

Weldon G. Cannon History Files

ELISHA ADAM (E.A.) EULESS

In this folder donated to the City of Euless, labeled ELISH ADAM (E.A.) EULESS, are a few key documents and other materials from files donated to The University of Texas at Arlington for the Weldon G. Cannon Euless Collection in the Special Collections of the University Library. Following is a brief summary of materials in 8 folders under this subject that were donated to UTA:

1. ONE-SIDED 1995 ORIGINAL

Folder contents

The historical narrative for the Elisha Adam Euless Texas historical marker; ¼”.

2. MARKER

Folder contents

Correspondence with Texas Historical Commission and Tarrant County Historical Commission; news releases about dedication of marker and newspaper clippings of event; ½”.

3. MARKER DEDICATION

Folder contents

Correspondence with Euless family members; photos of the Euless family and dedication ceremony February 9, 1997; list of those invited and those who attended; 1/2 “.

4. EULESS FAMILY, ETC.

Folder contents

E. A. Euless family and ancestors and related families; ½”.

5. EULESS BIOGRAPHIES

Folder contents

Various writings about E. A. Euless and other family members (besides Cannon historical narrative about E. A. Euless); time line of his life. ¾”.

6. EULESS—N.C., TENN.

Folder contents

Materials about Euless family, mainly in North Carolina and Tennessee; ¾”.

7. EULESS CORRESPONDENCE

Folder contents

Mainly Weldon Cannon with Euless family members; 1’.

8. TEXAS GRANGE

Folder contents

An earlier name for the Euless community was Grange Hall (or simply The Hall) which was built by the Trigg and Euless families on Trigg land and was later long owned by E. A. Euless; Triggs and Euless were active members; ¼".

ELISHA ADAM EULESS

Preface

In 1995, I wrote ELISHA ADAM EULESS, the historical narrative accompanying an application for a Texas Historical Marker. The application was approved by the Texas Historical Commission. Sponsored by the City of Euless, the marker was installed at the Euless City Hall and dedicated February 9, 1997. This narrative includes slight revisions in 1996 and 2018 of the original.

It is basically a brief biography of the person for whom the city is named and a Tarrant County Sheriff. Incorporated in the narrative is a brief history of the early Euless community. Also included is some information about the Trigg family. Several members of this family, especially Mr. Euless' mother-in-law, Mary Ann Whitson (Mrs. William A.) Trigg, played important roles in the founding and early development of Euless.

A few minor corrections might still be made. The major shortcoming is lack of a thorough analysis of Mr. Euless' service as sheriff. This would require a detailed study of Commissioners Court Minutes and other county records, plus newspaper accounts of his activities.

Included is some information about the Euless (or Euliss, as they spelled it in North Carolina) family when they were concentrated in North Carolina, then spread to Tennessee and elsewhere. In preparation for dedication of the marker, I also established contact with many family descendants who by the late 20th century were scattered throughout the United States.

Weldon G. Cannon
December, 2018



ELISHA ADAM EULESS

ELISHA ADAM EULESS (1848-1911) MIGRATED TO TEXAS IN 1867 FROM BEDFORD COUNTY, TENNESSEE AND SETTLED IN TARRANT COUNTY IN JULY 1870. EULESS MARRIED JUDY ANN TRIGG, ALSO A TENNESSEE NATIVE. HE BEGAN FARMING AND BOUGHT LAND IN 1871. EULESS WAS ELECTED A TARRANT COUNTY CONSTABLE IN 1876.

IN MARCH 1879 EULESS PURCHASED 170 ACRES IN THE AREA KNOWN AS WOODLAWN FROM HIS MOTHER-IN-LAW, MARYANN TRIGG. THE LAND INCLUDED A TWO-STORY GRANGE HALL BUILT IN 1877. THE FIRST FLOOR WAS USED AS A COMMUNITY SCHOOL AND BY THE LOCAL METHODIST AND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES. THE GRANGE USED THE TOP FLOOR.

EULESS PROSPERED AS A FARMER AND PRODUCED CONSIDERABLE AMOUNTS OF COTTON AND CORN. IN 1881 HE BOUGHT 80 ACRES WHERE A COTTON GIN STOOD. THE COMMUNITY THAT GREW AROUND THE COTTON GIN AND THE GRANGE HALL CAME TO BE CALLED EULESS. A POST OFFICE, MISTAKENLY NAMED ENLESS, OPENED THERE IN 1886.

EULESS WAS ELECTED TARRANT COUNTY SHERIFF FOR TWO TERMS, SERVING FROM 1892 TO 1896. HE WAS THE FIRST SHERIFF TO OCCUPY THE COURTHOUSE COMPLETED IN 1895. HE LATER RETURNED TO THE TOWN OF EULESS, THEN MOVED BACK TO FORT WORTH WHERE HE DIED IN 1911 AND WAS BURIED IN THE OAKWOOD CEMETERY.

Elisha Adam Eules

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Member, Bell County Historical Commission
Member, City of Eules Historical Committee*

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In 1895, Adam Eules might have sat in his office at the new Tarrant County Courthouse in Fort Worth, Texas, and looked back over the past forty-six years with some pride. He had come a long way. In less than half a century a new town had been named for him, and he was now sheriff of the state's fourth most populous county. His was a remarkable journey. At age nineteen, he migrated in 1867 from war-ravaged Bedford County, Tennessee, to Tarrant County, Texas. Here he found a new life in this Texas frontier county inhabited by 6,000 people.

Christened Elisha Adam Eules, he was known as Adam Eules throughout his life. The surname Eules has had many spellings from the eighteenth century to the present.¹ Among the variations are Eules, Euliss, Eulis, Eulass, Eulas, Eulice, Eaules, Ewliss, Ewlis, Ewyas, Helius, Uless, Ules, Uliss, Ulis, Ulius, Uhles, Ulyss and Ulys. It has also been

¹ In some cases, the spelling varies within the same document. In this manuscript the original spelling from any document will be used. When the name is used without reference to a particular document, the spelling "Eules" will be used.

spelled Enless and Ellis in government documents where Euleless was obviously meant. Different branches of the family at various times have spelled the name many ways. Spelling in government documents and records varies greatly, often being phonetic.²

German in origin, the ancestors of Elisha Adam Euleless were first recorded in the new world in Orange County, North Carolina, in the eighteenth century, where they lived among many other German families. The most consistent spelling of the name in North Carolina has long been Euliss. For many years, Euliss reunions have been held near the site of their eighteenth-century settlements.³

Philip Ulis, great-grandfather of Elisha Adam Euleless and a large property owner, was listed on the Orange County tax rolls in 1779. Philip Euliss also appeared on the 1790 U.S. Census for North Carolina. A will for Philip Eulice, dated 1812, was recorded in Orange County. Listed among his children was Adam Eulice, the grandfather of Elisha Adam Euleless. Elizabeth, surname unknown, was listed as Philip's wife.⁴

² Biographical History of Tarrant and Parker Counties (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1895), pp. 424-426; History of Bedford County, Tennessee (Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1886), p. 1146; The Dallas Morning News, Jan. 26, 1911, p. 7.

³ Elinor Samons Euliss, ed., Alamance County: The Legacy of its People and Places (Greensboro, North Carolina: Legacy Publications, 1984), pp. 146-147; "Euliss Family Association Reunion," The Quarterly, Local History and Genealogical Society, Dallas, Texas, XVI (March, 1970), 28.

⁴ Euliss, Alamance County, pp. 146-147; Ruth Herndon, compiler, Abstracts of Wills Recorded in Orange County, North Carolina, 1800-1850 (n.p., n.d.), p. 51; Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States taken in the Year 1790: North Carolina (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1908), p. 95; William Perry Johnson, ed., North Carolina Genealogy, to Mrs. Louis Wm. Kleasner Jr., historian, Euliss Family Association Reunion, Feb. 11, 1969, copy in possession of author.

Adam Eulice, son of Philip, was born about 1775 in North Carolina. In 1803, he married Dorothea Turley Shofner, born in 1778, to another prominent German family in Orange County. They immigrated to Bedford County, Tennessee, in 1810, and settled about eight miles southeast of Shelbyville, Tennessee. Adam was listed on the first tax roll for the county in 1812. Adam Euleless died in 1843 and Dorothea in 1872, both in Bedford County.⁵

Adam and Dorothea Euleless were the parents of ten children, among them Martin, the father of Elisha Adam Euleless. Born in Bedford County in 1818, Martin married Cassandra Dean "Cassie" Bobo in 1843, daughter of Elisha and Lucy Dean Bobo, natives of South Carolina. Cassandra was a member of the same family for whom the Tarrant County community of Bobo, later officially designated Bedford, Texas, was named. Martin died in 1900, and Cassandra in 1910, both buried in Bedford County. They eventually accumulated about 600 acres of land in Bedford and Coffee counties, Tennessee. The eastern Bedford County terrain, home of the Euleless family, is hilly to rugged, with red clay and sandy land. Much of the landscape has always been covered with timber, but the valleys and many steep slopes were cultivated in the nineteenth century.⁶

⁵ History of Bedford County, p. 1146; "Bedford County, Tennessee, Tax List, 1812," Bedford County Historical Quarterly, XII (Fall, 1976), 24, 29; James Rightman Blanks, The Shofner Family Genealogy: A Genealogical History of the Descendants of Michael Shofner (1721-1810) (Bountiful, Utah: Family History Publishers, 1989), pp. v, vi, 280.

⁶ History of Bedford County, p. 1146; Janet L. Schmelzer, Where the West Begins: Fort Worth and Tarrant County (Northridge, California: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1985), p. 36; Minutes, MSS, Tarrant County Court House, Fort Worth, Texas, vol. B, pp. 228, 339; An Industrial Brochure of Shelbyville and Bedford County, Tennessee (Shelbyville: The Chamber of Commerce of Shelbyville and Bedford County, n.d.), p. 2;

In 1860, Martin Eules was a farmer and the master of eight slaves. His family was the sixth wealthiest among 168 in his Bedford County civil district. This prosperous farm family grew cattle, sheep and swine, and produced a great deal of corn, some wheat and a little cotton, plus certain items necessary for a farm household, such as vegetables, butter and honey.⁷

Elisha Adam Eules, third child of Martin and Cassandra Eules, was born in Bedford County on September 26, 1848. The young boy was reared in a largely rural and agricultural county, inhabited by 21,511 people in 1850. Slaves composed 25.6 percent of the population. Shelbyville, the major town and county seat, had a population of 1,615. Elisha Adam received a "moderate" education in neighborhood schools.⁸

By 1860, the population of Bedford County was relatively unchanged from ten years earlier, at 21,584, but slaves now constituted 31.2 percent. The population of Shelbyville had risen to 2,092. In the presidential election of 1860 Bedford County cast 51.4 percent of its vote for native Tennessean, John Bell, the Constitutional Union Party

interview with Frank Edelbrock by author, January 4, 1972, Fort Worth, Texas; Blanks, Shofner Family Genealogy, pp. 281, 282.

⁷ U.S. Bureau of the Census, Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Bedford County, Tennessee, p. 169; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Agricultural Schedule, Bedford County, Tennessee, p. 25; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Slave Schedule, Bedford County, Tennessee, p. 39.

⁸ Biographical History of Tarrant and Parker Counties, p. 425; The Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Embracing a Statistical View of Each of the States and Territories, Arranged by Counties, Towns, etc. (Washington: Robert Armstrong, Public Printer, 1853), pp. 573, 575.

candidate; 47.4 percent for John C. Breckinridge, candidate of the Southern Democrats; and 1.2 percent for Stephen A. Douglas, the Democratic Party candidate.⁹

In 1861 Bedford County voted overwhelmingly in favor of secession, favoring it by 68.7 percent, only slightly less than the state percentage of 69.9 percent. Nevertheless, union sentiment during the Civil War was strong in Shelbyville, and some people even nicknamed it "Little Boston." The county furnished almost as many soldiers for the United States Army as for the Confederacy. Numerous families were divided in their loyalties.¹⁰

Bedford County was also on the line of march for both armies during much of the war with many large troop movements from both sides. Bedford County sustained heavy property damage and some casualties, although no major battles were waged in the county. The courthouse burned in 1863, caused by Confederate soldiers who accidentally started the fire. Marauding soldiers from both sides constantly stripped fields and businesses of food and supplies as competing armies scoured the countryside for provisions.¹¹

⁹ Population of the United States in 1860; Compiled from the Original Returns of the Eighth Census; Classified Population of the States and Territories, by Counties, Slave & White (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1864), pp. 466-467; Anne H. Hopkins and William Lyons, Tennessee Votes: 1799-1976 (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee, 1978), p. 42.

¹⁰ History of Bedford County, pp. 872-873; Hopkins and Lyons, Tennessee Votes, p. 43.

¹¹ History of Bedford County, pp. 872-873; "The Civil War in Bedford County," Bedford County Historical Quarterly, XII (Fall, 1986), 71, 78; "An Overview of the Civil War in Bedford County," Bedford County Historical Quarterly, VII (Winter, 1981), 96-97,

Apparently no Euleless men served in the war. Martin was too old. Elisha Adam was too young to fight, but he grew to manhood during the war, turning nineteen in 1867, when he migrated to Texas. He left no record of why he decided to go to Texas and settle in Tarrant County. Possibly he was caught up in the westward movement of many Tennesseans to Texas. By 1860 more people had migrated to Texas from Tennessee than from any other state.¹²

Even before the war, migration from Bedford County to Tarrant County had begun. For example, some children of Hayden Trigg, a prominent and well-to-do Bedford County resident, had settled in Tarrant County in the 1850s. A daughter, Esther Trigg Hitch, and her husband, William Henry Hitch, had moved in 1855. Next, her brother, John Trigg, had migrated in 1857. Another brother, Daniel C. Trigg, came in 1858, bringing his family and slaves with him. Daniel bought a section of land and became a prosperous farmer. All of these settled in eastern Tarrant County, near the Dallas County line, north of the Trinity River, in or near the present City of Euleless.¹³

The war slowed migration, but afterward the movement began again at an even more rapid clip. For the next twenty years, many families traveled the same route from

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¹² The Fort Worth Record, Jan. 26, 1911, p. 4; Rupert N. Richardson, Ernest Wallace and Adrian Anderson, The Lone Star State, 5th Ed. (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1988), p. 169.

¹³ Biographical History of Tarrant and Parker Counties, pp. 561-562.

Bedford County and Coffee County, Tennessee, to Tarrant County, Texas.¹⁴ Adam Eules followed the same trail. He settled first at Grapevine, in far northeastern Tarrant County, where he stayed briefly. Then, he moved about seven miles south to the present site of the City of Eules. Also, in 1867, another member of the Trigg family came, Mary Ann Trigg, widow of William H. Trigg, who was a brother of Esther Trigg Hitch, John Trigg and Daniel C. Trigg. Adam Eules, Mary Ann Trigg and others could have come in the same travel party.¹⁵

While little is known of what they carried with them to Texas, records list at least two items that Mr. Eules brought -- an Army pistol that he purchased from his father's second cousin, Monroe Shofner, a Civil War veteran, and a \$200 draft that he sold for 75 cents on the dollar when he arrived in Texas.¹⁶

Tarrant County, Texas, was far removed from the destruction inflicted by rival armies in Bedford County, Tennessee. Nevertheless, it was severely affected by the war and was still in great turmoil when the Bedford County citizens arrived in 1867. Half of the Tarrant County men who went to the war did not come home; the population had declined drastically; the tax base had fallen substantially; the economy had slowed to a

¹⁴ Compare censuses of Bedford County and Coffee County for 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880 with censuses for Tarrant County for 1860, 1870, 1880 and 1900 for the movement of these families.

¹⁵ Biographical History of Tarrant and Parker Counties, pp. 424-426, 561-562.

¹⁶ Biographical History of Tarrant and Parker Counties, pp. 424-426; Austin W. Shofner to Weldon G. Cannon, October 9, 1969, in possession of author.

near standstill; and the local government was in chaos. Still, Texas was a new country to the immigrants who saw a chance to start over.¹⁷

In November 1867, Mary Ann Trigg purchased a 250-acre tract in the James P. Hallford survey in the present City of Euless, situated west of present North Main Street and north of present West Euless Boulevard and Huffman Drive. In 1870 she was living on her property with three of her children, plus Adam Euless and four African-American servants.¹⁸

On July 6, 1870, Adam Euless and Judy Ann Trigg, daughter of Mary Ann Trigg, married. He was 21; she was 30. The Euless home was a favorite stopping place for recent arrivals from Bedford County, Tennessee. For example, Weldon Wiles Bobo, Adam's uncle, stayed with them before he settled in his permanent home in Tarrant County. Eventually a community evolved around Weldon W. Bobo's store. The community was first known as "Bobo" but the name was changed to "Bedford" in 1877.¹⁹

¹⁷ Schmelzer, Fort Worth and Tarrant County, pp. 31-34; Oliver Knight, Fort Worth: Outpost on the Trinity (Norman: The University of Oklahoma Press, 1953), pp. 54-56, 62; James Farber, Fort Worth in the Civil War (Belton, Texas: Peter Hansbrough Bell Press, 1960), pp. 51-54.

¹⁸ Deeds, MSS, Tarrant County Courthouse, Fort Worth, Texas, vol. N, pp. 579-580; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Tarrant County, Texas, p. 500.

¹⁹ Biographical History of Tarrant and Parker Counties, pp. 426; United States Census, 1870, Tarrant County, p. 500; interview with Marvel Bobo Wallace (Mrs. Frank Wallace) by author, June 5, 1970, Justin, Texas; Edelbrock interview; interview with Zoe Edelbrock (Mrs. J.A. Edelbrock), Kerrville, Texas, October 5, 1995.

Judy Ann was the third child and daughter of eight children of William H. and Mary Ann Whitson Trigg, born on Sept. 5, 1839, in Tennessee, probably Bedford County. By 1870, when she married, she was the oldest of three unmarried children living with their mother. Judy's grandparents were Hayden Trigg and Juda Worder Trigg. Her great-grandfather, also named Hayden Trigg, a native of Virginia, served in the American Revolutionary Army. The Worders were also natives of Virginia. Both families moved to Kentucky, the Triggs moving on to Tennessee. One source says Adam's wife was named Julia. Other records, however, including her tombstone and Tarrant County deed records, maintain her name was Judy. Still other records identify her as Judith, Judia, Judie or Jude. Some descendants were named Judy in her honor. One relative recalled that she was often called "Cousin Jude" and that she smoked a pipe.²⁰

Thus, Elisha Adam Eules, a newlywed with a little money and a secondhand gun, settled into life in Texas, living among former neighbors from Tennessee. He engaged in farming, the occupation of nearly everyone else in the area, probably cultivating Mary Ann Trigg's extensive property. An analysis of one page of the 1870 agricultural census on which she appears with 39 other farmers reveals that only three of them had a greater cash value in their farms. One was her brother-in-law, Daniel C. Trigg. Another was the family of Daniel's sister, Esther, who married William Henry Hitch. Mary Ann kept a

²⁰ Biographical History of Tarrant and Parker Counties, pp. 426, 561-562; United States Census, 1870, Tarrant County, p. 500; James Knox Trigg, Trigg History (Knoxville: Tennessee Valley Publishing, 1994), pp. 420-421, 433; Tarrant County Deeds, vol. 423, p. 273; Judy Eules, Tombstone, Oakwood Cemetery, Fort Worth; interview with Marvel Bobo Wallace (Mrs. Frank Wallace) by author, June 5, 1970, Justin, Texas; Edelbrock interview.

considerable number of live stock, especially swine. Her farm produced a large quantity of corn along with some cotton and wheat.²¹

Mary Ann Trigg's land was situated in the Eastern (or Lower) Cross Timbers. Wedged between the heavy black soils of the Blackland Prairie and the Grand Prairie, the terrain was a narrow band of sandy and red clay soil stretching southward from near the Red River through eastern Tarrant County. It was heavily timbered, mainly with varieties of oak. Therefore, a ready supply of fire wood and building logs was at hand. When cleared, the land was excellent for truck farming and dairying, as well as growing corn and cotton. In fact, it probably reminded the former Tennesseans of their Bedford County homeland, except that Texas was much flatter.²²

Although his father, Martin, was described as politically neutral, Adam Eules was interested in politics most of his life. From his twenty-first birthday, he was a Democrat who enthusiastically supported his party. He cast his first vote for president in 1872 for Democratic candidate Horace Greeley. In 1876, he was elected constable of Justice Precinct 3 in northeastern Tarrant County, bounded by the Denton County line on the north, the Dallas County line on the east, the Trinity River on the south and Precinct Line

²¹ United States Census, 1870, Tarrant County, p. 500; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Agricultural Schedule, Tarrant County, Texas, pp. 23-24.

²² Walter Prescott Webb and H. Bailey Carroll, eds., 2 vols., The Handbook of Texas (Austin: The Texas State Historical Association, 1952), I, 439, 537.

Road on the west. The Justice of the Peace Court was held at Spring Garden, on the border between the present cities of Bedford and Colleyville.²³

In 1876 and 1877 Adam also served as a bailiff for a Tarrant County district court. In October 1877, he resigned his post as constable. At the same meeting of the County Commissioner's Court, another man was appointed constable, and the Justice of the Peace Court was shifted from Spring Garden to Grapevine. Still interested in politics, however, Adam Eules was elected a delegate from Precinct 3 to the 1880 Democratic County Convention. At that convention, he ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic nomination for county sheriff.²⁴

As his interest in politics developed, his family was also growing. Adam and Judy Eules' first child, Martin, was born in 1873, followed the next year by a daughter, Suma. In 1876 another son, William Edgar, and in 1881 another daughter, Cassie, were born. A fifth child, whose name, sex, birth and death dates are unknown, was also born.²⁵

²³ History of Bedford County, Tennessee, p. 1146; Biographical History of Tarrant and Parker Counties, p. 425; Minutes of Tarrant County Commissioners Court, MSS, Tarrant County Court House, Fort Worth, Texas, vol. B, pp. 1, 278; Michael E. Patterson, "Spring Garden School", MSS, Texas State Historical Commission, Austin, Texas, pp. 2, 3, 5.

²⁴ Biographical History of Tarrant and Parker Counties, p. 425; Tarrant County Commissioners Court Minutes, vol. B, pp. 43, 147, 277, 278.; Patterson, "Spring Garden School," p. 5; Fort Worth Democrat, August 1, 1880, p. 3.

²⁵ Biographical History of Tarrant and Parker Counties, p. 426; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Tarrant County, Texas, p. 156; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Tarrant County, Texas, p. 144.

In the 1870s, in addition to his family responsibilities and political involvement, Mr. Eules expanded his business, civic and religious interests. In January 1871 at the age of 22, he paid \$480 for a 160-acre tract in the Spring Garden community, when it was the seat of justice for the precinct. Spring Garden was also the site of a highly respected school and meeting place for congregations of Methodists, Baptists and the Church of Christ. His new property was located in the northeast corner of the present City of Bedford, just west of the Eules city limits.²⁶

In a particularly significant move for his own personal life and for the history of the City of Eules, in March 1879, he purchased 170 acres of the 250-acre tract belonging to Mary Ann Trigg, his mother-in-law. The land was situated in the northwest corner of the intersection of present North Main Street and West Eules Boulevard in the City of Eules. It stretched more than one-half mile north along the west side of North Main Street and one-quarter mile west along the north side of West Eules Boulevard and Huffman Drive. At that time the neighborhood was known as Woodlawn.²⁷

In April 1879, Mr. Eules petitioned the Tarrant County Commissioners Court to create a road from Bedford, about three miles west of his land, to the Dallas County line at Bear Creek. He requested that the road pass by the "Grange Hall," which was now on

²⁶ Tarrant County Deeds, vol. G, p. 320; Patterson, "Spring Garden School," pp. 2-5.

²⁷ Tarrant County Deeds, vol. 144, pp. 393; Fort Worth Democrat, July 9, 1880, p. 3.

his property. The court ordered the road established and appointed a jury, including Adam, to lay it out.²⁸

A grange was a local unit of a farmers' organization, the National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry. Established in the 1860s for social and educational purposes, the organization was dedicated to improving the lives of American farmers and their families. Many members became increasingly politically active in the 1870s as farmers sought to correct what they considered economic abuses.²⁹

The grange hall on the Eules property was one of two important buildings related to the founding of the City of Eules. Then called the Woodlawn Grange, the organization was established between January and April 1874. After the first grange in Texas was established in 1873 at Salado, the number multiplied rapidly. In just three months in early 1874, the number of granges had jumped from 55 to more than 300. Woodlawn was number 106, the fourth established in Tarrant County. The first head of the Woodlawn Grange was John W. Trigg, neighbor and brother-in-law of Mary Ann Trigg. Joel H. Bobo of Bedford was secretary. Trigg served as a Tarrant County delegate to the Texas State Grange annual meetings in 1875, 1877 and 1879.³⁰

²⁸ Tarrant County Commissioners Court Minutes, vol. A, pp. 88-89, 178-179.

²⁹ The Handbook of Texas, I, 716-717; D. Sven Nordin, Rich Harvest: A History of the Grange, 1867-1900 (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1974), pp. 168-177; William H. Harris and Judith S. Levey, eds., The New Columbia Encyclopedia (New York: Columbia University Press, 1975), p. 1122.

³⁰ Ralph Adam Smith, "A.J. Rose, Agrarian Crusader of Texas," Ph.D. thesis, pp. 27,31; Curtis Eugene McDaniel, "Educational and Social Interests of the Grange in Texas, 1874-1905," M.A. thesis, p. 31; Name and No[.] of Grange & Post Office, Proceedings and

At its annual meeting in January 1877, the state presiding officer urged local granges to erect "suitable and convenient grange halls with school rooms attached." The Woodlawn Grange took his advice to heart and erected a two-story building on Mary Ann Trigg's property in the summer of 1877. The grange reserved the upper floor for its own use, but set aside the lower floor for a school and for church gatherings. The rambling frame building was located on the west side of the present 100 block of North Main Street.³¹

A grange hall usually served as a rural community center. While members followed a secret, ritualistic order in their official meetings, the buildings were open for social gatherings and often served as schools, churches and libraries. Many halls resembled the simple architecture of rural churches and schools. One of the earliest schools organized in the present City of Euless was conducted in the local grange hall. Between 1876 and 1884, rural areas of Texas were served by "community schools," informal educational institutions, without district boundaries or taxes, that operated for

Minutes, Box 2G19, A.J. Rose Papers, The Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas; Patrons of Husbandry. List of Subordinate Granges in Texas with Master's and Secretary's Names, and Postoffice Address, As Officially Reported, November, 1874(Waco: Examiner and Patron, 1874), [no page number]; A List of Subordinate Granges in the State of Texas (n.p.: J.D. Logan & Co., Book and Job Printers, [1875]), [no page number]; Official List of Granges in the States of Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana and Texas (n.p.: [1876]), [no page number].

³¹ Interview with Betty Fuller Jernigan (Mrs. W.C. Jernigan) by author, November 2, 1969, Lubbock, Texas; Tarrant County Deeds, vol. 358, p. 214; Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Evening Ed., June 21, 1960, p. 3; Glenn M. Holden, "A Partial History of Education in Tarrant County," M.A. thesis, pp. 25, 26; Proceedings of the Third Annual Session of the Texas State Grange, Patrons of Husbandry, Held at the City of Tyler, Texas, January, 1877 (Waco: Examiner and Patron Steam Printing Establishment, 1877), p. 56.

a few months of the year. The state provided a pittance for each student enrolled. Each year, interested local citizens organized the school, collected some funds and secured a teacher and a building. The grange hall on the Trigg and Eules property served as the location for a community school, probably sponsored by the local grange. In later years, the ramshackle building shook and rattled every time the wind blew. When that happened, concerned parents would take their children home. The grange hall was torn down in the early 1900s.³²

In 1884, when Texas law provided for establishment of permanent school districts with boundaries and taxing authority, the grange hall continued to serve as a school. For several years, the district and the school were officially known as Woodlawn. The school was officially named Eules by 1894, when trustees of the district purchased an acre of land on the south side of the present 100 block of East Eules Boulevard from W.N. Mood Fuller and his wife, Sarah. A new school building was erected on the property, but for many years overflow classes were conducted in the grange hall.³³

The grange hall also served as a church. Although his parents were Lutherans, Adam Eules was a Cumberland Presbyterian. Hence, the building served many years as a meeting place for a Presbyterian Church. Whether the church existed before the grange

³² The Handbook of Texas, I, 716-717; The New Columbia Encyclopedia, p. 1122; Richardson, Texas: The Lone Star State, pp. 253, 328; Jernigan interview; interview with Steve Huffman by author, July 20, 1975, Eules, Texas.

³³ Richardson, Texas: The Lone Star State, p.328; Tarrant County Deeds, vol. 140, p. 59; Tarrant County Commissioners Court Minutes, vol. 4, p. 239; vol. 16, XVI, pp. 53, 55-56; vol. 22, p. 4; Fort Worth Democrat, July 9, 1880, p. 3; Jernigan interview.

hall was built is unknown. A Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was organized in the community in 1876, however. Its first meeting place is not known, but after the grange hall opened in 1877 the Methodists and Presbyterians shared the building as a place of worship. After the Methodists erected their own building across present North Main Street in 1891, the Presbyterians continued worshipping in the building until their congregation disbanded, probably in the 1890s. The building continued to serve as a school until it was razed in the early 1900s.³⁴

Because the grange hall was such a prominent building in the area in the 1880s and 1890s, the community was often identified as the Grange Hall, or simply The Hall, for several years. Local Methodists used Grange Hall as the name for their congregation in the 1880s before it became known as Euless.³⁵

Adam Euless continued to prosper as a farmer. He built a large, comfortable hilltop home among stately oak trees on the north side of the present 200 block of Huffman Drive. In 1880 he kept cattle, swine and poultry, and produced considerable amounts of corn and cotton, besides the usual farm products, such a butter. One old-

³⁴ History of Bedford County, p. 1146; Biographical History of Tarrant and Parker Counties, p. 426; Recognizing the Past ... Pointing to the Future; Methodist Bicentennial 1784-1984 (Fort Worth: Fort Worth East District, The United Methodist Church, 1984), p. 14; Grapevine Circuit, Quarterly Conference Journal, Dallas District of the East Texas Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1865-1888, photocopy of manuscript in possession of author, pp. 235, 262; Jernigan Interview; Huffman interview, July 20, 1975; interviews with Monnie Cannon Borah (Mrs. W.J. "Billy" Borah) by author, January 5, 1971, March 16, 1976, November 5, 1983, Euless, Texas.

³⁵ Tarrant County Commissioners Court Minutes, vol. A, pp. 88-89, 178-179; Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Evening Edition, June 21, 1960, p. 3; Grapevine Circuit Methodist Journal, pp. 235, 262.

timer recalled that vicious geese, hatched from wild geese eggs, roamed the Eules property and bit passersby on the legs. Mr. Eules, particularly fond of hounds, also kept several around his property.³⁶

He continued to expand his farm and business interests, laying foundations for the future City of Eules. In 1881, he purchased another eighty acres of land, the remainder of the 250-acre tract that his mother-in-law, Mary Ann Trigg, had bought in 1867. She had sold the eighty acres in 1878 to Martha A. Calloway, a widow, who married James H. Trigg two years later. Trigg was a son of Mary Ann and brother of Judy Ann Trigg Eules. Adam bought the land from Martha A. and James H. Trigg. This property was situated on the north side of the present 300 block of Huffman Drive. Located on it was a cotton gin, the other important building in the early history of the City of Eules. Known as Tuck Trigg's Gin, it was named for Daniel C. "Tuck" Trigg Jr., another son of Mary Ann Trigg. (He was named for his uncle, Daniel C. Trigg Sr. [1819-1902]). The gin was probably built while Mary Ann owned the property. Cotton was the most important commercial crop in the area; thus, a gin was an economic necessity. Previously, the nearest gin was probably at Bedford, about three miles away. Mr. Eules apparently also briefly operated a general store on his property about 1891. The presence of the cotton gin and other mercantile enterprises stimulated community growth. The community that grew around the gin and the grange hall eventually came to be known as "Eules."³⁷

³⁶ Interview with Steve Huffman by author, July 8, 1970; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Agricultural Schedule, Tarrant County, Texas, p. 26.

³⁷ Tarrant County Deeds, vol. D, p. 517; vol. 35, p. 534; vol. 96, p.118; vol. 423, p. 273; Tarrant County Commissioners Court Minutes, vol. A, pp. 88-89, 178-179; Jernigan interview; The Mercantile Agency Reference Book for the Within States [Texas], Corrected up to January 1891 (New York: R.G. Dun & Co., 1891), p. 134; Edelbrock interview; Mid-Cities Daily News, February 18, 1979, Chamber of Commerce Section, p. 3; Trigg, Trigg History, pp. 393, 404, 421-423, 432-433.

He purchased, and often sold, several other large tracts of land in or near the present City of Euless, apparently for speculation rather than for farming. He also bought and sold tracts in other parts of the county and in Fort Worth and Arlington. Eventually, he owned several hundred acres, some of which he retained until his death.³⁸

Two important events in the 1880s assured the permanence of the Euless community and the preservation of Adam Euless' name on the map. On March 3, 1886, the U.S. Post Office opened at Euless. There was a problem, however. In all official printed records, the post office was identified as "Enless" until it closed in 1910. This could be attributed to a misunderstanding of the handwritten application for the post office. The letters "u" and "n" are especially easy to confuse.³⁹ The postmasters' names and the map indicators of the "Enless" post office corroborate that "Enless" was the community of Euless.⁴⁰

³⁸ Tarrant County Deeds, vol. 39, p. 409; vol. 144, pp. 394-395; vol. 383, p. 688; vol. 540, p. 334.

³⁹ The confusion still continues. Jim Wheat, who in about 1980 published a list of all Texas post offices and postmasters from 1846 until 1930, lists the post office from 1886 until 1910 as "Euless," not "Enless." The post office department considers it to be "Enless," not "Euless."

⁴⁰ Geneva C. Chancey, Librarian, U.S. Post Office Department, to Weldon G. Cannon, April 1, 1965, in possession of author; Jim Wheat, compiler, Post Offices and Postmasters of Texas, 1846-1930, microfilm, (n.p., n.d.); Record of Appointments of Postmasters, Tarrant County Texas, 1878-1890, 1891-1902, 1903-1929, MSS, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C.; Eleanor S. Hutcheson, compiler, United States Atlas 1890 and Complete Post-Office Directory (Fort Worth: Eleanor S. Hutcheson, 1969), p. 66.

The first postmaster was C.S. Snow, who served until December 30, 1889. Little is known about Snow, except that in June 1885, he sold a stock of drugs at Bedford and, on August 28, 1886, purchased an acre of land near the center of the present City of Eules. Perhaps he was a merchant or a druggist. Other postmasters were Thomas W. Fuller, who served from December 30, 1889, to November 15, 1892, followed by John E. Evans, who served until June 25, 1901. Then Fuller served again until the "Eules" post office closed on July 15, 1910. Evans and Fuller were general merchandise storekeepers on the west side of the intersection of present Eules Boulevard and Main Street. A post office opened in Eules again on February 1, 1949, bearing the correct name.⁴¹

Another step toward assuring permanence for a place named Eules was taken with the creation of a voting precinct, Number 29, by the Tarrant County Commissioners Court in February 1888. The name was spelled correctly. Previously, local citizens had voted at Bedford. Eules was the fourth voting place created in Justice Precinct 3. The other two boxes were Grapevine and Peden's Store.⁴²

⁴¹ Record of Appointments of Postmasters, Tarrant County, Texas, 1878-1890, 1891-1902, 1903-1929; Chancey to Cannon; Tarrant County Deeds, vol. 38, p. 533; The Mercantile Agency Reference Book for the Within States [Texas], Corrected up to July, 1886 (New York: R. G. Dun & Co., 1886), p. 116; The Mercantile Reference Book for the Within States [Texas], Corrected up to January, 1889 (New York: R. G. Dun & Co., 1889), p. 122; interview with Monnie Cannon Borah (Mrs. W.J. "Billy" Borah) by author, October 19, 1983, Eules, Texas; Huffman interview, July 20, 1975; interview with Roy Cannon by author, July 2, 1975, Irving, Texas.

⁴² Tarrant County Commissioners Court Minutes, vol. B, pp. 298, 339; vol. 4, p. 333. vol. 5, p. 325.

With the permanence of the community apparently assured, Mr. Eules began shifting his business interests toward Fort Worth. In December 1890, he purchased a lot fronting the public square near the Tarrant County Courthouse. In August 1891, he leased it for a saloon "and no other purpose." In 1891, he sold his cotton gin at Eules, with a small lot upon which it was located, and perhaps his store, to W. N. Mood Fuller and Thomas W. Fuller. In 1896, he was associated with the Central Live Stock Commission Company in Fort Worth.⁴³

While rearing a family, farming and operating his various business enterprises, Adam Eules still had time for politics. In 1892 he secured the Democratic nomination for sheriff, defeating three strong opponents. The voters gave him a majority of 934 votes cast in the general election. He moved with his family to Fort Worth to serve as sheriff.⁴⁴

In 1893, during Sheriff Eules' first term, the Tarrant County Commissioners Court appropriated \$500,000 for construction of a new courthouse. Although it was a magnificent building that still stands, voters were scandalized by the cost of such an

⁴³ Tarrant County Deeds, vol. 79, p. 25; vol. 83, p. 305; vol. 96, p. 118; General Directory of the City of Fort Worth, 1896-97 (Galveston: Morrison & Fourmy, 1896), p. 143; Jernigan interview.

⁴⁴ Biographical History of Tarrant and Parker Counties, p. 425; Tarrant County Commissioners Court Minutes, vol. 7, p. 403.

immense building which they thought would never be fully utilized. They voted out the entire Commissioners Court and several other officials in the 1894 election.⁴⁵

But Mr. Eules survived. The Democrats renominated him, and he was reelected by a majority of 800 votes cast in the general election after a hard-fought campaign. "In the discharge of his official duties, Sheriff Eules," according to one account, "has won the respect and esteem of the public in general. His only aim has been to do his duty alike by friend and foe, and in so doing he has won the friendship and well-wishes of the people of Tarrant County."⁴⁶ He was the first sheriff to occupy the new courthouse. He served four years as sheriff, not eight as stated in newspaper obituaries.⁴⁷

According to one account, Adam Eules spent the remainder of his life in Fort Worth after his election to the sheriff's office.⁴⁸ However, his name is not listed in the city directories after 1896-1897. Even that directory, published while he was still sheriff, indicated that his residence was Eules. The 1900 census also records his residence at Eules. Furthermore, some longtime Eules residents remembered his return to the

⁴⁵ Knight, Outpost on Trinity, pp. 157-158; Leonard Sanders and Ron Tyler, How Fort Worth Became the Texasmost City (Fort Worth: Amon Carter Museum of Western Art, 1973), p. 106.

⁴⁶ Biographical History of Tarrant and Parker Counties, p. 425.

⁴⁷ Biographical History of Tarrant and Parker Counties, p. 425; The Fort Worth Record, January 26, 1911, p. 4; The Dallas Morning News, January 26, 1911, p. 7; Tarrant County Commissioners Court Minutes, vol. 11, p. 511.

⁴⁸ The Fort Worth Record, January 26, 1911, p. 4.

community after his service as sheriff. In 1902, after his father's death, he visited his mother and other family members in Bedford County, Tennessee.⁴⁹

Just as his political career was drawing to a close, an outside force was threatening the community that bore his name --the railroad. In 1902 and 1903, the Chicago, Rock Island and Gulf Railway Company extended a line from Dallas to Fort Worth, bypassing Eules about two miles to the south. The railroad built stations at Irving, Tarrant and Hurst. The Tarrant station, near Eules and about half way between Dallas and Fort Worth, was the largest. The company intended Tarrant to be its major town on the line. Ever alert for a good business deal, Mr. Eules, owner of a 100-acre tract about one mile east of the proposed site of Tarrant, sold the railway a strip of land for the new line.⁵⁰

Tarrant boomed. It had a post office and a growing population, along with thriving businesses, churches, lodges and a school. It became a transportation hub as the community of Eules declined. In 1910 the Eules post office closed, while Tarrant's remained open until 1923.⁵¹

⁴⁹ Fort Worth City Directory, 1896-97, p. 143; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Tarrant County, Texas, 1900, p. 144; Huffman interview, June 8, 1970; Wallace interview, June 5, 1970, Justin, Texas; Phil Ayres to Weldon G. Cannon, September 14, 1995, in possession of author.

⁵⁰ The Dallas Morning News, Dec. 2, 1903, p. 10; interviews with H. Grady Walker by author, April 4, April 17, 1965; Tarrant County Deeds, vol. 173, p. 30.

⁵¹ Record of Appointments of Postmasters, Tarrant County, Texas, 1903-1929; Tarrant County Deeds, vol. 220, p. 126; The Mercantile Agency Reference Book for the Within States [Texas], Corrected up to January, 1910 (New York: R.G. Dun & Co., 1910), p. 426; The Fort Worth Record, November 8, 1923, p. 3; interview with Mr. & Mrs. Neal Reaves by author, November 8, 1969, Eules, Texas; interview with Ross Cannon by author, July 13, 1970, Eules, Texas; interview with Cora Ferris Cribbs (Mrs. O.B. Cribbs) by author,

As the community bearing his name dwindled, Adam Eules's health also declined. In 1909, he and Judy moved to Fort Worth to live near their youngest daughter, Cassie, who had married Loftus D. Prather. In October 1910, Adam and Judy sold the land where the community had begun in 1877 -- the Grange Hall and Presbyterian Church lot -- to the Tarrant Baptist Church. The Baptists, who apparently still saw a future for the Eules community, combined this property with an adjoining lot they had purchased earlier in the year. There they relocated their church, changing the name to Eules Baptist Church in 1912.⁵²

Adam's illness worsened. Only able to walk on crutches, he fell and fractured a hip in May 1910. Thereafter, he was bedfast. He died on January 25, 1911, in his daughter's home on East Leuda Street in Fort Worth. At the request of the Grapevine Masonic Lodge, a Fort Worth lodge was in charge of the funeral, conducted at the home. The Rev. J.F. Hicks, pastor of the Hemphill Street Presbyterian Church in Fort Worth, delivered a eulogy. Many residents from the eastern part of Tarrant County -- the Eules and Grapevine area where he had settled in 1867 -- attended the funeral.⁵³

July 16, 1970, Fort Worth, Texas; interview with Jessie Ferris Cannon (Mrs. L.T. "Jim" Cannon), July 8, 1975, Eules, Texas; Edelbrock interview.

⁵² Directory of the City of Fort Worth, 1909-10 (Galveston: Morrison & Fourmy Directory Company, 1909), pp. 188, 415; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910, Tarrant County, Texas, Enumeration District 116, p. 16; Tarrant County Deeds, vol. 358, p., 214; Virginia L. Reedy, People in His Purpose: An Eighty-five Year History of First Baptist Church, Eules, Texas (Eules: First Baptist Church, 1988) pp. 13-15; The Fort Worth Record, January 26, 1911, p. 4.

⁵³ The Fort Worth Record, January 26, 1911, p. 4; The Dallas Morning News, January 26, 1911, p. 7.

He was laid to rest in Oakwood Cemetery, called "the Westminster Abbey" of Fort Worth, the final resting place of many of the city's notables, situated on a North Fort Worth bluff. Just across the Trinity River from the cemetery, on a higher bluff, rises the magnificent 1894 courthouse, once Sheriff Eules's office, in full view from his burial site.⁵⁴

Adam Eules was survived by his widow, Judy, who died on November 7, 1923, in Fort Worth and was buried beside her husband. Numerous Eules descendants today are scattered from Texas through Oklahoma and to California. The older son, Martin, married Mattie D. Evatt, daughter of William Evatt, in 1897. The Evatt family donated land for a school near Eules. Martin and his family eventually moved to Oklahoma. The older daughter, Suma, married Henry H. Landess in 1899. They moved to the Texas Panhandle, then to Kansas, and eventually to California.⁵⁵

The younger son, William Edgar, usually identified by his middle name, became a deputy sheriff for Tarrant County in the 1890s. He married Mary H. "Mamie" Valentine in 1899. She was a daughter of Richard Valentine, a Bedford storekeeper and postmaster at Bedford three separate times -- 1878-1881, 1888-1891 and 1893-1904. Edgar succeeded him as postmaster, serving until 1906. Cassie married Loftus D. Prather in

⁵⁴ Tombstone, E.A. Eules, Oakwood Cemetery, Fort Worth; Margaret W. Harrison, The "Westminster Abbey" of Fort Worth, Texas: The Story of Oakwood Cemetery (Fort Worth: Oakwood Cemetery Association, 1970), p. 14; The Dallas Morning News, January 26, 1911, p.7.

⁵⁵ Tombstone, Judy Eules, Oakwood Cemetery, Fort Worth, Texas; Blanks, Shofner Family Genealogy, pp.284-285; Tarrant County Marriages, MSS, Tarrant County Court House, Fort Worth, Texas, vol. 10, p. 489; vol. 9., p. 321; Wallace interview; interview with Mary Schwartz Berry (Mrs. Lindy Berry) by author, August 27, 1995, Fort Worth, Texas; Tarrant County Deeds, vol. 163, p. 185.

1901. They lived in Fort Worth where she died in 1935. Adam and Judy Eules had eleven grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren. None of their descendants, however, bears the family name today.⁵⁶

Nevertheless, the City of Eules stands as a fitting memorial to Elisha Adam Eules, its founder and an accomplished citizen of Tarrant County.

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⁵⁶ Tarrant County Marriages, vol. 11, p. 500; vol. 12, p. 399; Blanks, Shofner Family Genealogy, pp. 284-285; Berry interview; Record of Appointments of Postmasters, Tarrant County, Texas, 1903-1929; Wheat, Post Offices and Postmasters of Texas.

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