



Summary Information

Title: Grady Singletary Collection

Collection Number: 1999:012

Creator: Grady Singletary

Collection Dates: 1834-2001

Extent: .25 cubic feet (1 box)

Language: English

Collection Abstract:

Grady Singletary was a cattleman, pilot, photographer, and railroad enthusiast interested in the history of Cherokee County, Texas. This collection consists of photographs, correspondence, research notes, maps, and a soil survey concerning Cherokee County, particularly the Southern Pine Lumber Company logging camp Fastrill, Southern Pine logging railroads, the Texas State Railroad, and Rusk Penitentiary.

Repository:

The History Center
102 N. Temple
Diboll, TX 75941
936-829-3543
www.thehistorycenteronline.com

Author/Processing Information: Processed by Matt Gorzalski in May 2011.

Biographical/Historical Note:

Grady Carlton Singletary was born on August 23, 1930 in Jacksonville, Texas to Henry Grady and Currye Odom Singletary. His father worked with Dave Kenley of the Southern Pine Lumber Company in the 101 Partnership, a cattle raising business where Kenley secured grazing leases on Southern Pine timberland and Singletary managed the cattle. Grady Singletary was a cattleman, pilot, photographer, and railroad enthusiast. Singletary was a member of the Cherokee County Historical Commission and worked to preserve historical records of the area and conducted interviews of local residents. He was particularly interested in East Texas lumber and railroad history. Singletary was a leader in getting a Texas Historical Commission marker placed at Fastrill, a former Southern Pine Lumber Company logging camp that operated from 1922-1941. He also served on several boards including the Cherokee County Electric Cooperative, Alto School Board, Cherokee County Soil and Water Conservation Board, and Cherokee

County Appraisal District. Singletary and his wife Virginia had two sons, Richard and Alan. He died on April 11, 2007.

Collection Scope and Content:

The Grady Singletary Collection consists of photographs, correspondence, research notes, maps, and a soil survey that reflect Singletary's interest in Cherokee County history. The records are mostly reproductions. The majority of the photographs, correspondence, clippings, and research notes document Fastrill history. This includes photocopies of correspondence between Dave Kenley and L. D. Gilbert about purchasing the land on which Fastrill was located and surrounding timber, notes on Shay Locomotives owned by Southern Pine and Temple Lumber companies, a map of Fastrill, and Singletary's Texas Historical Commission marker application narrative. Also included are oral histories with Alvin Burchfield, Henry Kilgore, and others about life and work at Fastrill. Some photographs include the Southern Pine Lumber Company railroad bridge over the Neches River near Fastrill, Southern Pine employees working in the area, and a St. Louis Southwestern Railway Company motor car at Wildhurst, Cherokee County.

A small portion of photographs depict Texas State Railroad and Rusk Penitentiary prisoner work crews and prison guards. The maps include a 1948 United States Department of Agriculture map of Davy Crockett National Forest and a CD of Texas maps dating 1834-1950. Also included is a USDA soil survey of Cherokee County that provides a historical, economic, and geographic profile of the county in addition to the soil survey data.

Arrangement: This collection is arranged and described at the collection level.

Subject Terms

Topics

- Convict labor -- Texas, East
- Forest reserves -- Texas -- Cherokee County
- Logging railroads -- Texas -- Cherokee County
- Lumber camps -- Texas -- Cherokee County
- Lumber trade -- Texas -- Cherokee County
- Railroads -- Texas -- Cherokee County
- Soils -- Texas -- Cherokee County

Corporate Names

- Rusk Penitentiary
- Southern Pine Lumber Company
- St. Louis Southwestern Railway Company
- Texas State Railroad
- United States. Soil Conservation Service

Personal Names

- Gilbert, L. D.
- Kenley, Dave C.
- Singletary, Grady

Genres

- Photographs
- Maps -- Texas -- Cherokee County

- Oral histories
- Soil surveys

Locations

- Cherokee County (Tex.)
- Cherokee County (Tex.) -- History, local
- Davy Crockett National Forest (Tex.)
- Fastrill (Tex.)
- Fastrill (Tex.) – History
- Texas, East
- Wild Hurst (Tex.)

Access and Use

Access Restrictions: There are no access restrictions on this collection.

Acquisition Information: This collection was donated over the course of several accessions. Accession 1999:012 was donated by March 8, 1999; accession 2001:059 was donated on October 28, 2001; accession 2002:023 was donated on March 22, 2002; accession 2002:027 was donated on April 9, 2002; accession 2002:030 was donated on April 18, 2002; and accession 2002:044 was donated on June 17, 2002.

Custodial History: These records were collected by Grady Singletary over the course of his interest and activities regarding Cherokee County history. He donated copies or allowed History Center Staff to create copies between 1999 and 2002. He maintained possession of the originals.

Citation: Grady Singletary Collection, 1834-2001, 1999:012, The History Center, Diboll, TX

Separate Material:

United States Department of Agriculture Map of Davy Crockett National Forest is map number 0381 and is stored in map cabinet 1 drawer 3.

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Bibliography:

- “Grady Carlton Singletary,” *Cherokeean-Herald*, http://www.txgenweb2.org/txcherokee/Obituaries/2007/2007mar_apr.htm (accessed May 28, 2011).

Collection Inventory

Box 1

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| Folder 1 | Fastrill History Correspondence (with Dave Kenly and L. D. Gilbert), Clippings, and Oral History Transcripts, 1922-2001 |
| Folder 2 | Fastrill – Texas Historical Commission Marker Application Narrative, 2000 |
| Folder 3 | Photographs – Three Southern Pine Lumber Company Railroads and Camp House near Fastrill; One St. Louis Southwestern Railway Motor Car at Wildhurst |
| Folder 4 | Photograph (Vintage Postcard) – Texas State Railroad Prisoner Work Crew, c. 1913 |

- Folder 5 Photographs – Rusk Penitentiary Guards; Texas State Railroad Prisoner Work Crew; “Rusk Iron Works Pride of Rusk,” c. 1907, 1913
- Folder 6 “101 Partnership” between Dave Kenley and H. Grady Singletary, 14 pages, 1988
- Folder 7 CD of Antique Texas Maps, 1834-1950
- Item 1 Soil Survey of Cherokee County Texas, 1959
- Item 2 United States Department of Agriculture Map of Davy Crockett National Forest (map 0381, C1D3), 1948