

Friends Care

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July, 2010

“A Night at the Historic Motley County Jail and East Mound Cemetery Tour”

The Board of the Friends of the Historic Motley County Jail met on June 8 and again on July 13, 2010, to set a date for the fall fundraiser.

A date was set for **October 16, 2010**. The fundraiser, entitled “A Night at the Historic Motley County Jail and East Mound Cemetery Tour” will consist of a food venue, a jail tour to include three historical characters: Joseph P. Beckham, first sheriff of Motley County, turned outlaw; a legendary character, Digger Dansby, the “diviner” who was on death row, but the only fellow in the county that could “witch for water”(he escaped on one of his outings); and a “Crazy Lady” who will be housed in the cell reserved for the “criminally insane and woman.”

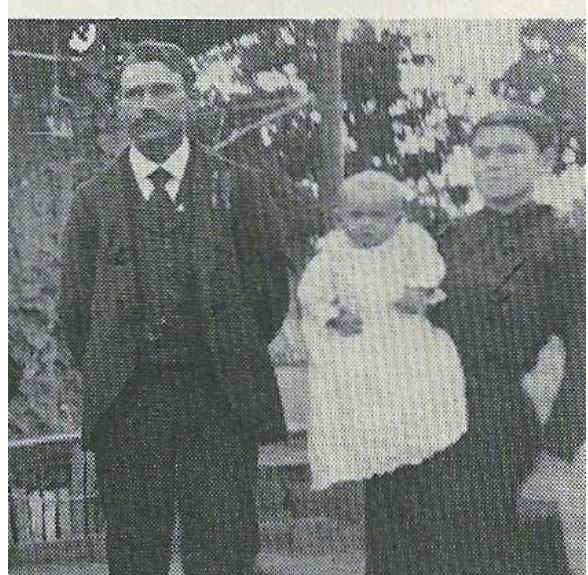
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Motley County Sheriff and Roaring Springs Townsite Agent

By Ron Bailey



**Henry R. Black, Nellie Black, and baby
(about 1900)**

The ninth sheriff of Motley County, Texas was Henry R. Black. Black was born in Fannin County, Texas, May 9, 1870, the son of John and Belle Black. By 1880, they had moved to Stephens County, near Breckenridge. According to the 1880 Census, the father, John Black, was “herding stock.” By 1900, Henry Black had married Nellie Lynn and was living in Motley County.

Henry Black was a Mason and was the Master (Chief Officer) of the Matador Mason’s Lodge #824 when the Matador Land and Cattle Company deeded land to the Matador Lodge to be used for a cemetery in Matador.

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Following free hotdogs, chips, and drinks in Pioneer Park, Joe Beckham will start the jail tour and Digger will pose for photos with individuals brave enough to climb the stairs at the old jail and get their picture made with a historical character behind the bars. A print-out will be made available on a "Wanted Poster" to be sold at the end of a hayride to the East Mound Cemetery.

The East Mound Cemetery Tour will feature 11 "residents," highlighting six past sheriffs of Motley County; a Matador Ranch cowboy that was murdered in the early 1800s; the builder of the jail; the widow of the Sheriff George Cook, gunned down by Joe Beckham; and a Texas Ranger.

This tour will consist of an ongoing walking tour, starting at the Main Arch at East Mound Cemetery. The hayride will hopefully capture the imagination of the young people who will enjoy a country ride to the cemetery and back for an educational dialogue with characters from our past.

For example, John L. Moore, the 2nd Sheriff of Motley County, was appointed in 1893 at a time when Motley County was "teetering on the brink of civil war," – the settlers versus the Matador Ranch. Did you know that Motley County was placed under Martial Law from June to August, 1893, while the Texas Rangers tried to restore order? The Rangers set up their headquarters in the Motley County Jail.

Carol Campbell and Ron Bailey have been writing "script" based on historical facts for the seven sheriffs. Ed D. Smith will play Big Ed D., Matador Ranch cowboy, a colorful character who served as deputy sheriff under Sheriff Jinks Wilson in the late 1950s.

The board is scouring the county for character actors to dress in pioneer character, recite a script, and ham it up!

Black was elected Sheriff of Motley County in 1905 and served until 1910. When the townsite of Roaring Springs was platted in 1912, Henry R. Black was the Roaring Springs Townsite Agent. He was also a trustee of the Roaring Springs school in 1914.

Later, Black moved to Spur to serve as Chief Deputy Sheriff of Dickens County. On July 4, 1933, he went to Roaring Springs to investigate a holdup. Upon returning to his home in Spur, and after drinking a glass of ice water, he apparently had a heart attack and died.

His funeral was held at the Church of Christ in Matador. He is buried in East Mound Cemetery on land he helped secure from Matador Land and Cattle Company 30 years earlier.

Note from the Editor:

Due to high postage, I want to collect email addresses from the membership for the purposes of emailing your newsletter, rather than using traditional mail.

In addition, archived newsletters will be posted on the website. For the members without email addresses, I will continue to mail you your newsletter.

Please send me your email address to cempbll@caprock-spur.com. Thank you so much; I look forward to hearing from you.

Don't forget to check out our website at www.historicjail.com.

Mark your calendar for OCTOBER 16, 2010, it will be a night to remember!

"A Night at the Historic Motley County Jail and East Mound Cemetery Tour"

MEMBERSHIP LIST

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KENNY & OLIVIA BARTON
SUT AND FRANCINE BRAZELTON
JOETTA BUMGARDNER
BUNDY HAL & DIXIE CAMPBELL
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PATRICIA GREEN
PAT GREEN
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HARRY HAMILTON
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MICKIE HILLMAN
J. CURT HODGES
LARRY & DONNA HOYLE
KATE HURT
PEGGY JAMES
FRANKLIN & SUSAN JAMESON
CHARLIE & OPAL JOHNSON
CHERRI KARR
MARJORIE KASTMAN
GEORGE & PENNY KLINE
BOBBY KLODGINSKI
ALAN & DAWN KOPETZKY
STAN & JUNE LEVELL
CARTER & BETTY LUCKETT
MICHAEL MACH
GERRY & MIA MADDoux
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KARMEN MCCULLOCH
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NEAL & CAROL PIPKIN
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JOHN & CAROLYN REDDING
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JILL SCAFF
JOHNNY SHANKS
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VIRGINIA SORRELS
RICHARD STAFFORD
RONNIE STEEN
ROY & JOANIE STEPHENS
STEVE & JOANNE STEVENS
LEONA TERRY
LORETTA THOMPSON
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PAUL WESTBROOK
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Sheriff Henry R. Black was the Roaring Springs Townsite Agent, Opening Day, 1912

**Friends of the Historic MC Jail
P.O. Box 582
Matador, TX 79244**

