

G. R. Davis
1869-1955

George Robert (G.R.) Davis was born in Kaufman, Texas, on July 18, 1869. He was one of eight children born to John Love Davis and Louiza Crawford Davis. He only attended school through the third grade. He married Hattie Collins Davis on November 6, 1893, in Kaufman. Shortly thereafter, they moved by covered wagon some 170 miles west to Breckenridge, Texas – then, still on the West Texas frontier. There they had four children – Oma (“Pet”) in 1894, Robbie in 1896, Elva in 1898 (who lived for less than two years), and Louie in 1901.

According to census data, G.R. worked in a livery stable in 1900 and had become a clerk in a mercantile store by 1910. He became a rancher in 1920 at the age of 51. With the long-time encouragement of his well-known brother-in-law, Breckenridge Stephens Walker (who married Alice, one of G.R.’s sisters, and who was the first Anglo child born in Breckenridge, Stephens County, Texas), G.R. began his new ranching career.

He purchased the Chimney Creek Ranch in western Shackelford County in 1920, the Spring Creek (Goodwin/Cauble) Ranch in southwestern Shackelford County in 1922, the Buffalo Basin Ranch in northwestern Upton County in 1938, and the Box Springs Ranch in western Throckmorton County in 1944. Concurrent with his change in careers, he moved his family to Abilene, Texas. In 1920, he built a prairie school style mansion at 718 Victoria Street. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992. With the discovery of oil on his various ranch properties in the early 1920’s and early 1930’s, he was able to personally finance all of his ranching acquisitions.

On December 31, 1955, G.R. Davis passed away at the age of 86. His legacy was equally divided between his surviving two children – Robbie and Louie. Robbie had one child – Mary Frances Johnson born in 1921. Louie also had one child – Louie Bob Davis born in 1941. Oma had no children, having tragically died in a car accident in 1941 on her way to see her newborn nephew. Mary Frances, Louie Bob, and their respective families now proudly continue the heritage of G.R. Davis.