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Kirby Helen Marr - 1921

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lineages occurred, with shield and tepee designs and band names usually descending in the male line.

Another important aspect of Kiowa social structure was the clubs, dancing societies, or soldier bands. These were not graded (though young boys belonged to the Rabbits and youths to the Herders), for after maturity a man joined whichever of the adult groups he liked best. Important old women belonged to groups whose meetings and purposes were deeply secret and who seemed to have inspired terror in most persons. The men's societies functioned as police groups supervising the buffalo hunts or tribal movements, as philanthropic agencies, and as social groups.

The Kiowas were well-known for their annual calendars, for almost every important family seems to have had one. Many of these go back to the early nineteenth century when they were recorded upon buckskins.

The Kiowan language is unique to the plains; its nearest affiliation being Tanoan in the Southwest, and with possibly a more distant relationship to Shoshoni, a dialect of which is spoken by the Comanche. The sign language was used to communicate with other tribes as well as with the Kiowa-Apache.

In physical type, the Kiowa were dark-skinned, short, stocky, with brachycephalic heads.

Earliest tradition locates the Kiowa northwest of the Yellowstone area, with a Black Hills location in the eighteenth century. In this area they are reputed to have had contact with the Comanche, whom they seem to have pushed southward. The first regular American trading relations with the Kiowa were begun in 1834, and the first treaty with the United States, stipulating peace and friendship, was signed in 1837. Nevertheless, raiding continued, especially against Texans, and in 1864 there was a general uprising of the plains Indians. The resulting Medicine Lodge Treaty of 1867 changed the whole status of the Kiowa and their allies from that of independent tribes with free and unrestricted ranges over the whole plains to that of pensioners dependent on the government, confined to the narrow limits of a reservation and subject to constant military and civilian supervision.

In 1871 a large raiding party of Kiowa is reputed to have killed seven men in Texas in what is known as the Salt Creek Massacre.⁸⁷ Boasting of their deeds before General W. T. Sherman,⁸⁸ three of the most important leaders were arrested and turned over to the state of Texas. One of these (Satank⁸⁹) later resisted and was killed, but Satanta and Big Tree⁹⁰ were held as hostages. In 1872 two commissions were sent out from Washington in an attempt to settle the various problems causing friction between the ever expanding white settlements and the several Indian groups. Neither commission achieved positive results. The Kiowa finally agreed to send delegates to Washington, where they were promised the return of their two chiefs the following spring, on the condition that they conduct themselves properly through the winter of 1872-1873 and return stolen stock and all captives held by them. The Kiowa complied with these provisions, but the people of Texas, on hearing of the promise to release the two captives, protested vigorously. Official pressure finally brought about their release in October, 1873.

Hardly had Satanta and Big Tree been returned, when a group of Texans visited the Kiowa reservation and ran off two hundred horses and mules, while Texas newspapers continued, probably erroneously, to report renewed raids by Satanta and Big Tree. With lawless white men destroying the buffalo by the thousands, with government-promised rations delayed or not delivered, the Kiowa and other tribes were suffering from hunger, and a general outbreak occurred in the spring of 1874, with an attack in the later part of June by the confederated Comanche, Cheyenne,⁹¹ and Kiowa upon Adobe Walls (see Adobe Walls, Second Battle of).

The peaceful element of the various tribes had been gathered at Fort Sill and the enrollment for that summer showed four-fifths of the Kiowa and all of the Kiowa-Apache among the "friendlies," as they were called.

A campaign against the hostiles was vigorously prosecuted in the fall, winter, and into the spring of 1875, by which time most of the resurgents were brought under military control. From this time on the Kiowa remained quietly on the reservation and tried to follow the new path of the white men with patient resignation, with only occasional interludes of disquiet.

See Kiowa-Apache Indians.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: James Mooney, "Calendar History of the Kiowa Indians," *Bureau of American Ethnology, 17th Annual Report, Part 2* (1898); Thomas Battey, *The Life and Adventures of a Quaker Among the Indians* (1875); Alice Marriott, *The Ten Grandmothers* (1945); J. J. Methvin, *Andele or the Mexican-Kiowa Captive* (1927).

J. Gilbert McAllister

Kiowa Peak. Kiowa Peak, in the northeast corner of Stonewall County, rises to an elevation of 1,800 feet.

Kirby, Helen Marr (Swearingen). Helen Marr (Swearingen) Kirby, daughter of Margaret M. and Richard J. Swearingen, was born in Mobile, Alabama, on January 17, 1837. Her parents brought her to Chapel Hill, Texas, in 1839. She graduated from Wesleyan Female College at Macon, Georgia, in 1855 and on April 18, 1858, married Jared E. Kirby. After her husband's death in 1865, she opened Alta Vista Institute, a boarding school for girls, at her home near Hempstead. She moved her sons to Austin in 1875 and taught temporarily in a private school until she opened an Alta Vista Institute in Austin. She closed her school in June, 1884, and in September, 1884, became "Lady Assistant" at the University of Texas.⁹² She was made assistant dean of women in 1902 and dean in 1903, serving until 1919, when she was made dean emerita. She established the Gertrude Swearingen Scholarship at the University in honor of her sister. Kirby Hall, the Methodist dormitory for girls at the University, was recipient of an endowment from her estate and was named for her. Stories of her activities as dean and her influence on two generations of women at the University became a part of campus lore. She died in Austin on November 29, 1921.

The Helen Marr Kirby Fellowship of \$40,000, which has provided an annual international fellowship of \$1,500 since 1945, was set up in her honor by the American Association of University Women.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Sinclair Moreland, *The Texas Women's Hall of Fame* (1917); *The Alcalde*, IX (January, 1922).

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River empties into Copano Bay. The mouth of the river is quite wide; within it lies the shell reef which was a habitat of the Karankawa and Copano Indians.²⁹⁷

Francis, John, and Thomas Welder landed at Black Point in May, 1836, and a few years later established a ranch on the shell reef. They later sold this tract to Captain Philip Dimitt.²⁹⁸ Black Point from 1838 to 1841 was a landing depot for munitions and supplies for the Mexican Federalist armies. The Black Point settlement figured in many Indian raids and fights, including the kidnaping of Jacob Kring. Major John H. Wood²⁹⁹ settled at Black Point in the 1840's. The modern community of Bayside occupies the same site.

Hobart Huson

Black Prairie. See Texas Prairies.

Black Spring Branch. Black Spring Branch in southern Erath County flows northeast into Little Green Creek south of the community of Alexander.

Blackberry Creek. Blackberry Creek, also known as Bobs Creek, rises in northwestern Archer County and flows north approximately four miles into the Wichita River in the northwestern corner of Archer County.

Blackburn, Ephraim. Ephraim Blackburn, son of James and Mary Blackburn, was born in 1754 and was reared in West Nottingham Township, Pennsylvania. He commanded a company in the American Revolution and married Prudence Rich. Giving his home state as Maryland, Blackburn entered Texas at Nacogdoches in 1801 as a member of Philip Nolan's³⁰⁰ expedition. Captured with the Nolan party, Blackburn was imprisoned at Chihuahua. When Spanish authorities decreed that one man of the nine survivors of the expedition should be killed, dice were thrown to determine who should be hanged. Blackburn, the oldest man in the group, cast the dice first and threw the low number. He was hanged in the Plaza de los Urangas in Chihuahua, Mexico, on November 11, 1807.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Maurine T. Wilson, Philip Nolan and His Activities in Texas (M.A. thesis, University of Texas, 1932).

Blackfoot, Texas. Blackfoot, in northern Anderson County near Catfish Creek, is a trading center and market for dairy and farm products. The community had two stores and a population of fifty in 1940.

Blackland, Texas. Blackland, in north central Rockwall County, had a post office from 1878 to 1903. In 1949 the village had a cotton gin, a general store, and an estimated population of twenty.

Blackland Army Air Field. Blackland Army Air Field, five miles northwest of Waco, Texas, was designated as China Springs Army Air Field and as Waco Army Air Field, Number 2, before the official name was given because of the black soil on which the installation was erected. The field was activated in June, 1942, and operated as a Glider Training School from July 7, 1942, until October 10, 1942, when it became an Advance Two-Engine Pilot School. Its commanding officers were successively Colonels Emmett F. Yost, George F. Keene, Howell M. Estes, Fred H. Bounds, Jergen B. Olson, Charles G. Percy, and James M. Johnson. The field was inactivated on October 31, 1945. In 1950 it was operating as the Waco Municipal Air Field, and buildings at the field were used as a housing project.

Blackshear

Blacks Bayou. Blacks Bayou in southeastern Jefferson County flows into the Neches River.

Black's Fort. Black's Fort, on South of Gabriel River in eastern Burnet County, was named for William Black, who built it in 1851 to protect the settlers from Indian raids. Consisting of a thick-walled stone house and a spring house with stone and wood stockade, the fort served as a residence and storage place for supplies and ammunition, but it saw little defense service as most of the raids occurred in the western part of the county near Fort Croghan.³⁰¹ After serving as a fort until 1868, the building continued to be used as a residence. In 1936 the Texas Centennial Commission erected a marker on the site.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: M. G. Bowden, History of Burnet County (M.A. thesis, University of Texas, 1949).

Blackshear, Thomas Edward. Thomas Edward Blackshear, son of Edward and Emily (Mitchell) Blackshear, lived in Duncanson, Thomas County, Georgia. On December 8, 1829, he married Emily Goodwin Raines; they were parents of nine children. Blackshear was in the Creek campaign of 1836 as captain of a scout company of the 69th Regiment, 2nd Brigade, Georgia Militia. On January 9, 1839, he was appointed secretary of the board of directors of the Brunswick and Florida Railroad Company, of which he was a stockholder. He left North Carolina for Texas on April 13, 1838. He settled near Navasota as a cotton planter and on April 23, 1850, purchased land in the Brazos River valley. By 1858 he had 152 slaves and by 1867 owned 2,541 acres of land. Blackshear died on October 16, 1867. His correspondence, diary, memorandum book, and account book are in the Archives Collection at the University of Texas.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Blackshear papers (MS., Archives Collection, University of Texas Library).

Blacktail Creek. Blacktail Creek rises at the breaks of the Llano Estacado in northwestern Briscoe County and flows north into the Prairie Dog Town Fork of Red River near the northern county line.

Blackwell, Thomas H. Thomas H. Blackwell immigrated to Texas in 1835. He joined the Texas Army in 1836 and fought in the battle of San Jacinto as a private in the 2nd Regiment, Texas Volunteers. He was reading clerk in the House of Representatives in the First Congress of the Republic. On December 15, 1837, Blackwell was elected county clerk of Brazoria County. On April 14, 1845, he was one of a committee of twenty-eight which drew up resolutions for Brazoria County favoring the annexation of Texas to the United States. He died at his home in Brazoria County in March, 1851.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: S. H. Dixon and L. W. Kiser, *Heroes of San Jacinto* (1932); *Telegraph and Texas Register*, December 17, 1837, and April 30, 1845.

Blackwell, Texas. Blackwell, in southeastern Nolan County, was named James when the town plot was filed on August 14, 1906. The name was changed to Blackwell honoring an English stockholder in the Orient Railroad, which built through the town a line later owned by the Panhandle and Santa Fe Railroad. Blackwell had a population of five hundred and thirteen business establishments in 1945. It is a trade center for a considerable stock farming region covering parts of Nolan, Coke, and Taylor counties. R. C. Croft

Blackwell, Enid, a name. The Blackwell company was projected by Enid F. Yoakum³⁰² for Fort Worth and Dallas. The southwestern Oklahoma line was completed in Vernon, Texas, with a line in 1903 by the St. Louis and Texas Railway.

Blair, William C. Blair, born in Bourbon March 16, 1791, was graduated from Pennsylvania, in Theological Seminary in 1812. He spent eight years abroad. The board of foreign missions church sent him to America. He set out in 1810 to preach in the spring of 1810 to preachers and religious tract in April 1810, he aided the Synod of the Brazos in organizing a church in 1817, when the preacher. With his wife, Susan Blair, he was forced to flee to Mexico and served the Comanche Indians.³⁰³

His dream of educating was partly realized with the opening of the Texas Seminary. He was principally responsible for the Seminary's being given to the state for a time and was also in securing the Seminary. As he became less active in Texas where he preached in February 13, 1873.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: William Blair, *Methodist Church in Texas*

Blair, Texas. Blair, in Nolan County, is a ranching community. Named for an early settler. Reported two stores and a population of 100.

Blairs Creek. Blairs Creek, rises in northern Rockwall County and flows south into Big Cypress Creek. Named for James R. Blair, and through which it flows.

Blair's Fort. Blair's Fort, west of the town of Independence, was established in 1836. It consisted of two rows of buildings, each other, with four buildings housing one family. The two rows was closed at the top and gates of hand hewn lumber enclosure was used as a fort for defense against Indians. In 1863 families began to move to Blair's Fort.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Robert Y. L. Blair, *Blair's Fort, Nolan County, Texas* (M.A. thesis, University of Texas, 1940).

Blake, Texas. Blake, in Nolan County on a mail route from Independence. A tank farm and oil pumpjack each serves the surrounding area.

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