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KARNES, HENRY WAX - Born in Tennessee, September 8, 1812. His parents, whose names are unknown to the compiler, moved to Arkansas where Henry and his father were engaged in Trapping. Mrs. Birdie Wax Smith, 753 Shawnee Avenue, Big Stone Gap, Virginia, wrote to the compiler June 16, 1936 that Captain Karnes was a grandson of Captain Henry Waches, a Revolutionary soldier from Pennsylvania, who later moved to Virginia. Hannah, one of Captain Waches' daughters, married George Karnes and moved west.

In applying for one-third of a league of land from the Bexar County Board of Land Commissioners, January 25, 1838, Mr. Karnes stated that he came to Texas in 1835. He had probably lived here prior to that time and returned in 1835.

Mr. Karnes was a member of Captain John York's company in 1835. He fought at Concepcion and was conspicuous for his bravery at the Storming and Capture of Bexar, December 5 to 10, 1835. Seizing a crowbar he dashed forward and dug a hole in the stone wall of a building for a new and advanced position.

Mr. Karnes organized and became captain of a company of cavalry at Gonzales, March 20, 1836. Opposite Harrisburg he and Erastus (Deaf) Smith were sent out by General Houston in search of information regarding the movements of the Mexican army. They were rewarded by the capture of Mexican couriers bearing dispatches from General Filisola to Santa Anna. These gave General Houston the first information regarding the location of Santa Anna. At San Jacinto he commanded his cavalry company which was one of the two companies comprising the corps

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commanded by M. B. Lamar. He received Bounty Certificate No. 3985 for 1280 acres of land for serving in the army from April 15, 1835 to June 26, 1836. He was issued Donation Certificate No. 407 dated July 2, 1838, for 640 acres of land for having participated in the battle of San Jacinto. Shortly after the battle of San Jacinto he was sent to Matamoros to effect an exchange of prisoners but was himself thrown in prison from which, however, he soon escaped.

In Service Record No. 6892 it is certified that Colonel Karnes served as Colonel of the First Regiment of Cavalry from September 22, 1836 to March 14, 1837.

On July 20, 1838, General Karnes in company with a young man recently from the United States and several Mexican <sup>a</sup>servents while on their way from Comano to San Antonio with merchandise were attacked twenty miles from Goliad by a band of Mexican smugglers. Karnes, after being shot was taken prisoner, but soon made his escape. On December 28, 1838 he was authorized by congress to raise eight companies to operate against the Comanches.

On June 24, 1839, Colonel Karnes advertised for volunteers, stating that he had been authorized by the President to raise four to six companies. On August 10, 1839 a company commanded by Colonel Karnes was attacked on the Arroyo Saco by a large band of Comanches. Colonel Karnes took a position in a deep ravine and prepared for defense. A bloody battle was soon waging. The Indians were defeated and routed, although Colonel Karnes received a wound from which he never recovered.

Upon returning to San Antonio from Houston he contracted yellow.

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fever. He thought his business required him in Houston and contrary to Dr. Weidman's advice he started back before he was sufficiently strong. Travelling stretched out in a light wagon, he suffered relapse after the first day and was returned to San Antonio. He passed away August 16, 1840 at 11:30 a.m. Throughout his protracted illness he was faithfully attended by Dr. Edward Wiedman, a Russian by birth, an eminent surgeon and a skilled physician. Indeed the doctor not only acted as practitioner, but as friend and brother. Had he lived Colonel Karnes would have been appointed commander of the Sante Fe Expedition by President Lamar.

Colonel Karnes was a short, heavy set man with bright red hair. While he was uneducated, he was modest, generous and devoted to his friends. He was brave and fearless and ranked with Deaf Smith as a scout and spy.

When a new county was created from Bexar, DeWitt and Goliad Counties in 1854 it was named in honor of Henry Wax Karnes.

William K. Karnes, brother of Henry Karnes, came to Texas in 1849 and settled in Bell County. His wife was before marriage Rebecca McCulough. Their children were (1) Catherine Karnes, who married J. T. Sherred.

(2) E. M., who married Ramsey Cox

(3) C. G.

(4) Narcissa, who married C. L. Allen of Bell County

(5) \_\_\_\_\_, who married Arthur Dennison

(6) Annie, who married W. J. King

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(7) W. E. Karnes

Captain Henry Waches, grandfather of Captain Henry W. Karnes,  
was married to \_\_\_\_\_. Their children were \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

Brothers and sisters of Captain Henry W. Karnes were \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

Mrs. Smith:

You are receiving two copies of this sketch. One is for you to keep. Please fill in as many blanks in the other as you can and return to me. I am sorry to report that I have no information regarding Malcolm McAuley. He does not seem to have served in the army of Texas.

L. W. Kemp,  
214 Westmoreland Avenue  
Houston, Texas

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KARNES, HENRY W. The following was submitted by William M. Long, Papalote, Texas:

"Mrs. G. M. Hutsell and myself are cousins. Our Mothers were sisters, my Mother's maiden name was Mary Jane McClary. Mrs. Hutsell's mother's maiden name was Onie McClary. My mother married James Tipton Bradford. My Great Grandmother's name before marriage was Mary Karnes, usually called Poly Karnes." The Bible I have has her name as Poly Karnes. She married Benjamin McClary. I am not sure but think Poly Karnes' mother was Elizabeth and/my great grand-  
think  
mother was a sister of Henry Karnes."