

John G. Matthews Homestead Farm and Pioneer Home

Located three and one half miles southeast of Liberty Hill, Williamson County, Texas on US Highway 183 being on the west side it extends to the middle of the South San Gabriel River.

In reading the Abstracts of Title the earliest date to be found for this land was April 3, 1838.

Republic of Texas, by Surveyor to John B. Robinson. Recorded in Book A, page 118 - Surveyors Records of Williamson County, Texas, Dept. Surveyor, T.A. Graves for Nashville Colony.

After the death of John B. Robinson on June 15, 1839, his widow Nancy Robinson was made administratrix of this property. In 1849 some of the league of land was conveyed to Jeremiah Robinson, son of John B. Robinson and Nancy Robinson, who is now Mrs. Nancy Strawn.

October 25, 1860, Jerry Jeremiah Robinson and wife, Valley Ann Robinson sold 158 acres of land out of the J.B. Robinson Headright Grant to John G. Matthews for \$790.00, cash.

Recorded August 29th, 1861 - Register Vol. 8, page 413-414. Deed Records of Williamson County.

John G. Matthews bought 200 acres of land out of the Robinson Survey that had been a portion belonging to Nancy Strawn. He paid \$500.00, cash to Wm. Walton, Agent and Atty.

Recorded Feb. 15th, 1871 - Book 2, page 603. Deed Records of Williamson County.

John G. Matthews owned other parcels of land but since it is no longer a part of this place the records are lost.

An old Tax Receipt among his papers the following:

John G. Matthews

|     |       |               |       |                |
|-----|-------|---------------|-------|----------------|
| 658 | acres | J.B. Robinson | 14.00 |                |
| 103 | "     | G. Fisk       | 1.03  | ( See page 21) |

28th, Oct. 1872

J.P. ----- Sheriff of Williamson County.

John G. Matthews died November 4, 1903 at Liberty Hill. To settle the estate and disperse the property, real and personal, the land was purchased by a son, Joseph Neely Matthews, from the other heirs, as follows:

100 acres of Jeremiah Robinson Tract  
200 + acres of lower half of J.B. Robinson League

From A.B. Matthews, Nora Matthews Bryson and husband, L.G. Bryson, Addie Matthews Allen and husband, R.E. Allen, S.H. Matthews, S.J. Matthews and Jas. S. Matthews.

Consideration: \$2800.00 cash

Filed for record April 29, 1904 - Recorded in Book 112, page 167.

Deed records, Williamson County, Texas.

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Joseph Neely Matthews and wife Emma Marrs Matthews sold and conveyed to their daughters Leonora Matthews and Myreta Matthews the following:

206 acres out of the J.B. Robinson League Survey  
Recorded June 29, 1929, Vol 238, pages 78 - -  
Deed Records, Williamson County, Texas.

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Leonora Matthews died May 2, 1964 at Georgetown, Texas. Williamson County Probate Court awarded her share to her sister Myreta Matthews. The property included the 206 acres of land out of the J.B. Robinson Survey League and the stone house which is situated on it.

Recorded December 22, 1965, Vol. 483, pages 552 - -  
Deed Records, Williamson County, Texas.

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RIGHT OF WAY GRANTS FOR ROADS

Rail Road: To Austin and North Western a strip 100 feet wide from south to north through the land, 100 yards west of the house. Paid \$150.00.

Recorded December 21, 1881, Book 27, page 412  
Deed Records, Williamson County, Texas.

Highway: State Highway 29, for widening to make it even 50 feet wide. Recorded 10-15-1931, Book 261, page 25. (0.72 acres-no pay)  
Deed Records, Williamson County, Texas.

Highway: U S Highway 183 a strip on the east side 10 feet by 1462. Consideration: build a good fence and larger drain tile at entrance. Recorded August 8, 1962. Williamson County, Texas.

Vital Statistics of the John G. Matthews Family

John G. Matthews, b. 3-3-1824, Tenn. - d. 11-4-1903, Liberty Hill, Tx.

Married (1) 12-24-1850, to Sarah Strong, Tenn., d. 10-4-1852, Austin, Tx.

Son - James Strong Matthews, b. 6-15-1852 Austin, Tx. d. 9-11-1929, Okla.

Married (2) Nancy Leanorah Carothers, 10-23-1855, Austin, Tx.

Nancy Leanorah Matthews, b. 8-17-1838, S.C., d. 4-1-1893, Liberty Hill, Tx.

Children

Adeline M. Matthews, b. 7-24-1856, Austin, Tx., d. 12-20-1940, Austin, Tx.

Abner B. Matthews, b. 10-6-1858, Austin, Tx., d. 3-13-1948, Austin, Tx.

Samuel H. Matthews, b. 3-30-1860, Austin, Tx., d. 5-23-1930, Austin, Tx.

John Sidney Matthews, b. 3-16-1863, Austin, Tx., d. 8-8-1926, Beaumont, Tx.

Joseph Neely Matthews, b. 5-26-1866, Austin, Tx., d. 11-10-1944, Liberty Hill

Infant Dau. Matthews, b. 1-26-1871 - d. 2-4-1871 (9 days) Liberty Hill, Tx.

W. Franklin Matthews, b. 6-10-1872, Liberty Hill, d. 4-25-1950, San Antonio

Nancy Leonora Matthews, b. 8-18-1875, Liberty Hill, d. 3-11-1968, Houston

Joseph Neely Matthews, b. 5-26-1866, Austin, Tx., d. 11-10-1944, Liberty Hill

Married 7-1-1900, to Emma Cornelia Marrs, Joppa, Burnet County, Tx.

Emma Cornelia Matthews, b. 7-17-1875, Corn Hill, Tx., d. 9-12-1947, Burnet

Children

Leonora Evalyn Matthews, b. 4-26-1901, Briggs, Tx., d. 5-2-1964, Georgetown

Myreta J. Matthews, b. 3-30-1903, Briggs, Tex. d. -----

Leta Matthews, b. and d. 3-17-1909, Bertram, Tex.

Cornelia Matthews, b. 7-27-1914, Liberty Hill, Tx. d. -----

Myreta J. Matthews, Liberty Hill, Texas (Single)

Members of the Commission  
Emma K. Burleson, Austin, Chairman  
George D. Sears, Houston  
Laura Aline Hobby, Dallas  
John Gould, Wichita Falls  
L. W. Kemp, Houston

Texas  
Library and Historical Commission  
State Library, Austin  
October 10, 1939

Fannie M. Wilcox,  
State Librarian

Mr. J. N. Matthews  
Liberty Hill, Texas

My dear Sir:

Your letter of October 5, addressed to the Comptroller, has been referred to me.

The records show that James Matthews served under General Burleson on the Vasquez and Indian campaigns in 1842. John G. Matthews enlisted August 20, 1845 at Austin, Texas in Travis County Rangers, commanded by Captain D. C. Cady, and served three months.

I have not been able to find the record of Wade Henry.

Sincerely yours



Harriet Smither  
Archivist

HS:CE

WAR DEPARTMENT  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

IN REPLY OR-mvc  
REFER TO

WASHINGTON

October 31, 1939.

Respectfully returned to

J. N. Matthews,  
Liberty Hill,  
Texas.

The records of this office show that one John Mathews was enrolled January 1, 1846 (date of enrollment also shown as February 16, 1846), at Austin, as a private in Captain D. C. Cady's Company, Texas Mounted Rangers, Mexican War, and was mustered out with the company and honorably discharged the service as a private, July 4, 1846, at San Antonio, Texas.

The inclosed questionnaire should be filled in as far as possible with information relative to the service of John G. Matthews in the Confederate States Army.

2. Incls.

*E. S. ...*  
Major General  
The Adjutant General  
By *B. J. ...*

THE STATE OF TEXAS,

COUNTY OF TRAVIS,

To *Jacob Matthews Esq*

SIR:—You will please take notice that at the *Special Term* Term 1860 of the County Court of said County, you as Captain and *Josiah Pullison, A Bennett, J. Marshall & W. M. Wilson* as your associates, were appointed a patrol for the term of three months, for that portion of Travis County, described as follows, to-wit, *in the*

*Tamackill settlement and vicinity*

You, and each of you, are therefore especially enjoined to exercise the power herein granted, carefully, strictly, and with moderation. It is your duty to prevent all unlawful assemblages of negroes in your district, either in the day time or at night, to apprehend all negroes strolling about, off the plantation or premises of his or her owner or employer, without a pass or written permission from some person authorized to give the same, and to give to any slave thus offending, any number of lashes not exceeding twenty-five; to visit suspected places for harbored runaway slaves, and to apprehend them and take them before some Justice of the Peace; to arrest any white person or Mexican who may be found associating with or participating in common with any slave or slaves, either in conversation or amusement, and to carry such person or persons before a Justice of the Peace, to be dealt with according to law.

It is the duty of the Captain herein named to notify his associates of their appointment, to divide into detachments of, not less than two patrols, and to prevent any trespass or unlawful acts by them while engaged in patrolling under the penalty of the law.

GIVEN under my hand and the seal of said Court, this *24th* day of *December*...

A. D. 1860

*J. M. Cannon*

Clerk County Court Travis Co.

## SECOND OWNER OF THE ROCK HOUSE

Joseph Neely Matthews, who obtained the land and the house, in 1904, from the other heirs of John G. Matthews, made a career of school teaching. He went to the country school near his home until he was fifteen years old and then attended school in Liberty Hill, worked a while, then entered the Liberty Normal and Business College. He obtained a Second Grade Teaching Certificate by taking County Examinations and taught three years. He did this and other kinds of work to make enough money to send himself to the Sam Houston Normal College in Huntsville. He attended this school two years and graduated in 1895. He continued to teach in the public schools of Williamson, Burnet and Llano counties until 1922, having spent more than thirty years as teacher and principal.

The next four years he published THE LIBERTY HILL INDEX. Soon after that he was appointed Justice of the Peace at Liberty Hill. He held that office several years.

He died November 10, 1944 and is buried in the family plot in the Liberty Hill cemetery. His wife, Emma Matthews followed September 12, 1947. His oldest daughter, Leonora died May 2, 1964.

The REASONS for wishing to commemorate this structure are to honor the founder and builder John G. Matthews and his wife Leannah for their forethought in building a substantial home. It represents the way of life in this part of Texas more than one hundred years ago. It is typically well built and strong. It is an enduring monument to the pioneer man who built it and his wife who helped. He built it to last just as he served in the various military units under the flags of the Republic of Texas and the United States to make our Nation strong and lasting. Covering a period of many years J.G. Matthews was a member of several groups of Volunteer Home Guards to protect his home and those of his neighbors

Another REASON for marking this house is that Joseph Neely Matthews carried on the principles of his father and loved the old home enough to borrow money to buy it from the other heirs in order to keep it in the family and not cut up into small plots.

Bibliography

Abstracts of Title from Deed Records of Williamson County

Old Documents and receipts belonging to J.G.Matthews.

The Matthews Family Bible

Liberty Hill Cemetery Records

Matthews, J.N., Matthews-Carothers, Family record 1737-1943  
Unpublished Manuscript, Liberty Hill, Texas, 1943.

The Lone Star State=History of Texas Together With A  
Biographical History of Milam, Williamson, Bastrop, Travis,  
Lee and Burleson Counties., Chicago: Lewis Publishing CO., 1893  
pages 281 and 282.

Hunter, J. Marvin: Frontier Times Magazines, Vol. 23, Cover  
and pages 33 and 34; December 1945, Bandera, Texas.

Compiled by Myreta Matthews, Box 127, Liberty Hill, Tex. 78642