Thursday, December 4, 1980, South Texas Drummer

On the Watershed of the Ecleto and the Clear Fork of Sandies

**The Ware family**

William Rankin Ware to whose family this write up is devoted came to the watershed of the Ecleto immediately, following upon the War Between the States and no relationship has been established between him and the Kentuckian William Ware whose household #192 was enumerated on the 1850 Bexar County Census (extract from which appeared in this column 9/4/1980).

The first proof of ancestry of the subject is found in the 1779 will of Hugh Weir in Rockbridge County Virginia which named his wife (Margaret); his sons Jonathan, Abraham, George, Hugh Jr., John, Joseph and Samuel; and his daughters Jean Cunningham, Margaret Montgomery, Mary Walker, Susanna Buckbannen and Elizabeth McCutcher.

By 1800 Hugh’s son Jonathan who was the grandfather of William R. Ware who moved from Williamson to Karnes County, Texas in the late 1860’s, was in Bount County, Tennessee; and it was there that he executed his last testament the 4th of September, 1832. Surviving him were his wife Mary “Polly” Jonnee Pettus; his sons Jonathan Jr. and Samuel who resided in Missouri as had his deceased son James; his daughters Polly who married J.M. Rankin and died in Kansas, and Margaret “Peggy” Gault; and son Hugh of our interest.

Hugh Weir (Wear), whose descent we now follow, died interstate in Blount County and his estate was administered on by his widow (the former Margaret Rankin) who had become the wife of Matthew Hannah. Numerous court records provide the names of his daughters Sarah M. who died the wife of Robert McReynolds in Illinois, md Mary A. and Margaret Jane who died in their native state; and of his sons David Milton, Jonathan Newton and James Madison.

Who all d ied in Illinois; of Thomas Calvin and Samuel B. who came to Texas but not to this area; of John A. who resided hereabouts temporarily in the early 1880’s and again at the time of his death in 1905 but lived many years in Mills County, Texas. And, of course, of our subject; William Rankin Ware.

William R. Wear (Ware) (b 1816), who married his first cousin Synthia Ncoma McReynolds, was the progenitor of the Karnes County family which In Its expansion spilled over copiously into Wilson and Gonzales Counties. He and his brothers Samuel B. and Thomas Calvin came to Texas from Tennessee about 1837 settling first near Old Washington on the Brazos. In the late 1850’s with his brother Samuel, William R. moved to Williamson County and from there be moved to these parts.

To William and Cyutha Ware were born John Rankin who married Hannah Caroline, **daughter of Martin and Sally (Goodbread) West in 1870 and died in 1874 as did their only child. Sophronia Tennessee who married Elias (Elijah?) Cure, a New Yorker who met up with her father and became his partner during the California Gold Rush the two returning to Texas together where Cure set up as a saddler in Helena; Amanda M. Ware*** who married Richard McClure; William Napoleon Bonaparte who married Henrietta Cybelle “Belle,” daughter of John and Mary Louisa (Goodbread) Gillespie; and Calvin Anderson who married first Sarah Ann, daughter of Bartlett and Letha Marcinda (Lamb) Ford and after her death in 1890 Mattie (Chandler) Butler, the daughter of Thomas Chandler, alias Cooper**** and his second wife Ann Hampton.

To Sophronia and Elijah Cure were born eight children: Cynthia who married Phillip Trammel; Amanda who married Samuel H. Nichols; William Thomas who married Loudie Killingsworth Ninetta who married John B. Temple; John Fly who married Jennie Ada Bird; Richard McClure who married Mattie Jane Temple; and Mary Ella, Mabell and Sophronia, who died as children.

To Nep and Belle Ware were born Eunice who married Adolph Lorenz as his first wife; Leonadias “Lon” who married first Emma sister to Adolph above, and second Lizzie, daughter of Robert C. and Amanda (Bird) Holstein; Napoleon Bonaparte Jr. who married first Nora Lee, daughter of Columbus and Sarah (Foster) Sikes and second Maud Esther Additon in Sinton, Texas; Lucy Dora Bell who married John Alexander Chaffin; Callie who married Robert Montgomery; Ferdinand McReynolds who married Sadie, daughter of Wesley and Martha Elizabeth (Wiley) Irvin; Zeda Margret “Bess” who married Robert Terrell Irvin, brother to Sidie above; Dove, a long time school teacher who never married;
Willie Maud who died unmarried at age 25 in 1909; and Robert Cullens and Mary Syntha “Mayme” who died as children.

The children of Calvin and Sarah were: Ella Ware, Stockdale’s “country doctor,” the first woman to graduate from the Medical School at Galveston in 1898; William Rankin who married first Annie Kitts and second her sister Bell; Bartlett Ford who married Minnie Lea Edmiston; Richard McClure who married Annabel Edmiston; Letha Emma who married Henry William Seely; Sophronia who married Robert Sutton; Thomas Calvin whose wife I cannot identify; Neppie who married William H. King; Henrietta Cybell who died at age two and an unnamed son who died on the day of birth. To Calvin and Mattie were born Alma who married Dester Crosby, Georgia who married Dr. A.W. Brown Grace who married C.D. Bulgier; Jim Roy who married Ethel Ridout and Ferdinand McReynolds who died as a child.

The Weir/Wear/Wares as documented in a genealogy by Elmer B. Collier**** 238 Montpelier, San Antonio 78228, from which I have obtained much of this material, have been a patriotic lot. Jonathan Weir and four of his brothers fought in the Battle of King’s Mountain in the American Revolution. One Jonathan Weir of the Missouri Weirs fought under General Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans in 1812. William R. Wear and three of his brothers, Samuel B., John A. and Thomas Calvin, and two of his sons, John R. and Napoleon B., served in the Confederate Army.

Both Nep and Cal Ware, besides being farmers and stockmen as had been their father, were merchants. Nep first at old Lorenz on the Ecleto where brother Cal was Post Master in 1893, nephew Richard McClure Cure in 1896 and nephew-in-law Henry W. Seely in 1898, and then at Pandora. Besides the first store at Lorenz in which Nep apparently was a partner, Cal individually operated over a period of many years mercantile establishments at Rancho, old Riddleville and Stockdale.

A staunch Baptist, Cal was one of the founders of Stockdale’s Baptist Church and an early deacon; but I know from a great aunt’s memoirs that he taught Sunday School at Union where Methodism reigned almost supreme. The Weirs of Missouri seem to have retained the Calvinistic doctrines of their Scotch Irish forebears.. Hugh Weir’s brother Samuel serving as a minister of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Dade County, Missouri.

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Some land purchases made by the Ware involved the lands left by both Phillip Sr. and Phillip Jr. Goodbread to their heirs--there being two marriages between the Wares and the Goodbread descendants.

**She married second
John Markham.

***No children were born to this marriage.

****Mr. Chandler was from Delaware or Maryland. Following upon the Mexican War in which he served (he is said to have come out of Mexico afoot) he settled at Helena where he was a miller. He was also the father of Jim Chandler, Stockdale’s long time constable.

*****Elmer is descended from Thomas Calvin Weir (and that family still so spells the name) who died in Georgetown, Texas.