

An Application for an Official Texas Historical Marker for  
**Wooster**

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with assistance of Bernice Mistrot and Janet K. Wagner<sup>1</sup>  
for the Baytown Historical Preservation Association  
and presented to the Harris County Historical Commission

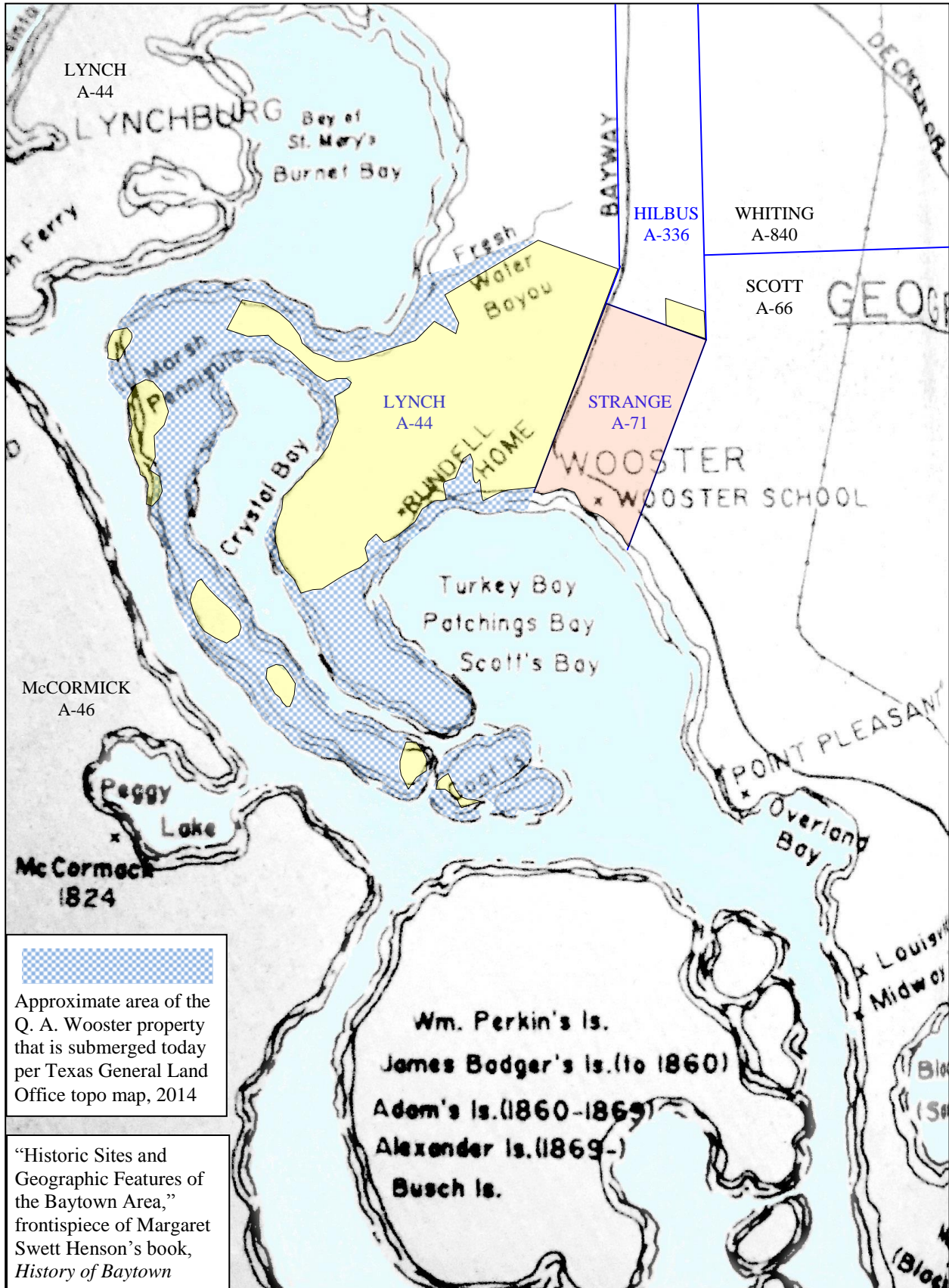
***Wooster: Its Beginning and Its End***

**I. CONTEXT**

The small unincorporated town of Wooster, Texas, an independent rural community for 70 years but now a part of Baytown, was the dream of John Quincy Adams Wooster, generally known as Q. A. Wooster. Descended from the well-known Edward Wooster<sup>2</sup> family of Connecticut, his life spanned from September 4, 1839 in Walden, Caledonia County, Vermont, to February 21, 1908 in Wooster, Harris County, Texas.

Detailed biographies of Q. A. Wooster published in 1890 (*History of Monona County, Iowa*)<sup>3</sup> and 1918 (*A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans*)<sup>4</sup> relate that as was the custom of the time, at the age of 18 (sic) he was “given his time” by his father,<sup>5</sup> and the following four years were spent in the lumber woods of the state of Maine. In the summer of 1860 he went west, settling in Fillmore County, Minnesota, to engage in lumbering and agriculture. He briefly served in the Civil War, and later in the Sioux Indian Massacre as a member of the Home Guard protecting the settlers.<sup>6</sup> Selling his Minnesota property, he moved with his wife, Catharine, and his young son, Alfred Quincy,<sup>7</sup> to Monona County, Iowa in the spring of 1865. Traveling in a prairie schooner, they arrived in Cooper Township where he homesteaded. Selling that property, he relocated in Maple Township in 1867, where he became active in area affairs. When a new school was to be built that year, “through the energy and impartial decisions of the presiding justice, A.A. [Q. A.] Wooster, all difficulties were settled satisfactorily.”<sup>8</sup> He was active in school affairs and served on the school board; in December 1871, he was the first to mention establishing a debating club in the township.<sup>9</sup>

In 1891 he came south and visited the Houston area as a traveling correspondent for the *Monona County Democrat*.<sup>10</sup> Taking a definite liking to the bay area, he went home to Iowa, sold the farm,<sup>11</sup> and moved his family once again, to locate on the shores of Scott’s Bay<sup>12</sup> in Harris County. Here he and his business partners purchased over 1200 acres located in three adjacent land grants: the Nathaniel Lynch *league*,<sup>13</sup> the James Strange *labor*,<sup>14</sup> and the William Hilbus one-third league. A significant portion of this area is under water today.



Bayway Drive is the dividing line between the two major sections of Wooster, which have very different histories. To the west of Bayway Drive lies the portion in the Nathaniel Lynch league, which did not develop into a town in Q. A. Wooster's lifetime, but became Wooster Heights and the Brownwood subdivision of Wooster in the 1930s. To the east of Bayway Drive lies the portion in the James Strange labor, which developed into the town of Wooster in the 1920s and eventually included a small business district. These two sections will be discussed separately.

### **Early History of the Land**

**Nathaniel Lynch** came to this bay area in the summer of 1822 as one of Stephen F. Austin's Old Three Hundred<sup>15</sup> colonists, bringing with him his wife Frances and three children (two sons and a daughter). The Lynch family came from Missouri to New Orleans, where they took passage on a vessel coming to Texas. Fanny bore her third son, John J. Lynch, here in 1823. On August 19, 1824, Lynch received title to a league of land in the area that later became Harris County.

The census of March 1826 listed Nathaniel Lynch as a carpenter, farmer, and stock raiser, age 40, born in New York and recently arrived from Missouri. His household included his wife, Fanny Hubert, sons Benjamin Franklin, William, and John, daughter Elizabeth, and two servants.<sup>16</sup> The settlement that grew up around his headright and steam sawmill at the juncture of Buffalo Bayou and the San Jacinto River was called Lynchburg.<sup>17</sup> He operated a ferry service across the San Jacinto River, receiving a license for it in 1830, and his home was an inn for travelers. His first ferry was operated on Crystal Bay, east of the present-day ferry.

Nathaniel Lynch died in 1837, and Mrs. Lynch, who had married Col. Martin Hardin in 1840,<sup>18</sup> sold portions of the land to John Rundell<sup>19</sup> (480½ acres that became the Rundell Plantation, plus the approximately 400-acre Marsh Point)<sup>20</sup> in September 1843 and to Talcott Patching<sup>21</sup> (150 acres, including the 20-acre Goat Island) in September 1845.<sup>22</sup>

John Rundell died intestate in August 1863, survived by his third wife, Isabella; two daughters from his second marriage, Emma and Clara Rundell; and three of the six children of his first marriage, Francis M., Phoebe, and Oliver H. Rundell.<sup>23</sup> The ensuing legal wrangling between the children of the two marriages was not resolved until December 1879, several years after Francis and Oliver, each of whom had served as administrator of the Rundell estate, had died.<sup>24</sup> The 1879 final decree awarded 100 acres out of the center of the Rundell Plantation to

Phoebe (Rundell) Adams, wife of B. F. Adams; the western 190¼ acres plus Marsh Point to Clara (Rundell) Wasson, wife of Wiley Craven Wasson,<sup>25</sup> and the eastern 190¼ acres to Emma (Rundell) Wasson, wife of William T. Wasson.<sup>26</sup>

In 1883, Garrett L. Scott of Grimes County (no known relationship to William Scott, for whom Scott's Bay is named)<sup>27</sup> purchased all of the above Wasson property.<sup>28</sup> All of these Rundell and Patching tracts were included in the land purchased by Q. A. Wooster and W. D. Crow in October 1892.<sup>29</sup> (Rundell's estate also included a 252-acre parcel in the Lynch league north of the 480½ acres, some of which later became part of Lakewood.)

**James Strange** also arrived in the area in 1822.<sup>30</sup> Also one of Austin's Old Three Hundred, Strange came with friends Thomas, Daniel D., and Elijah Deckrow (DeCrow), who settled on Matagorda Bay in 1823. For a while, Strange acted as agent on Galveston Bay for Daniel Deckrow (DeCrow), who had a small sailing vessel. On August 24, 1824, Strange received title to his *labor* of land between the properties of Nathaniel Lynch and William Scott. Strange and Lynch were in dispute over land boundaries in 1825. In April 1825 James Strange was the constable for the San Jacinto district.<sup>31</sup>

The census of 1826 classified James Strange as a farmer and stock raiser, a single man, age 44, born in South Carolina and recently arrived from the "Isle of Cuba." He was then living with Christian Smith, Sr. and his wife Rachel Pafford, and their children, Christian, Jr., Elizabeth, and Elleanor Smith.<sup>32</sup> He subsequently sold this land to a Christian Smith. The Strange labor changed hands a dozen more times between 1830 and 1894.<sup>33</sup> Although Strange sold this property, he remained in the area through 1850, living with Jesse and Sarah White.<sup>34</sup> James Strange also received another grant of 7-1/3 *labors* (the balance of his one-third league headright) near Humble in February 1838.<sup>35</sup>

On July 28, 1838, a James Strange was awarded 320 acres near Huntsville by the Secretary of War for military service from March 20 to April 4, 1836.<sup>36</sup> While it is not certain this is the same person, his advanced age as indicated in the 1850 census (54 in 1836), is consistent with a medical discharge just two weeks after enrolling.<sup>37</sup>

**William Hilbus** arrived in Texas sometime after the 1826 census, but before March 2, 1836, as he qualified for 1/3 league as a single man. He also received 640 acres in Austin County for his military service in the Republic of Texas, May- November 1836.<sup>38</sup>

Sprinkled throughout the deeds and abstracts<sup>39</sup> are historical names such as Estevan (Stephen) F. Austin and David G. Burnet. Landmarks and distances in the early deeds

reproduced in the abstract are marked in *varas*, and include descriptive terms such as “cigarette-smoking distance” from a given point, or “a cluster of five elm trees near the water.”

## II. OVERVIEW

### The Founding Families of Wooster

Q. A. Wooster and his wife, Catharine, moved from Mapleton, Monona County, Iowa, and settled in Harris County early in 1892. Wooster and his business partner, Willard D. “Bill” Crow, also from Monona County, began buying property in the area. They settled on the peninsula bordered by Scott’s Bay, Crystal Bay, and Burnet Bay, being a part of the Nathaniel Lynch league. The next year,<sup>40</sup> a third family from Monona County arrived in Harris County: Junius Brown and his wife, Mary Augusta Goodrich, originally from New York, and several of their eight children settled nearby on the James Strange labor. “The Browns, who apparently did not know them in Iowa, lived two townships distant from the Wooster and Crow families.”<sup>41</sup>

Eventually, Q. A. Wooster’s son, John Lewis Wooster, married Junius Brown’s daughter, Jessie Margaret Brown.<sup>42</sup> Sarah Edith Brown, another daughter of Junius Brown, married Wesley Ernest Crow, son of W. D. Crow’s brother, John Wesley Crow, a rice farmer who also lived nearby.<sup>43</sup> One of Junius’ sons, Bertram “Bert” Brown, married Ora Isenhour, whose family had come to the area from Minnesota and purchased the old Bayland Orphans Home property in 1897.<sup>44</sup> After Catharine’s death in 1900, Q. A. Wooster married Ora Isenhour’s older sister, Adeline Isenhour.<sup>45</sup>

The Wooster, Brown, and Crow families, with their intermarriages, were the founding families of Wooster. However, W. D. Crow sold his interests here before 1900 and moved to the George W. Eaton grant in northwest Harris County, just east of what is today the intersection of FM 1960 and Jones Road.<sup>46</sup> He subsequently left Texas, and by 1920 he had settled in Howell County, Missouri, where he died in 1932.<sup>47</sup>

Most of the children of Q. A. Wooster and Junius Brown settled in the James Strange labor, just east of where Q. A. platted his original town.<sup>48</sup> The nucleus of the town was near the intersection of Market Street Road (now Bayway Drive)<sup>49</sup> and Wooster Street. Mostly Wooster families lived on this street. John L. Wooster and Jessie Margaret (Brown) Wooster divided their ten-acre homesite into homesites for four of their eight children: Roy, Ruth (Mrs. Frank E. Kelly), Ancil, and Clyde. Their other four children also lived in the greater Wooster area. The youngest son, Francis Gerald “Gump” Wooster, lived with the family until he enlisted in the U.S.

Navy during World War II. After the war he returned home, married, and lived on John A Street and later on Crow Road until his death. Quincy Adams Wooster never married and continued to live with his parents, retaining the home site until his death in 1987.

Acre lots in Wooster Heights (the easternmost part of the Wooster-Crow property in the Lynch league) were given to John L. Wooster, Jr. on Weaver Street and to Ray Brown Wooster on Wood Avenue. Two of Junius Brown's grandsons also had acre lots in Wooster Heights: Howard (son of Bert) lived on Weaver Street and Junius Walter "June" (son of Walter) lived on Wood Avenue.

Junius Brown owned most of the Strange labor. He resided on the portion that lay between Market Street Road and Scott's Bay, and purchased some adjoining lots in the Lynch league, just across present-day Bayway Drive. He kept a large lot for himself and gave nearby lots to three of his eight children, Bernice (Mrs. James Manual), Walter, and Bert.

Most of the Wooster-Crow property in the Lynch league (the part west of Steinman Street), was developed as the Brownwood Subdivision of Wooster in the late 1930s. North of Wooster Heights and Brownwood, beyond the area of the original Wooster-Crow property, an upscale new subdivision called Lakewood was developed in the late 1940s. All of these areas were considered part of Wooster.

The shell road that later became Market Street Road began in Goose Creek, went through the Wooster community, across the San Jacinto Bridge, and into Houston. The area through Wooster was maintained by local residents using rice-farming equipment.

### **Wooster Family Cemetery**

When Q. A. Wooster purchased the land in the Lynch league in 1892, there was at least one grave on it, located in what is shown on the 1893 plat as Lot 1 or Lot 2, Block K, near the west end of Mapleton Avenue.<sup>50</sup> It was marked with a large marble slab bearing only the words "My Father," and is thought to be the grave of Talcott Patching, who had previously owned that part of the peninsula.<sup>51</sup>

The 1893 map shows a structure that measures about 30 by 50 feet near this location, but its function is unknown. It was not present during the lifetimes of presently living family members, and is not mentioned in family tradition. Given the proximity to the Patching grave, perhaps it was the Patching home or barn.

The Wooster family established a small cemetery close to, but not including, this lone grave. The first family burial was that of Q. A.'s son Martin Elmer Wooster, on October 8, 1894. Q. A. Wooster's son John L. Wooster bought these two lots at the end of Mapleton Avenue, together with the family cemetery, when the Wooster estate was divided and sold. He and his son Ray Brown Wooster maintained the cemetery for the rest of their lives. Sadly, the entire cemetery has been lost to subsidence, and is now under water. Only three graves and two other gravestones were moved.<sup>52</sup>

### **Land Transactions - Nathaniel Lynch League**

On October 20 and 21, 1892, Q. A. Wooster and W. D. Crow purchased the following property in two deeds,<sup>53</sup> one from Phoebe (Rundell) Adams and one from Garrett L. Scott:

(1) Three parcels comprising the 480½ acres of the Rundell Plantation, (2) the 150-acre Talcott Patching tract, (3) Marsh Point (sometimes called Mary's Point), all of the above being in the Nathaniel Lynch league, and, some distance away, (4) 11½ acres in the William Hilbus 1/3 league.

This Wooster-Crow property, which is primarily the peninsula and mainland bordered by Scott's Bay on the south, by Crystal Bay on the west, by Burnet Bay (Bay of St. Mary's)<sup>54</sup> on the north, and by the James Strange labor on the east, also includes the 20-acre Goat Island and the 400-acre Marsh Point, and is shown in yellow (and in blue crosshatching) on the map on Page 2. Here Wooster and Crow deliberately laid out the plan for the town of Wooster in both large plots and small in order to attract residents for the new town, and then notified folks back home that they had property for sale in Texas. In a letter<sup>55</sup> dated Wooster, Texas on May 13, 1894, Q. A. Wooster wrote to his daughter Nellie, "I fully believe this coast country has a bright and prosperous future and that I made no mistake in investing here." In fact, however, the town he envisioned did not begin to really develop until decades after his death.

The plat that Wooster and Crow recorded in Harris County on January 20, 1893 includes 686.6 acres, most of it divided into 40-acre outlots (see Appendix, pages 3 and 5).<sup>56</sup> Only the part along Scott's Bay (Block I, Block K, and the townsite) was divided into residential-sized lots. Ironically, the planned 22.7-acre townsite (Blocks A-H), which was bounded by Iowa, Crow, and Campbell streets and Scott's Bay, was at relatively low elevation compared to the rest of the peninsula, and is now almost completely submerged.

They named many of the streets for people and places in Iowa, and for their extended families. These streets included: Mapleton Avenue, Monona Street, and Iowa Street, for Mapleton, Monona County, Iowa, where they lived before coming to Texas; Crow Avenue and Brown Street for W. D. Crow and Junius Brown; Steinman Street and Shreck Avenue, for Wooster's sons-in-law, Steve Steinman and, W.A. Shreckengaust; and Weaver Avenue, for Gen. James B. Weaver, the Greenback party nominee whom Wooster had supported for president in 1880. However, there was never a Wooster Street on this property.

On the same day that they filed the above plat, Wooster and Crow partitioned the property between them.<sup>57</sup> Wooster retained everything west of Iowa Street, including Marsh Point, Goat Island, and Block K, site of the Rundell home and outbuildings. Crow retained everything east of Iowa Street, including the 104-lot townsite, the 11.5-acre tract in the Hilbus grant, and Block I, where Crow built his home. There were also buildings in Block I at this time. Details of the two homesteads are described later.

In October 1898, W. D. Crow sold the 280 acres between Iowa and Steinman Streets, which included the planned townsite and his home in Block I, to J. S. Wilson and wife Mollie F. Wilson, who sold it to Q. A. Wooster's daughter Dora Richmond and her husband George Richmond in 1901. The Wilsons sold the outstanding notes on the land to Q. A. Wooster in 1902, and in 1904, Wooster took the property back, as the notes had not been paid.<sup>58</sup> Thus, the property in the 1893 plat was reunited under one owner, except for the wedge-shaped tract between Steinman Street and Bayway Drive, which became Wooster Heights in April 1930.<sup>59</sup>

Q. A. Wooster died in 1908, and two years later, Edwin Rice Brown Sr., a native of Mississippi and no relation to the Brown family from Iowa, purchased most of the property that had been platted by Wooster and Crow in 1893, plus Marsh Point, from the Wooster estate.<sup>60</sup> Initially, Brown bought the property hoping to strike oil. When that failed to materialize, he used the area as winter grazing land for his cattle. After Edwin Brown died in 1928,<sup>61</sup> his widow, Myra Cabaniss Brown, and her three children subdivided the peninsula, beginning in 1937, calling it the "Brownwood subdivision of Wooster."<sup>62</sup> Brownwood became an exclusive residential area with many restrictions. Lots on the Crystal Bay side were sold to Humble Oil executives who built stately homes along the shore with beautiful views of the water and the recently constructed San Jacinto Monument. In 1940, Harris County Commissioners Court cancelled the 1893 plat of the 22.7-acre townsite at the request of Myra C. Brown.



## **Land Transactions – James Strange Labor**

On December 3, 1892, just six weeks after Wooster and Crow purchased their land in the Lynch league, Junius Brown purchased the east half of the James Strange labor, containing 88½ acres and abutting Wooster and Crow’s 11½ acres in the Hilbus grant, from Thomas Arthur and wife Mary G. Arthur for \$2000.00.<sup>63</sup> Family tradition indicates that Brown arrived in 1893; however in a lawsuit filed in June 1893, Junius Brown and Frank Burke (owner of the west half of the Strange labor), allege that they “were the owners of said property and in the quiet and peaceable possession and enjoyment thereof on or about the first day of Jany. 1893 when said defendants [the heirs of Christian Smith, deceased] without right entered upon said premises and unlawfully ejected plaintiffs therefrom.”<sup>64</sup>

Brown and Burke were successful in their suit to clear the title, for on March 9, 1894, Q. A. Wooster, Junius Brown, and W. D. Crow purchased the west half of the James Strange labor, containing 88½ acres, from Frank G. Burke for \$1600.00.<sup>65</sup> By the end of June 1894, Wooster had sold his 1/3 undivided interest in this property to Clarence W. Iddings<sup>66</sup> of Monona County, Iowa, for \$666.67, and Crow had sold his 1/3 undivided interest to Junius Brown, for \$666.67.<sup>67</sup> In March 1895, Brown and Iddings filed a plat of the “Brown & Iddings Addition to Wooster, being the James Strange labor” of 177 acres (see Appendix, page 6).<sup>68</sup>

The only street on the 1895 plat was the county road that was later called Market Street Road. The area north of the road was divided into blocks of 10 to 25 acres each; the lots between the road and Scott’s Bay ranged from about half an acre to about four acres. In August 1895, Brown and Iddings partitioned the west half, leaving Iddings with 30 acres in the northwest corner (Blocks A-B-C) and Block H, which consisted of five lots on Scott's Bay with a combined area of 4.1 acres. Brown owned the rest of the Strange labor.<sup>69</sup> Two years later, C. W. Iddings, still a resident of Monona County, sold Lots 1 and 2 of Block H to Junius Brown.<sup>70</sup>

The discovery of oil beside Tabbs Bay in 1908, the year of Q. A. Wooster’s death, brought development to the town of Wooster that he had only dreamed of. In 1919, Humble Oil & Refining Company began building a refinery to serve the Goose Creek oil field, and today this refinery, now a part of ExxonMobil, is one of the largest in the world.<sup>71</sup> The historical marker for Humble Oil & Refining Company notes that “as the company expanded and employed more people, a town grew up around the refinery. The company provided low-interest home loans to its employees.”<sup>72</sup>

Junius Brown died on October 27, 1922.<sup>73</sup> Three months later his widow, Mary, sold 99.06 acres of the Strange labor to B. Frank Sterling.<sup>74</sup> In January 1924, the southern portion of the Strange labor adjacent to the north side of Market Street Road (99.06 acres, being Blocks D-E-F-L-M on the 1895 plat) was platted as “Stirling’s (sic) Baytown Addition.”<sup>75</sup> Most of the lots were about one acre, though the Wooster family had some 6- and 10-acre parcels on Market Street Road. The addition was bounded by North Street on the north, by John A Street<sup>76</sup> along the east edge of the Strange labor and by Market Street Road (which still did not have a name) on the south and west sides. First Street (later Arbor Street) and Second Street (later Wooster Street) appear for the first time on this plat.

The northeast corner of the Strange labor (Blocks N-O on the 1895 plat) is shown on the 1924 plat as owned by Humble Oil & Refining Co., and became Wooster Terrace in November 1945.<sup>77</sup> The northwest corner (C. W. Iddings’ Blocks A-B-C) is shown on the 1924 plat as owned by Q. A. Wooster’s son-in-law Steve Steinman (although the Steinmans moved to Erie, Kansas between 1910 and 1918). This parcel, plus a small portion of the Hilbus 1/3 league, became Wooster Terrace Extension in February 1947.<sup>78</sup>

### **Q. A. Wooster’s Texas homestead**

At least eight structures are indicated on the 1893 Wooster-Crow plat in the Nathaniel Lynch league. While it is not certain which, if any, were built after Wooster and Crow purchased the property just three months earlier, it is believed that most of them dated to John Rundell’s residence here, 1843-1863. The four buildings in Block K included the antebellum Rundell plantation house, a workshop, and a barn. Q. A. Wooster moved into the plantation house and lived there the rest of his life.

The Rundell-Wooster house, the oldest in the entire Baytown area, had withstood storms since the 1840s and sheltered Brownwood families during the peak of Hurricane Carla in 1961. The front of the old house faced the bay, having been built for the sea breeze. Q. A. Wooster added the widow’s walk<sup>79</sup> and other improvements. With its above-ground cellar, the house appeared to have three and a half stories. Brick in the foundation was larger than the standard size of today, and the chimney and fireplace bricks were made with the use of a hand mold. The main floor consisted of the front porch, living room with fireplace, kitchen, bath, bedrooms and back porch. Above were another story and a half, and various attic openings that led to storage spaces. The house was constructed of hand-hewn cypress and cedar, and wooden pegs were used

for nails. There were no closets in the house. Eight pillars enhanced the front porch, and the front door had a beautiful, mustard-colored stained-glass window.<sup>80</sup> A cistern was still intact in 1961 and the majestic black-walnut trees, planted by the first owner, were still bearing. A short distance from the house was a flowing artesian well that produced clear, good tasting water.

The main damage from Hurricane Carla occurred in the brick workshop, which had been built by Wooster in the cellar for his farm tools. Heavy equipment inside the workshop floated around and bumped the foundation of the house. Basically the house was sound, showing little roof damage and window breakage from the hurricane. The walls were solid, as strong as ever. However, the repairs needed were more than the owner, Mrs. Ruth Wooster Kelly,<sup>81</sup> a granddaughter of Q. A. Wooster, wanted to do, so the old house was torn down. Time does march on, and progress is made for some, but some of us must face the inevitability of having only memories of what was and what we can leave behind as recorded history.

### **W. D. Crow's Texas homestead**

Willard D. Crow took for his homestead property a parcel of land facing Scott's Bay on the road that would be named for him, leading into the peninsula area. Two structures are shown on the 1893 map at this location in Block I, but their ages and functions are unknown.<sup>82</sup>

Late in 1893 W. D. Crow began to build his home,<sup>83</sup> a two-story "box style" with upstairs and lower verandas, on or near Lot 4, Block I. He and his wife, the former Louisa Birk, lived in the house only a few years, as he sold this property in 1898.

The W. D. Crow house stood until 1937 when it was replaced by an "ultra-modern home" built for oil executive Dan J. Holland and said to be the first of its kind in Texas.<sup>84</sup> This pre-fabricated "Motohome" still stands at 117 Crow Road (Lot 4, Block I) although it is currently unoccupied and the owner would like to raze it or donate it to a group that would pay to move it. Photographs of both houses appeared in a *Houston Chronicle* article in May 1937.

### **Education**

Mr. Wooster knew a school would be essential in attracting new residents and he enlisted the help of Junius Brown, who donated the land on which to build. The 1894 one-room Wooster Common School No. 38 served students from the first through the seventh grades.<sup>85,86</sup> Bertha Brown, Junius Brown's daughter, was the first school teacher.<sup>87</sup> The schoolhouse also served as a community center of social activity, with box suppers, spelling bees, student plays and other

entertainment, and also as a voting precinct. It later gave way to the David G. Burnet Elementary School, named for the interim President of the Republic of Texas, second Vice President of the Republic of Texas and Secretary of State, who lived in the area at one time.<sup>88</sup>

### **Post Office**

For twenty years, the town had an official U.S. post office. Willard D. Crow became the first Postmaster on March 29, 1894, followed by Steve Steinman on May 20, 1895, and Junius Brown on July 16, 1896. Brown remained postmaster until the Wooster post office was discontinued on January 31, 1914. The mail was then sent to Lynchburg until that was discontinued on December 15, 1927, in favor of Pasadena or Cedar Bayou.<sup>89</sup> Family letters indicate that Junius Brown's son Walter would pick up mail at Cedar Bayou. At one time, Walter Brown also carried the mail from Anahuac to Galveston by boat. The safe that Junius Brown used to keep stamps and other Post Office documents is still in the Brown family.

### **Community Life**

In its heyday, Wooster was a pleasant rural community, with its own school, a church, a volunteer fire department with a ladies' auxiliary, a Boy Scout troop, a garden club, several businesses, and a chamber of commerce.

Originally, the nearest stores were in Lynchburg and Cedar Bayou. Walter Brown used his boat, the *Onawa*,<sup>90</sup> to travel to Cedar Bayou, Lynchburg, and Houston to buy sugar, flour, 100-pound blocks of ice, etc., and pick up the mail for his and other families. Most residents of the acre lots had gardens, chickens, and livestock for food, supplementing their diet with fishing (including crabs and shrimp, as well as oysters from Galveston Bay) and hunting, with ducks being especially plentiful. Those who had more milk, eggs, or produce than their families could use sold the excess, and often shared or exchanged with relatives and near neighbors.

In the formative years, the Wooster area had few health problems and no physician, with the nearest being in Cedar Bayou or Goose Creek. It is believed that the Wooster community escaped diphtheria, influenza, and typhoid largely because the children attending the Wooster School each had their own drinking cup rather than sharing a common dipper. Mr. Wooster would have been very conscious of health concerns as his daughter, Nellie, was a physician.<sup>91</sup>

In November 1937, Frank E. Kelly led a drive, sponsored by the Wooster Civic League, to secure house numbers in Wooster.<sup>92</sup>

The Wooster Garden Club was organized just two months later, on January 6, 1938.<sup>93</sup> Mrs. W. J. Bennett was the first president. Among the improvement projects of this first club “were to establish the first garbage pickup in Wooster, put numbers on all houses, and plant red-bud trees along the streets.”<sup>94</sup> The Wooster Garden Club was active at least until 2011.<sup>95</sup>

The Wooster Baptist Church was founded in January 1941 with 125 charter members after a meeting held at the David G. Burnet Elementary School.<sup>96</sup> Rev. James T. Elliff was the first pastor. The first permanent building was located at 133 John A Street. By October 1952, the church had grown to 688 members, and it moved to 7007 Bayway Drive in Lakewood, where it remains today.<sup>97</sup> One of its later pastors was Rev. Glen Norman, who was married to Eloise Fern Crow, the granddaughter of Wesley Ernest Crow and Sarah Edith Brown, and great-granddaughter of Junius Brown.

The Wooster Baptist Church organized Boy Scout Troop 134 in May 1941.<sup>98</sup> This troop was active at least until 1977 and likely longer.<sup>99</sup> Today, the Wooster Baptist Church sponsors Boy Scout Troop 1444 and Cub Scout Pack 134.<sup>100</sup>

Using the Humble Refinery docks during the World War II era, the community housed a temporary holding camp for German prisoners of war.<sup>101</sup> Citizens of the area were especially conscious of possible sabotage to the refinery. The men of Wooster served as air raid wardens, also driving the streets to make sure all windows had blackout curtains in place.

### **Wooster Volunteer Fire Department**

Wooster, Brownwood, and Lakewood were served by Harris County Fresh Water Supply District No. 8. A 1949 bond issue for the water district included construction of a combined fire station and water office on Market Street Road, across from the Yellow Jacket Inn. Land for the building was donated by Eddie Cox and the Brown Estate.<sup>102</sup> Construction of the building began in May 1950, and the Wooster Volunteer Fire Department was organized in July of that year.<sup>103</sup> By March 1951, it had 25 members. Eddie Cox was elected department president; W. D. Moore was fire chief, and Bert Manuel, grandson of Junius Brown, was assistant chief.<sup>104</sup>

The Woman’s Auxiliary of the Wooster Volunteer Fire Department was organized on February 28, 1955.<sup>105</sup> Meetings and other activities of the Woman’s (or Women’s) Auxiliary were reported frequently in the *Baytown Sun* through 1963; after that the newspaper usually referred to it as the Ladies Auxiliary. The ladies were compiling a cookbook at the time of their 22nd anniversary in 1977.<sup>106</sup>

The Wooster VFD sponsored Boy Scout Troop 883 from about 1961 until 1982. As of 1973, the troop had 75 members, and had had the same Scoutmaster for 12 years.<sup>107</sup>

The organization assisted in all types of disasters, including water rescues, such as during Hurricane Carla in 1961 and during a severe flood in Brownwood in 1969. The disbanding of the Wooster Volunteer Fire Department and Emergency Corps in September 1982 after 31 years of service was selected by *The Baytown Sun* as one of the “Top Ten Stories of 1982.” It was noted that participation had declined since Wooster was annexed by Baytown in 1962.<sup>108</sup> Baytown had both a professional fire department and a volunteer fire department.<sup>109</sup> On October 8, 1982, the City of Baytown passed Resolution No. 919, thanking the Wooster Volunteer Fire Department for service to the community.

### **Business District**

Wooster had several businesses, nearly all of them being located on Market Street Road. Three grocery stores were at Wooster Street and Market Street Road at various times. Havis Grocery later became a feed and hardware store operated by Howard Briggs. Other stores for varying lengths of time were Hooks and Wolverton’s. Casey’s Grocery was located on Market Street Road at the corner of Weaver Street in Wooster Heights.

Next door to Casey’s was an old wooden tavern called the Wooster Inn, and early residents said it was a “rough place frequented by bootleggers.” On Bayway at North Street was Wylie’s, sort of a combination icehouse and convenience store, and on one end, a beauty shop. In the early Fifties on the south corner of Weaver at Bayway, a two-story dance hall and bar was built, with living quarters for the family on the second floor.

John L. “Johnny” Wooster, Jr. owned a grocery store, filling station, and repair shop at the corner of Market Street Road and Second Street (later called Wooster Street) from about 1920 until the Humble Oil Company put in its own stations. He then operated the Humble Station No. 242 beginning in 1930, and lived on Weaver Street in Wooster Heights until he retired and moved to Burton, Texas.

Later, the community had a drycleaners and a “beauty shop,” both located on Wooster Street.

The café known as the Yellow Jacket Inn was owned by Eddie Cox and gained a lot of attention when it first opened on Market Street Road. A café and drive-in, customers could be served in their cars on trays brought out by young girls dressed in short majorette-style gold

costumes, with a black pillbox hat, in keeping with the yellow jacket theme. This establishment caused quite a stir at first but it was known to have “the best hamburgers anywhere.”

Before the days of air conditioning, Richard Ericson<sup>110</sup> operated a refrigeration shop. No home had air conditioning but certain businesses had refrigeration units and coolers. Miller’s Dairy<sup>111</sup> had a large walk-in cooler and a refrigeration unit that chilled the milk as it was processed. Richard Ericson and Lee Miller were both sons-in-law of Wesley Crow.

The Wooster Chamber of Commerce was founded in November 1954 at a meeting at the Yellow Jacket Inn. Among its stated aims were “planning intermediary roads, promoting better safety, keeping up with air and water pollution, assisting in mosquito control, supporting the Wooster Volunteer Fire Department,” and working towards the consolidation of Wooster, Brownwood, and Lakewood.<sup>112</sup>

## **Lakewood**

The first of twenty sections<sup>113</sup> of the Lakewood Subdivision was platted by Eugene V. “Gene” Muller, C. H. Kelly and James B. Barnett in April 1946.<sup>114</sup> The principal streets were Lakewood Drive and Burnett Drive. Gene Mueller, president of Lakewood Development Company, helped organize the Lakewood Civic Association<sup>115</sup> on January 13, 1948 and donated land for a Little League park.<sup>116</sup> The association remains active.

In the summer of 1949, the residents of Lakewood petitioned for annexation into Harris County Fresh Water Supply District No. 8. At almost the same time, Baytown began exploring the possibility of annexing Wooster, which caused some delay in implementing the request.<sup>117</sup> Lakewood was ultimately annexed by the water district on April 4, 1949, and in a special election a month later, residents of the district (which now included Lakewood) voted to levy the same taxes on Lakewood as on the rest of the district.<sup>118</sup> The Wooster Volunteer Fire Department began providing services to Lakewood, albeit with a plea for more volunteers from Lakewood.<sup>119</sup>

The Lakewood Garden Club was organized on September 26, 1950,<sup>120</sup> and remains active. The group celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2010 with a proclamation from the City of Baytown.<sup>121</sup>

The new William B. Travis Elementary School opened in Lakewood in September 1955 with 160 students; David G. Burnet Elementary School in Wooster then had 329 students.<sup>122</sup> The Burnet school is long gone, and enrollment at Travis for the 2012-13 school year was 876.<sup>123</sup>

There were at least six churches in the Lakewood area in November 1960, all of which were still there in November 1985, but only the two oldest remain today:<sup>124</sup>

- Wooster Baptist Church (founded in January 1941 on John A Street in Wooster; moved to Lakewood in October 1952, still active at the same location, 7007 Bayway Drive).
- Lakewood Church of Christ (founded in Goose Creek in 1928; moved to Lakewood in May 1954, described as the “second church in Wooster area,” still active at the same location, 7701 Bayway Drive).<sup>125</sup>
- All Saints Episcopal (founded in October 1958; merged or closed between 1988 and 1998; was at 200 Caldwell at Robin; this location is now a home).<sup>126</sup>
- Bayway Christian Church (founded in April 1959; closed in November 1985, was at 6505 Decker; this location is now Santana Funeral Directors).<sup>127</sup>
- St. Paul’s Methodist (founded late in 1959, started a Boy Scout Troop the same year; left Lakewood and merged with St. Mark’s ca. 2005, was at 7915 Bayway, this location is now a vacant lot owned by Goose Creek CISD).<sup>128</sup>
- Westminster Presbyterian (founded late in 1959; moved to 7600 Bayway Drive in 1961; this location is now Shiva Vishnu Temple of Texas; Westminster left Lakewood and merged with First Presbyterian in 2006; renamed Faith Presbyterian in 2008).<sup>129</sup>

In November 1961, a glowing article in the *Baytown Sun* touted Lakewood as “an ideal place to live.” The unnamed writer noted that Lakewood covered 800 acres of wooded lots, and was 30 feet above sea level, higher than most of Baytown, a great selling point to readers still recovering from Hurricane Carla just two months earlier. At that time, there were 600 homes in the subdivision, all covered by deed restrictions and architectural controls, and expansion of the water facilities then underway would allow another 600 homes to be added.<sup>130</sup>

The Lakewood Civic Association “featured a clubhouse and playground, as well as boat launching facilities for those not living on the water,” and residents could purchase memberships in the Lakewood Pool Club, which had “a modern swimming pool.” A shopping center adjacent to Lakewood included a “modern new super market, drugstore, dress shop and dry cleaning firm,” a doctor’s office, and the “recently established Baytown Little Theater.”<sup>131</sup>

Today Lakewood remains a thriving community, extending from Bayway Drive west to Burnet Bay and Spring Gully (aka Slap-Out Gully), and from just north of Wooster Heights to Decker Drive (Highway 330). The business district that used to be along Bayway Drive in Wooster has been replaced by businesses along Bayway Drive adjacent to Lakewood.



## Annexation

The possible annexation of Wooster by either Baytown or Houston was a hot topic of discussion for many years. In January 1946 the Wooster voters rejected incorporation, 165 to 7.<sup>132</sup> Goose Creek, Pelly, and Baytown were consolidated as Baytown under a new charter on January 24, 1948.<sup>133</sup> The possibility of annexation by Baytown figured into the October 1949 bond issue for improvements in the water system for Wooster and Brownwood.<sup>134</sup> By March 1950, the Baytown City Council had read and tabled an annexation ordinance for Lakewood and Wooster.<sup>135</sup> In August 1954, the 1950 ordinance, which had never passed the second reading, was set aside, and a new attempt was made to annex Wooster, Brownwood, Lakewood, and other areas.<sup>136</sup> This effort also went nowhere.

In June 1960, annexation mania gripped the county, as Houston prepared to adopt an ordinance annexing all unincorporated areas of Harris County, thus making Houston three times the size of Los Angeles. The first reading was passed, 6-2, over the veto of Mayor Lewis Cutrer, who called it “preposterous.” LaPorte, Pasadena, Deer Park, and Tomball all expanded quickly to claim adjacent areas before Houston could. Baytown, then about 14 square miles, took in 100 square miles more, including Wooster, Highlands, and a part of Chambers County.<sup>137</sup> The grand expansions did not pass on the second reading, and things settled down for a bit.

In June 1962, the subject came up again, with the Wooster Chamber of Commerce and the Lakewood Civic Association opposing the move. Major concerns were the levee then being planned with the Corps of Engineers to protect the area from a storm such as Hurricane Carla, which had devastated 400 homes in the area the year before; the lower tax rate in the water district; and the fact that the water district was supplying water to the many oversized residential tracts in its service area at a lower rate than Baytown city water.<sup>138</sup> Finally, on November 29, 1962, the Baytown City Council passed an ordinance annexing 8.4 square miles, including Harris County Fresh Water Supply District No. 8 (i.e., Wooster, Brownwood, and Lakewood), with a combined population of 1475 families, or about 5000 persons.<sup>139</sup>

One consequence of the annexation was inconsistency in the house numbers between the established Baytown grid and the numbers in use in the annexed areas. Initially the Baytown chief inspector strongly recommended changing all addresses (about 900 homes and 600 vacant lots) in the annexed areas, but after protests from the citizens of Wooster, Brownwood, and Lakewood, the program was scaled back to change only the addresses on Bayway Drive, hence the 700 block of Bayway became the 7000 block.<sup>140</sup>

## **The Fate of Brownwood and Wooster**

The Brownwood subdivision of Wooster was named for Edwin Rice Brown Sr., no relation to the Brown family from Iowa, who purchased the land in 1910 from the Wooster estate and developed an exclusive residential area with many restrictions. The elevation of Wooster, including the future Brownwood subdivision, once ranged from sea level to 76 feet above, but due to years of pumping water and oil from underground, the area sank some nine feet over a 30-year period and was losing ground at the rate of five inches annually when Hurricane Carla took a major toll in 1961. The community rebuilt and bounced back from that, but Hurricane Alicia dealt another devastating blow on the morning of August 18, 1983. The entire peninsula area was condemned by FEMA.<sup>141</sup> Today that section is the Baytown Nature Center.<sup>142</sup>

The subsidence that devastated the whole of Wooster as well as much of the Tri-Cities had begun in the 1890s with rice farmers using large quantities of underground water, and was compounded by the extracting of oil from the Goose Creek field and the water needs of the emerging modern industry. After Hurricane Carla, the Baytown area continued to pump underground water to serve the needs of both residents and industry. The area suddenly became aware of the sinking and loss of high bluffs along the bays. In 1964, Humble Oil began to use surface water and built a 350-acre lagoon system for treating processed water before it was returned to the San Jacinto River,<sup>143</sup> but the damage was non-reversible.

Wooster was always at higher elevation than Brownwood, so the subsidence was not as detrimental as it was in Brownwood. Instead, Wooster has fallen to progress and the success of the oil refinery that provided jobs for many of the town's residents. Exxon (formerly Humble Oil and now ExxonMobil) began to buy the homes for a greenbelt around its refinery in the late 1990s. Residents were not forced to sell but by April 2007 about 90 percent of the roughly 700 homes had been purchased.<sup>144</sup> Very few houses remain in the area today. However, there are still residents in the Wooster Heights and Lakewood areas, including a few descendants of the founding families.

### III. SIGNIFICANCE

Wooster was founded by Quincy Adams Wooster and Willard D. Crow, who brought their families from Mapleton, Iowa late in 1892. Junius Brown, also from Mapleton, Iowa, purchased land in the adjacent James Strange labor a few weeks later, and moved his family here in 1893. Until the Humble refinery opened in 1919, most residents of the area were related to these three families. Wooster and Crow bought over 1000 acres in the Nathaniel Lynch league, which included Goat Island, Marsh Point, and the Patching and Rundell plantations situated on the peninsula bordered by Scott's Bay, Crystal Bay, and Burnet Bay. Q. A. Wooster resided in the antebellum Rundell home until his death in 1908; the home stood until 1961.

Wooster and Crow platted the town of Wooster on the peninsula in 1893, but this area first became developed as a residential community with the opening of two new subdivisions of Wooster: Wooster Heights in 1930 and Brownwood in 1937. The Strange labor was platted as the "Brown and Iddings Addition to Wooster" in 1895, and was further subdivided in 1924 as the town of Wooster began to expand, with its nucleus at Market Street Road (now Bayway Drive) and Wooster Street. The Lakewood subdivision, located north of Brownwood and Wooster Heights, was platted in 1946.

In its heyday, Wooster was a pleasant rural community, with its own school, a church, a volunteer fire department with a ladies' auxiliary, a Boy Scout troop, a garden club, a Chamber of Commerce, and several businesses, including two grocery stores, an Humble Oil service station, a dairy, a dry cleaners, and a cafe. Many residents worked for the refinery, at all levels from laborer to executive, and the town grew as the refinery expanded.

Today the Wooster community is nearly gone, having succumbed to the forces of both nature and progress. Much of Brownwood is submerged due to extensive subsidence and the devastation of Hurricanes Carla (1961) and Alicia (1983); all remaining homes have been removed and the area is now the Baytown Nature Center. In 1999, ExxonMobil began paying top dollar to buy the homes in Wooster to create a greenbelt around the refinery, and by 2007 the buyout was nearly complete. There are still a few holdouts in Wooster, but the population and business have essentially moved northwest to Wooster Heights and Lakewood.

When the City of Baytown annexed Wooster in 1962, it added an area rich in history, a locality whose three pioneer families came all the way from "Io-way."

## IV. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Blocks "A", "AA", "B", "X", "Y" and "Z", BROWNWOOD SUBDIVISION of Wooster is a Subdivision of a part of the above described property.  
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## **MAPS**

*Nathaniel Lynch League*. Surveyed August 1843 by Tipton Walker. The Estate of Nathaniel Lynch, dec’d. Probate Record Book F, pg. 244-245.

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## **WEBSITES**

Our Baytown (Bert Marshall): <http://www.ourbaytown.com/>

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## **PHOTOGRAPHS** (available on request)

- 1) The Rundell-Wooster House. Q. A. and Catharine Wooster with family in front of the house as it was prior to improvements.
- 2) The Rundell-Wooster House after the widow's walk and other improvements had been made.
- 3) Q. A. and his second wife, Adeline Isenhour, and extended family, circa 1905, in front of the house.
- 4) Photograph of the Rundell-Wooster house, incorrectly identified as "Scott House: 123 Years Young" in *The Houston Chronicle Magazine*, December 13, 1959, by Chester Rogers.
- 5) A 1959 drawing by Buck Schiwetz appears on pg. 41 of *Buck Schiwetz' Texas*, Introduction by Walter Prescott Webb (Austin TX: University of Texas Press, 1960). Also on pg. 41 of Henson's book.

## V. DOCUMENTATION

<sup>1</sup> © Trevia Wooster Beverly (Harris County Historical Commission member, 1995-), 2507 Tannehill Drive, Houston, Texas 77008-3052. [treviawbeverly@comcast.net](mailto:treviawbeverly@comcast.net). Appreciation is expressed for the significant contributions of Bernice Mistrot, Harris County Historical Commission member, for her mentorship, newspaper research, and the maps included in this narrative, and to Janet Wagner, Harris County Historical Commission Chair, for the deeds and court records cited in the endnotes.

<sup>2</sup> Edward Wooster, born 1622, Cheddington, Buckinghamshire, England; died July 8, 1689, Derby, New Haven, CT <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=6203712>, accessed July 1, 2014.

<sup>3</sup> *History of Monona County, Iowa; containing full-page portraits and biographical sketches of prominent and representative citizens of the county, together with portraits and biographies of all the Governors of Iowa, and of the Presidents of the United States* (Chicago: National Publishing Company, 1890), pp. 463-64, and numerous others. Q. A. Wooster was one of the four men on the Maple township committee of reviewers for this book (p. 5). [http://www.archive.org/stream/historyofmononac00chic/historyofmononac00chic\\_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/historyofmononac00chic/historyofmononac00chic_djvu.txt), accessed July 1, 2014.

“QUINCY A. WOOSTER. The subject of this biography is widely and favorably known throughout this county, as one of its most prominent and useful citizens. He is a Western pioneer, having with his own hands opened three farms from the wild prairie, and is a life-long agriculturist, but of late years has been devoting a large share of his attention to livestock on his beautiful farm of some four hundred and forty-six acres in Maple Township. The latter is well located and nicely improved, and lies in the lovely Maple Valley, on the banks of the silvery Maple River. He came to Monona County in the spring of 1865, and settled in Cooper Township, then a part of Maple. He took up a claim on section 6, upon which he erected a house and broke some thirty acres of land. In 1867 he sold this and bought the land and improved the farm upon which he now resides, this being the south half of section 12, Maple Township.

“Mr. Wooster first saw the light of day, September 4, 1839, in Caledonia County, Vt., and is the son of John and Fanny R. (Stebbins) Wooster, natives of Vermont and Connecticut, respectively. His father was a Congregational minister and was somewhat engaged in agricultural callings and made his home in Vermont and New Hampshire until his death. The mother of our subject died at West Burke, Vt., February 26, 1888, aged eighty-four years. Mr. Wooster, the third in a family of four children, received an excellent education, both in the common schools and at an academy, and remained at home with his parents until about eighteen years of age. Receiving his time from his father, he went to Maine, where he engaged in lumbering and remained until the summer of 1860, when he came West and settling in Fillmore County, Minn., engaged in agriculture. From there, five years later, he came to Monona County.

“Although formerly affiliating with the Republican party, in 1872, during the Liberal Republican movement, he supported Horace Greeley for President and in 1876 and 1880, prominently identified himself with the Greenback party, working earnestly for the election both of Peter Cooper and James B. Weaver. He was a delegate to the Chicago convention in 1884 that nominated Benjamin F. Butler for President, and is one of the workers in the Union Labor movement in this county, at the present writing. He has been a delegate to various State conventions at different times, and in the fall of 1879 received the nomination of the Greenback convention for member of the legislature, and reduced the majority against that party in the district, fully 50 per cent. He has held the office of County Supervisor, serving as Chairman one or two years and has held nearly all the different offices in the township. He is a member of Amicable Lodge, No. 289, A. F. & A. M., at Smithland, and of Gem City Assembly, No. 10,029 K. of L., at Mapleton.

“Mr. Wooster was married October 5, 1862. to Miss Catharine M. Monroe, a native of Bradford County, Va., born July 1, 1839, and a daughter of John M. and Roxy (Willis) Monroe, natives of the Empire State, who were married Jul 28, 1835. From New York the latter removed to Bradford County, Pa., and in the spring of 1852 settled in Fillmore County, Minn., where they still live. ... He was connected with the People’s Press, of Mapleton, for some time, as will appear in the history of that journal, elsewhere in this volume. From early boyhood he has been a student of books and newspapers, aiming to keep posted on ail current topics of the day. His home is always well supplied with books and newspapers and he knows what they contain. Upon all subjects he hears all sides and forms his own conclusions and acts upon his own convictions of right.”

<sup>4</sup> Transcribed from *A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans*, written and compiled by William E. Connelley, Secretary of the Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka. (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1918), vol. IV, pp. 1926-1927, accessed 1 July 2014. <http://www.mocavo.com/A-Standard-History-of-Kansas-and-Kansans-Volume-IV-2/695040/305>

“ALFRED QUINCY WOOSTER. ... In June, 1907, having recovered his health, Mr. [Alfred Quincy] Wooster came to Kansas and bought the Erie Sentinel. Wooster came to Kansas and bought the Erie Sentinel. He is its proprietor and editor today, having as partner his son, Lester A. The Erie Sentinel ... is one of the leading papers of Southeastern Kansas, and circulates all over Neosho and surrounding counties. While Mr. Wooster has had a very successful career he undoubtedly owes much to the influences that surrounded him as a boy and especially to the fine character of his father.

“His father, Quincy A. Wooster, was born September 4, 1839, in West Burke, Caledonia County, Vermont, a son of John and Fanny R. (Stebbins) Wooster. ... Third in a family of four children, Quincy A. Wooster had an excellent education, both in the common schools and in an academy. From early boyhood he was a student of books and newspapers, and always kept well posted on the topics of the day and was an original thinker as well. He could form his own conclusions and his career throughout shows an independence and sense of responsibility which make him a type of American citizenship to be admired. ... In the summer of 1860 he started for the Far West. Locating in Fillmore County, Minnesota, at that time on the frontier, he made a farm out of the bare prairie. He was living there during the period of the Civil War. In the Indian uprisings that began in 1862 and culminated in one of the greatest massacres that have stained the annals of the West, Quincy A. Wooster volunteered his service and was a member of a volunteer company gathered from Winnebago City, Madelia, South Bend and Mankato and did his part in defending the settlements.

“In the spring of 1865 he removed to Iowa, locating in Monona County and taking up a claim on section 6 of Maple Township. He was a rugged pioneer, accustomed to hardships, and in his early years he could perform the heaviest tasks of physical labor. By his own labor he opened up three farms from the wild prairie, and his later years were spent in the cultivation and the care of some fine livestock on his beautiful farm of some 446 acres in Maple Township of Monona County. On his first claim in that county he broke up about thirty acres and built a home, but in 1867 he sold that and bought and improved a farm now in the south half of section 12 in the same township. In 1892 he removed from Iowa and went to the Gulf coast country of Southern Texas. His place of settlement, five miles due north of LaPorte, not far from Houston, Texas, is called Wooster, the post office having been named in his honor. In that locality he spent his last years and died in the spring of 1908. Quincy A. Wooster was a remarkable man not only for his material achievements but for his mental vigor and his civic leadership. ...

The [eleven] children of Quincy A. Wooster and wife were: Alfred Quincy, the first in age. Fremont M., born May 26, 1866, is still living at Mapleton, Iowa. Nellie M., born October 7, 1867, twice a widow and now resides at Long Beach, California; her first husband was Grant Gallup, a farmer, and her second was Dr. Charles Wheeler, a physician of Blencoe, Iowa. Levi F., born June 5, 1869, is proprietor of a transfer business at Corvallis, Oregon. George C., born May 9, 1871, is a farmer at Molalla, Oregon. Ida J., born August 31, 1872, is the wife of W. J. Shreckengaust, a carpenter at Houston, Texas. Fanny R., born April 2, 1874, is the wife of Steve Steinman, a farmer living at Erie, Kansas. John L., born February 6, 1876, is a farmer at Molalla, Oregon. Dora E., born April 14, 1878, died at Houston, Texas, in 1906, the wife of George E. Richmond, who lives at Houston, and is an all around mechanic, machinist, electrician and inventor. Martin E., born February 11, 1884, died in 1896 (sic). Ellen M., born May 1, 1889, died July 24, 1889. Alfred Quincy Wooster was born while his parents were living in Fillmore County, Minnesota, on June 14, 1863. He was still an infant when they moved to Iowa in the summer of 1865 and his youth was spent on his father's pioneer farm in Maple Township.

<sup>5</sup> He was just 16 when his father published a notice in the newspaper, stating that as of April 17, 1856, “I hereby relinquish to my son, John Q. A. Wooster, his time during the remainder of his minority, and shall claim none of his earnings or pay any debts of his contracting after this date.” *The Caledonian* (St. Johnsbury, VT), Saturday, May 10, 1856, p. 4, col. 2, accessed July 1, 2014, at GenealogyBank.com.

**NOTICE.** I hereby relinquish to my son, John Q. A. Wooster, his time during the remainder of his minority, and shall claim none of his earnings or pay any debts of his contracting after this date, JNO. WOOSTER. Granby, April 17, 1856. 978-80

<sup>6</sup> U.S., Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861-1865, Ancestry.com. Q A Woster (sic); Residence: Fillmore, County, Minnesota; Enlistment Date: 1 Sep 1862; Rank at enlistment: Private State Served: Minnesota; Survived the War?: Yes; Service Record: Enlisted in Company Colburn's, Minnesota Colburn's Infantry Company on 01 Sep 1862. Mustered out on 04 Oct 1862. Sources: Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars 1861-65.

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<sup>7</sup> They would eventually have ten more children, all born in Monona County, Iowa, the youngest of whom died in infancy. The oldest four children did not come to Texas, but the other six lived near their parents in Harris County at various times: George Charles, who married Mary Ester Iddings; Ida Jane, who married William A. Shreckengast; Fanny Roxy, who married Steve Steinman; John Lewis, who married Jessie Margaret Brown; Dora Evabell, who married George E. Richmond; and Martin Elmer, who died young.

<sup>8</sup> *Mapleton Milestones – Mapleton, Iowa Centennial 1878-1978: A history of that part of Monona County comprised within the limits of St. George, Old Mapleton, and Mapleton, from its settlement in 1855 down to the present time*, compiled by the Woman’s Civic Improvement Club of Mapleton, IA, 1978, p. 3.

<sup>9</sup> *Mapleton Milestones*, p. 4.

<sup>10</sup> One of his business cards reflecting this is in the family memorabilia of Trevia Wooster Beverly.

<sup>11</sup> He advertised his Iowa farm for auction sale at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, October 20, 1891. His handwritten detailed copy in the family files of Trevia W. Beverly.

<sup>12</sup> Often Scott Bay is used but an 1845 map of the Nathaniel Lynch League clearly shows Scott’s Bay. A map used as a frontispiece in Margaret Henson’s book, *History of Baytown* (Baytown TX: Bay Area Heritage Society, 1986), shows it to have also been called Turkey Bay and Patchings Bay.

<sup>13</sup> A *league* is a Spanish unit of land measurement equal to 25 *labors*, or approximately 4,428.4 acres.

<sup>14</sup> A *labor* (pronounced *lah-bor'*) is a Spanish land unit measuring about 177.1 acres. A *labor* is the area enclosed in a square 1000 *varas* on each side. In Texas a *vara* is defined as 33 1/3 inches (so 1000 varas is 33,333 inches or 0.5261 miles). Under the Mexican colonization act by which the first settlers entered the Stephen F. Austin colony in Texas, heads of families engaged in farming were to receive a labor of land each; heads of families engaged in ranching received a league.

<sup>15</sup> Although located in the *empresario* grant of Joseph Vehlein, the settlers between the San Jacinto River and Cedar Bayou considered themselves to be members of Stephen F. Austin’s colony. (Henson, p. 17)

<sup>16</sup> “Population de la Atascosita en 1826,” p. 13, *The Atascosita Census of 1826* edited by Mary McMillan Osburn (Liberty TX: The Liberty County Historical Survey Committee; Reprint from Vol. I, No. 4 (Fall 1963) *TEXANA*), p. 13. Note: Some sources give Fanny’s maiden name as Hubbard.

<sup>17</sup> *Lynchburg Town Site* by Janet K. Wagner, Harris County Historical Commission Chairman. Also see *Harris County and the Lynchburg Ferry* by Janet K. Wagner, both available on the Harris County Historical Commission website at <http://www.historicalcommission.hctx.net/> (accessed March 28, 2014)

<sup>18</sup> IGI Batch M591991: Frances Lynch married Martin Hardin, 12 Mar 1840, Harris Co, TX.

<sup>19</sup> John Rundell, an immigrant from Mississippi who had suffered financial loss during the Panic of 1837, came to Texas in 1840 with his two sons. He brought his entire family, including twelve slaves, the following year. The 1850 U.S. Census indicates that Rundell, a planter, and his second wife, Elizabeth, had two daughters born in Texas. (Henson, pp. 39-40)

<sup>20</sup> Harris County Deed Records, Vol. M, p. 264, dated Sep. 8, 1843 and filed Oct. 30, 1843. Marsh Point conveyed from Lynch estate to John Rundell, by Frances Lynch Hardin.

<sup>21</sup> Talcott Patching, a part-time merchant born about 1790 in Connecticut, arrived in the area in the 1830s with his wife Clarissa and their three teenage children: Luther, who died in 1835; Israel, too ill to serve in the Texas army, who died in 1837; and a daughter, also named Clarissa, a native of Erie Co, NY, who married Dr. David Drysdale, a native of Scotland. (Henson, p. 19, citing Board of Land Commissioners; also data from 1865 New York state census).

On the Clerk’s Return for Harrisburg County, Sep 1838 – Jan 1839, Tallcut Patching is listed with Certificate No. 1025, for 1/3 league, and Emigration date of 1834.

[http://www.glo.texas.gov/ncu/SCANDocs/archives\\_webfiles/arcmaps/webfiles/landgrants/PDFs/1/0/6/1/1061390.pdf](http://www.glo.texas.gov/ncu/SCANDocs/archives_webfiles/arcmaps/webfiles/landgrants/PDFs/1/0/6/1/1061390.pdf)

Abstract 620, which abuts the northeast corner of the Hilbus 1/3 league, was patented by Tallcot Patching on Oct. 7, 1846. On Certificate 439, dated Mar. 19, 1838, Harrisburg County, he states that he arrived in the Republic of

Texas in April 1835 as a family man, and is thus entitled to a league and a labor.

[http://www.glo.texas.gov/ncu/SCANDOCS/archives\\_webfiles/arcmaps/webfiles/landgrants/PDFs/2/3/3/233451.pdf](http://www.glo.texas.gov/ncu/SCANDOCS/archives_webfiles/arcmaps/webfiles/landgrants/PDFs/2/3/3/233451.pdf)

Tallcot Patching is believed to have died in Harris County between 1850 and 1860, as he is with the family in the 1850 census (Harris, TX, Roll M432\_911, p. 27A) but not in the 1860 census (Pct. 6, Harris, TX, Roll M653\_1296, p. 355). In January 1861, C. Patching, et al (Clarissa Patching, David Drysdale, Clarissa Drysdale, his wife) sold the tract to Wiley B. Wasson. Between January 1861 and July 1865, the widow Patching and the childless Drysdales returned to Erie Co., New York, where they were enumerated in the 1865 New York state census.

<sup>22</sup> Map of Nathaniel Lynch League. Probate Record F, pg. 244 & 245. Surveyed by Tipton Walker, August 1843. Harris County Deed Records, from Lynch estate to Talcott Patching by Frances Lynch Hardin, Sep. 15, 1845.

<sup>23</sup> Family data from Statement of Facts, filed Dec. 21, 1874, in Case #6615, Clara and Emma Wasson vs. O.H. Rundell et al, 11th District Court. Corroborating marriage dates found in Mississippi and Texas Marriage Indexes taken from courthouse records, were accessed Aug. 5, 2014, at Ancestry.com. (1) John Rundell m. Nancy Griffin, 28 Nov 1819, Claiborne Co, MS. (2) John Rundell m. Elizabeth Rundell, 7 Aug 1838, Warren Co, MS. (3) John Rundell m. Isabella Hanna, 6 Apr 1854, Harris Co, TX.

<sup>24</sup> 11th District Court, Case #6615, Clara and Emma Wasson vs. O. H. Rundell et al (178 pages!) Francis Rundell filed the original petition for letters of administration in Probate Court on September 16, 1863. He died on Dec. 1, 1863, and his older brother, O.H. Rundell, filed for letters of administration on Feb. 1, 1864. The decree of partition was filed on Dec. 1, 1866, allotting 5/8 of the estate to O.H. Rundell, and 1/8 to each of his sisters. Prior to the Spring Term 1868, the children of the second marriage sued the children of the first marriage in District Court, saying that the 480½ acres was part of their mother's estate, and was not community property of the third wife, who had deeded her half to O.H. Rundell. The final decree, which is cited in the deeds to Wooster and Crow, appears in 11th District Court Minutes, Vol. R, pp. 642-643, dated December 9, 1879.

<sup>25</sup> Clara was a minor at the time of her father's death. The 1900 census shows Clara Wason (b. June 1851) living in Stephens Co., Texas, with husband Wiley C. Wason, and four children including daughter Sybil (b. Feb. 1892); Clara was married 34 years, had 16 children, 8 living. 1900 census: Justice Precinct 3, Stephens, TX (T623-1670-226A). Death certificate of Clara Wasson (1851-1905, #52504), in Crystal Falls, Stephens, TX. Death certificate of Sybil Wasson Ackers (Feb 1892-1979, #04784) shows father as Craven Wasson.

<sup>26</sup> Death certificate of Emma (Rundell) Wasson (1847-1924, #12910), daughter of John Rundell and Rachel (sic), signed by Clara Taylor; Death certificate of Clara Wasson Taylor (1877-1972, #16838) shows her parents as William T. Wasson and Emma Rundell.

<sup>27</sup> Texas Historical Marker No. 10774 (1990) "Homesite of William Scott (Point Pleasant)" located at 500 Bayway Drive, Baytown, Texas. <http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/shell-keyword.htm> From Virginia, he was one of Austin's Old Three-Hundred and served as Captain of the Lynchburg Volunteers.

<sup>28</sup> Harris County Deed Records, Vol. 51, p. 322, and Vol. 45, p. 75.

<sup>29</sup> Details of these transactions are included in the Complete Abstract of Title made by The Harris County Abstract Company, Houston, Harris County, Texas, June 7, 1938 of the Nathaniel Lynch Survey, Abstract No. 44 according to the Map and Dedication of "Wooster" which appears of record in Vol. 65, p. 274, Deed Records, Harris County, Texas. Copies of all Harris County Abstracts cited in this narrative are in the personal files of Trevia Wooster Beverly.

<sup>30</sup> Among those who arrived here in 1822 and stayed were Nathaniel Lynch, James Strange, Christian Smith, and John Iiams, Apparently they found one family already in residence on what became Scott's Bay – John D. Taylor, who sold his improvements to William Scott late in 1823 and moved his family up Buffalo Bayou. (Henson, p. 6, citing the Lamar Papers). Lynch, Strange, and Scott all received their land grants the same week in August 1824. (Land Grant Database, Texas General Land Office).

<sup>31</sup> "STRANGE, JAMES," Handbook of Texas Online (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fst71>), accessed August 5, 2014. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

<sup>32</sup> *Op. cit.* Osburn, p. 19.

<sup>33</sup> Harris County Deed records, abstracted by Janet K. Wagner, July 2014.

<sup>34</sup> 1850 U.S. Census: Harris County, Texas; Page 29B, Line 22, Family No. 508. James Strange, stockraiser, age 64 years, born ca. 1786. He is not shown in Harris County on the 1860 census. The Jesse White land grant, Abstract No. 83, lies immediately north of the Nathaniel Lynch league.

<sup>35</sup> James Strange, 1/3 league less one labor, Feb. 3, 1838 (File No. 60, Abstract No. 695), accessed August 5, 2014. [http://www.glo.texas.gov/ncu/SCANDOCS/archives\\_webfiles/arcmaps/webfiles/landgrants/PDFs/2/3/2/232939.pdf](http://www.glo.texas.gov/ncu/SCANDOCS/archives_webfiles/arcmaps/webfiles/landgrants/PDFs/2/3/2/232939.pdf)

<sup>36</sup> This 320-acre grant is located just east of Huntsville, in what was then Montgomery County, but is now Walker County (File No. 157, Abstract No. 530), accessed August 5, 2014. [http://www.glo.texas.gov/ncu/SCANDOCS/archives\\_webfiles/arcmaps/webfiles/landgrants/PDFs/3/0/9/309971.pdf](http://www.glo.texas.gov/ncu/SCANDOCS/archives_webfiles/arcmaps/webfiles/landgrants/PDFs/3/0/9/309971.pdf)

<sup>37</sup> Republic of Texas Claims, at Texas State Library and Archives Commission website, accessed July 20, 2014.

James Strange, enrolled 20 March 1836; honorably discharged on April 4, 1836 (just 15 days later), “in consequence of his being unable to do duty.” <http://tslarc.tsl.texas.gov/repclaims/101/10100528.pdf>

James Strange, filed Nov. 11, 1837. Examined same day. Admitted to audit for \$4.00. Military. Approved Nov. 13, 1837, E. N. Pease, Controller. <https://tslarc.tsl.texas.gov/repclaims/101/10100526.pdf>

<sup>38</sup> William Hilbus, 1/3 league (1476 acres), Harris County 2nd Class, patented by William Hilbus, Sep. 24, 1850. (File No. 116, Abstract No. 336), Texas GLO land grant database, accessed August 14, 2014. (Original documents not available on line.)

William Hilbus was also granted 640 acres about 7 miles west of Bellville, Austin County, for his honorable military service from May 18, 1836 to Nov. 18, 1836; bounty certificate issued Sep. 25, 1847, claim approved Apr. 10, 1852 (File No. 46, Abstract No. 191), accessed August 14, 2014.

[http://www.glo.texas.gov/ncu/SCANDOCS/archives\\_webfiles/arcmaps/webfiles/landgrants/PDFs/1/4/8/148013.pdf](http://www.glo.texas.gov/ncu/SCANDOCS/archives_webfiles/arcmaps/webfiles/landgrants/PDFs/1/4/8/148013.pdf)

<sup>39</sup> See listing of the various property abstracts in the Bibliography section.

<sup>40</sup> Alice Brown Collins (daughter of Bert Brown and granddaughter of Junius Brown), unpublished manuscript. This manuscript is being edited (Beverly & Holland) for publication under the title *I Remember*.

In the Preface she writes, “Always that first glimpse of “our Bay” glistening in the sun filled me with delight as we approached home, coming down the narrow country road. Cement posts marked both sides of this road past Grandfather Brown's house and the pear orchard, past the little white schoolhouse. Down the hill it dipped across the winding gully and up to home—to the little farmhouse so steadfast and secure—which was our refuge for many a year. Here it stood weathering in the sun and the wind and the rain, the most unpretentious of all the homes we knew. Here we were born and here we lived until we were married, and in due time each of us came back to build our own homes on part of this wondrous land that our Grandfather had settled on in 1893.”

<sup>41</sup> Collins, in the chapter titled “Headed South,” says that Bert Brown, then 17 and in his last year of high school, met the Woosters and Crows for the first time when he arrived in Texas in January 1894, which was after his parents had already settled here.

The 1885 Iowa state census shows the following in Monona County: Q. A. Wooster with wife and eight children (Maple township, family 134), Willard D. Crow with wife and two children (Cooper township, family 67), Junius Brown with wife and seven children (Soldier township, family 104). Mapleton sits on the line between Maple and Cooper townships; the town of Soldier is about 14 miles south of Mapleton. Plat map of Monona County, 1930, <http://digital.lib.uiowa.edu/cdm/ref/collection/hixson/id/1237> (accessed August 19, 2014).

<sup>42</sup> N.B. Henson, first edition, p. 74, incorrectly identifies a photograph of John L. Wooster as his father Q. Q. [sic] Wooster. The caption was corrected in the second printing.

<sup>43</sup> “Wooster pioneers came from Iowa,” Wanda Orton, *Baytown Sun*, Wednesday, June 10, 2009, <http://archive.today/zLf8#selection-515.0-533.24>, accessed August 6, 2014.

In the 1900 census, John Wesley Crow is enumerated next door to Q. A. Wooster and his daughter Dora (Wooster) Richmond. Willard D. and John W. Crow appear together in 1860 in Buffalo, Linn, Iowa, and Willard D. Crow was born in Linn Co, per the 1885 Iowa State census.

<sup>44</sup> No. 78365 Abstract of Title, 340 pages, to 114 acres of Wm. Scott League, Abst. No. 66, in Harris County, Texas, Deed to the Bayland Orphans Home to Geo. Isenhour, recorded in Vol. 150, Page 153, Deed Records, Harris County, Texas: Made by the Harris County Abstract Company, Houston, Harris County, Texas, March 30, 1938. Deed to George Isenhour dated May 19, 1897.

Texas Historical Marker replacement (2012). Research and application narrative for Bayland Orphans Home by Trevia Wooster Beverly.

<sup>45</sup> IGI Batch M00026-5: Q. A. Wooster m. Adeline Isenhona (transcription error), 23 Jan 1902, Harris Co, TX.

<sup>46</sup> Harris County Deed Records, Vol. 106, pp. 517-518. #20405, Oct. 7, 1898: W. D. Crow and wife Louisa Crow to Mollie F. Wilson. Also #20406, Oct. 5, 1898: Mollie F. Wilson and husband J. S. Wilson to W. D. Crow.

<sup>47</sup> Willard D. Crow appears in the 1900 census as William B. Crow, 50, born in IA, with wife Louisa and daughter Louisa, Justice Precinct 5, Harris, Texas (T623-1642-249A) ED 100, p. 22A. 1920 census: Howell, Howell, MO (T625-920-5B) ED 91, p. 5B. William D. Crow, 70 IA, with wife Louisa and children L. Maude and Leon.

<sup>48</sup> This property was in the James Strange Survey. Additional acreage had been obtained and when they were dividing some of this property for several of their children in 1935, a map entitled "Map of Stirling's [B. Frank Sterling] Baytown Addition, A Subdivision of a 99.06 Acre Tract in the James Strange Labor in Harris County" was included showing the property lines of what had become Wooster proper. *Abstract No. 787509, Texas Abstract Company, prepared February 27, 1935.*

<sup>49</sup> "It Is Bayway Drive, Not Market, Through Wooster Community," *The Baytown Sun*, p. 11, August 17, 1955.

<sup>50</sup> Location based on memory of Trevia Wooster Beverly, August 2014, that the family cemetery was located just west of Packard Street, about halfway between Mapleton Avenue and the water (Crystal Bay), hence near the dividing line between Lot 1 and Lot 2. HCAD shows it in Lot 1; however, source of the HCAD information is unknown. The fence was added after the town began to grow, perhaps in the late 1940s. The marble slab for "My Father" was very large, perhaps 4 ft x 8 ft, and was outside the fenced area.

<sup>51</sup> Years later Q. A.'s grandson, Ray Brown Wooster, came into possession of the land and repeated the story that his father had told him about an elderly lady from New York who had come down to see her father's grave one last time. (My mother told this to me but she did not remember the lady's name.) I believe that she was Clarissa Patching (born ca. 1824 in Erie Co, NY) who married Dr. David Drysdale on 4 July 1840 in Harris County and returned to New York between 1861 and 1865. From property abstracts and other sources, the grave is believed to be that of Clarissa Patching Drysdale's father, Talcott Patching, who died between 1850 and 1860. See "Baytown Area Grave" [with photo] *Baytown Sun*, 15 Jul 1971; "The Vault" [photo] *The Baytown Sun*, 12 Jun 1980.

<sup>52</sup> Lost; now under water in area now known as Baytown Nature Center, near west end of Mapleton Avenue, Lot 1 or Lot 2, Block K, Map of Wooster (Deed Vol. 65, pp. 274-275). The first family burial was Q. A. Wooster's son Martin Elmer Wooster (11 Feb 1884 – 8 Oct 1894). Other relatives of Q. A. Wooster buried here include his wife, Catharine Morilla (Monroe) Wooster (1839 – 1900); a daughter, Dora Evabell (Wooster) Richmond (1878 – 1906); and later Q. A. Wooster himself (1839 – 1908).

Originally buried here but later moved to White Cemetery in Highlands when subsidence took the land were Q. A. Wooster's grandson Ray Brown Wooster (22 Jan 1904 – 27 Aug 1960) and great-grandson John Henry Wooster (15 Dec 1941 – 18 Apr 1962); also Edna Mae (Barnhill) Sjolander (10 Mar 1926 – 19 Sep 1969), first wife of Ernest Sjolander.

Two markers, one for Q. A. Wooster, and one for Catharine M. Wooster and their son Elmer, were saved and were placed on the Wooster plot in Cedarcrest Cemetery at Cedar Bayou in 1991, but the graves were not moved.

Other unmarked graves here include Emily Ericson (18 Jan 1924 – 24 Jan 1924), daughter of Walter Ericson and Rose (Tumey) Ericson, who were related to the Crow family by marriage, and two infants who appear in the burial records of the now-closed Paul U. Lee Funeral Home in Baytown, but for whom no death certificates have been found after a diligent search: Infant of W.W. Adams of Baytown, d. 07 Aug 1927; and Oliver Stowe, d. 12 Sep 1931, infant son of John Stowe and Janet/Jenette/Nettie (Oliver) Stowe of Crosby, Texas.

<sup>53</sup> Harris County Deed Records, Vol. 61, pp. 510-512 (Garrett L. Scott to Q. A. Wooster and W. D. Crow). Harris County Deed Records, Vol. 63, p. 61 (Phoebe Adams to Q. A. Wooster and W. D. Crow). The terms of the deed from Garrett L. Scott were 1/3 down, and 1/3 to be paid in each of two annual installments. The Release of Lien is dated September 10, 1894, and recorded in Harris County Deed Records, Vol. 77, pp. 426-426.

<sup>54</sup> Burnet Bay is noted as Bay of St. Mary's on map of Nathaniel Lynch League, Probate Record Book F, page 244 & 245. Surveyed August 1843 by Tipton Walker & Son.

<sup>55</sup> Original letters written by Q. A. Wooster are in the possession of Trevia Wooster Beverly, a great-granddaughter. Some date to his time in Minnesota and continue to his death in Texas, telling of family matters, crops, politics, etc.

<sup>56</sup> Harris County Deed Records, Vol. 65, pp. 274-475. It is noted that the combined size of the Rundell Plantation and Patching tracts, as stated in the October 1892 deeds, was 630.5 acres, whereas the same property, when platted three months later, was 686.6 acres. It appears that the additional 56.1 acres is accounted for by (1) the 11.5 acres in the non-contiguous Hilbus tract, which appears as Lot 16 in the list on the 1893 plat although it is not so marked on the accompanying map, (2) the 38 acres in Lot 22 may have been considered part of the previously unsurveyed Marsh Point in the 1892 deed, (3) the remaining 6.6 acres may be attributed to survey inaccuracy or changes in topography between the 1843 survey of the Lynch league and the 1893 plat.

<sup>57</sup> Harris County Deed Records, Vol. 65, pp. 263-264. This deed erroneously states that Crow was to receive the portion “west” of Iowa Street; although by context it is apparent that the word “east” was intended. That oversight was corrected on May 26, 1894 and recorded in Harris County Deed Records, Vol. 75, pp. 361-362, to make it clear that Crow received the portion “east” of Iowa Street, including the 11.5 acres in the Hilbus grant.

<sup>58</sup> Harris County Deed Records, Vol. 106, p. 517, #20405, October 7, 1898 (W. D. Crow and wife Louisa Crow to Mollie F. Wilson); Vol. 166, pp. 316-317, July 1, 1904 (G. E. Richmond and Dora E. Richmond to Q. A. Wooster).

<sup>59</sup> It appears that W. D. Crow may have sold the wedge-shaped tract between Steinman Street and Bayway Drive to Junius Brown, probably about 1898. Harris County Deed Records, Vol. 819, pp. 184-186, show that on October 15, 1929, Junius Brown’s son Bert Brown and daughter Jessie Brown Wooster, wife of John L. Wooster, sold Outlots 10, 11, and 15 to Seaboard Realty and Building Company, while John L. Wooster retained Outlot 17, the southern tip of the wedge. On April 10, 1930, Seaboard Realty and Building Company filed the plat of Wooster Heights, (Vol. 725, pp. 679-681). After the developer had put in the streets and utilities, Wooster and Brown repurchased individual lots for their children. For example, John L. Wooster purchased Lot 9, Block 3, aka 125 Wood Street, on 15 Aug 1931 (Vol. 872, pp. 647-648).

<sup>60</sup> *Baytown Sun*, Sunday, March 28, 1993. “Bird sanctuary named after nature lover Myra C. Brown. Husband Edgar Brown bought land from Wooster estate. Edwin Rice Brown, Sr. bought 530 acres from the Wooster estate in 1910 to run cattle on. His widow began subdividing the land in 1937 and it eventually became Brownwood subdivision.”

Harris County Deed Records, Vol. 247, pp. 386-387, March 11, 1910. The portions not sold to E. R. Brown were (1) the Hilbus tract of 11.5 acres, (2) the area between Steinman Street and Bayway Drive, being four blocks totaling 88.4 acres, (3) Block 4, 27.9 acres, (4) Lots 1-2 and 10-19 of Block K, about eleven acres, and (5) Lots 9-13 of Block I, about five acres. [Note: That description appears to transfer about 547 acres, plus Marsh Point, to E. R. Brown. Source of the 530-acre number in the 1993 Baytown Sun article is unclear.]

<sup>61</sup> Texas Death certificate #48350: Edwin R. Brown, Brown (29 Jul 1853 - 22 Nov 1928), born in Copiah, Miss, res. 707 Holman, Houston. <https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/K37S-GXQ> (accessed July 21, 2014)

Death certificate of Myra Cabaniss Brown (10 Nov 1870 - 15 Apr 1953), born in LaGrange, Texas, res. 707 Holman, Houston. <https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/K3ZK-SRB> (accessed July 21, 2014)

<sup>62</sup> “Brownwood Subdivision of Wooster” Plat Maps: Vol. 14, pgs. Harris County Map Books. April 15, 1937, *Abstract of Title to Various Lots and Blocks in BROWNWOOD SUBDIVISION OF WOOSTER and in the TOWN OF WOOSTER in Harris County, Texas*, Abstract No. 79175 prepared by the Texas Abstract Company, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 1947. Annexed into the City of Baytown in 1962.

<sup>63</sup> Harris County Deed Records, Vol. 63, p. 600 (Thomas and Mary Arthur to Junius Brown), December 3, 1892. Harris County Deed Records, Vol. 57, p. 396 (G. L. Scott to Thomas Arthur), dated \_\_ September 1888, filed August 27, 1891.

<sup>64</sup> 11th District Court, Case #15552, Junius Brown & F. G. Burke vs. Christian Smith et al. Petition filed June 22, 1893, trial set for October 2, 1893.

<sup>65</sup> Harris County Deed Records, Vol. 74, p. 496 (Frank G. Burke to Q. A. Wooster, Junius Brown, and W. D. Crow), March 9, 1894.

<sup>66</sup> The 1885 Iowa state census shows the following in Cooper township, Monona County: Jonathan G. Iddings with wife and five children, the eldest of whom are Clarence W. Iddings, 12, and Mary E. Iddings, 10 (family 1), and

Willard D. Crow with wife and two children (family 67). Mary E. Iddings married Q. A. Wooster's son George in Monona County in October 1892.

<sup>67</sup> Harris County Deed Records, Vol. 73, p. 496 (Q. A. Wooster to C. W. Iddings), April 25, 1894. Harris County Deed Records, Vol. 77, p. 147 (W. D. Crow to Junius Brown), June 26, 1894.

<sup>68</sup> Harris County Deed Records, Vol. 78, p. 626 (Map of Brown & Iddings Addition to Wooster), filed March 28, 1895.

<sup>69</sup> Harris County Deed Records, Vol. 90, p. 3 (Junius Brown and C. W. Iddings partition), August 3, 1895. C. W. Iddings, a single man, signed the papers in Monona County on August 3; Junius Brown and his wife Mary appeared before a notary in LaPorte on August 27 to sign the papers.

<sup>70</sup> Harris County Deed Records, Vol. 101, p. 422 (C. W. Iddings to Junius Brown), September 23, 1897.

<sup>71</sup> "In 1908, an oil strike was made beside Tabbs Bay. Oil exploration began in earnest and in 1916 the Goose Creek oil field became the first offshore drilling operation in Texas (second in the nation). In 1919, the directors of Humble Oil & Refining Company built a refinery in Baytown. This refinery would become one of the largest in the world, and a very influential force not only in Baytown, but also in World War II." <http://www.baytown.org/about/history> (accessed August 18, 2014)

<sup>72</sup> THC Marker No. 10703, erected 1989. "Humble Oil & Refining Company. Ross S. Sterling entered the oil business in 1909, when he invested in the Humble oil file north of Houston. Two years later he formed the Humble Oil Company with five partners: Walter W. Fondren, Charles B. Goddard, William Stamps Farish, Robert Lee Blaffer, and Harry Carothers Wiess. Sterling's brother, Frank, became a company director in 1914. In 1917 the company obtained a state charter under the name Humble Oil & Refining Company. In order to finance the building of a refinery, fifty percent of the company stock was sold to Standard Oil of New Jersey. The first oil was pumped into a still at the new refinery on May 11, 1920. As the company expanded and employed more people, a town grew up around the refinery. The company provided low-interest home loans to its employees. By the 1930s research was being conducted at the Baytown refinery, resulting in the production of vital products for the U. S. war effort during World War II. The post-war years saw additional expansion at the refinery, and the company was merged with Standard Oil of New Jersey in 1959. The Humble name was used until 1972, when Standard Oil Company (NJ) became known as Exxon Corporation."

<sup>73</sup> Texas Death Certificate #28994: Junius Brown, born Mar. 10, 1839 in New York, died Oct. 27, 1922 in Wooster, Harris, TX.

<sup>74</sup> Harris County Deed Records, Vol. 528, pp. 231 ff. (Mrs. Mary Brown to B. Frank Sterling), Jan. 12, 1923.

<sup>75</sup> Harris County Deed Records, Vol. 557, p. 80 (plat of Stirling's (sic) Baytown Addition), Jan. 1, 1924.

<sup>76</sup> John A Street was named not for the Wooster, Brown, or Crow families, but rather for John Andrew Old, who was a chemist at the Humble Refinery. He also was a glass blower who made their lab beakers individually, and built the pipe organ in one of the churches on Bayway Drive. ([http://ourbaytown.com/odds\\_and\\_ends.htm](http://ourbaytown.com/odds_and_ends.htm) , accessed August 19, 2014.)

<sup>77</sup> Harris County Map Records, Vol. 22, p. 1 (plat of Wooster Terrace), Nov. 1, 1945.

<sup>78</sup> Harris County Deed Records, Vol. 1397, p. 219 (Wooster Terrace Extension, by H. D. Jones and C. A. Fortner), Feb. 15, 1947. Harris County Map Records, Vol. 24, p. 38 (plat of Wooster Terrace Extension), Feb. 15, 1947.

<sup>79</sup> A widow's walk, also known as a "widow's watch," is a railed rooftop platform frequently found on 19th-century North American coastal houses. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Widow's\\_walk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Widow's_walk))

<sup>80</sup> Collins, in the chapter titled "The Old Place," has a vivid description of the house and furnishings.

<sup>81</sup> When the Wooster estate was divided and sold, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kelly purchased the house but never lived in it. When they built their new home next door, the flowing artesian well was capped off. After the storm damage the beautiful front door was given to an area resident who used the stained glass for craft projects.

<sup>82</sup> It is thought that perhaps one of these structures may have been the B. F. Adams house that is referenced in the 1879 lawsuit decree and the 1892 deeds, however, the metes and bounds descriptions in the deeds are not detailed enough to be certain.

<sup>83</sup> Collins, chapter titled "Headed South."

<sup>84</sup> “Ultra-Modern Home, First of Kind in Texas, to be Built in County,” by Chester Rogers, *Houston Chronicle*, Sunday, May 16, 1937, Section 2, p. 18.

“Home, Sweet Motoshome, a Prefab Modern Landmark,” Ben Koush, *CiteSurvey*, Fall 2002, p. 11.  
[http://offcite.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2010/03/CiteSurvey\\_Koush\\_Cite55.pdf](http://offcite.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2010/03/CiteSurvey_Koush_Cite55.pdf)

<sup>85</sup> Believed to be the only existing one-room schoolhouse indigenous to Harris County. It was moved to Baytown’s Republic of Texas Plaza Park and restored. Under the care of the Baytown Historical Preservation Association <http://www.baytownhistory.org/> Texas Historical Marker (rev. 2012).

<sup>86</sup> Junius Brown’s son, Walter, was sent to board in La Porte as the Wooster school had not yet been built. One of the first students at the Wooster School was young Elmer Wooster, who became ill at school one day and died several days later, October 8, 1894. Junius’ granddaughter, Alice Brown, finished the 7<sup>th</sup> grade at the Wooster school and her father, Bert, sent her to board with friends in the Deep Water and Deer Park area and go to school there.

<sup>87</sup> The importance of education has been ingrained into the Wooster, Brown and Crow families, with subsequent teachers into the sixth generation. The better known of these are Dr. Ralph Wooster and his son, Dr. Robert Wooster (both university professors as well as authors of note).

<sup>88</sup> The 1936 Centennial Subject Marker for **Oakland Plantation**, of gray granite, is located on Spur 330, off I-10.

Marker Text: “One mile south to the site of Oakland. Home of David G. Burnet (1788-1870). First President of the Republic of Texas. To Oakland he brought his bride in 1831 and there they and their son William wrested a livelihood from the soil.”

The homestead is just south of Decker Drive in a small park area between Mable Avenue and Oakland Avenue on the north side of Burnet Bay. After his wife died in 1858, Burnet spent most of his remaining years in Galveston, where he died on December 8, 1870.

The 1936 Centennial Marker for **Hannah Este Burnet** is located between two homes, 412-414 South Burnet Street in the Lakewood Addition. However, this location is not within the Burnet tract, nor is it close to the Burnet home, which is on the other side of Spring Gully, as noted above.

Marker Text: “Hannah Este Burnet. Born in Morriston, N. J., December 8, 1800. Died in 1858. Wife of David G. Burnet, president *ad interim* of Texas, March 16 to Oct. 26, 1836.”

<sup>89</sup> Jim Wheat’s Post Masters and Post Offices of Texas., 1846 to 1930.  
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txpost/postmasters.html>

<sup>90</sup> Onawa is the county seat of Monona County, Iowa.

<sup>91</sup> Dr. Nellie Wheeler, representative of “the emancipated women,” practiced medicine from her home in Mapleton, Iowa where she was both physician and housewife (Mrs. Charles H. Wheeler; he was also a physician). She later moved to California.

<sup>92</sup> “From Sun files, November 9, 1937,” *Baytown Sun*, November 9, 1977, p. 27, and November 9, 1978, p. 4.

<sup>93</sup> “Wooster Garden Club Stresses Improvements,” *The Baytown Sun*, September 21, 1953, p. C-1.

<sup>94</sup> “Mrs. A. C. Kraft Heads ’65 Wooster Garden Club,” *The Baytown Sun*, September 8, 1965, p. 14

<sup>95</sup> The IRS “Exempt Organizations Select Check” shows that the Wooster Garden Club last filed Form 990-N in 2011 (accessed August 23, 2014).

<sup>96</sup> “Wooster Baptist Started In 1941,” *The Baytown Sun*, p. 54, September 29, 1952.

“Wooster Baptist to celebrate 50 years,” *The Baytown Sun*, p. 4-B, January 6, 1991.

<http://www.sbc.net/church/5558-77520/wooster-baptist-church> (accessed March 28, 2014).

<sup>97</sup> “Church Directory,” *The Baytown Sun*, p. 5. Address is shown as 133 John A. St. on Oct. 18, 1952 and 700 block Market St. Rd. on Nov. 1, 1952. (The 700 block became the 7000 block after Wooster was annexed by Baytown.)

<sup>98</sup> “From the Sun files, 30 years ago, Sept. 20, 1955,” *Baytown Sun*, September 20, 1985, p. 4.

<sup>99</sup> “52 Scouts, Leaders at Training Session Here,” *Baytown Sun*, February 1, 1976, p. 7.

“16 Baytown Area Boys Are Going To Scout Jamboree,” *Baytown Sun*, July 14, 1977, p. 2.

- <sup>100</sup> Raven District-Sam Houston Area Council, BSA <http://www.communitywalk.com/ravendistrict#0004q5ZY> accessed August 15, 2014.
- <sup>101</sup> These were moved to POW camps in nearby Chambers and Liberty counties and elsewhere in Texas.
- <sup>102</sup> “Annexation To Play Role In Wooster \$425,000 Bond Vote,” *Baytown Sun*, October 7, 1949, p. 11.  
“Wooster Begins Work On \$12,860 New Fire Station,” *Baytown Sun*, May 27, 1950, p. 1-2.  
“Wooster Fire Station” [photo], *Baytown Sun*, November 23, 1950, p. 9.
- <sup>103</sup> “Wooster Men To Form Volunteer Fire Department,” *Baytown Sun*, July 11, 1950, p. 5.
- <sup>104</sup> “Wooster Volunteer Firemen Attending Training Course,” *Baytown Sun*, March 8, 1951, p. 12.
- <sup>105</sup> The Baytown Historical Preservation Association has the Secretary’s books, news articles, etc.  
“Auxiliary [to Fire Station No. 3] Has Party For Wooster Wives,” *Baytown Sun*, February 26, 1955, p. 3.  
“New President Is Elected,” *Baytown Sun*, March 2, 1955, p. 4.
- <sup>106</sup> “Anniversary Party Slated,” *Baytown Sun*, February 18, 1977, p. 4.
- <sup>107</sup> “Troop 883 is Based In Wooster,” *Baytown Sun*, May 4, 1973, p. 8.  
“Fellows Achieves Eagle Scout Rank,” *Baytown Sun*, March 20, 1983, p. 5. “John Albert Fellows, a member of Boy Scout Troop 883, has become an Eagle Scout . . .” [Note that this event occurred a few months after the Wooster VFD disbanded. It’s unclear who was sponsoring the Troop in March 1983, and how much longer it existed.]
- <sup>108</sup> “Industry Source For Top Stories In 1982,” *Baytown Sun*, January 2, 1983, pp. 1-2.
- <sup>109</sup> “City Manager’s Office Issues Report for Month of July,” *Baytown Sun*, August 17, 1950, p. 17.  
“Firefighters Recognized,” *Baytown Sun*, August 19, 1984, p. 32.
- <sup>110</sup> Richard Ericson married Wilma Lucille Crow, daughter of Wesley Ernest Crow and Sarah Edith Brown.
- <sup>111</sup> Rufus Lee Miller married Alma Florence Crow, sister of Wilma Lucille Crow.
- <sup>112</sup> “Muller Heads Up Wooster Chamber of Commerce,” *Baytown Sun*, November 18, 1954, p. 2.
- <sup>113</sup> Lakewood Civic Association, Deed Restrictions, [http://www.lakewoodcivic.org/?page\\_id=194](http://www.lakewoodcivic.org/?page_id=194) (accessed August 23, 2014).
- <sup>114</sup> Harris County Map Records, Vol. 22, pp. 70-71 (plat of Lakewood Subdivision), April 17, 1946.
- <sup>115</sup> “Lakewood Civic Group Organized Here in 1948,” *Baytown Sun*, September 29, 1952, p. 24.
- <sup>116</sup> Lakewood Civic Association, Lakewood Area History, [http://www.lakewoodcivic.org/?page\\_id=9](http://www.lakewoodcivic.org/?page_id=9) (accessed August 23, 2014).
- <sup>117</sup> “Annexation In Reverse,” *Baytown Sun*, October 8, 1949, p. 4.
- <sup>118</sup> “Lakewood Annexed by Wooster Water District Leaders; Election on Bond Debt Sharing to be on April 29,” *Baytown Sun*, April 5, 1950, p. 1. (The election was postponed a week to May 6.)  
“Lakewood Full Member of Water District,” *Baytown Sun*, May 8, 1950, p. 2.
- <sup>119</sup> “Wooster Needs More Fire Fighters,” *Baytown Sun*, February 5, 1951, p. 8.
- <sup>120</sup> “In Lakewood: New Garden Club Formed,” *Baytown Sun*, September 27, 1950, p. 5.
- <sup>121</sup> Lakewood Civic Association, Lakewood Garden Club, [http://www.lakewoodcivic.org/?page\\_id=76](http://www.lakewoodcivic.org/?page_id=76) (accessed August 23, 2014).
- <sup>122</sup> “Lakewood School Will Keep Travis Name; Board Rejects Wooster C-C Request for Change,” *Baytown Sun*, March 17, 1955, p. 5.  
“9,040 And More Coming . . . School Enrollment Hits Record,” *Baytown Sun*, September 8, 1955, p. 2.  
“Travis School Begins Second Year in Lakewood,” *Baytown Sun*, August 10, 1956, p. 19.
- <sup>123</sup> <http://www.gccisd.net/users/0114/2013/Report%20Cards%202012-2013/Travis.pdf> (accessed August 23, 2014).
- <sup>124</sup> “Lakewood Churches Plan Joint Service,” *Baytown Sun*, November 20, 1960, p. 5. The four were Bayway Christian, All Saints Episcopal, Westminster Presbyterian, and St. Paul’s Methodist.  
“Church Directory,” *Baytown Sun*, November 10, 1985, p. 34, lists these six Lakewood churches.



- <sup>125</sup> “Lakewood To Have New Church; To Be Second Church in Wooster Area,” *Baytown Sun*, Sept. 26, 1953, p. 5. Formal Opening For New \$70,000 Lakewood Church Of Christ Planned For Monday Night From 7 To 10 P.M.,” *Baytown Sun*, May 8, 1954, pp. 4-5 (two full pages).
- <sup>126</sup> “All Saints to Celebrate Anniversary,” *Baytown Sun*, October 6, 1959, p. 3.  
“Sproat to Celebrate Holy Eucharist at All Saints,” *Baytown Sun*, November 8, 1987, p. 23.  
Single family home built at 200 Caldwell in 1998, per HCAD (accessed August 23, 2014).
- <sup>127</sup> “Bayway Christian Will Celebrate Anniversary,” *Baytown Sun*, April 24, 1960, p. 8. The first meeting was April 19, 1959, at Travis Elementary School. The first church was built at Meador Lane and Wildwood.  
“Church closing after 26 years; Bayway Christian plans last service,” *Baytown Sun*, November 10, 1985, p. 27.
- <sup>128</sup> “Worldwide Communion Is Scheduled By Methodists,” *Baytown Sun*, October 4, 1959, p. 14.  
“St. Paul’s Methodist To Begin Scout Troop,” *Baytown Sun*, December 13, 1959, p. 7.
- <sup>129</sup> (Short item, no title) Rev. Jack Peters of Westminster Presbyterian thanks Rev. H. LeRoy Stanton of St. Paul’s Methodist for assistance in bringing tables and chairs each week. *Baytown Sun*, November 1, 1959, p. 12.  
“Family Night is Scheduled at Westminster,” *Baytown Sun*, November 12, 1959, p. 1. A study group has been meeting on Wednesday evenings for three weeks. Sunday services are held at Lynchburg Elementary School.  
“Large Addition Planned for Westminster Church,” *Baytown Sun*, September 26, 1965, p. 10.  
<http://faithpresbyterianbaytown.org/presbyterian-church-baytown-tx/faith-presbyterian-heritage/> (accessed August 23, 2014).
- <sup>130</sup> “Lakewood is Ideal Place to Live,” *Baytown Sun*, November 12, 1961, p. 8.
- <sup>131</sup> “Ibid, November 12, 1961, p. 8.
- <sup>132</sup> “Wooster Rejects Incorporation ‘46,” *Baytown Sun*, January 28, 1986, p. 4.
- <sup>133</sup> “City to Celebrate,” *Baytown Sun*, December 21, 1997, p. 7. (History of the consolidation of the Tri-Cities and plans for celebration of Baytown’s 40th birthday.)
- <sup>134</sup> “Annexation To Play Role In Wooster \$425,000 Bond Vote,” *Baytown Sun*, October 7, 1949, p. 11.
- <sup>135</sup> “Wooster-Lakewood People to Discuss Bonds, Annexation,” *Baytown Sun*, March 11, 1950, p. 1.
- <sup>136</sup> “Baytown On Land March – Council Eyes Annexation,” *Baytown Sun*, August 11, 1954, p. 1.  
“Legal Notice, Ordinance No. 236,” *Baytown Sun*, August 26, 1954, p. 32.
- <sup>137</sup> “City Annexes Refinery, Highlands, North to ‘90’, East to Trinity River,” *Baytown Sun*, June 22, 1960, p. 1.  
“Annexation Still ‘Hot News,’ Baytown Now One-Fourth As Large As Los Angeles” *Baytown Sun*, June 23, 1960, p. 1.
- <sup>138</sup> “Referendum Proposed: Wooster CC Opposes Baytown Annexation,” *Baytown Sun*, June 20, 1962, p. 1.  
“Wooster Annexation Wouldn’t Bar Levee,” *Baytown Sun*, June 29, 1962, p. 1.
- <sup>139</sup> “City’s Big Annexation Plan May Get OK Today: Lakewood-Wooster-Brownwood on List,” *Baytown Sun*, November 29, 1962, p. 1.  
“City Takes In 8.4-Mile Area: Population Increases 6,000,” *Baytown Sun*, November 30, 1962, p. 1.  
“Council Annexes New Territory: Baytown’s Newly-Annexed Area Shown by Diagonal Lines,” [with map] *Baytown Sun*, November 30, 1962, p. 5.
- <sup>140</sup> “City Backs Up on House Renumbering,” *Baytown Sun*, June 26, 1964, pp. 1-2.
- <sup>141</sup> “Subsidence and the Death of Brownwood,” *The Making of A City. Baytown, Texas Since Consolidation 1948-1998* by Buck A. Young.
- <sup>142</sup> <http://www.baytown.org/content/baytown-nature-center>
- <sup>143</sup> *The Baytown Sun*, Chamber of Commerce edition, May 20, 1976.
- <sup>144</sup> “Exxon buying homes for greenbelt,” *The Baytown Sun*, April 19, 2007. Also see the 2012 replacement marker narrative for the Wooster Common School No. 38.