

HISTORY & FOLKLORE



Bee Carter, Private First Class, United States Army, 1940s. June Steusoff McGuire Collection, 1981.032. Sam Houston Center, TSLAC.

Bee Carter was born on May 1, 1914, in Liberty, Texas. He worked for the Steusoff Pharmacy, primarily as a delivery boy, until he was drafted during World War II. Carter enlisted on July 6, 1942, and was discharged from the United States Army on October 23, 1946. Carter died in 1985 and was buried in the Houston National Cemetery.



Mary Cottontail, Liberty, Texas, 1897. Hardin Family Papers, 1974.002. Sam Houston Center, TSLAC.

Prior to arriving in Liberty, Texas, Mary Cottontail was enslaved in the Louisiana home of Ann D. O'Brien. O'Brien's daughter Cynthia met and married Benjamin Franklin Hardin while visiting family in Liberty. After the marriage, O'Brien sent Mary to Liberty with a trunk of gifts for the bride. Mary remained in Liberty the rest of her life, working for Cynthia O'Brien Hardin, first as an enslaved individual and later as a house servant after emancipation.



From The Big Thicket-Atascosito Gazette, Thursday, November 3, 1977 -

Ella Tullos and Some of Her Progeny

by Kevin Ladd

Mrs. Ella Tullos of Hardin and three generations of her progeny gathered together on a summer day in 1930 for this photograph. The infant lying oblivious to all of these proceedings in Mrs. Tullos' lap is Melbourne Meachum, her first great-grandchild, who was born April 1930. A first great-grandchild has always been cause for celebration and such photographs as this. Standing behind Mrs. Tullos is her daughter, Viola Moore (wife of foxhunting A.I. Moore) and her granddaughter Wilda, the mother of Melbourne.

Mrs. Tullos, born Ella Pearce at Weston, LA, in 1866, was a daughter of Allen Ulysses Pearce and Catherine Elizabeth Walworth. The Walworths were a rather distinguished lot, being descended from a Sir William Walworth, who served twice as Lord Mayor of London. Walworth won laurels in 1381 when he saved the life of King Richard II by attacking and killing Wat Tyler, leader of a peasant rebellion gone out of hand who was holding the monarch at knifepoint.

Ella was married to Monty Franklin Tullos, bearing him four children: Viola, Effie (who married Conious Hanchey), Alva and Albert. Sometime prior to the date of this photograph, Mrs. Tullos fell and broke her hip and was left an invalid the rest of her life. Undaunted by the handicap, she still tended to all of her housework and kept a spotlessly clean home. She would often be assisted by her bachelor son, Alva, or her husband. Alva would hand her a large wooden bowl as she sat in her wheelchair, which she would place in her lap and mix whatever ingredients she need for biscuits, bread, cakes, pies, etc.

I have also come across a minor point of distinction in regard to Melbourne Meachum in a book titled Walworth-Walworth Genealogy. Page 860 of this volume states that Melbourne was a student in 1959 at "the University of Dayton, Texas." Either this book is not laying all of the cards out on the table or else Melbourne was the only person to attend or even to know about this university. Perhaps it is like the fellow from Hardin who claimed he graduated from Butterbean Island High School.



From Illustrated Press of Liberty County, Thursday, May 16, 1963 -

Joe Harrington and his great horse "Bud." A lifelong expert at horsemanship, Mr. Joe is still adept at sitting the fine animal, which he says is one of the best cow horses around. Mr. Joe has a large collection of pigeons, some of which can be seen in their house in the background.

From Texas Illustrated, April 1979 -

Suspendah Buttons in the Collection Plate

by Kevin Ladd

After the civil rights marches and all else in the 1960s, we are not supposed to indulge in humor at the expense of the black race. Many years ago, of course, they indulged with rather frequent ease. Quite a number of these jokes were period pieces and from time to time they appeared in the pages of the Liberty Vindicator in olden

times. Most do not come off as funny to those of us who read them today. Here is one, however, that is humorous enough to pass on to our readers and might even serve as a hint for pastors today.

"The colored preacher: 'I hab found it necessary on 'count of de hard time an' de general deficiency ob de circulation mejum in dis church to interduce my new otter-

matic collecshum box. It's so fixed dat a half dollar or a quarter falls on a cushion without a noise. A nickel will ring a bell distinctually heard by the congregashun,

and a suspendah button, my fellow mowtals, will flash off a pistol, so you will govern yo'selves accordingly. Let the collecshum now proceed while I lines a him.'"



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