

DAWSON, NICHOLAS MOSEBY - Born in Woodford County, Kentucky in 1808 and moved early in life with his parents to White County, Tenn. He arrived at Velasco, January 28, 1836 on the schooner, Pennsylvania, having been recruited by Captain Amasa Turner in New Orleans for the Army of Texas. Captain John Hart's Company was organized January 29, 1836 at Velasco with Richard Roman as first and Mr. Dawson as second, lieutenant. Roman was elected captain of the company February 13th and as such commanded it at San Jacinto. Mr. Dawson was issued Bounty Certificate No. 1912 for 1280 acres of land January 17, 1838 for having served in the army from January 29, 1836 to February 10, 1837. He was issued Donation Certificate No. 779, January 25, 1839, for 640 acres of land for having participated in the battle of San Jacinto. On August 7, 1836, he was elected second lieutenant of Company C.

Retiring from the army, Mr. Dawson at first settled in Bexar County and was by the Board of Land Commissioners of that county issued a Headright Certificate for one-third of a league of land, January 30, 1838. He moved to Fayette County and was living there when Colonel John H. Moore organized a regiment of volunteers for an expedition against Indians living in west Texas. Mr. Dawson was elected captain of one of the companies. An Indian village on a bend of the Colorado near where the town of Colorado, Mitchell County, now stands was destroyed and the savages killed.

Learning of General Adrian Woll's invasion and the capture by him of San Antonio, September 11, 1842, Captain Dawson hurriedly recruited a company of volunteers and left to join other volunteers who

were trying to check Woll's advance toward the Capital City, Austin. In attempting to join the Texans under John C. Hays, who had fortified themselves on Salado Creek, about six miles from San Antonio, Dawson and his men were surrounded by an over-whelming force of Mexicans September 18th. Of the fifty-three officers and men of the company, thirty-six were killed, fifteen surrendered and two escaped. Five of those who surrendered were wounded. This incident in Texas is known as the "Dawson Massacre". In 1848 the remains of Captain Dawson and his men were exhumed and placed in the tomb on Monument Hill overlooking the town of La Grange, along with the remains of the men who drew the black beans at Salado, Mexico.

Dawson County, Texas, at its creation was named in Honor of Captain Nicholas Mosby Dawson.

Captain Dawson had a sister named Eliza Dawson, who was married to James C. Vandever of Sparta, Tennessee. Mr. and Mrs. James C. Vandever had at least two sons, one of whom was Nicholas Dawson Vandever of Sparta, Tennessee.

Nicholas Dawson Vandever and his wife were the parents of at least one daughter who married J. Brown Lee of Pikeville, Tennessee.

Honorable J. Brown Lee is State Senator from the district composed of Bledsoe, Meigs, Sequatchie, Cumberland, Rhea, Van Buren, and White counties, Tennessee. His address is Pikeville, Tennessee.

Two of Captain Dawson's brothers, Thomas E. and George Dawson, later came to Texas from Sparta, Tennessee. A sister \_\_\_\_\_ Dawson married \_\_\_\_\_ Carrick. J. M. Carrick, a son of this union,

was living in Sparta in 1904, and his son lives there now.

George Dawson left Texas for California but died enroute.

Thomas E. Dawson first settled in Fayette County, but later moved to Cooke County, Texas, where he died. His widow was married to Mr. Kurbo.

Children of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Dawson were Will, George, Marie, Fannie, Nicholas M., and Thomas E. Dawson, Jr.

Mrs. Callie Dawson Lumsden, daughter of Thomas E. Dawson, Jr., resides at Wilson, Lynn County, Texas.

Mrs. Edd Jett, 2610 East 14th Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee. Dawson was her father's uncle. The only living niece is Mrs. Sue B. Price, Elk Creek, Missouri. She has the Dawson family Bible.

Mrs. Mary Eastland Jett or Prof. C. O. Jett, both of Sparta, can give information concerning Mr. Eastland.

W. G. Smith, W. T. Smith, Sparta, Tenn.  
L. D. Smith, Crossville, Tenn.

SMITH & SMITH

Attorneys at Law

Sparta, Tenn. Mar. 17, 1904.

Mr. Thomas E. Dawson,  
Floydada, Texas

Dear Sir:

You have an interest in some land in Tennessee, and we can recover it for you. We will recover it for an interest in the land, or we will buy the land, provided, of course, you can establish the fact that you are the Thomas E. Dawson, the brother of Nicholas M. Dawson and George Dawson, and brother of the wives of some of the Carricks who married Dawsons.

It is not a very large interest, but is worth your attention. We refer you to the Peoples Bank of Sparta, W. L. Dibrell, Cleark of the County Court, J. D. Goff, Judge of the County Ct., as to our standing. Please let us hear from you.

Yours truly,

WTS/S

Smith & Smith

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Sparta, Tenn. May 19, 1904.

Mr. Thos. Ed Dawson  
Lyman, Texas.

Dear Sir:

At the request of Judge W. T. Smith, of the firm of Smith and Smith, I write you in regard to the standing of their firm. I know all of the gentlemen well; they are entirely reliable, and whatever they say to you is alright.

You, perhaps, do not know me, but your father and my mother are brothers and sisters, and I am very glad to know of you location and that you are alive, and if I can be of any service to you I will be pleased to perform it.

You will please write me and tell me all about yourself and family.

Your kinsman,

(Dictated)

J. M. Garrick

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