

## Chapter 2

## THE SMITH AND ALLIED FAMILIES OF NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS

Among the Smith families living in the northeastern part of Navarro County, which became Ellis County in 1849, was the family of Ann H. Smith Stokes. By 1850 the matriarch Ann Stokes seems to have died, since she is not on the census of that year, the first federal census taken in Texas. Ann's daughter and the oldest Stokes child in the area had been Rhoda Jane Stokes Howe, the widow of William R. Howe. Rhoda Jane Howe had married William S. Mitchell in 1847 in Navarro County, but had died shortly thereafter at about age 35. Ann's second born son Guy Stokes headed the remnants of the Ellis County Stokes family.

The Ellis County household headed by Guy Stokes, 32, embraced a number of orphaned relatives and some seemingly unrelated men. Guy's younger brother, William J. Stokes, and his youngest sister, Ann Stokes, were living there as well as their orphaned Howe nieces and nephew, Mary Jane, Ann F. and William G. Howe. The William Smith, 21, included in the household seems to be the son of the deceased Thomas I. Smith. William Smith was a first cousin of the Stokes siblings. There were also four other single men in the household, ranging from 50 to 22, and listed as farmers. One of these, J. D. Mitchell, may have been related to David Reed Mitchell Jr. In all there were 11 household members.

These Stokes children appear to have remained in the Ellis County area, with Guy serving as the guardian of the Howe children and settling their estate problems during the 1850s. Throughout the decade, the members of the household, all single in 1850, began marrying. The first to marry, in 1851, in Ellis County was William J. Stokes who married Barbara Jane Johnston. The next year, 1852, in Navarro County William Smith, Thomas' son, married Elizabeth Mitchell, who was the daughter of Thomas I. Smith's partner, David Reed Mitchell. In 1854 in an Ellis County court John F. Stokes, who was over the age of 14, selected his uncle, William J. Stokes, to be his guardian. This indicates that Thomas B. Stokes, the oldest son of Jordan and Ann Stokes, must have died early, as did his wife. In 1855 Mary Jane Howe, 19, granddaughter of Ann Smith Stokes, and daughter of Rhoda Jane Stokes Howe, married William Lenoir (Brack) Mitchell, Jr. while her sister, Frances Ann Howe married Benjamin Burton Lacy. Guy Stokes never married, but had the Howe children and his other relatives for his family.

Two colonies met in the Ellis County and Navarro County area, namely the Peters Colony and the Mercer Colony. These colonies offered the next generation of Smith descendants the opportunity to acquire land. As a result some members of the various families procured land under the auspices of one of the two colonies. A Thomas Stokes, who could have been the eldest Stokes son, is listed as an unmarried Peters Colonist in 1844, no age given.[\[363\]](#) William J. Stokes is listed as a Mercer colonist, and the 320 acres he was shown as owning on the

1846 Navarro County tax list, are apparently the

Mercer land for which he was issued a certificate on October 22, 1850.[\[364\]](#) Part of Thomas I. Smith's Navarro County land may also have been obtained under the Mercer Colony as a "Thomas Smith" is shown for 640 acres, the certificate for which was granted April 19, 1850,[\[365\]](#) which would have been after his death.

While Guy Stokes served on the first jury of Ellis County in 1850,[\[366\]](#) his brother William J. Stokes left the most records. William J. Stokes seemed to prosper early in life. Born in about 1822 by age 24 he had procured 320 acres of land on his own and in 1847 at age 25 he also owned two slaves. The next year, 1848, William was serving as sheriff of Navarro County.[\[367\]](#) Two years later, in 1851, William married Barbara Jane Johnston. Somewhere along the line, William Stokes managed to get an education because in later years he served as Chief Justice of Navarro County.

The marriage of Thomas' son, William, and Elizabeth Mitchell seems to have only produced one child, a son named Francis B. Smith. Called Frank, his middle name may well have been Bird, for his paternal grandfather, Bird Bowker Smith. Frank was brought up by his aunt, Mary Smith Little, the youngest child of Bird and Rhoda Smith. Mary and her husband, James A. Little, may have come to Navarro County because young Frank's parents had died. Certainly Mary was the one who brought him up as she remarks on in her will. Frank and the Littles may have stayed in Navarro County since Frank Smith was heir to his grandfathers' estates (Thomas I. Smith and David R. Mitchell). James Little definitely wanted his widow to return to Tennessee and so asked her to do so in his will. That Mary Little's will was probated in Texas, however, indicates that she did not do so.[\[368\]](#)

Some of the sons of Josiah and Rhoda Smith Pullen had been in the Navarro-Ellis counties area when two served in Thomas I. Smith's ranger company in 1845. There are three "Pulliam" families listed as Peters colonists, and two of these are listed as migrating from Tennessee, but none of the names correspond with the names given for the children of Josiah and Rhoda Pullen. Two of the couple's sons were living far to the south in 1850. Bird S. Pullen who was born about 1825 in Tennessee was married to an Illinois born wife, Frances Mary, and living with her and their two

children, Jesse J. and M(ary?) E. in Washington County. Also listed in Bird Pullen's household was probably his brother, (or some sort of relative) William Pullen, age 20. A veteran of the Mexican war Bird Pullen, 25, was an innkeeper in 1850.

Ten years later the family of Bird S. Pullen is listed on the 1860 census in neighboring Fayette County in the Round Top area. It appears that Bird Pullen had died probably within the last eighteen months or so, since he does not appear on the census with his family and his youngest child, son Bird, is one year old. His widow, Frances M. Pullen, 29, is listed as an innkeeper and the head of the household for the six Pullen children and the four guests.

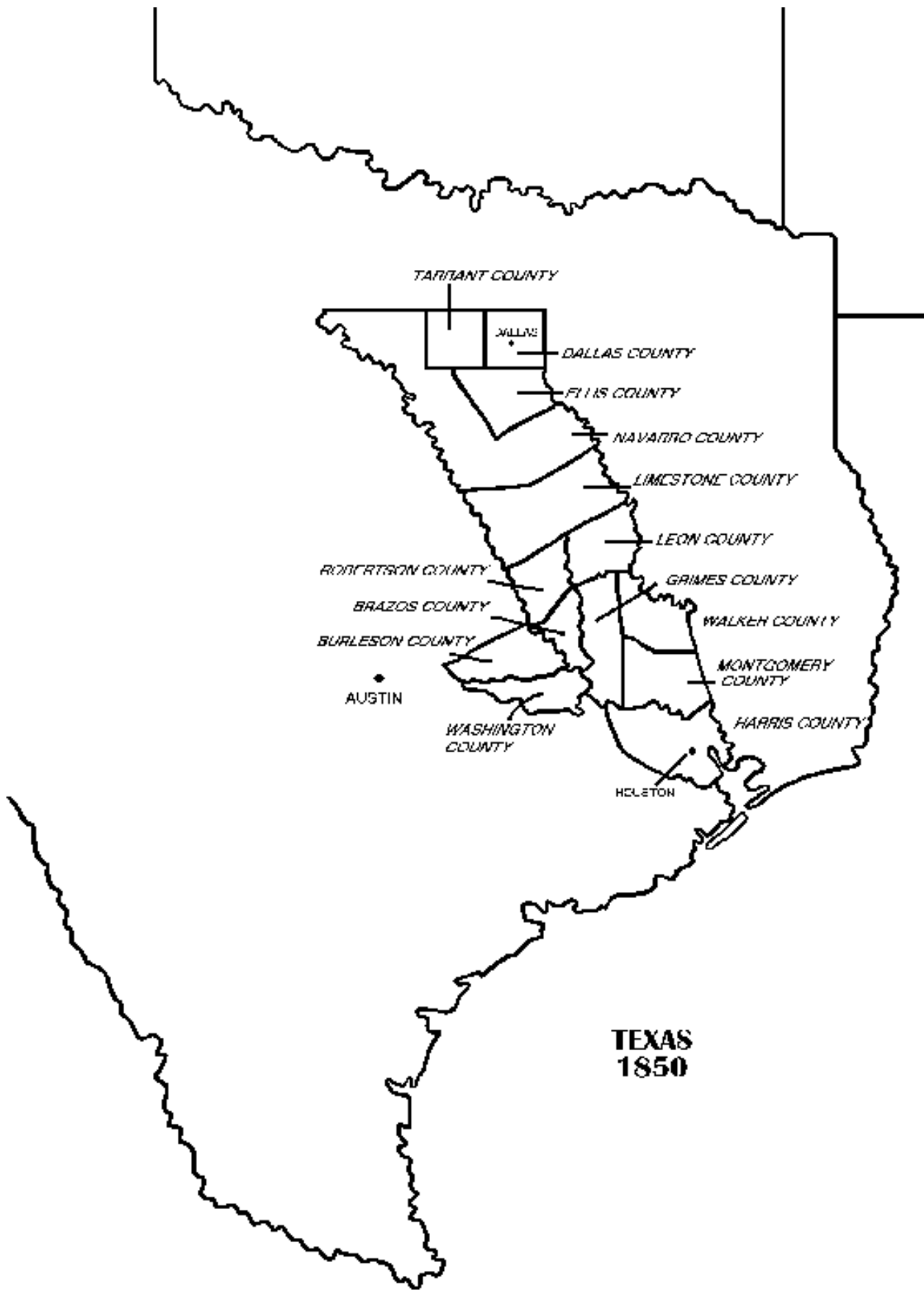
Many at this time had been swept up in the gold rush fever of the forty-niners, and young men from all over the United States found their way by land and by water to the back hills of California to seek thrills and hopefully their fortunes. Since so many Smith descendants in this next generation were in their twenties at this time, some may have tried their luck in the California gold fields. Certainly numerous young men went. Most, however, found not wealth and riches, but death due to harsh lawless conditions and rampant diseases. Others did find their fortunes through gold strikes or through providing services to the miners; some of these stayed in California. Those who returned to their homes may not have struck gold, but they certainly had the memories of a lifetime.

After the death of Abraham Trigg Smith in 1841, his widow, Alcy, and at least some of the six Smith children returned to Arkansas. There Alcy W. Parks Smith married her second husband, Albert S. Pruitt. Alcy's new husband may have been related to (or been) the Sidney Pruitt, who had arrived in the Howe settlement in Texas from Arkansas in about 1843 along with a Robert Parks. Since Alcy Smith's maiden name may have been Parks, Sidney Pruitt and Robert Parks may have been relatives and friends from Arkansas.

Alcy had two sons, Thomas and Abram Pruitt, by her second husband although she was in her forties at the time of the two boys' births. It was not uncommon, however, for women to have children from their late teens until their early forties. The names of the two Pruitt boys, Thomas and Abram, may have come from the name of Alcy's former brother-in-law, Thomas I. Smith and from the name of Alcy's first husband, Abraham T. Smith.

The two Pruitt boys were born in Arkansas in about 1844 and 1846, which indicates that Alcy and her Smith children were in Arkansas then. The Texas headright land of Abram T. Smith probably was the most important consideration in the family's decision to return to Texas. The heirs of Abram T. Smith, the six Smith children, petitioned to settle the estate. Another factor in their return would probably have been the reduction of Indian fighting in the area south of Dallas, making the area much safer.

Abram Smith's third class headright of 640 acres was patented by his heirs on September 15, 1849, and was located south of Chambers Creek on Bee Creek.[\[369\]](#) Therefore, it would seem that Alcy and her Smith children returned to the area by that date. Another indication of the date of return was a land grant received by Alcy's second husband from the Peters Colony. Albert S. Pruitt is noted on the colony papers as a married man, 32, with six children. Pruitt was born in North Carolina and arrived in Ellis County between July 1, 1845, and July 1, 1848, from Arkansas, probably closer to 1848.[\[370\]](#)



The firmest fact indicating the return of Alcy and the Smith children returned is the marriage date of Abram and Alcy's eldest daughter, Rhoda Smith, who married Callaway Howard Patrick on March 13, 1847. Callaway had in all likelihood known Rhoda for several years, since he had served in the ranger company of her uncle, Thomas I. Smith, in the Mexican War with Rhoda's brother, Patrick P. Smith, and had been in the Howe settlement area for a number of years. Callaway Patrick was also one of the appraisers of the estate of William R. Howe, nephew-in-law of Abram and Thomas I. Smith.

The oldest of Abram Smith's children, Patrick P. Smith, like his stepfather, is also listed as a Peters colonist. Patrick Smith, then 23 and single, was born in Arkansas and migrated in the same time span as Pruitt.<sup>[371]</sup> Patrick Smith's land grant straddled the Ellis and Dallas county line. Many of these Smith, Patrick and Pruitt families settled in the southeastern corner of Dallas County.

Callaway Howard Patrick was not the first of his family to marry into this Smith family. The first marriage had taken place in the 1700s in Virginia when Anne Bowker Smith, the daughter of John Smith, Jr. of the Pocket Plantation in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, had married William Callaway Jr., son of William Callaway, Sr. of the neighboring Bedford County. William Callaway, Sr. had married twice and his son William Callaway Jr., husband of Anne Bowker Smith, was from the first marriage. From his second marriage he had a daughter, Amelia "Milly" Callaway, who married her first cousin, George Callaway, the son of Richard Callaway, a younger brother of William Callaway, Sr.

William Callaway, Sr. and his brother, Richard Callaway, were from a large family of several sons and two daughters who had been very early settlers and large landowners in the area that became Bedford County, Virginia. William Callaway, Sr., father of William Callaway Jr. and Milly Callaway, was the most prosperous of all the brothers, holding many public offices, including service as a militia colonel and as a burgess in Virginia's assembly.

The younger Callaway brother, Richard Callaway, was noted for his role in opening the Kentucky frontier. As a representative of the land company that was instrumental in the initial settlement of Kentucky, Richard Callaway accompanied Daniel Boone into Kentucky and suffered all the difficulties endured by the early settlers in that area. In *Daniel Boone, the life and legend of an American Pioneer* by John M. Faragher, Richard Callaway is described as a "son of a powerful landowning family in...Virginia....He was in charge of hauling the goods and supplies to the treaty grounds."

It was two of Richard Callaway's daughters and one of Daniel Boone's daughters who were kidnapped by Indians and whose rescue was the basis for the book *Last of the Mohicans*. One of Richard's nephews, Flanders Callaway, son of another Callaway brother, married one of Daniel Boone's daughters. Despite the kinship connection between Richard Callaway and Daniel Boone, the men's relationship became strained.

Richard Callaway was one of the organizers of county government in Kentucky, and while Kentucky was part of Virginia he was the first burgess from Kentucky to the Virginia Assembly.

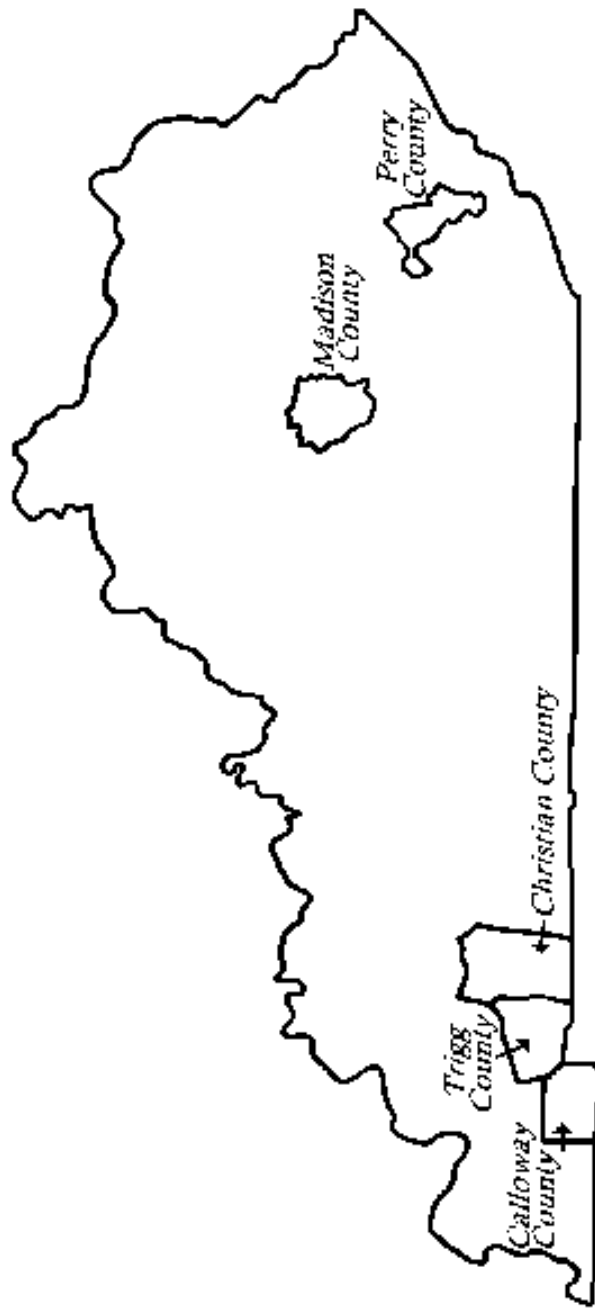
Richard applied for and received a license to build a ferry, and it was while building the ferry that Indians surprised him, killed and scalped. Callaway County, Kentucky, was named for this man.

Back in Virginia, Richard Callaway's son, George, and his wife Milly had had a little girl, Elizabeth, who was called Betty as a child and Eliza as an adult. While Eliza was still very young, both of her parents died, and her Callaway relatives brought her up. Reaching young adulthood, she married John Fitz Patrick in 1787. The young family moved to Madison County, Kentucky, to stake their claim to the estate of Richard Callaway, Eliza's grandfather. It was the fourth of their ten children, Alexander Jefferson Patrick, who was the father of Callaway Howard Patrick, the husband of Rhoda Smith.

After moving to Kentucky, John Patrick was active in the county affairs of Madison County, Kentucky and was an essential force in the establishment of Madison Academy, which is most likely where his children were educated. He also served as one of the commissioners who laid out Richmond, the county seat of Madison County, Kentucky.

Callaway Patrick's parents, Alexander J. Patrick and Catherine White, were married in 1818. They soon moved to Perry County, Kentucky, located southeast of Madison County. By 1821 Alexander Patrick was the postmaster of the first post office in Perry County located at Patrick's Salt Works. Politically a Whig, Alexander Patrick was sent by the voters of Perry County to the Kentucky legislature for several terms.[\[372\]](#) Yet, like so many others, the lure of Texas pulled the Patrick family and they arrived in the south part of Robertson County, Texas in 1841. It appears likely that they came to Texas by water, probably down the Ohio River to the Mississippi and down to New Orleans. Most immigrants coming on this water route then took a ship to Galveston. In Galveston the Patricks would have been able to get a steamboat up the Trinity River to the newly established port of Cairo. One of the founders of Cairo was Eli Chandler, the ranger associate of Thomas I. Smith.

The Patrick family prospered in Texas. Several Patrick sons, including Callaway Patrick, served various counties as county clerks, as representatives in the state legislatures and as officers in the Civil War. Well into his sixties Alexander Patrick served as a tax assessor and as a county clerk for Leon County. Two years before his death in 1872, Alexander Patrick was shown on the census for Leon County as having \$30,000 in real estate and \$12,000 in personal property,[\[373\]](#) a substantial fortune. At his death his large estate, which included numerous acres of land throughout several counties, was divided among his living children, including Callaway Patrick of Dallas County, Texas.



Kentucky

Meanwhile the Smith and Patrick families were putting down firm roots into the fertile Blackland Prairie of Dallas County. This land, part of a wedge shaped area extending from Collin County, north of Dallas, south almost to Austin, proved to be some of the most agriculturally productive land in all of Texas. Census records for the last part of the nineteenth century in southeast Dallas County show the many descendants of Abram Smith all living near one another, many in the little community of Patrick, Texas. Descendants have continued to live in the area for more than 150 years; although, many were lured away to the city of Dallas, which was growing to the north.

[363] Connor, Seymour V. *Kentucky Colonization in Texas, a History of the Peters Colony*, Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing, 1983, p. 128.

[364] White, Gifford. *Mercer Colonists*, 1984, p. 27.

[365] *Ibid*, p. 9.

[366] Ellis County Genealogical Records, v. 15.

[367] Putman, Wyvonne. *Navarro County History*, p. 5.

[368] James A. Little, born about 1807 in Scotland, was in Navarro County in 1860. His will was dated Jan. 21, 1874 and probated Feb. 17, 1874. In his will he mentions his brother, Brice Little, of White County, Tennessee, and nephew, Robert J. Little. His will instructed that his wife, Mary A. Little, was "to receive \$300 in gold each year for life and all money

on hand...is to return to Tennessee to live.” Executors of his will were Mary A. Little, Robert J. Little and W.F. Little. (From Samuels, Nancy Timmons and Barbara Roach Knox, *Old Northwest Texas*, v. I-B, p. 500); Mary A. Smith Little’s will was dated Dec. 17, 1874 and probated in Navarro County, Texas Sept 17, 1877. Executors were Thomas Patterson and witnesses were David White and W. A. Bradley. (Ibid.)

[369] Samuels, Nancy Timmons and Barbara Roach Knox, *Old Northwest Texas*, p. 618.

[370] Connor, *Kentucky Colonization*, p. 121.

[371] Ibid, p. 127.

[372] Some Patrick information in Kentucky from *Patrick Census and Marriage Records* by Charlie W. Casey Thompson, 1985.

[373] Federal Census, Leon County, Texas, 15th July 1870, p. 2, #14/20.