

## William Henry Smith Family

Johann Henry Schmidt, IV, born in Germany in 1829, came to Indianola with his mother and other siblings in 1845. The family left Germany to avoid the compulsory military service and the unrest of their country. The father, a wine maker, drowned at the dock just prior to their departure, but the courageous mother brought her family to America as planned and settled at Old Town. Mrs. Schmidt is said to have frozen to death in December 1849 during a freak cold spell that came up while she was looking for a calf.

Mr. Johann Henry Schmidt changed his name to "Smith" when he became a citizen of the United States in 1850. He married Josephine Ludwig in 1851 and the couple had sixteen children, most of them born in Indianola. The family lived on Copano Bay at Old St. Mary's for a time during the Civil War, where Mr. Smith ran the mailboat. A Yankee gunboat was stationed in the harbor, but as there was no fighting in the area, the sailors began entertaining the young ladies at parties aboard ship. On one of these occasions, the ladies got work to their men, who returned home, dressed in ladies clothes, and captured the gunboat. Henry brought home a teapot as a souvenir, treasured by the Smith family to this day.

Henry and Josephine lived in Port Lavaca after Indianola was abandoned and are buried in the old Port Lavaca Cemetery.

William Henry Smith was born at Indianola, December 21, 1858. He spent most of his youth at Indianola, absorbing much of the colorful and tragic history of the city, as told many times to his children and grandchildren. On May 18, 1881, he married Alice Ellen Rahtgens at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Indianola. They bought a house in Indianola where several of their children were born. After the 1886 storm, the family moved to Port Lavaca and rebuilt their house on Commerce Street, where it stands today.

Mr. Smith, "Pappy", as he was affectionately called by his grandchildren, was a saloonkeeper in Indianola. He was serving his community as County Commissioner at the time of the 1886 storm. After moving to Port Lavaca, he and his brother-in-law, Harry Rahtgens, owned and operated a lumberyard and ship chandlery. Later, his son, W.H. Smith, Jr., joined him in the business.

In 1917, Mr. Smith organized the Port Lavaca Channel and Dock Company, the first corporation to obtain a charter from the State of Texas. This historical event necessitated a special act of the legislature. About the same time, the Smith-Ullrich Dredging Company was organized and the Smith Harbor was created. Later, some of Mr. Smith's sons started the Smith Brothers Seafood Company.

Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Smith, Sr. are both buried in the Old Port Lavaca Cemetery, as are most of their eight children. Their youngest child, Loretta Rae Elder, is the only

surviving member of the immediate family. She has recently moved to Victoria and makes her home with her daughter. *Submitted by Rae Edler*

## James Robert Snow Family

James Robert Snow was born in Palverde, Arizona. He was the youngest of five sons; there were three younger daughters. These eight Snow children were born to James Deed Snow and Ollie Elizabeth Thompson Snow. They came to Utopia, Texas in 1919. James and three of his brothers served four years each in World War II. After the war all four returned home and settled in Texas.

James's desire to travel prompted him to come to Calhoun County. He worked on the farm for awhile. He later became interested in the production of shrimp and oysters. He has shrimped and dredged oysters for many years.

James Robert Snow married Beulah Belle Priddy of Port Lavaca, Texas. They reared her daughter, Virginia Belle Linville and their daughter, Betty Ruth Snow. Because of James' desire to travel, this became a very happy family. Their first vacation took them to Los Angeles and Avenal, California, through New Mexico and back to Port Lavaca, Texas. James is a veteran of World War II, so, they attend the reunions of Company E, 63 Infantry, 6th Division. Each year these reunions are in a different state so they

have vacationed and traveled through states.

Virginia Belle Linville, married Neal Fulghum from Atascosa, Texas. They settled in Calhoun County. To this was born one daughter, Debra Kay Fulghum and two sons, Charles Andrew Fulghum and Phillip Kirk Fulghum. Debra married R. James Schauer of Illinois. They have Edward Francis Schauer II. The Schauers are stationed in South Dakota because Bert is in the service. The Fulghums, Charles Andrew and Phillip Kirk at Calhoun High in Port Lavaca.

The other daughter, Betty Ruth Snow, graduated from Calhoun High School and married Thomas Joseph Madrak of Shamokin, Pennsylvania. They have a son in Port Lavaca, Texas. Their two sons, Thomas and Dennis, both attend grammar school at Rockwell School.

James and Beulah still travel every year. They take a small travel trailer and can be close to the Tenpin bowling. Vacation trips, hunting, and bowling tournaments helped to make life a pleasure for the family. It has brought them closer to friends and relatives. Though they love to travel, they are always happy and more at home in Calhoun County, Texas. *Submitted by Virginia Canion*



FIVE GENERATIONS: Back Row: Left to Right: Thomas Madrak, Jr. and Sr., James Snow, I. Snow, Mrs. Ola Priddy. In Center: Betty Ruth Madrak, Dennis Madrak. Middle: Oscar N. Fulghum, Virginia Fulghum, Debra Fulghum, R. J. Schauer, Debra Schauer, Edward Schauer III. Front: Phillip Fulghum.