

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker  
Gregg County

1426

FOSHEE FAMILY HOMESTEAD\*

BUILT 1890 ON SITE PURCHASED 1884 BY WILLIAM  
EMMETT AND MARY R. FOSHEE. HE WAS A NATIVE OF  
ALABAMA AND SHE WAS A MEMBER OF THE PIONEER  
SHEPPERD FAMILY OF UPSHUR COUNTY. EIGHT CHILDREN  
WERE BORN TO THIS COUPLE.

LUMBER FOR HOUSE WAS SAWED AT FAMOUS MILL OF  
JOHN O'BYRNE. UNUSUAL AND UNIQUE CHIMNEY WAS  
BUILT OF HAND-HEWN ROCK WHICH CAME FROM BANKS  
OF STREAM RUNNING THROUGH WEST EDGE OF PROPERTY.

(FAMILY ENTERPRISE, IRONROCK OIL COMPANY, WAS  
NAMED FOR THIS SPECIAL TYPE ROCK.) ORIGINAL  
HALLWAY LED FROM FRONT PORCH THROUGH HOUSE  
TO WATER WELL, WHICH SERVED FAMILY NEEDS.

IN EARLY 1930'S ONE OF FIRST OIL WELLS IN  
THE FAMOUS EAST TEXAS FIELD WAS BROUGHT IN HERE.  
IRONROCK OIL COMPANY IS STILL OPERATING.

FOR MANY YEARS, WILLIAM EMMETT FOSHEE SERVED  
AS POSTMASTER. HE WAS ALSO A LUMBER TEAMING  
CONTRACTOR, FARMER AND JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.  
HIS WIFE, MARY, WAS MOTHER AND HOMEMAKER TO  
SIX SURVIVING CHILDREN. THESE PIONEER PARENTS

LEFT RICH HERITAGE TO SUCCEEDING GENERATIONS  
WHO STILL CONTRIBUTE TRADITIONAL SERVICE TO  
THEIR COMMUNITY.\*\*

(1967)\*\*\*

\* 3/4" lettering    \*\* 1/2" lettering    \*\*\* 1/4" lettering

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RECEIVED  
READY FOR

MAY 3 1967

SOUTHWELL ORDER  
TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

APPROVED  
5-2-67  
T.L.

FOSHEE FAMILY HOMESTEAD

Gladewater, Gregg County, Texas

HISTORICAL DATA . . . PHYSICAL FEATURES OF HOUSE . . . MATERIALS

RECEIVED  
APR 4 1967  
TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY  
ARCHITECT

In a log cabin located a few feet north of the present home, but a part of this same site, in about the year 1830, William Emmett and Mary R. Foshee, bride and groom, set up their home. By purchase in 1884, they made the homestead their own; and it has ever since continued in the family, and in family occupancy.

Actual construction of the log house originally is shrouded in history, but it was replaced about 1890 by a new house which is basically the present structure, with changes and additions as the family grew and prospered. (The original logs almost certainly came from the wooded slope and water-course which was a part of the homestead on the west.)

Rock for the hewn-rock chimney built onto the 1890 house undoubtedly came from the banks of the little stream running across the west edge of the property. (It was from these rocks that the family was later to derive the name for their oil company, "Ironrock Oil Company".) The chimney stones, still a curiosity and a thing of beauty, were shaped and laid by unknown artisans, but skillful; even today a marvel of arrangement and stability.

Lumber used in the house came from O'Byrne's mill, and the logs were cut just to the north of Gladewater, and sawed almost within whistle-sound of the homestead by John O'Byrne, a legend in this area. (The O'Byrne family and history are themselves legendary here. But that is another story.)

*This has  
a 1964  
marker.  
DP, 4-4-67*

The present north gable of the homestead, on which the chimney is situated, is just as it has always been; and so is the foundation of the original house. And largely the same are the north wall, and the front porch. Originally, however, at mid-point of the porch was the then-customary hallway separating the north from the south portions of the home. All of this can be recognized by close scrutiny which present occupants gladly show visitors on request. This is almost certainly the oldest family-occupied homestead in Gladewater.

Further physical features of the homestead include an interesting item: The original hallway leading from front porch through the house ended at a water-well with draw-buckets for drawing up the water, supplying table and kitchen, and bath-water (in foot-tubs) until fairly recent years when city water came. (The well is still there, though hidden from sight. Ask to see it!

The present main roof supplanted the customary L-shaped roof which was the mode of 1890s and earlier. Original lines can still be followed when shown by one who knows.

Like other houses of its vintage, this one stands well off the ground; making for plenty of under-floor ventilation, and for unlimited storage space for potatoes, onions, lumber -- and a play place for children (also a hiding place to escape a whipping!).

On the old Gladewater-Gilmer road, the homestead is at a bend in that road, and particularly approached from the north, is visible well away as you approach it. And elevated on its high-point of the road, you see it also coming from the south. From the north, you note first the chimney; from the south, the ornamented corner of the porch.

FOSHEE FAMILY HOMESTEAD

Gladewater, Gregg County, Texas

1880 to now.

THE CHILDREN REMEMBER MANY THINGS!

In this homestead <sup>(set up 1880)</sup> ~~lived and died~~ the bride and groom, William Emmett and Mary R. Foshee, ~~who established it.~~ The former died in 1917; the latter in 1929. They both worked hard all their lives; did their best by their children -- of whom they had eight; six to live to maturity. The mother lacked one year living to see the East Texas oil field develop -- and with it, one of the first oil wells of the area came in on their land. The children were doubly saddened that she did not live to see such good come of <sup>(parents!)</sup> ~~their~~ struggles to buy the land.

But through the years, the children saw much happen in and about the place. The father busy with his farming, and the postmastership and his duties as Justice of the Peace! They now say, He wore many hats! The other big undertaking was teaming, hauling lumber, and ~~loading~~ <sup>loading</sup> it out in railroad cars on the T&P! He did lots of feeding, with all those mules to keep going. Kids are not too useful in such operations, but they had some part! And the mother! Well, with borning and raising eight children; milking never less than two cows -- housework, cooking sewing, mending, quilting. She was busy in and around this old house. Kids were not much help to her either! But she make them do a few chores -- too few, they learned later to think!

The fireplace-room was the father-and-mother's bedroom. It was also in effect the living room: The study room for kids in school doing homework; reading room; "eucher" card room and entertainment room for elders and children. The father and mother for many years almost nightly played "eucher", their favorite game -- just the two of them! Ever come home winter's nights from a hay-ride or something, fit to freeze? Well, go into this bedroom-living-room-fireplace room to warm by the fire! Keep quiet! But you were never run out till you were warm!

Other remembered things: Fireplace wood piled on the end of the porch, <sup>(by father!)</sup> Kids chopping pine knots for kindling. Mama turning to gaze out the dining room window -- wonder what she was thinking about? She never said! Flap-jacks for breakfast . . . not hot cakes! Chicken stew frequently! <sup>lots of chickens fed for this purpose. Plus eggs.</sup> Biscuits every meal -- cornbread for mama! Also coffee! Mama's big garden. . . and oh, those turnips and beans and okra, etc., etc.! Getting off to school mornings; and a baked sweet potato on returning! First cold spell and hog-killing time -- fire around a washpot! And melts! Salting down in barrels and boxes. Sausage making. Hanging hams in smoke house! Boy, that was the time! Those the days!!

# estyle



Mirror photo/Harriett Walton

The Foshee-Fisher home was the setting for the November meeting of Cherokee Trace Chapter DAR. From left, are Margaret Jenkins who lived in the home for 22 years, Gloria Fisher, present owner, Mrs. Greg Reno of Duncanville, guest speaker, Elaine Roddy, regent and Mozelle Berryhill, a new member.

## TSDAR official addresses local club

Mrs. Greg Reno of Duncanville, TSDAR Honor Roll chairman, was guest speaker at the Cherokee Trace Chapter DAR meeting Saturday. The meeting was held in the Foshee-Fisher home on W. Upshur.

Mrs. Reno, introduced by Elaine Roddy, regent, spoke and presented a slide presentation on the history of the flag.

Mrs. Reno explained the many flag designs that have been used by the United States from the beginning to the present. Prior to the Revolution, the rattle snake with the words "Don't Tread on Me" was preferred by many Americans.

During the Revolution some form of stars and stripes was frequently used. Finally President Washington and Congress adopted the present arrangement of stars on a blue background on the canton and 13 red and white stripes.

Mrs. Reno explained that during the Civil War the Confederate flag carried by the South was quite similar to that of the North. In fact it was so similar that some battles

has accepted the Gladewater history books and will place them in the library after they have been bound.

Three new members were welcomed into the chapter: Mozelle Berryhill, Nancy Doss and Pamela Doss. Mrs. Roddy presented Mrs. Berryhill with a DAR book and pin.

Junior members planning to join the chapter are: Paula Johnson, Bretta Stegall Phillips, Nichole Thomas Young and Blane Thomas Linder.

A nominating committee composed of Mildred Barker, Elizabeth Osteen, Louise Oder, Lucille Daniel and Deborah Walker was elected. The committee will give their report at the January meeting.

Cherokee Trace was honored to be in the historical home of Gloria and Bill Fisher. Margaret Jenkins explained some of her memories during the 22 years that she and her family lived in the house built by A. B. Foshee in 1943.

Hostesses for the meeting were Maurine Crawford, Deborah Walker, Elaine Roddy, Geraldine Uselton and Margaret Jenkins.

The dining room table was decorated in the patriotic motif with a red, white and blue cloth. A variety of finger foods were served.

Guests attending were Mrs. Fisher, Betty Elwell of Gilmer, Martha Mashburn of the Little Rock Chapter and Susan Reno of Duncanville.

Members present were Margaret Jenkins, Deborah Walker, Jesca Jones, Mozelle Berryhill, Paka Goodwin, Elizabeth Osteen, Mildred Barker, Louise Oder, Marilyn Godfrey, Marie Jackson, Lucille Daniel, Cathy Shipp and Elaine Roddy.

The Dec. 15 meeting will be at the Walker-Finley home on E. Commerce. At that time the Juniors will be honored. Members are urged to attend in costume depicting anytime whether it is 1800's or 1920's. Guests will be welcome.

The Foshee-Fisher home was the setting for the November meeting of Cherokee Trace Chapter DAR. From left, are Margaret Jenkins who lived in the home for 22 years, Gloria Fisher, present owner, Mrs. Greg Reno of Duncanville, guest speaker, Elaine Roddy, regent and Mozelle Berryhill, a new member.

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Mrs. Reno explained that during the Civil War the Confederate flag carried by the South was quite similar to that of the North. In fact it was so similar that some battles took place in which the soldiers were firing against their own men.

Therefore the South changed their flag to the bands of blue from corner to corner with white stars and the red triangles between to eliminate this confusion.

The speaker reminded everyone that if they possess a 49 star flag to cherish it because it is very rare. She closed the program by reminding members of the rules for displaying flags and that it is truly a symbol of the courage of our troops and the citizens of this great land.

Mrs. Roddy conducted the business meeting which was opened with the DAR Ritual. Mildred Barker, chaplain, led in prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Paka Goodwin; the American's Creed by Louise Oder; National Anthem by Marilyn Godfrey.

Members repeated the Preamble. Deborah Walker gave the President General's message and Elizabeth Osteen the National Defense report and the minutes. Margaret Jenkins gave the financial report.

Mrs. Roddy said the chapter's 15th anniversary will be Nov. 27 and urged members to reaffirm the objectives of DAR.

Marie Jackson, librarian, reported that the NSDAR Library

has accepted the Gladewater history books and will place them in the library after they have been bound.

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