, 1909, Arguments of attorneys, Statement of Circuit Court, Decision of Supreme Court.

It seems that Lizzie and others who did not believe that George had paid for the land might well have overlooked its transfer to him in the form of a sale, for each of the others had been given a tract of land by their parents. What difference should it make if George's allotment came to him under the name of a sale rather than a gift? They might have considered it more valuable than the land they had received, and this was true if it was worth \$1800. Their father had given them land varying greatly in value; for instance, Lizzie's and Lee's was estimated by him at \$400 each, Rosanna's at \$1000, and George's at \$700. The fact that George sold his land for \$1800 had drawn special attention to him, and perhaps also the fact that ownership of the gin had gone to him for caring for the invalid mother of the family from 1904 until her death in 1907.⁷³

Lizzie's testimony reveals her as feeling that their father had shown favoritism toward George, and apparently she was the chief figure in the case against him. Lizzie and her husband were the only heirs who testified against George. Whatever the attitude toward him, George Lord in later years never manifested ill will toward anyone,⁷⁴ and there is little room to doubt his sincerity when he testified that he and his wife had by their labor paid for the sixty acres of land. After the long ordeal of settling the estate was over, there was the feeling, at least among some of the heirs, that Lizzie, rather than George, had gotten more than her share. This feeling probably resulted partly from the things that fell to Lizzie and her husband in the auction sale of the property and the payments made to them in the long and expensive succession proceedings--payments which although legitimate were not understood and were regarded as unjustified and exorbitant. The final court decision of course excluded George Lord from sharing in the distribution of the fund from the sale of the land. After all the lawyers' fees and court costs were paid, each of the other brothers and sisters probably received less than \$500.⁷⁵ Apparently no effort was made to carry out that provision of Greenberry Lord's will that those of his children to whom he had given less in the distribution of his property should "be all brought up equal to all."

Meantime, Greenberry and Martha Lord's sons and daughters had families of their own well advanced toward maturity, some with children quite mature. James A. (Jim), the first of the Lord children, had married Julia Terry in May, 1877, when he was between seventeen and eighteen years of age. So far as is known, Jim and Julia had only two children, Sarah and "Sonny," who were quite young when Jim died in 1883, a few months after he was twenty-three. Nothing is known of what became of Julia and the children, Sarah and "Sonny."⁷⁶

73 Will of G. W. Lord; Kathryn L. Wise to the author, May 13, 1971.

74 Alice L. Greenlee to the author, Jan. 14, Mar. 20, 1972.

75 No statement of the costs in the suit to penalize George Lord is found. The recollection of the author is that each of the heirs received considerably less than \$500.

76 Record of marriage license, May 30, 1877, Affidavit of T. L. Reeves and W. J. Bragg, Dec. 3, 1888, in Conveyance Records, Vol. 19, p. 493, Office of Sabine County Clerk of Court; U. S. Census, Texas, Sabine County, 1860, Vol. 9, p. 333, 1880, Microfilm Roll No. 1325, p. 8. "Sonny," who was six months old when the census of 1880 was taken, apparently had not otherwise been named.

Mary Elizabeth (Lizzie) Lord and John Thomas (Tom) Woodfin married in November, 1882. They had a son, Willie, and a daughter, Lucy. Lizzie and Tom Woodfin apparently moved to the Coullée Croche Community in Acadia Parish, Louisiana, soon after the Lord family moved there in the 1890's. Within a few years, perhaps by 1899, they went to Crowley, where Tom Woodfin operated a bicycle repair shop. They probably continued to live in Crowley through the years of litigation incident to the settlement of the Lord estate. It is not known whether the Woodfin family lived longer in Crowley or, as vaguely recalled, moved to New Orleans.⁷⁷

Susan (Susie) Lord and John H. Miller married in September, 1886. They lived in adjacent Shelby County until the Greenberry Lord family moved to Louisiana about 1891, and the Millers then moved to the Lords' old home place in Sabine County (above, page 16).⁷⁸ Four sons and two daughters were born to Susie and John Miller: Malcolm (Mack), Lela, Walter (Toad), Lee, Willie and Nettie. The mother, Susie Lord Miller, died in October, 1899, when Nettie was a little over a year old. In 1906 John Miller married Birta Fogleman, but he died the next year, October 6, 1907.⁷⁹

Lorena Lord married in August, 1882. Her husband was H. M. (Mack) Bragg. Their home was about a half-mile west-northwest of the Greenberry Lord (later, Miller) family residence.⁸⁰ Lorena and Mack Bragg had six daughters and four sons: Mary, Charles (Charlie), Ola, Sudie, William, Sarah, Carey, Zella, Ray and Alma. In 1901 the family lived in Acadia Parish, Louisiana, near Lorena's parents, who had been residing there several years. Charlie died and the Bragg family returned to their east Texas home at the end of the year. The father, Mack Bragg, died in 1908. Lorena married Harvey Webb in February, 1920. She died on September 1, 1956, about six months above ninety-one years of age.⁸¹

Rosanna Lord and Augustus Cawhorn (Gus) Gomer married in November, 1890. They probably moved early the following year to the Lord land near Cheneyville, Louisiana. This land was transferred during 1891 from Dock Lord's name to that of Gus Gomer, and half of it then to George Lord (above, page 16). Gus and Rosanna apparently lived there through the crop season of 1892 and then returned to Sabine County, Texas. They established their home on the Milam-Sabinetown road in the Low's Chapel Community.⁸² Rosanna and Gus Gomer had four sons and two

77 Record of marriage license, Sabine County; Kathryn L. Wise to the author, Apr. 15, 1971; Ola B. Watson to the author, Aug. 26, 1971.

78 Marriage license, Sabine County; Interview with Lela M. Boles; Conveyance Records, Sabine County, Vol. I, p. 42.

79 Recollections of the author; Lela M. Boles to the author, Jan. 25, 1971; Corene T. Todd to the author, Feb. 16, 1972.

80 Marriage license, Sabine County; Ola B. Watson to the author, Mar. 29, 1971.

81 Interview with Ola B. Watson, Sept., 1969; Ola B. Watson to the Author, Sept. 29, 1969, Mar. 29, 1971; Marriage license, Sabine County; Recollections of the author; Toombstone record, New Hope Church Cemetery.

82 Marriage license, Sabine County; Conveyance Records, Rapides Parish, La., Vol. O, p. 563, Vol. P, p. 364, Vol. Q, p. 453; Interview with Martha G. Harvill; Clifford J. Watson, Bellville, Texas to the author, Feb. 14, 1972.

daughters: Joshua (Dot), Martha, Joseph (Joe), John, Mary and Paul. Dot was killed about the age of sixteen by a runaway wagon team, and John at about eighteen was waylaid and shot to death following a quarrel. The father, Gus Gomer, died in 1906 while his family was yet young. In April, 1908, Rosanna married Howell Iles, and later married W. T. Thornberry. Rosanna died on October 2, 1962, at the age of ninety-one.⁸³

Levi (Lee) Lord and his wife Martha were first cousins. Her mother, Winnie Chambers Dorsey, wife of John Dorsey, was a sister of Lee's mother, Martha Chambers Lord. Lee Lord and Martha Dorsey married in April, 1893. For some time Lee worked for a sawmill in Sabine Parish, Louisiana,⁸⁴ then settled at Sabinetown, Texas, where he farmed, owned and operated a cotton gin and grist mill and grocery store. After about ten years at Sabinetown, Lee and family moved to Hemphill. There he prospered not only with his gin and grocery, but had at the time of his death in 1929 a farm of 400 acres and a good many livestock.⁸⁵ There were four sons and two daughters in the Lee Lord family: Bertha, George, Stanton, Ivy, Lula and Burton. Lee Lord died of a heart attack in 1929. The mother of the family, Martha Dorsey Lord, expired in 1939.⁸⁶

Henry Clay Lord in 1891 married Rena Victoria Brittain, a daughter of Tom Brittain of Shelby County. She was called "Ren."⁸⁷ A few years later, Henry and family moved to Acadia Parish, Louisiana, near where his parents were living. Henry and George Lord farmed and worked with their father in operating his gin (above, page 17). In 1902, Henry, George and their families moved to San Saba County in west Texas, between Richland Springs and Locker.⁸⁸ Their father's gin was shipped out to them, probably a short time before his death. The gin was set up at George's place and their mother willed it to him for taking care of her for the remainder of her life. Henry Lord and his family lived on their farm nearby, but he continued to work with George in running the gin, giving all of his time to it in the ginning season and leaving his crop largely to his wife and children.⁸⁹ Henry and Ren Lord had a large family, six boys and five girls: Ethel, Wayman, Julia Ann, Jesse James (Bill), Kathryn (Kate), Henry Ross (Tid), Ernest Clay (Teon), Ova, R. V., Robert and Sallie. Henry Ross had a twin, who died at birth. The father, Henry Lord, died prematurely of a heart attack, April 3, 1911, at the age of thirty-nine.

83 Interview with Martha G. Harvill; Gomer family Bible record; Marriage License, Sabine County; Corene T. Todd to the author, Feb, 16, 1972.

84 Recollections of the author; Marriage license, Sabine County; Lula Lord Crowell, Hemphill, Texas, to the author, Jan. 19, 1972.

85 Watson to the author, Mar. 29, 1971; Ivy Lord, Hemphill, Texas, to the author, Apr. 21, 1971; Lula L. Crowell to the author, Apr. 16, Aug. 25, 1971.

86 Lula L. Crowell to the author, Apr. 16, Aug. 25, 1971.

87 Ethel L. Eckert to the author, Jan. 31, 1972; Kathryn L. Wise to the author, May 13, Aug. 23, 1971.

88 Alice L. Greenlee to the author, Feb. 13, 1971, Jan. 14, 1972; Kathryn L. Wise to the author, Jan. 16, 1972; Ethel L. Eckert to the Author, Jan. 31, 1972.

89 Statements of D. C. Lord; Kathryn L. Wise to the author, May 13, Oct. 2, 1971, Jan. 16, 1972.

The mother, Rena Brittain Lord, survived until May, 1939.⁹⁰

George Lord had married Julia Ann (Juliann) Cummings, daughter of W. O. Cummings of Church Point, Louisiana, in December, 1895, about three months before he was nineteen. For about three years after their marriage, George and Juliann lived in the home of his parents and worked for them.⁹¹ He continued for a few years longer working with his father in operating the gin, until he, Henry and their families moved to Texas in 1902. Six children were born to George and Juliann Lord, two daughters and four sons: Lula Mae, Lawrence (Jack), Warren, Alice, Lester and Neely (Ben). Juliann, the mother of this family, died on September 9, 1911. In April, 1913, George married Miss Polly Maxwell. They had two sons: Isaac Jerald (Pete) and Preston.



GEORGE AND POLLY LORD

⁹⁰ Kathryn L. Wise to the author, Apr. 15, Aug. 23, 1971, Jan. 16, 1972. Henry Lord had come in from work and was getting ready for a meal when he was stricken. He fell from the porch in sudden death (Statement of D. C. Lord; Alice L. Greenlee to the author, Jan. 14, 1972).

⁹¹ Alice L. Greenlee to the author, Feb. 13, 1971, Jan. 14, 1972; Testimony of George Lord and Lizzie Lord Woodfin, in Lee Lord et al. vs. Henry C. Lord et al.

George Lord succumbed to a heart attack November 25, 1952, and Polly died in 1968.⁹²

A great deal more space is given in this history to the Dock C. Lord family, on both sides of the house, partly because the writer is of that family and knows much more about it than he could ever know about the others, and also because this account is written partly in response to the wishes of grandsons of the Dock Lord family (above, In Appreciation).

92 Alice L. Greenlee to the author, Feb. 13, Mar. 31, 1971, Jan. 14, Mar. 20, 1972, Jan. 7, 1973. George's fatal attack also was sudden. He fell, never knowing what happened (Greenlee to the author, Jan. 14, 1972). George Lord was a deeply devout man, favorably disposed and never speaking evil of anyone. He was a lay preacher in the Nazarene Church (Statements of D. C. Lord; Greenlee to the author, Jan. 14, Mar. 20, 1972).