

## **Guide to the**

### **Wood Family Collection 1880-1975 (bulk 1900-1965)**

**6 inches**

**Accession Number: 0001-188**

**Collection Number: 74**

**Prepared by  
Kevin Kendro  
October 2012**

**CITATION: Wood Family Collection, Collection 74, Box number, Folder number, Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.**

### **Biographical Sketch**

This collection contains material relating to several western Dallas County pioneer families: the Wood, Barton, Sitton, and Tompkins families. These families were intertwined through marriage and this collection, through photos and documents, provides a look into several generations of the extended family.

### **Wood Family**

George Washington (Dick) Wood and his wife Lou Ella Newman came to Texas at some point after 1876. They had eight children, one of whom was MacClaude Wood. MacClaude Wood married Nora Henrietta Payne who was born in Waxahachie, Texas. MacClaude and Nora had seven children, three boys and four girls, all born in Dallas, County. Two of their sons, Erlin and Howard, would marry into the Barton and Tompkins families (detailed later).

### **Barton and Sitton Families**

Bennie Wiggins Barton, Jr., (a.k.a. Uncle Bennie) (b. 1854 or 1858), came to Texas from Coffee County, Tennessee, with his parents Bennie Wiggins Barton and Mary Magelion Hodge. He married Martha "Matt or Mattie" Sitton (b. 1860) and they had 11 children: five boys and six girls. Mattie Sitton came from Georgia to Texas with her parents James Henry Sitton and Mary Emoline Falls. Two of Bennie and Mattie's daughters, Jennie Ruth (b.1893) and Vera Irene (b. 1906) married into the Tompkins and Wood families (detailed later).

### **Tompkins Family**

Issac Sylvester Tompkins and Mary Angeline Burns of Tennessee moved to Texas in the late 1860s and were married in Dallas County. The couple had 10 children, the oldest of whom was Burton Sylvester Tompkins (b. 1886). Burton married Jennie Ruth Barton on June 29, 1907. They had two children

Ovington Gilbert Tompkins (b. 1908) and Chestermae Tompkins (b. 1911). (Jennie Ruth Barton Tompkins was honored as Irving's oldest citizen in 1986. She was 93 year old at the time.)

The two brothers, Erlin and Howard Wood, married, respectively, Vera Irene Barton and Chestermae Tompkins. Vera Irene, known as Irene, and Chestermae were aunt and niece. Erlin married Irene on June 12, 1924. Seventeen years later, Howard married Chestermae on June 20, 1941. These marriages further joined the Wood, Barton, and Tompkins families.

Chestermae and Howard Wood had one son, Leslie Erlin Wood (b. 1947). He married Gloria Sue Duncan on December 28, 1968. They had one daughter, Patti Wood Finkle (b. 1973) who married Jason Patrick Finkle of Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, on April 4, 2004. They have 3 children, Alexis Elizabeth Wood Finkle (b. January 20, 2000), Addison Leslie Finkle (b. August, 18, 2005), and Jakson Cade Finkle (b. October 8, 2007).

Howard Wood and his brother William Pearl Wood, known as Pearl, owned Twin Wells Lumber in eastern Irving during the 1940s-1960s. They purchased it from its founder Tom Ross Hinton.

### **More Information on Family Members**

1. George Washington (Dick) Wood (b. 3/22/1849 - d. 6/25/1927) May have fought in the Civil War in a Tenn. or TX Cav. Division.

Lou Ella Numan (b. 9/8/1853 - d. 11/8/1905).

2. MacClaude Wood (b. 12/4/1876 - d.10/15/1953) buried Oak Grove Cemetery, Irving, Texas.

Nora Henrietta Payne Wood (b. 7/2/1883 - d. 1/21/1968) buried Oak Grove Cemetery, Irving, Texas. (Parents- Marion L. Payne and Martha June Payne- no relation to each other).

3. Erlin Wood (b. 3/17/1903 - d. 9/12/1995) buried Sowers Cemetery, Irving, Texas.

Vera Irene Barton (b. 1/31/1906 - d. 9/8/1995) buried Sowers Cemetery, Irving, Texas. (Only child in her family to graduate from high school - Irving High class of 1924).

4. Howard Leslie Wood (b. 7/18/1913 - d. 6/4/00) buried Oak Grove Cemetery, Irving, Texas.

Chestermae Tompkins (b. 1/27/1911 - d. 1/4/2001) buried Oak Grove Cemetery, Irving, Texas.

5. Bennie Wiggins Barton Sr. (b. 1816 - d. 1881) buried Bear Creek Cemetery, Irving or Grand Prairie, Texas.

Mary Magelion Hodge (b. 3/25/1828 - d. 10/9/1877) buried Bear Creek Cemetery, Irving or Grand Prairie, Texas.

6. James Henry Sitton (b. 2/22/1830 - d. 1/3/1909) buried Shady Grove Cemetery, Grand Prairie, Texas.

Mary Emoline Falls (b. 1/1/1836 - d. 2/14/1901) Shady Grove Cemetery, Grand Prairie, Texas.

7. Bennie Wiggins Barton Jr. (b.2/21/1858 - d. 12/3/1938) buried Sowers Cemetery, Irving Texas.

Martha (Matt or Mattie) Sitton (b. 3/20/1864 - d. 3/16/1930) buried Sowers Cemetery, Irving, Texas.

8. Isaac Sylvester Tompkins (b. 3/2/1828 - d. 1/12/1897) buried Tompkins Cemetery, Irving, Texas.  
Mary Angeline Burns (b. 2/22/1853 - d. 10/19/1938) buried Tompkins Cemetery, Irving, Texas.

9. Burton Sylvester Tompkins (b. 3/29/1886 or 1887 - d. 1/13/1947) buried Oak Grove Cemetery, Irving, Texas.

Jennie Ruth Barton Tompkins (b.1/29/1893 - d. 6/12/1987) buried Oak Grove Cemetery, Irving, Texas.

10. Leslie Erlin Wood (b. 6/15/1947)

Gloria Sue Duncan Wood (b. 6-7-1950)

11. Patti Lynn Wood Finkle (b. 12/20/1973)

Jason Patrick Finkle (b. 3/14/1974)

### **Scope and Content Note**

This collection is comprised of a wide variety of documents and artifacts related to the lives of three northwest Dallas County pioneer and longtime Irving area families: Barton, Tompkins, and Wood. The collection contains family photos; documents; scrapbooks; and small artifacts that provide a glimpse into, not only the lives of these families, but into school events; social gatherings; military life; and business life of area residents during, primarily, the first half of the 20th Century. The materials date from the 1880s to the 1970s. The individuals that are the primary focus of the collection are: Irene (Barton) Wood and Erlin Wood, Chestermae (Tompkins) Wood and Howard Wood and their son Leslie.

The Wood Family Collection is arranged in four series and contained in one large flat box.

Series I is an assortment of documents relating to the Barton, Tompkins, and Wood families. Among the material is a photocopy of a scrapbook relating to Howard Wood's military assignments during WWII, 1943-1945; documents concerning Leslie Wood receiving the Bronze Star, 1968; bridal books for Irene Barton Wood and for Chestermae Tompkins Wood, 1924 and 1941, respectively; and programs relating to Irving High School events, 1920s and 1960s. Note: A brief inscription concerning Leslie Wood's military service in Vietnam is a part of the City of Irving's Veterans Park.

Series II is made up of calendars promoting Irving High School's football team and some Irving businesses, 1940s-1960s. Included is a copy of a Twin Wells calendar page from 1947. Howard Wood and his brother William (known as Pearl) owned Twin Wells Lumber from the late 1940s to the 1960s.

Series III consists of photographs and digital images of Barton, Tompkins, and Wood family members, 1880s-1970s. Prominent in the photos are Irene Barton Wood and husband Erlin Wood, Chestermae Tompkins Wood and husband Howard Wood and their son Leslie.

Series IV is a variety of artifacts. Among them are: Masonic ceremony books, Irving High School pennants, and late 19th century toddlers clothing.

## Provenance Statement

The Wood Family Collection, accession number 0001-188, was donated to the Irving Archives by Patti Wood Finkle in September 2001. Prior to its donation to the Irving Archives the material was in the possession of the Wood family.

## Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish from the Wood Family Collection must be obtained from the Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.

# Container List

## Series I. Documents, 1924-1968

Box 1

Folder

### 1 Bride's Treasure Book, 1924

Contains a Bride's Treasure Book from the marriage of Vera Irene Barton and Erlin Wood, June 12, 1924. The book contains a page of information about the bride and groom and many articles about running a household.

### 2 Bride's Treasure Book, 1941

Contains a Bride's Treasure Book from the marriage of Chestermae Tompkins and Howard Wood, June 20, 1941. The book contains a small amount of information about the wedding couple, some recipes, and many pages of articles about running a household.

### 3 Obituaries, 1947 and 1987

Contains photocopies of a remembrance book for Burton S. Tompkins, 1886-1947. The pages list those attending the funeral and those who called. Also included is an obituary for Ovington Tompkins, 1908-1987. Ovington Tompkins was the son of Burton S. Tompkins and Jennie Ruth Barton Tompkins, and brother of Chestermae Tompkins Wood.

### 4 Military Documents, Leslie Wood, 1968

Contains a copy of a general order awarding the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device to Leslie Wood for actions in Vietnam on March 24, 1968; copy of a newspaper article concerning Wood's decoration; and an article about the 101st Airborne being flown to Vietnam, n.d. (Leslie E. Wood is one of the veterans highlighted on the Vietnam wall in the city of Irving's Veteran's Memorial Park).

### 5 Certificates, 1932-1938

Contains four certificates to Irene Barton Wood: Certificates of Proficiency from the Order of the Eastern Star, 1932, 1933, and 1934, and a certificate from the Texas Congress of Parents and Teachers, 1938; also included are six individuals' calling cards; and a letter congratulating Jennie Barton on being Irving's oldest resident in 1986.

6 School Documents, 1924 and 1965

Contains an Irving High School senior class play program, April 10, 1924; copy of Vera Barton's high school diploma, graduation invitation, and Commencement Program, 1924; Irving High School Senior Prom program, 1965; Irving High School Baccalaureate program, 1965; and Irving High School commencement program, 1965. A section of the Irving Daily News containing photos of the Irving High School graduates of 1965 is

**Series I. Documents, 1924-1968**

Box 1

Folder

6 located in Folder 8. The 1924 material relates to Vera Irene Barton Wood and the 1965 material relates to Leslie Erlin Wood.

7 Scrapbook, Oct. 1942 – Sept. 8, 1945

Contains a photocopy of a scrapbook documenting Howard Wood's military service during WWII.

**Series II. Calendars**

8 Calendars, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1964

Contains a photocopy of the June 1947 Twin Wells Lumber Co. promotional calendar which was owned by Howard Wood and his brother William Pearl Wood; an Althoff Jewelers promotional calendar, 1962; a Big State Drug promotional calendar, 1964; and two oversize calendars, one promoting Hooker Vandergriff Chevrolet, 1952 and the other Southwest Bank and Trust Co., 1957. Both of these calendars have pictures of that year's Irving High School football team on their fronts. This file also contains a May 23, 1965, section of the Irving Daily News containing the photos of the Irving High School graduates of 1965. This was Leslie Woods graduating class.

**Series III. Photographs, 1880s-1970s**

9 Photos and Digital Images, 1880s-1970s

The file contains eight unidentified photos: two are school student body photos, c. 1910; an unidentified couple, c. 1915; and four photos of what appears to be a reunion of some of the crew of the U.S.S. Antietam during the 1950s. Also included are three oversize photos. One is labeled "Grandma Sitton" and another is labeled "Grandpa Sitton." These are most likely Martha (Matt or Mattie) Sitton's parents, James Henry Sitton and Emaline Falls who are buried in Shady Grove Cemetery in Grand Prairie, Texas. The third is labeled "Frank's Eulogy." This photo is most likely from the funeral of Benjamin Franklin Barton (b. 1/20/1889-d. 10/28/1908). He was the son of Bennie Wiggins (Uncle Bennie) Barton and Martha (Matt or Mattie) Sitton. He is buried at Sowers Cemetery in Irving, Texas.

There are also 120 digital images in the collection. The images are of members of the extended Wood/Barton/Tompkins families. The majority of the images relate to Irene Barton Wood and her husband Erlin Wood; Burton Sylvester Tompkins and his wife Jennie Ruth Barton Tompkins and their children Ovington Gilbert and Chestermae; Chestermae Tompkins Wood and her husband Howard Leslie Wood and their son Leslie

### **Series III. Photographs, 1880s-1970s**

Box 1

Folder

9 Erlin Wood. Also, of general historic interest, are images of Twin Wells Lumber, c. 1940s which was owned by Howard Leslie Wood and William Pearl Wood.

### **Series IV. Artifacts**

10 Two cotton toddler's gowns, c. 1910.

The other artifacts included in Box 1, but not in folders, are: two Masonic books entitled *The Taylor-Hamilton Monitor of Symbolic Masonry*, 1908, and *New Ritual of the Order of the Eastern Star*, 1928; a commemorative calendar plate, 1967; a small plate with gold rim and gold filigree and images of the Community Bldg., Irving High School on 6th Street, Vandergriff Furniture, Vandergriff autos, and the original city hall building, c. 1950; decorative calendar dish towel, 1968; two Irving High School pennants, 1962 and n.d.; and an Irving High School fight ribbon, 1962.