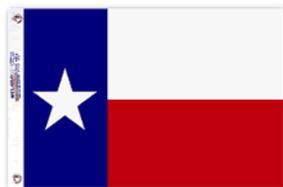


James L. Vaughan in Texas



By
Helen Vaughan Michael

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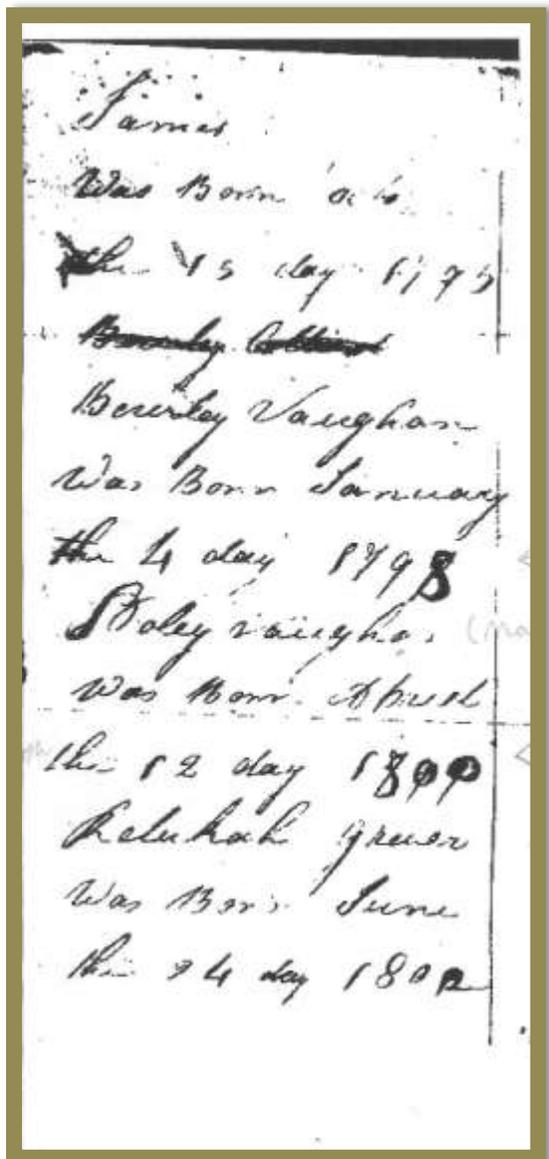
Research provided courtesy Tim Childress, Childress Cousins. <http://www.childresscousins.org>

Any errors in interpretation belong to the author.

James L. Vaughan in Texas, © Helen Vaughan Michael, 2011

James L. Vaughan in Texas

1. From Tennessee to Parts Unknown 1795-1820's



Life began for James L. Vaughan in Halifax, Virginia where he was born in 1795 to John and Nancy Callicott Vaughan. Mother Nancy recorded his birth, their firstborn, in her Day Book:

James Vaughan was born October the 15 day 1795.

When he was a small boy his family moved from Virginia to Hawkins County, Tennessee. He lived in Hawkins until he was at least twenty years old. An older cousin, thought to be the daughter of William and Fereby Vaughan, was a neighbor; her name was Martha Patty. In 1815 her family moved west. About this time, when she was twenty-eight, and he was twenty, James L. married Martha Patty, and within five years they moved west also, to White County, Tennessee where they were the parents of three little boys.

It is sometimes said that he abandoned his family in Arkansas in the 1850's. This belief is based on faulty census calculations. The Virginia born James L. Vaughan had wandered a lot further west long before 1850, without stopping in Arkansas. Indications are that he left Tennessee as early as the 1830's. After what could be a brief detour to Indiana with his brother Beverly, with a new wife and their two children he headed to Texas. In December of 1841, his father, John Vaughan,

regretted his absence as he wrote out his will, believing James L. Vaughan to be in "parts unknown." Since Western Tennessee, Missouri, and Arkansas were "well known" to a number of his Vaughan kin by 1841, his son must have gone to some lesser known parts.

His elderly father in Tennessee, a gunnery sergeant in the American Revolution, surely would love to have known where his son had gone, because James went to

Texas and fought in the Texas Revolution. As early as 1834 his new family was known there. In sworn statements two witnesses say that they knew him, his wife, and his children in Gonzales, Texas-Mexico.

Back in Arkansas, where Martha Patty ended up, maybe there were hard feelings toward him for leaving his family and starting a new one. At least he lived on in rumors; in fact, he went on to serve in a war in a place that would become the Republic of Texas. In 1835 Gonzales, he joined the Texians in their fight with Mexico, and he stayed to fight again during the next ten years of ongoing disputes between Texas and the cruel military dictator, General Santa Anna.

In 1814 when William and Fereby Vaughan sold their Hawkins County property and moved to middle Tennessee, they probably signed up to travel with one of the endless wagon trains of the day. About that same time, James L. and Martha Patty's first child, Benjamin Franklin, was born; that was March 3, 1815. Two more sons were born in 1817. They were named William and Maborne, and they may have been twins. All three were born somewhere in Tennessee.

It is certain that by 1820 he had left the house of his father. The 1820 census for White County, Tennessee included James and his brother, Beverly. They lived in separate, but neighboring households. James and Martha Patty's family of five is easy to recognize because of the unique age difference between man and wife:

Federal Census of 1820 White County, Tennessee

NAME	MALES						FEMALES						Slaves
	Under 10	10-16	16-18	16-26	26-45	Over 45	Under 10	10-16	16-26	26-45	Over 45		
Vaughn, Beverly	1			1				2					
Vaughn, James	3			1						1			

After 1820, this particular family unit, with its exclusive age markers, disappears from all known records, and James L. Vaughan is next recorded in parts unknown. Next to his absence in future public records of Tennessee and Arkansas is family testimony which says that the family did split up. Benjamin Franklin, five years old in 1820, as an old man swore in an affidavit that his grandparents, William and Fereby, raised him in Arkansas. Less known is how William and Maborne spent their childhood. Some of Maborne's adult children were Texans for a while, and there is even one suggestion that, at eighteen, William may have joined his father in the fight against Mexico.

This possible link to Texas between the military and the family appeared in The Witness, a Fayetteville, Arkansas newspaper. A notice dated 31 Mar 1841 stated that there was an unclaimed letter in the Fayetteville Post Office addressed to Capt. Will Vaughan. A William W. Vaughan appears in the census for 1840 next to Benjamin Vaughan; it is believed the two are brothers, the sons of James L. and Martha Patty Vaughan. The only war that provided William Vaughan with the opportunity to become

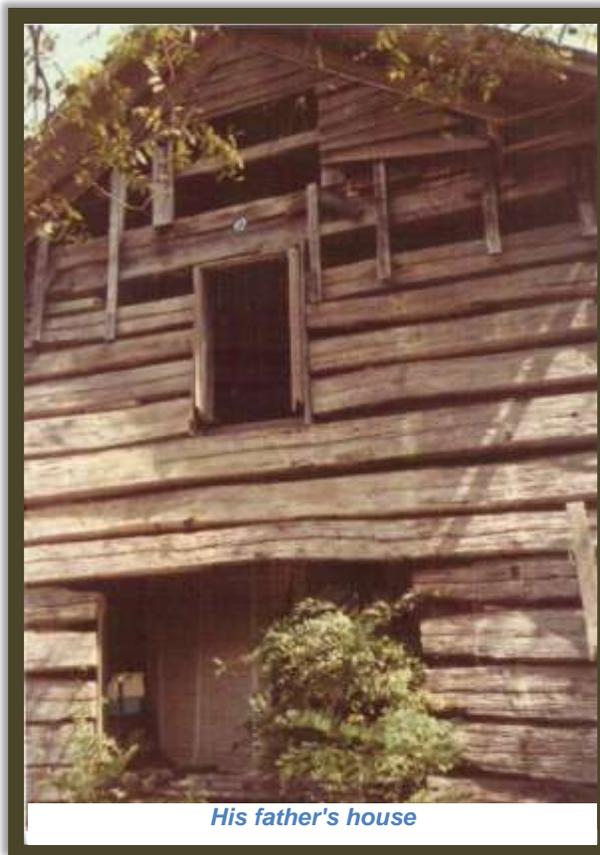
an officer was the war next door in Mexico. In the Army of the Republic of Texas, his father also made captain. The Republic stayed in a perpetual struggle with Mexico until after statehood in 1845. His father's records recount his service at least until 1842; perhaps his son served there as well. (VPG FILES)

To review, twenty year old James L. Vaughan married twenty-eight year old Martha Vaughn and the family got its start in Tennessee. Three sons later, the marriage broke apart in Tennessee. Martha Patty ended up in Arkansas near her aging parents; in 1834 her ex-husband, with his new family, was known in Gonzalez, Texas-Mexico.

While there are 1825 and 1826 records showing a James Vaughan surveying in Western Tennessee with members of the Vaughan family, the missing middle initial is peculiar. In Texas the *L* is included on over thirty documents—even on affidavits, which he signs himself. In addition, his father used this piece of his son's identity. Perhaps the *L* stands for Ligon; Ligon Vaughan was the brother-in-law of John's wife, and he died shortly before James's birth. He most likely was a close relative of John, perhaps even a brother. The initial seems to have meant a lot to James L.'s elderly father, as it did to him.

Although it is possible he worked with a surveying party in Western Tennessee in the 1820's, he did not stay there. For whatever reason, he left his first Martha and sons and may have returned briefly to Hawkins County. He began a new family with a new Martha, and it could be that John, born in 1828 Tennessee, and Elijah, born somewhere between Tennessee and Indiana after 1830, were his sons. But with Moses and Stephen F. Austin and others colonizing Texas, James L. was overtaken by wanderlust, and he headed west, ending up in Gonzales. Over the jagged rocks on the lonely trail to the unknown parts of Mexico the new family traveled into new territory. Not many wagon trains headed in that direction, but the ones that did were filled with Tennesseans. Several of them, along with James L. Vaughan, were destined to play a hero's part in Texas history.

As a boy he had grown up in the house of a father who was a Revolutionary War hero who had served with George Washington at Valley Forge and who was trained as a teenage gunner under General Henry Knox to fire cannons at Cornwallis and the British. Years of Fourth of July celebrations, and also having brothers who were named after Revolutionary heroes, had left their mark. He named a child, Benjamin Franklin, as had his father, and though his son most likely received the hero's name



His father's house

secondhand--after an Uncle Ben--a patriotic tradition carried on. By 1830 a revolution was brewing in the Vaughan family's Tennessee backyard and calling for help—from Texas to Tennessee, from whence even Davey Crockett heard the call. It is little surprise a Vaughan did also. Sam Houston, another adopted Tennessean, answered Texas as well.

James L. started a new life with a new family and left the land of his father to go to the Texas territory where he fought against Mexico, and there he stayed.

James L. Vaughan appears claiming one league and labor of land. Has taken the oath prescribed by law. Witnesses John Bailey and Joseph Greer being sworn say. Bailey says he knew the applicant in Texas in 1834 as also his wife and children. Does not know that he participated in the War. Greer says he knew the applicant in Gonzalez in the year 1834 as also his wife and children.

Texas State Genealogical Society. Stripes, Volume 13, Numbers 1 and 2, March and June 1973, Mary Barnett Curtis, editor, Journal/Magazine/Newsletter, June 1973.

2. Gonzales, Texas, in Parts Unknown, 1832-1842

The stack of records belonging to James L. Vaughan fits into Texas history like a hand in a glove.

ONE: He settled in Gonzales early in the 1830's with his new family. He stayed in Gonzales up to the year 1844. In legally notarized papers two witnesses testified that they knew him there, early on. John Bailey and Joseph Greer swore they knew the applicant, James L. Vaughan, and that they also knew his wife and children as early as 1834.

TWO: These were dangerous times in Gonzales--first it was the Comanches, then, the Mexican Army marched on the town. Opportunities arose for warriors to shine. JLV's records say he became a magnificent soldier. Enlisting October 17, 1835, he was responding to Mexico's attack on his town. History calls the *mêlée* the Battle of Gonzales. The confrontation that met him had been looming over the horizon of the wild country for some time.

After Mexico became free from Spain in 1821, it began colonizing north of the Rio Grande—today's State of Texas. To help hold off the Comanche natives, colonies of U.S citizens were recruited to develop the area. The John Bailey and Joseph Greer document is one of a few surviving Gonzales papers left to tell that the second family of JLV was one of those who came, for in 1836, before the approaching Mexican Army could get to it, General Sam Houston ordered the town burned.

Gonzales was one of the earliest of the Anglo-American settlements. It was in the DeWitt Colony of Impresario Green DeWitt; its residents pledged allegiance to Mexico, its laws, language, religion, and customs. As a legal and pledged citizen JLV would have become Catholic, learned to speak Spanish, and could not enslave other men. If accepted he would be given land which he could live on and develop.

From the beginning Indian attacks had been a problem for the new colonies, and the Gonzales settlers owned a small cannon which the Mexican government had given them to warn off the irritated Comanche. When it became apparent that the settlers would not keep their pledges, the little town became the site of the first skirmish of the Texas Revolution when the Mexican Army tried to take back the cannon. The ensuing confrontation was the spark that started the war and made Gonzales into the "Lexington of Texas."

To settle this quarrel, a company of Mexican soldiers marched from their headquarters in San Antonio to retrieve the cannon. On October 2, 1835, the Gonzales Texans waved a flag in the face of their foes with the words "Come and take it" sewn across it. The Texans beat back the attack in what became known as the Battle of Gonzales and kept the cannon. One likes to think James L. Vaughan, son of Gunnery Sgt. John Vaughan, got a chance to fire it. He signed up with the Army of the Texas Republic fifteen days later and was soon a captain noted for his daring fearlessness.

With a cannon and a homemade flag waving over it, the war was on. If not at Gonzales where he lived, at some point he established himself as a fine soldier. Gonzales was his home; it came under attack, Gonzales then seems the logical place for him to have made a name for himself in the military.

THREE: In an 1836 letter to Gonzales from the Alamo on February 19th William Barrett Travis reassigned Captain Vaughan as recruitment officer, urging him to recruit from Gonzales to the Rio Grande and to send help in a hurry. (See Chapter 3) The newborn Texas army had taken the Alamo, and the Mexicans wanted it back. Before given the assignment as Commander of the Alamo de Bexar, Travis himself was unhappy about being the officer in charge of recruiting. He was happy enough to get out of the duty, and his words of praise for Captain Vaughan in this dispatch clearly stated he was just as happy to have a man of Vaughan's caliber to take over for him.

FOUR: In March, before and after the Alamo massacre, refugees from San Antonio fled to Gonzales; seventy miles to the south, it was the nearest town. General Sam Houston was there organizing the Texas army, and recruits filed in. After the Alamo, it would not have taken much effort on Captain Vaughan's part to recruit a Texan. In fear that Gonzales was next in the sights of General Antonio López de Santa Anna and the Mexican army, Houston ordered the town burned and began his famous "Retreat to Victory," as it is now called. The new Texas Army ended up on the banks of the San Jacinto River, nearly to the Gulf coast. There, they won the Battle of San Jacinto on the afternoon of April 21, 1836 and won Texas.

Sam Houston's defeat of Santa Anna made him the greatest hero Texas ever had, but his victory did not end the trouble with Mexico. For years Mexico tried to get its land back from the booming Republic. In 1842 JLV was involved in a resulting border clash, and in a signed and notarized statement makes a final mention of Gonzales, in his own words. Several affidavits tell of the good fortune he had in missing out on the tragic climax of the Mier Expedition.

FIVE: The 1842 Mier Expedition was an ill-advised and ill-conceived military invasion of Mexico that ended in tragedy. In the year 1842 the Army of the Republic of Texas conducted a campaign on the border in which JLV was under the command of General Sommerville. He was mustered into the service of the Republic of Texas the 17th day of Oct 1842 and furnished his own horse, arms, and equipments. He served as a private in a company commanded at that time by William S. Fisher and served in that unit until Fisher crossed the Rio Grande, against orders, to attack the town of Mier. Sommerville kept Vaughan and most of his force with the camp guard on the East Bank of the Rio Grande River and led them back to Gonzales. Fisher's men were all wiped out or captured with their attack on the Mexican town.

In 1852 JLV signed a paper for E. H. Vincent, swearing that Vincent had been an actual member of the Expedition and that the two had met in Gonzales:

Transcription of affidavit, 1852

The State of Texas}

Harris County}

Before me, Augustin C. Davis Notary Public in and for said County, this day personally appeared James L. Vaughan of Washington County, _____, who being by me duly sworn, declared that he was in the Mier Expedition in the year 1842 as a member of said Expedition during its captivity and march to Mexico, that he knew E. H. Vincent as a member of said Expedition, ___ also that he became acquainted with said Vincent at Gonzales on its _____ march, and knowing that said Vincent continued a

member of the Expedition, and returned in company with him after his release to the Colorado.

James L. Vaughan

Given to and _____ before me the 14th day of December AD 1852,
_____ my hand NS Official Seal.

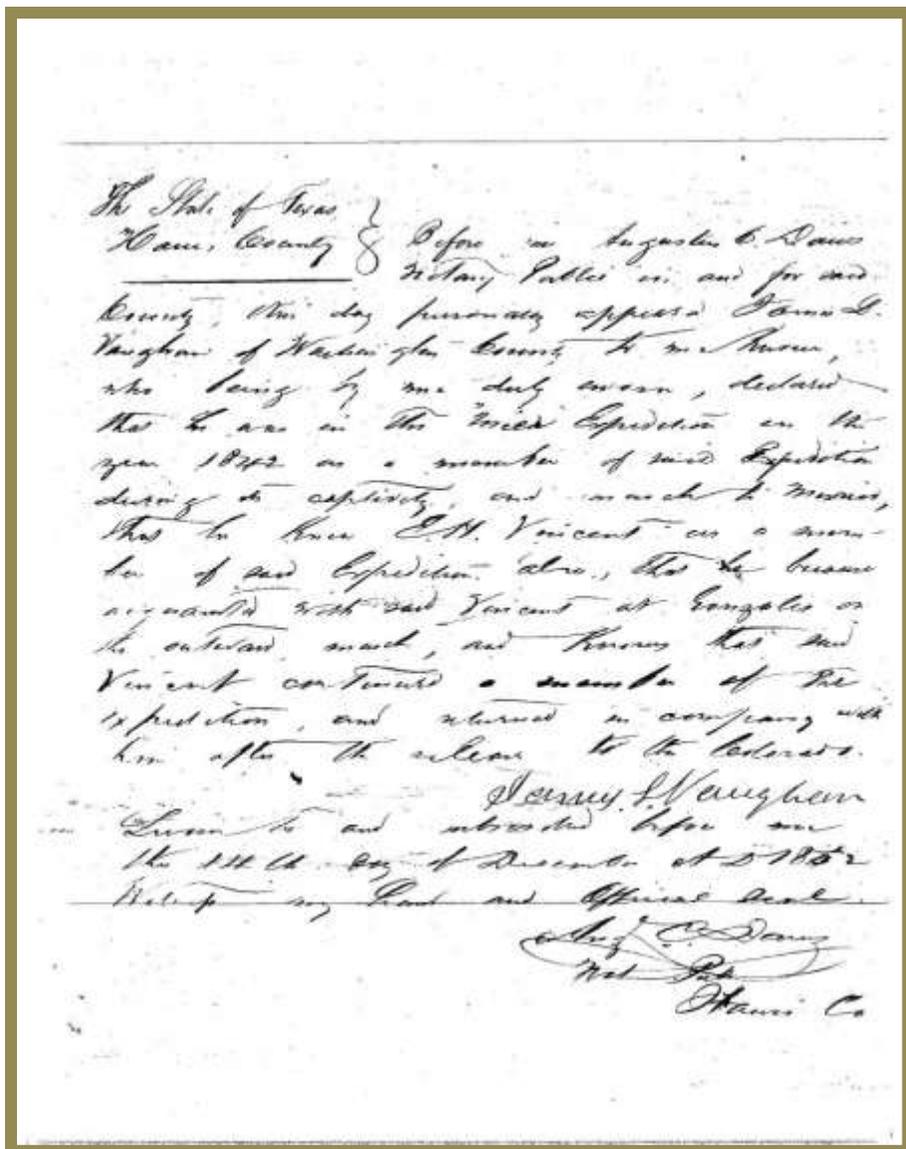
Aug. C. Davis

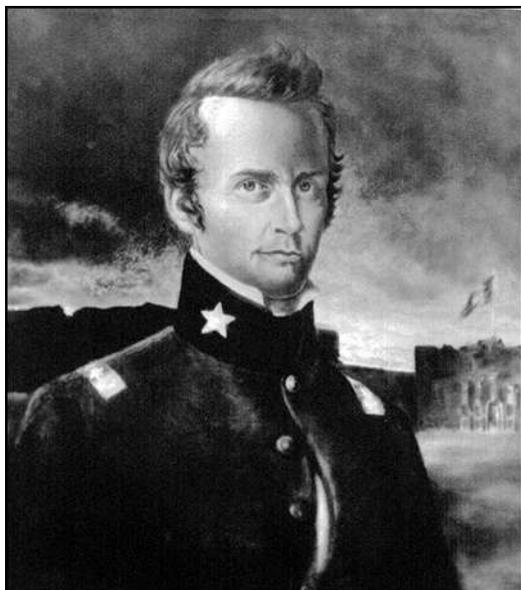
Not. Pub.

Harris Co.

When he swore "that he knew E. H. Vincent as a member of said Expedition, _____ also that he became acquainted with said Vincent at Gonzales," and signed his name to the statement, it became the last mention of Gonzales in his records. His 1852 Mier affidavit and others were taken in Harris County, but by then he had left Gonzales and in the early 1850's resided in Washington County. Thus he lived in or around the

Gonzales area at least until the 1842 Mier Expedition, the year of his father's death. Since the prisoners taken captive in that incident were not returned until President Sam Houston obtained their release in 1844, it can be figured that he was in Gonzales for close to ten years. During the years of the Texas Republic and after the United States' war with Mexico his name appears on over thirty papers. Unfortunately his wife and children are only remembered once--in colonial Gonzales--and are never mentioned in Texas Republic or Texas State records.





3. *With William Barrett Travis*

The call to arms out of the Lexington of Texas rallied rebellious Texicans to Gonzales. One who came running had reason to be especially angry. William Barrett Travis, who had been arrested for making trouble, had just been released from confinement in what amounted to no more than a kiln where adobe bricks were baked. He arrived too late for the action at Gonzales, but he went after the Mexicans with a vengeance. That is to say, he went after their horses and brought back a fine herd of cavalry mounts.

After the October fight over the big Gonzales gun, one battle followed another into the first week of December. Two months of fighting would leave William Barrett Travis and James L. Vaughan well acquainted with one another. As winter approached, enraged Texas rebels had put under siege the Mexican forces which were headquartered at the Alamo mission in San Antonio. They kept their army captive until its capitulation on December 6, 1835. The Mexican surrender of the old mission fort left the Texas military well-armed with artillery. The Texans felt like the war was won.

The first commander of San Antonio de Bexar was James C. Neill. Lt. Commander Neill was soon called away, and he promoted Travis to Colonel and left him in charge. Before long the written paths of Neill and Travis began to cross that of Captain James L. Vaughan. In December Travis sold him one of his horses, and by February 1836, he was calling on him to come to the aid of the Alamo. A year later the war was won, and in the town of Houston, Texas, Lt. Commander Neill signed Captain James L. Vaughan's discharge papers. JLV escaped the calamity of the Alamo, as did Neill. Sadly he also escaped most of the pages of history, but where he does appear, it is as a good and faithful soldier. While Travis's manner of death secured him a place in history, his written orders calling for aid made a place for JLV too.

In defending the Alamo, Travis held up General Santa Anna long enough for the Texans, with General Sam Houston as their leader, to build up an army. While Houston's ability to whip an army into shape out of nothing can't be denied, without Travis and the men at the Alamo, he would have had no time, or the recruits, to build an Army of Texas. Travis's Alamo stand inspired new recruits, and his orders for JLV helped to sign'em up.

A horse, a horse—my horse for a uniform?



Letter of Colonel William B. Travis, San Antonio to Capt. James L. Vaughan, Gonzales:

Travis, letter, February 19, 1836.

Travis, William B., to J. L. Vaughan. February 19, 1836. Typescript copy in Biographical and Historical Files under Travis, W. B., TSLA.

Commandancy of Bexar

Febry 19/ 36

Capt. J. L. Vaughan

Army of Texas

Sir

You are hereby required to proceed forthwith on the Recruiting Service— You will take up the line of march from the Town of Rio Grande, from thence to Pictis, thence to San Juan de Mat, thence to Aguaverde, thence to San Fernando, thence to Laredo, thence to Revilla, thence to Alcantro, thence to Rinosa, thence to Comargo, from thence to Florido, & thence to Mataroras [*sic*] where you will make your Headquarters until you receive further orders,—

You will make regular reports from all the places above named,—and make as many recruits as possible at each place—taking care that when you shall have form(ed) a company to forward the same to this post,—and proceed to recruit other companies as fast as possible,—

Enclosed you have the General Instructions for the recruiting Service, by which you will be govern'd in all cases,—

You have been selected for this Service on account of your distinguished public Services, your well known patriotism, daring valor, firmness and perseverance—It is therefore expected and required that this order will be executed with promptness and dispatch, & it is hoped & confidently believed that my expectations will be fully realized.

I have the Honor to be

Yr. Most Ob. St.

Warren Barret Travers [*sic*]

(scroll)

P.S.

The situation of enemy must not be lost sight of, you must report weekly in relation to him—

Soon after the Texas Revolution began Travis had started out as the recruiting officer. He had difficulty finding colonists to enlist. "Volunteers can no longer be had or relied upon," he wrote to acting governor Henry Smith. When he sent his urgent letter

of February 19th to JLV in Gonzales, the recruiting situation had grown desperate, but it quickly changed with the Alamo massacre and perhaps with a new zealous patriot in charge. When men swelled the ranks of Houston's army, it was JLV who was in charge of signing up new soldiers. By military standards, Houston's men had started out as little more than a small militia of individuals bent on settling personal gripes and complaints against Santa Anna's dictatorship. When Texans heard of the fall of the old mission, Houston became the head of a large army of men who were inspired to. . . "Remember the Alamo." If Captain Vaughan was as tough a soldier as Travis believed him to be, and did nothing but follow his orders, he played an important part in building up Houston's troops.

A Horse Story

JLV's papers make it clear that he and Travis knew each other well; before his appointment as recruitment officer, his papers say he bought a horse from the Colonel. The Colonel's brief rustling career provided him with a few from which to choose.

Students studying Texas history will read about Travis selling his horse to raise money to buy himself a Colonel's uniform. He never got to wear the uniform he ordered, but JLV got to ride his horse. Historians don't bother to record to whom Travis sold the horse, but it is on record. (See Chapter Four.)

The patriotic valor of JLV in their earlier battles had caught the attention of Colonel Travis. By February, with him in charge of recruitment in the area, Travis was calling him, "Capt."

The next year JLV filled out his discharge paper and received a captain's pay. His discharge is signed by the Colonel who turned command of the Alamo over to Travis:

Transcribed Discharge Paper

This is to certify that James L. Vaughan is entitled to pay from the 15 day of December 1835 until the second day of March 1836 as a captain of the Volunteers of Texas.

James C. Neill, Then Commander of Bexar

*This is the Second Discharge
for the Same Service.*

J. C. Neill, LT. Col.

This handwritten discharge paper for "Captain of the Volunteers of Texas," signed by Lt. Col. Neill, but written in JLV's script, with his unique signature within, is rich in history. When Neill left and appointed Travis to take over for him, the recruitment job opened up for JLV. Travis happily gave up his recruiting duties, but wanting to look fit for the higher office, he happily sold a horse to JLV and got the wherewithal for a new uniform. JLV paid good money for that horse. Within two months, when recruitment became vital to saving the Alamo, Travis assigned the duty to Captain Vaughan, who was unquestionably well-mounted for the task.

Captain Vaughan's distinguished public services which Travis mentioned occurred from the Battle of Gonzales to the siege of San Antonio de Bexar—from

October to December. The dispatch to Gonzales from the Alamo on February 19th preceded Travis's famous call for help five days later and heralded the gravity of the situation there.

JLV's army pay sheets describing his financial dealings with Travis are dated March 8th, after the fall of the Alamo. Travis's recruitment orders came little more than a couple of weeks before it fell. Not the fastest steed in Texas could hurry the needed recruits to the besieged Alamo. Still, the tone of the dispatch was exclusive, approving of Captain Vaughan's war against the enemy thus far. Travis, always eloquent, used language that indicated trust--and hope. JLV was known as a valiant patriot, he said, who would carry on and never give up. The sale of the horse looks like it could have been between close army buddies. Hundreds of recruits did show up at Gonzales, but too late to save Travis and his men at the Alamo.

Original Handwritten Discharge

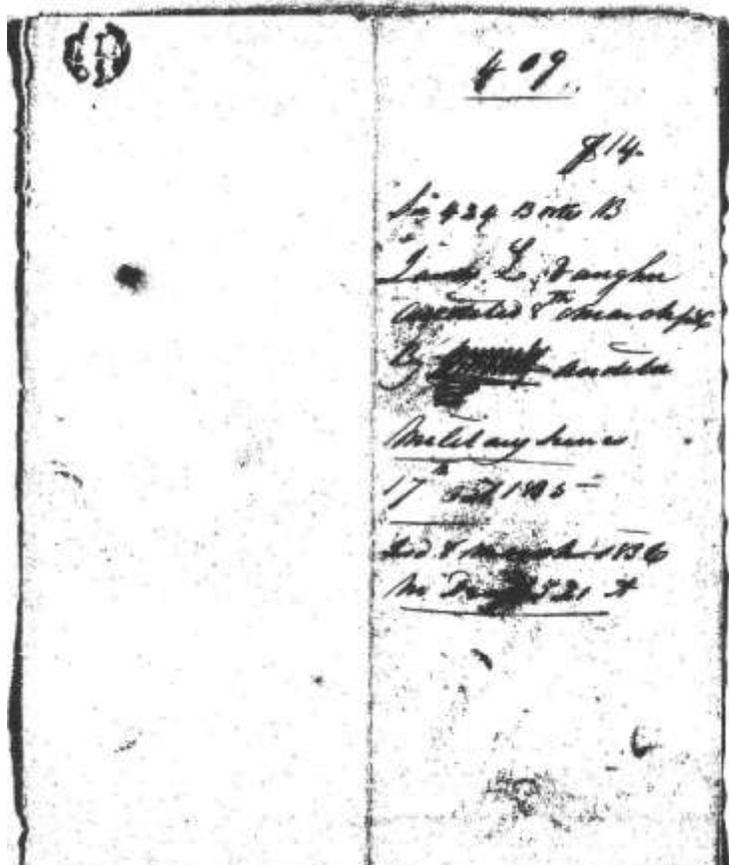
This is to certify that James L Vaughan
 is entitled to pay from the 15 day of December 1835
 until the second day of March ¹⁸³⁶ a captain of the
 Volunteers of Texas

J. A. Neil
 Sheriff Court of
 Bexar

This is the second
 Discharge for the same
 Service

J. A. Neil Lt
 Gen

(TX)



Document #1

4. In the War with Mexico, 1836

Military service was rendered by JLV at least from 17 Oct 1835 to 24 March 1836, according to three of his paysheets. During this period of time he and Travis would have fought beside each other in the Battle of Gonzales, 2 Oct 1835; the Battle of Goliad, 9 Oct 1835; the Battle of Concepcion, 28 Oct 1835; and attended the surrender of Mexico's General Cos in San Antonio, 10 Dec 1835. His service, and the purchase of Travis's horse, is indicated by three original pay sheets, with transcriptions.

Transcription of Document #1 pay sheet:

409
 \$14
 See 424 **Book B**
 James L. Vaughan
 Appointed 8th March 1836
 By **illegible signature**, Auditor
 Military Service
 17th Oct 1835 To 24 March 1836
 No **Draft** 521 (Star or T)

This second document, a scribbled, detailed record of the first transaction, is addressed to "Washington," and the purchase of W.B. Travis's horse is written up in this paper. "Washington" refers to Washington on the Brazos, where government representatives were trying to carry on after their declaration of independence of March 2nd. Washington on the Brazos is near present day Navasota in Grimes County, and the Republic of Texas got its start there on the banks of the Brazos River. The town of Independence is nearby--it is a place where JLV would settle after the war.

William B. Travis, who, according to most historians, never received the Colonel's uniform he was fitted for and ordered--died March 6, commanding the

defenders of the doomed mission. He died along with Davy Crockett, James Bowie, and other volunteers, many of whom hailed from Tennessee. Happily, JLV's pay sheet is dated March 8 and 24, and thus, he was able to join his more fortunate fellow Texans in their later call to, "Remember the Alamo!" in their continued fight against Mexico's dictator, Santa Anna.

It was just two weeks before the fall of the Alamo that Colonel Travis ordered Captain Vaughan out on the recruitment campaign. The Captain rode out of Gonzales astride a fine horse, no doubt.

Document # 2

Washington

Before me John W. Moody auditor come James L. Vaughan and says the enclosed instrument is just true and original and he owes the Government nothing

Sworn to. 8th March 1836

before ~~me~~ auditor

Horse	\$50.00	which is not ^{not} to ^{to} be paid but to be paid ^{paid} for the whole of his account ^{account} being the sum of six dollars and of this account by consent of J. L. Vaughan now here present and consents to the same
Leaves	50.00	
exp of W. S. Blount	0.00	
	<u>100.00</u>	Blount & which he owes W. S. Blount for saddle
Am't of demand	\$100.00	
Horse bought of	96.00	
Govt. W. S. Francis	4.00	
now holds his note for	\$80.00	
	<u>80.00</u>	

*Transcription of text in Document # 2**Washington**Before me John Willowby, auditor, comes James L Vaughan and says the annexed instruments is just true and original and he owes the Government nothing.**Sworn to 8th March 1836
before Wm. Mitchell, auditor**His account column.*

<i>Horse</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
<i>Illegible</i>	<i><u>50.00</u></i>
<i>in ___ of W.S.Blount</i>	<i><u>6.00</u></i>
	<i><u>100.00</u></i>

<i>Amt of demand</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>
<i><u>86.00</u></i>	
<i><u>\$14.00</u></i>	

*Horse bought of
Govt. W.B. Travis
now holds his note
for \$80.00
6.00 on ___ of W.J. Blount
86.00*

*Scribbled column with marked out lines:**and about which ought to be settled on by amt, but he having drawn for the whole of his amt takes the... (here, not marked out) ...draw of his six dollars out of this account by consent of James L. Vaughan now here present and consents to the ___ which he owed Wm S. Blount for saddle.*

A24

the six dollars taken out
on account of Mrs. S. Blount
amounting for amt. due from
him to government for
a Spanish blanket &
pair of shoes -

[Signature] auditor

⁵¹⁴
James L. Vaughan
filed 8th March 1836
Examined same day
admitted to audit for
one hundred dollars. I
deducted the amount of eighty
dollars for a horse purchased
by him from the government
and six dollars on account
of Mrs. S. Blount for a
saddle sold to Mrs. Blount
the amount to be drawn
for is fourteen dollars

[Signature] auditor

Approved March 5th 1836
W. C. Houston Controller

*Transcription of Document #3***Page 1**

*The six dollars taken out
on account of Wm. S Blount
answers for amt due from
him to government for
a Spanish Blanket
and pair of shoes—
____ Mitchell, auditor (a guess at signature)*

Page 2

*424
\$14
James L. Vaughan
Filed, 8th March 1836
Examined same day
Admitted to audit for
One hundred dollars. I
Deducted the amount of eighty
Dollars for a Horse purchased
by him from the government
and six dollars on account
of Wm. S. Blount
the amount to be drawn
for is fourteen dollars.*

*____ Mitchell, auditor
Approved March 8th 1836
(H. C. _____ Quartermaster)
+
521*

These pay records for soldiers in the Texas Army were eventually used as proof of service by hundreds of Texans who made land claims for 1280 acres each. JLV claimed his, taking advantage of a deal General Houston made with his soldiers when the fighting was done.

In addition, after the war, while he was staying in the town of Houston, he collected hundreds of dollars in back pay for his service. These papers are dated from October through December, 1837:

Auditor's Office

Houston, 22 Oct 1837

This day came J. L. Vaughan and says the annexed instrument is just, true and original and the only one that he has offered for liquidation that

he owes the Government nothing on his own Account or on Account of any other person.

Sworn to before
Illegible name, Auditor

Houston 25 oct 1837

James L. Vaughan has this day deposed in the _____ affixed on military draft No: 7217 Thirty Documents to be forwarded To

Cc: ___ Cooke
Illegible name
TX STAMP Ch Clark
Land Office

(p. 1) Illegible

(p. 2) 5221 . . .

\$175.82
James L. Vaughan
Filed 24 Nov 1837
Examined admitted
to audit for \$175.
Military
Illegible auditor
11 dec 1835
24 nov 1837
No. draft 6319 ?
Approved 25 Nov 1837
E__ Falk, Controller

6007
\$80.00
NCW
James L. Vaughan
Filed Dec. 26, 1837
Examined same day
Admitted to audit
For \$80.00
Military
TX seal
____ Dec, 26, 1837
NO Draft 7217 ?
Approved: December 27, 1837
____ R. Sur____k, Controller



The Alamo de Bexar

Anna's dictatorship, the republican government offered a mix of opportunity and independence that attracted them to the Mexican colonies in the first place. When the Alamo fell, the men who died there didn't know the men on the outside at Washington on the Brazos had declared independence from Mexico—afterwards, remembering the Alamo inspired those who fought on to win it.

There is no known service record that places James L. Vaughan at the Battle of San Jacinto, but records are incomplete in war. Travis's orders for him to set up Headquarters at Matamoras were certainly overridden by Santa Anna and the carnage wreaked on the Alamo by the Mexican Army. All of Anglo Texas headed east—even Houston's Army, and there is no reason to think that, alongside his new recruits, he did not accompany Sam Houston out of the fired town of Gonzales on the way to the fateful battleground on the San Jacinto River. He may have ridden the best horse in Houston's cavalry.

Colonel Joseph Bennett, indirect ancestor of Tim Childress was there; he commanded the left-flank of General Houston's Texas Army and broke open the Mexican artillery barricade. All the while the Twin Sister cannons blasted the center, and the infantry broke through the other side, yelling their battle cry, "Remember the Alamo!" It was over in eighteen minutes, but that is when and how Texas soldiers won for themselves thousands of acres of land. Col. Bennett is significant to their settling the wild territory, because after the war Houston appointed him to one of the first ranger companies in charge of guarding South Texas against Mexican banditos, Texas outlaws, and the unconquerable Comanche.

Sam Houston became Texas's greatest hero. Everything that could be named after him was named after him. My great grandfather, George Washington Vaughan, son of Samuel N. Vaughan who was a younger brother of JLV, was born in Tennessee. In 1869, Great Grandpa George Washington Vaughan

The fall of the Alamo became Santa Anna's Waterloo--an appropriate epithet for the man who saw himself as the Napoleon of the West. The 187 men who fought against his Mexican legions inspired out-numbered and out-gunned soldiers thereafter to "Remember the Alamo" regardless of the battleground.

The men who died there, and the men in the Texas Army, like Captain Vaughan, actually were fighting against the tyranny of Santa Anna and FOR the Republic of Mexico. Before Santa

San Jacinto Monument



Sam Houston Statue

named my grandfather, his baby son, Sam Houston—in part after his father, but wholly after the Texas hero who got revenge for the massacre of Texans at the Alamo.

What wasn't named after Houston was named after Travis. His bravery in the face of impossible odds has inspired embattled U.S. troops to this day. In all of history there is no more poignant call to arms than the letter Travis sent out of the Alamo. Written less than a week after he wrote to Captain Vaughan exhorting him to get out and recruit more men, his Victory or Death proclamation was read all over Texas:

To the People of Texas & All Americans in the World:

Fellow citizens & compatriots—I am besieged, by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna—I have sustained a continual Bombardment & cannonade for 24 hours & have not lost a man. The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken—I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, & our flag still waves proudly from the walls. I shall never surrender or retreat. Then, I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism & everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid, with all dispatch—The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily & will no doubt increase to three or four thousand in four or five days. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible & die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor & that of his country—Victory or Death.

William Barret Travis
Lt. Col. Comdt

P.S. The Lord is on our side—When the enemy appeared in sight we had not three bushels of corn—We have since found in deserted houses 80 or 90 bushels & got into the walls 20 or 30 head of Beeves.

the siege more than thirty days; for the sake of humanity, before that time give them succor. Citizens of the east, your brethren of the Brazos and Colorado, expect your assistance, afford it, and check the march of the enemy and suffer not your own land to become the seat of war, without your immediate aid we cannot sustain the war. Fellow-Citizens, I call upon you as your executive officer to "turn out;" it is your country that demands your help. He who longer slumbers on the volcano must be a madman.

He who refuses to aid his country in this, her hour of peril and danger is a traitor. All persons able to bear arms in Texas are called on to rendezvous at the town of Gonzales, with the least possible delay armed and equipped for battle. *Our rights and liberties must be protected;* to the battle field march and save the country. An approving word smiles upon us, the God of battles is on our side, and victory awaits us.

Confidently believing that your energies will be sufficient for the occasion, and that your efforts will be ultimately successfully.

I subscribe myself your fellow-citizen,
HENRY SMITH, Gov'r.

TO THE CITIZENS OF TEXAS.
COMMANDANCY OF THE
ALAMO, BEJAR Feb. }
24th 1836. }

Fellow-Citizens.
I am besieged by a 1000 or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continual bombardment and cannonade for 24 hours and have not lost a man. The enemy have demanded a surrender at discretion otherwise the garrison is to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken. I have answered the demand with the cannon shot. And our flag still waves proudly from the walls. I shall never surrender nor retreat; than I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism, & of every thing dear to the American character to come to our aid with all possible despatch; the enemy are receiving reinforcements daily, and will no doubt increase to 3 or 4000 in 4 or 5 days. Though this call may be neglected I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible and die like a soldier

who never forgets what is due to his own honor and that of his country.

VICTORY OR DEATH.
W. B. TRAVIS,
Lieut. Col. Com'dt,

BRAZORIA, TEXAS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 1835

Want of room counsels us to decline making any comments on the alarming situation which we occupy, we give the news as received, and every man will be able to judge for himself.

Handbills will be published whenever occasion requires it; which will in a measure excuse us for the smallness of our sheet. A handbill will be published to-morrow containing the news brought by to-day's mail.

MEETING
OF THE CITIZENS OF SAN FELICE.

At a meeting of the citizens held in the town of San Felice on 27th Feb. 1835, Joseph Baker was unanimously called to the chair, and B. P. Case appointed secretary. A communication from Wm. B. Travis, Lt. Col. Commandant of the post of Bejar, having been read, and the objects of the meeting explained, on motion of Mosely Baker Esq.,

Resolved, That the Citizens appoint a committee of twelve to prepare an address and draft resolutions for the adoption of this meeting.

Whereupon The chairman appointed Mosely Baker, J. A. Wharton, P. I. Starr, J. R. Jones, W. R. Headler, A. Ewing, P. B. Dexter, A. Sumnerville, J. Fletcher, J. H. Mance, Jas. Cochran and Thos. Gav, then on motion, the meeting adjourned until 11 o'clock.

The meeting accordingly reassembled at 11 o'clock, when the following address and resolutions were reported, and unanimously adopted.

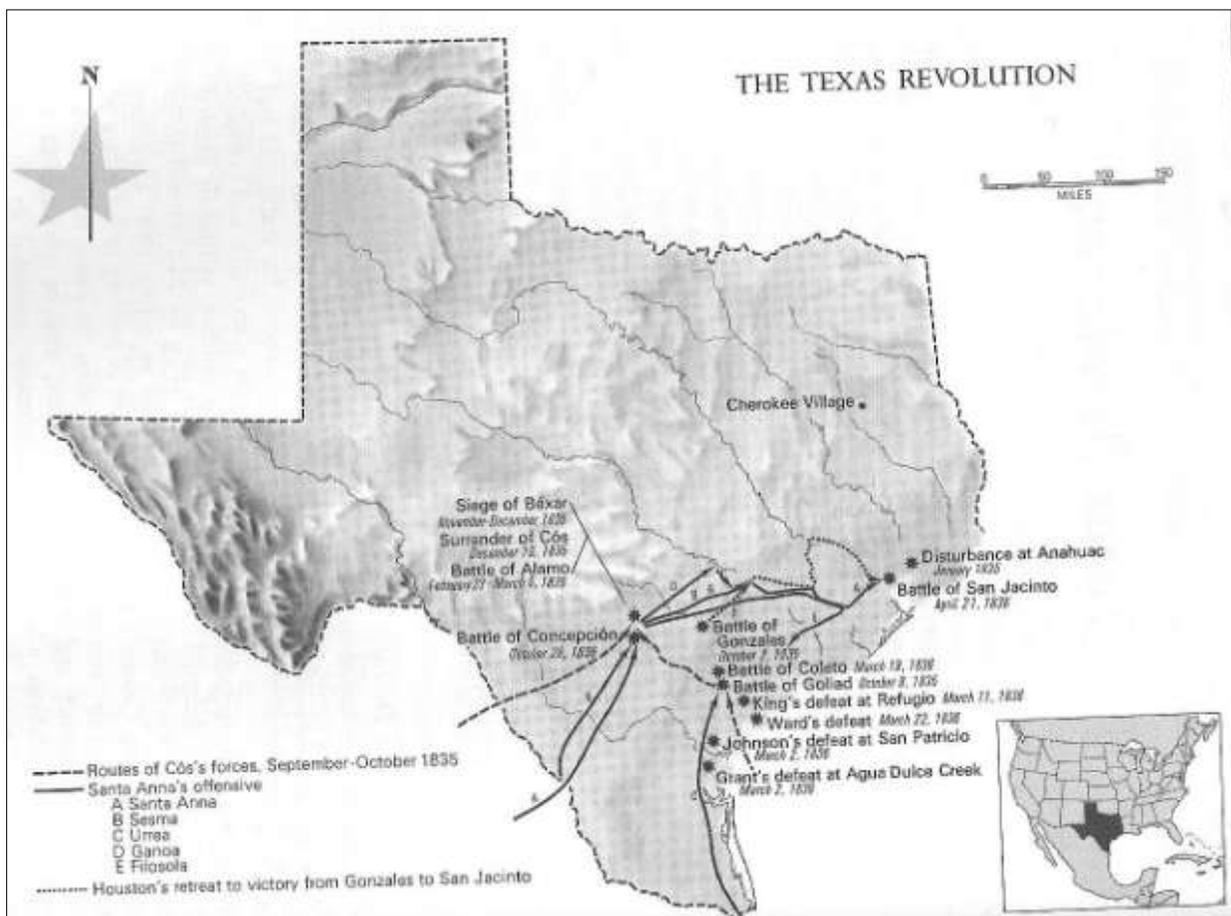
To our fellow citizens,

The undersigned, a committee appointed by a meeting held in the town of San Felice, on this day, present you with the accompanying letter from the commandant of Bejar. You must read and act in the same manner, or Texas is lost. You must rise from your lethargy, and march without a moment's delay to the field of war, or the next western breeze that sweeps over your habitations, will bring with it the shrieks and wailings of the women and children of Galilobone and Colorado; and the last agonized shriek of liberty will follow. Citizens of the Colorado and Brazos, your country is invaded—your homes are about to be pillaged, your families destroyed, yourselves to be enslaved; and you must, one and all repair to the field of war, or prepare to abandon your country. Be it this information shall be generally circulated, the blood of many our citizens will have crimsoned the soil; and the soul of many a devoted patriot flown to heaven.

Inhabitants of the east your fellow citizens—the west are in danger. Of

How sad it is that published historians were unable to find or use the records which Tim Childress has discovered on James L. Vaughan. His contribution to the war was significant. It seems unfair that his aging father in Tennessee did not hear the name of his son honored as did the kin of General Houston and Davy Crockett, his fellow Tennesseans. Of his many records, none is so exciting as the letter from Colonel Travis authorizing him to recruit men for the defense of the Alamo. That it preceded Travis's plea for recruits by five days adds tragedy to its importance. The second letter was heard around the world, and in classrooms where history is still a viable subject it is taught to students in schools across the state. Courier Albert Martin carried it the seventy miles to Gonzales on the run. Newspapers published it, and though too late to help the soldiers at the Alamo, men from throughout Texas and the United States heard the call and began to gather at Gonzales. Helped in his recruitment efforts by the valiant plea of his superior officer, Captain Vaughan could look with pride on the recruits his own efforts brought into Gonzales; within two months they were to make up the core of Houston's army which defeated Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto.

Battle Locations of the Texas Revolution



Map drawn by Miklos Printher, [Texas, A History](#), Seymour V. Connor

5. Land Records of James L. Vaughan, 1847-1874

When Sam Houston became the first President of the Republic of Texas he was faced with an angry, unpaid army on one hand and an angry army of Mexicans who wanted their land back on the other. Believing that a militia could defend Texas against Mexico, he reduced the size of the Texas Army by giving indefinite furloughs with a paid trip home to soldiers who wanted to leave Texas. To those who wanted to stay and settle the new Republic he gave them each a part of Texas--1280 acres of it. The officers, who were trying to start the rebellion, lost much of their audience.

The Texas Revolution was as fortunate in its leadership as the United States had been in its revolution against England. Houston had led his impossible troops to an improbable victory. James L. Vaughan for instance was a forty year old farmer. After the war, Houston's decision on how to handle his unpaid troops and unruly officers influenced James to stay in Texas—with or without his family. The land deal Houston offered him was too good to refuse and turned him and other soldiers into huge landowners. On reflection, he looks like a forty year old soldier who may have farmed during peace time--which there was precious little of in early Texas.

Much of the bounty the soldiers received was parceled out in 320 acre increments. Land grant records say that James L. Vaughan received a share of these increments in South Texas as well as total Head Rights. Most of his acreage turned out to be in and around Gonzales and the very area where he fought.

With added research into Texas land grant history it is possible for state and county land records to further identify James L. Vaughan's land claims. Further investigation into the origin of Live Oak and Nueces Counties may link his documents. The Nueces County entry may reflect a change in counties after the 1845 annexation of the state, and may actually be the Live Oak County, 4,620 acres, listed on the 1860 census; it almost matches the 4604.60 in his 1847 Live Oak survey. If not, JLV earned a lot of real estate for his service in the wars Texas fought against Mexico--almost 10,000 acres

About counties in this area:

San Patricio- formed 1836 from an Old Mexican Municipality

Nueces- formed 1846 from San Patricio Co.

Kinney- formed 1850 from Bexar Co.

Live Oak- formed 1856 from Nueces & San Patricio Co.

(Facts added by Sue Clark, great-great granddaughter of George Washington Vaughan, brother of James L. Vaughan)

Representative records and maps—next 7pp

Land patent granted by the State of Texas, 1849

VAUGHAN, JAMES L.

Received BtyWnt 227 for 320 acres from AG on 15 Feb 1847 for service from 17 Oct to 15 Dec 1835.

320 acres in Kinney Cty

12 July 1849.

Pat 386 Vol 5 Abst 590 GLO File Bexar Bty 733.

Excerpt from VPG Files, Lewis E. Vaughan

By 1852, while living in Independence, he made a claim in Nueces County and moved to the area between 1852 and 1860:

Abstracts of Land Claims Complied from the Records of the General Land Office of the State of Texas, 1852.

San Patricio Dist

Vaughan, Jas. L.

4605 A.

Cls 1t

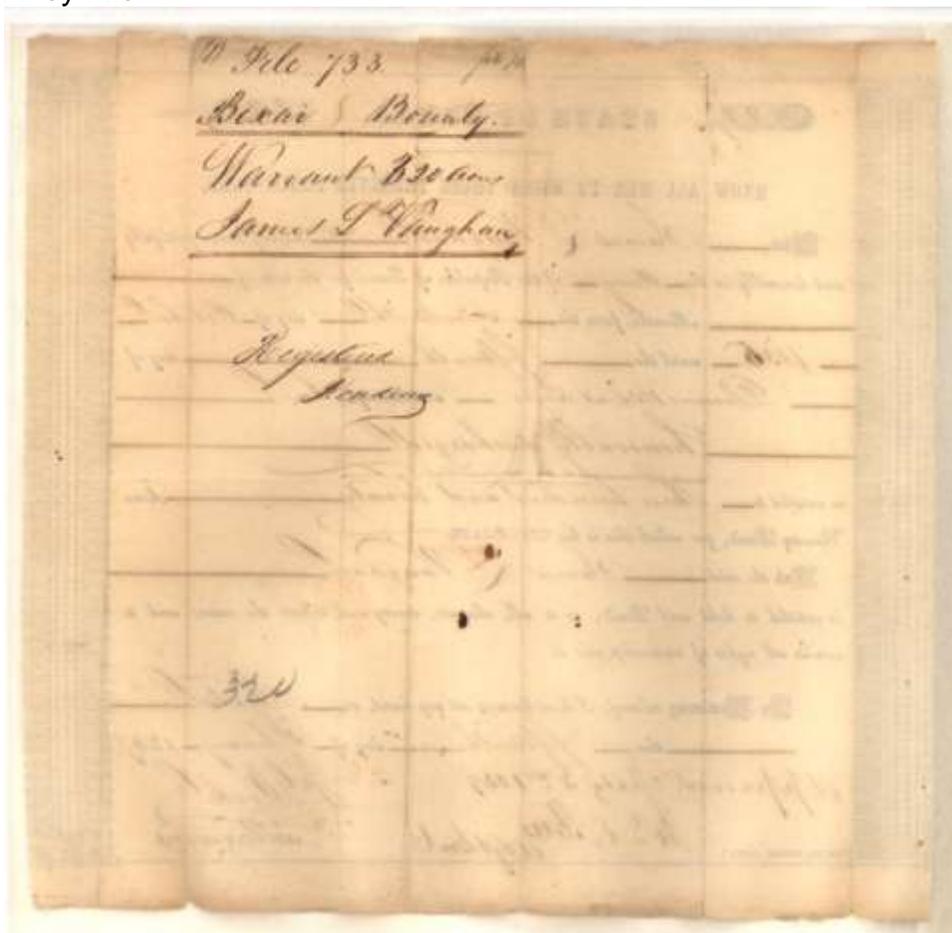
Nueces Co.

Surv 57

Sec 2

On Spring Creek.

p. 1, Kinney File



Kinney Co
 File #33 ~~76~~ 1870
 1. Marrant Notes
 2. Field Notes
 June, 1871
 Kinney Co

Bexar Bounty

James L. Vaughan
 320 Acres
 Plot 590 (320)

Correct on map. July 2/49
 2 mhd. ptd (Kinney Co)

Correct for patent
 to Kinney Co.

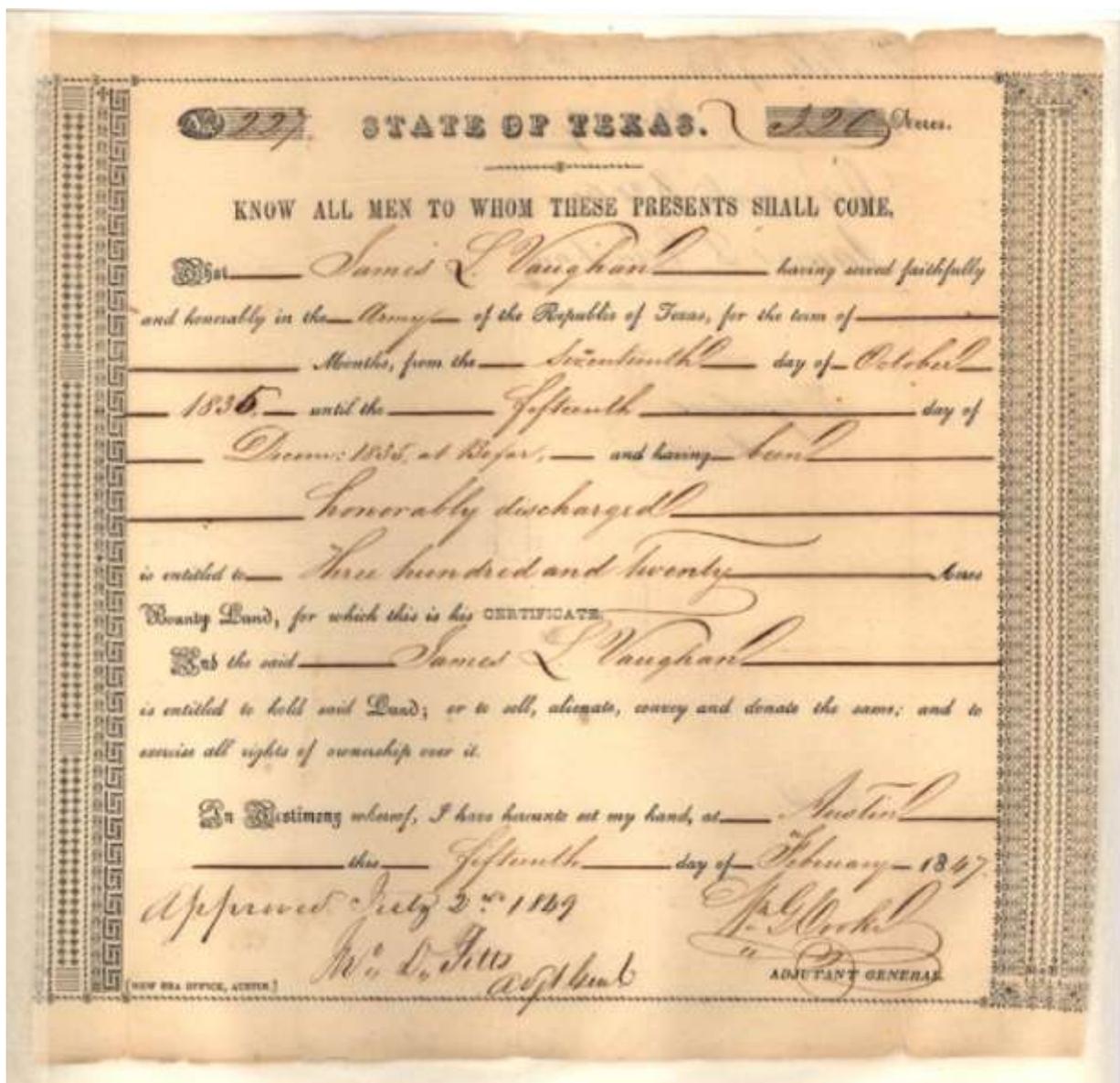
Pat. July 11-1849
 Kinbee

No 386 vol 5

Patent delivered to T.D. Giddings
 March 17, 1870

Kinney Co
 Kinney
 No 41741 = mhd. ptd. Rd.

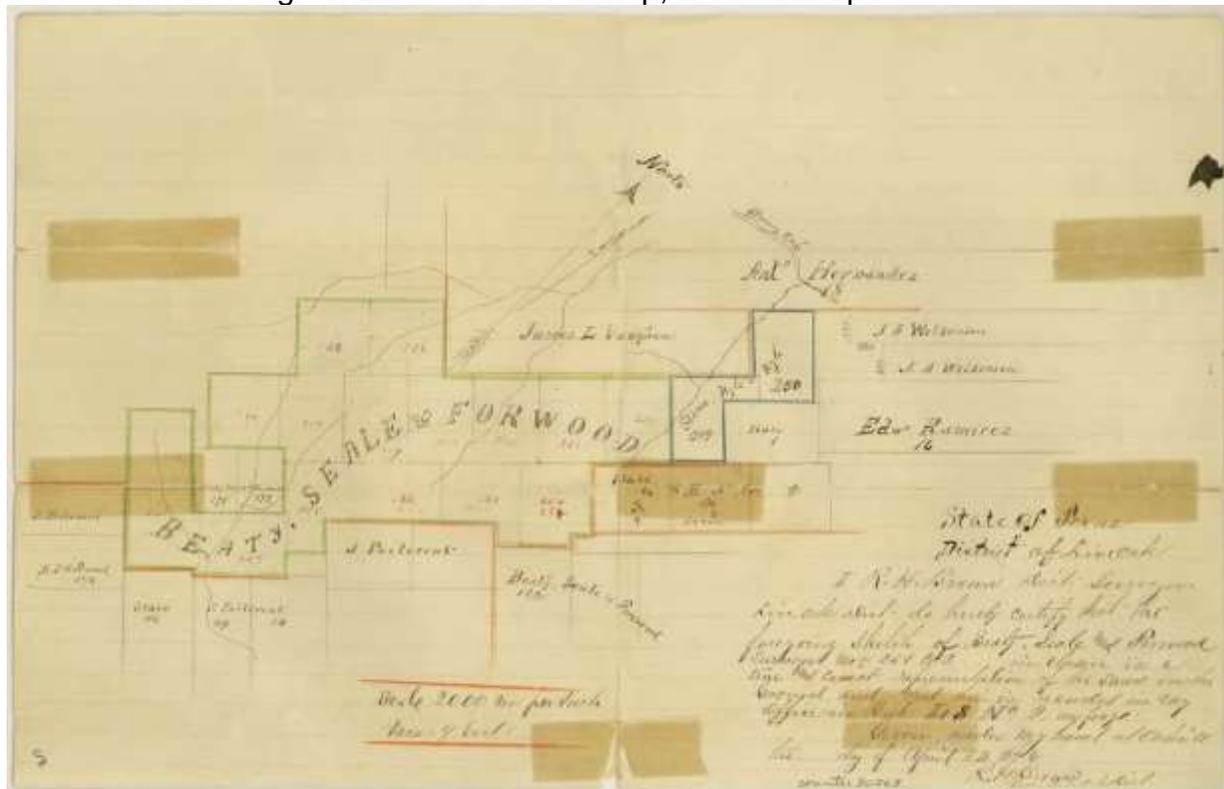
1849, Kinney County, 320 acres



Discharged w/ 320 acres for service.



1876 James L. Vaughan Live Oak Sketch Map, with transcription



1876 James L. Vaughan Live Oak Sketch Map

**Texas General Land Office
Land Grant Search**



This file needs professional conservation work. [Follow me](#) to be a part of Save Texas History!

County: Live Oak

Abstract Number: 467

District/Class: San Patricio 1st

File Number: 000156

Original Grantee: Vaughan, James L

Patentee: Shaw, James B

Title Date:

Patent Date: 03 Jul 1847

Patent No: 439

Patent Vol: 5

Certificate: 602

Part Section:

Survey/Blk/Tsp: 37

Acres: 4604.60

Adj Acres:

Remarks:

**Texas General Land Office
Land Grant Search**



This file needs professional conservation work. [Follow me](#) to be a part of Save Texas History!

County: Kinney

Abstract Number: 590

District/Class: Bexar Bouny

File Number: 000733

Original Grantee: Vaughan, James L

Patentee: Vaughan, James L

Title Date:

Patent Date: 11 Jul 1849

Patent No: 386

Patent Vol: 5

Certificate: 227

Part Section:

Survey/Blk/Tsp: 284

Acres: 320

Adj Acres:

Remarks:

Land Office copies of Live Oak and Kinney County properties. (from VPG)

6. Independence, Washington County, Texas 1843-1852

James L. Vaughan's service records in the Texas military date back to the Texas Revolution. Legally the man was owed a 1280 acre Head Right for this service. He claimed many additional acres and bought even more land in the Washington County area of the Brazos Valley.

After the Texas Army defeated Mexico's Santa Anna, the soldiers who fought the war were unpaid. A new government was formed and fashioned a constitution for running the Republic of Texas. General Sam Houston was elected its first president. Thus Texas had a framework for governing. What it didn't have was money. The new country was in debt.

What Texas did own was land. Much of its debt was owed to the men who had fought and defeated Mexico, and the unpaid army was grumbling. President Houston was forbidden by the new constitution from disbanding an unpaid army, so he offered furloughs and paid trips home to the troops who wanted to leave and Head Rights to anyone who wanted to stay and settle in Texas. Texas may have been broke, but it owned a lot of land. JLV and the soldiers in the Texas Army won a huge section of Mexico for the new Republic, and JLV began claiming—and buying his share right away.

From the town of Gonzales of the 1830's, and away from the devastation of war, he moved east--momentarily to the town of Houston, and then into the Brazos Valley—the very place of the birth of the Republic of Texas. No mention of him being in Gonzales appears after 1844.

In 1846, after statehood, he was still claiming land from the Republic era in the South Texas area, but he settled—along with Sam Houston—in the town of Independence, Washington County. As early as 1843 he bought a league of land on the Navasota River which runs into the Brazos River where Brazos and Washington counties meet about twelve miles east of Independence.

According to the Brazos Co. Deed Book B, p.90 (27 Feb. 1843),

James L. Vaughan gave land on the Navasota River to an unnamed Methodist Church "in the neighborhood known as Ferguson's Settlement" for "the building and supporting parsonage"; the land was in the league originally granted to Augustus WILLIAMS & sold by WILLIAMS to James L. Vaughan; it bordered lands granted to Joseph FERGUSON & Robert FERGUSON; church trustees were Alexander THOMPSON, Hugh B. KING, James W. SCOTT, Joseph FERGUSON, Eli H. MITCHELL; witnessed by Samuel BURTON & J.I. BOWMAN.

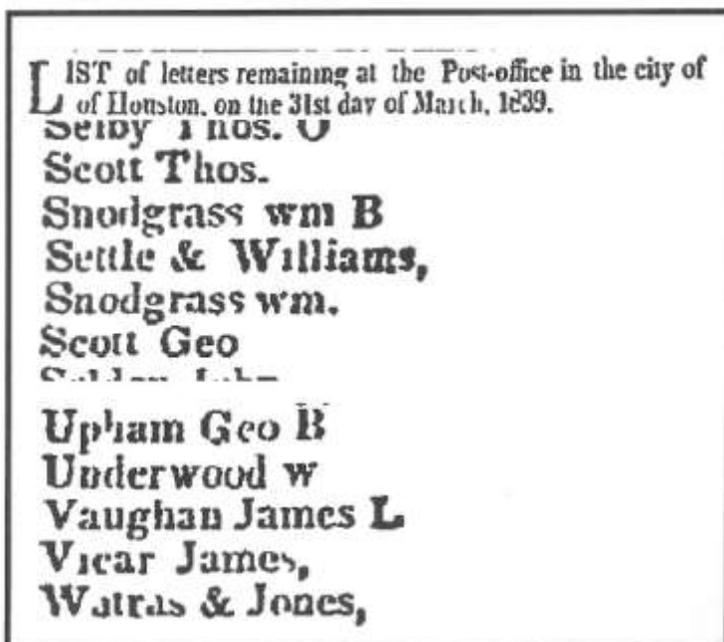
Because of the volume of material which bears his name in Washington County, it could be assumed that the Ferguson Settlement in Brazos County was nearby, and

probably adjoining, his Washington County address. Plus, his papers originated, were signed, and/or sworn to in Independence for nearly a decade.

Between his stay in Gonzales and Independence, he stopped off briefly in Houston, Texas in 1837—applying for back pay from the war. After the war he held an address in Harris County, for in the year 1839 an unclaimed letter waited for him at the Houston Post Office. William B. Snodgrass and William Snodgrass, possible relatives out of Missouri, are on the same list. There is no mention of his wife and children. If alive, they probably left with other 1836 Gonzales refugees for the safety of the United States during the famous flight from the oncoming troops of Santa Anna. Called “The Runaway Scrape,” it was said that people left in such a hurry that food was left cooking on the stove. Burned food didn’t much matter since they set fire to the whole town when they left, leaving nothing for the invading Mexican troops. Later on, Gonzales had

to be rebuilt from the ashes left by the fleeing Texans.

The family of JLV probably left Texas at that time. There are census returns in Arkansas in the years 1850 and 1860 on a family that may well be his second wife and their two sons. According to family lore, he married another Martha the second time around and his first son, Benjamin Franklin, had two half-brothers named John and Elijah. These are the names of the family in Arkansas, associated with a younger Martha, a single mom. Between 1850 and 1860 JLV was filing away documents in Texas.



By 1851, his residence was Independence, Washington County, Texas, and no family members show up in his numerous Washington County records. With or without his people, he prospered in what is now called the Brazos Valley, and he owned enough land there to give some of it to the un-named Methodist Church with enough left over to farm—and, if they were there, to raise a family.

After moving out of Gonzales, he became a resident of Independence, Texas for quite a spell. His papers are dated, starting from his gift of two lots to the Methodists out of a league he purchased in 1843, and they stack up in Washington County until 1852.

Documents out of Independence, Washington County continued his solitary Texas odyssey, but they don’t complete it. Some of the later papers are written by him

and bear his signature, but other than him being a soldier and a landowner, there is little else said about him. --During his stay in Independence he announced a trip he was planning for a return to Tennessee. --He would see his neighbor Sam Houston serve as President of the Texas Republic, and after statehood, see him elected Governor. --A final war with Mexico was fought. Then, in 1847 and 1849 he claimed more land out west and later moved to one of his claims. All in all, he seems to have thrived in Washington County, but the more peaceful Texas became, the less we hear of him.

Today, Independence is an historic little village. It lies on the edge of the Brazos River Valley on one side, and it overlooks the Hill Country toward Gonzales to the west. Piney woods stretch across the Navasota River from the east and pasture lands grow across it from out of the western hills. Bryan, Brazos County, lies just a few miles up a curving road to the northeast. A little village named Lexington lies along the way. A town and lake are nearby bearing the familiar name of Sommerville. Similar to Gonzales of the DeWitt Colony, Independence grew out of one of the early Austin Colonies in 1834. Early on, it became a Baptist stronghold, and the Sam Houston family settled there in order to provide their children with higher education opportunities which the Baptists hailed back then. Baylor University got its start there and William B. Travis's son attended classes. Today, the area, so full of history, sprouts historical markers like mushrooms after a rain. It seems like there are more graves in its numerous little cemeteries than there are people living in the town. (Source: Sue Clark)

JLV and the family of Sam Houston were neighbors for years in a very small community. Old soldiers that they were, it's likely that they knew each other and saw each other often when Houston, a statesman and elected official, was in town. With so much in common, they may have even enjoyed each other's company.

Houston wrote to Washington D. Miller, September 13, 1853:

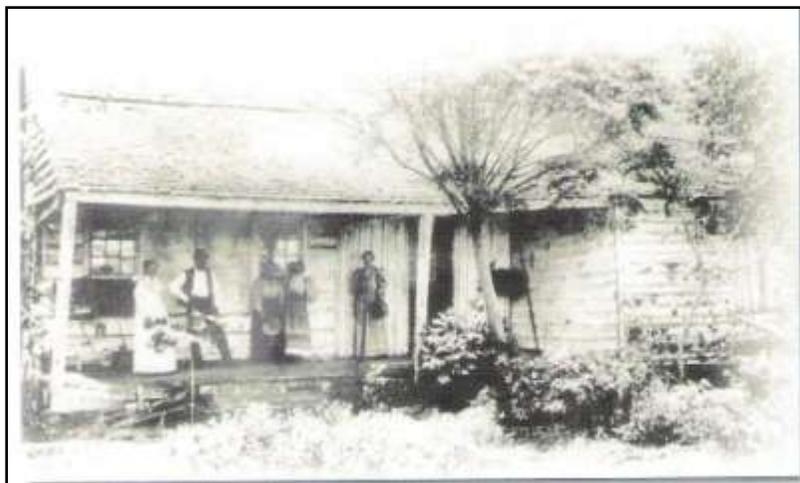
My Dear Miller,

I bought the premises of Mr. Hines on the Hill to the left as you go out of Independence, consisting of two hundred acres inclosed, and one hundred & sixty five acres of timbered land adjoining the town tract—all for \$4000, in short payments. My friend, I did not think that Austin, or anywhere else presented the same advantages in an Educational point of view, that Independence does.

Barker, Eugene C., and Amelia W. Williams, eds. The Writings of Sam Houston, 1813-1863. 8 vols. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1938-43. Vol. V, 457.

The Hines House, right, pictured fifty years later, about 1900.

JLV's purchase of land on the Navasota River



took place ten years earlier than Houston's arrival. However, his Independence address began appearing on his papers about the same time that Houston bought the Hines house.

Alongside Houston's generosity, JLV's gift to the Ferguson Settlement Church in '43 indicates that during the years the two men lived in Independence, they were community-minded. Houston took an active interest in his neighborhood, making his extensive library available to Baylor students and faculty, and he too made financial contributions to local religious and educational organizations. It is strange that both men purchased land, when thousands of acres were theirs for the claiming. But then, perhaps it's not so strange when it is remembered that the creed of JLV's father had been to take no more than was needed. "I have enough to do me," he would answer when urged to claim his war pension—a lesson he left for his other children as well.

After settling down in Washington County, JLV began tending to paperwork necessary to making his various claims. In January of 1851 he filed for compensation for the Sommerville Campaign, a part of the 1842 Mier Expedition.

That same year, 1851, he began to prepare for a trip home—a trip to Tennessee and Virginia—which he announced in a Washington County newspaper:

1 87	BEST AND MOST RELIABLE MEDICINE now offered to the world; besides, it is undoubtedly the cheapest, being only \$1 00 a bottle. Remember it is to be had at HARMON & LEVINSON'S, the <i>cheapest</i> store in Brenham. v2n1 1y	office, in Specie or by Exchange New York, at the option of Galveston Dec. 27th, 1850
grs., \$7 70	NOTICE TO THE GOOD CITIZENS OF TEXAS: I expect to leave this State, about the fifteenth of May, for the States of Tennessee and Virginia, and Col. A. M. Lewis is my lawful agent and attorney—in fact, for all law and law cases. JAMES L. VAUGHAN. Washington, Jan. 21st, 1850. n3 3t	Administrators THE undersigned, having been appointed chief-justice of Austin County bonis non, cum testamenta William Pryar, deceased, a County court of said County having claims against the estate hereby notified to present their claims as prescribed by law. v2n1 6t
5 gr. 3 85		Administrators THE undersigned, having been appointed chief-justice of Austin County estate of William B. Harris tenth term of the county D. 1850; all persons having claims against said Harris, are hereby notified to present their claims within the time prescribed by law. v2n1 6t BENJ. L.
10 " 7 70	Citation. STATE OF TEXAS,) To the Sheriff of said COUNTY OF WASHINGTON. } County, GREETING: WHEREAS , Samuel Edny has filed his petition in the District Court of said county, stating that Wm. Smith and George C. Bruner entered into an agreement to convey to petitioner one-quarter of the land of said county, and that the said Smith and Bruner	
" 4 00		
" 17 00		
" 4 87		
ssia, 2 20		
4 grs, 5 80		
2 " 2 00		
7 " 2 30		
1 " 3 25		
\$1 00		
red, 90		
1 00		
93		
17		

Lone Star and Southern Watch Tower, Washington, Texas, Saturday, April 21, 1851

It would be interesting to know with whom he visited in Virginia, but in Tennessee, he evidently returned to his childhood home in Hawkins County. His father had died in 1842, and on his return ten years afterwards, he found his brother Samuel's young family living in the old home place. Other siblings—Benjamin, John, Jr., Nancy, Mary Polly and perhaps Martha lived nearby. One sister, Mahala was dead. Three other siblings had moved out West. His widowed mother, Nancy Callicott Vaughan, was living with Mary Polly's Gilliam family. In 1858 Nancy filed for a pension based on John Vaughan's service in the American Revolution. Four affidavits are made in her application which place James L Vaughan in Texas, and/or also suggest a recent sighting in Tennessee:

Excerpts from Transcriptions of Pension Application

. . . And we further state that the said John Vaughan with the said Nancy his wife had raised several children the most of which we are presently acquainted with and **that from the appearance they are about the ages which said Nancy states in her declaration** and we further state that the first as well as the last was always acknowledged by them both to be legitimate

Our hand and seal this 3rd day of February AD 1858

Thomas his X mark Davis

Lilborn his X mark Davis

. . . that they raised several children, about eleven, which was all acknowledged by them both to be legitimate, **that James was always said to be the eldest, and that from his acquaintance and from his, the same James', appearance he must now be about 63 years of age**

. . . .
George his X mark Anderson

. . . on this 28 day of May 1858. James Ford, Justice of the Peace

State of Tennessee

Hancock County

. . . they raised several children that was acknowledged to be legitimate, **that James was always said to be the eldest, and from my acquaintance with him, he must from his appearance now be the rise of 60 years of age**

I further certify that James Vaughan aforesaid moved from here to Texas .

John M. Charles

Sworn to, Subscribed, and witnessed before me this 2 day of June AD 1858,

WmHutchisson JP, For Hawkins County

State of Tennessee county of Hancock

Be it remembered that on this 28 day of May AD 1858

. . . **that the last account I had of James he was in the State of Texas.**

In witness I do here unto set my hand and seal the day and year aforesaid

Benjamin Vaughan

His aged and ailing mother died in September of 1858, and two years later his brother Benjamin moved to Texas. James L. Vaughan, born in 1795, was fifty-five years old in 1850. In 1855, when he was sixty, records show he was still a traveling man, and he may have returned once again to see his Hawkins County family, where he appeared to be on "the rise of 60 years of age."

Kinney County Stage



About this time, amongst his Tennessee siblings and their children—his grown nieces and nephews—*James* began to be a popular name for their new born baby boys. By the end of the century *James Vaughan* was a popular name in Texas.

With time out for the first trip in 1851, back at his home in Texas, James L. started in on his paperwork. From January 6, 1851 to March 10, 1852 he worked out of Independence, seeking for himself and others back pay for military service. He had several wars to work with and his personal claims were

FACILITIES FOR TRAVEL IN WESTERN TEXAS.

Persons visiting Western Texas, or who are desirous of doing so, are hereby informed that the Coaches of the Western Texas Stage Company, leave the Cassimir House, opposite Powder Horn Wharf, on Matagorda Bay, every day on the arrival of the steamships from New Orleans, and every other day of the week, (Saturday excepted). Running to

SAN ANTONIO,
WACO,
SAN MARCOS,
YORKTOWN,

AUSTIN,
BELTON,
GONZALES,
VICTORIA,

SEGUN,
BRAUNFELS,
LOCKHART,
PORT LAVACCA,

and Western Texas in general. Affording the business traveler great despatch, and emigrants every facility for exploring this delightful region.

Returning from the interior, the Coaches of this Company run in close connection with the steamships, which take their departure for New Orleans from Powder Horn Wharf.

An Agent of the Company ever ready to answer questions and receive money will be found at the Cassimir House, Lower Indianola. B. A. RISHER,
For Western Texas Stage Company.

In May of 1855 he was a registered guest at the Cassimir House, an inn for travelers. It was located at Matagorda Bay, Texas, about one hundred and twenty miles from the town of Independence by stage. The stage line, with runs past Independence on its way to and from Waco, Belton, and Austin, posted its itinerary for Cassimir House tenants. The route back to his boyhood home by way of New Orleans and, from New Orleans on to Tennessee by riverboat up the Mississippi, was well-traveled.

ARRIVALS AT THE CASSIMIR HOUSE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 9th, 1855.

G A Hayward & lady, G W Wyalt, J W Turley, Thomas Howard, F H Collier, Capt Blair USA, D M Stapp, J A Hughson, J D Brooks, J F Brooks, Mr Green, Wm Greer, Benj D Wheat, J F Green, lady and svt., C H Jordan, J Turner, Capt Jos Cathcart, H Seeligson, Jas Cummings, Ellis Jones, R D Balleff, G W Rhymes, W C Cowan, W P McCombs and lady, E L Marchans, O P Lewis and lady, R McNamara, W M McConnell, Misses M & E Clarke, Mrs D Cleason, George Walker, J F Stokes, Grandison Ruby, S G Powell, Miss Powell, Mrs Tharp, Miss E Seaborn, W J Olarke, Jas S French, Douglas Tyler, J M Levyson, B B Deacon, G W Phoenix, J V Cook, S T Davidson, T Byrne, jr., F Thomas, J Seely, Dr Fenner, W Alexander, Stewart Simpson, A Henderson & ldy, P Morrill, H Lyons, D Williamsod; John Sharky, B Richardson, Jas L Vaughn, J C Wilson, B R Peck, T D Clearman, M A Wingfield and lady, W F Oliver, Joseph Cahn, H J Snow D E Smith.

approved. Following are a variety of other legal documents. Some bear his signature.

Transcriptions of James L. Vaughan papers, 1851-1852, Washington County

Affidavit, Jan 6, 1851, Washington County

The State of Texas}
Washington County}

*Personally came and appeared before me Jno. B. Root , Notary Public -----
commissioned, Thomas S. Smith who after being sollomly sworn deposeth and saith
that he served on the Mier Expedition under the command of Genl Sommerville and Col
Wm S. Fisher and that he was personally acquainted with James L. Vaughn and Said
Expedition and that said Vaughan was mustered into the services of the Republic of
Texas, on or about the 17th day of Oct 1842—in a company commanded at that time by
Capt William S. Fisher, afterwards by Capt C. Buster, and served in said command until
Col Fisher crossed the Rio Grande to attact the Town of Mier at which time he was left
with the camp guard on the East Bank of the Rio Grande River. And deponent further
saith that he believes said Vaughan furnished his own horse, arms, and equipments.
Thos. S Smith*

*In testimony whereof I hereunto sign my name and affix the impress of my official Seal
this 6th day of Jan 1851.*

*Jno. B. Root
Notary Public
WC*

Norris affidavit, Jan 6, 1851, Washington County

The State of Texas}
County of Washington}

*Personally appeared before me John B. Root—Notary Public in and for the County
aforesaid, J. M. Norris, who after being by me first duly sworn Says that he Served in
the Campaign of 1842 under General Sommerville and that James L. Vaughan was with
the Expedition, but when he came into the service or how long he remained he does not
recollect he further states that he does not know that said Vaughan was mustered into
the Service or discharged.*

Sworn to and subscribed before and this 6th day of Jan 1851

James M. Norris

*Thomas B. Root
Notary Public
W. C.*

Smith, Power of attorney, January 6, 1851p. 1

From James L.
Vaughan-----
To Thms S. Smith
To collect pay fo
Meir Expedition

Power of Attorney Document, 6th day of January 1851, Independence, Texas, p.2

The State of Texas}
Washington County}

Know all men by these presents, That I, James L. Vaughan, have nominated and appointed and by these presents do nominate, constitute, and appoint Thos. S. Smith of the above named county and state my True and Lawful attorney to ask for, demand, and receive for me and in my name all the pay, either in money or Land now due and coming to me for servis rendered in the army of the Republic of Texas _____ on a campaign in the year 1842, under the command of Genl Summerville and Col. Wm. S. Fisher and he is hereby authorized to receipt of the same for me and in my name do and perform all things necessary to be done, for the adjustment and collection of the same, hereby satisfy and confirming all the acts and doing of my said attorney Legally done in the prommises in Testimony of all of which I have hereunto signed my name and affixed a _____ for _____ at the Town of Independence this 6th day of January 1851.

James L. Vaughan. Seal

Smith, Notarized, John B. Root, Jan 1851
The State of Texas}
County of Washington}

Before me Jno. B. Root, a Notary Public duly qualified and acting in the county aforesaid do hereby certify that James L. Vaughn ___ has personally this day appeared and acknowledged the execution of the foregoing instrument of writing for the principle use and consideration therein expressed.

In testimony wherein I hereunto
Sign My name and affix the impress
Of My Official Seal the 6th day of
Jan 1851.
Jno. B. Root
Notary Public
WC

Nunn receipt, March 10, 1852, Washington County

(unreadable top of page) No 1n 3Y

*J. L. Vaughan
2nd Class*

*For value received I assign
The within to S. H. Nunn .
Witness my hand and seal
This 10th day of March 1852
James L. Vaughan seal*

*The State of Texas}
County of Washington}*

*Before me W. A. Higgins, Chief Justice Washington County personally appears
James L. Vaughan to Mr. Will K_____ who acknowledges to Mr. Chisom he signed
sealed, and delivered the within instrument of S. H. Nunn for a valuable consideration
and authorizes him to receive the money owed Elia Sa_____.*

*Given under My hand and the
seal of the County Court _____
P__haw this 10th day of March
Ano 1852*

*W. A. Higgins
Chief Justice, WC*

*Received payment in full
For the entire certificate
March 19th 1852
S. H. Nunn*

7. The 1860 Census

Violence on the Texas borderlands made news all over the country. Society for the Anglo population on the frontier was fit only for soldiers, veterans, and Texas Rangers. For many years after the Texas Revolution the leading line of counties from Nueces to Red River that were settled by veterans--farmers and stock raisers on the lands they received for their army service--required maintenance and protection just to stay in existence. To guard these precarious, barely known parts President Houston created his regiment of mounted gunmen. On May 27, 1837, Houston appointed Colonel Bennett as commander of these first ranging companies. Thus, James L. Vaughan and his pioneering brethren were the reason for the Texas Rangers coming into being. In fact, the frontier which met him over twenty years later still partially belonged to Texas outlaws, Mexican bandits, and the natives—the fierce Comanche Indians.

It seems the Rangers had their hands full from the very beginning just watching out for his Vaughan kinfolk: -- In 1865 a youth named James Vaughan who had been taken captive by the Indians was rescued. --One of the many outlaws who later roamed Texas was a grandson--a train robber and a horse thief--who would one day ride with Jesse James in Missouri. -- And even as late as 1891 the wife of a nephew was mercilessly gunned down in the front yard of her own home.

The 1840's era was a time of more war for the middle aged soldier and more change. In war, Texas finally got rid of Santa Anna, and, in peace, became a part of the United States, proudly unfurling its Lone Star flag as the 28th state. In West Texas the Comanche still terrified settlements, but natives in the eastern part of the state, at least, were generally peaceful. The

Erie Observer-Eria, PA November 18, 1848

FROM TEXAS.—By two or three arrivals from Texas, we learn that six companies of the 3rd Infantry were encamped near Lavacca. The Galveston News, says that the reports at Port Lavacca were, that twenty-six persons had been killed by the Indians. The publisher of the Lavacca Herald had, for the time being, left his paper and joined a scouting party who went in pursuit of the Indians. The greatest trepidation prevailed among the people and fears were entertained that the Indians would attack and fire the town, but the arrival of Government troops contributed greatly toward quieting their apprehensions.

From the Victoria Advocate of the 19th we learn that many persons are disposed to censure the Governor for not causing the ranging companies to be retained in the service; it is stated, however, that he had ordered three companies to be raised forthwith for the defence of the frontier.

The Advocate exposes the inefficiency of the infantry force, which the United States government intend stationing on our frontier, to protect our citizens from the band of hostile savages.

The Advocate says that the Indians, after killing 13 men, wounded several others, and taking a vast amount of property, have escaped, and are now most probably in their mountain homes.

The Advocate learns from several gentlemen from San Antonio, that a set of desperado men in that place—gamblers and discharged soldiers—had collected together to the number of about 70, on pretence of fighting the Indians, but with the real object of robbing the Quartermaster's safe and stores, but were prevented by the death of their leader, a man named Sears, who was shot by Mr. Wallace, whose store he stole into with a cocked pistol intending to kill him. Some of the party, after the death of their leader, revealed the secret.

The Huntsville Banner announces the death of Col. Joseph L. Bennett, one of the soldiers of the Texan Revolution. He commanded the left wing at the battle of San Jacinto.

U.S. Army built more and more forts on the western frontier as a defense against the warring tribes. In the end--which was brought on more by buffalo hunters than soldiers and more by the diseased filth of white men than their military tactics--the Texas Rangers were still trying to keep the Comanche warriors at bay. Before the danger was gone JLV would return to the treacherous no man's land, which people were calling the Nueces Strip, to farm and raise stock. By 1860 Texans got counted in the federal census.

On the 1860 U.S. Census James L. Vaughan was living south of San Antonio in Oakville, Live Oak County. He was born in Virginia in 1795. He is listed as a farmer. A forty-one year old Hollowell Old lives with him. Hollowell was born in North Carolina in 1820, and "stockraiser" is his occupation. Their South Texas neighbors, the James and Hickock families, are related to each other, and their Illinois origins, along with their names, are conspicuous in this sparsely populated land of southerners. In the future, Hollowell marries one of the James daughters. Up north in Hunt County, where it is safer, members of the Snodgrass family are boarding with Hollowell's kin.

James L. and Hollowell were two of a rare breed of hardy cattlemen and farmers who settled the wild country, after statehood, from Nueces County out to West Texas. In 1860 they were under the still meager protection of a chain of U.S. Army posts. They continued to need protection from the Comanche. These settlers moving onto Indian lands and arousing native hostilities, as has been said, resulted in the establishment of the Texas Rangers, but it was hardly enough.

From the Gulf of Mexico up to the Red River and the Texas Panhandle there were fewer settlers than there were cows. Prior to the Civil War, Texas needed more white people and openly hoped they would come with their hard working slaves. Black or white, everyone had to be very, very brave.

1860 Census Detail

Page No. 11

SCHEDULE 1—Free Inhabitants in Adkins in the County of Live Oak State of Texas enumerated by me, on the 10 day of June 1860. H. J. Vaughan Ass't Marshal

Post Office Adkins

Dwelling house in order of valuation.	Family numbered in order of valuation.	The name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1860, was in this family	Description.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate Owned.		Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	Attended school within the year.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, lame, idiotic, pauper, or convict.	
			Age	Sex	Color		Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Elizabeth Smith	11	F					Mississippi				
		John	21	M		Householder	✓		do				
		Elizabeth Hill	21	F		do	✓		Texas				
514	511	Hollowell Old	40	M		Stockraiser	✓	2100	North Carolina				
		James L. Vaughan	60	M		Farmer	✓	4000	100	Virginia			
515	512	J. L. James	41	M		do	✓	2000	2200	do			

Page No. 11
 SCHEDULE 1.—Free Inhabitants in Adair in the County of Adair State
 of Missouri enumerated by me, on the 10 day of June 1860. H. J. H. H. Ass't Marshal
 Post Office Adair

1	2	3	4			7	8		10	11	12	13	14
			Age	Sex	Color		Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate					
		Elizabeth Best	11	F					Missouri				
		Walter	21	M	Headman	✓			Missouri				
		Richard Hill	21	M		✓			Missouri				
211	212	William Hill	21	M	Headman	✓	2000	2000	South Carolina				
		James Campbell	20	M	Farmer	✓	1000	1000	Virginia				
211	212	J. S. James	20	M		✓	2000	2000	Missouri				
		William	20	M					Missouri				
		William	11	M	Headman	✓			Missouri				
		James	1	M					Missouri				
		Joseph	7	M					Missouri				
		Isabella	1	F					Missouri				
		William	1	M					Missouri				
211	212	William Hill	21	M	Farmer	✓	2000	2000	Missouri				
		Isabella	20	F					Missouri				
		Walter Hill	19	M					Missouri				
		William	1	M					Missouri				
		Louis Hill	3	M					Missouri				
		James Hill	21	M	Headman	✓			Virginia				
211	212	J. S. Hill	21	M	Farmer	✓	2000	2000	South Carolina				
		Walter	20	M					Missouri				
		Elizabeth	2	F					Missouri				
		J. S. Hill	21	M	Farmer	✓	2000	2000	Missouri				
211	212	John Hill	21	M	Farmer	✓	2000	2000	Missouri				
		William	20	M					Missouri				
		John	1	M					Missouri				
		William	2	M					Missouri				
		Henry	14	M					Missouri				
		Thomas	12	M	Headman	✓			Missouri				
		William Hill	11	M					South Carolina				
211	212	John Hill	11	M	Farmer	✓	1000	1000	South Carolina				
		Isabella	10	F					Missouri				
		James	11	M					Missouri				
		William	11	M					Missouri				
		William	1	M					Missouri				
		Walter	7	M					Missouri				
		Thomas	1	M					Missouri				
		Walter	1	M					Missouri				
		Thomas	3	M					Missouri				

39 No. white males, 11 No. colored males, No. foreign born, No. blind, 929 29812 No. deaf and dumb, No. insane, No. pauper, No. idiot

8. Vaughan Migration to Texas

According to the 1847 US Army Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914, three Vaughan boys--James, Randolph, and Beverly--enlisted to fight in America's War with Mexico. Most likely these were sons of Beverly Vaughan, and thus James L. Vaughan's nephews. Beverly Sr. and his brother seemed to keep close by one another in the past, and at some time they may have been in Texas together. If these soldiers were JLV's nephews--along with their father--they would be first in a line of migration of Vaughans to follow him to Texas. Keeping in mind the words of tribute paid to Captain Vaughan by William B. Travis, the inspiration for their enlisting in the United States' fight with Mexico may have been both the land called Texas and an uncle called James L. (*Information provided by Phylis Vaughan Deutch, descendant of Beverly Vaughan.*)

James L. Vaughan and Hollowell Old of 1860 Live Oak are loosely connected by place and name patterns to other Vaughans in Texas; names, including Looney, Ferebee, Davis, Snodgrass, Mahala, (H)uldah, Paralee, Pleasant, and on and on and on are numerous in Hunt, Denton, Fannin, and Grayson Counties where descendants of the old patriarch John Vaughan settled. These patterns can be traced back to Tennessee through Arkansas, North Carolina, Mississippi, and Missouri. A David Vaughan out of Barry County, Missouri, who may be either a grandson or nephew of James L., is living in Vaughantown in 1910 next door to George Washington Vaughan, Sr. who most certainly is a nephew of JLV and a Snodgrass in-law. Family lore has it

CAMP ON SALT FORK,
Nov. 3rd, 1865. }

To all whom it may concern:—I have recovered from the Kiowa and Comanche Indians eight prisoners whose names are as follows, viz:

Mrs. Caroline McDaniels.
(An infant) Rebecca Jane McDaniels
James Taylor (small boy.)
Dorcas Angeline Taylor (" girl.)
Alice Almada Taylor, girl 9 or 10 years.
Master James Vaughan (as near his name as can be ascertained)
Master _____, (name not known but supposed to have been taken somewhere in Texas.)

Mrs. Elizabeth Sprague—all of whom are now on their way home.
Mahala L. L. McDaniels, a small girl, was given me, but she is too far off to get her this time—but they will give her to me the first time the bands of Kiowas meet me.
Mrs. L. Sprague has suffered much, and it is hoped that all will try and alleviate her sufferings, and aid her in her business all in their power. Her child will be got from the Indians soon, I have no doubt—as many of the good Chiefs and head men are determined she shall have her child, and have told me so.

J. H. LEAVENWORTH,
U. S. Ind. Agent,
SHERMAN, Tex., Dec. 26.

that descendants of Maborne, son of JLV, became farmers in South Texas, with one becoming a Texas outlaw. James and Hollowell have kin living in the same household in Hunt County. In 1865 Mr. Old names his newborn son, *James*. Examples of linking names, dates, and places are too numerous to all be coincidental.

By 1865 a number of James Vaughans had arrived on the Texas frontier. One agent report tells of a youngster the Rangers had not been able to protect. Since JLV had remarried, this youth could have been his son. The Salt Fork Red River is almost two hundred miles of sandy water streaming across the Llano Estacado of far West Texas. To the Comanche warriors who lived there, the isolated Vaughan ranch land was just one painted horseback away.

Kentuckytown

Regardless of Comanche bands and outlaw gangs, the Vaughans were coming anyway. Brother Benjamin Franklin arrived in

1860 with his family. He and his wife, Eva Everheart, and their three sons, Andrew and twins, Isaac and John, settled in Kentuckytown, Grayson County, near Sherman, Texas.

Samuel Alexander Vaughan was born in 1850 near Fayetteville, Tennessee. He left his home in November of 1870 and came to Texas, arriving at Kentuckytown, on December 15th. He went to work in 1871 driving a herd up the Chisholm Trail to Kansas. He helped drive 1,500 cattle over the Chisholm Trail, starting from the San Marcus River, the last big herd to go through Sherman. Samuel Alexander was the nephew of JLV, and the cattle he went to drive in 1870 may well have come from a herd his uncle started on his ranch near the San Marcus River.

In 1876, George Washington Vaughan, another nephew, arrived with his family. At the Red River border they caught sight of a lone Indian on horseback watching them. From across the river, the Vaughan children were mesmerized by the sparkle of a metal ring in his nose. The shallow river was frozen in ice and treacherous with quicksand.

GWV drove their wagon across with two mules, and the mules along with fifty cents in his pocket were all the treasure he owned. He could not read or write, yet within a few years he was a wealthy man.



It was said he made his fortune selling horses and mules to the US Army to be used against the Indians. It took good stock to compete with the Comanche. It would be interesting to see where the stock, which he bought and sold, came from.

LEFT: A corral of fine Vaughan mules, pictured with herdsman Benjamin and Josephus Chaney, Kentucky Town in-laws of George W. Vaughan.

GEORGE W. VAUGHAN was born in Hancock county, Tennessee, October 1, 1846. His father, Samuel Vaughan, was a native of the same county, was born about 1809, and died in 1861. He was a farmer by occupation. His wife bore the maiden name of Malvina Church. She was born in Hancock county, Tennessee, about 1815, and died in 1887, the mother of fourteen children.

George W. Vaughan is the seventh child born to his parents. He was reared on a farm in Tennessee and lived there until 1865, when he moved to Bourbon county, Kentucky, remained there until 1867, then went to Barry county, Missouri, and in 1874 to Hunt county, Texas; the following year he moved to Arkansas and in 1876 moved to Grayson county, Texas, and settled near Ida, where he owns a fine farm.

In 1863 Mr. Vaughan joined the Confederate army as a private in Company G, Second Tennessee cavalry, but was afterward transferred to Company F, Sixteenth battalion, and served until the war closed. July 29, 1868, he was married to Miss Caroline Snodgrass, who was born in Berry county Missouri, and is a daughter of Anderson and Elizabeth Snodgrass, of the same State. To this union have been born five children, namely—Samuel H., Bettie A., Wiley, John and Aubra. Mr. Vaughan is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and of the Farmers' Alliance.

Biographical Souvenirs of Texas, 1879 ed.

Neighboring Hunt County gathered up Vaughans like bees on a Texas bluebonnet. Samuel Alexander had spent nine years in Hunt County. George Washington was there as well. His Tennessee siblings, nieces, and nephews showed up later. From this northeast corner of the state many of the families migrated west into the neighboring counties of Fannin, Grayson and Denton. They were still a safe distance from the big ranches building up in the territory of renegade Comanches out west and down south in the beautiful Hill Country of Austin, Oakville, and San Marcus. Families liked safer places. But trail hands and cowboys went where the work was, joining up with hardworking farmers and stock raisers who had jobs for them. They drove herds north where other stockmen along the way waited on fine farms to buy their cattle, horses, and mules.

With good reason people didn't want to take their families too far into parts unknown. Thanks to the adventuresome spirit of early pioneers like JLV, they didn't have to.



Wanted Posted: John Henry Vaughan

One Black Sheep, and Maybe More

According to family lore, JLV's grandson, John Henry Vaughan, Sr., the son of Maborne, became one of Texas's many outlaws. It was told at Vaughan gatherings and recorded by family scribes that John Henry sometimes rode with the James or Dalton Gangs. He was also known for robbing trains and stealing horses, they said. He ran from the law from Missouri, into Oklahoma, and down into Texas, bringing his family with him. Some of John Henry's children were born in Texas. One story tells of him being caught and put into a small town Texas jail. He escaped this jail by picking the lock with a sewing needle and made his way out to the woods, where he hid in an old cedar tree, while the posse was out looking for him. After the posse made their way past the cedar, he jumped down, and came up

from behind and joined them in the hunt for himself! This was a large posse, and some were walking, so he joined in without worry of being caught. *(Information provided by Deborah Burns, great-great-great granddaughter of James L. Vaughan.)*

In fact, it was reported in the nation's newspapers that one of the many James Vaughans of the era served as a pallbearer at the Kearney, Missouri funeral of Jesse James. James L. Vaughan would have been eighty-seven in 1882. Perhaps the coffin of Jesse James was borne by a namesake or kinfolk using the name of a family member as an alias.

His grandson's association with the outlaw is interesting, and makes his J.T. James neighbors, relatives of the Hickocks—both hailing from Illinois—living in his Live Oak neighborhood in 1860, more interesting too. His partner, Hollowell Old, would later

marry the daughter of J.T. James; her name was Malissa, the future mother of a James Hollowell Old who was born in 1865, Live Oak County.

The Evening Light, San Antonio, TX
04-09-1882

FUNERAL OF JESSE JAMES.

St. Louis, April 6.

—A special dispatch states that at the funeral of Jessie James, at Kearney, Mo., today, an immense crowd on horseback and on foot and in wagons attended. The pall bearers were Sheriff Timberlake, Deputy Reed, Charley Scott, J. B. Henderson, J. D. Ford, Ben Flanders and **James Vaughan**. After the body was carried into the church the services began with the hymn, "What a Friend I Have in Jesus." Rev. Mr. Jones followed in a prayer, after which hymn, "Where Shall Rest Be Found?" was sung. Rev. Mr. Martin followed with a funeral sermon, which was full of comfort for the mourners, and in which he dwelt on Christ's forbearance and willingness to forgive. The procession then started for the farm in the same order in which it went from the hotel to the church. It was followed by an immense crowd.

PLACED UPON CHAIRS
in the office. Many of the older people who had known him did not hesitate to exclaim that the features were none other than those of the famous outlaw. The younger generation, to whom his name was so long a synonym for dread, looked timidly at the purpling face as it even in death they still feared him.

A few minutes before 2 o'clock Mrs. Samuels, Mrs. James and two children, Luther James and wife, Mrs. Mimms (mother of Mrs. James) and Mrs. Hall entered the room, and following them came

THE PALL BEARERS

J. D. Ford, Sheriff Timberlake, T. T. Reed, Jas. Henderson, Jas. Vaughn, Benjamin Flanders and Chas. Scott. The coffin lid was replaced and the casket borne out to a wagon, which was then followed by a long procession to the baptist church, where Jesse was said to have been converted in 1866. The relatives were seated directly in front of the altar and behind the coffin. Services began with the hymn: "What a friend we have in Jesus." Rev. R. H. Jones, of Lathrop, then read the passage from Job, beginning: "Man born of woman is of few days, and is full of trouble." He followed it with prayer calculated to soothe the mourners and to lead their thoughts heavenward. "Where will rest be found?" was then sung, and

News clipping, source unknown

Texas and James L. Vaughan

Family records, census records, army records, and land records indicate that the parts unknown in which the Virginia-born James L. Vaughan vanished did indeed turn out to be Texas. The war records of the Army of the Republic of Texas show that James L. was another Tennessean who answered the call to fight against Santa Anna. Addresses on and included in his papers are for Gonzales, Houston, Independence, and Oakville.

Vaughans whose ancestors hailed from Tennessee were well represented in Texas by the end of the century. But it was James L. Vaughan who led the way into Comanche Territory, who helped defeat Santa Anna, who survived constant warfare with Mexico and Mexican banditos, and who helped establish law on the dangerous Texas frontier. But like old soldiers are supposed to do, in the end, he simply fades

away. In the end, except for his name appearing on maps of old land claims, the 1860 Census is the final written record found on James L. Vaughan in Texas.

September 3, 1895 Trustee Sale

Trustee's Sale.

THE STATE OF TEXAS,
COUNTY OF BEXAR.

Whereas, on the 13th day of September, A. D. 1889, Amanda J. Dignowity did execute and deliver unto S. Lavanburg her certain promissory note for the sum of eight thousand (\$8,000) dollars, due three (3) years after date, with 8 per cent interest per annum from date until paid, interest payable semi-annually; and for the purpose of securing the payment of said note, said Dignowity did, on the 14th day of September, A. D. 1889, execute and deliver unto A. H. Frank a certain deed of trust, which is duly recorded in the records of Kinney County, Texas, in vol. B 4, on pages 100-112; whereby said Dignowity conveyed unto said Frank the following described property, to-wit:

All lying in the County of Kinney, in said State of Texas, on what is known as Zaquerie or Pinto Creek, and on the east bank of the same, and more particularly described as follows:

First: Six hundred and forty acres of land known as survey 361, on Bluff Creek, 3 miles N., 63 W. from Brackett, and made by virtue of special art certificate No. 14-50, issued to G. C. Gibbs, April 23, 1851, and by said Gibbs transferred to Amanda J. Dignowity, October 3, 1881, and to her patented April 18, 1883, by patent No. 126, vol. 21.

Second: Two hundred and fifty acres of land, more or less, out of survey No. 250 for 640 acres, patented to Walter P. Lane, September 23, 1854, by patent No. 312, vol. 2, and that portion of said survey east of said Pinto Creek, bounded on the west by said creek, on the east by survey No. 254, on the north by survey No. 291, and on the south by the line of fence established by the Dolores Land and Cattle Company.

Third: Three hundred and ten acres of land, out of survey No. 253, made by certificate 3626, and patented to John Cotton, assignee of Willard Chamberlain, July 10, 1849, by patent No. 291, vol. 5, and being the same land conveyed to O. L. Dignowity by Henrietta A. Harris and James W. Harris, by their attorney in fact, G. F. Hodges, less ten acres sold, out of the S. B. corner, to James F. Hudson.

Fourth: One hundred and sixty acres of land, being the south one-half of survey No. 284, of 320 acres made by virtue of bounty warrant No. 257, issued February 15, 1847, to James L. Vaughan, and to him patented July 13, 1849, by patent No. 336, vol. 3.

And whereas, there has been released from the lien of said instruments, the following portions of the above land, viz:

Five hundred and four acres out of the M. F. Hernandez survey aforesaid, according to release of record in Bexar County, in vol. 85, p. 263.

Also about 40 acres of said survey, being the land subdivided into the town of Van Raub, according to release recorded in Bexar County, in vol. 74, p. 646.

And whereas, all the incumbrances evidenced by said writings has become due and is not paid (except interest to June 1, 1893).

Now therefore I, the undersigned substitute trustee, by virtue of the power so conferred, will sell the above described lands, (with the exception of what has been released as aforesaid) and a homestead of 200 acres in the said Wm. Head survey, No. 33, before the Court House door of Bexar County, Texas, at public outcry, to the highest bidder for cash, on Tuesday, the 3d day of September, 1895, between the hours of 10 a. m. and 4 p. m., and after the sale I will execute to the purchaser a good and sufficient fee simple warranty deed of said premises.

This August 15th, 1895.

JOHN BRIDGES,
Substitute Trustee.

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On Tuesday the 3rd day of September, 1895 a small part of James L. Vaughan's Kinney County land was to be sold off in a Trustee Sale at the Bexar County Courthouse door. This is the last record of his distinctive name appearing in Texas documents. Almost one hundred years before this day, his life's odyssey began. Appropriately, the words of his mother and father provide all the anchor a searcher is obliged to haul in before setting sail behind the narrow wake he left on his way to parts unknown. He was born in Virginia in 1795, his mother wrote, and his father said that they named him, James L. Vaughan.

Epilogue:

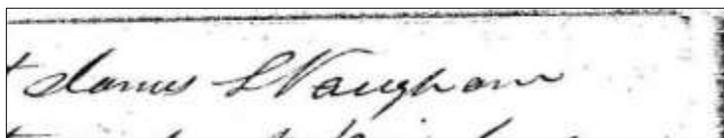
Whether by nature or nurture, James L. Vaughan was Gunnery Sergeant John Vaughan's son. In the words of William B. Travis, he was a true patriot with qualities that made him a fine soldier. His daring and courage were known to many. Travis believed in him enough to turn over his recruitment duties to him—a task that the very life of the Alamo depended upon. If there had been time, Travis fully expected Captain Vaughan to be just the man who could take over his recruitment office for him—expected James L. Vaughan to be the one who would persevere and bring in the troops to save him and his men. But, there wasn't time.

He did persevere though. On the perilous frontier of Texas, where only the strong could survive, he carried on. Like his father, he had a daring spirit. In the beginning he helped save Texans from the cruel rule of Santa Anna, and in the end, he helped to tame the wild land he won.

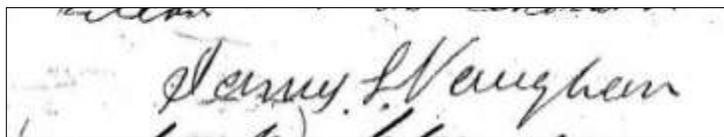
To others his story may look unfinished because no one yet knows where, when, or how he died. To me it is finished because I now know how he lived. He lived according to the lessons a good and wise father taught him and left for him and his siblings to live by. John Vaughan's training for him—and for his brothers and sisters--helped him find his way in the unknown parts of Texas and served him well as he became a hero in its history. How sad that the old Sergeant may have died without ever knowing that he and his son marched to the beat of the very same drum.

The End

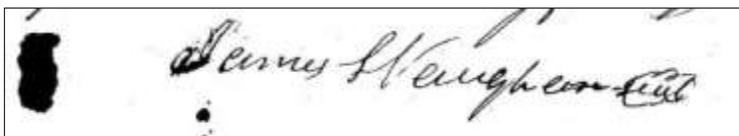
The Signature of James L. Vaughan in Texas



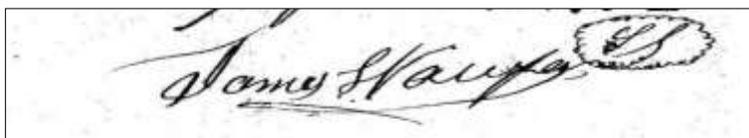
Captain of Volunteer Army of Texas, 1837.



Vincent/Mier Expedition Affidavit, 1851.



Power of Attorney, 1852.



For Value Received, 1852.

