

Hattie Collins Davis

Hattie Collins was born in Kaufman County, Texas, on January 19, 1870. At the age of 23, Miss Collins married G.R. Davis, also a resident of Kaufman, in 1893. Shortly thereafter, Hattie and G. R. moved the entire Davis family (including his elderly parents and all siblings) by covered wagon some 170 miles west to Breckenridge, Texas. They sought a new beginning with new opportunities. Breckenridge was still on the Texas frontier at that time, only some 17 years removed from the end of the Indian Wars in West Texas having ended in 1876.

Upon moving to Breckenridge, she and her husband purchased a section of land seven miles south upon which to run cattle. In addition, Mr. Davis went to work as a stable hand in Breckenridge, having only a third-grade education, in order to help provide for all the Davis family. Hattie Collins Davis quickly became a full-time mother to her four children: Oma Davis, born in 1894, Robbie Louise Davis, born on July 16, 1896, and Louie George Davis born in 1901. A fourth child, Elva Mary Davis, was born on July 2, 1898, and died as a young infant on April 14, 1900. She is buried in Breckenridge. In addition to raising her young family, Hattie was active in the Methodist church, having been a Methodist since the age of 9.

In 1920, after the discovery of oil in Stephens County, she and Mr. Davis purchased the Chimney Creek Ranch in southwestern Shackelford County. In addition, she and her husband moved to Abilene in that same year. There she supervised the construction of a prairie school architectural style mansion as her family's new home. This home is still located at 718 Victoria just northwest of downtown Abilene. Her home was selected to be on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992. This architectural gem was befitting of a prominent West Texas pioneer ranching and cattle family in the early 1920's.

Her two daughters, Oma and Robbie both graduated from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, in 1918 and 1919 respectively. Her son, Louie, began working as a young man with his father in their ever-expanding ranching and cattle business.

Robbie married T. Edgar Johnson at the Chimney Creek Ranch headquarters on July 18, 1920, and Oma (affectionately known as "Pet") subsequently married C. T. Touchstone, but tragically died in a car accident in 1941.

Hattie Collins Davis died in Abilene, Texas, on January 9, 1942, at the age of 71. She was buried in Abilene. She was survived by her husband, G. R. Davis, her daughter, Robbie Davis Johnson, her son, Louie G. Davis, and two grandchildren, Mary Frances Johnson and Louie Robert Davis.