

Letter from Charles Heath to Joe Taylor 4-15-1977

Contributed by Mildred Powell

1720 Marco Polo Way

Burlingame, Ca 94010

April 15, 1977

Dear Joe:

Thank you for your note, for the "Reunion" of 1991 and especially for the picture of Grandpa. I think it's very good. I'm glad you enlarged and cropped it. I didn't have Aunt Locye's permission to publish it. Don't know if she would have wanted to be in it or not, but presume not.

As you can see, Grandpa was a handsome man, and a wonderful grandfather, as every single one of his grandchildren will tell you. He was a raconteur par excellence and a delightful person to be around. Of his grandchildren, I think Falvey Smith bears the closest resemblance to him.

I have had responses to a couple of letters and pass the info along to you.

Here Charles inserts a chart showing descendants of Lily Mae and Marlin Morgan which will be photocopied and added.

J. M. Bracewell & family came to Texas in 1872, but my grandma Bracewell (Alice Mae Wells) was the grandchild of S. F. Austin colonists. Her line runs:

Insertion here of descendants of Alice M. Wells and U. C. Bracewell which will be photocopied and added

Somewhere along the line the Sims descendants changed the spelling to "Simes" and many tombstones in old Bethel Cem are spelled that way.

Best, (signed) Chas

(over)

I enjoyed your account of the Indian village site at Bracewell place.

The Bidias tribe was not as bellicose as the Comanche, Cherokee & others and caused Anglo settlers little trouble except for begging and stealing. In some instances, the Bidias aided & befriended the Anglos.

See "Early History of Grimes Co," E. L. Blair, 1930, Univ. of Texas Library, Austin.

Grimes Co. Indians were rounded up and taken to reservations in 1854. By 1860 only six Indians were listed on the U. S. Census in Grimes Co. By 1890 there were none.

"Bedias is Caddo language word for "brushwood".

Cushatee tribe also in Grimes Co., as were Kikapoos. Typhoid fever killed many Indians.