

BORDEN, PASCHAL PAVOLO - Son of Gail Broden, Sr., and brother of Gail, Jr., Thomas H., and John P. Borden. In the headright certificate issued to him February 8, 1838 for three-fourths of a league and one labor of land by the Ft. Bend County Board it is certified that he arrived in Texas in May, 1830.

Gail Borden, Sr., was born in Indiana in 1777 and emigrated to Texas in 1829, arriving on December 29th. Gail Jr., and Thomas H. founded the Telegraph and Texas Register at San Felipe De Austin, the first issue being printed October 10, 1835. It was the only newspaper in Texas at that time. Gail and Thomas H. Surveyed and laid out the town of Houston for A. C. and John K. Allen in 1836. Gail became world famous for patenting a process for making condensed milk. John P. was the first Commissioner of the General Land Office of the Republic.

In Service Record No. 6585 it is certified that Mr. Paschel Borden enlisted in the army at La Bahia and served in Captain John Bird's company from October 24 to December 13, 1835. He was issued Bounty Certificate No. 4042 for 320 acres of land for his services from March 1 to June 1, 1836. At San Augustine he was a member of Captain Baker's company and Donation Certificate No. 750 was issued to him January 5, 1839 for 640 acres of land for having participated in the battle.

Mr. Borden's home after the revolution was in Fort Bend County. There on February 3, 1838 he was married to Frances Mary Heard, sister of Captain William J. E. Heard, who commanded a company in the battle of San Jacinto. Mrs. Borden lived but a few years after her marriage. On July 19, 1842 Mr. Borden was married to Martha Ann Stafford at

Stafford's Point by Judge C. C. Dyer. Mr. Borden died in 1864, his brother Thomas H., being appointed administrator of his estate May 30, 1864. His widow died in June, 1864. The two are probably buried in the Adams cemetery near Stafford in Fort Bend County.

Children of Paschal P. and Martha (Stafford) Borden were: (1) Milam, (2) Guy, and (3) Joseph William Borden.

(1) Milam Borden was born August 24, 1844 and died July 23, 1875. He was married to Ella Underwood.

(2) Guy Borden was born November 6, 1846 and died in 1910. He was married to Fannie Quarles. Children of this union were Nellie H., Guy, Jr., and Paschal P. Borden.

(3) Joseph William Borden was born January 1, 1849, and died in New York in 1898. He was married to Emma Graves.

"I "I was at home at Columbus, but on the 21st day of March, after the Alamo had fallen and Fannin and his men had been massacred, I re-enlisted at Columbus under Captain Moseley Baker, who had a company in Colonel Ed. Burleson's regiment of Houston's army, then retreating before the victorious Mexicans.

"Baker's company was sent to San Felipe to guard it, and Houston's army crossed the Brazos above San Felipe at Groce's (Ferry). My company crossed the Brazos at San Felipe and threw up some little fortifications. After the Mexicans crossed the Colorado river, General Houston ordered us to cross over the river and burn San Felipe. The people had already abandoned the place, leaving everything they had in the houses and stores. We obeyed our orders, but remained in camp on the east side of the Brazos opposite San Felipe, and placed a picket guard on the west side to give notice of the approach of the Mexicans.

"In a few days, the Mexicans came up. One morning about sunrise they captured Simpson, one of our pickets. The other three pickets, Jack (James) Bell, I. L. Hill, and (George W.) Pettus got away and crossed the river in a dugout. We had some skirmish firing across the river at them. We would not let them cross, and they went down the Brazos and crossed at Richmond. We were ordered to join Houston at Donoho's below Grafoce's outside of the Brazos bottom in the edge of the prairie.

"The scouts reported that Santa Anna had gone down to Harrisburg on Buffalo bayou, where he never halted, but, after burning the place, moved on down the bayou to a point opposite the San Jacinto river, or

rather below there. Houston's army followed, found Harrisburg burned up, moved on down the bayou, and went into camp just above the mouth of the San Jacinto river. The Mexicans came back up the river and some skirmishing took place on the 20th. They camped that night not far from Houston's army.

"The next day in the evening Houston ordered us to attack the Mexicans. Sherman on the left commenced the fight. We were all on foot except a small cavalry force under Lamar. We moved down a slope slowly, but when we started up a long sloping ridge (the Mexican breastworks were on the top of it), we all went in double quick. Everyone of us was yelling: 'Remember the Alamo! Remember Fannin!' In a little while the Mexicans broke and ran. Just back of their was low marshy land and a kind of lake. Many of them tried to cross, but they bogged down, and we shot them. A few got through, and we captured them next day.

"Captain Moseley Baker told me on the morning of the 22nd to scout around on the prairie and see if I could find any escaping Mexicans. I went and fell in with two other scouts, one of whom was named Joel Robinson, and the other Henry Sylvester. We had horses that we had captured from the Mexicans. When we were about eight miles from the battle field, about one o'clock, we saw the head and shoulders of a man above the tall sedge grass, walking through the prairie. As soon as we saw him we started towards him in a gallop. When he discovered us, he squatted in the grass; but we soon came to the place. As we rode up we aimed at him and told him to surrender. He held up his hands, and spoke in Spanish, but I could not understand him. He was dressed

a common soldier with dingy looking whiteuniform. Under the uniform he had on a fine shirt. As we went back to camp the prisoner rode behind Robinson awhile and then rode behind Sylvester. I was the youngest and smallest of the party, and I would not agree to let him ride behind me. I wanted to shoot him. We did not know who he was. He was tolerably dark skinned, weighed about one hundred and forty-five pounds, and wore side whiskers. When we got to camp, the Mexican soldiers, then prisoners, saluted him and said 'el presidente.' We knew then that we had made a big haul. All three of us who had captured him were angry at ourselves for not killing him out on the prairie, to be consumed by the wolves and buzzards. We took him to General Houston, who was wounded and lying under a big oak tree.

"The remainder of the story of the battle others have told. It is history. I have told what I saw as a young private; I was not seventeen years old. The causes of the discontent and the troubles with Mexico I did not then know. History tells all that. As a boy all I knew was that we had a row on our hands, and they wanted to fight. I thought I could kill Mexicans as easily as I could deer and turkeys.

"In 1842 I helped General Burleson whip the Comanches at Plum Creek fight, and in 1848, during the Mexican War, I went out again under Claiborne Herbert. Still later, in 1861, I went again, this time to Virginia, and served in Hood's brigade in the Fifth Texas. During the war with Spain I was very much troubled because I was too old to go."