

THE TRAIL TO PILGRIM, TEXAS

by: Majorie Lee Hyatt, Rte. 1, Box 63, Smiley, TX, 78159

The Zumwalt family history has been noted in several publications. As pointed out in Paul Reed's "The Andrew Zumwalt Family, Volume I", Adam Zumwalt was the son of Andrew Zumwalt of Rotterdam, The Netherlands, and Ann Regina, of Switzerland. Adam was born Ca. 1755 in Hampshire Co., VA.

When Adam was 17 years old, he enlisted in the French War, under Captains Samuel Wilson and Charles Lewis. While residing in Augusta Co., Va, he served 3 months in each of the years 1778, 1779, 1780 and 1781. He served under Captains McCoy, Bell and Hull. Part of the time, he was stationed at Clover Lick, on Greenbrier, and was in an expedition against the Tories. He served 12 months as a Private and Indian Spy in Captain McConnell's Company, in Kentucky. During this time, his Company was called upon by General George R. Clark to go on an expedition against the Indians. Three Indian towns were destroyed on the Miama.

On May 24, 1785, Adam married Maria Roth, 18 year old daughter of Andrew Roth. Their 8 children apparently were born in Kentucky, Bourbon and/or Harrison Counties.

It should be noted here, that although we haven't completed the biographies of all these lines, it is reasonable to assume many of our ancestors were neighbors and friends from Virginia to Kentucky to Missouri and on into Texas. We found Simons, Burnetts, Kents, Dillardards and Zumwalts all living in the same areas during the same periods of times. All these lines finally merged, and here we are, in the Pilgrim Community, Gonzales County, Texas.

Adam and Maria and their 8 children moved into St. Charles County, Mo., around 1800. Other publications have expanded on their life in Missouri... Adam's whiskey-making, his friendship with Black Hawk, and participation in the War of 1812.

Three of Adam's children married children of Isaac Kent, Sr. Elizabeth Zumwalt married Andrew Kent, 1816; Mary Ann Zumwalt married William Kent, and Catherine married John Kent, 1817. Two of Adam's nephews married Isaac Kent's children; Adam II married Jane Strain Kent, and Jonathon married Lucinda Kent. Somewhere in Missouri, about this time or shortly afterwards, the Burnett & Simons children reached marrying ages... Sarah and Anna Simons (sisters) married Matthew and Crawford Burnett (brothers). These four, also were born in Kentucky 1794-1800. Abraham Dillard, born in Wyeth Co., VA. 1807 didn't marry in Missouri, but was there at the time. Another Burnett brother, William, b. 1800 KY., was there and still single.

When the "wilderness" of Texas was offered to settlers, 1826, these brave Pioneers were among the first to arrive. The Burnett brothers, leaving another brother, Alexander, in Missouri, brought their families to Stephen F. Austin's Colonies...presently Harris and Montgomery Counties.

Abraham Dillard settled in Austin's Colony, where Washington County, was formed. Andrew and Elizabeth Kent and their 8 children, were one of the first three families to settle in DeWitt's Colony, presently Lavaca and Gonzales Counties. Abraham had a brother, Joseph, who also settled with wife Susan, in Washington County.

These early settlers met with the expected discomforts of new, wild, land, plus un-expected raids by the Commanche and Tonkahue Indians. Then, in 1835, the Mexican Army became hostile to the settlers. It became necessary for the settlers to band together to protect themselves. The Texas Army was formed, A Declaration of Independence was drawn-up. *Andrew Kent signed the original, but it was after his death that it was re-written. Volunteering to defend the Republic of Texas were Abraham & Joseph Dillard, Matther & William Burnett, all of whom were at San Jacinto. Crawford Burnett had died in 1834, while his wife Anna was expecting their 4th child, Crawford, Jr. Among the 37 valiant men from Gonzales, was Andrew Kent. His group joined over a hundred others to defend the Alamo at San Antonio de Bejar...only to be over-powered by Santa Ana's Army. On March 6, 1836, these men gave their lives for the Republic of Txas'

All these Texas Soldiers received "bounty land" for their service. Andrew Kent's land went to his widow and children.

Abraham Dillard married Sarah C. , daughter of Andrew & Elizabeth Kent in 1837. They made their home in Washington County. While Sarah was expecting their only child, Abraham died of a cerebal hemorrhage. Sarah Elizabeth Dillard was born October 8, 1839, 3-month's after her father's death. In 1841, Sarah Dillard re-married to William Henry Harrison Baldrige, a cousin on the Zumwalt line, then while Sarah was pregnant with his child, in 1842, she died, leaving 3-year-old Sarah "Sallie" Elizabeth, an orphan. Baldrige was a prominent figure in Lavaca County, but he did not raise Sallie. She lived with her Kent relatives.

Joseph Dillard died in 1837, and his widow, Susan re-married in October of that year, to William Burnett. Susan died 1857 in Gonzales County, and William died at the end of the Civil War. (He hauled supplies for the Confederacy during the War).

In 1839, Elizabeth Zumwalt Kent re-married to Joseph Kent, probably a cousin of Andrew's. She died in 1844, and Andrew's land was divided among his children and Sallie Dillard, his orphaned grand-daughter. Two of Andrew's sons, David Boyd and Bosman, fought in the Mexican War, 1842-1848.

son, Andrew, Jr., died in childhood. The other children all married and had families, giving the Kents over 30 grand-children. Three of Andrew's children married children of Peter Billings, of DeKalb County, TN.

During this time, the Zumwalts were busy, too. They were active in public affairs in the Lavaca County area, especially in the decision of where to locate the County Seat when that county was formed. Thomas, Isaac, and "Red Adam" Zumwalt all fought in the Mexican War. Gabriel Zumwalt was a surveyor in Lavaca County. They were all nephews of Adam, Sr.

* Note: Correction from writer. The Declaration of Texas Independence was re-written on March 2, 1836, while Andrew Kent was enroute to San Antonio, not after he died.

In 1856, Crawford Burnett, Jr., his uncle William, and Matthew Burnett's daughters, Becky Lee, Fanny ann Plowman and Matilda Howell and Matthew's grand-son, Columbus Burnett all came over from Harris County from Gonzales County. In 1857, Sallie Elizabeth Dillard married Crawford Burnett, Jr. They settled on land at Pilgrim, across the road from Fanny Ann and Thomas Robert Plowman. The Lee's (Hiram and Becky) lived at Pilgrim, the Howells lived nearby.

Crawford Burnett became very prominent in the cattle business. He was instrumental in getting the railroad through this area...and it ran through 10 miles of his property. He drove many herds of cattle up the Chisholm Trail. He and Sallie raised 10 children of their own, plus a few strays who needed shelter.

My grand-parents were Ada Lee Plowman, granddaughter of Thos. Robert and Fanny Ann Plowman, and Jesse Kent Burnett, son of Crawford Burnett, Jr. and Sallie Dillard. Ada's mother was Ida May Burns, daughter of Winslow & Elizabeth Nations Burns. Her father was Thomas Alexander Plowman. Crawford's sister, Frances was married to Winslow Burns, and when she died he re-married to Elizabeth. Crawford's daughter Frances, married Robert Nations, 1st counsin to Elizabeth. Their fathers, James and William A., both fought for the Confederacy. Their grand-father, Nathaniel, was a Lt. Col. in Alabama in the War of 1812. Crawford Jr. enlisted in the Confederate Army, but was detailed to return to Pilgrim and raise beef for the Confederacy.

We are happy that these paths paralleled, crossed and merged! Since they did, we are fortunate to live within 2 miles of land settled by our ancestors in 1857. We attend the same church they attended in 1886, on land donated by Crawford Burnett. Including our grand-son, there have been six generations attending the same church (same building). We live in the house I was born in, February 16, 1936. It was built by Ada and Jesse K. Burnett in 1916.

We owe a deep debt to those early pioneers...thanks to them, the trail ends at Pilgrim.!

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