Abstract: **Barbara Burnette Roane Bleil**

Mrs. Bleil provided two interviews: one taken in 2012 talks about being born in 1935 in the historic Hillyer House in Rosenberg and living in Fort Bend County; the second took place in 2015 when she talks about her ancestors who settled in Texas including a great-grandfather who was a county commissioner in Fort Bend County. She also has ancestors who served as a governor, a state Supreme Court judge, a US Senator and US Representative. Barbara has many relatives that fought in the Civil War and other wars.

Her father, George G. Roane II, was a life-long and renowned attorney, a state representative and a county judge as well as raising a few cattle on some ranch land he owned in the county. Barbara, as well as her mother, were active in many social organizations in the county.

Barbara provides stories about her ancestors moving to Texas to farm and raise a family. She is related to the DeWalt family; and shares stories about the Rhones, the DeWalts, the Cessnas, the Kneitzes and others.

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|| Scroll down for Key Words from the Interview. ||
Interview Summary

People (in order mentioned in interview)
Dr. Armstrong – doctor
Dannie Roane – aunt
Louis/Alouise Kneitz – grandfather
Knjac – original spelling of grandfather’s name, changed to “Kneitz” on immigrating
W. T. Hawkins – home owner
Jean Canale – neighbor
Nelson Bass – neighbor
Mrs. Werler – seamstress, dressmaker
Shirley Temple – 1930’s child film star
George Grant “GG” Roane III – brother
George Grant Roane II– father, lawyer, state representative, FBC County Judge
Ann Crosser, Joanne Anderson, Carolyn Culpepper, Sandy Scott – friends
Dean & Jackie Lehmann – friends
Ursuline Nuns – religious charitable sisterhood
William Roane – first ancestor in America
Mary Ball – William’s wife
Thomas Roane – son of William & Mary
Henrietta Hearn – Thomas’ wife
Thomas Jefferson Roane – Thomas & Henrietta’s son
Mary Grant – Thomas Jefferson Roane’s wife
Dr. Thomas Ruffin Rusk Roane – T. J. & Mary’s son
Mary Cochran – Rusk’s wife
George Grant Roane I – Barbara’s great grandfather, Rusk & Mary’s son
Marie Louise Cessna DeWalt– George’s wife

Daniel “Danny” Joseph DeWalt – Marie’s first husband
Aline DeWalt – Marie & Daniel’s daughter
Thomas Waters DeWalt – Civil War doctor, Jay Bird member
Dannie Joseph – Marie’s daughter
Aline Joseph Pope – Marie’s daughter
T. Martin – Aline’s first husband
Jim Bucky – Aline’s second husband
Jack Adams – friend and son of Walter
Walter and Miss Lucy Adams – friends
Rusk Roane – Barbara’s uncle
Jimmy Roane – Barbara’s uncle
Beulah Roane – Barbara’s aunt
Gordon Lee and Marie Bledsoe – cousins
Green Kennedy Cessna – Mary Louise and Aline’s father, Civil War veteran
Mary Athena Houston – Green’s wife, Mary Louise and Aline’s mother
Archibald Roane – with Washington crossing the Delaware and at Yorktown, governor or Tennessee, multiple judicial appointments.
Judge Spence Roane – Virgina Supreme Court
William Henry Roane – United State Senator from Virginia
Joe Clyde Wessendorff – friends
Hilmar Moore – friends
Dolph Briscoe – Texas governor
Joseph Knajc – great grandfather
Antoinette “Toni” Kneitz – grandmother

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I. H., “Denny” Kempner, Junior – friend
Mr. Ike (I. H.) Kempner, Senior
Lyda Ann Kempner Quinn – Ike’s granddaughter, Barbara’s friend, former Galveston mayor
Henrietta Kempner – Ike’s wife
“Big” Lyda Ann Kempner – married Art
Art Quinn – Lyda’s father, “Big” Lyda’s husband
Penny Quinn – Art’s daughter
Jerry Thomas – Lyda’s daughter
Harris and Carol Masterson – friends
Philemon Waters – Revolutionary War soldiers
Thomas Waters DeWalt
Charlotte Brown – married T. W. DeWalt
Daniel Joseph DeWalt and Thomas Waters DeWalt, Jr. – sons of T. W. and Charlotte

Places / Businesses
Rosenberg, Texas
Kinch Hillyer House – earliest Rosenberg Hospital
Polly Ryan Memorial Hospital, Rosenberg, Texas
Oakbend Medical Center, Rosenberg
Fort Bend County
Needville, Texas
Missouri City, Texas
DeWalt Plantation
Houston, Texas
Czechoslovakia
University of Texas
Robert E. Lee Elementary
Rosenberg Junior High
Richmond, Texas

Lamar Consolidated
Palace Grocery Store
Schaeffer’s Drug Store
Pickard & Huggins
U. S. Army
Austin, Texas
Girl Scouts
Kappa Kappa Gamma, UT sorority
Fairchild, Texas
DeWalt, Texas
DeWalt Plantation
Civil War
Holy Rosary Catholic Church and Lourdes Grotto, Rosenberg
Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Richmond
America
Virginia
Antietam, Gettysburg, Civil War battles
Polk County, Texas
Harrisburg, Texas
Blodgett, Texas
Sandy Point, Brazoria County, Texas
Jaybirds – Fort Bend County political faction
Meyerland, Texas
Galveston, Texas
Freeport, Texas
South Texas Law School, Houston
Saint Thomas Central High School, Houston
World War II

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Events

Born in 1935 in the still standing residence called Hillyer House in Rosenberg, Barbara has lived her entire life in Fort Bend County.

She shares many stories about growing up in a small town, learning to swim in the Brazos River, having her clothes made by a dressmaker; and raising her own family with her husband Bert.

Barbara also provides details about her ancestors, dating before the Civil War, and moving to Texas to become ranchers, farmers and raise a family. She has many prominent, elected officials in her family including her own father, George G. Roane II, who was the county judge in Fort Bend County.

Barbara is also related to the DeWalt family and provides several stories about the DeWalt plantation. She is also the custodian of the DeWalt Cemetery located in the Lake Olympia subdivision.