

HISTORY & FOLKLORE



On the front steps of 1616 Sam Houston, built in 1926, are the children and associated parties of Helen Pickett (1859-1928), daughter of Edward Bradford "Ed" Pickett, Jr. (1852-1926) and wife, Mary "Molly" Nolan (1857-1914). Top row, l-r: Col. Abbott Boone, Mary Bernardine Pickett (1911-2003), Sidney Codella Vinnedge Pickett (1890-1981), Veta Boone, Edward Brown "B" Pickett, Jr. (1877-1951); Middle row: Grace Munn Boone, Geraldine Boone Delhomme, Helen Kathryn Delhomme Hereford; bottom: ????. Photo take around 1939.

From the Liberty County Historical Commission's Walking Tour –

E.B. & Sidney Pickett Home 1616 Sam Houston

The property known as 1616 Sam Houston Street was owned by Richard Rice in the early 1800s when it was sold to Fr. LaCour acting for Bishop Odin of the Galveston Diocese for a convent/school. A large building, perhaps the largest in town, known as the old convent, was erected in 1857 by direction of Bishop Odin who was the first Catholic bishop of Galveston. After construction was completed, it was occupied by a branch of the Ursuline Convent of Galveston under the management and direction of Madame St. Ambrose as mother superior. The school flourished for several years, but finally closed due to a decline in enrollment, during the Civil War. In 1869, the building was occupied by W.G. Nolan and wife Kate, who for several years had a large and active school at times, with some 60 to 75 scholars in attendance. During and since the Civil War the building was used for various purposes including other educational entities such as Trinity College with a final dismantling in 1888 with the lumber that was salvaged being sold.

On August 28, 1902, E.B. Pickett Jr., W.G. Nolan's grandson, purchased the property, Lots 2 and 3, Inner Block 29 in the City of Liberty, from N.A. Gallagher,

then bishop of the Galveston diocese and later purchased Lot 1, Inner Block 29 on April 1, 1929, from C. E. Byrne, bishop of Galveston.

The first family home of E.B. and wife, Sidney, was built in 1910 on Lot 2, a frame house in almost the same location as the second family home now occupying the property. All four of E.B. and Sidney's children were born in this home. For many years the property was used, as was typical of the times, for gardening, raising of chickens and pasturing two heads of dairy cattle, a Holstein named Daisy and a Jersey named Lillie. Also, two horses, Trinket and Gravy, were kept within a fence which enclosed much of Lot 1 known as the "Pasture." The house constructed in 1910 was moved in 1925 about 100 feet to the west (and was occupied by the family during construction of the new home) to make room for the second family home, then moved across the street to Lot 2, Inner Block 28 when the construction of the new home was completed.

The second family home currently standing is a brick two story constructed by builder Fredrick (unknown) beginning in 1925 and completed in 1926. This home was lived in and occupied as a place of residence by E.B. and Sidney Pickett and their children until 1994 at which time their grandson, Carl, became the owner. Carl and wife Laura moved into the home in February 1995 along with their three children. Carl and Laura continue to live here today.

The exterior brick was commonly known as scratch face or full range, flashed, a blend of reds, browns and black tones, with a large, tiled north-facing covered porch that stretches across the front of the house and around to the east side, a cool respite for porch sitters and visitors. The roof was originally covered with green terracotta Ludowici tiles, which have been replaced with composition shingled roof. A porte-cochere on the west side of the house was enlarged in 1994-95 to accommodate two vehicles. There are four fireplaces, two downstairs and two upstairs in the home. The flooring in the home is oak and pine, with most of the original tile flooring still intact. The bedrooms, all located upstairs, have not been altered although a bathroom has been added to the primary bedroom. Most of the light fixtures are original with the addition of a few more keeping with the style and age of the house. An additional garage, carport, potting shed and east side covered porch were added in 2006. The old woodshed, cistern and outhouse are long gone, along with the cows, Daisy and Lillie, horses Trinket and Gravy and the chickens. What remains are fond memories and family photos with the thought that "a house is a repository for a family's secrets, dreams and emotions....a vessel of memories and experiences and feelings that are still in the walls, still in the vapor."

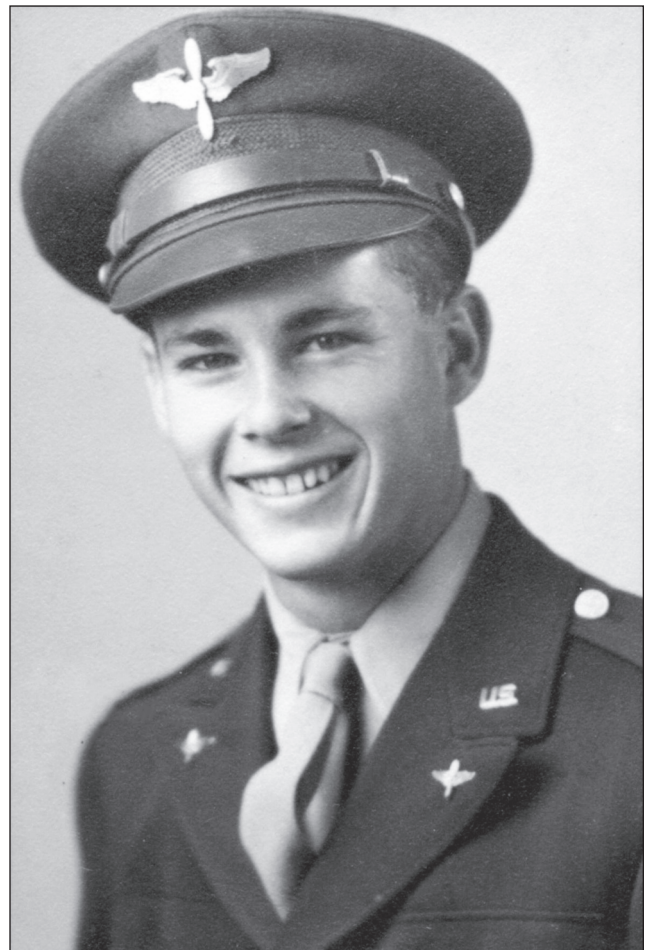
There have been three generations, numerous beloved family pets, including dogs and cats, in addition to opossums, skunks, raccoons, ducks, snakes, lizards, turtles, owls, hawks, birds and squirrels fortunate to have called this place home. Three family weddings, countless parties and family gatherings have taken place for a hundred years, hopefully to be continued.

Longevity requires perseverance and care and attention over generations. When anything lasts more than 100 years, it's a testament to the number of people who have loved it and invested in it. One of the great rewards of that labor and attention is knowing future generations can enjoy the same special places.

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SAM HOUSTON CENTER SETX SERVICE MILITARY IMAGE SERIES

Come celebrate Southeast Texans' service to the nation as part of the Sam Houston Center's America250 events commemorating the country's 250th birthday. The event takes place Saturday, June 27, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Events will include historical exhibits and tours, activities for children, refreshments and special entertainment. *More photos of these special Southeast Texans will come in the following weeks up through Tues., June 30.*



Lloyd Quitman "Bubba" Van Deventer, United States Air Force, 1940s. June Steu-soff McGuire Collection, 1991.008. SHC, TSLAC.

Lloyd Quitman Van Deventer, a native of Liberty, Texas, and graduate of Texas A & M University, was a corporal in the United States Air Force. He was discharged on February 26, 1946, and then became a business partner in the Lee & Van Deventer Real Estate Agency in Liberty. He and his wife later formed their own real estate agency. On July 9, 2001, Van Deventer passed away and was buried in Liberty Catholic Cemetery. Learn more about the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center's collections at www.tsl.texas.gov/shc.



Wilbur Tatum Norman, Jr., United States Navy, April 1944. Norman Family Papers, 1995.020. SHC, TSLAC.

Wilbur T. Norman, Jr., known as W.T., was born on December 24, 1913, in Liberty, Texas. On July 9, 1942, he joined the United States Navy, serving as a gunner's mate during World War II. Norman's two brothers, William and Morris, also served. In later life, he lived in Jefferson County, Texas, where he passed away on June 25, 2004. Norman is buried in Liberty, Texas. Learn more about the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center's collections at www.tsl.texas.gov/shc.



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