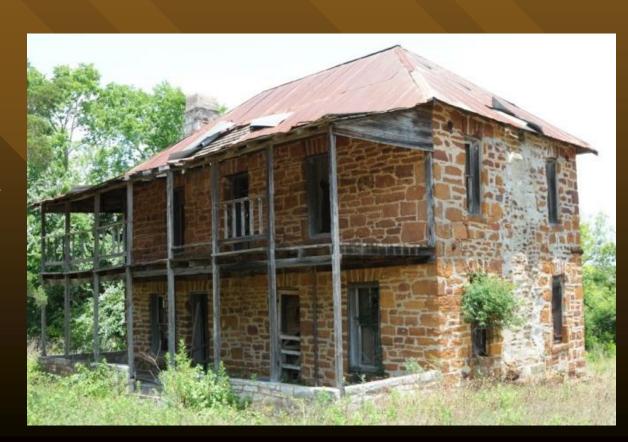
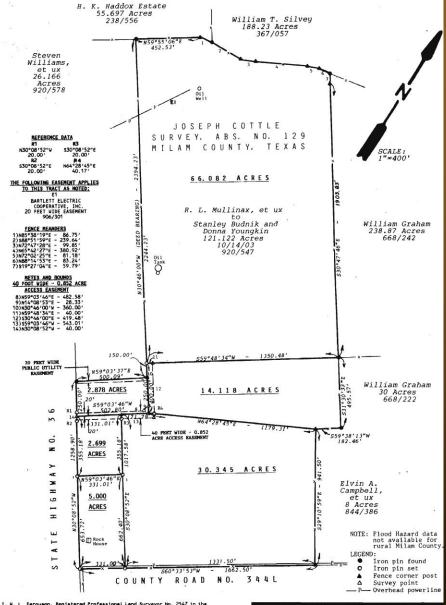
# BEARD HOUSE MILANO, TEXAS 1891-2012

Donny L. Hamilton Texas A&M University



## Land Plat



I, W. L. Ferguson, Registered Professional Land Surveyor No. 2547 in the State of Texas, do hereby certify to the fittle Agency, Underwriter, Lender, Mortage Co. and/or Furchaser that this survey was sade on the ground; this plat hereon and the field notes attached hereto truly and size, location and type of buildings and isprovement are as show; there are no apparent discrepancies, conflicts, encreachments, overlapping of isprovements, visible utility Lines or roads in plate, except as shown; asid property has access to and from a genicated roadway; this professional service conforms to the current Texas Surveyors Association Standards and Specifications for a Category 1A, Condition IV, Survey.

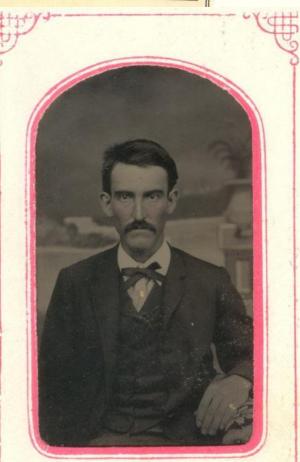
GF#: 031567 RIPE ENGINEERING, INC. 231 EAST CAMERON . P. O. BOX 1489 . ROCKDALE, TX, 7656:

121.122 ACRE DIVISION

JOSEPH COTTLE SURVEY. A-129

George William Beard Died Sun July 10 h at 11-10 Cim 1927.

George W.
Beard, Builder of
the Old Rock
House



#### George W. Beard Is Buried at Milano

Brother of Former Representative Had Lived in Milam County For 64 Years

George W. Beard died at his home, the old rock house, near Milano Sunday and was buried at Sand Point Cemetery Monday. Mr. Beard had resided in that community since 1864, with the exception of a year spent in Ohio. His parents, Coleman C. and Louisa Stratton Beard, were pioneer settlers and reared a family of prominent citizens. Coleman C. Beard was four years in the Confederate service, and died shortly thereafter and left a widow and children to fight the battle of life without a husband and father. Educational opportunities were poor, but by home study and extensive reading. George became a well informed man.

In 1906 he and Miss Amanda Harrel of Calvert were united in marriage. One son, George H. and the wife together with two brothers, the Hon. C. M. Beard of Milano and Andrew Beard of the valley country, survive him.

Deceased had been a consistent Christian and a member of the Christian church fifty years. Rev. Dan Bounds of Rockdale conducted the funeral and a large concourse of relatives and friends attended the services. The floral offerings were profuse and beautiful.

Misses Leila Woolley and Lillian Atkinson and Mrs. Kathryn K. Robbins, Judge John Watson, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Beard and Mrs. V. P. Woolley attended the funeral of Mr. George W. Beard of Milano Monday.

# Louisa America Stratton Beard 1835-1911



Married 1851 to Coleman Campbell Beard (1833-1867) Children:

James Clay 1852, ARK
Elizabeth, 1854, ARK
Isaac Andrew, 1855, ARK
George W. 1858, ARK
Campbell G. 1861 – Parker, TX
Coleman C. 1865, Milam, TX

Newton Ohio 2-28-93 Mrs L.A. Beard Milano, Tex

Dear Mother - your letter of 15th this inst to hand. I was very glad to hear from you, was thankful that you was well. I am well at present & doing very well considering the cold wether. We had 1 snow here that stayed on the ground 6 weeks. The mercury has ben as low as 20 degrees below zero. The 20th of this month the mercury stood at zero. We had a big snow storm 3 r 4 days ago. The snow was about a foot on a level. it is warmer now

and is thawing, but there is snow on the ground yet. People that has been raised in the south cannot imagine the great wealth & improvements there is here compaired to the south. I have been in a iron foundry here & seen the great streem of liquid iron pour from the furnace like water running from a spring. I have been in a jug and crock factory & seen them making crockery there. I have seen slays flying over the snow by the hundreds. have seen the great rivers frozen over solid with ice & seen people scateing on the rivers. People here "says this has been the coldest winer they have seen here for 16 r 18 yrs." I have stood the cold better than I esheated?? {estimated } I could.

Tell Jimmie to write to me & be a good boy & to make a good and useful man. tell him that I had the nicest Christmas & new years dinner he ever saw or perhaps he ever will see in Tex. I can not tell when I will be in milam. may be there 15th of mar or 1st of abrl. I trust you all will take good care of my tools & personal propperty. I hope you will keep well and do well. I have only been gone a short time, but it seems to me a whole year. but memory recalls your familiar motherly face with its years of toil and pain passed and gone by, you may have the same love for me you had when I was a boy, memory may recall the baby kisses & dimple fingers

and rosey cheeks of 34 yrs ago: but where are they now, you should remember that I have the mind of a man instead of the mind of a boy. you can controle a boy, but should not want to controle a man. Home should be a place of hapiness and not a place of discontentment. I have been with you so long that I am not satisfied a way from you but nececity demands it. I do not want you to worry your mind about me and make yourself sick for you have suffered Enough. If any of you get dangerously sick you may wire me. I wish you all Success & a happy life. write soon Respectly, GW Beard

nOTE, Jimmie is GW's nephew, James Sevier Beard, son of GW's oldest brother James Clay Beard and his first wife who died in childbirth.

# letter to Mother

and had helve Clichen be there estyon tols+ gone loyrum ityears ne byymay

bea

rea

fregers

and roses cheeks of 34 yes ago: but where are they now your should her ember that I have the mind of a man instead of the mind of a bor you can controle a boy, but you should not want to controle a man. Home should be applace of hapiness and not a place of discintentment. I have been with you so long Short I am not satisfied a way from not want you to worry your wound about me and make your self brok, forgan have Suffixed Enough. If any of you go dangerously sich you may wife met I wish you all success + a happy life wile som Respett Gev Beard

# When was the rock house built?

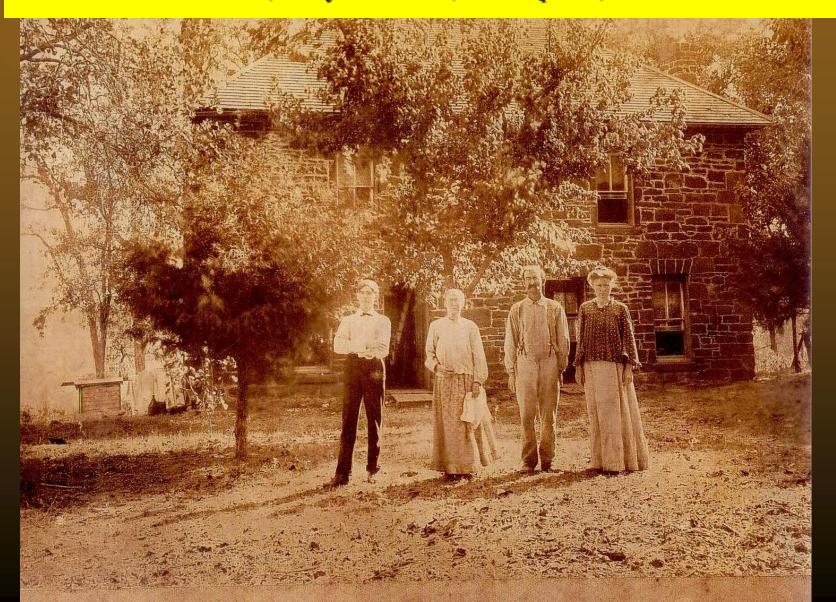
State of Texas Country of milan to all concerned. This is to certify, I La Beard hereby testify that the Levoling House which I have held in for my wie and Occupation during natural life was built with the cape of G.W. Beard. and was completed present state in the month of November December in the year 1891, and I fine testify that said I. W. Beard, made s. Capital that said house was built wis Intirely apart from any of my estate said house being located on an 8 acre tract of land which I have gran Sold and conveyed to said I, W. Bear Witnes my hand and seal of date This-



Being a part of a 266 & aere tract Louisiged by W my mulling to jurs & a Beard, apr 30th 1880, on necord & page 4. - Beginning at the S.W. Corner of the & M Beard 912 and tract for 8. E. Corner of this tract from which a P. D. Gry 26. 22° N. 2 vrs. and another D.O. bry S. 76° M. June - Thence S. 60 M. 691 was to the 76. M. Corner of the 82 aere tract cleeded by mos is a Geord to grace and for the S. W. Corner of this tract, from which a B. S. bus 46.18 6.10 vrs. and another B. J. brs S. 68 8. 11 vrs - Thenes with Whiling of said Lottle survey, 76.30°W. 17 2 vis to the s. W. Corner of & C Beard's 30' alse tract from which a P. O. bro S. 65 6.12 vrs . - Theree 76. 60 6,400 vrs. to paid & C Beard S. E. Jonney of said 30'2 aere tract from which a P. O. Sus S. S. W. Zon - Thene 76.300 M. 840 vrs to the & Meand 16. E. Corner in Center of Cedan Queek. from while a him Cash bus 865 6.5 ors. There down said Every with its meanderings to the 16. M. Corner of & 2 2 9 M Bearle I'm went tract for the H. E. lover of this tract from

## Beard House – 1906

Lt. to Rt. Amanda & George Beard, Amanda's mother, Mary E. Harrell, and Nephew, James S. Beard

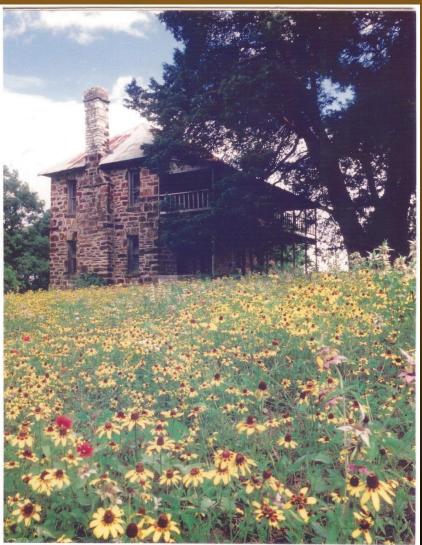


## 1910 Census

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  COUNTY Mileson  THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1910 POPULATION  STATE  TOWNSHIP OF OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY JUSTICE PROCESSION									
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# The Beard House has become an icon of the county





## LIFESTYLE

The Rockdale Reporter

#### MOST MUSICAL

Top honors are handed out at the annual RHS band banquet, page 3B.



### **Rock house of ages**

Anthropology prof renovating South Milam landmark

BY MARIE BAKKER

ILANO-In rural areas, some-times landmarks become icons and so is the ease with the "old rock house" off Texas 36 about two miles south of Milano, Dr. Donny Hamilton, head of the Anthropology department at Texas A&M University, has taken on a "labor of love" to restore the 120-year-old home site, starting with the locally famous two-story house.

Hamilton has visitors stop and tell him of folklore stories of haunting ghosts, floors invested with rattlesnakes and bodies in the well, none of which are true. It was also thought that the home was once used as a stagecoach relay station, also not true according to the Pecos, Texas native, who has done extensive research on the homestead and Beard family.

He said it is rare that a work weekend goes by that he does not have someone stop by to talk about the Milam County relic. Oh, and the tales of a hody in the well, the ghost of a 23-year-old girl in the house and picture showing the silhouette of man in top hat are all false as well, Hamilton said.

icon," he joked. "My family thinks I'm crazy." Big decision

Like a lot of people, Ham-ilton was driving by and thought how awful that no one is doing anything to the

"I hated for it to just be torn down," he said.

Once he decided to buy the house and the surrounding five-nere track, it took Hamilton about two weeks to track down the owners and ask to purchase the local relic. He purchased it s8 months later and the restoration of the home began in July 2010. For 'Mama'

The home was originally built in 1991 by George W. Beard for his widowed mother, Louisa America Stratton Beard. His wife Amanda and son George H., also freed of its completion, the home



Dr. Donny Hamilton, head of the Anthropology department at Toxas home has become a 'labor of love' and Hamilton hopes once com-A&M, is renovating the Beard House south of Milano. The iconic pleted to have it designated as a Texas Historical Landmark.



The home as it stood in 1906. Builder George W. Beard (second from right) with wife Amanda (right), her mother Mary Eliza Nobel Harrell and what is believed to be Harrell's younger son.

had four rooms, two fire places and a kitchen separated from the main house by a large back porch or galley. One of the two chimneys still stands. The other was struck by lightning at some point in the last 30 years. The Beard family originally

moved to the Cedar Creek area just south of Milano in 1864. Louisa and her four sons built and run the family farm whileber husband was off fighting the war as a member of the Confed-

The red sandstones used to



Join us at the Holy Family Catholic Church's 2nd Annual Picnic! Sun. June 12, 2011 1027 FM 696 E Lexington BBQ Dinner, beginning at 11am, Country Store, Live Auction, Cake Walk,

Lots of games for the kids, vegetable gardens, milking peas and chicken bouses. Hamilton Concessions, Holy Con Plop. learned from research about the Holy Cow Plop tickets, call 512-658-2889

See ROCK HOUSE, page 28

construct the bouse cause from

a quarry on the property, some-

what visible from the back door

of the house today. The 18-inch

house cool in the summer and

pumps from the spring, which

still flows today, would bring

water to the large gallery and

kitchen. The family also had

pear and pream orchards, large

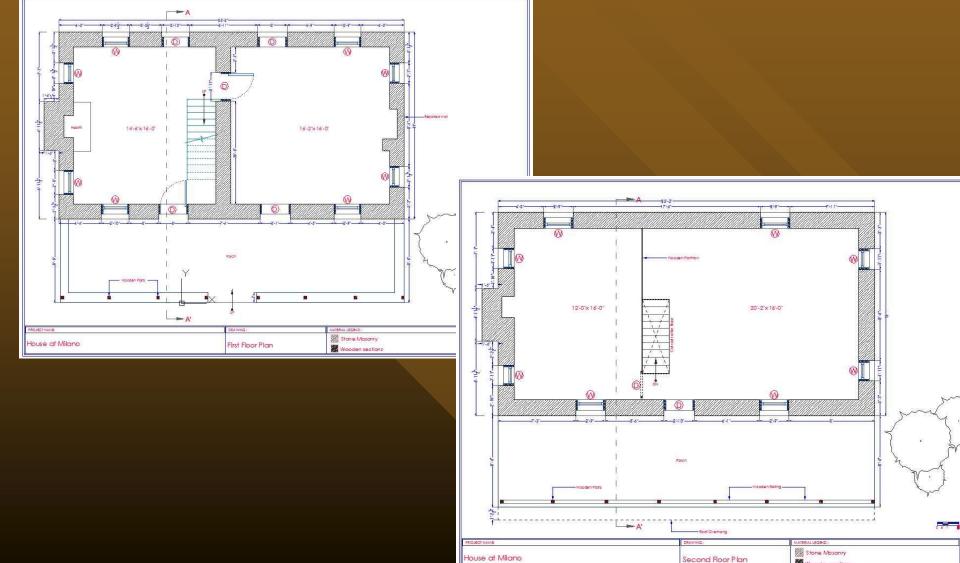
thick walls would keep the

# Newspaper Articles

# Mary Beard Haley, born in the house October 1932

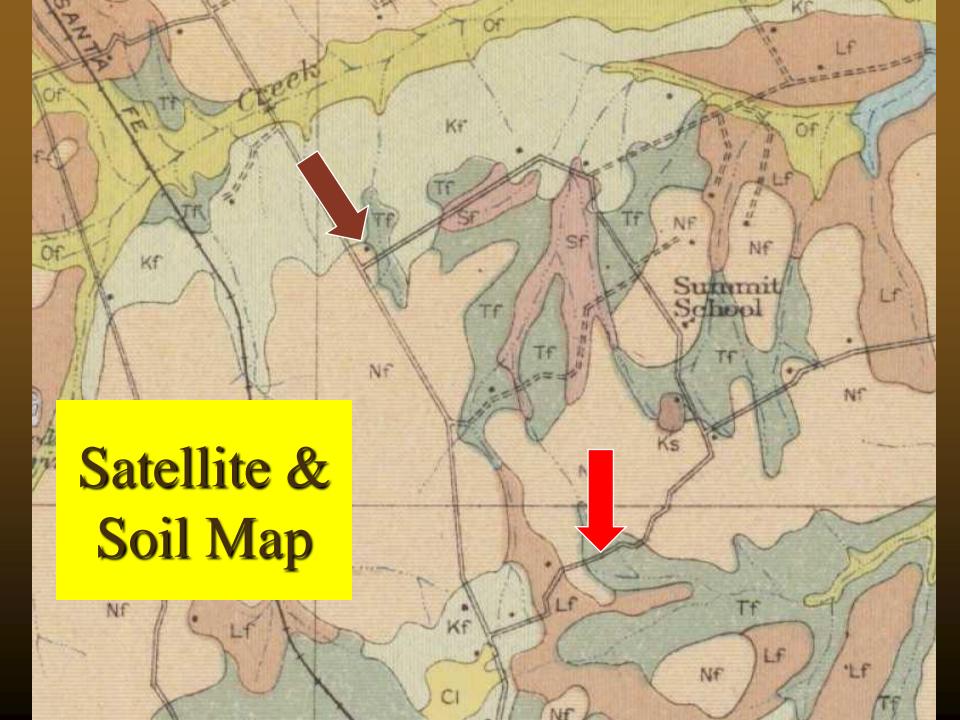


## House Plan



# Old Hudson Store in Milano Closest Parallel to the Beard House – constructed in 1893







# The Spring Head



Spring Repair







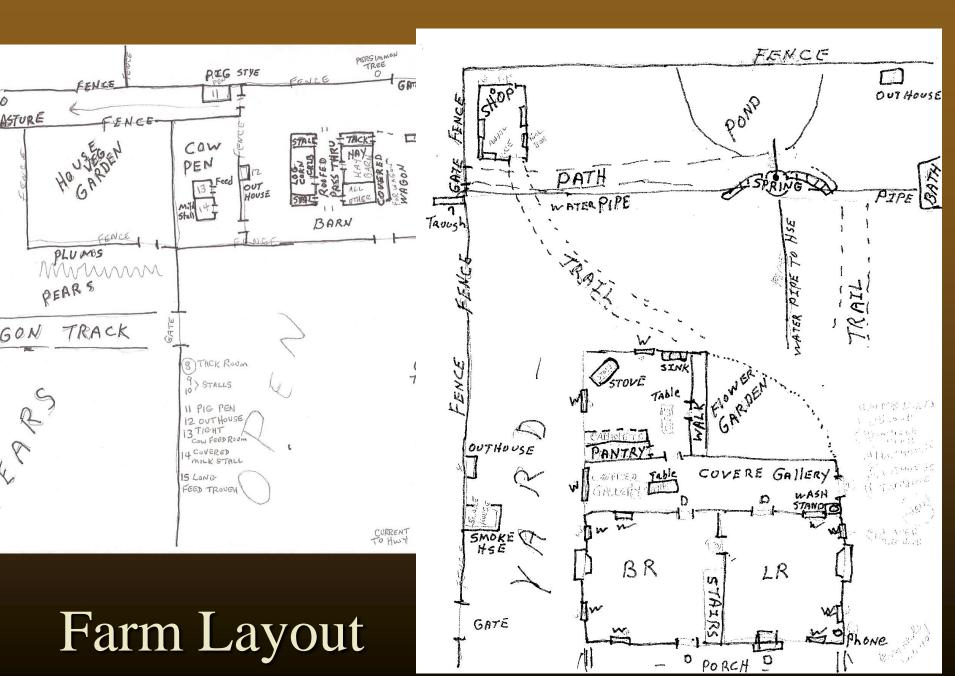


# Transportation



# Farm Layout







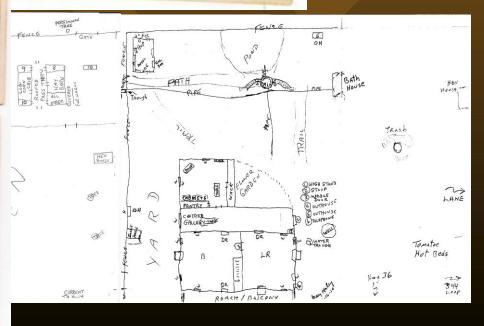


CORN









Sumes & Beauth Moored home in Teloracy The 12th 18 18 (
Cerroiced of With him and received all That he made an ingland in 18 44 ( Which Was 100 one hundred bushels of corn = 2 bales of Cotton and a restricted 2 hades of hay a distributed server hundred points of park

# Farm Production JCB

Loggs one Set and Sadale.

My son

James C Beard mooved hom in February the 12th ) 1878(

Carried off With him and received all That he made on my land in )1877( Which Was 100 one hundred bushels of corn 2 bales of Cotton and a remanant 2 bales of hay. also seven hundred pounds of pork and its lard. one Set of House Loggs. one Set crib loggs. one Horse bridle and saddle. one yoke of cattle one bedquilt. one set of pillows one set of yers? and plow tools. 2 Estry meethogs 2 Sows and pigs 4 Shoates

#### Supplement to the Milano Gazette, Saturday, Oct. 30, 1915

#### The Milano Gazette

Entered as second class matter January 18, 1912, at the post office at Milano, Texas, under the Act. of March 3, 1875.

The Milano Gazette is lessed weekly at Milans, Texas Subscription price il per year.

HAKER & RUTHERFORD, Publishers.

O. D. BAKER EDITOR JOHN RUTHERPORD, BUSINKIS MANAGER

The cuitor of this paper will leave on the early morning train November 8th for the Methodist annual conference at Longview, He will be accompanied on the true by I h your c friend. Thompof County Glerk leff I. Kemp, of Cameron. The young gentleman will be introduc-McCoy and will adh reference in the interest of the Charley of Cameron for the next meeting place of that body. Thompson Kemp has been reared in a loval Methodist home and nurrared in a Methodist cradle and the love and admiration of his young heart reaches out with true devotion to the interests of Southern Methodism With such faith ful followers among the youth of our land the cause of Christ will never fail and the influence of the terchings of Wesley will never fade.

A Call to Trucker

#### Muano Woman Wins Priz s Death of Another Pioneer,

It will be a source of gratifica tion to Milano people to learn that at the first Farm Women's Fair, held at Houston, October 11 to 16, a Milano laby was the successful exhitor in many events.

Mrs. George Beard, who resides near this city and who is widely known in this section, was awarded second prize at the Texas Farm Woman's Fair for the best collection of tarm products. She was also awarded prizes as follows:

For best white corn, 1st prize. For best yellow corn, 1st prize. nor best red sweet polatocs, 1st prize.

For best orions, 1st prize. For best pup corn, 2nd prize-

Mrs. Beard was also the winner of first prize in another contest and second prize intwo other events body invited. The fact that she was the 184th exhibitor at the Fair renders her achievement all the more gratifying.

The success of Mrs. Beard's exhibits on this occasion serves to demonstrate the fact that the products of the soil of the Milano country can compete successfully with those of any other section of Texas.

Mrs. Ford, wife of Mr John Ford, died at 2 o'clock Tu-sday morning at the family residence in the near vicinity of this city-

The deceased hady was an old resident of this section and was highly esteemed by a large curle of friends. Besides her husband. she leaves two sons, Horace and Arch Ford, and one dangliter, Mrs. Doris Cannay and several grandchildren to mourn ber depar area

The remains were interred in the city cemetery at 5 o'clock the same afternoon, a large number of riends attending the four-altabatyice.

Rev J. N Gibson will deliver an address on 'Spiritual Gitts' at the Christian church, Sumfay, the 31st unstant, at 11 o'clock. Every-

For Sale Reasonable At Residence

G.W. appears several times in the Milano Gazette from 1919-1925:

Milano Gazette, July 5, 1919: Local News Items Round About Town

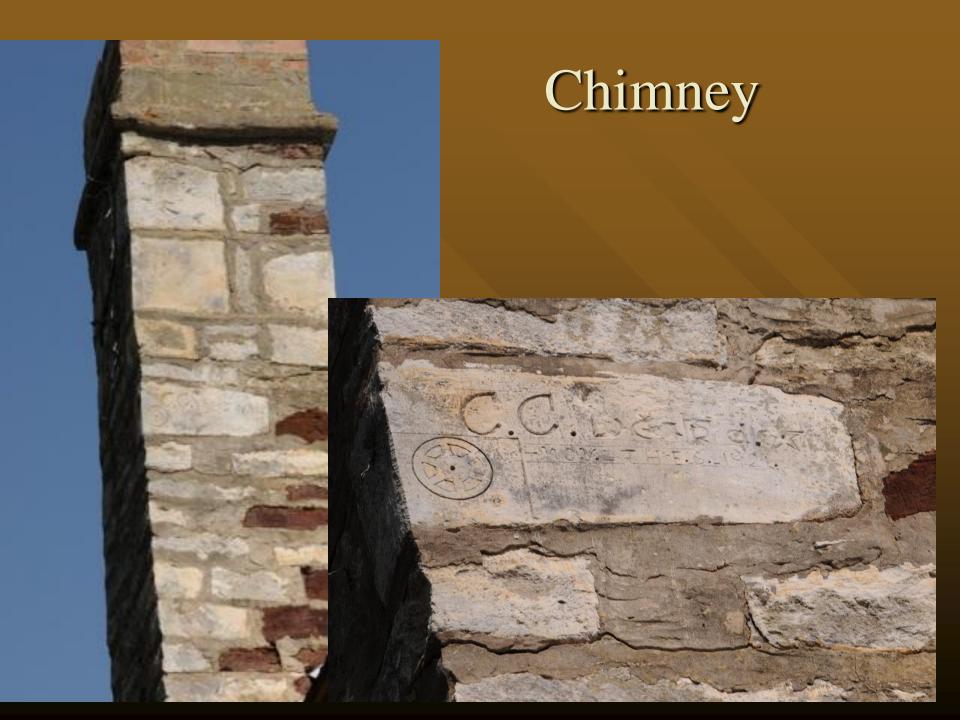
Mr. G.W. Beard left a couple of whopper onions of the Australian Brown variety at the Gazette office one day this week that beat anything we have seen in the onion line. One of the onions he brought weighed two pounds. Mr. Beard says he planted the seed in February of 1918 and then planted the sets that fall, so the onions have been almost a year and a half in attaining the huge and wonderful growth.

#### Australian Brown Onions

Milano Gazette, November 29, 1919: Mr. G.W. Beard says: This great scarcity of farm labor is going to mean a serious matter if present conditions keep up. People are just simply refusing to work on the farms even at good pay for their work. They prefer to work in towns and cities. There must be a back to the farm movement sometimes, and if it doesn't materialize in due course of time, then the people who go to the stores to buy their flour and clothing will some day find there isn't any to be bought. The young men of today who are making big salaries had better save the greater part of it and buy a farm as soon as they can.

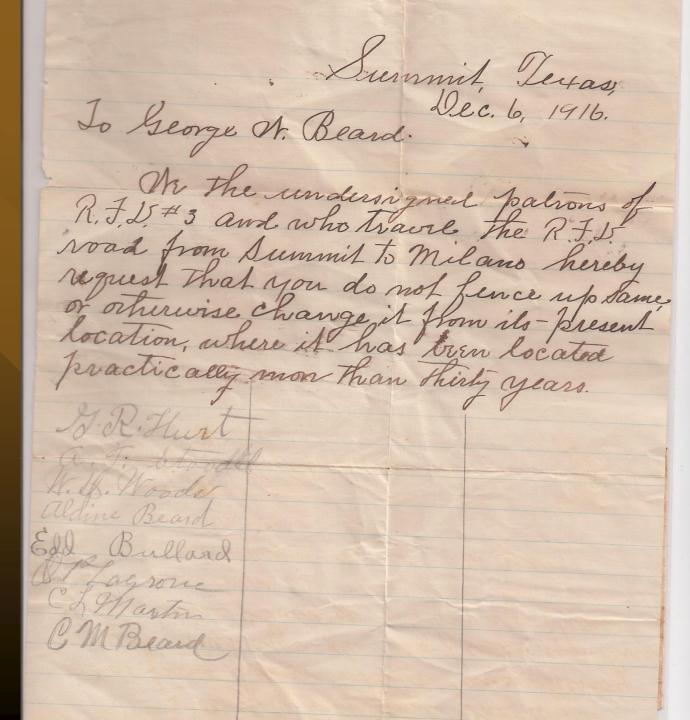
Milano Gazette, June 4, 1921: Mr. G.W. Beard of the Cedar Creek Country brought in two crates of tomatoes Monday of this week, May 30, which were, as far as we know, the first tomatoes of the season. They were good ripe tomatoes, of [illegible transcription] pack and were sold to the J.D. Peeples store at \$2 a crate. This is about a week late for the first crate of Milano tomatoes, which usually arrive in the local market in May 24th to May 26th.

# GWB in Milano Gazette



# Family Conflicts

Signed by:
G.R. Hurt
A.T. Stooall??
G.D. Woods
Aldine Beard
Edd Bullard
O.P. Lagrose
C.L. Martin
C.M. Beard











# Living Room









# BR - 1st Floor









# North Fire Place – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor



North 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Room







## Ceramic Oddities







# Snuff Bottles



# Nails



# Pressed Tin



# Doors



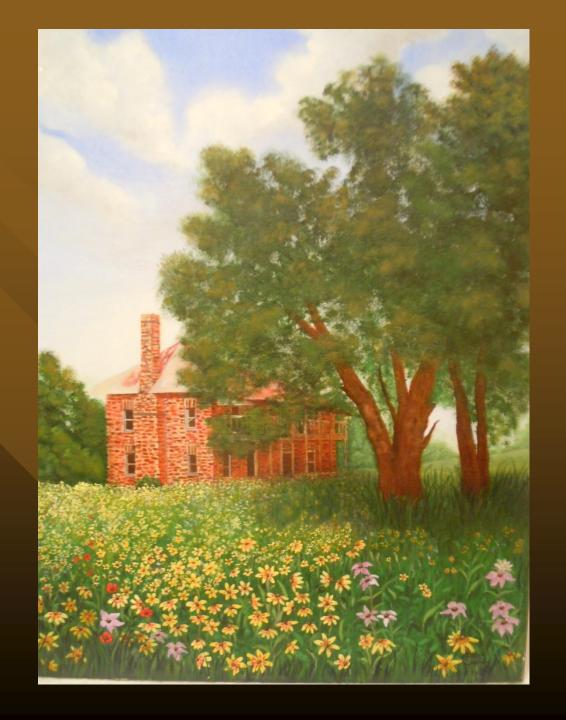






## Painting

Gift from Mark
Elliot, delivered
by T.C. & Renee
Sadler of
Cameron, TX



# The End

# El fin