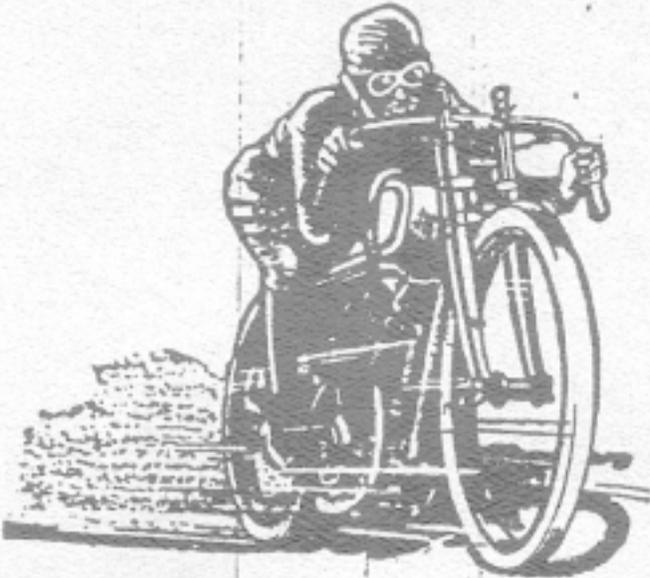


## Lest We Forget...

History of Republic Bank of Dallas In what some consider his most important management decision, Florence organized a wholly owned subsidiary, the Howard Corporation, in 1946 to receive the petroleum properties of Republic National in exchange for its authorized capital stock. The company, which took its name from Howard County, Texas, where some of the oil properties were located, acquired numerous shares of Teléfonos de México, invested in twenty Texas banks, Highland Park Village<sup>qv</sup> and six other shopping centers, and undeveloped real estate, and paid huge dividends. By 1948 Republic was the largest bank in Texas. Howard's stock was transferred to a separate trust in 1955, but in 1973 the Federal Reserve Bank required Republic to divest itself of the Howard Corporation's nonbanking assets in order to form a holding company known as the Republic of Texas Corporation. At that time, James W. Aston, who became president of Republic in 1957 and served on the board of American Airlines, arranged for American's AA Development Corporation, a subsidiary, to acquire the bulk of Howard's assets.

<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/RR/cor1.html>

Ross City, on Farm Road 821 in the southeastern corner of Howard County, was named for William Rossman. Shortly after oil was discovered in the area in 1926 Rossman bought the townsite and divided it into lots. Ross City boomed for a brief period; its population reached 600 in 1936 and then began to decline. In 1947 the town had 250 inhabitants and two businesses. The population fell to eighty by 1956 and remained the same in 1966. In 1980 through 2000 Ross City had eighty-one inhabitants. <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/RR/hnr43.html>



**3 STAR  
T. T.  
(Tourist Trophy)  
MOTORCYCLE  
RACES**

**Sunday April 24th. 11 A. M.**

Races have been carded at this early hour in order that sports fans may attend the horse races later in the day.

**8 Events**                      **Class "C"**

Track Located on Old San Angelo Highway

**ADULTS \$1.00**                      Tax Incl.                      **CHILDREN 50c**

Sponsored by Junior Chamber of Commerce

1929 Near the entrance to the city park. But where were there horse races on a Sunday?

The community of Ziler existed briefly during the 1870s north of the site of present Big Spring in central Howard County. Situated on Christopher C. Slaughter's<sup>qv</sup> ranchland, the small settlement served for a time as a rural mail station. (I think this date of 1870 is a mistake but have yet to prove it. --Doyle Phillips)

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Ed Ellsworth Bartholomew, *The Encyclopedia of Texas Ghost Towns* (Fort Davis, Texas, 1982). Charles G. Davis

<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/ZZ/hvz9.html>

Big Springs Offers \$50,000 For Any New Railroad  
Friday, April 24, 1908 from the Big Springs Enterprise

The following special appeared in the Fort Worth Telegram in its issue of the 19th:

The population of Big Springs is now placed at 6,000, the largest city between Fort Worth and El Paso, excepting Abilene and perhaps Weatherford. A large portion of this population was gained in the last year, many settlers from other states choosing to locate here. The Texas and Pacific shops now pay out \$40,000 each month to its employees here. The deposits of the two banks reach \$800,000, a showing few towns of this size can make.

It is estimated Big Springs is gaining 600 persons a year. Although land is exceptionally good for farming as well as pasturing, it sells from \$7 to \$14 per acre, a low price for productive land. The Big Springs Commercial Club has a standing offer of \$50,000 for any new railroads that will build through here in any direction.

The altitude is 2,500 feet. The West Texas Commercial Clubs will meet here on May 19. (The Commercial Club was the forerunner of the Chamber of Commerce. And \$50,000 was a whopping big sum they raised. —Editor)

## Regional Geographic



**Gravesite Mystery. Can you help?** Look closely to discern the four weathered posts that hold the wire fence surrounding the graves. Maybe you can see the small metal marker too. This plot is located in a mesquite thicket in the northwestern part of Howard County on the land owned by heirs of Roy Phillips. Uncle Roy, now deceased, told me that there are four people, two adults, two small children from the same family buried here. They died in the swine flu epidemic of 1918, according to Roy. Do you know the name of these people? I failed to make a note of it when he told me; I think he said it was McClisky or McKessel... Please let us know if you have the identity.



This may be what is called the Phillips Cemetery in the 1882 - 1992 Howard County Centennial book. Now I believe that the people buried here were named McCauley but have yet to find death records. --D. Phillips

# Common Stock

If you have a family tree that is largely connected to Howard County history, please consider sending it to *Signal*.

## Elements of the Griffin, Roberts, Cole and Related Families

To inaugurate this series we selected the kindred of Dora Roberts, a philanthropist whose contributions to Howard County live on through her endowments. And also because so many people have asked *Signal* about her life and relations. Partial family tree:

### DORA NUNN GRIFFIN ROBERTS

Dora Nunn was born April 23, 1863 in Alabama. She died December 17, 1953 in Fort Worth, Texas. Her father was Elijah Hope Nunn. Her mother was Elizabeth Parthenia Joynor. Her second husband was John Roberts (no children).

1. First Husband was Andrew Griffin (accidentally killed in a ranching accident)

2. Docia (Dorcia, Dochia) Griffin was the first daughter who married William J. Garrett

3. William Horace Garrett was the son who married Dorothy Dublin. Horace and Dorothy Garrett have carried on the Roberts' major philanthropical interest in the area. The Garrett's two daughters are

4. Dorothy Ann Garrett (deceased) married Gary D. Turner

4. Melinda Sue Garrett married Stanley Partee

2. Eloise Griffin was the second daughter of Dora and Andrew Griffin, she married Leslie Canter. Their two sons are

3. Roger Canter of Midland

3. Curtis Canter (deceased)

### WILLIAM TRAVIS AND MARY ROBERTS

1. William Travis (Uncle Bud) Roberts was a cousin of John Roberts. They had adjoining ranch property in the southeast part of Howard County. Uncle Bud died in 1940. He was married to Mary Thompson. Their children were

2. William (died in infancy)

2. Lou Etta (1873-1961) married Isaac Larkin Wade; their children are

3. Brookie Wade married Morgan Martin; their children are

4. Elmo L. Martin who married Desdemonia Watkins; their children are

5. Larkin Martin

5. William Morgan Martin

3. Mary Wade married Hebert A. Hays in 1921

3. Bertie Mae Wade married Lindsay A. Marchbanks in 1929; their children are

4. Charles Lindsay Marchbanks married Troy Garms; their children are

5. Sara Jane Marchbanks

5. Patricia Bertie Marchbanks

5. Troy Alicia Marchbanks

3. Vera Wade married John Harold Choate (2nd marriage to Otis Grafa with no children). The children of Vera and John are

4. Wade Choate married Toni Barron; their children are

5. Kyle Wade Choate

5. Melody Ann Choate

2. Alex Roberts (1874-1938)

2. Arthur Roberts (1875-1957)

2. Shelby Roberts (1882-1883)

2. Effie Roberts (1886-1890)

2. Leora Roberts (born 1890) married Emmett W. (Bud) Flanagan (no children)

As we were producing this article, John Otis (Sonny) Cole died in Fort Worth at the age of 70. He was a grand-nephew of Dora Roberts through her sister Mary who married Otis Chalk. Their daughter, Doris Chalk Cole, was Sonny's mother.

Research by Glynnie Evans and Doyle Phillips



Knowing that Texas & Pacific trains would arrive daily from New Orleans, you now know why Big Spring once had at least one fresh seafood business. The oldest reference I have yet found was in a 1936 city directory to a business called the City Fish & Oyster Company at 201 West 1st. There may have been an earlier fishmonger next door to the old Big Springs Steam Laundry building. (Note that you could board the train in Big Spring and travel to Memphis, Tennessee in about 24 hours, and probably enjoy great scenic views.)

