

Descendants of Irby Holt Boggess

Generation 1

1. **IRBY HOLT¹ BOGGESS** was born on Nov 05, 1835 in Meigs County, Tennessee. He died on Dec 04, 1914 in Saint Jo, Montague County, Texas. He married an unknown spouse before 1857. He married (2) **MAHALA REBECCA NEIL** (daughter of Prior Neil and Elizabeth Farmer) on Feb 03, 1859 in Meigs County, Tennessee. She was born on May 13, 1841 in Meigs Co., Tennessee. She died on Oct 15, 1897 in Meigs Co., Tennessee. He married (3) **BARBARA ALLEN MCLANE** (daughter of Alexander H. McLane and Mary A. Cates) on Dec 22, 1874 in Montague County, Texas. She was born on Mar 07, 1855 in Webster County, Kentucky. She died in 1941 in Montague County, Texas.

Notes for Irby Holt Boggess:

Captain Irby Holt Boggess was born November 5, 1835 at Boggess Crossroads, Meigs County, Tennessee, November 5, 1835, the 11th of 13 children who were the issue of Abijah Boggess (November, 1795 - March 5, 1884) and Susan Jordan (November 5, 1796 - December 12, 1866). He was the grandson of "sometime" Methodist preacher, the Rev. Bennett Boggess and his wife, Vashti Jane Fowler Hubbard Boggess of Virginia. They had migrated to Tennessee. This Boggess line is traceable back to Robert Boggus (Boggess), an English immigrant, born about 1615, and who disembarked from a ship landing at Lower Norfolk County, Virginia in 1656, along with his wife, Mary, and a son, John. Robert's will, which was probated in Northumberland County, Virginia in 1662, and is located in the Virginia State Archives, Richmond, Virginia. Robert Boggus is the 5th great grandfather of Irby Holt Boggess.

Irby Holt Boggess' birth on November 5, 1835 was about three weeks before Samuel Langhorne Clemens was born on November 30, 1835. Clemens, we all came to know as, the famous author Mark Twain.

Source:http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Twain

Captain Boggess, the title coming from his service in the Confederate Army, is a first cousin, three times removed to my wife, Suzanne Margaret Boggess Sharpe. At the time Henry Dye Boggess was born in 1870 in near-by Collin County, which is close to Montague County, the owner of Saint Jo was being founded by Irby Holt Boggess. Irby and Henry are fourth cousins. Irby and Suzanne are first cousins, three times removed.

Boggess remained under the parental roof up to the time of his marriage to Mahala (Rhoda) Rebecca Neil on February 3, 1859 in Meigs County, Tennessee. He had been reared on his father's plantation and had acquired a liberal education, attending the common schools, and later attending Mars Hill Academy, Mars Hill, North Carolina. Liberal education is a term meaning high quality, rather than the political tint applied in contemporary 21st century nomenclature. When he married, he began farming on his own account, near the old homestead, where he remained until the opening of the War Between the States in 1860.

Private Boggess initially served in Captain Bly's company, and subsequently was made commissary of the regiment with the rank of captain. He was attached later to McKenzie's Cavalry. He was taken prisoner near Strawberry Plains in 1864, and held for eight months. A finger was cut off, and he suffered a bayonet wound in the side while trying to escape from prison. He was freed in a prisoner exchange, rejoining his command near the Tennessee-Virginia border, filling out the war experience as a scout for his regiment in Northern Tennessee. Finally, he bore the military title of Captain.

Captain Boggess then went to Mississippi, being employed as an overseer for a large plantation. He later engaged in merchandising for two years before moving on to Murfreesboro, Tennessee, where he continued merchandising and engaged in auctioning.

It is said that Captain Boggess left Tennessee to come to Texas, because he had shot and

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killed a man in Meigs County. However, this is undocumented, may only be an alleged word from someone wanting to criticize Irby. It is unclear whether this was before or after he spent the above time in Mississippi and Murfreesboro, Tennessee. He made a complete break with his Tennessee wife.

He came to Texas in 1869, settling at the head of Elm Creek on land he purchased in Montague County, and on which he erected a double log cabin. This was about 80 miles north of the Dallas and Fort Worth area. It was near the crossroads of two significant paths of commerce of that day. Those were the famous Chisholm Trail for cattle driving and the California Trail, the stagecoach and personal travel trail surveyed by the federal government, beginning at Saint Louis, Missouri, and going west through El Paso to California, where gold had been discovered in 1849.

Captain Boggess brought with him supplies especially usable by cattle drovers, hauling them regularly for several years from Jefferson, Texas. His place was the only stopping place for a great distance around, and he received liberal patronage. These patrons were provided with blankets and sleeping areas on the counter and the floor. He later established another supply house at the Red River station, known as the "Last Chance." Both of these mercantile locations prospered, and he continued successfully to handle cattle, buying and selling large herds, which he drove to the north. This was in partnership with his friend, Joe Howell. Howell apparently was the man with financial resources and Boggess had the know-how to function in such a business to make it successful. We don't have evidence about how Irby and Joe met. However, Joe was born in Tennessee and lived only eight miles from where Irby lived in Miggs County, Tennessee. Both men were in the same business, so it can be assumed they knew each other prior to the days of them coming west to Texas.

In good time, Irby was instrumental in securing the establishment of a Post Office at the head of Elm Creek. However, his having been an officer in the Confederate Army prevented him from receiving a Postal Commission to operate it. He did have in his employ one James Gordon, who had been a Federal soldier, who thus served as Post Master.

Irby's strategy was to purchase broken down cattle from drovers, and feed them into good condition, a strategy from which he prospered. He pursued these endeavors till 1879. A copy of one certified and notarized inventory I have was of some 403 head of cattle acquired from 102 owners (listing the names of the owners and showing their cattle brands) was dated in August 1873. These were driven from Texas north to Abilene, Kansas to sell in those stockyards. Joe Howell had the wealth for the partnership to purchase the cattle, and Irby had the know-how to fatten them and to organize the drive far north to Kansas.

Settlers in this part of Texas were sparse when Captain Boggess arrived. Very few Indian raids occurred after he came, as most of the Indians had been driven to the North into what is now Oklahoma. In 1872, Irby formed a business partnership with Joe Howell, purchasing together some three hundred twenty acres from the A. Ketchum (sic Kitchen) survey. The deed certified the purchase on May 15, 1872 for the price of \$1,200 in gold. They then platted the town of Saint Jo, which is understood to be named after this Joe Howell. The town square was bordered by Main and Broad Streets, and crossed by streets named after these partners, Boggess and Howell. Meigs Street, of course, derives its name from the Tennessee County of Irby Boggess' birth.

While attacked by Native Americans one time between the Red River station and Saint Jo, Captain Boggess took refuge behind a cabin door of Bois d'Arc (pronounced bo dark) wood. The door shielded him from bullets, as the rest of the cabin did not withstand the shots. He retained the life-saving door, and later had it used as a lid for his coffin. The Bois d' Arc tree is that knurled old tree which produces those "horse apples" or the big

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green inedible apples, which are found across the Southland. It was used extensively for fence posts, due to the sturdy nature of the wood and its resistance to rot from moisture and attack from other wood-destroying phenomenon of nature. The American Indians used it extensively as wood for their bows. In fact, it is claimed that the name of the tree comes for that use. See an interesting article on the Internet: <http://www.smu.edu/~anthrop/boisdarc.html>)

It is told that Joe was an abstainer from alcohol, a life style Captain Boggess did not share. However, Boggess was not an excessive drinker either. He was too astute of a businessman to do such. When Captain Boggess wanted to name the new town after his partner, he thought it would sound appropriate to name the new town, "Saint Jo." This writer does not know why the "e" was dropped from Joe in naming the town.

In the work of improving the town, Captain Boggess gave real estate lots for the building of churches and to people who would erect substantial buildings thereon. He built a stone storehouse in 1873, which became named the Stonewall Saloon, after Stonewall Jackson, whom Boggess admired. It was Saint Jo's first permanent building, and was built of native stone. It served the cattle trail drivers of the Chisholm Trail with a saloon, complete with sleeping quarters on the second floor. Prohibition came to the County in 1897, and the building became a bank. This building was restored in 1958 during the Montague County Centennial as its original saloon character in museum form. The Texas Historical Survey Committee awarded an official "Historical Marker" to the saloon in 1967.

Captain Boggess, and his partner, Joe Howell, also built a stone storehouse for their business, and they prospered, both in stock raising and in the mercantile business. He again was instrumental in securing a Post Office when one was established for Saint Jo. This time, he was able to serve many years as Postmaster. The assumption as to why he then could qualify is that Congress, sometime in the 1870's, pardoned most of the Confederate soldiers.

A very enterprising and progressive businessman, he added to his lands until he owned extensive tracts, including three large farms and much town property. He served Montague County in the early days as the Notary Public in order that legal transactions could be properly recorded. This was an important role to serve in any community.

A June 6, 1881 entry in Boggess' Diary indicated he was starting on a trip to visit his father in East Tennessee, whom he had not seen in 14 years. This diary was in the possession of David and Lina Boggess of Saint Jo in 1976. I believe a Ms. Sara Boggess Reaves, a resident of Saint Jo, has it after that.

Later, Captain Boggess built a commodious two-story frame residence on the same tract of land where he lived, and from that place can be seen the old cabin. He continued merchandising until 1887, when he turned to real estate dealing and the management of his properties.

Captain Boggess married three times. In Tennessee, he married someone for whom we do not have her name, but the marriage apparently ended shortly. Second, he married Rhoda Neil (05/13/1841 - 10/15/1897), the Tennessee born-daughter of Pryon and Elizabeth Neal, a leading farm family there. Their two children were John Bennett Boggess (12/10/1859 - 06/09/1912) and Susan Neil Boggess (1863 - ?). John became a prominent merchant, farmer and Post Master in Tennessee, and Susan married James Acton Gallaher, who was from California. Rhoda, a devoted follower of the Baptist Church, is buried in the Decatur Cemetery, Meigs County, Tennessee. At one point, she filed for and was granted an uncontested divorce from Irby. John Bennett Boggess did appear in the 1880 census as a resident in Montague County, Texas.

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Captain Boggess' third marriage was to Kentucky-born Barbara Allen McLane, daughter of Alexander H. and Mary A. Cates McLane on December 22, 1874 in Montague County, Texas. That family had come in 1870 to Tarrant County, Texas, then came north to Montague County in 1873. Irby and Barbara Boggess gave issue to seven children, three of whom died either at birth or within two years of birth.

Irby Holt Boggess had the following child:

- i. MARTIN LUTHER BOGGESS (son of Irby Holt Boggess) was born on Jan 13, 1857 in Tennessee. He died on Jan 04, 1876 in Montague Co., Texas.

Irby Holt Boggess and Mahala Rebecca Neil had the following children:

- ii. JOHN BENNETT BOGGESS (son of Irby Holt Boggess and Mahala Rebecca Neil) was born on Dec 10, 1859.

Notes for John Bennett Boggess:

John was born the same year that French acrobat Blondin crossed Niagara Falls on a tightrope on June 30, 1859 as 5,000 spectators watched.

Source:<http://www.niagara-info.com/historic.htm#Section1c>

- iii. SUSAN NEIL BOGGESS (daughter of Irby Holt Boggess and Mahala Rebecca Neil) was born about 1863. She married JAMES ACTON GALLAHER. He was born about 1859 in Tennessee. He died in California.

Irby Holt Boggess and Barbara Allen McLane had the following children:

- iv. VINA HOLT BOGGESS (child of Irby Holt Boggess and Barbara Allen McLane) was born on Oct 30, 1875 in Saint Jo, Montague County, Texas. Vina Holt died on Jun 18, 1877 in Saint Jo, Montague Co., Texas.

Notes for Vina Holt Boggess:

Just before Vina was born, James Cash Penney (9/16/1875 - 2/12/1971), the American business leader and founder of the J. C. Penney store chain, was born.

Source:http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Cash_Penney

- v. ABIJAH ALEXANDER "BIGE" BOGGESS (son of Irby Holt Boggess and Barbara Allen McLane) was born on Jun 15, 1877. He died before 1949.

Notes for Abijah Alexander "Bige" Boggess:

Abijah Alexander Boggess is a second cousin, twice removed to my wife, Suzanne Margaret Boggess Sharpe.

Abijah owned and operated a hardware store in St. Jo, Montague County, Texas a good number of years, on up until his death, about in the 1940's. This is according to my visit with Mr. Sonny Cole, owner and editor of the St. Jo Tribune Newspaper on March 31, 2006. Mr. Cole reported having been acquainted with Abijah and he remembered well his hardware store. He said that Abijah was a generous man and he was the owner of the land that was donated to the city for the Boggess City Park right in the central

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part of the town.

I made inquiry of Mr. Cole about possible newspaper achieves being available to review in the 1800's. However there really does not exist today anything to speak of before the 1930's. A few scattered issues or parts of issues, all of which are really too fragile to handle to make copies, etc.

My acquaintance with Mr. Cole serendipitously developed when I met his granddaughter, Heather, while we both were in an automobile servicing waiting room in Dallas County in March of 2006. I was very interested in learning that St. Jo was her growing up home and about her grandfather's newspaper industry, for whom she provided the contact information. I am grateful to Heather for that introduction to the man who knew Abijah Boggess!

2. vi. ELIZA BARBARA "PERT BOGGESS" BOGGESS (daughter of Irby Holt Boggess and Barbara Allen McLane) was born on Jan 04, 1880 in Texas. She married (1) OTIS RECTOR on Aug 20, 1897 in Montague Co., Texas. She married (2) ARTHUR D. HYDE on Apr 10, 1904 in Montague Co., Texas. She married (3) E. B. STUCHEL about 1910.
- vii. INFANT CHILD BOGGESS (child of Irby Holt Boggess and Barbara Allen McLane) was born on May 07, 1882 in Saint Jo, Montague County, Texas. Infant Child died on May 07, 1882 in Saint Jo, Montague County, Texas.
- viii. IRBY STONEWALL BOGGESS (son of Irby Holt Boggess and Barbara Allen McLane) was born on Apr 11, 1883 in Saint Jo, Montague County, Texas. He died on Jun 18, 1884 in Saint Jo, Montague County, Texas.

Notes for Irby Stonewall Boggess:

Irby Stonewall Boggess was born April 11, 1883 in Saint Jo, Montague County, Texas.

The following month after his birth, on May 30, 1883, a rumor that the recently opened Brooklyn Bridge was in danger of collapsing triggered a stampede that led to the trampling deaths of 12 people.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/20050530.html?th&emc=th>

Andrew "Stonewall" Jackson, the military hero and United States President, was admired by Irby's father very much. So, it can be assumed that the son's middle name here is after the hero and former President.

Irby Stonewall Boggess died Jun 18, 1884 in Saint Jo, Montague County, Texas.

- ix. JORDAN CRUMP BOGGESS (son of Irby Holt Boggess and Barbara Allen McLane) was born on Mar 11, 1886 in Saint Jo, Montague County, Texas. He died on Dec 18, 1941 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
3. x. TEMPLE HOUSTON BOGGESS (son of Irby Holt Boggess and Barbara Allen McLane) was born on May 11, 1888 in Saint Jo, Montague County, Texas.

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He died on Mar 25, 1922 in Saint Jo, Montague County, Texas. He married EVELYN COOPER. She was born in 1891 in Texas.

Generation 2

2. **ELIZA BARBARA² "PERT BOGGESS" BOGGESS** (Irby Holt¹) was born on Jan 04, 1880 in Texas. She married (1) **OTIS RECTOR** on Aug 20, 1897 in Montague Co., Texas. She married (2) **ARTHUR D. HYDE** on Apr 10, 1904 in Montague Co., Texas. She married (3) **E. B. STUCHEL** about 1910.

Notes for Eliza Barbara "Pert Boggess" Boggess:

Eliza "Pert" Boggess was married three times. However, we have no information about what concluded each marriage.

Eliza was born in 1880, the year that Tom Mix (1/6/1880 - 10/12/1940), the American silent screen actor, was born.

Source:<http://www.ok-history.mus.ok.us/mus-sites/masnum31.htm>

Eliza also was born in the same month as Douglas MacArthur, the American general who achieved acclaim as a grand strategist in World War II and in Korea, was born.

Source:http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas_MacArthur

Eliza Barbara "Pert Boggess" Boggess and Otis Rector had the following child:

- i. **MARY D. RECTOR** (daughter of Otis Rector and Eliza Barbara "Pert Boggess" Boggess) was born in 1899 in Texas.

3. **TEMPLE HOUSTON² BOGGESS** (Irby Holt¹) was born on May 11, 1888 in Saint Jo, Montague County, Texas. He died on Mar 25, 1922 in Saint Jo, Montague County, Texas. He married **EVELYN COOPER**. She was born in 1891 in Texas.

Notes for Temple Houston Boggess:

Songwriter Irving Berlin was born Israel Baline in Temun, Russia on the very same day as Temple Houston Boggess was born in Saint Jo, Texas.

Source:<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/biography/berlin.html>

Temple Houston Boggess married Evelyn Cooper, issued two sons, and was divorced. Temple was shot in the back on the Saint Jo Town Square by the Sheriff, and is buried in Pioneer Cemetery. Mr. Boyd Whitson (Born in Saint Jo, 1901), Curator of the Stonewall Saloon Museum, told me in 1986 that he probably is the only remaining witness to that shooting.

The story goes that Temple, a large and rough man, became ill tempered easily when intoxicated. While in that state, he took actions, which caused the sheriff to seek his arrest. This arrest was resisted, Temple attempted departure, and the sad results came to a climax. Temple had a son, Cecil Boggess, who still resided in St. Jo in 1986, who would be about 73 years old then. His other son at the time of his shooting death was David. Evelyn was widowed with two sons age eight and seven. I've since lost track of Mr. Whitson and believe he would have occupied a cemetery plot by now.

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Notes for Evelyn Cooper:

Her parents were born in Tennessee and Missouri, according to the 1920US Census in St. Jo, Montague County, Texas.

Temple Houston Boggess and Evelyn Cooper had the following children:

- i. CECIL H.³ BOGGESS (son of Temple Houston Boggess and Evelyn Cooper) was born in 1914 in Texas.
- ii. DAVID T. BOGGESS (son of Temple Houston Boggess and Evelyn Cooper) was born in 1915 in Texas.

Notes for David T. Boggess:

David was born the year that Max Klein (8/14/1915 - 5/20/1993), the American painter was born who invented "paint by numbers."

Source:<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/20060814.html?th&emc=th>

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