

Ties That Bind: Southern Plain Folk Migration to Post Reconstruction Texas

*"Cotton was hard on the soil and hard on the people who grew it. King Cotton was a tyrant." -*

*Anonymous*

In November of 1887, a group of families and friends boarded a chartered railcar on their way to a new home. Andrew Jackson Latham and a portion of his family left their home in Anderson County, South Carolina, on a long journey to Texas. Accompanying the Lathams were Zachariah Hugh Carwile and Hester Latham Carwile, the John Schuyler Carwile family, William A. Pruitt, and the Clinkscales family. Within a year or two, other family members and friends would join the group in Cass County, located in the Northeast corner of Texas. This migration was not unusual, as many families had departed the heart of the old South for what they hoped would be a better life at the fringes of the former Confederacy, in the Lone Star State. These groups, related by blood, marriage, or neighborhood, portions of entire communities would resettle in places they had never seen. The questions remain: Who were these people, and why did they leave the places of their birth? Why did these people, those who went before them and those who came after, choose to give up everything they knew, sell their land and livestock, and journey to a place they only knew by word of mouth?

This presentation will demonstrate that the subsistence-based, yeoman middle class, or "plain folk" relied upon their families, extended families, fraternal relationships, and the larger community for ancillary support out of necessity in times of need. These interdependent parts were, in essence, an extension of the family. Thus, when hardships fell upon families and "neighborhoods," the entire support system would act almost as one to ameliorate the issue, even

to the point of migrating hundreds of miles from their homes to begin again. When cotton became a necessary evil for profit and survival, these relationships only intensified.

Scholars have written extensively about the southern planter class, tenant farmers, sharecroppers, and the Freedmen, but much less about the yeoman middle class. What does exist focuses on the antebellum years. The years after the American Civil War and post-reconstruction remain a field ripe for historical research. This work will examine this yeoman middle class through primary source family letters, family histories, and genealogies and fill in the gaps with relevant secondary sources. As historian Ricky Sherrod has argued, genealogies are underutilized as source material and can be key to creating "a robust narrative of southern history."<sup>1</sup>

Like many families, the Lathams and their fellow travelers were "plain folk." Historian Stephanie McCurry defines "plain folk" as falling in between the planter and landless classes. Bound by religion, language, and culture, these people were white, Southern, mostly literate, and fiercely independent. Their class consisted of yeoman farmers who owned and worked their land, grew subsistence crops, and rarely traveled far beyond their hometowns.<sup>2</sup> Before the Civil War, most had not owned slaves, were self-supporting, and had large families who worked their land. Neighbors helped neighbors. They cared for their sick and loaned working animals and farm implements to one another. They helped build their neighbors' houses and provided wage-work when possible. The war brought new challenges. The men returned home to find their farms in disrepair, their crops nonexistent, and their livestock decimated. The Latham, Carwile, Pruitt,

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<sup>1</sup> Ricky L. Sherrod, "Plain Folk, Planters, and the Complexities of Southern Society: Kinship Ties Nineteenth-Century Northwest Louisiana and Northeast Texas" (JSTOR. "The Southwestern Historical Quarterly", 2009), <https://www.jstor.org/stable/27794583>, 3.

<sup>2</sup> Samuel C. Hyde, "Plain Folk Reconsidered: Historiographical Ambiguity in Search of Definition," *The Journal of Southern History* 71, no. 4 (January 2005): p. 803, <https://doi.org/10.2307/27648905>.

and Clinkscales men served in the Confederate States Army, as did many in their extended families and communities. There is no available answer to why the families considered herein chose to serve. Likely they had more than one reason. Some fought for "home and hearth," others fought for white supremacy or slavery, or to maintain their culture and sense of "manhood." Some were conscripted. They may have taken a stand against Northern aggression or just enlisted because their neighbors did.<sup>3</sup> Whatever their reasons, their service often linked them more deeply than family ties alone. These men returned to their homes after the war and went about the business of restoring their farms. Soon it became clear that subsistence was no longer enough.

The deprivations shared by these South Carolina families "necessitated a tremendous need for credit."<sup>4</sup> Debt was an enemy at the door, and "King Cotton," being "the most consistently profitable cash crop," became a means of escape.<sup>5</sup> The result was that small to medium-sized farms went from being subsistence-based enterprises with cotton grown as a surplus crop to "largely market agriculture based on cotton."<sup>6</sup> Cotton was a cruel sovereign. It controlled the life of the farmer. Winter and summer, the farmer plows, puts in, and chops his cotton. Then the plants are left alone for two months until they begin to produce. During this "laying-by" period, the farmer repairs his farm implements and performs other tasks around his

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<sup>3</sup> Mark V. Wetherington, *Plain Folk's Fight the Civil War and Reconstruction in Piney Woods Georgia* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2011), 12.

<sup>4</sup> Ted Ownby, "The Defeated Generation at Work: White Farmers in the Deep South, 1865-1890," *Southern Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of the South* 23, no. 4 (1984), 332.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, 333

<sup>6</sup> Ted Ownby, "The Defeated Generation at Work: White Farmers in the Deep South, 1865-1890," *Southern Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of the South* 23, no. 4 (1984), 325.

property. He may also negotiate wage work with a neighbor to supplement the family's income.<sup>7</sup> He might send his children out to find work, as well. Between 1860 and 1890, the number of white wage workers in the South quadrupled.<sup>8</sup>

Meanwhile, predominantly white areas doubled their cotton production during this same thirty-year period, and corn production showed a drastic decline. Even employers performed off-season work once done by slaves. At the same time, many southerners believed their families provided the only reliable available labor<sup>9</sup> One writer believed that a farmer could raise thirty acres of corn more efficiently than eight acres of cotton.<sup>10</sup> Women were left caring for the household, the younger children, and performing their "reproductive duties."<sup>11</sup> The more children a man had, the less he had to pay out in day labor. Only when the families grew could the farmer purchase more acreage.<sup>12</sup> The goal of the plain folk was to acquire land and other property sufficient to give themselves and their children a sense of security.<sup>13</sup>

The loss of all of the investment of time, labor, and scarce family resources might, however, occur in an instant. As stated in Chapter Nineteen of *South Carolina: A History*,

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<sup>7</sup> Pete Daniel, *Breaking the Land: The Transformation of Cotton, Tobacco, and Rice Cultures since 1880* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1986), 1.

<sup>8</sup> Ted Ownby, "The Defeated Generation at Work: White Farmers in the Deep South, 1865-1890," *Southern Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of the South* 23, no. 4 (1984), 335

<sup>9</sup> Ibid, 329-330

<sup>10</sup> Ted Ownby, "The Defeated Generation at Work: White Farmers in the Deep South, 1865-1890," *Southern Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of the South* 23, no. 4 (1984), 327

<sup>11</sup> Amber Shoopman, "Big Kings & Little Castles: Yeoman Farmers and Their Family Relations," A Study of American Women, May 12, 2017, <https://astudyofamericanwomen.wordpress.com/2017/05/12/big-kings-little-castles-yeoman-farmers-and-their-family-relations/>, 1.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid 2

<sup>13</sup> John S. Otto and G. D. Gilbert, "The Plain Folk of the American South: An Archeological Perspective. - JSTOR" (International Society for Landscape, Place & Material Culture, 1982), <https://www.jstor.org/stable/29763639>, 76.

During the decade of the 1880s, things went from bad to worse for the state's farmers. Wedded to cotton through ignorance or necessity, they suffered. Drought, army worms, and crop failures followed one another like the plagues of ancient Egypt. When crops did come in, the prices dropped. Caught in the vicious cycle of the crop lien system, thousands lost their farms. In 1886 some 954,000 acres and the next year, another 100,000 were forfeited because their owners could not pay their taxes. From the 1870s through the early 1900s, prime cotton areas began to shift west.<sup>14</sup>

By the late 1890s, Texas would produce 20% of the nation's cotton.<sup>15</sup> Under these trying circumstances, the Lathams, the Carwiles, and the rest of their group decided to relocate to Texas. There were extensive local, familial and fraternal ties between those who migrated.

Referring to Plain Folk in general, Sherrod points out:

Typical of the times, this familial exodus was what Owsley described as a group of "friends and relatives living in the same or neighboring communities" who "formed one or more parties and moved out together. When they reached the promised land, they constituted a new community... Such communities might be endlessly repeated. Thus, the early communities of the newer states and territories were essentially transplanted organisms rather than synthetic bodies."<sup>16</sup>

The Lathams, Carwiles, and company were no different. (See Appendix A)

The book entitled, *A History of the Callaham and Carwile Families* contains a narrative describing the migration of the Latham, Carwile, and Clinkscales families. In this account, Zachariah Carwile, his brother John and "several other men," which would include Andrew J. Latham and Benjamin T. Clinkscales, decided to migrate to Texas. They contacted "a railroad executive, Mr. Bush of Atlanta," to charter a train car that would transport the men, their families, and their belongings to Texas. In this account, the railroad brought the coach to the

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<sup>14</sup> Pete Daniel, *Breaking the Land: The Transformation of Cotton, Tobacco, and Rice Cultures since 1880* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1986), 21

<sup>15</sup> Linda English, *By All Accounts: General Stores and Community Life in Texas and Indian Territory* (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2021), 54.

<sup>16</sup> Ricky L. Sherrod, "Plain Folk, Planters, and the Complexities of Southern Society: Kinship Ties Nineteenth-Century Northwest Louisiana and Northeast Texas" (JSTOR. "The Southwestern Historical Quarterly", 2009), <https://www.jstor.org/stable/27794583>, 9.

families in Westminster, South Carolina, near the home of Zachariah Carwile. However, it contradicts this by saying they boarded the coach in Atlanta.

Either way, from Atlanta, they traveled to Nashville. In Nashville, they "stopped to allow Z.H. Carwile to show them where he stood guard in the war." They undoubtedly passed through Memphis and Little Rock before heading south to Jefferson, Texas.<sup>17</sup> Jefferson was an important community up to this time, and it was the closest rail stop to the families' ultimate destination in Cass County, Texas. Other clues regarding the families' route to Texas appear in the Latham Family Letters. In a letter from friend J.B. Armstrong to Kate and Corrie Latham, Armstrong asks, "...did you see Nashville or mimphis or littlerock how bad they beat Anderson"<sup>18</sup> Additionally, there was indeed a railroad official named Mr. Bush located in Atlanta during this period. Mr. Fred D. Bush was the District Passenger Agent for the Louisville and Nashville line, and he officed out of Atlanta, Georgia.<sup>19</sup> This contact may explain the indirect route the party took through Nashville.

How the families became aware of Texas or decided to settle in Northeast Texas is not known. What is known is that, based on census records, there were farmers from all over the deep south who settled in the vicinity of Marion and Cass County, Texas.<sup>20</sup> The railroads

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<sup>17</sup> Anna Deihls Callahan, *A History of the Callahan and Carwile Families* (Charlotte, NC: Delmar Publishers and Printers, 1976), 232.

<sup>18</sup> Correspondence from J.B. Armstrong to Kate and Corrie Latham, December 29, 1887, AR786, Box 1, Folder 18, Latham Family Papers, The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries Special Collections, Arlington, Texas, USA

<sup>19</sup> *The Biographical Directory of the Railway Officials of America for 1887: A Record of the Railway Service of the Principal Officers of American Railways: A Supplement Giving Recent Changes and Appointments: An Alphabetical List of All General and Division Offices Not Included in the Biographical Record: A List of Prominent Railway Men Recently Deceased* (Chicago: Railway Age Publishing Company, 1887), 374.

<sup>20</sup> "1900 United States Federal Census," Ancestry.com. Accessed December 15, 2021, [https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7602/images/4112122\\_00290?pId=43138094](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7602/images/4112122_00290?pId=43138094)

extensively advertised the wonders of Texas, too.<sup>21</sup> What is also known is that the Lathams, Carwiles, and their relations would eventually purchase farmland. Through their letters, it is clear that they returned to growing cotton and supplementing their earnings by performing wage work. Texas had made her peace with the Union in 1873. This, too, may account for the pull on the families.<sup>22</sup> (See Appendix B)

From the Latham Family Letters, there are numerous first-person accounts of day-to-day life, beginning almost immediately after the families arrived. Andrew and Mary Ann Elizabeth Latham's children regularly corresponded with their parents, with one another, and with friends and family back in South Carolina and Georgia. These letters cover many subjects: Crops, weather, births, illness, death, school, and a desire for more frequent letters were regular topics. The railroads were responsible for getting the mail from one place to another. Faster than the Pony Express, rail service was nonetheless limited in the number of towns they served. However, the rail service was growing. Texas offered generous land grants to the railroads, and the roads expanded from 1,650 miles of track in 1875 to almost 10,000 miles by 1900.<sup>23</sup>

The scarcity of paper sometimes inhibited communication. This not only limited how often someone could send a letter but how much one could write. There are numerous examples of sentences written all around the margins. One letter from Dora Latham, living in Georgia, to her sister Corrie living in Texas laments this lack of paper. "My paper is so scarce so I will be

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<sup>21</sup> Patrick J. Brunet, "Can't Hurt, and May Do You Good': A Study of the Pamphlets the Southern Pacific Railroad Used to Induce Immigration to Texas 1880-1930" (East Texas Historical Journal, 1978), <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/72736396.pdf>.

<sup>22</sup> Ricky L. Sherrod, "Plain Folk, Planters, and the Complexities of Southern Society: Kinship Ties Nineteenth-Century Northwest Louisiana and Northeast Texas" (JSTOR. "The Southwestern Historical Quarterly", 2009), <https://www.jstor.org/stable/27794583>, 7

<sup>23</sup> Alwyn Barr, "Late Nineteenth-Century Texas," TSHA, November 22, 2020, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/late-nineteenth-century-texas>, 2.

brief."<sup>24</sup> Compounding the paper problem was the weather and the distance to the nearest town with a post office. Many small-town general stores contained post offices.<sup>25</sup> John B. Armstrong tells Kate Latham, "As it is so cold outside I can't go to the office this morning. I will (try) your patience a little more."<sup>26</sup>

The Latham Family Letters mention the cotton crops in Texas, South Carolina, and Alabama. For example, John T. Latham in South Carolina tells his father, "I hurd yesterday eve that you all had cotton with 5 or 6 leaves I can beat you I have some few stalks around the house that has 7 or 8 leaves" <sup>27</sup> And from Dora Latham in Georgia to Kate Latham, "You tell Pa I said he ought to see my cotton patch it is fine and don't forget it's the prettiest I have seen I expect I got blossoms now... the crops around here all look very fine."<sup>28</sup> In a letter just a few months later, William B. Durham, father-in-law to Kate Latham Durham, states, "The cotton crop is doing no good. The cool nights and the cut worms is ruinous to the cotton."<sup>29</sup>

According to the Callaham and Carwile History, Zachariah H. Carwile purchased 223 acres of land in 1889 for \$557 or \$2.49 per acre. This is one-half to one-third of the price per

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<sup>24</sup> Correspondence from Dora Latham Hunt to Corrie Latham Pruitt, January 20, 1888, AR786, Box 1, Folder 9, Latham Family Papers, The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries Special Collections, Arlington, Texas, USA

<sup>25</sup> Linda English, *By All Accounts: General Stores and Community Life in Texas and Indian Territory* (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2021), 8.

<sup>26</sup> Correspondence from J.B. Armstrong to Kate and Corrie Latham, December 29, 1887, AR786, Box 1, Folder 18, Latham Family Papers, The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries Special Collections, Arlington, Texas, USA

<sup>27</sup> Correspondence from J.T Latham to A.J. Latham, June 1, 1888, AR786, Box 1, Folder 5, Latham Family Papers, The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries Special Collections, Arlington, Texas, USA

<sup>28</sup> Correspondence from Dora Latham Hunt to Kate Latham, June 9, 1888, AR786, Box 1, Folder 18, Latham Family Papers, The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries Special Collections, Arlington, Texas, USA

<sup>29</sup> Correspondence from W.B. Durham to Kate and Oliver Durham, June 24, 1893, AR786, Box 1, Folder 23, Latham Family Papers, The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries Special Collections, Arlington, Texas, USA



acre in South Carolina.<sup>30</sup> The population of Texas had grown from 1.6 million in 1880 to 2.2 million in 1890, rising to 3 million by 1900. This steady growth came mainly from families migrating from the southern states. The land was inexpensive and plentiful, and the broader culture was similar to what the migrants were accustomed to. Cotton production during this period went from 805,000 bales in 1880 to 2.5 million bales in 1900. Cotton was still king, at least in Texas.<sup>31</sup>

When A.J. Latham's son John and daughter-in-law, Carrie, arrived in Texas sometime in 1888, the migrants' new settlement received its name. "New Colony" was suggested by Carrie Latham, and it stuck.<sup>32</sup> In 1889, the group founded New Colony Baptist Church. In Texas, evangelical protestant denominations were the most prominent, dominated by Baptists and Methodists.<sup>33</sup> The Lathams and Carwiles were Baptist, although they did attend other churches from time to time.

Religion bore a significant influence on the lives of the plain folk. This weekly gathering of neighbors was a time to share news, discuss the weather and crops, and hear the latest traveling preacher. The Latham Letters bear witness to these facts. The letters frequently comment on church attendance and events. Kate Latham's niece Alice Crawford wrote from Georgia, "I went to Midway yesterday evening to preaching Mr (?) preached on to Hartwell last

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<sup>30</sup> "Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930. Census of Agriculture. Farm Real-Estate Values in the New England States, 1850 to 1930.," HathiTrust (United States Department of Commerce, 1930), <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015021935120>, 17.

<sup>31</sup> Alwyn Barr, "Late Nineteenth-Century Texas," TSHA, November 22, 2020, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/late-nineteenth-century-texas>, 1.

<sup>32</sup> Laurie E. Jasinski, "New Colony, TX (Cass County)," TSHA, August 9, 2004, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/new-colony-tx-cass-county>.

<sup>33</sup> Alwyn Barr, "Late Nineteenth-Century Texas," TSHA, November 22, 2020, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/late-nineteenth-century-texas>, 3.

night to hear Carswell." Dora wrote to Kate, "We all went to the Valley to preaching yesterday. I enjoy going there very much but not like old Flat Rock." (church)<sup>34</sup> Amanda Latham Crawford wrote to her parents, "Mattie Norman & Charlie & Earlie [xxx] come home with Alice and they all went to heare the Negroes preache sunday."<sup>35</sup> Statements like these, although brief, occur enough to demonstrate the importance of church in the writers' lives. Churches provided a sense of stability and were another aspect of community among the plain folks in an ever-changing world.<sup>36</sup>

Health concerns and the tragedies of death were familiar subjects of the Latham Family Letters. John Armstrong, who remained in South Carolina, wrote of his wife to Kate and Corrie, "Lizzie is rite porly she is suffering from a grate deal of pane at the heart."<sup>37</sup> While still in South Carolina, J.T. Latham wrote to Kate's future husband, John Oliver Durham, "I hear the measles are in Andersonville and you pa has a boil on his leg."<sup>38</sup> There is also a heart-wrenching letter from Kate's friend Lizzie Hall telling her husband's death in some detail. "...the big [xxx] at his throat eat into and he bled to death in five minutes." Emphasizing the importance of community, Hall goes on, "Just as it happened Mrs Mitchell came in as he commenced to bleed. I feel she was a god send he died sitting in his rocking chair. Oh! It was perfectly awful I can never no

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<sup>34</sup> Correspondence from Alice Crawford to Kate Latham Durham, March 19, 1888, AR786, Box 1, Folder 11, Latham Family Papers, The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries Special Collections, Arlington, Texas, USA

<sup>35</sup> Correspondence from Amanda Latham Crawford to A.J. Latham, July 8, 1888, AR786, Box 1, Folder 2, Latham Family Papers, The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries Special Collections, Arlington, Texas, USA

<sup>36</sup> Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Texas, 3

<sup>37</sup> Correspondence from J.B. Armstrong to Kate and Corrie Latham, December 29, 1887, AR786, Box 1, Folder 18, Latham Family Papers, The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries Special Collections, Arlington, Texas, USA

<sup>38</sup> Correspondence from J.T. Latham to J. Oliver Durham, February 7, 1888, AR786, Box 1, Folder 17, Latham Family Papers, The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries Special Collections, Arlington, Texas, USA

never get over it."<sup>39</sup> The letters had their joyful moments, too. A baby was news to be shared and even bragged about. Dora wrote to Kate of her first daughter Lollie Belle, "I tell you she is just the sweetest, prettiest & best little girl you ever heard of, just as fat as a pig weighs 14 ½ lbs. She is a little daisy."<sup>40</sup> (Lollie Belle Hunt Rhea would live to be 89 years old.) There are many other examples of the shared joys and sorrows of life. These people shared their lives as if they were still together.

As one may expect, there were frequent questions, and comments from family and friends left behind about Texas. A month after A.J. Latham and family moved to Texas, Amanda Latham Crawford wrote, "Jim is talking of selling his land & comeing to Texas rite away you need not be surprised to see us eney time if he sells"<sup>41</sup> Sadly, Amanda would die in 1890, before ever reaching Texas. Dora wrote to A.J. Latham, "...I think if you are still satisfied and if I live I am going to live near my papa next year and then I will be satisfied. Do you think you will settle where you are?"<sup>42</sup> John B. Armstrong, who stayed in South Carolina, wrote to A.J. Latham, "I want you to tell me what you think of the contry as far as you know and how it looks compare to this there amany a waiting with anxious minds how all like Tex if it a good contry the immigration will be grate next fall"<sup>43</sup> That fall, Dora Latham Hunt, Anglo Hunt, and John T. and

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<sup>39</sup> Correspondence from Lizzie Hall to Kate Latham, Undated, AR786, Box 1, Folder 19, Latham Family Papers, The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries Special Collections, Arlington, Texas, USA

<sup>40</sup> Correspondence from Dora Latham Hunt to Kate Latham Durham, October 26, 1888, Box 1, Folder 15, Latham Family Papers, The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries Special Collections, Arlington, Texas, USA

<sup>41</sup> Correspondence from Amanda Latham Crawford to A.J. Latham, January 5, 1888, Box 1, Folder 2, Latham Family Papers, The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries Special Collections, Arlington, Texas, USA

<sup>42</sup> Correspondence from Dora Latham Hunt to A.J. Latham, February 7, 1888, Box 1, Folder 3, Latham Family Papers, The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries Special Collections, Arlington, Texas, USA

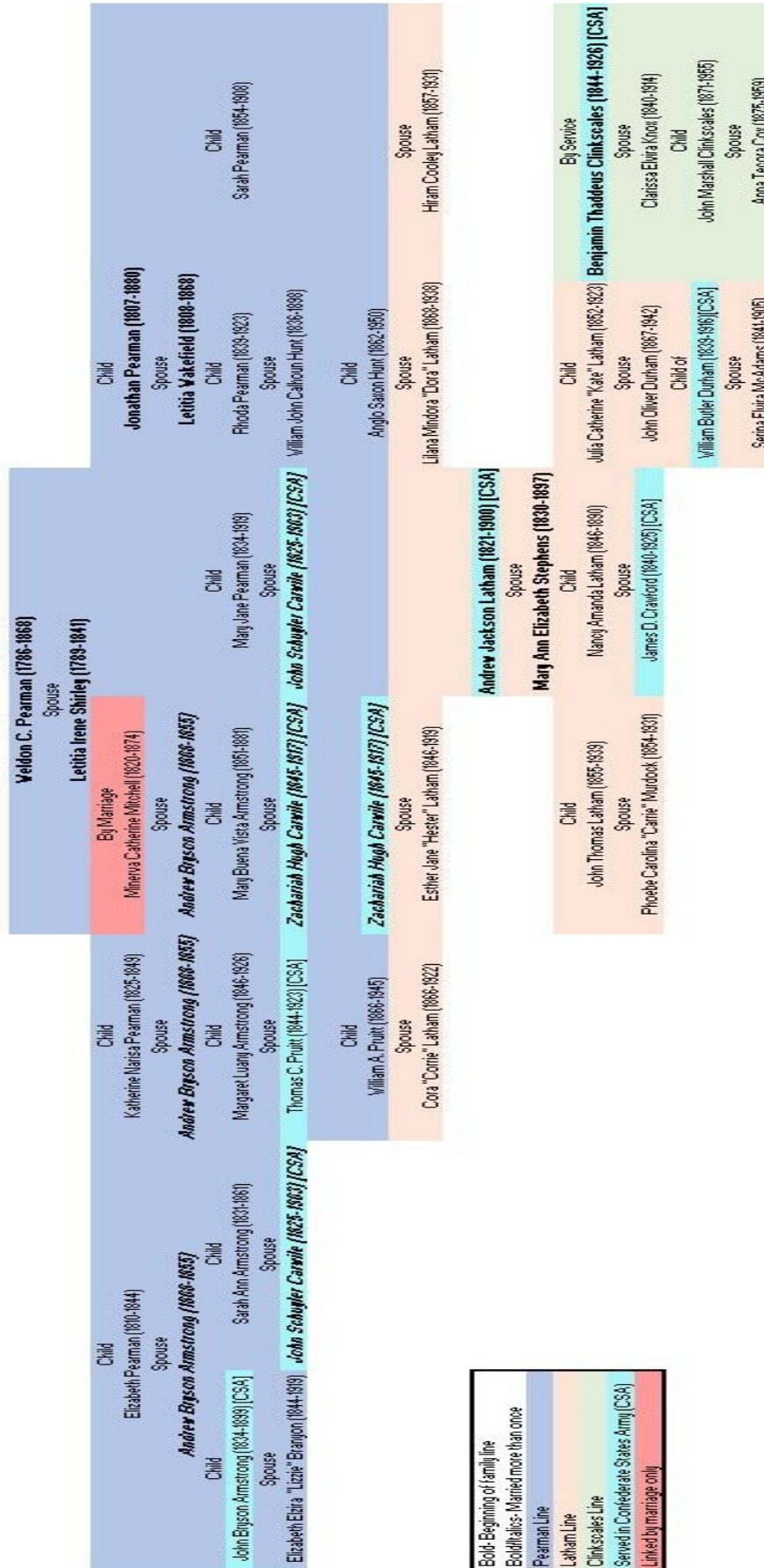
<sup>43</sup> Correspondence from J.B. Armstrong to A.J. Latham, 1888, AR786, Box 1, Folder 18, Latham Family Papers, The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries Special Collections, Arlington, Texas, USA

Carrie Latham packed up their families and headed to Texas. It seems they were the last of their family to do so. Correspondence between family and friends was integral in maintaining the community bonds even over long distances.

Physical and emotional, plain folk interdependencies were critical for survival in the agrarian society where they existed and were part and parcel of the Southern way of life. Plain folk connections were prominent before and during the war. Marriage and military service strengthened their ties.

In conclusion, through the genealogical records and the accumulated family letters, it is evident that plain folk family ties and interdependencies continued to be essential during the post-reconstruction period as they were in the antebellum and Civil War periods. Further, these relationships endured over lifetimes and distance. There is minimal scholarship regarding plain folk society in the post-reconstruction period. This raises important questions for further development: What did these connections mean after the Civil War and at the turn of the century? Did they survive beyond the second or third generations? In the families considered in this paper, the ties that bound them together were critical, but there is some indication that they did not continue to be as substantial in succeeding generations. As the individual cells grew, there was less need for support from those outside the immediate family. As large industrial farms soon became the norm and the science of agriculture reduced crop disasters, it would seem that plain folk systems became less necessary and families more dispersed.

Ties that Bind: Southern Plain Folk Migration to Post-Reconstruction Texas  
Appendix A



**Bold**: Beginning of family line  
 Bold/italics: Married more than once  
 Pearman Line  
 Latham Line  
 Clinkscales Line  
 Served in Confederate States Army (CSA)  
 Linked by marriage only

## Appendix B

- Served the Confederacy during the Civil War
    - The Clinkscales, Durhams, and Crawfords were connected through service in the Civil War (See below)
      - Andrew Jackson Latham
      - Zachariah Hugh Carwile (Husband of Esther Jane “Hester” Latham)
      - John Schuyler Carwile
      - John Bryson Armstrong
      - *William Butler Durham*
        - Father of *John Oliver Durham*
          - Oliver was the husband of *Julia Catherine “Kate” Latham* (1852-1923)
          - The family of John Oliver Durham’s mother (Serena Elvira McAdams) was a neighbor of the Murdock family (*Mrs. John T.[Phoebe Carolina “Carrie” Murdock] Latham*) in 1860 and the A.J. Lathams in 1880
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      - Thomas C. Pruitt
      - *James D. Crawford*
        - Jim (or J.D.) was the husband of *Nancy Amanda Latham* (1846-1890)
      - *Benjamin Thaddeus Clinkscales*
        - Migrated prior to the Lathams and Carwiles.
          - Served with James D. Crawford and William Butler Durham in the Palmetto Rifles during the Civil War
          - James D. Crawford and William Butler Durham required the testimony of *J.F. “Fleet” Clinkscales* to certify their service in the Palmetto Rifles
        - Father of *John Marshall Clinkscales*
          - Migrated with the Lathams and Carwiles
  - Moved to Texas from South Carolina
    - November 1887:
      - Andrew Jackson, Mary Ann Elizabeth, Cora “Corrie,” and Julia Catherine “Kate” Latham
        - A.J. Latham’s paternal grandmother was *Pamela Bush* (1755-1823). This may explain the story of the railroad executive named “Mr. Bush” and the ability to charter a coach for the journey west.
          - *Fred D. Bush*, District Passenger Agent, Louisville and Nashville Railroad, Office in Atlanta, Georgia
        - Latham’s paternal uncle *James A. Latham* (1811-1873) came to Texas around 1870, possibly explaining how the families heard of the land. He died in Kaufman County, Texas
      - Zachariah Hugh Carwile and Hester Latham Carwile
      - Hiram Cooley Latham and family
      - William A. Pruitt (Later to marry Corrie Latham)
      - John Schuyler Carwile and family
      - John Marshall Clinkscales and family
        - There were already numerous Clinkscales in Texas by this time. This may be another possible explanation of how the families heard about Texas
- Those who came to Texas after 1887 (Not necessarily together):
  - John T. Latham and family

## Appendix B

- John Oliver Durham (Later to marry Kate Latham)
- Anglo Saxon Hunt, Dora Latham Hunt and family (From Hart County, Georgia)
- Those who never came Texas:
  - James D. Crawford, Nancy Amanda Latham Crawford, and family
    - Remained in Hartwell, Hart County, Georgia
    - Amanda was to pass away in 1890
  - The Armstrongs
    - Although there were strong family and fraternal ties between the Carwiles, Lathams, and Armstrongs, particularly with John B. Armstrong and his wife Clementine Elizabeth “Lizzie” Armstrong, none of the Armstrongs moved to Texas
  - The William B. Durhams
    - Purchased land in Alabama in the 1890s
- Owned farmland before or by 1910
  - A.J. Lathams
  - Z.H. Carwiles
  - J.S. Carwiles
  - A.S. Hunts
  - J.T. Lathams
  - H.C. Lathams
  - W.A. Pruitts
  - J.M. Clinkscapes
    - Son of B.T. Clinkscapes. (B.T. had moved to an area near Austin, Texas)
- Land ownership status unknown
  - J.O. Durhams (Purchased land between 1910 and 1940)
    - A.J. Latham lived with J. Oliver and Kate Latham Durham after the death of Mary Ann Elizabeth Latham (1830-1897)
  - J.D. Crawfords (in GA)
- All who left their homes in South Carolina for Texas lived out their lives in Texas.
- Occupations held by Andrew Jackson Latham over the decades (According to census records)
  - 1850- Wagon Maker
  - 1860- Machinist
  - 1861-1865- Soldier
  - 1870- Day Shop Worker
  - 1880- Farmer
  - 1890- No census available
  - 1900- Carpenter
- There is no indication that the families that were related by blood or marriage held slaves. The Clinkscapes may have been slaveholders prior to the Civil War

## Appendix B

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