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James Henry Faulkner (1861-1936)

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James Henry Faulkner (1861-1936)

BY ROBERT J. (JACK) DUNCAN

James Henry Faulkner pursued a multi-faceted career. He was County Judge of Collin County, Texas, for two two-year terms around the turn of the century (nineteenth century to twentieth). At other times in his life, he served as Justice of the Peace (in Collin County and later in Tarrant County), and as a public school teacher and principal. For a few years he and his wife owned and operated a hotel/boardinghouse in Terrell (Kaufman County). He was in the insurance business. At one low point after suffering a crippling disability, for four years he *sold newspapers on the streets of Fort Worth*.¹

Collin County

James Faulkner was born in Collin County on July 14, 1861, just a few months after the Civil War began. His parents, Jacob (also known as "Jake") and Amanda Stinson Faulkner, had migrated from Kentucky to Texas. They arrived in Texas in the early 1850s (after October 26, 1851 and before about 1855).

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They had a large family, large even for that era: 15 children, nine sons and six daughters. James Henry, who, as a child, was addressed as simply "Henry," was the eleventh child. He was the ninth, and youngest, son. The family lived in a rural area of Collin County, but in the general vicinity of the town of Allen.²

Jacob, James's father, was a farmer and a teacher. Before the Civil War, Jacob taught school at Orchard Gap, a community about seven miles southeast of McKinney. So James was raised in a home environment that encouraged education. Later he attended Seven Points College, in the Westminster community (in northeast Collin County); he studied with the headmaster, Reverend J. M. Harder. Reportedly he obtained much of his education after he was 23 years old. By 1893, James was teaching at the Wilmeth School north of McKinney. He also taught there in 1894. At night he read the law. In November 1894, he was elected Justice of

the Peace in Collin County, Precinct 1. He beat his one opponent, J. W. George, by 1,294 votes to 752. His duties included serving as coroner. In 1896, he ran for reelection, against J. R. Padgitt; this time James won by 1,763 votes to 1,074.³

On June 30, 1895, James married Minnie May Reynolds. Minnie possibly was an orphan; she had been living with her older sister and other family members in Collin County. James was her senior by a decade. On June 19, 1897, their daughter, Thelma May Fleda Faulkner, was born. The family lived on Parker Street in McKinney, several blocks southwest of the town square and the (then) County courthouse. In 1905, James's property (for tax purposes) was valued at \$1,200 (for his house and half-acre lot), plus \$10 for personal property.⁴

James was well positioned socially for politics in Collin County. He was an active member of the McKinney Lodge (No. 28) of the Order of the Knights of Pythias. His niece, Mrs. Sallie Faulkner Perkins, was the wife of a man who owned the two local newspapers, Thomas W. Perkins. (Perkins would later be elected mayor of McKinney for several terms, over several decades; his first term would begin in 1905.) Also, James's brother, J. Ben, (Sallie's father), was a highly popular Christian minister in Collin County. He was an early pastor of the First Christian Church in McKinney. Ben also served as the first pastor of the First Christian Church of Wylie from 1888 to 1894; someone followed him as pastor, then he again served in that capacity from 1895 to 1899.⁵

In 1898, James ran for County Judge of Collin County. He won the election against L. L. Miller (3,753 votes to 1,419) and was uncontested for re-election in 1900, for a second two-year term (6,775 votes). James did not seek re-election in 1904. He was a Democrat. In February 1902, apparently as an entertainment, James and four other men engaged in a public debate on the topic: "Men have greater influence than women." It is interesting, though not surprising, that no women participated in the debate, so it may have been somewhat one-sided.⁶

Looking back from the twenty-first century, among the more quaint and nostalgic activities of the Commissioners Court that resonate today are instances where the members voted to pay themselves \$3 each per diem for their services. On a monthly basis they also approved funds to support several local paupers who were mentioned *by name* in the record (\$5 to \$7). An occupation tax had 60 subparts. It was used to tax residents and also seems to have been directed at gypsies and at workers in traveling circuses and medicine shows, probably partly to

discourage their presence in the county; the occupation tax on transient workers apparently was used in lieu of a permit. The county established a contract with an undertaker and paid for the burial of paupers (\$3 for an adult's coffin, \$3 for the grave, \$0.40 for a plank to cover the grave, and \$0.50 for "hauling corpse to cemetery in hack"; rates for children were cheaper.) Pensions for Confederate veterans were approved. Much of the time the Commissioners Court was involved with matters having to do with county schools, county roads, and local option (prohibition) elections, and sometimes redistricting matters. An outbreak of smallpox in Farmersville in November and December of 1899 was also a matter of some concern to Judge Faulkner and the Commissioners Court.⁷

Kaufman County

On May 11, 1902, Minnie gave birth to another child, Henry Lee Faulkner. At some point Minnie became disenchanted with James, and the couple separated on June 15, 1905. Minnie and the two children moved to Kaufman County. She bought a rural house a few miles east of Terrell on May 25, 1907. Soon James followed her, and they lived "under one roof" for at least much of the next eight years, though (at Minnie's insistence) apparently not "as husband and wife." So their marriage by that time may simply have been one of convenience, or economic necessity; perhaps it also was done partly to "keep up appearances" in that relatively straight-laced era (that was even more straight-laced for public officials and school teachers).⁸

On April 19, 1910, a Tuesday, at about 11 a.m., the Faulkner family's home, in the Elmo community of northeastern Kaufman County, burned. The house was a total loss, as were its contents. A report in the next day's *Dallas Morning News* said that the house itself had been valued at \$400, and the contents at \$900. The furnishings had included an expensive piano. Minnie had left a burner lit on the gasoline cook stove while she made a trip to gather some vegetables from the backyard garden. At the time of the article, James was a "professor" at the public school in Elmo. The Elmo community was about seven miles east of Terrell, the largest city in Kaufman County, and about 13 miles northeast of the city of Kaufman. Elmo had a population in 1910 of approximately 400. By May 9 or 10, just three weeks later, when census taker Thomas Kimbrough arrived on the scene, the Faulkners had bought, and were occupying, another house in the vicinity.⁹

By January of 1911, James was principal of the public school in Lawrence, Texas, five miles northwest of Terrell. On February 6, Minnie purchased the Mansion Hotel in downtown Terrell from Mrs. Josie Zink. Though it was called a hotel, it was actually a combination hotel and boardinghouse. She paid \$8,000 for it: \$4,050 down, with the balance financed by Mrs. Zink at eight percent per annum interest. The hotel/boardinghouse was located at the corner of East Broad and South Virginia streets, within a block of the Texas and Pacific Railroad tracks and freight depot. (See photo of the hotel in appendix, Item no. 4, p. 17; for location of the hotel, see appendix, Item no. 5, p. 18, Texas Digital Sanborn Map for Terrell, Texas, August 1914, p. 10.) The three-story hotel was built of wood and had 36 guest rooms; more than half of the rooms occupied by regular boarders. The Faulkner family, of course, lived in the hotel. In early November of 1912, Minnie placed a recurring classified ad in the *Dallas Morning News* offering to sell, trade, lease, or rent the hotel. However, it must have taken a long time to sell; the R.L. Polk & Company's *Texas State Gazetteer and Business Directory* for 1914-15 showed M. M. Faulkner (Minnie) as the proprietor. On October 22, 1915, Minnie sold the hotel to Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Sims for \$4,000, a loss of 50 percent.¹⁰

Tarrant County

In the meantime, James and Minnie had finally divorced. By the spring of 1914, James had moved to Dallas County; on October 20 of that year, he filed for divorce. The divorce was final on March 2, 1915, and a notice was published in the *Dallas Morning News*. By then their daughter, Thelma, was 17 years old, and their son, Henry Lee, was 12. (Minnie would later briefly marry a man named George G. Kirby in Dallas on August 23, 1917, whom she would divorce on May 17, 1918. Strangely, in that divorce decree, Kirby, who had not adopted Thelma and Henry, would be required to pay several dollars per week in child support; more than a year later, Kirby would finally get that requirement revoked. Later Minnie would marry a Clayton M. Smith in Garland, Texas; she would remain married to him until her death on November 6, 1937. She is buried in Mills Cemetery in Garland.)¹¹

James moved to Fort Worth in 1916. He "engaged in the insurance business." A few years later, he suffered an illness that caused him to essentially lose the use of his right hand. Apparently down on his luck, James sold newspapers on the streets of Fort Worth from 1922 to

1926. However, even at the age of 65, he was able to make a profound comeback; perhaps his one-on-one daily contact and rapport with a great many citizens in the business district of Fort Worth helped him to accomplish the feat. James was elected Justice of the Peace for Precinct 1, Place 1, and served in that capacity from 1926 until 1935. Once again, his J. P. duties included those of coroner. Fort Worth, home of the notorious "Hell's Half Acre" of a few decades before, was still a wild and wooly place in the 1920s and 1930s.¹²

Many of James's cases involved violent crimes such as murder and robbery. Often those cases made for big news stories, but not just in Fort Worth—they also frequently made front-page stories in Dallas, some 30 miles away. Some involved poisonings; some were suicides. One case involved a bigamy charge against a girl (who had first married at the age of thirteen) and her 32-year-old husband. Another case involved the possession of marijuana; one is left with the impression that arrests for that crime must have been rare occurrences, because the *Dallas Morning News* quaintly spelled the offending material as "marihuana." One case involved fraud that was perpetrated to cash in on the so-called "Dead Bank Robber Reward." The Texas State Bankers Association had offered a \$5,000 reward to anyone killing a bank robber who was engaged in the act of robbing a bank, but "not one cent for a hundred live ones." Not surprisingly, a reward of that size—especially during the Great Depression—led to several instances across the state wherein people were "set up" for murder by schemers who wanted to collect the reward and were willing to stoop to murder to obtain it. In another criminal case, Billie Mace, Bonnie Parker's sister, was charged in the murder (along with gang member Floyd Hamilton) of two Texas highway patrolmen near Grapevine, Texas, on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1934; she later was acquitted of that charge when it was established that Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow had committed the murder themselves. Physical evidence that was important to Mace's defense included a discarded whiskey bottle found near the scene of the double killing, upon which investigators had found a partial fingerprint that appeared to match a sample of Clyde Barrow's fingerprint. In addition, Billie Mace had a witness, her aunt, Mrs. Lelia Plummer, who swore under oath that Mace was in Oak Cliff all night on Saturday, May 31, and the morning of Sunday, April 1; the aunt testified that *she and Mace had slept in the same bed that night*.¹³

In late 1932, an outside audit of the 1928 expense reports filed by Justice Faulkner found what the auditors called: "illegal and extortionate

collection of court costs" associated with both civil and criminal cases and determined that Faulkner owed Tarrant County \$1,367. This evidently triggered an audit of his expense reports for 1929 through part of 1932; that audit found that, for those four years, he owed the County \$4,465.53. Apparently he repaid the money, or some other mutually acceptable resolution was reached, because he continued in his job until 1935, when he was defeated at the polls by Hal P. Hughes.¹⁴

The 1930 U.S. Census showed that at that time James was a boarder in the home of a young married couple, William G. and Juanita Miller. At some point, one winter James slipped on ice and fell, breaking his right leg. The leg became infected with gangrene and amputation was necessary. Thereafter, he used a pair of crutches.¹⁵

Falls County

James's son, Henry Lee Faulkner, had become an auto mechanic. In 1928, he owned a repair garage, Lee's Garage, in Dallas; the following year, he was still in Dallas but was working at Oak Cliff Brake Service. Henry married and divorced twice before moving to Marlin, Texas, in the early 1930s. There he purchased

and operated the automobile repair garage that was adjacent to, and associated with, the eight-story, 110-room Hilton Hotel, built by Conrad Hilton in 1929 to capitalize on tourism associated with the artesian mineral water in Marlin. (The building is still there.)¹⁶

In the mid-1930s, James developed prostate cancer. He moved to Marlin and lived with Henry Lee. James slipped while bathing, breaking his remaining leg. While hospitalized, James introduced Henry Lee to his nurse, Elizabeth Hartgrove. (Soon Henry Lee would marry Elizabeth, and within a few years they would have three sons.) On August 28, 1936, James died from uremia (along with contributory causes: a hypertrophied prostate and a fractured femur in his left leg). He was 75 years old at the time of his death. His remains are buried in Marlin's Calvary Cemetery.¹⁷

* * *

Although James Faulkner suffered several formidable disappointments and setbacks over the course of his life, he had some substantial accomplishments, too. Besides serving as chief executive officer of the Collin County government for four years, he served as a Justice of the Peace in Collin County, and later for many years in Tarrant County. He served as an educator (public school principal, "professor,"

and teacher). He taught young people in at least three schools (possibly more) in at least two Texas counties. He was a hotelier for a time in Terrell. He evidently was a versatile, intelligent, accomplished individual with very good deductive, communication, and social skills. Surely he must have reveled in his major comeback late in life: election to an office of substantial responsibility, and repeated reelection, despite advanced age and physical handicaps, even in the midst of the Great Depression. We can view his and Minnie's marriage difficulties only from afar because we know almost none of the personal details. But regardless of what caused their marital problems, we know that for about a decade, he apparently persisted and struggled, trying to regain what he had somehow lost. Whatever the circumstances that remain veiled to us, his effort must be viewed as an epic, heroic (and very human) quest—in anybody's book.

ENDNOTES

1 J. Lee Stambaugh and Lillian J. Stambaugh, *A History of Collin County, Texas* (Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1958), 246, listed Faulkner's election as November 8, 1898; his successor, F. E. Wilcox, was elected on November 7, 1902; "J. H. Faulkner Dies at Marlin," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, Saturday, August 29, 1936, 4 (See appendix, Item no. 15, p. 35), mentioned his J. P. service in both counties, his teaching school, his work in insurance, his disability, and his selling newspapers on the streets. "Wilmeth School – Collin County Communities," Texas History and Genealogy Webpage by Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc., < <http://www.geocities.com/GenFriendsghl/schools/wilmethsch.htm> >, says he taught at the Wilmeth School in Collin County; "Fire Destroys Residence," *Dallas Morning News*, April 19, 1910, 3 (See appendix, Item no. 3, p. 16), said that he was principal of the Elmo public school in Kaufman County; "Civic and Industrial Development," *Dallas Morning News*, February 11, 1911, 10, mentioned that he was a school principal at Lawrence in Kaufman County and discussed the purchase of the hotel; to view a photograph of Judge Faulkner, see appendix, Item no. 1, p. 14.

2 Faulkner's death certificate (See appendix, Item no. 13, p. 33) showed his date of birth; the same date was written on the back of a portrait photograph of Faulkner in the possession of his grandson Tom Faulkner, of Victoria, Texas; that date also is consistent with his age (in years) on the U.S. Censuses for 1870 and 1880, and with the birth month reported on the 1900 Census (though the birth year was off by one). The Censuses for 1870 and 1880 (See appendix, Item no. 9, pp. 24 and 25, for abstracts) showed the Jacob Faulkner family in Collin County; an e-mail message from Tom Faulkner to the author on September 26, 2008 contained a list of the names (and most ages, as well as the birth states for most) of the 15 offspring of Jacob and Amanda Faulkner, and this supplemented the lists from the 1870 and 1880 Censuses; the "child ladder" method of tracing migration provided the parameters for the arrival of the family in Texas, because Daniel Jackson Faulkner was born on October 26, 1851, in Kentucky, and the next youngest child, John J. Faulkner, was born in about 1855, in Texas; George Pearis Brown, *Collin County in Pioneer Times, Selections from the George Pearis Brown Papers*, second edition (Collin County Historical Society: McKinney, Texas, n.d. [after 1985]), 42, said that Jacob was teaching in Collin County before the Civil War, so James Henry Faulkner, who was born in July 1861, must have been born in Collin County.

3 The 1880 Census showed Jake (Jacob) Faulkner's occupation as farmer (Schedule 1, Allen Election Precinct, Collin County, Texas, Page No. 25, Supervisor's District No. 3, Enumeration District No. 19, Enumerator

W. H. Chandler, June 24, 1880); George Pearis Brown, *Collin County in Pioneer Times, Selections from the George Pearis Brown Papers*, mentioned Jacob's teaching school in the Orchard Gap Primitive Baptist Church building (before the Civil War); "Westminster Baptist School – Schools of Collin County," Collin County, Texas History and Genealogy Webpage by Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc., <<http://www.geocities.com/GenFriendsghl/schools/westminsterbap.htm>> mentions that Judge Faulkner studied under Rev. J. M. Harder at Seven Points College in Westminster; "Wilmeth School – Collin County Communities" says that James taught at the Wilmeth School in 1893 and 1894; the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* obituary, "J. H. Faulkner Dies at Marlin," said that Faulkner studied law at night; precinct number and vote counts were from Collin County Election Records ledger, pages 53 and 63, respectively, in the Collin County Elections office, 2010 Redbud Boulevard, Suite 102, McKinney, Texas; James's coroner duties were mentioned in "A Terrible Tragedy," *Dallas Morning News*, April 24, 1897, 1, which said: "Justice Faulkner of McKinney was notified and went down to inquest the remains."

4 Date of marriage was shown on Collin County Marriage Record, vol. 9, p. 535 (See appendix, Item no. 2, p. 15). The U.S. Census for 1880 showed that Minnie, age 9, was living with her older sister (perhaps a half-sister since their ages were 40 years apart) and other family members in Collin County; the 1880 census showed that (James) Henry Faulkner was 18 years old; Thelma's date of birth was reported by Tom Faulkner, her nephew, in an e-mail message to the author dated August 30, 2008; name of street was shown on index to the U.S. Census for 1900; value of property was shown on the Assessment of Property in Collin County for 1905, Precinct No. 8, P114, line 16.

5 Faulkner was one of a three-man committee that presented a resolution to the officers and members of the McKinney chapter of the Order of the Knights of Pythias, as reported in an article entitled "Resolutions: Passed by the K. P. at a Meeting of the Order Last Evening," *McKinney Democrat*, Thursday, December 8, 1898, 2; information on Perkins was from Stambaugh and Stambaugh, 193-194; J. B. (Ben) Faulkner's pastorship of the McKinney church was mentioned in a *Dallas Morning News* article, "First Christian Church of McKinney to Be Dedicated Today," December 12, 1897, 7; his pastorship of the Wylie church was listed in *First Christian Church: Wylie, Texas, 1887 – 1987* (Wylie[?], Texas: First Christian Church, 1987), 11.

6 Vote counts were from Collin County Election Records ledger for 1898 and 1902, pages 73, 132, and 27, respectively; Faulkner's party affiliation was mentioned in "Collin County Democrats," *Dallas Morning News*, May 13, 1900, 2; the debate was mentioned in *Collin County Lifeprints*, by Joy Gough,

"Collin County Timeline," Collin County History and Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc., <http://www.geocities.com/GenFriendsghl/TIME_LINE/timeline.htm>.

7 Collin County Commissioners Court Minutes, vols. 9 and 10, in the Collin County Clerk at Law office, 1800 N. Graves Street, Suite 110, McKinney, Texas; judge's and commissioners' per diem pay, p. 242 and elsewhere; pauper welfare, p. 318 and elsewhere; occupation tax, p. 248-254 and elsewhere; cost to bury paupers, p. 313; Confederate pensions, p. 335; county schools, p. 244 and elsewhere; county roads, p. 243 and elsewhere; local option elections, p. 234 and elsewhere; smallpox outbreak, p. 369.

8 E-mail message from Tom Faulkner, James and Minnie's grandson, to the author dated August 30, 2008; warranty deed (sale agreement).

9 "Fire Destroys Residence," *Dallas Morning News*, April 20, 1910, 3; location and population of Elmo were from *Handbook of Texas Online*, s.v. "Elmo, Texas," <<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/EE/hne12.html>>; the 1910 U.S. Census showed that they owned the (mortgaged) house they were living in on the day the Census was taken.

10 James's teaching job and the name of the hotel were from the *Dallas Morning News* article, "Civic and Industrial Development"; details of the purchase of the hotel/boardinghouse were from a copy of the warranty deed (sales agreement) supplied to the author by James and Minnie's grandson Tom Faulkner; the classified ad was published in the *Dallas Morning News* of November 2, 1912, 15, column 5 (See appendix Item no. 6, p. 19); it was again run in the November 4, 1912 issue (p. 12, column 4); *Texas State Gazetteer and Business Directory* (Detroit: R. L. Polk & Co., 1914), 860; details of the sale of the hotel/boardinghouse were from a copy of the warranty deed (sales agreement) supplied to the author by Tom Faulkner.

11 James's petition to divorce Minnie, Dallas County District Court, dated October 20, 1914 (See appendix, Item no. 7, pp. 19-21); Faulkners' divorce decree, Dallas County, dated March 2, 1915, 268 (See appendix, Item no. 8, p. 23); "Local Courts," *Dallas Morning News*, March 3, 1915, 20; details about Minnie's two subsequent marriages and her death and burial were from e-mail messages from Tom Faulkner to the author dated August 30, 2008 and September 8, 2008, as well as a phone interview with him on September 17, 2008.

12 All of this information, except examples that document James's coroner duties as J. P., was from the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* obituary, "James Faulkner Dies at Marlin"; examples of his coroner duties were found in the following *Dallas Morning News* articles: "Man Is Slain at Fort Worth, Plumber Held," January 10, 1929, 1; "Bullet Ends Man's Life," February 1, 1929, 7; "Body of Man Found at Home Near Lake Worth, September 1, 1929, 10; "Stab Wounds Kill Butcher," July 21, 1930; "Man's Burned Body Is Found," July 27, 1930, 1; "Dairy Employee Finds Man Hanged on Tree," May 1, 1931, among others.

13 Some examples of Faulkner's cases that involved suicide and that were reported in the *Dallas Morning News* were articles entitled: "Late Hour Worker Goes to Bed by Side of Wife Thought to Be Asleep, Wakes, Finds Her Dead," July 23, 1930, 1; "Three-Year-Old Girl Watches While Father Shoots Self Fatally," May 26, 1933, 1; "Charge Woman in Bank Blast" (a murder-suicide using nitroglycerin), August 17, 1930, 1; and "Suicide in Trinity Still Unidentified," September 10, 1930, 23; an example of a Faulkner case involving poison (and suicide) was: "Body of Man Found at Home Near Lake Worth," *Dallas Morning News*, September 1, 1929, 10; the bigamy case was reported in: "Girl, Married at 13, Charged as Bigamist," *Dallas Morning News*, May 30, 1933, 3; the marijuana case was reported in: "Charge Marihuana Sold to Students," *Dallas Morning News*, March 27, 1932, 10; the Faulkner case involving the "dead bank robber reward" was reported in: "Third Arrest Made in Bank Holdup Deaths," *Dallas Morning News*, April 18, 1930, 1 & 3; further information on this misguided reward policy was from A. C. Greene, *The Santa Claus Bank Robbery*, Revised Edition (Denton, Texas: University of North Texas Press, 1999), 28-29, 128-129, and 144-145; the Billie Mace case was reported in: "Bonnie Parker's Sister Presents Alibi Testimony," *Dallas Morning News*, May 25, 1934, 3 (See appendix, Item no. 12, p. 32); Billie was acquitted of that crime, according to John Neal Phillips, *Running with Bonnie and Clyde: The Ten Fast Years of Ralph Fulton* (Norman, Oklahoma and London: University of Oklahoma Press, 1996) 311.

14 The two *Dallas Morning News* articles that reported the results of the audits were: "Audit Shows Justice of Peace Owes \$1,367 to Tarrant County," December 23, 1932, 6 (See appendix, Item no. 10, p. 30); and "Claim Justice Owes County," May 23, 1933, 11 (See appendix, Item no. 11, p. 31); his obituary in the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, "J. H. Faulkner Dies at Marlin," said that he served as J. P. until 1935, when he was defeated by Hughes; also, a *Dallas Morning News* article published in 1934 mentioned him still working at that time: "Marriage Free Sign Posted by Combatant in Courthouse War," February 8, 1934, 1, as did the *Dallas Morning News* article, "Bonnie Parker's Sister Presents Alibi Testimony."

15 Abstract of 1930 U. S. Census (See appendix, Item no. 9, p. 28); Faulkner's *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* obituary, "J. H. Faulkner Dies at Marlin," mentioned the loss of his leg, and Tom Faulkner mentioned it to the author during a phone interview on September 17, 2008; also, a portrait photo of Faulkner (taken late in life) shows him holding a pair of crutches (See appendix, Item no. 16, p. 36).

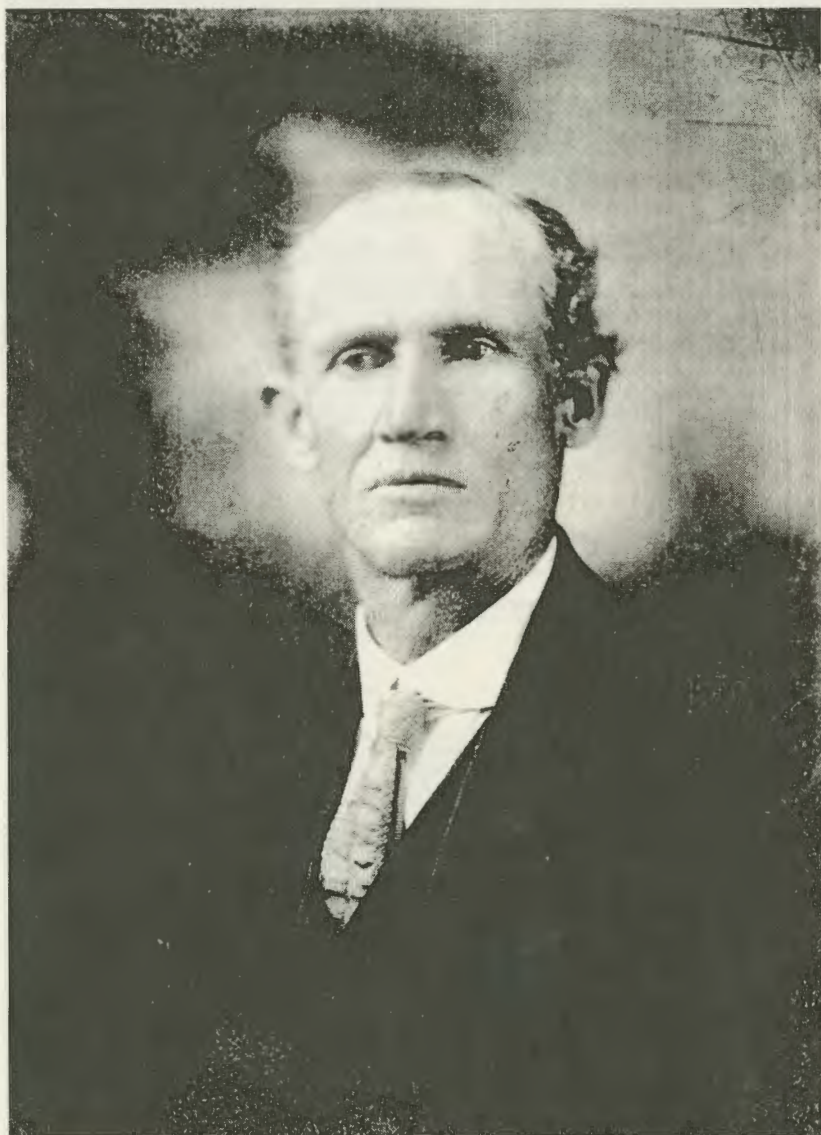
16 In phone interview on September 17, 2008, and in an e-mail to the author dated September 27, 2008, Tom Faulkner said that he found his father's name (Henry Lee Faulkner) listed as the proprietor of Lee's Garage in Dallas in the 1928 *Dallas City Directory* (p. 915) and as an employee of Oak Cliff Brake Service in the 1929 *Dallas City Directory*; the other information is also this same phone interview and e-mail.

17 Most of this information was from e-mail messages from Tom Faulkner to the author dated August 30, 2008 and September 5, 2008, and phone interview on September 17, 2008; James's *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* obituary, "J. H. Faulkner Dies at Marlin," mentioned that he broke his remaining leg and that that injury contributed to his death; the cause of death and the contributory causes mentioned above were from his death certificate; the Texas Death Index also listed his death on August 28, 1936 in Falls County, Certificate no. 40411; there was also an obituary in the *Dallas Morning News*: "Former Collin County Judge Dies at Marlin," August 29, 1936, 3; however, it got his first name wrong (See appendix, Item no. 14, p. 34).

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MARRIAGE RECORDS

VOL 9

MARRIAGE RECORD.

535

THE STATE OF TEXAS,
COUNTY OF COLLIN.

To any Regularly Licensed or Ordained Minister of the Gospel, Jewish Rabbi, Judge of the District or County Court, or any Justice of the Peace, in and for said County—GREETING

YOU ARE HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO SOLEMNIZE THE RITE OF MATRIMONY BETWEEN

Mr. J. M. Faulkner and *Miss Minnie Reynolds*

and make due return to the Clerk of the County Court of said County, within sixty days thereafter, certifying your action under this License.

Witness my official signature and seal of office, in office in McKinney, the 30th day

(Seal)

J. M. McKinney

U. H. McKinney

Clerk, County Court, Collin County

By *U. H. McKinney* Deputy.

I, *J. M. McKinney*, hereby certify that on the 30th day of June 1906
I acted in Marriage *Mr. J. M. Faulkner* and *Miss Minnie Reynolds*
the parties above named.

Witness my hand, this 1st day of July 1906

J. M. McKinney

Returned and filed for record this day of 1906 and recorded the day of 1906

County Clerk.

By Deputy.

THE STATE OF TEXAS,
COUNTY OF COLLIN.

To any Regularly Licensed or Ordained Minister of the Gospel, Jewish Rabbi, Judge of the District or County Court, or any Justice of the Peace, in and for said County—GREETING

YOU ARE HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO SOLEMNIZE THE RITE OF MATRIMONY BETWEEN

Mr. A. E. Loney and *Miss Mary E. England*

and make due return to the Clerk of the County Court of said County, within sixty days thereafter, certifying your action under this License.

Witness my official signature and seal of office, in office in McKinney, the 21st day

(Seal)

J. M. McKinney

J. M. McKinney

Clerk, County Court, Collin County

By *E. H. Keen* Deputy.

I, *J. M. McKinney*, hereby certify that on the 18th day of June 1906
I acted in Marriage *Mr. A. E. Loney* and *Miss Mary E. England*
the parties above named.

Witness my hand, this 18th day of June 1906

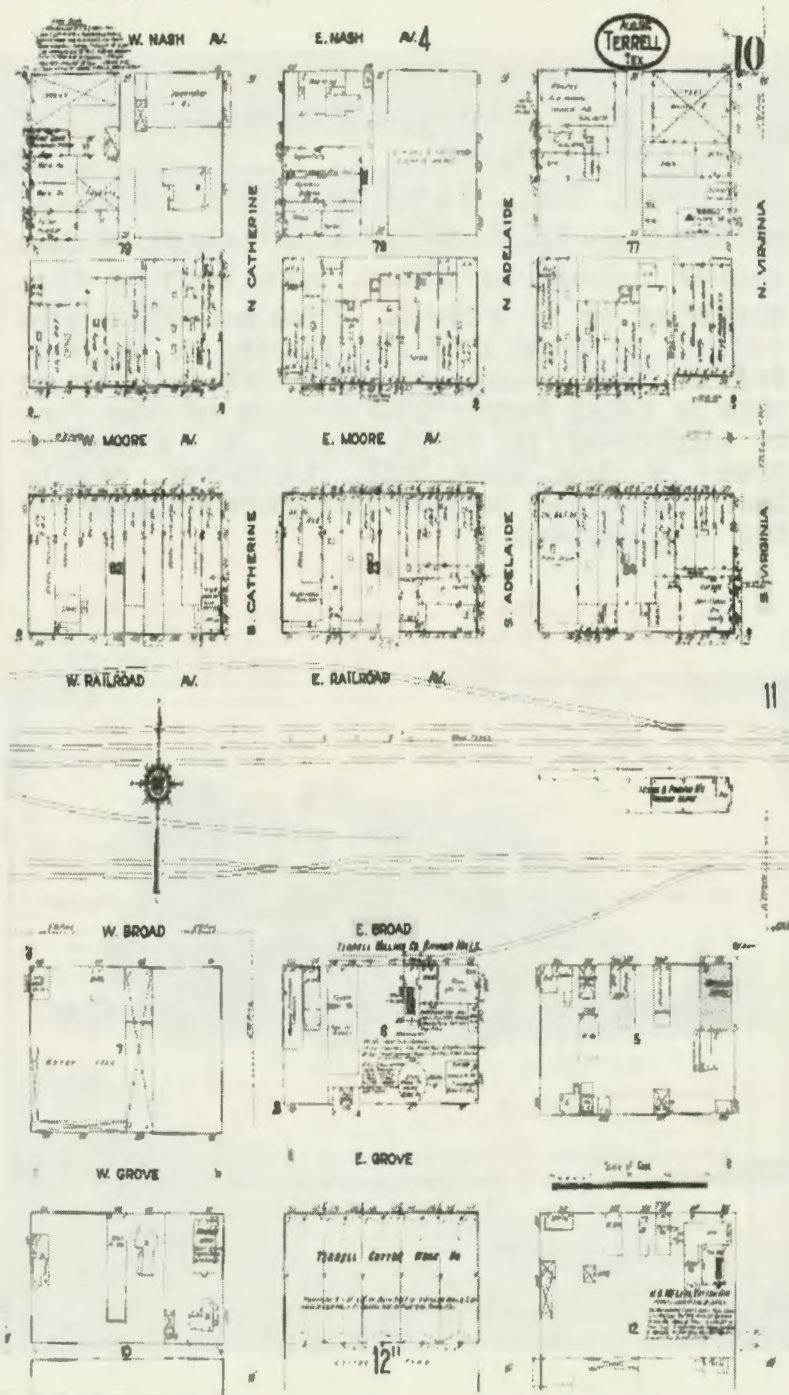
J. M. McKinney

Fire Destroys Residence.

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS.

Terrell, Tex., April 19.—The residence of Prof. J. H. Faulkner, principal of the public school at Elmo, was burned this morning at 11 o'clock. The building was valued at \$400 and the contents, including a fine piano, at \$900, all of which was a total loss. The origin of the fire is supposed to have been a gasoline stove which was left burning while Mrs. Faulkner was in her garden gathering vegetables.





No. 18301

A

DISTRICT COURT, DALLAS COUNTY

A. H. Faulkner

A. H. Faulkner

Filed

Oct 20th

A. D. 191

H. H. WILLIAMS, District Clerk.

Citation Issued

A. D. 191

Disposed of Box No.

1279

32-268 ✓

W. J. Jensen

Plaintiff's Attorney.

Defendant's Attorney.

Hargreaves Printing Company, Dallas.

EAST TEXAS HISTORICAL JOURNAL

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF DALLAS

In the District Court of
Dallas County, Texas.

To the Honorable Judge of said Court:

Now comes J. H. Faulkner, hereinafter styled plaintiff, complaining of Mrs. M. M. Faulkner, hereinafter styled defendant, and shews to the Court:

1

That plaintiff is an actual bona fide inhabitant of the State of Texas, and has resided here for more than twelve months, and has resided in the County of Dallas, State of Texas, for more than six months next preceding the filing of this suit; that said defendant resides in Kaufman County, Texas.

2

That plaintiff and defendant were legally married in Collin County, Texas, on to-wit: June 30, 1895 and lived together as husband and wife until to-wit: June 15, 1906, at which time the said defendant voluntarily left the bed and board of this plaintiff with the intention of abandonment, and has since said time refused and continues to refuse to live with plaintiff as her husband.

3

That during all of said time plaintiff treated defendant with kindness and affection and did everything in his power to make her satisfied, contented and happy; but notwithstanding all this defendant gradually grew morose and harder to satisfy, and on said day and date openly declared that she would never live with plaintiff again as her husband; that plaintiff has insisted that she still recognize him as her husband and that they live together as man and wife; all of which she has persistently refused, and still refuses to do.

5

That during said married life two children, Thelma, a girl now aged eighteen years, and a boy, Henry Lee, aged 12 years, were born to plaintiff and defendant; and that said children are now in the custody of said defendant at Terrell, Texas.

5

5

That during said married life the plaintiff and defendant have acquired the following community property, to-wit: Situated in the County of Kaufman, State of Texas, and being Lots Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 in Block No. 5 of the City of Terrell, together with a two-story hotel thereon situated, as also considerable household goods, et al all of which is in the possession of said defendant; that said property was deeded to defendant as her separate property, though in truth and fact it was community property; and that all of said property rights have heretofore been adjusted between plaintiff and defendant as per contract, a copy of which is now in the possession of each.

6

That said abandonment on the part of said defendant has continued for more than three years next preceding the filing of this suit, and said defendant has always declared that she would never again live with plaintiff as his wife.

7

Premises considered plaintiff prays that defendant be cited to appear and answer this petition, that on final hearing the bonds of matrimony heretofore existing between plaintiff and defendant be cancelled, that plaintiff be granted a full and complete divorce from defendant, that the property rights be adjudicated as per said contract, that plaintiff recover of defendant all costs in this behalf expended, for all general, special and equitable relief. And as in duty bound will ever pray,

W. S. Terrell

Attorney for Plaintiff.

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF DALLAS

Now comes J. H. Faulkner, plaintiff in the above entitled cause, and being duly sworn says the allegations in the above and foregoing petition are true.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 20th day of October, 1914.

J. H. Faulkner
Notary Public in and for Dallas County, Texas.

Tuesday, March 2nd, 1915.

a
48301

J. H. Faulkner

vs.

M. M. Faulkner

Entered as of March 2nd, 1915.

On this day this cause coming on to be heard, came the plaintiff in person and by attorney and announced ready for trial

the defendant having in writing waived the issuance and service

of citation herein, and

A Jury being waived and the Court having heard the pleadings and the evidence, and enforcement of counsel, is of the opinion that the material allegations in plaintiff's petition are true. It is therefore ordered, adjudged and decreed by the Court that the bonds of matrimony heretofore existing between said plaintiff *J. H. Faulkner* and defendant *M. M. Faulkner* be and the same are hereby annulled and dissolved and that each party hereto is hereby restored to the status of single persons.

It is further ordered that *plaintiff* pay all costs in this behalf incurred, and that the officers of the court may have their execution against each party hereto respectively for all costs by each incurred.

a
18283

Mrs. Mabel Dondinger

vs.

John H. Dondinger

Entered as of March 2nd, 1915.

On this day this cause coming on to be heard, came the plaintiff in person and by attorney and announced ready for trial

but the defendant although having waived service of citation and

entered his appearance herein came not but made default, and

A Jury being waived and the Court having heard the pleadings and the evidence, and enforcement of counsel, is of the opinion that the material allegations in plaintiff's petition are true. It is therefore ordered, adjudged and decreed by the Court that the bonds of matrimony heretofore existing between said plaintiff *Mrs. Mabel Dondinger* and defendant *John H. Dondinger* be and the same are hereby annulled and dissolved and that each party hereto is hereby restored to the status of single persons.

Mrs. Mabel Dondinger to have care and custody and control of the child Evelyn Dondinger, but Mrs. J. H. Dondinger to be privileged of seeing the child at reasonable times

It is further ordered that *plaintiff* pay all costs in this behalf incurred, and that the officers of the court may have their execution against each party hereto respectively for all costs by each incurred.

a
18385

Viola Lewis

vs.

John Lewis

Entered as of March 2nd-1915

On this day this cause coming on to be heard, came the plaintiff in person and by attorney and announced ready for trial

the defendant having in writing waived the issuance and

service of citation and entered his appearance herein, and

A Jury being waived and the Court having heard the pleadings and the evidence, and enforcement of counsel, is of the opinion that the material allegations in plaintiff's petition are true. It is therefore ordered, adjudged and decreed by the Court that the bonds of matrimony heretofore existing between said plaintiff *Viola Lewis* and defendant *John Lewis* be and the same are hereby annulled and dissolved and that each party hereto is hereby restored to the status of single persons, provided however that

the plaintiff and defendant herein are each prohibited from marrying for a period of one year from this date, except the man marry each other in the interim.

1870 United States Federal Census

Name: **Henry Faulkner**

Estimated Birth Year: **abt 1862**

Age in 1870: **8**

Birthplace: **Texas**

Home in 1870: **Precinct 1, Collin, Texas**

Race: **White**

Gender: **Male**

Value of real estate: [View Image](#)

Post Office: **McKinney**

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Jacob Faulkner	48
	Amanda Faulkner	45
	Helen Faulkner	21
	Frances Faulkner	19
	Daniel Faulkner	16
	John Faulkner	14
	Thomas Faulkner	12
	Jacob Faulkner	10
	Henry Faulkner	8
	Mary Faulkner	4

1880 United States Federal Census

Name: **Henry Faulkner**
 Home in 1880: **Precinct 1, Collin, Texas**
 Age: **18**
 Estimated Birth Year: **abt 1862**
 Birthplace: **Texas**
 Relation to Head of Household: **Son**
 Father's Name: **Jake**
 Father's birthplace: **Kentucky**
 Mother's Name: **Amanda**
 Mother's birthplace: **Virginia**
 Neighbors: [View others on page](#)
 Marital Status: **Single**
 Race: **White**
 Gender: **Male**
 Cannot read/write:
 Blind: [View Image](#)
 Deaf and dumb:
 Otherwise disabled:
 Idiotic or insane:

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Jake Faulkner	58
	Amanda Faulkner	56
	Henry Faulkner	18
	Mary Faulkner	14
	Jake Faulkner	20

1900 United States Federal Census

Name:	J N Faulkner								
	[J Faulkner]								
Home in 1900:	McKinney, Collin, Texas								
Age:	29								
Birth Date:	Jul 1860								
Birthplace:	Texas								
Race:	White								
Ethnicity:	American								
Relationship to head-of-house:	Head								
Father's Birthplace:	Kentucky								
Mother's Birthplace:	Kentucky								
Spouse's Name:	Minnie								
Marriage Year:	1895								
Marital Status:	Married								
Years Married:	5								
Residence :	McKinney City, Collin, Texas								
Occupation:	View Image								
Neighbors:	View others on page								
Household Members:									
	<table><thead><tr><th>Name</th><th>Age</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>J N Faulkner</td><td>29</td></tr><tr><td>Minnie Faulkner</td><td>26</td></tr><tr><td>Thelma Faulkner</td><td>4</td></tr></tbody></table>	Name	Age	J N Faulkner	29	Minnie Faulkner	26	Thelma Faulkner	4
Name	Age								
J N Faulkner	29								
Minnie Faulkner	26								
Thelma Faulkner	4								

1910 United States Federal Census

Name: **James A Faulkner**
 Age in 1910: **48**
 Estimated Birth Year: **abt 1862**
 Birthplace: **Texas**
 Relation to Head of House: **Head**
 Father's Birth Place: **Virginia**
 Mother's Birth Place: **Virginia**
 Spouse's Name: **Minnie M**
 Home in 1910: **South Elmo, Kaufman, Texas**
 Marital Status: **Married**
 Race: ~~Mulatto~~ **White ("W" on Census form)**
 Gender: **Male**
 Neighbors: View others on page
 Household Name: Age
 Members: James A Faulkner 48
 Minnie M Faulkner 39
 Thelma F Faulkner 13
 Henry L Faulkner 7

1930 United States Federal Census

Name: **James H Faulkner**
Home in 1930: **Fort Worth, Tarrant, Texas**
Age: **64**
Estimated Birth: **abt 1866**
Year:
Birthplace: **Texas**
Relation to Head of House: **Lodger**
Race: **White**
Occupation:
Education:
Military service:
Rent/home value: [View Image](#)
Age at first marriage:
Parents' birthplace:
Neighbors: [View others on page](#)

Household	Name	Age
Members:	William G Miller	25
	Juanita Miller	24
	James H Faulkner	64

1880 United States Federal Census

Name: **Minnie Reynolds**
 Home in 1880: **Precinct 7, Collin, Texas**
 Age: **9**
 Estimated Birth Year: **abt 1871**
 Birthplace: **Tennessee**
 Relation to Head of Household: **Sister**
 Father's birthplace: **New York**
 Mother's birthplace: **New York**
 Neighbors: View others on page
 Occupation: **At School**
 Marital Status: **Single**
 Race: **White**
 Gender: **Female**
 Cannot read/write:
 Blind: View Image
 Deaf and dumb:
 Otherwise disabled:
 Idiotic or insane:

Household	Name	Age
Members:	Frederick V. Reynolds	26
	Eugene Reynolds	22
	Keziah Reynolds	49
	Charles Reynolds	13
	Minnie Reynolds	9

Audit Shows Justice Of Peace Owes \$1,367 To Tarrant County

From the Fort Worth Bureau of The News.
FORT WORTH, Texas, Dec. 22.—No discrepancies were found in the departments of District Attorney and County Judge in Tarrant County covering activities in 1928, according to a report made Thursday by accountants making the outside audit of the county's financial affairs.

However, auditors found that Justice of the Peace J. H. Faulkner owes the county \$1,367 from operations of his office during that year. Violation of statutes by "illegal and extortionate collection of court costs" in both civil and criminal cases that came before Justice Faulkner are charged against this official by the auditors.

Jesse E. Martin, present incumbent in the District Attorney's office, and S. I. Shannon, then County Judge, were the two officials whose books

for 1928 were pronounced satisfactory.

This is the sixth report coming from the auditors who have so far worked only on records for the one year.

The Commissioners' Court Thursday overruled a suggestion made by County Judge Atkinson that the audit be extended to cover all of 1932 and be made to reach backward for several years prior to 1928 in the offices of the Justices of the Peace and County Clerk.

The contract with the auditors calls for auditing only the first seven months of 1932.

The county's general fund was overdrawn \$163,884 at the end of November, according to County Auditor W. E. Yancy. The overdraft stood at \$104,293 the last of October.

Claim Justice Owes County.

From the Fort Worth Bureau of The News.

FORT WORTH, Texas, May 22.—Liability amounting to \$1,465.53 was marked up against Justice of the Peace J. H. Faulkner covering the 1929 to 1932 period in a report Monday from the Tarrant County outside auditors, who charged the Justice with conducting inquest not authorized by law, overcharging of fees and incorrect reporting of fees.

Bonnie Parker's Sister Presents Alibi Testimony

Claims Was in Oak Cliff When Patrolmen Slain on Easter Sunday

From the Fort Worth Bureau of The News.
FORT WORTH, Texas, May 24.—

Mrs. Lelia Plummer, aunt of Mrs. Billie Mace, who is charged with Floyd Hamilton in the Easter Sunday killing of two highway patrolmen near Grapevine, testified at an examining trial here Thursday that Mrs. Mace slept with her the night before the killing and was with her in and near home of the suspect's mother in Oak Cliff Easter Sunday. Billie Mace is the sister of Bonnie Parker, slain with Clyde Barrow Wednesday.

"It wasn't possible for her to have gone to Grapevine and taken part in that shooting," declared the aunt, only witness placed on the stand during the hearing before Justice Faulkner. In the meantime, attorneys for Mrs.

Mace sued out a writ of habeas corpus to free her, and a hearing was set by Judge George E. Hosey for Friday or Saturday.

Later Visited Scene.

Mrs. Plummer, who is the sister of Mrs. Mace's mother, said Billie Mace went with her to the scene of the killing during the latter part of Easter Sunday when they heard about the shooting.

Mrs. Emma Parker, mother of the suspect, was in the courtroom.

District Attorney Jesse E. Martin announced he had sent for Clyde Barrow's guns and will have ballistics experts compare shotgun and rifle shells found on the Grapevine roadside with shells fired in these weapons.

"That should tend to prove or disprove whether Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker killed the two peace officers," Martin said. "If they don't check we will have a better case against Billie Mace and Floyd Hamilton."

Martin sent Police Identification Superintendent Barney Finn to Dallas to take fingerprints from the bodies of Barrow and Bonnie Parker, shot down Wednesday by Texas and Louisiana officers. Finn will compare these prints with marks on a shisky bottle found at the scene of the double killing near Grapevine.

It had previously been indicated that the prints on the bottle had been partly, but not conclusively, identified as Clyde Barrow's.

CERTIFICATION OF VITAL RECORD

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

1. PLACE OF DEATH
STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF Dallas
CITY OR TOWN OF Martin
PRECEDENCY No. 40417

2. NAME OF DECEASED
James Henry Staunkens
If no last name, give name of full name of father and mother.

3. DATE OF DEATH
Month, day, and year Aug 28 1936
If a death certificate was obtained from the registrar, state the date of death.

4. SEX
Male
If female, state whether married, single, widowed, or divorced.

5. AGE
At date of death 35 years 14 months 14 days
If date of birth is known, state the date of birth (month, day, and year) July 14, 1861

6. OCCUPATION
At date of death Retired
If engaged in business, state the nature of the business.

7. MARITAL STATUS
At date of death Married
If married, state the name of the spouse.

8. PLACE OF BIRTH
State of Texas
County of Dallas
City or town of Martin

9. PLACE OF DEATH
State of Texas
County of Dallas
City or town of Martin

10. INFORMANT
Name of informant John F. Owens
Relationship to deceased Registrar
Signature of informant John F. Owens
Date 8-30 1936

11. MEDICAL HISTORY
Cause of death Myocardial infarction
If death was due to natural causes, state the date of death.

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If death was due to natural causes, state the date of death.

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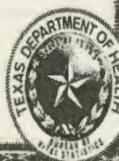
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This is a true and correct reproduction of the original record as recorded in this office, issued under authority of Section 191.05, Health and Safety Code.

ISSUED 1 4 6 2784

John F. Owens
JOHN F. OWENS
STATE REGISTRAR



ANY ALTERATION OR ERASURE VOID THIS CERTIFICATE

Former Collin County Judge Dies at Marlin

Special to The News.

McKINNEY, Texas, Aug. 28.—John Henry Faulkner, 75, former Collin County Judge died Friday at the home of his son, Lee Faulkner, at Marlin. Funeral services will be held at Marlin Saturday.

Judge Faulkner was born near Farmersville. He taught school in the rural districts of the county, served as Justice of the Peace and later as County Judge. He later served as Justice of the Peace at Fort Worth. Surviving are his son, Lee Faulkner of Marlin; and three brothers, Jake and Tom Faulkner of Bellevue, City County; and John Faulkner of El Reno, Okla.

Faulkner was a brother of the late J. Ben Faulkner, Confederate soldier and pioneer minister of the Christian Church of this county, who was the father of Mrs. Tom W. Perkins, wife of the Mayor of McKinney.

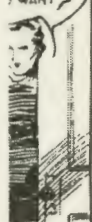
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SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 1934

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PAUL.J. H. FAULKNER
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in Tarrant County From
Jan. 1, 1927 Until 1935.

J. H. Faulkner, who served as justice of the peace in Tarrant County from Jan. 1, 1927, until 1935, died yesterday in Marlin, friends here were informed.

Faulkner was injured about three months ago at Marlin when he fell and suffered a broken leg. He never recovered.

Faulkner was born in Collin County in 1866. He obtained most of his education after he was 23. He taught school for a time, studying law at night. He was justice of the peace at McKinney from 1895 until 1899 and then served four years as county judge.

In 1916, Faulkner came to Fort Worth and engaged in the insurance business. From 1922 until 1926 he sold newspapers on the streets after illness rendered the use of his right hand practically useless.

In 1926 he was elected justice of the peace and served continuously until his defeat by Hal P. Hughes, incumbent, two years ago.

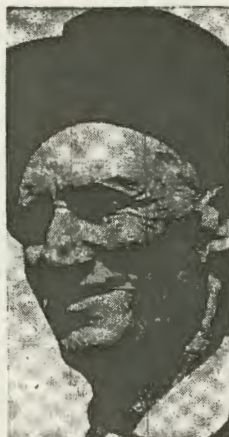
Surviving are two brothers and a son, Lee Faulkner of Marlin. The funeral will be conducted Saturday in Marlin.

YOUNG GYPSY MOTHER
AND BABY KEPT IN JAIL

DALLAS, Aug. 20 (AP).—Helen Mark, 21-year-old Gypsy mother and her two-month-old baby girl remained in county jail today, although she made \$750 bond on a fugitive warrant filed in connection with an alleged swindle in Leavenworth, Kan.

When authorities planned to release her on bond made Thursday,

Illness Fatal



J. H. Faulkner, former Tarrant County justice of the peace, who died yesterday in Marlin, Faulkner, who suffered the loss of a leg early in life, slipped while bathing and suffered a break in the other limb. The accident hastened his death.

Exchange Man Dead.

ST. PAUL, Aug. 20 (AP).—F. Aull, 61, president of the S. Livestock Exchange and vice president of the National Livestock exchange, died Friday follow heart attack.

ATTEND EITHER
PARKWAY or TIVOLI
TODAY—MATINEE OF 10

TIVOLI 10-11

A New Kind of Western Story

TODAY
"Three Godfather"

CHESTER MORRIS

Nautarium Kid Show at 10
Valuable Prizes GivenSUNDAY
Garden Action

PARKWAY 10-11

TODAY ONLY 4

Victor McLaglen
Heather AngelFATR
in
"The Informer"SUNDAY
Robert Taylor
Private NumberTODAY
Bite Bit
day Part
Pep C
18 A

New Liberty

IN PERSON TODAY
AT EACH SHOWGENE
AUTRYDIRECT FROM
HOLLYWOOD

