

They Met Their Fate on a Louisiana Cattle Drive

[Ancestors of the Jim McGuire family of Cooper County, Missouri]

A family researcher always hopes to be able to put flesh of those ‘dry bones’ that we always seem to unearth. We long to hear the interesting family stories, the ones that make us proud. Most often we find out that our ancestors were ordinary citizens, as we are ordinary citizens. This is a story of members of the Vandever family, which originated in the highlands of Surry County, North Carolina. However, the Vandeveres left Surry County long before it became the home of Andy Griffith and the storybook model for Mayberry.

GENERATION I

1. The wanderlust that infected members of the Vandever family begins with George Vandever Sr. who was born in 1765 in North Carolina. His wandering feet would carry him to Kansas where he was to die sometime after 1860. While living in Surry County, North Carolina he was wedded to Elizabeth Logan in 1788. Elizabeth was born in 1772 in Surry County, North Carolina. They had the following children:

I	Mary Vandever	Born on August 26, 1790 in Surry County, North Carolina
2	II William Vandever	Born in 1792 in Surry County, North Carolina
	III Sarah Vandever	Born in 1795 in Surry County, North Carolina
	IV John Logan Vandever	Born in 1798 in North Carolina
	V Ashberry B. Vandever	Born in 1800 in Lincoln County, Kentucky
	VI Elizabeth C. Vandever	Born in 1801 in Lincoln County, Kentucky
	VII George Vandever Jr.	Born in 1804 in Lincoln County, Kentucky
	VIII Ewing Vandever	Born in 1806 in Lincoln County, Kentucky
	IX Charles Vandever	Born in 1808 in Casey County, Kentucky
	X Hugh Vandever	Born in 1812 in Casey County, Kentucky

The urge to move on probably affected George in the 33rd year of his life. Some four years prior to the signing of the Louisiana Purchase in October of 1803, George removed his family to Kentucky. More than likely he would have traveled north from Surry County into Southwestern Virginia. There he would have followed the natural ridgelines west southwest into Upper East Tennessee. There picking up the ‘Warriors Path’ towards the Northern border of Tennessee and finally to and through the Cumberland Gap. In 1799 this would have still remained a journey of immense difficulty. Today, one has only to drive through the Cumberland Gap to be humbled by the stalwartness of our ordinary citizen ancestors. Once through the Gap, George turned west and stopped in Lincoln County, Kentucky.

There, in Kentucky, George Vandever stayed put for a number of years. It is unlikely that he moved from Lincoln County to Casey County as Casey County was formed from Lincoln County in 1807. George may have been willing to stay in Casey County for the rest of his natural life. And it is probably that he was pulled along in his next journeys and Grandpa Vandever. Likely he moved to Cooper County with his son, William and later to Kansas where he died at the advanced age of 95.

GENERATION 2

2. William Vandever was born in 1792 in Surry County, North Carolina, the son of George and Elizabeth nee' Logan Vandever. In 1812 the marriage of William to Emily Shackleford took place in Casey County, Kentucky.

Emily was born in 1790 in Lincoln County, Kentucky and died in 1829 in Casey County, Kentucky. Emily and William were the parents of four children.

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| 3 | I | Anna Vandever | Born in 1813 in Casey County, Kentucky |
| 4 | II | Logan Vandever | Born in 1815 in Casey County, Kentucky |
| 5 | III | Zachariah P. Vandever | Born in 1817 in Casey County, Kentucky |
| | IV | Sarah Vandever | Born in Casey County, Kentucky |

In 1830, a year after the death of Emily, William was to marry Rachel nee' Upton (Kennedy) Vandever in Casey County, Kentucky. Rachel was the widow of James Kennedy

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| 6 | V | Martha Vandever | Born in 1832 in Casey County, Kentucky |
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William was to survive Emily and marry a third time. This marriage was to Mary Woodward on 24 June 1858 in Burnet County, Texas. Mary was born in 1810 in North Carolina. Whether William was to survive his third wife is not known. But he did depart this life in 1880 in Burnet County, Texas.

As we can see William inherited the desire to see a new horizon. We know that in 1840 he still lived in Casey County, Kentucky. By 1850 he appears to have left Casey County but for where? We know by 1851 that William and others of his family were living in Cooper County. So what river of William crossing in 1850 since he does not appear on the 1850 Cooper County Census. Who know, maybe Illinois.

William's son, Logan, convinced him to move to Burnet County, Texas probably sometime in late 1853. It was to be William's last Rubicon.

GENERATION 3

3. Anna Vandever was born in December of 1813 in Casey County, Kentucky. She was the first child of William and Emily nee' Shackleford Vandever. She married George

Baber on 21 March 1832 in Casey County, Kentucky. When her father and others migrated to Cooper County, Missouri she and George followed. In was in Cooper County, Missouri where her husband, George, died in 1851. So when her father and family moved to Texas, it was natural for her to follow.

George and Anna were the proud parents of:

- 1 Artimesa Baber
- 2 James Baber
- 3 Leonora Baber

It was in Burnet County, Texas where Anna was married for the second time. This time to Thomas Kelly on 04 Jun 1857. It was in McLennan County, Texas where Anna was to meet her Heavenly Father on 31 October 1887.

4. Logan Vandever was the second child born to William and Emily nee' Shackelford Vandever. Logan, the most colorful of the Vandever family, was born in 1815 in Casey County, Kentucky. He soon found himself in Texas.

It was in Bastrop County, Texas in the year 1838 that Logan married Lucinda Mayes. Lucinda was born in 1823 in Alabama. The couple helped to raise a large family of children until Logan's death on 02 September 1855 in Plaquemines Parish Louisiana, where Logan died of Yellow Fever/

Logan and Lucinda were parents of the following children:

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| I | Eliza Vandever | Born on 01 April 1839 |
| II | Mary Vandever | Born on 13 January 1841 |
| III | William Vandever | Born in 1843 |
| IV | Andrew Vandever | Born in 1845 |
| V | Sarah Vandever | Born on 17 Jun 1846 in Bastrop County, Texas |
| VI | Lucinda Vandever | Born in 1849 |
| VII | Emily Vandever | Born in 1849 |

Logan Vandever the son of William Vandever and Emily Shackelford was born in 1815 in Casey County, Kentucky. When he was about 17 he and his best friend William Harrison Magill traveled to Texas. They came to the area around Bastrop, Texas. When Texas' War for Independence began Logan joined the First Regiment of the Texas Volunteers under Captain Jesse Billingsley. Logan was a private and his best friend, William H. Magill, was First Sergeant.

Just before the battle of San Jacinto took place the Massacre at Goliad had occurred. Several hundred Texas soldiers that had surrendered to Santa Anna's Army were slaughtered on the plains of Goliad. The man that took the news of the massacre to Sam Houston was Peter Kerr a friend and sometimes partner of Logan Vandever. At first Sam

Houston thought the report was untrue and had Peter Kerr arrested for spreading “ False Information”.

At the battle of San Jacinto Logan Vandever was in the first wave of men that hit Santa Anna’s army. After the battle he was listed as badly wounded. Logan Vandever’s name is inscribed on the San Jacinto Monument in Houston Texas.

The following letter from the Texas State Archives attests to the fact that Logan fought and was wounded in the fight for Texas independence.

This may certify that Logan Vandever entered the Army of Texas in the First regiment of Texas Militia on the 28th of February last; that since which time he has faithfully performed the duties of a private; that he was wounded at the Battle of San Jacinto and is honorably discharged.

Mina, 1st. June, 1836

*Captain Jesse Billingsley
Colonel Edward Burleson*

As interesting and intriguing as Logan fighting at the Battle of San Jacinto is the fate of his roan horse. A series of records from the Texas State Archives detail the use of Logan’s roan mare by Lt. Col. William Barret Travis; and the loss of the roan mare at the Battle of the Alamo. I will never be able to watch the movie in quite the same way again.

I certify that Col. Wm. Travis had in his possession a certain roan mare belonging to Logan Vandever.

Joel L. Robison

We certify that the roan mare which belonged to Logan Vandever which was pressed into public service by Col. Travis has this day been appraised by us to be worth sixty dollars in cash at the time she was taken into the service of Texas

*Joel L. Robison
John Breeding*

I certify that the roan mare pressed into the service of Texas by Col. Wm. B. Travis was my property; and I further certify that I never received a receipt on Government for the mare by Col. Travis or any other person whatever.

Logan Vandever

Logan eventually received compensation for his roan mare. On March 22, 1837 the auditor for the Republic of Texas issued voucher # 745 for \$60.00 to Logan Vandever, which Logan Vandever signed the same day.

For his service to the Texas Republic Logan received a large tract of land. Ironically this land was part of the tract that was chosen to become the site of Austin, the new Capitol of Texas. All in all over 7700 acres made up the original site and 1400 of those acres belonged to Logan Vandever. Possibly as acknowledgement of this, the only known portrait of Logan Vandever hangs in the land office on the State capitol grounds.

In 1847, after the Republic of Texas purchased Logan's land he moved to the area that was known as Hamilton valley in Travis County and started a large ranching operation there. Part of his business included supplying beef to the Army posts in Texas, especially Forts Croghan and Mason.

Hamilton Valley, Travis County, Texas

30th July 1851

Dear Father

I take this opportunity of writing you a few lines. My family is not well at this time, my two youngest being on the puny order. They are however better than they have been. I think they will be quite well in a few days.

I am still furnishing beef for the troops at this post¹. There is a new post office building² on the Llano River about fifty miles west of this place. I have the beef contract there. I drove up about 100 head of cattle and left a man there to butcher for me.

I understand you talk of moving to Texas. If I knew you would come and would like this part of the country that I live in, I could have you some houses ready. If you come I can soon fit you out.

We have a very distressing drought, my land all being new has not done very well. I will have plenty to do me and about one thousand bushels to spare, which is as good as I expected to do on a new place.

¹ This post is also known as Fort Croghan.

² The new post being built was Fort Mason.

I hope these few lines will find you all in good health. So I must close, having but little to write.

*In haste I am yours truly,
Logan Vandever*

To William Vandever and family

I wish to be remembered by all the connections and friends if there be any there – L.V.

Logan Vandever was among the early Texas Rangers. Some of his exploits concerning battles with the Comanche Indians are part of Texas history. The fight he had with "Yellow Wolf", known as one of the fiercest Comanche warriors of that time, is the most notable. "Yellow Wolf", chief of the Comanche tribe of Indians in this section of Texas in early days, was a terror to the white people. Mr. Vandever's patience with this Indian was finally exhausted and meeting him one day grabbed him by the throat, and brandishing his Bowie knife told "Yellow Wolf" what to expect if he did not mend his ways. This act made Mr. Vandever a noted man with the Indians and he was always referred to after that as the "man who choked Yellow Wolf."

In the early 1850s Logan and his friend William Magill began to push for the formation of Burnet County, Texas. They were successful in their efforts and in 1852 Burnet County was formed. Logan was appointed the first postmaster of the county and he founded the County's first school. He hired a graduate of Oxford University of England to run the school. Among the subjects taught were Greek, Latin and French. Logan's daughters were among the top students of the school.

Burnet County, Texas

3rd July, 1853

Dear Father,

I this morning set down to write you a few lines to let you know that we are all in tolerable health at present, hoping that these few lines will find you all well. My oldest daughter has been unwell for several days. She is better and will be well in a few days, I hope.

I have nothing of interest to relate to you.

There is some excitement in this country about gold mines and other minerals. I cannot see how it will turn out. The people

come here in great quantities. Some of them return and some and others remain. It could be the means of selling this country.

In the lines I received from Brother a few days since, informed me that he was expecting to come to see the country some time this year with a view of becoming a citizen of it. I think he will be well pleased with Texas if he ever comes. I hope he will come.

So I will close by subscribing my name, your obedient son,

Logan Vandever

At this time that Logan was trying to persuade his father and family to move to Texas from Cooper County, Missouri. Most of Logan's immediate families were residents of Cooper County. His brother Zachariah Vandever was a large land and slave owner in Cooper County. His farm adjoined that of Timothy McGuire. In 1850 Vernon Hurd was listed in the household of Zachariah Vandever. In 1852 Vernon Hurd's son, Timothy Hurd married Martha Vandever the younger half-sister of Logan and Zachariah Vandever. Besides William Vandever and his second wife Rachel, who was the mother of Martha, one sister, Anna Baber lived in Cooper County and another sister, Sarah Stokes, lived with her husband, James Stokes in Casey County, Kentucky.

*Mrs Anna Baber
Boonville, Missouri
5th August, 1853*

Dear Sister

Your letter has just come to hand informing me that you would not start for this country until the fall of the year which I think is a good arrangement unless you could have got off very early in the spring.

You want me to come or send someone to assist you in getting out of the State. I am very sorry to say to you that it is out of my power to come. To send anyone that I could get might not be of any service to you.

Tell father that I want him to come with you. I want to see him in this country. I am sure he will be pleased with Texas. I can help him greatly if he will come here. Tell him not to put it off too long.

If you cannot come without my presence let me know and I will try and leave my business.

All are well.

In haste, I am,

Logan Vandever

By 1854 it appears that Logan had been successful in persuading his family to move to Burnet County, including Timothy and Martha Hurd. In 1855 while driving a large herd of cattle to New Orleans both Logan and Zachariah Vandever were stricken with Yellow Fever and died within two days of each other.

September 10, 1855³

Dear Friend

This morning set down to inform you that I am well at present and hope that this finds you enjoying the same helth but not the same in which I am sorry to say to you that out of the five left hear I am alone well. And glad to say that I am well two. Both Vans and Bob is no more. Logan died 2th, Z 4 th , R 9th and Gorge was taken sick 8th. I am well yet and waiting on Gorge. I think he he will get well But I can't say. I hope that he will. Logan was taken on the boat and came up to vale Rose 100 miles above the Sita. I waited on them. All three had all attention paid to them that could be given. They all lay five days. Bob was in this town when he died. Gorge is in the same room. I intend to stay with him until he gets up. If I live and then I shall brake for the mountains. O how glad I will be if I was there now. I am not scard but I feel so alone. But God knows how it will be. I don't. Dr. Crachley attend to them. Clem Wilkens is admastrater for Vans bisness hear as he left it unseteled. The beaves is not quit all sold yet. About 30 is on hand yet. I have seen things to heurt but this beats all. Yellow fever takes the lead. Logan had black vomit but nether of the other had

³ J.C. Bradley, who was Logan Vandever's foreman on the cattle drive to Louisiana, sent this letter to S.A.J Haynie. J.C. Bradley had been sheriff of Burnet County, Texas from 1852 – 1854. Spellings in this letter are exactly as they were written in the original.

it. Z an B tuck it easy and came But o how Z suffered. It tuck me and another man to hold him in bed 10 menets before he died. They was put away very deasant. All 3 side by side. And me and Gorge may be left there too but I hope not. I shall come home just as soon as Gorge gets up If I live and keep well enough to travel. So I can quit now. You must excuse my scribble and mistakes for this is the best I can do now. I am up and down every menet or two to wait on Gorge. Nothing more at present but still I remain your friend untell deth. Cive my respects to all hoo may inquer for me.

J. C. Bradley

Logan Vandever was 40 years old. Many historians in Texas claim that if Logan Vandever had lived he would have become one of the most prominent citizens of Texas.

5. Zachariah P. Vandever was the third child born to William and Emily nee' Shackleford Vandever. He was born in 1817 in Casey County, Kentucky. He died of yellow fever, along with his brother Logan, in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana on September 4, 1855.

Zachariah lived on a farm in Cooper County, Missouri adjacent to his brother-in-law, Timothy Hurd. When Zachariah's brother, Logan, called for him; he heeded the siren's call, moving to Texas. He joined his brother on the fateful cattle drive to the State of Louisiana. And it was there; in Louisiana that he met his death of yellow fever.

*13 October, 1855
New Orleans, Lousiana*

*Mr. William Vandever
Hamilton Valley, Texas*

Sir,

This is to inform you that Mr. Logan Vandever and Mr. Zachariah P. Vandever departed this life some weeks ago in the Parish of Plaquemines leaving in this State some moveable effects, which according to the inventories, amount of upwards of Six Thousand dollars each.

The succession of each of them is managed by Mr. Wilkins of Jefferson Parish, the Court having appointed him Curator thereof.

I have been appointed Attorney⁴ for the absent heirs and it was my duty to inform you of the above stated facts.

You may either come yourself to take care of the interests you have in these estates, or send a power to a friend residing in Louisiana.

*I am Sir,
Your obedient servant,
C.O. Dugue*

*Office of Jefferson City
Louisiana Orenne
And
New Orleans
Exchange Alley No. 129 in the office of
P.E. Laresche*

Zachariah was the husband of Keren-Happuch Vandever. Keren-Happuch, whose maiden name is unknown was born in 1822 and died on July 19, 1845. She is buried Sunset Hills Cemetery in Boonville, Missouri. After the death of his first wife Zachariah married a woman by the first name of Melinda.

The children of Zachariah and Keren-Happuch Vandever are:

- I Laura Ellen Vandever Born in 1844 and died in 1845. She in buried in Sunset Hills Cemetery in Boonville, Missouri
- II Lucinda Born in 1844

The child of Zachariah and Melinda Vandever is:

- I Zachariah P. Vandever, Jr.

6. Martha Vandever was the first child born to William and Rachael nee' Upton (Kennedy) Vandever. She was born on January 5, 1832 in Casey County, Kentucky. She

⁴ The probate files of Zachariah P. Vandever's personal estate are on file in the Court House at Boonville, Missouri. Among the assets listed for him were 9 slaves and numerous notes (approximately 50) for small loans that were due him from local residents of the county.

was married to Timothy Hurd in Cooper County, Missouri in 1852. Martha died March 25, 1919 in Conway, McPherson County, Kansas.

Timothy Hurd was born on December 25, 1831 in Bledsoe County, Tennessee. He died on March 27, 1904 in Conway McPherson County, Kansas.

Shortly after their marriage Timothy and Martha were persuaded by Martha's oldest brother, Logan Vandever to move to Texas. They lived there a short time until shortly after the deaths of Logan and Zachariah Vandever. The couple then returned to Cooper County, Missouri. The wanderlust returned several times to their lives as they also lived in Greene County, Illinois and McPherson County, Kansas.

The children of Timothy and Martha nee' Vandever Hurd are:

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| I | Nancy Lucinda Hurd | Born December 14, 1854 in Burnet County, Texas and married a Davidson in Green County, Illinois. |
| II | Zachariah Hurd | Born October 25, 1856 in Cooper County, Missouri |
| III | Mary Jane Hurd | Born August 14, 1858 in Cooper County, Missouri. She married Jacob Vernon McGuire at the home of her father on December 21, 1882 in Greene County, Illinois. They were the children of Floyd McGuire born 20 Nov 1883; Homer Vernon McGuire born 06 Dec 1886; Charles McGuire born Jan 1888; Pearl Orange McGuire born 14 Jan 1890; all in Pilot Grove Township, Cooper County, Missouri |
| IV | William Almond Hurd | Born April 11, 1860 in Cooper County, Missouri. He never married. |
| V | Nettice Ottice Hurd | Born April 3, 1863 in Greene County, Illinois. Married Ira Grimes on 16 Mar 1883 in Green County, Illinois. |
| VI | Hardin Orange Hurd | Born March 31, 1866 in Greene County, Illinois. Never married |