GONE TO TEXAS . . .

THE GRIGSBYS SETTLE IN JASPER COUNTY

Editor's Note: Imogene Pulleine has just released her new book, "The Ancestors and Descendants of John William Truett and Priscilla Grigsby." The book, 8-1/2 x 11 inches, hardbound, is very well written. It includes pedigree charts and descendancy charts but the majority of the book is in the Modified Register format. The data are well presented and many personal notes are included. For further information you may contact the author at P.O. Box 755, LaPorte TX 77572-0755. The following has been excerpted from this book as the third in the series, Gone to Texas.

John William Truett worked for his father in the County Clerk's office in Jasper, Texas. His father, William Hiram Truett, called "Hi," was the County Clerk for Jasper County, Texas in 1875. One day, when Hi was out of the office at noon, John filled out a marriage license for himself and Priscilla Grigsby. Priscilla "Bloss" Grigsby was the daughter of Enoch Grigsby and Priscilla Haynes.

Enoch Grigsby served in the Siege of Bexar Dec 1835 and as a result of this service received 960 acres. He had previously been granted 1/3 of a league as he was a citizen of Texas at the time that Texas declared her independence from Mexico. This land was located in Jasper County.

A year after Enoch's death, Priscilla and their eldest son died during an influenza epidemic, leaving the younger children orphans. The Haynes grandparents were appointed guardians of the minor children. When the grandparents died, the children were taken under the care of an older sister, Matilda Grigsby Gandy and her husband, Isaiah.

Because Bloss was only seventeen, she would need her guardian's permission to get married and John, also seventeen, would need his parents consent. So she and John eloped.

John William Truett, Priscilla Grigsby and their daughter, Imogene, 1906

This couple, one an orphan and one an only child, then set up a household that became the home for six sons and one daughter who reached adulthood. Many tales of the tricks the boys played on each other were passed down to succeeding generations. They were fond of carving their initials on the barn walls and some of the trees.

Bloss had a fear of losing her tenth child, a little girl, and hid away with her several times. This child died before her first birthday and soon afterwards Bloss was declared of "unsound mind" and on 1 Nov 1901 was hospitalized at the State Hospital in Austin, Texas. Approximately three months later her husband, went to visit her at the hospital and upon her request to "take me home," was successful in removing her from the hospital.

Bloss owned a parrot. His favorite perch was the gallery rail of their home. The parrot was frightened of thunder and lighting and when the sky became overcast would chant, "Bloss, it's gonna rain. It's gonna rain, Bloss," until Bloss took him into the house. The parrot met his sudden demise during a storm when he became so agitated that he flew into a tree.

Bloss had a spinning wheel, spun from the farm's cotton, and quilted. She enlisted the help of any of the grandchildren who were interested in batting cotton for quilt linings.

She would save a bit of biscuit dough for the visiting grandchildren to "pat 'em out and put 'em in the pan" to make their own, often grimy, peanut sized biscuits. The huge, black wood stove had to have chopped wood at hand to keep the fire going and this task was never ending during the winter months since the stove was used for a source of heat in addition to the fireplace.

They lived on the same farm for 52 years. They were associated with progressive civic movements for the up-building of the town and community of Spring Hill and John was a well known farmer and stockman.