

Magee
John

THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF ALIEF OZELDA MAGEE

In 1898, Alief Ozelda Magee's health began deteriorating and according to the Daily Bulletin of Orders Affecting the Postal Service, Charlie Hastings took over the position of postmaster from his Aunt Alief on March 14, 1898. He served in that capacity until 1942, when he retired at the age of 70.

Alief Ozelda Magee wrote her last will and testament on May 6, 1899. (Because death certificates are unavailable for the years 1880-1903, due perhaps to a loss of records spanning 23 years after a fire, the exact cause of her death is unknown. What is assumed by her will and request for Charlie Hastings to replace her as postmaster one year and four months prior to her death is that it was a lingering illness.) Her will was notarized by A M Smith, notary public for Harris County on July 3, 1899, at the post office. Since notarization occurred only three days prior to her death, and it is noted she appeared for it in person, the writer must assume that the Alief post office was still located in the Magee home at this time. Alief Ozelda Magee's last will and testament read as follows:

"This is my last will and testament made while I am of sound mind as can be proven by Dr. Wilson who is in attendance on my case. I leave my beloved husband J.S. Magee administrator of my estate without bond as I have full confidence in his executing my wishes. My brother Eugene Morris is indebted to my husband – the amour [armoire] I give and bequeth [bequeath] to him and his children and release him of all indebtedness. I request that my husband give to each of my sisters keepsakes among my belongings, and that my sister Emma McGee aid him in selecting and distributing them. I also suggest that he give to my namesakes Ozie McGee – Alief Appling and Ami Drury the sum of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00 each) – I bequeth [bequeath] to Renby Brooks my gold watch and piano to be held in trust for her by said J.S. Magee until she has arrived at age. Then if she has carried out my wishes with regard to her education they shall be delivered to her otherwise he can sell them, and put the proceeds with the bulk of the property. I request that he place her in a convent – or if he can find a better school place her there and keep her there till she is grown and thoroughly educated all expenses to be paid out of my property. To Elmo Brooks I leave one Jersey Heifer ... *[two lines of Alief's will are illegible but makes reference to her educational desires for this second child.]* The said J.S. Magee is to be guardian in full of these children without any bond whatever. If at any time they fail to comply with his requests he shall then have power to do as he thinks best with the property. I bequeth [bequeath] \$50.00 to the building of the M.E. Church at Dairy and \$15.00 to Bro. Warlick Salusy and the remainder of my property to my husband J.S. Magee.

Alief 6 May 1899

Witness:

R.J. Easa

Matt Couch

The State of Texas, County of Harris

Before me: A.M. Smith, Notary Public for Harris County Texas on this day personally appeared Alief O Magee known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument. Acknowledged such instrument to be her act and deed. Given under my hand and seal of office at Alief Post Office (Dairy) this 3rd day of July, 1899.

A.M. Smith, Notary Public, Harris Co. Texas."



(later, Halliburton), Shell Oil (later, Shell Westhollow Research Center), and of course, Uncle Ben's, built facilities in Alief.

In 1975, helped along by the Indochinese Resettlement Act, Asian immigrants (particularly Vietnamese) began flocking to Alief, attracted by the warm weather, the AISD schools, and the friendliness (lack of discrimination) of the area.

By 1980, the population grew to 100,000 and the following schools had been built by then:

Alief Elementary, renamed later Youens Elementary after
Cynthia Tanner Youens, who taught there
from 1951-1974

Boone Elementary – named in honor of
Sylvester Byron Boone,
promoter of new schools and an AISD Board Trustee

Hastings High School – named for an early city leader,
who not only served on the Board from 1901 – 1906,
but was secretary and tax assessor/collector for
AISD from 1922 – 1935

Over the last 20 years, AISD has grown to include 32 new campuses, facilitating over 43,000 students. Its boundaries stretch from Westheimer Rd on the north, the Fort Bend County line on the south and west, and Gessner Rd on the east.

The Alief schools began by serving the children of Anglo and German farmers. Alief has always had a reputation of finding the resources to build new schools and adapt educational programs to meet the needs of new population groups which are now broken down to 37% African-Americans, 37% Hispanic, 16% Asian, and 10% Anglo.

This once tiny farming community has grown to nearly 200,000 people who live within sight of city skyscrapers and speak 60 different languages.

Appreciation to the following people who contributed the facts for this article: **Howard Hicks**, founder of the Alief Historical Society; **Ronald Boyce Walker**, Houston Chronicle correspondent – February 21, 2002 article; Richard Stromsted who walked the cemetery to obtain names, and **Trevia Wooster Beverly**, cemetery preservationist.

Nancy Elizabeth Boyce Loyd was the first woman to serve on the Alief School Board. Her first husband, Richard Boyce died. Later she married Mr Loyd, who died a few years later. She lived to be in her nineties, and was the only woman farmer in the area farming 1,000 acres along what is now High Star.