

ABSALOM C. DELAPLAIN
A Short History
by
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Supplemented by Weldon Mersiovsky

A. C. Deleplain was born about 1808 in Ohio. Sometime between 1827 and 1830 he married Mary M. née Brisbin Clark in Adams County, Illinois. She was the daughter of William Brisbin, recently widowed from Mr. Clark, with a small daughter, Sarah Jane Clark, born April 27, 1827 in Adams County, Illinois. Family stories say Sarah Jane's father drowned. Mary and A. C.'s first child, William, was born in 1830 and their second, Emily, was born in 1831 in Illinois. Their third child, Caroline, was born in 1836 in Texas.

The family came to Texas in 1835 along with his in-laws the Brisbins. William Brisbin had 3 daughters, Mary, Sarah T. (married John Carmean-the town of Carmine, Texas, was named for them) and Emily (married as 2nd wife, Asa Mitchell, one of Austin colony's original settlers). They settled in Mina, as Bastrop was originally called. Absalom Delaplain got his first land certificate from the *ayuntamiento* in Bastrop. In 1835 the Delaplains and the Brisbins were charter members of the Methodist Church in Bastrop. The first meeting was held in the back of an unfinished store (belonging to Jesse Halderman) by James Gilliland, a part-time preacher. Planks were placed on boxes or kegs for pews and a barrel as a pulpit. Other participants were Mr. & Mrs. C. Anderson, Mr. & Mrs. Boyce, Mrs. Sarah McGehee, Mrs. Christian and Celie Craft. (This is documented in a book, "Bastrop County" by Bill Moore).

On March 6, 1836 (the day the Alamo fell) the family still resided in or near Bastrop. When they heard that "the Mexican army was coming, they turned out the livestock, hid the silver under the wash pot and left" (told to me by my aunt, Christine Elliott, and submitted by me to Ron Jackson for his book "Alamo Legacy" published in 1997). When the family returned, their belongings were strewn all around and the mattresses were up in the trees. The house was burned. BUT THE SILVER WAS STILL BURIED UNDER THE WASHPOT. Delaplain served in the Texas Army from July 9, 1836 to October 9, 1836. The Battle of San Jacinto was 21 April 1836.

After the war the family settled in Washington County near Union Hill and/or Burton, Absalom Delaplain applied to the Board of Land Commissioners for Washington County to get more land. "It is hereby certified that Absalom C. Delaplain presented himself to us [the Board] on this the twenty fifth day of January 1838 and proved to our satisfaction that he is entitled under the Constitution and laws of Texas to one League [4428.4 acres] and one Labor [177.1 acres] of Land, that he migrated to Texas before the 1st of May of the year Eighteen Hundred and Thirty-five, that he was a Citizen at the date of the Declaration of Independence and that he had remained in the County a Citizen with his family ever since, he being a married man. On February 1, 1838 Absalom Delaplain received his authorization for a League and a Labor of Land. By March 2, 1838 he had located his league and a labor "located on the road heading from Goachers to John Elkins about two miles at six postoaks, running 4000 varas south of the road and 1000 north and nothing for guaranty." By April 1, 1838 he had it surveyed by the Bastrop County surveyor. On May 4, 1838 he submitted his field notes to the County Clerk in Bastrop County and he received his patent. This land would henceforth be known as the Delaplain League.

According to Wendish Pastor John Kilian in a letter that was printed in *Der Lutheraner*, the official publication of the Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Illinois, Ohio and other States, the deal with Delaplain was struck on February 11, 1855. On March 20, 1855 Absalom C. Delaplain and his wife transferred their ownership of the Delaplain League to Carl Lehman and John Dube, representatives of the immigrating Texas Wends, for \$4250.66, \$1 per acre. He carried a note for \$1200 plus interest. When the mortgage was completely paid on September 8, 1859, only John Dube's name was on the deed.

The Brisbin mother-in-law died, and William remarried and had a son, William Brisbin, Jr. When the 2nd wife died, he married Mary Tumlinson (widow of a Texas Ranger, I think).

Sarah Jane Clark married David Cook Connell in Washington, County, Texas on September 25, 1845 officiated by O. Fisher, an early Methodist minister. They lived in Washington County until 1854 or so when they moved to Milam County. The rest of the family stayed in Washington County. The Delaplains, the Carmeans, the Mitchells, and the Connells bought and sold land from each other and there are many deeds. They also sold & bought land from Gale Borden, another early settler who invented condensed milk. The other two daughters married in Washington County, Emily to J. J. McCain and Caroline to Chauncy DeLong. Many deeds went back and forth.

Mary M. Delaplain died in 1870 after 5 years of illness. Absalom gave land to Caroline DeLong for the 5 years of devoted care she gave her mother. Shortly thereafter she sold it back to him and then a little later bought it back. I don't have any idea what was going on.

Absalom C. Delaplain, a Methodist minister, married Marcy J. Mahon on January 19, 1871. She was about 20 years his junior. They lived in Burleson County and she died in Williamson County.

A quit claim dated August 20, 1870 filed in Washington County, Texas mentions land he sold and then equally divided with his children and step-daughter. Washington County Deed Book N page 567 & O page 36.

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