



G.T.T.

“Gone to Texas”

An Orangeburgh District Migration to Texas

G.T.T. – “Gone to Texas”

- a phrase used by Americans emigrating to Texas in the 1800s – often to escape debt
- often written on the doors of abandoned houses or posted as a sign on fences



- Jim Rickenbacker
- Born in Orangeburg
- Grew up in Cameron
- Graduated from Clemson
- Married an Orangeburg girl
- G.T.T. 1965



G.T.T. - 1867



- The bones of this story were given to me by the late Dorothy Heaner (1921-2001):
 - Shortly after the Civil War seven families from the Orangeburg area left for Texas.
 - They traveled by ship arriving in Indianola, Texas about 1867.
 - They traveled inland by covered wagon finally settling in Gonzales County, Texas.
- This raised some interesting questions.



Questions

- Why did they leave and why did they pick Gonzales County, Texas?
- Why did they travel by ship? Wasn't that expensive?
- Did they really use covered wagons?
- Why Indianola instead of Galveston? Was Indianola a real port?

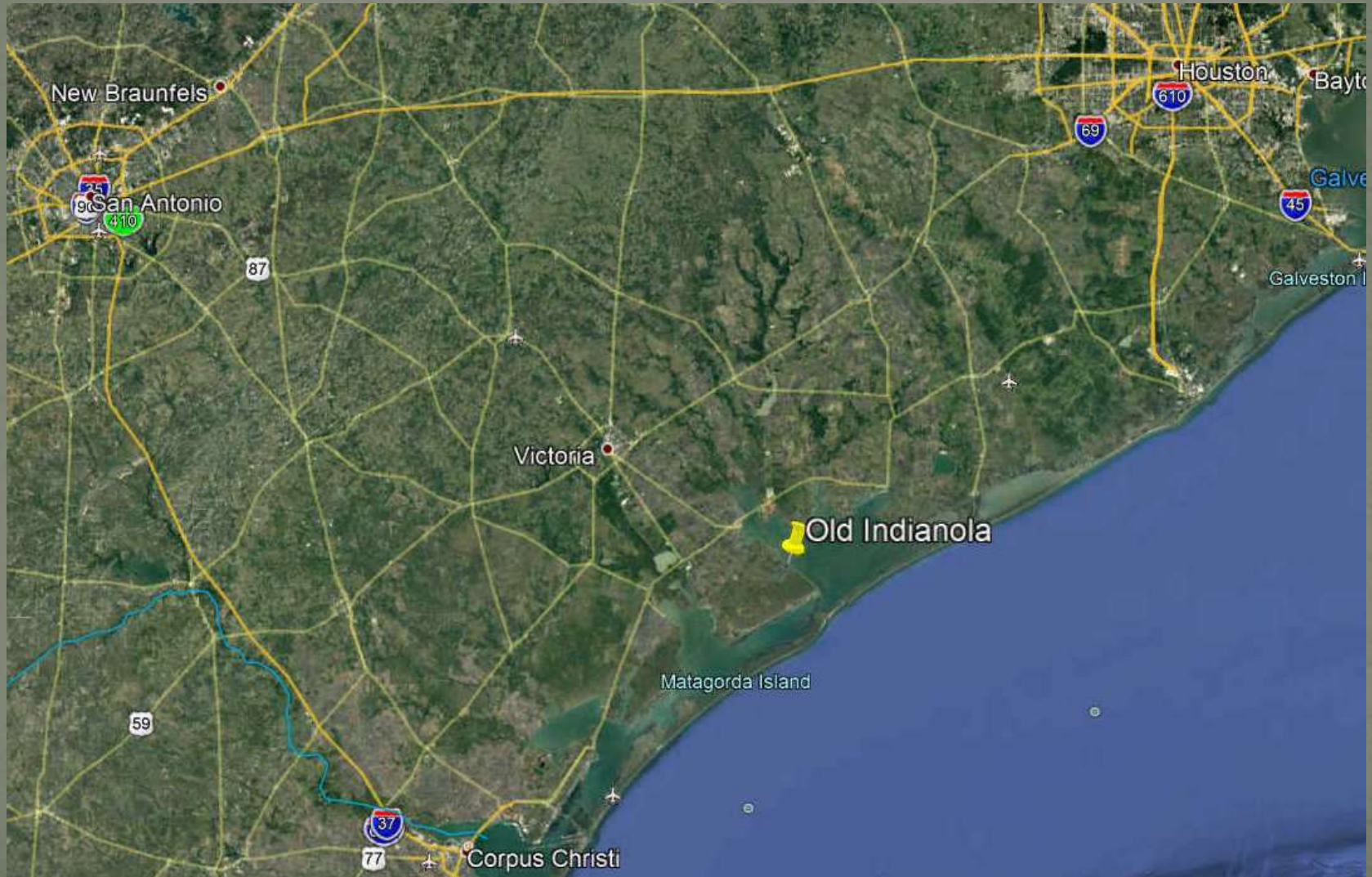


Indianola, Texas - 2017





Indianola, Texas





Town Populations

Town	1870	2016
Galveston	14,000	50,000
San Antonio	12,000	1,500,000
Houston	9,000	2,500,000
Indianola	5,000+	?
Corpus Christi	2,000	300,000



Indianola - History

- First used in 1844 to land German immigrants
- Established as a port to serve the Morgan Lines in 1853
- The Morgan Lines
 - Charles Morgan was a New Yorker and a business rival of Cornelius Vanderbilt.
 - His main business interest was sea and rail transportation in and around the Gulf of Mexico.
 - Ports: New York, Charleston, New Orleans, Galveston, Indianola, and other Gulf ports
- For a time Indianola rivaled Galveston as a major Texas Port.

Indianola, Texas 1860



VIEW OF INDIANOLA.

TAKEN FROM THE BAY ON THE ROYAL YARD ON BOARD THE BARQUE TEXANA: Sep. 1860.



Indianola 1875



Indianola - Demise

- Partially destroyed by a hurricane in 1875 and rebuilt.
- Shipping declined as railroads pushed west.
 - The Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railroad reached San Antonio in 1877.
- Destroyed by a second hurricane in 1886.
 - The few surviving houses were dismantled and moved to Cuero and Victoria.
 - The town was abandoned.



Indianola, Texas 1886



The Morgan Lines Pier after the 1886 hurricane



Transportation – Post Civil War

- The Southern Rail roads were mostly destroyed.
- The capture of New Orleans in 1862 brought a lot of northern shipping to the city both supply the city and to support the war effort.
- At the end of the war routes from the East Coast to New Orleans were glutted with public and private carriers.
- Fares plummeted.
- The Morgan Lines provided affordable thrice weekly sailings from New Orleans to Indianola.



Questions

- Why did they leave and why did they pick Gonzales County, Texas?
- Why did they travel by sea? Wasn't that expensive?
 - Much post-war competition. Affordable fares.
- Did they really use covered wagons?
 - Yes, they really did.
- Why Indianola instead of Galveston? Was Indianola a real port?
 - Rivalled Galveston as a major Texas port. Closest port to central Texas.



The Seven Families (32 individuals)

- Independence Green Theadore (Penny) Bobo, wife Mary Ann Heaner, and 4 children
 - William Barnet Heaner, wife Ellafare Mcgriff Bobo, and 5 children
 - Joshua Govan William Stroman, wife Omellicent Dorcas Bobo, and 8 children
 - Barbara Ann Mary Bobo (Shuler wife/widow), Laura Ann Sophronia Bobo (Shuler widow), and 1 child
 - James G. Bair, wife Emorilles Shuler and 1 child
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- Young Shuler Bobo, wife Rebecca Stroman, and 1 child

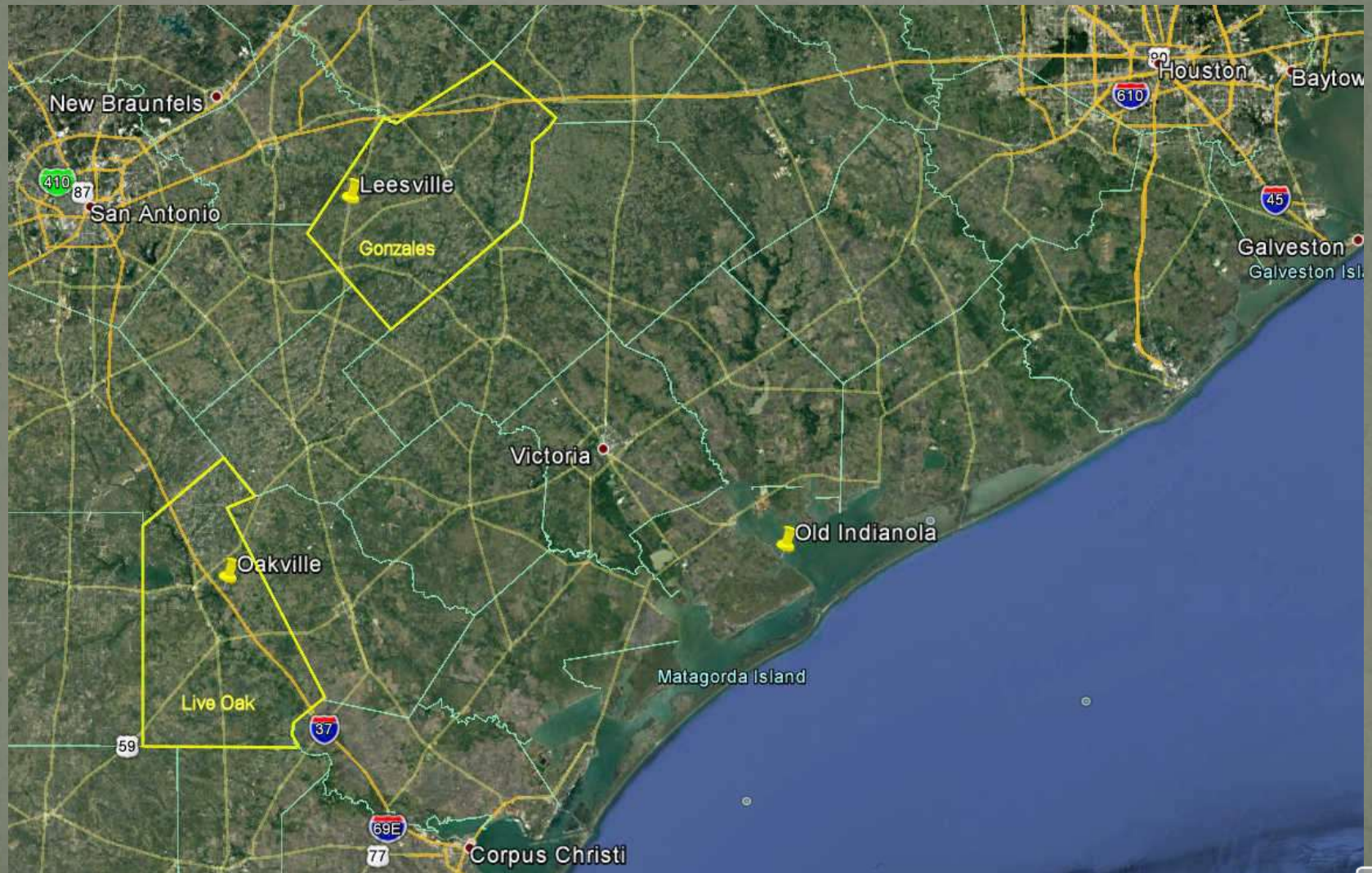


Arrival about year end 1867

- J. G. Bair and W. B. Heaner registered to vote in Gonzales County on 23 Nov 1869 stating they had been in the state for 23 months and 2 years respectively.
- The Young Bobo, J. G. Bair, Barbara Shuler / Sophronia Shuler, and Joshua Stroman families all appear in the 1870 Census for Gonzales County Texas
- The Penny Bobo family appears in the 1870 census for Live Oak County, Texas



Where they settled



County Comparison

County	Area sq-mi	Pop. 1860	Pop. 1870
Orangeburg Co., SC	Abt. 1,460	24,896	16,865+
Gonzales Co., TX	1,057	8,059	8,951
Live Oak Co., TX	1,046	593	852

- Orangeburg County greatly affected by the Civil War. The 1870 population is only a partial count.
- Gonzales County more sparsely settled.
- Live Oak County very sparsely settled.
- Both counties provided troops but otherwise were little affected by the Civil War.



Questions

- Why did they leave and why did they pick Gonzales County, Texas?
 - Gonzales County little affected by the Civil War.
- Why did they travel by sea? Wasn't that expensive?
 - Much post-war competition. Cheap fares.
- Did they really use covered wagons?
 - Yes, they really did.
- Why Indianola instead of Galveston? Was Indianola a real port?
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Gonzales County Marriages 1856-1900

- Bair marriages (bride or groom) 2
- Heaner marriages (bride or groom) 10
- Stroman marriages (bride or groom) 18
- Shuler marriages (bride or groom) 51
- Where did all these Shulers come from?

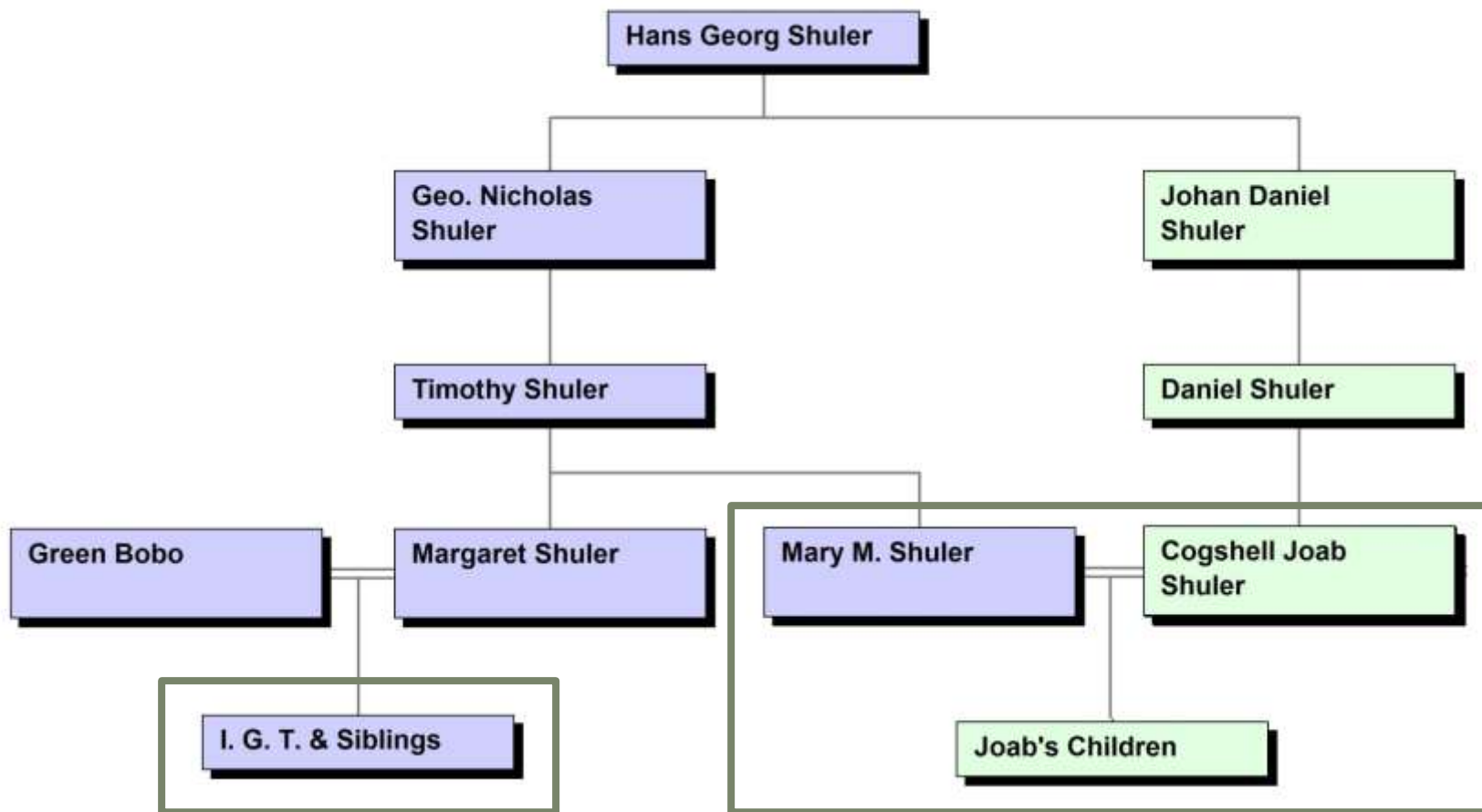


Cogshell Joab Shuler

- Son of Daniel Shuler, was born in 1803 in Orangeburg District. Married Mary M. Shuler, daughter of Timothy Shuler.
- Six of their nine children were born in Orangeburgh District.
- In 1846 they moved to Haywood County, Tennessee where two more children were born.
- In 1852 son began teaching school in Caldwell County, Texas.
- In 1854 they moved to Caldwell County, Texas near Lockhart where a final child was born.
- In 1866 they moved to Gonzales County, Texas.



The Shuler Connection



To Texas 1867

In Texas by 1854



Questions

- Why did they leave and why did they pick Gonzales County, Texas?
 - Gonzales County little affected by the Civil War.
 - Encouragement and advice from the Joab Shuler family.
- Why did they travel by sea? Wasn't that expensive?
 - Much post-war competition. Cheap fares.
- Did they really use covered wagons?
 - Yes, they really did.
- Why Indianola instead of Galveston? Was Indianola a real port?
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The Bairs

- James Bair, wife Emorillis (Bobo) and 1 year old son George in Gonzales County by 1868.
- Emorillis died 9 Sep 1876 and is buried in Coe Valley Cemetery, Monthalia, Texas.
- The 1880 Gonzales County census shows James G. Bair, sons George (12), Lee (11), Warren (5), daughter Mertie (7) and mother-in-law Barbara A. (Bobo) Shuler.
- James Bair died 7 Mar 1894 and is buried in Coe Valley Cemetery with his wife.
- Children Lee, Mertie and Warren were all married by 1900.



The Bobos #1

- I.G.T (Penny) Bobo, wife Mary Ann (Heaner) and children Manning (16), Paulean (14), Jacob (12) and Augustus (6) were in Live Oak County by 1870.
- Paulean married cattle rancher James Mills in 1873.
- By 1880 Manning was raising cattle with his brother-in-law, while Jacob and Augustus were farming with their father.
- Penny Bobo died 4 Jun 1900.
- Mary Ann died 18 Mar 1902.
- Both are buried in Oakville Cemetery, Oakville, Texas.



The Bobos #2

- Young Shuler Bobo, wife Rebecca Stroman and child Franklin (16) were living in Gonzales County by 1870.
- By 1880 Young and Rebecca were living in Hemphill, Arkansas. Franklin was married with one child.
- Young died 15 Aug 1895 and is buried in Holly Springs Cemetery, Hempstead County, Arkansas.
- Rebecca returned to Orangeburg where she died 13 Apr 1921 and is buried in Shiloh Cemetery near Bowman.



The Heaners #1

- William Barnet Heaner, wife Ellfare (Bobo) and children Emma (16), Young (14), Margaret (13), Katherine (11) and Theodosia (6) were in Gonzales County by 1868.
- Emma married Ellis M. Shuler son of Joab Shuler.
- In an 1879 letter to his brother, H. W. Heaner, Barnet advises:
 - It is the driest year he has ever seen in Texas. Horses and cattle are dying for lack of water and grass.
 - He sold his farm because: “one old man can’t make much farming by himself.”
 - He is running a boarding house in San Antonio at the end of the railroad to Galveston.
 - Can his brother send money?
- Barnet died 18 May 1881 following gall bladder surgery and was buried in San Antonio City Cemetery No. 1.
- Ellfare returned to Gonzales County where she died 16 Oct 1892 and was buried in Leesville Cemetery.



The Heaners #2

- Young Jacob Heaner became a sewing machine agent.
- He married Mary Davis on 4 Jul 1875. They had two children.
- Mary died 15 Sep 1879. She was buried in “an isolated place near Bebe, Texas”.
- Young married Electa Beck on 17 Nov 1880. They had eleven children.
- Electa died 18 Oct 1925.
- Young died 15 Sep 1932.
- Both are buried in Brenner Cemetery, Guadalupe County, Texas.



The Shulers

- The six sons of Joab and Mary Shuler all married in Gonzales County between 1856 and 1874.
- All lived in Caldwell and Gonzales Counties.
- All had large (4 – 8 children each) families.
- Joab Shuler died 1 Jun 1878.
- Mary died 12 Feb 1897.
- Both are buried in the Shuler Cemetery in Gonzales County.
- Son George W. (1825-1890) and His wife Sarah (Connelly) are also buried there.



The Stromans

- Joshua Stroman, wife Omnellicent (Bobo) and children Frances (14), Govan (12), Anna (11), Alice (10), William (8), James (7), Mary (5) and Hampton (2) were in Gonzales County before 1870.
- Two more children, Margaret and Rosalin, were born in Texas.
- Omnellicent died 23 Apr 1895.
- Joshua died 4 Oct 1900.
- Both are buried in the Stroman Cemetery in Gonzales County.



References

- *The Handbook of Texas Online*, Texas State Historical Association - www.tshaonline.org
- *Indianola, Texas: Queen City of the West.*
- www.indianolatx.com
- James P. Baughman, *Charles Morgan and the Development of Southern Transportation*



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