



THE BANDERA COUNTY HISTORIAN

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Langford Home - 1915

The Langford Family and The Frank and Mary Hay Langford Home

415 Fourteenth Street, Bandera, Texas

Historical Marker Dedication: July 19, 2003

by Lauren Langford, MD

Houston, Texas

THE PEOPLE IN THE HISTORY OF THE FRANK AND MARY HAY LANGFORD HOME (Fourteenth Street and Hackberry, Bandera, Texas) were all true pioneers who saw Bandera grow from a wilderness of beauty and danger to a community where they were proud to raise their children and grandchildren. They enjoyed the freedom of American enterprise and taught the love of God and Country in their home. The Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints, just across the street, reflects the impact of the early Mormon settlers in the region as well as the citizens' respect of freedom of religion. Frank and Mary Hay Langford's lives were closely interwoven with the members of Lyman Wight's Mormon Colony. Frank's mother had been born in the Colony. Mary's family was also part of the Colony. This ordinary old house, has witnessed births, death, laughter and tears. It was a place where the

community gathered and shared their lives. This old home represents turn-of-the-century life in a rural Texas town.

Benjamin Franklin Langford, Jr. (1876-1950) and Mary Emma Hay Langford (1880-1971), or Frank and Aunt Mary, as they were affectionately known in the community, contributed moral and social stability to a rough hewn frontier region fraught with hardships. Both grew up in Bandera. Both had a strong sense of duty to family and community. There were always ready to help, be it friend or a complete stranger-never asking anything in return.

THEY WERE HAPPILY MARRIED ON DECEMBER 6, 1899, by Rev. M.K. Fred, the Methodist minister. Frank was an honest and good person. He taught school in Honey Creek and was later associated with the W.J. Davenport & Co. Mercantile Store until he accepted the position of Office Deputy in the Office of Bandera County Sheriff. He

was an active member in the Methodist Church and the Masonic Lodge. He was a stern, but kind and caring parent. His world was Bandera and he was not comfortable away from there. Mary was someone to be consulted whether there was an illness, a new baby to be cared for, or in time of family distress. She often went to the homes of new mothers helping to give a new baby its first bath and showing the mother how to care for the newborn. When necessary, she delivered babies. She was considered a woman with good sense about health matters. In addition she was also artistic. She had a good eye for aesthetics and in her youth painted some. She loved music and the classical music programs on the radio in the 1930's gave her a great deal of pleasure. She was a good cook with some imagination and a lighter touch than most of her neighbors. She was active in the Order of the Eastern Star and even represented her chapter in state meetings. Together Frank and Mary had eight children: Cohen Hay (1900-1977), Olin (1904-1904), Lora (1905-1967), Leotta (1908-1914), Othell (1911-2002) Eldon (1915), Wirth (1918-1939), and Lera (1923-1923). In addition, they helped to raise many children other than their own.

THE REORGANIZED CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS HAD ITS BEGINNING IN BANDERA COUNTY IN 1854 when Elder Lyman Wight (1796-1858) arrived with his group of colonists. The Colony consisted of educated settlers who were doctors, teachers, millers, blacksmiths and skilled furniture craftsmen. Virgine Minear Hay (1844-1941), Mary's mother, was one of the children born in the Colony and grew to womanhood to become the wife of George Hay (1836-1925), also a Colony member. She was a devout member of the faith of her predecessors, and in later years, after she was widowed, she wanted to have a house of worship built for the faithful members in Bandera, Medina and Pipe Creek. In 1930, Grandma Hay, as she was affectionately known, her daughter, Mary Hay Langford and son-in-law, Frank Langford, donated the land and money to build the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints on the northeast corner of Fourteenth and Hackberry Streets. The Church's Sunday School classes were held in Frank and Mary's parlor. Today, in 2002, the Church continues to have Sunday services.

BANDERA, TEXAS IS ITS OWN PROUD CAPITAL OF BANDERA COUNTY. It is located on the banks of the Medina River. Among the first to come to the area were A.M. Milstead, Thomas Odem, and P.D. Saner who, with their families, settled on the banks of the Medina in 1852 to make cypress shingles. In the same year, 1852, John James (1819-1877), John Hunter Herndon (1813-1878), and Charles de Montel (1812-1882) formed an association (James, Herndon, Montel and Co.) in order to acquire about 15,000 acres of land. They settled and mapped Bandera as a town. They surveyed the town site and laid out the town of Bandera, surveying the land in varas, and plotting the lots in sizes of 30 x 60 varas. Wide streets were laid out. A public square of one block wide and two blocks

(180 x 240 varas) was set apart. Now located on the public square is the imposing courthouse built in 1890.

One of the first arrivals of settlers to Bandera was on March 1, 1854 when Elder Lyman Wight and his colony of Latter Day Saints, consisting of about 250 men, women and children, arrived at the newly established town of Bandera. Other settlers, attracted by opportunities of food, housing and a source of income, came to Bandera. In February 1855, sixteen Polish families arrived in Bandera to work in the James and de Montel sawmill. In August of the same year, August Klappenbach opened the first store and post office. On January 25, 1856, the legislature marked off Bandera County from portions of Bexar County. The new county was formally organized on March 10, 1856. James, Herndon - Montel and Co. provided provisions, a lot for a cabin and employment for the new settlers.

ALEXANDER (1808-1846) AND JANET "JESSIE" BALLENTINE (1813-1887) HAY WERE THE FIRST FAMILY IN SCOTLAND TO BE BAPTIZED CONVERTS TO THE LATTER DAY SAINTS FAITH. The Hay family emigrated to the United States in search of religious freedom. They sailed to the United States aboard the ship Tyrean, landed at New Orleans, poled flatbed boats up the Mississippi River to St. Louis, Missouri. Alexander and two small sons died in St. Louis. Jessie, with sons George (1836-1925), Alexander (1845-1894) and daughter Jennett (1836-1863) joined up with the Lyman Wight Colony in St. Louis and traveled south to Bandera. Jessie Hay was the first woman to receive real property (Sept 18, 1856) from the James, Herndon-Montel Co. in Bandera County. Her home still stands, though remodeled many times (1106 Cypress Street). The house served as a hotel, boarding house, store, school, courthouse, and post office.

GEORGE HAY MARRIED A FELLOW COLONY MEMBER, AMANDA MINEAR (1838-1858). To this union were born two children. After Amanda's early death, George married Amanda's sister, Virgine. They had ten children of which Mary Emma Hay was the sixth. George Hay served Bandera County in Ballentyne's Minute Men Ranger Company, and later, the Frontier Battalion during the Civil War. He was a deputy and a County Clerk, County Treasurer and Justice of the Peace. He served on the first school board to build a substantial public school building. George Hay was in the mercantile business with William J. Davenport and later, Charles Schmidtke. They expanded to run a grist mill and a cotton gin, both of which washed away in the 1900 flood. George Hay and H.H. Carmichael then built a mercantile business with a saloon attached. The veranda was a popular meeting place in Bandera. After financial reverses, the George Hay family moved to Hondo where they emerged in the confectionery business for about 10 years. They returned to Bandera in about 1908 for the remainder of their years.

ISAAC BERRY LANGFORD, AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS "UNCLE BERRY," WAS JUST A BOY OF 13 YEARS OLD WHEN HE CAME TO BANDERA WITH HIS FAMILY FROM BURNET COUNTY IN

1864. He grew to manhood in Bandera, married Miss Elizabeth Jane Bird (1856-1926, daughter of Samuel Bird and Elvira Lytle) on March 14, 1872, and lived in Bandera until his death. He served as Justice of the Peace, county commissioner, and held other positions. He engaged in carpenter work, and opened a shop near his house on Eleventh Street. He also built a two-story hotel, the Langford House, near the corner of Pecan/Cedar and Main Streets. For a time he operated a livery stable which was located just across the street from the hotel. Isaac helped to build many houses in Bandera, including the Frank and Mary Hay Langford house. Mr. & Mrs. Isaac B. Langford raised a fine family of eight children, five sons and three daughters: Will (1874-1952), Clarence (1878-1906), Benjamin Franklin, Jr. "Frank" (1876-1950, named after Isaac's brother, Benjamin Franklin Langford), Allie Bird (1880-1940), Leah May (1883-1961), Ivy Berry (1884-1944), Jennie Esthel (1891-1917), and Villa (1894-1919).

THE FRANK AND MARY HAY LANGFORD HOUSE WAS FIRST OWNED BY JOHN ALBERT MILLER. Miller purchased the land from Mary's parents, George and Virgine Hay. County records show that Miller paid \$25.00 on Sept 11, 1890, for land bounded on the northwest by fronting on Hackberry Street, on the Southwest by lot 59 on the Southeast by log 63, on the North east by lot 57 and in Range XIV.

JOHN MILLER WAS BORN IN SAN ANTONIO ON SEPTEMBER 10, 1851. He married Jennie C. Davenport, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Davenport, who lived on Cibolo Creek, just 16 miles north of San Antonio. One daughter, Minnie Miller, was born to them. In 1883, the family moved to Bandera to occupy the John James ranch that consisted of about 3500 acres. Miller purchased the ranch in about 1881. Although Miller and his wife built a house on the ranch, they decided that they preferred to live in the town of Bandera, thus they bought city lots from George and Virgine Minear Hay. Soon after the land purchase, they began construction of the house with the help of Isaac Berry Langford and George Hay. The Miller family lived in the house until they sold it to Benjamin Franklin Langford, Jr. and his young wife, Mary Emma Hay. Frank and Mary purchased the house and lot on May 9, 1904 for \$600.

The original Miller home consisted of three rooms and a kitchen built in a front facing L plan. It was a wood frame house, painted cream-beige with brown accents, with a symmetrical facade and full-width front porch. The home was just right for the young Langford family with three children.



Langford family members on front porch.

As the family grew, however, they needed more space.

IN 1915, ISAAC BERRY LANGFORD, FRANK LANGFORD AND TOM NOONAN ADDED A DOWN-STAIRS DINING ROOM AND A SECOND FLOOR WITH THREE BEDROOMS, A SLEEPING PORCH AND A BATHROOM. The dining room and second floor sleeping porch were not enclosed until 1937. The new additions, in today's terms, could best be described as an eclectic colonial revival style of the frontier. The normal pitched hipped roof reflected the equal dominance of roof and wall. The ground floor structure was retained, most likely for practical reasons. The entire home remained wood frame, but the overall shape was transformed from the front facing L plan to a two-story block form. To the dropped roof front porch were added single story classical columns, a turned spindle porch railing and, at the entrance, a half column topped by a ball knob. The upper floor facade was decorated with plain cedar shingles stained forest green and symmetrical bay windows. Two paired windows were set between the symmetrical front bay windows. The second floor consisted of three bedrooms, a sleeping porch and a bathroom with toilet and tub. All the new windows were with double hung sashes and multi-pane glazing in both sashes. The stone, external chimney was lengthened to accommodate the second story height. The roof was cedar shingle. A ladder, leading to the chimney, was maintained on the roof, so that cinders could be swept from the roof. The house, with the exception of the second

floor shingle siding and roof, was painted white.

IN ABOUT 1937, M.F. JOHNSTON PUT IN A NEW DEMPSTER WINDMILL WITH 12 FT BLADES AND A 40 FT TOWER. He also enclosed the dining room and upstairs porch. The only room added to the home after the 1915 remodeling was a downstairs washroom that also accommodated a freezer powered by Arkansas Fuel Co. This room was constructed in 1940 and, in 1961, was converted to a bathroom with a toilet and shower.

The Langford family has owned the home since the purchase by Frank and Mary Langford in 1904.

HOUSE NOTES:

Cistern: The cistern was dug before the back porch was added in 1915. Water was filtered through a charcoal filter box in the roof before it drained into the cistern.

Chimney: The stones from the chimney were quarried from the Medina River. The chimney was made by digging a hole for the foundation and then placing the stones in the hole. An ax with notches in the blade was used to chop the rock. The interior of the chimney was lined with firebrick.

Engine shed: Housed a 1 cylinder, 250 rpm, 6 hp horizontal Kruger Atlas engine that was made in San Antonio, at Alamo Iron works. Frank ran a belt from the engine to either a pump jack for pumping water or to a 24 inch saw blade for cutting wood. The engine was sold in the late 1940's.

Fencing: The original fence was made with cedar posts and Elwood wire. The Cypress wood picket fence was put up by Elias Peters in 1918. Barbed wire was not used.

Foundation: The foundation of the house was made from rocks quarried from nearby Langford property on the Medina River. The large rocks were cut and carried by wagon to the construction site. To make the foundation, cedar posts, or piers, were set with crowbars and then leveled. Timbers were then put on top of the piers. Floor joists were placed on the timber. Finally, flooring was nailed to the timber.

Furnishings: The mattresses were made locally. Furniture was bought from Sears, Roebuck and Co., or made locally. The Derwood wood dishes came from Sears, Roebuck and Co. Clothes were handmade. Shoes were bought from Sears, Roebuck and Co. or from Robert Johnson Rand Shoes "Star Brand." Very occasionally the family would go to San Antonio to shop.

Heat: The family used about 6-8 cords of wood per winter. The fireplace was the sole source of heat in the house. On very cold nights, the family would heat flat irons and then wrap them in paper and place them in the bed. Butane was installed in the 1940s.

Kitchen: The original stove was wood burning. It had blue steel panels with a large oven door. Warming compartments with sliding doors were above the cook top. Wood was purchased from whom ever had wood for sale. Usually the family preferred Spanish oak because it was easy to split. In 1940, a Roper gas range was bought to replace the old wood stove. The first ice box had 2 doors and was about 6 ft

high. Blocks of ice were put into the front top door. The ice block compartment opened to a square tank. Water was poured into this tank so cold water could be available. Ice was purchased from the ice plant in Bandera. In 1940, a small Westinghouse refrigerator, bought in Bandera, replaced the old ice box.

Lighting: Only rarely did the family use candles. A carbide gas generator was installed before 1915 (See 1915 photo.) The carbide gas was circulated through a pipe into pipes in the house. In addition to the carbide gas power, they also used kerosene and Aladdin lamps. In 1927, the Langford family took out the carbide gas generator and pipes and installed electric wires.

Plumbing: Until 1915, the house only had an outhouse. With the 1915 addition, a toilet and bathtub were put in the second floor. Most of the bathing, however, was done downstairs in front of the fireplace in a green galvanized bath tub. Water was piped from the well. The first water heater was installed in 1915. It was a large wood range with a square firebox inside. The range had a blue porcelain tank to one side which served as a water heater. Eventually a coil of 0.75 inch pipe was installed so that the water was heated as it circulated through the pipe. During World War I a riveted galvanized steel tank was put in to serve as the water heater.

Smokehouse and Buggy Shed: The buggy was parked in a shed attached to the east wall of the smokehouse. That space is now enclosed. In the smokehouse, bacon and hams were hung from the pipe rack on the ceiling. A "smoke smudge," made with corncobs and pecan wood, was used to smoke the meats.

Telephone: The original telephone was a Monarch wooden cathedral wall phone that was installed before 1915. There were two telephone systems in Bandera: Bandera Independent Telephone Co. and Southwestern Bell Telephone, Co. Because Frank Langford owned stock in Bandera Independent Telephone Co., he used the "independent service."

Walls and Flooring: The tongue and groove boards used for flooring and interior walls were one and the same. These came from Benderle Lumber Co. in Hondo, Texas. Milled siding was used for the exterior walls. Again, this lumber came from Hondo. Originally the paint used was white lead paste that came in 25 lb buckets. Linseed oil was added to the paste so that the mixture could be applied to the walls. For the interior, a dash of lampblack was mixed with the white paint to keep the color from yellowing. The cedar shingles for the exterior siding and the roof were purchased in Benderle Lumber co. The windows were purchased from Benderle Lumber Co. Window glass was purchased at the local B.F. Langford & Sons Hardware store. Window screens were installed in 1915. The screen doors were installed in 1918. The wallpaper and the linoleum flooring, purchased from Sears, Roebuck and Co., were installed in 1937.

Well: The well was dug in 1914. It was drilled to 400 ft and cased to 265 ft. In 1937, a Dempster windmill with 12 ft blades set on a 40 ft tower was installed by M.F. Johnston.

The Langford Family Tree

Milton Hazelton Langford b. Feb 27, 1815 Greenville County, SC - d. Oct 30, 1898

& Mary Ann Banta b. 12 Jul 1825 Warwick, Jackson Co, Indiana - d. 27 Jun 1870 Bandera, TX

m: June 22, 1843

Martha Evelyn Nov 22, 1845 - April 30, 1922

Benjamin Franklin Sept 10, 1847 - Feb 28, 1923

John D. Aug 8, 1849 - Feb 14, 1898

Isaac Berry June 1, 1851 - March 7, 1914

& Elizabeth Jane Bird May 28, 1856 Mormon Colony, Bandera, TX-Oct 2, 1926 Bandera, TX

m: March 14, 1872

William Lee 17 Jun 1874 - abt 1952

Benjamin Franklin, Jr. 2 May 1876 -

24 July 1950

& Mary Emma Hay 12 Feb 1880

Bandera, TX - 20 Aug 1971, Bandera, TX

m: 6 Dec 1899, Bandera, TX

Cohen Hay 20 Sep 1900 - 6 Apr 1977

Olin 9 May 1904 - 17 May 1904

Lora Elizabeth 6 Oct 1905 - 17 Dec 1967

Leotta 13 July 1908 - 13 Dec 1914

Othell Franklin 12 Apr 1911 - 9 May 2002

Eldon Woodrow 7 May 1915

Merle Wirth 24 Feb 1918 - 17 Jan 1939

Lera 9 April 1923 - 9 April 1923

Clarence Bird 8 Jun 1878 - 25 Oct 1906

Allie Bird 12 Feb 1880 - 15 Jun 1940

Leah May 18 May 1883 - 14 Feb 1961

Ivy Berry 27 Feb 1884 - Feb 1944

Jennie Esthel 2 Oct 1891 - 24 Feb 1917

Villa 8 Jun 1894 - 20 Jun 1919

Sinai W. July 10, 1854 - July 2, 1863

Alfred W. March 20, 1856 - Aug 15, 1863

Eliza June 8, 1860 - Dec 31, 1928

Lee Wilson Aug 5, 1863 - Oct 1, 1926

James Monroe Dec 19, 1865 - Nov 9, 1953

Milton Hazelton Langford b. Feb 27, 1815 Greenville County, SC - d. Oct 30, 1898

& Martha Ann Rowland Cryer 7 May 1834, MO -

d: July 11, 1893 Tehuacana Community

m: 1872

Milton Madison Dec 20, 1873 - Dec 13, 1943

Mary O. May 17, 1876 - July 13, 1935

The Hay Family

Alexander Hay b. 3 Aug 1808, Newbattle Parish, Scotland - d. 28 July 1846, St Louis, Missouri

& Janet "Jessie" Ballantyne b. 13 Sep 1813, Selkirk Shire-Parish, Scotland - d. 14 Nov 1887, Bandera, TX

m: 17 Apr 1835, Scotland

George Hay b. 17 Mar 1836, Erskine Parish Renfrewshire Scotland - d. 6 Feb 1925, Bandera, TX & Amanda Minear b. 24 May 1838, Iowa - d. 16 May 1863, Bandera TX

m: 30 Dec 1858, Bandera TX

Lydia Amanda Hay b. 4 Aug 1860, Bandera, TX d. 30 Jun 1938, Medina County, TX

George Alexander Hay b. 19 Mar 1863, Bandera, TX - d. 12 Feb 1943

George Hay b. 17 Mar 1836, Erskine Parish Renfrewshire Scotland - d. 6 Feb 1925, Bandera, TX & Virgine Elva Minear b. 25 Mar 1844, Fannin County, TX - d. Nov. 16 1941, Bandera, TX

m: 4 July 1865, Bandera, TX

Jessie Georgiana Hay b. 3 Dec 1865, Bandera, TX d. 22 Sept 1958, Bandera, TX

Francis Towle Hay b. 11 Dec 1867, Bandera, TX d. 18 Jul 1950, Bandera, TX

Janet Virginia Hay b. 16 Dec 1870, Bandera, TX d. 22 Aug 1962, Tecumseh, OK

Charles Frederick William Hay b. 9 Feb 1874, Bandera, TX - d.

Joseph A.M. Hay b. 27 Jul 1877 - d. 26 Apr 1961

Mary Emma Hay b. 12 Feb 1880, Bandera, TX

& Benjamin Franklin Langford, Jr. b. 2 May 1876, Bandera, TX - d. 24 Jul 1950, Bandera, TX

m: 6 Dec 1899, Bandera, TX

Cohen Hay 20 Sep 1900 - 6 Apr 1977

Olin 9 May 1904 - 17 May 1904

Lora Elizabeth 6 Oct 1905 - 17 Dec 1967

Leotta 13 July 1908 - 13 Dec 1914

Othell Franklin 12 Apr 1911 - 9 May 2002

Eldon Woodrow 7 May 1915

Merle Wirth 24 Feb 1918 - 17 Jan 1939

Lera 9 Apr 1923 - 9 Apr 1923

John Samuel Stevens Hay b. 12 Jun 1884 Bandera TX - d. 4 Feb 1971 San Antonio TX

Ora Elva Hay b. 24 Jun 1889 d. 5 Jan 1919, Fellows, California

Ola Elva Hay b. 24 Jun 1889, Bandera, TX d. 29 Nov 1989, Georgetown, TX

Jennett Hay b. 24 May 1838, Erskine Parish, Renfrewshire, Scotland - d. 1 Apr 1863, Bandera, TX John Hay b. 14 Feb 1841, Erskine Parish, Renfrewshire, Scotland - d. 11 May 1842, Nauvoo, IL

Robert Hay b. 17 Aug 1843, Nauvoo, IL. - d. 10 Jul 1844, Nauvoo, IL

Alexander Hay b. 17 June 1845, Nauvoo, IL. - d. 10 Aug 1894, Bandera, TX

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