

Wells Family Gazette

Volume 2004, Issue I

January 8, 2004

2004

Calendar of Events

- March 20, 2004. Wells Cemetery clean-up project. From 9:00-11:00 A.M. Doughnuts, and hot & cold drinks provided. RSVP to Paul Eckel at 520-749-8814 or via e-mail to pauleckel@cox.net.
- September 4, 2004, Sat. Wells Family Reunion in Douglas, AZ 1200-1300; Sign in, new portraits and visiting; 1300-1400 Kickoff Lunch; 1400-1800 Wells Family History Road Rally 1900-2230 BBQ dinner followed by Wells Family business meeting, trivia contest and a dance
- September 5, 2004, Sunday; 1400-1500 Non-denominational Wells Family worship service 1530-1630 Wells Family History Genealogical workshop-forms will be provided to bring the family up to date.; 1700-1800 Family Style Dinner; 1815-1930 Computer slide show of yesterday's events, Wells history sites and ancestor photos.
- Sept 6, 2004 - Monday 0800-1000 Send-off Breakfast at the park, flapjacks, eggs & bacon. Competitive games for the youngsters

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Glen Wells passes the leadership reins to Sheila Wells Cottrell

Glen Wells has served the family faithfully as Leader of the Wells Family Organization and Editor of the Wells Gazette for several years. Glen has been the glue that held the family organization together. It is his leadership that has resulted in successful and enjoyable reunions, cemetery clean up projects, etc. Family news was communicated as Glen gathered information, wrote articles, met deadlines, maintained data bases and produced and mailed the family newsletter. All of us owe Glen a substantial debt of gratitude, not just for his work but for his example of service, love and family that raises the bar for all of us.

At the 2003 reunion, Glen asked for relief from the

newsletter and his other responsibilities. After some coaxing and with one condition, Sheila Wells Cottrell agreed to accept Glen's appointment as successor to his responsibilities.

Sheila is 'Wells' through and through and is committed to giving her best in service to the family in the immediate future. She is an experienced writer and familiar with the vagaries of handling both creation and production. Her condition was that someone agree to assist her with the physical production of the newsletter.

Paul Eckel, son of Zavia Wells Eckel, agreed to help Sheila with those newsletter tasks and otherwise assist as necessary.



Glen Wells



Sheila Cottrell

Wells Family Reunion Planned for Labor Day Weekend of Sep 4-5-6, 2004

Traditionally, the reunion has been held on Memorial Day weekend. Some have suggested that a date just after the monsoon season ends would provide cooler weather and greener, more beautiful landscapes for those

traveling back to the old Wells stomping grounds.

Absent prompt opposition, we'll try this new date and add other new wrinkles. For example, Sept 4 has a competitive Road Rally, timed with

clues to lead you to Wells family history sites + a Wells family trivia contest. Sept 5 has a non-denominational family worship hour, a Genealogy session, and a digital slide show of Saturday's events, etc

Article from “Tombstone Epitaph” about the rescue of Warren Wells in June of 1924

PIONEER SAVES BOY FROM DEATH IN FIRE HERE

Only through the heroic work of Billy Kirlew, pioneer resident of this city, death of Warren Wells, 11-year-old boy, by cremation, was averted Sunday night when fire destroyed the buildings in the gulch back of the court house, formerly known as the old Union Saloon.

The fire, which is believed to have been started by a lighted cigarette, broke out shortly before midnight.

Kirlew, who had been acting as caretaker of the buildings, which are now owned by Jim Thompson, road contractor, had just retired for the night.

Rube Wells, local jail guard, who occupied one of the rooms in the building, had returned from his ranch home at Webb, accompanied by his son, who was to spend the week with him. Wells went on 11 o'clock shift and the boy retired.

Awakened by the crackling of the flames, Kirlew's first thought was of the boy, and rushing to his room found that the flames had blocked the front door, making young Wells' escape impossible.

Going to the rear Kirlew broke into the room through a window and rescued the boy, who, by this time, was overcome by smoke and had suffered badly from burns about the face, body and hands.

Nothing was saved from the building which was entirely consumed within a few minutes.

Chief W. A. McPherson, of the local volunteer department, and his men, responded to the call, but found it impossible to do anything due to the distance of the fire hydrant.

Chief McPherson, Rube Wells, father of the rescued boy, and others, are loud in their praise of Kirlew, who, although seriously incapacitated by illness, bravely faced the fire and smoke to bring young Wells to safety.

Excerpt from Warren's Wells' Memoir—He remembers a different hero-

“Fortunately, a small Chinese man was cleaning a restaurant across a dry wash nearby. Quang raced to the window, broke the glass and pulled me to safety. Then he rolled me in sand to extinguish my burning clothes. The doctor treated my back and shoulders but my hands and fingers presented the most serious problem. They had to be wrapped separately and required a long hospital stay.

I hated the hospital so, eventually, my mother moved me to a room in the Rose Tree Inn. She arranged a V-shaped board which enabled me to read and I spent the rest of the summer reading everything I could get my hands on. I inhaled so much smoke that the lung damage hampered many of my activities thereafter but it made me an avid reader for life.”

Ruebin Garrett Wells 1880-1956

After a brief stint as a jailor, Rube became a deputy sheriff in Tombstone during the 1920's. One day, with the Sheriff gone to Tucson, Rube was the only deputy holding down the office.

An irate rancher stormed into town and rushed in to tell Rube about two horse thieves that had just stolen about twenty of his horses. Rube asked questions in detail, how long ago, which way they were headed, etc. Rube's experience catching and selling wild horses his whole lifetime gave him a good idea of how long it would take two men to herd that many horses and what they probably planned to do with them. When he got all the information he needed he went back to his paperwork. The rancher demanded to know why Rube wasn't getting on his

horse and immediately going after them. Rube patiently explained that he'd get the man's horses back, for the rancher to go back out to his ranch and he'd take care of it.

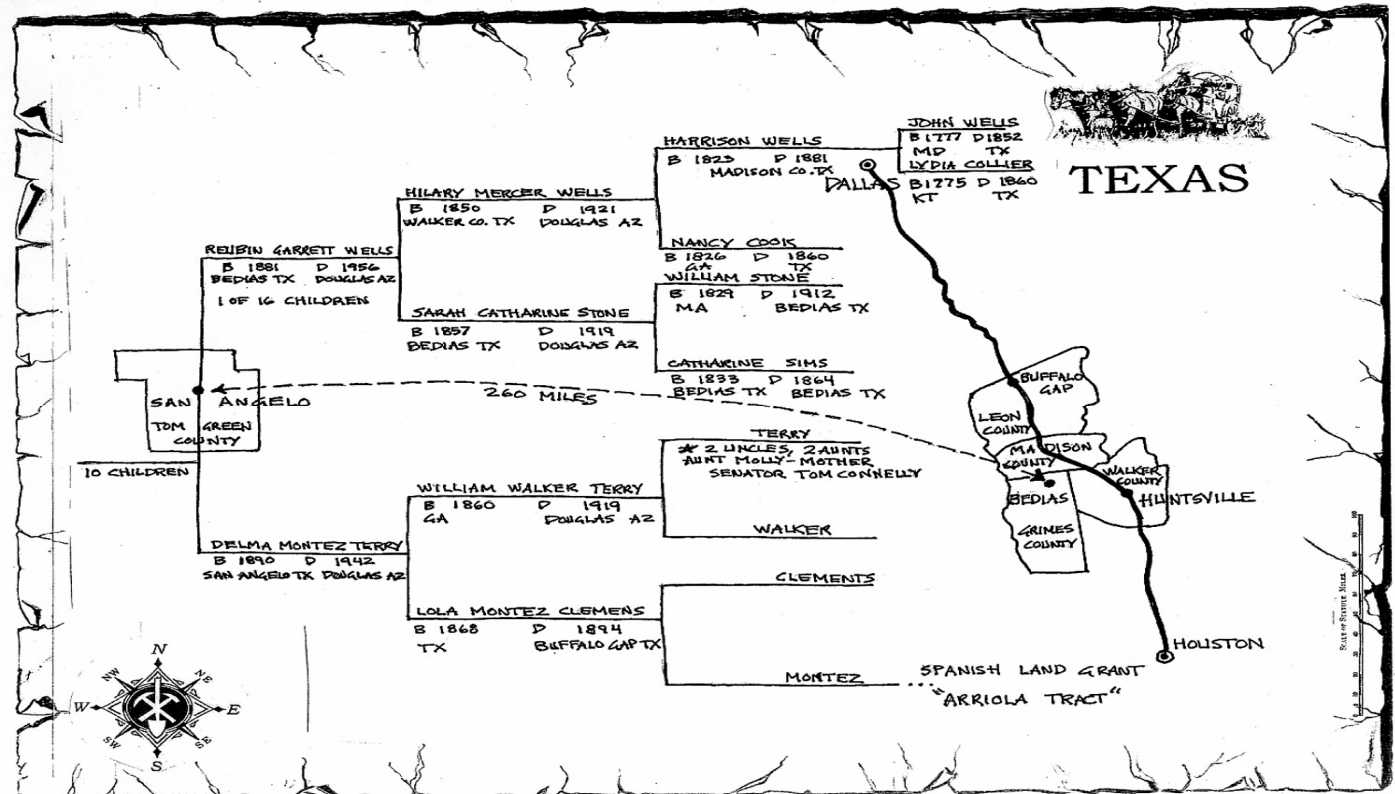
Rube knew from the direction the horse thieves had taken, there was only one place they could hope to sell and ship the horses on the RR. They would have to go through a certain mountain pass and he knew how long it would take them to get there. So, the next morning, bright and early, he was at the pass, alone and waiting for them. He was above them on a big boulder and got the drop on them. Rube's reputation with a rifle was legendary so he had no trouble persuading the horse thieves to give themselves up. But arresting the men was only part of his problem. He had to get the herd back too. So, he handcuffed each man to the pommel of his horse's saddle and made them walk the whole way.

After he got back to Tombstone and the horse thieves were in jail, he went over to the Silver Palace for a drink. Someone there asked him, “But, Rube, what if them horses had stampeded?” Rube answered, “Why it'd shore been rough on them boys!”

We need information, Please help if you can!

AT the bottom of the family history chart on the facing page is a note making reference to a Spanish Land Grant to the maternal side of Ruebin Garret Wells family. This grant dates from the Spanish Colonial Era and the Montez family received a land grant known simply as “The Arriola Tract”. Does anyone have any information on this? Are there any ideas on where to get information?

Hilary and Sarah Wells, Bedias to San Angelo



Hilary M. Wells was born in 1850. In 1873, at age 23, he married Sarah C. Stone, who was almost 16. Hilary was a farmer and a trader. He would buy horses in east Texas and take them to San Angelo in west Texas to be sold. He did well enough at these two activities that, by the early 1890's, he'd acquired a 1,500 acre farm and an 11 room family house near Bedias, TX.

About this time, Sarah's health began to fail. Sarah had given birth

to 10 children by age 34. They felt that her health would benefit from a less humid climate. Hilary was already familiar with San Angelo, TX and its arid climate and they decided to move there. Hilary was able to find a buyer for 1,100 of his 1,500 acres. He sold the house and the acreage for the princely sum of \$1,100 silver dollars. Rather than retain the other 400 acres, which were useless because a black, heavy oil ran down the road, Hilary simply gave them to the buyer and left.

In San Angelo, Hilary was able to acquire 9 sections, 5,760 acres of land, and began a ranch running cattle, sheep and a fine string of horses. At first, Sarah's health improved significantly but, ultimately she was bedridden again.

San Angelo was DRYER but it wasn't DRY, so, after an exploratory journey, a decision was made to move to the grasslands and forested mountains in arid, Southeastern Arizona. (continued next issue)

The Wells Family Newsletter - Miscellaneous Items

- **Graveyard Maintenance**—Saturday, March 20, 2004 from 9 AM to 11 AM. Refreshments provided. RSVP to Paul Eckel at 520-749-8814 or pauleckel@cox.net
- **Wells Family Dues**—Family Dues are \$35 per year. These are tax deductions to you and life blood to the family organi-

zation. We use them to produce and mail the newsletter as well as arrange the reunions and associated activities. Please forward your dues payments to Sheila Cottrell with contributions payable to the "Wells Family Organization"

- **Reunion Ideas**—If you have any ideas on how we might im-

prove future re-unions please send them in via e-mail, snail-mail or telephone!

- **Family Meeting 2004**—At the reunion we will have a family meeting to elect officers, share ideas, report income and expenditures, develop family goals, etc. Planned for Sep 4, 2004 at 7 PM. Minutes to be reported.

**THE WELLS, A PIONEER FAMILY STILL
STRIVING FOR A BETTER FUTURE**

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Newsletter Feedback

Publication Schedule: It is currently planned to publish the newsletter on a quarterly basis. If dues are not paid, we may have to slip back to a semi-annual schedule.

Family Database: We need to get together a roster of family members which will include full names, mailing addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses. We believe that a great deal of our precious funds can be saved if we can circulate newsletters and other information via e-mail or on a web site. We also know that many are not technically oriented and that there will always be many that will need to be reached via the U.S. Mail. However we have to do it, we still need to put together an accurate and current family roster. Please send in your information as well as info from

your address books on other family members. If we get an address twice, no problem, the computer will catch that. When the database is as current as possible, we will share it with all the family members.

Old Photos or news articles: Please share with us these sorts of things. For example, if you have an old photo of an ancestor and can write a short bio or story that happened to them, we'd love to publish it for all to see. We promise to return all pictures and information sent to us!

Current News of Family Members: When someone in the family has a special achievement, milestone or any noteworthy event, please communicate it to us for inclusion in the newsletter.

Slide Show at the Reunion: If you have any particularly good pictures of our Ancestors, we'd like to scan them into digital form for showing during the slide show at the re-union. We will exercise extreme care and promptly return them to you if you would be good enough to share them with the Family. We are especially looking for pictures of old ranches, school houses, family members functioning in official positions in the community, news articles w photos, prize stock, ore wagons owned by family, etc., etc., etc.