

EARLY DAYS IN TEXAS.

worthy example of a well-spent life, the remembrance of which will long be cherished by the many who knew him as one of the best of the early settlers of Dallas county.

Going to Mill from Dallas County to Clarksville.

FIGHT WITH THE KICKAPOOS.

Eight Hundred Acres of Land North of Dallas Went Begging at 50 Cents an Acre—Alexander W. Perry and Robert F. Campbell.

CARROLLTON, Dallas Co., Tex., April 15.—Alexander W. Perry is a brother of Capt. Middleton Perry of Lancaster, a sketch of whom appeared in THE NEWS some weeks ago. He was born in Pope county, Ill., Nov. 23, 1819, and is therefore in his seventy-second year. Mr. Perry moved to Texas in 1844 and settled upon a Peters' colony tract of land near the present site of Carrollton, Dallas county.

For several years his principal crop was corn, and the first grist he had to grind was carried to Clarksville, Red River county, which was then his nearest milling point. The next year he didn't have to go so far, as a corn mill was started at Bonham by one Mr. Banford.

Not liking the idea of having to go so far to mill Mr. Perry finally went back to first principles in the art of pulverizing Indian corn by burning out a wooden mortar and pounding the grains into meal with a wooden pestle. This was a very slow and laborious process, requiring much time and "elbow grease" to get the necessary raw material for his johnnycake, and he next procured a steel hand mill. By and by a little horse-power mill was started in his neighborhood which was run by a rawhide band or "belt." There was no mill house, save the broad, blue Texas sky, and when it rained the rawhide belt would get wet and stretch so that the mill would not run. When Mr. Perry would happen to go to mill on a damp day he would ask the old miller about the prospect of getting some meal. The old man would reply:

"Well, Aleck, if the sun comes out and dries the belt maybe I can mash your corn after dinner, but I can't say it for certain."

Mr. Perry said to me: "There was more sociability among people then than now. In fact we had more leisure for social intercourse then than people have nowadays. We had to work hard and undergo great



ALEX. W. PERRY AND WIFE.

inconvenience is true, but as we raised little or no cotton we could visit our neighbors when corn was laid by. We also enjoyed the chase then. Game was abundant, and was for many years our main dependence for meat. I have killed lots of deer and wild turkeys, and also a few bear. I caught several wild mustang colts, too, which made good, serviceable saddle animals. Once a horse of mine strayed off, and a neighbor found him and drove him home for me. A beautiful 3-year-old mustang stallion followed him home, and was driven into my lot and captured. He made a splendid saddle horse.

"Yes, the Indians used to trouble us a good deal. They would raid the settlements on mo'night nights, and they stole a great many of our horses. In 1849 we organized ourselves into a 'minute company,' and in November of that year we followed a band of Kickapooes into what is now Wise county. We killed two Indians and captured three of the four horses they had stolen. Only one white man was ever killed in this settlement by the Indians, I believe, since I have been here."

Mr. Perry has eight children, all of whom are living in Dallas county. Like his neighbor, Rev. J. M. Myers, also an old Dallas child, he has a host of grandchildren—thirty-five or forty, I believe. He was married to Mrs. Sarah Hoffman in Hardeman county, Kentucky, Jan. 9, 1840. They have lived together fifty-one years, all but four years of that time having been spent in Texas, where they now live. They have also been members of the Dallas county Pioneers' association since its organization.

Robert F. Campbell, Esq.,

was born in Jefferson county, Tennessee, in 1804, moved to Dallas county, Texas, in October, 1831, and settled under a Peters' colony headright, a section of excellent black land, three and a half miles south of the present town of Plano, in Collin county. Here Mr. Campbell lived until his death, which occurred Nov. 18, 1881. Having been among the early and more prominent settlers of Dallas county, a brief sketch of his life in Texas will doubtless be of interest to many readers of THE NEWS.

Mr. Campbell was twice married, the last time to Miss Mary Hoffer in March, 1853, the year preceding his coming to Texas. Mrs. Campbell's paternal



ROBT. F. CAMPBELL AND WIFE.

grandfather was a Swiss, while on her mother's side she inherited a small amount of Choctaw blood, which manifests itself slightly in her "high cheek bones." In speaking of the pioneer times in Texas Mrs. Campbell said to me:

"When we settled here in 1831 our neighbors were not near so numerous as now. Mr. Locke lived two miles east of us on Spring creek, while the nearest one on the west was Capt. W. C. McKamy, six miles away, on White Rock. Capt. Beverly, one of the oldest of the early pioneers, lived about two miles to the north in Collin county. These two old settlers (McKamy and Beverly) are still living.

"Indians had about left here when we moved to Texas. I never saw but one and he seemed to be a lone straggler going west to his tribe, no doubt.

Previous to the war wheat was our principal crop. Horses, cattle and sheep were also quite profitable then. Land was very cheap. I remember on one occasion, a few years before the war, one hot summer day, Dr. Gilbert called to see my husband on a land trade he was trying to make. He owned a vast amount of prairie land between our farm and Dallas, and he offered Mr. Campbell \$600 acres of the very best land for 50 cents per acre. Mr. Campbell told the doctor it was too hot then to ride away down to Dallas to have the papers drawn up, and the trade was never made. He did not then think the land would ever be very valuable and was indifferent about the matter. That land now is worth from \$30 to \$40 per acre.

We took the old Dallas Herald from its first issue to the close of its life, and have taken THE DALLAS NEWS since it was first established in Dallas.

Mr. Campbell left several children when he died, most of whom are now living in the northern portion of Dallas county, and are among our best and most influential citizens. He also left behind him the