

Letter to the Eagle

In 1876 a contingent of Mississippians arrived near the Lavaca-Gonzales County line and settled in and around the village of Moulton.

Led by Civil War Veteran Dr. I.S. (Spears) York, the group included Caldwell, Shepherd, Robert (Bob) Johnson, A.A. Kuehn, Greenlee, Babb and other families. Mrs. York, Caldwell and Shepherd were sisters of Bob Johnson. Mrs. Missouri Johnson was a sister of A.A. Kuehn and Mrs. Greenlee was also related. In 1886 two brothers, Zattie and James (Jim) Johnson joined their kin. Most are buried among the pioneers in the Old Moulton Cemetery.

Mrs. Rose Svoboda Helweg wrote in a 1953 article that Dr. York wore a corrective boot on his war wounded leg for the remainder of his life as he made his many rounds in the community and that he attended her father, Anton Svoboda for double pneumonia for two days and two nights, applying many mustard plasters.

The York home was on his 165 acre farm later known as the farm of Alois Zidek, two miles west of present Moulton on the Gonzales road. Helen Zidek Vacek of Shiner, relates that when her father dismantled the house to build a new one, a huge number of empty medicine bottles had to be hauled away. They had been dropped through a hole in the floor of his treatment area. She also tells that to feed his strong buggy-horses, he imported some seed of a new nutritious

fast growing grass. Highly successful, he invited others to use some to feed their cows and as it was hauled along the roads, Johnson grass was spread around the area. Unable to destroy the grass, her father fertilized and ran cattle on it. Someone likewise brought in Bois D Arc (horse apples) reputed to grow densely and form a fence line which did not work. Nor was it good as fence posts as dry posts cracked when pierced with steeples.

Children of the MS group, most born there, farmed in this area for many years, some staying, others later going elsewhere.

Some sons were Bill, Lon and Ike York; Zannie and Fannie York Kuhlen; brothers Sam, Bruce, Smith, Joe and Mack Johnson (Bob); Charlie, Lewis, Sam L., and Zat Johnson (Jim).

Some grandchildren still here are Woodrow, Laura Mae, and Cooper Johnson of Flatonia; Earl and Ervy Kuehn of Moulton; and Kate Johnson Fisbeck-Higgins and Nancy Jewell Johnson Hull of Moulton, and there are G. and G.G.'s grandchildren as well (Bob, Sam)!

The point of this letter is that the York family reunion will combine with the annual Old Moulton Homecoming on Sunday, June 13 at the Parish Hall in Moulton. As usual, everyone is encouraged to bring a dish or two and visit. Catered BBQ plates will be available to traveling Yorks rendering advance notice.

— H. Ben Johnson
Moulton, TX.