Abstract: **Virginia Davis Scarborough**

In 1854 three Wessendorff boys, Antone, Bernard and Joseph, crossed the Atlantic Ocean in 75 days to get from Germany to Galveston. These are Virginia Davis Scarborough’s ancestors. The focus of this interview is the Wessendorff family.

15 Pages

‖ Scroll down for Key Words from the Interview. ‖
Key Words: (with notes from Virginia Scarborough inserted)

People
Mary Jones Prowell – cousin of Virginia

Mary Jones Prowell and I are both descendants of Old 300 Henry Jones and Nancy Stiles. Their second son, James Jones, was my great great grandfather. Their tenth child, Wiley Powell Jones, was Mary’s grandfather. We were ten months apart in age, and were very good friends.

Virginia Davis Scarborough – b. May 6, 1921 in Richmond, Ft. Bend Co,TX

Wessendorff Family
Lizzie Wessendorff– Mother of Virginia Davis Scarborough; oldest child of T.B. Wessendorff & Jennie Jones
T. B. Wessendorff- Husband of Jennie Jones; Father of Lizzie Wessendorff
Jennie Jones- Wife of T.B. Wessendorff; Mother of Lizzie Wessendorff
Antone Wessendorff aka A.B. Wessendorff- Father of T.B. Wessendorff

Antone was not called Tony in any written or printed information that I have seen, and I did not ever hear a family member speak of him as Tony. My grandfather, T.B. Wessendorff, was named Antone, but changed his name to Tonie and his initials to T.B. Antone who came to America with his two brothers in 1854 is referred to as A. Wessendorff in documents soon after his death. The family always used the spelling Tonie.

Bernard Joseph Wessendorff was one of the three brothers who came to America in 1854. He was born in 1833 and died in 1861 in Texas. He lived most of his life in Galveston, I think, but he is buried in the Old Wessendorff lot in Morton Cemetery with Antone and his family. His brothers were Antone (my great grandfather) and Bernard John, the oldest of the brothers. It is confusing because they were all named Bernard. Joseph was an uncle of my grandfather, T.B. Wessendorff.

Joseph G. Wessendorff was the oldest child of Antone and Johanna Wessendorff. He was a brother to T.B. Wessendorff. He was the father of Joe A. Wessendorff, and grandfather of Joe Clyde Wessendorff.

Antone Wessendorff– Father of Tonie B. Wessendorff, brother to Bernard and Joseph Wessendorff.

Johanna Janentzy – wife of Antone Wessendorff; A German lady
Parents – John Frederick Janentzy and Dorothea Elizabeth Rave; parents of Johanna Janentzy

2 Sisters– Sisters of Johanna Janentzy; Daughters of Mr. & Mrs. Janentzy
Janentzy Family—From northern Germany; arrived in America about 1850

Wessendorf brothers—From Germany; arrived in America November 1854

Peter Wessendorff—father of Antone Wessendorff; Grandfather of Tonie B. Wessendorff; cabinet maker

Joe Clyde Wessendorff—Child of Joe A. Wessendorff & Jane Johnson

Joe A. Wessendorff—Aka Joseph Antone Wessendorff; Husband of Jane Johnson; Father of Joe Clyde Wessendorff

Joe G. Wessendorff—Father of Joe A. Wessendorff; Grandfather of Joe Clyde Wessendorff

Syd Davis—Husband of Lizzie Wessendorff

Antoinette, Virginia, Syd Jr, Tony, Frank & Tommy—Children of Syd Davis & Lizzie Wessendorff

Jane Johnson—Wife of Joe A. Wessendorff

Doctor J.C. Johnson—Husband of Carrie McMickin; Father of Jane Johnson

Carrie McMickin—Wife of Doctor J.C. Johnson; Mother of Jane Johnson

Loise Henderson—Wife of Joe Clyde Wessendorff; Daughter of Bob Henderson & Loise Jackson

Bob Henderson—Husband of Loise Jackson; Father of Loise Henderson

Loise Jackson—Wife of Bob Henderson; Mother of Loise Henderson; Sister of Annie Jackson Darst

Darst Family

Annie Darst—aka Annie Jackson; Sister of Loise Jackson

Baby Loise—aka Loise Henderson; aka Loise Henderson Wessendorff; aka niece of Annie Jackson Darst

Stanton Marsh—Manager of Joe Clyde Wessendorff’s lumber company

Jack & Billie Wendt—Neighbors of Joe Clyde & Loise Wessendorff on Hillcrest

Newt Griffith or Griffin—Friend of Joe Clyde Wessendorff; From Nederland

Ransom girls—Virginia Davis Scarborough’s friends from down the street

Leila and Janice Ransom, the daughters of Robert Ransom and Will R. McDill, were cousins and good friends. Robert aka Tudy was the son of Real Ransom and Mamie Wessendorff. Mamie was the ninth child of Antone and Johanna Wessendorff. Their home was on the corner of Morton St. and 10th St. in Richmond.
Bobby or Billy Wallace- First cousin of Joe Clyde Wessendorff; Joe A Wessendorff’s sister married Mr. Wallace
   Bob Wallace came to Richmond several summers to visit the Joe A. Wessendorffs. He was probably born about 1922 or 1923 because he was near the age of my brother Syd. And he was the son of Joe A’s sister.

Syd, Tony, Frank & Tom- Brothers of Virginia Davis Scarborough; Cousins of Joe Clyde Wessendorff

Annie- Third oldest child of T.B. Wessendorff & Jennie Jones; Wife of Alec Holmes
   In addition to my four younger brothers, Antoinette Davis Reading was our older sister.

Alec Holmes- Husband of Annie Wessendorff


Archietta Davis – wife of Walter Little Jones; aka Archietta Archietta Jones

Walter Little Jones- Grandson of Old 300 Henry Jones

George Foundation’s Jones Family

Bernard Wessendorff – older brother of Joseph and Antone Wessendorff owned a grocery store in Galveston. After his wife and children died, he went back to Germany, and we have no information about him after that.

Joseph Wessendorff – middle brother of Bernard and Antone Wessendorff.

Frank Davis- Brother of Virginia Davis Scarborough; Retired attorney; Lead attorney for the Howard Hughes Estate

Howard Hughes- His attorney was Frank Davis on settling his estate

Jeanetta- Aunt of Virginia Davis Scarborough
   Jeanetta Wessendorff was the second child of T.B. and Jennie Wessendorff. After their mother died in 1926, Jeanetta stayed at home with her father. She did not marry. She was born 1896 and died 1948. The other sisters were my mother, Lizzie 1894-1975, Bernadine 1899-1900, Marguerite W. Perkins 1901-1956, Doris W. Goodwin 1904-1980, Marie W. Murphy 1907-2001. Lizzie was the only one who had children.
Placess/Businesses

George Ranch Historical Park- Richmond, Texas
Richmond, Texas – where Antone Wessendorff settled; county seat of Fort Bend County.
America- Destination of the Wessendorffs in 1854
Galveston- Brothers Bernard and Joseph Wessendorff settled there after the ship docked in 1954; Antone, the third brother, arrived with them in 1954.
Germany- Homeland of the Wessendorffs; Homeland of the Janentzys
Bellville- Where the Janentzys settled
The father and mother of Syd Davis, his brother, Claude, and Sister, Lida, died when the children were four, six and two years old.
North Germany- Where the Janentzys originated
Atlantic Ocean- Voyage took 75 days from Germany to Galveston; Landed in November
George Foundation- Has possession of Peter Wessendorff’s tool chest from Germany
Wharton County- Syd Davis, Virginia Davis Scarborough father born in the county
Richmond, Texas – where Antone Wessendorff settled; county seat of Fort Bend County.
Lumberyard- Antone opened up Wessendorff’s in Richmond Texas
Valley- Located in Texas; Carrie McMickin the mother of Jane “Janie” Johnson
Houston- City in Harris County Texas
A&M- Texas A&M University where Joe Clyde attended
Morton Street- Location of Joe G. Wessendorff’s insurance agency; Joe G. Wessendorff also had a real estate office; Located in Richmond Texas
Methodist Church- Loise Henderson’s faith
Saint John’s United Methodist Church- Richmond Texas
Fort Worth- Where some Wessendorff members lived
Railroad Tracks- Located at 8th Street in Richmond Texas
Preston Street- Wessendorff Lumber backed up to it at 8th Street in Richmond Texas
Baptist- Joe Clyde Wessendorff’s faith
Episcopal Church- Where Joe Clyde Wessendorff & Loise Henderson attended; Located in Richmond Texas
Hillcrest Drive- Where the Joe Clyde Wessendorffs and the Jack Wendts lived next to each other
Fulshear- Where Billie Wendt was raised
Grandfather’s house- T.B. Wessendorff, Grandfather of Virginia Davis Scarborough

© 2014 Fort Bend County Historical Commission
Nederland - Where Newt Griffith or Griffin lived
Moore Ranch - Near Orchard, Fort Bend County
Orchard - Small town close to Moore Ranch
Jackson - Street in Richmond Texas

The highway
T.B. Wessendorff home faced east on Eleventh Street and was bounded by Jackson, Union, and Morton.

Life Check Drug is now on the block where the T. B. Wessendorff home was located, but the home was nearer the middle of the block.

Grocery Store - Bernard Wessendorff owned one in Galveston Texas
Teacher - Frank Davis brother of Virginia Davis Scarborough
Hospital - Located in Houston where Jennie Wessendorff died
Henderson Wessendorff Foundation
University of Texas - Loise Henderson attended

Events
Fishing at George Ranch
Virginia born May 6, 1921
Came to America 1854
Settled in Galveston
Came to Richmond Texas
Came from Germany
The Janentzy family settled in Bellville abt 1850
75 days across the Atlantic
Father’s family all died
Antone brought Peter’s tool chest to America
Married a lady, Johanna Janentzy
Antone & Johanna had 13 children; 3 boys & 2 girls died
Uncle Joe lived in Bellville
Buried in Bellville
Joe Clyde born 1917
Syd Davis born in Wharton County
Father died when Syd 4 years old

© 2014 Fort Bend County Historical Commission
Raised by his father’s brother & sister
Lizzie married Syd
Had 6 children- Antoinette, Virginia, Syd Jr., Tony, Frank and Tommy
Stayed in Fort Bend County
Joe G. lived in Fort Worth
Joe A. married Jane Johnson
Had Joe Clyde
Loise came to birthday parties and weekends
WWII enlisted in the service
A & M attended by Joe Clyde, Joe A., Joe G.
Opened insurance business on Morton
Grandfather, T.B. Wessendorff buys lumber business
Grandfather died in 1930
Left lumber business to 5 daughters
Joe A. gets one-sixth interest of lumber business for managing
Joe Clyde buys lumber business
Stanton Marsh worked and ran lumber business
Joe Clyde opens insurance agency and real estate business
Active in the Episcopal church
Joe Clyde raised Baptist
Loise raised Methodist
Built on Hillcrest Drive
Jack Wendt’s family came in 1928
Billie Wendt raised in Fulshear
Playing Red Rover and Wink
Joe A.’s daughter married Wallace
Hunting on Moore Ranch; hunting between Richmond and Rosenberg
Annie Wessendorff named guardian of 3 younger brothers

   The father and mother of Syd Davis, his brother, Claude, and Sister, Lida, died when the children were four, six and two years old.

Annie married Alec Holmes
Wessendorff family lived within 3 or 4 blocks of each other
Antone buys property

Archietta Jones

Archietta was a Davis. She was the youngest child of William Kinchen Davis and Jane Pickens. Her siblings were J.H.P. Davis, the father of Mamie Davis George and Bud Davis; Eleanora Davis, the wife of B.A. Hinson; and Kinchen Davis who was killed when trying to catch a train ride to Rosenberg. Kinchen was married to Rachel Glasscock.

Frank Davis the attorney for settling Howard Hughes estate

Frank was born in 1928

Frank teacher for one year

Frank went to law school

Grandmother died when Virginia 5 years old

T.B. had heart attack and died

Jennie gall bladder surgery in Houston hospital

Loise attended University of Texas