

Ridings
Fannin**JOHN GILBERT RIDINGS AND ALFRED LAFAYETTE RIDINGS**

By Rob Groman

This is an account of the John Gilbert Ridings and his family, (listed on the 1900 federal census of Potter County as family no. 149), and also of his father, Alfred LaFayette Ridings (listed on the 1900 Potter County census at family no. 138), and his grandfather Charles Calvin Ridings. All of the information in this account comes from material that can be found in the Amarillo Public Library. Because of this there are many gaps in the history of this family that should be filled in using genealogical sources available outside of the library. Much of the information here should be checked against other sources to insure more completeness and greater accuracy. John Gilbert Ridings and his father Alfred were among the early settlers of Amarillo. They established themselves as prominent blacksmiths in Amarillo and between them kept their business going for nearly fifty years. Smithing had long been a tradition in the family of John Ridings, a family trade that went back to his father and grandfather, and included at least two uncles.

Charles Calvin Ridings, the paternal grandfather of John Ridings, was born in South Carolina in 1806¹. By 1836 Charles Ridings was in Cherokee County, Alabama, where he married Jane Kennedy on or around May 17, 1836². Alfred LaFayette Ridings, the father of John Gilbert Ridings, was born in July 1847, in Alabama³. He was probably born in Cherokee County as Charles Ridings is listed on both the 1840 and 1850 censuses of Cherokee County. Charles Ridings was a blacksmith and is listed as such on the 1850 Cherokee County, Alabama census. Sometime between the years 1855 and 1857, Charles Ridings moved his family from Alabama to Fannin County, Texas. On the 1867 Voter Registration list for Fannin County, he is shown as having been a resident of Texas and Fannin County for 11 years, placing his entry into Fannin County in 1856⁴. Another account states that the move into Fannin County was made in December of 1855⁵. The family located first in the town of Bonham, but later moved a few miles north to an area that came to be known as the Ridings community. The C. C. Ridings household is found on the 1860 Fannin County census where C. C. Ridings' occupation is listed as blacksmith. A son Overton, 23, is listed as a silversmith, and son Perry P., 21, is also listed as a blacksmith. His wife and eight other children are also listed including 13 year old Alfred, the father of John Gilbert Ridings.

The Civil War had its affect on the Ridings family as it did on so many other families living at that time. Several companies of the Confederate trans-Mississippi army were raised in Fannin County, and a Confederate commissary was located in Bonham from which several brigades obtained their supplies. The military headquarters of the Northern Subdistrict of Texas, C. S. A. was at Bonham, and Bonham was also the site of a Confederate hospital⁶. After one skirmish the husband of one of Alfred's sisters, suffering from wounds, was sent home on furlough to recover. Like so many young men then, young Alfred Ridings became caught up in the passions of that time. He was anxious to serve and take his part in the fighting. At one point he secretly made plans to run away from home and join the Confederate army, but his plans were discovered by the same wounded brother-in-law who was home on furlough. He was persuaded by his family to remain at home. However, toward the end of the war, a Captain McDade came to the Bonham, Texas area to recruit more men. Alfred joined up then. He received his enlistment papers and was assigned to



Troop B of the 9th Texas Cavalry but while he was waiting for orders, the war ended. Years later Alfred Ridings commented to a friend, "Yes, I was a soldier, but I didn't get to fight." Apparently, he did not lose the desire to fight and years later, when the United States was drawn into the First World War, he wanted to enlist again but was not allowed to. "I can beat any of them shooting, and I am as tough as any boy", he told someone. "I can fight"⁷.

On March 22, 1868 Alfred Ridings, nearly 21 years in age, married Priscilla Wright in Fannin County⁸. On October 12 of 1869 their first son, John Gilbert Ridings was born⁹, most likely in Fannin County. When the 1870 census of Fannin County was taken, Charles Ridings was again listed, but on this census he is listed as a farmer instead of a blacksmith. Charles, who was 65 according to the census, may have given over the business to his son Perry who is found elsewhere on the Fannin County census and is listed as a blacksmith. With Charles are his wife, Jane, and five of his children. His son, Polk, is living next to him and is also listed as a farmer. For some reason Alfred Ridings and his family are not listed on the 1870 Texas census index. A scan of the census for Fannin County was made in the hope of finding the family on the census, but they were not found. There appears to be several pages missing from the beginning of the 1870 Fannin County census, and Alfred may have been listed on one of those missing pages. There is no indication from other sources that he and his family had moved out of the county because the family is again listed on the 1880 census of Fannin County. That 1880 census shows three children of Alfred and Priscilla born in Texas at various intervals between 1870 and 1880. Listed on the 1880 census are 32 year old Alfred Ridings, born in Alabama; wife Priscilla, age 28, born in Kentucky; sons John and Stephen, ages 10 and 1; and daughters Margaret and Mary, ages 7 and 4. All of the children are born in Texas. Alfred's occupation is listed as blacksmith, showing that he had continued in the trade of his father and older brothers. His mother, Jane, is also listed on the 1880 census. She heads a household made up of herself, son Newton, and a boarder named William Henry. Her place of birth, and the birthplace of her parents, is shown to be Tennessee. On earlier censuses North Carolina was given as her state of birth. Her husband Charles C. Ridings, the father of Alfred and grandfather of John Gilbert Ridings, probably died in Fannin County around 1877. He is buried in the Sandy Creek cemetery in Fannin County¹⁰.

Some time between 1880 and 1890, Alfred moved his family from Fannin County to Vernon, Texas in Wilbarger County. Then around June of 1890, he and his son John (some accounts say that it was son Steve, but John seems more likely as he was about 21 years old and Steve only 11 years old) came out to the Amarillo area from Vernon looking for a place to set up a blacksmith shop¹¹. But a man named David McBride, whom he had previously met in Vernon, convinced Ridings to consider looking into the possibility of setting up his trade in the yet to be formed town of La Plata that McBride was helping to start¹². La Plata was to be the county seat of Deaf Smith County. Alfred Ridings decided to move his family to La Plata and they arrived there around July of 1890. When the town of La Plata was platted, Alfred's 11 year old son Steve Ridings was chosen to draw the lot numbers¹³. Whether he drew for all the lots or just the lots for his family is not clear. Both Alfred and John obtained several lots. Alfred, thinking of his business, was fortunate in that one of the lots he drew was a corner lot. He then set up his blacksmith shop in La Plata and then waited for business to come. However it did not grow as he had hoped it would and after some time, Alfred decided to move the family back to Vernon¹⁴. Just when and why it was that he decided to leave La Plata is unclear. 1890 had been a wet year and the rains provided

lush grasses for the farmers and ranchers in the area. But during the next four years it was very dry and the area suffered through a drought. The farming and ranching around La Plata greatly suffered during that time. The early stage of the drought, as it affected those around him, may have also had an affect on the success of his blacksmithing business. Only a few years after the Ridings family left La Plata, the railroad that residents hoped would bring the needed growth and prosperity to the town, was instead laid out a few miles south of the town in the southern part of the county. As a result in November of 1899, the citizens of La Plata chose the new town of Blue Water (now Hereford), to be the new Deaf Smith county seat and the county government was moved there. Blue Water sat on the newly laid rail line¹⁵.

On the trip back to Vernon, Alfred Ridings had some business to take care of in Amarillo and he decided to stop there for a few days. While he was staying in Amarillo, he approached a man named Cub McGee who ran a blacksmith shop, about picking up temporary work. McGee employed Ridings for a few days and afterwards apparently made Ridings an offer of more permanent employment, further postponing the family's return to Vernon¹⁶. It is hard to pinpoint just exactly when Alfred and his family moved permanently to Amarillo for there are various accounts of when and how he got here, and there are several inconsistencies between the accounts. Some accounts give the year as 1893, while other accounts say it was late 1890 or early 1891. It is very likely that Alfred and his son John came to Amarillo at different times. Tax records for Deaf Smith County and Potter County provide some clues about when they were in La Plata and when they arrived in Amarillo. Both John and Alfred are listed on the 1891 Deaf Smith County tax records. They are listed as J. G. and A. L. Ridings. Each are shown to have owned several lots in the town of La Plata. Both of them also appear on the 1892 Deaf Smith rolls. However, Alfred is also on the 1892 Potter County tax roll. The 1892 Potter County tax roll was compiled in September of that year, so Alfred was probably in Amarillo before September of 1892. John is still on the 1893 Deaf Smith roll, but Alfred is not. Alfred is listed on the 1893 Potter tax roll, but John is not. John first appears on the 1894 Potter County roll¹⁷. Some time after working for Cub McGee, Alfred purchased the Reese and Gaines Blacksmith shop, which was located on Tyler between Fifth and Sixth streets¹⁸. This must have been before August of 1893 because the tax roll for that year, which was compiled at the end of August shows that he paid taxes under the business name of "Ridings and Reese", as well as under his own name. The Reese of "Ridings and Reese" must have been J. T. Reese who is listed on the tax roll just above the "Ridings and Reese" entry. A. L. Ridings is listed just below that entry. By this time Alfred and his family had decided to stay and make Amarillo their permanent home instead of returning to Vernon. John apparently remained behind in La Plata for a while.

While living in Deaf Smith County, one of the things John did was to obtain work as a cowboy on the XIT Ranch. He began his work there around 1891¹⁹. He worked there for a couple of years before leaving and coming to Amarillo to work with his father. Upon his return John became a partner in the business, purchasing the stock of Joe Bean, who had been Alfred Ridings partner during the time John was working for the XIT²⁰. Father and son soon moved the business to Polk Street. The Ridings' blacksmith shop occupied several locations in the downtown area over the next several years. Amarillo City directories indicate that for most of the years that the blacksmith business was operating, the business did not carry an actual name. Directories for the years 1913

to 1921, however, show that it was called Amarillo Carriage Works. Prior to and after those years, there was no known name at least as mentioned in the City Directories.

Alfred and his sons apparently enjoyed hunting. In February of 1895 the Amarillo News reported on a hunting trip that A. L. Ridings and sons John and Steve took over in an area on the far west side of the Texas Panhandle, close to the borderline with New Mexico. It was apparently a profitable trip for the paper reported that they came back from that excursion with 25 antelope, 17 quail, and one duck²¹. In July of 1895, the first baseball game involving a team from Amarillo took place at a July picnic down in the canyon. John Ridings was one of the spectators of that game, and when recalling the game said, "As I remember it, Wichita Falls won the baseball game, and Amarillo won the fight which followed²²." John's attention may not have been totally on the baseball game for it is possible that he was at the picnic with the girl he would soon be marrying. On October 7, 1895 John Gilbert Ridings married Mabel Adkisson²³, daughter of a Methodist minister from Tennessee²⁴. She had come to Amarillo with her family about 1889. In September 1896 John and Mabel's first child, Albert, was born. Another son, Gilbert, was born in April of 1899²⁵. A son, Ralph, had been born on May 5, 1898 but only survived ten days, dying on May 15th²⁶. He is buried in Llano Cemetery. In 1898, Alfred Ridings ran for and was elected to the position of county treasurer²⁷ and served in that office until 1902. When the 1900 census of Potter County was taken John was enumerated as J. G. Ridings, along with his wife Mabel, and sons Albert and Gilbert. His occupation is blacksmith. The J. G. Ridings family is listed as Family Number 149 on the census. His father, Alfred, is listed just a few families back at Family Number 138. The father is listed as A. L. Ridings and his occupation is also listed as blacksmith. Also listed are wife, Priscilla (listed as P. C.), son Steve D. and daughter Addie, whom the census taker has listed as Eddie. A boarder named Eula Johnson, age 13, is also enumerated in the household. The year after the census was taken, John and Mabel had another son whom they named LaFayette, born October 31, 1901, but he lived less than two years and died on July 3, 1903²⁸. He is buried in Llano Cemetery. Late in the year 1911 or early 1912, Jane, the mother of Alfred Ridings died²⁹. She is buried in the Sandy Creek Cemetery in Fannin County. She had outlived her husband Charles by some 34 years.

Among the first settlers of Amarillo, John Gilbert Ridings and his father Alfred LaFayette Ridings continued to be a part of the Amarillo community well into the 20th century. They continued to operate their blacksmith shop together for many years until father Alfred retired sometime in the early 1920s. John continued in the business until retiring himself in 1942³⁰. Alfred and John were popular fixtures among early day Amarilloans. A newspaper account about Alfred noted that his shop was well kept and his work honest, and his greeting to those who came into his shop was cheery and whole-hearted. Panhandle cowboys and ranchers enjoyed gathering there when they brought in a horse to be shod or a wagon to be repaired³¹. The blacksmith shop in its heyday was a large operation. In addition to the shoeing of horses and the making of spurs and bridle bits, the shop handled the repair of wagons and buggies. When the shop was moved to a location on Tyler, a woodworking shop was added in an adjoining building and Henry Wright, who had married Addie, a daughter of Alfred, was put in charge of the planing mill³². John Ridings, besides his accomplishments as a fine blacksmith, also was known for his artistic work. He turned out etchings in metal, iron vases of flowers, and intricately carved fireplace sets showing scenes of Panhandle ranch life. One portrait he did of his father was an engraving in steel and carved into

the frame were scenes from his fathers life. A carving of an anvil sat at the center of the lower part of the frame, while in the upper portion of the frame was a carving of a Confederate Flag bearing the notation Ninth Texas Cavalry. The frame also showed symbols of the Masons and the Odd Fellows indicating that Alfred, at one time in his life, had been involved in some way with those organizations. John put his artistry into his shop work as well. His spurs and bridle bits were highly prized for their quality and craftsmanship³³.

In Alfred's later years, it became a custom of the family to gather for a reunion and picnic on the Sunday before his birthday on July 15. The gathering was affectionately referred to as AGrandpa's Picnic. At the reunion to celebrate his 83 birthday, the Amarillo Daily News reported that it was attended by four children, sixteen grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren, as well as friends and close associates of the Ridings family³⁴. It is interesting to note that for some reason the newspaper accounts about Alfred Ridings, written in the last few years of his life, refer to him as either Albert, or A. L. Ridings. How he came to be known as Albert is not mentioned anywhere. Perhaps when John and Mabel named their first son Albert, people thought that he was named after his grandfather. In many of the sources, Alfred was only listed as A. L. and some people may have assumed that the "A" stood for Albert.

Alfred's other son Steve, although apparently not actively involved in the family blacksmith business as was his brother John, was a well respected and well known citizen of Amarillo. Stephen Decatur Ridings, born in Ivanhoe in Fannin County in 1879, operated a gun shop in Amarillo for many years. He was a gun collector and a known gun expert who was often called in to help police. He appeared as an expert witness in several trials. Prior to World War One, Stephen Ridings was a deputy sheriff in Potter County. During the war he became commander of the 132nd Machine Gun Battalion of the 141st Infantry. He was called "Pete" by the men who knew him. He received the Croix de Guerre for meritorious service when he brought his command up to meet an emergency situation and prevented heavy losses from occurring. During the war he rose in rank to the position of Major. Stephen Ridings was an active member of the 36th Infantry division of the Texas National Guard, serving in that unit for over 36 years. He retired from the guard with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He married Gertrude Wilson on January 3, 1904³⁵. Stephen Ridings died in Amarillo in July 1953³⁶.

Alfred and Priscilla's other children were Mary, who married George Hayden, and Addie, who married Henry Wright³⁷. Another daughter, Margaret, apparently died between the time the family left Fannin County and the date of the 1900 Potter County census. She is listed on the 1880 census of Fannin County at age seven. However, on the 1900 Potter County census, Priscilla is shown to have been the mother of 5 children of whom only 4 were still living -- John, Stephen, Mary, and Addie³⁸. Priscilla died on August 1, 1913 at the family home on Monroe Street³⁹. Alfred Ridings outlived her by 27 years, dying on September 11, 1940 at the age of 93⁴⁰. Both he and Priscilla are buried in Llano Cemetery⁴¹. Priscilla's obituary, besides noting the children mentioned above, also mentions a son named Joe. But the evidence does not support that Alfred and Priscilla had a son by that name. The Joe referred to is probably her nephew. There was a Joe Ridings living in Amarillo. He is listed in the city directories from 1907 to 1910, where is listed as working at the Ridings blacksmith shop. A Rhoda Ridings is also living in Amarillo about the same time. She appears in the city directories from 1907 to 1913. Rhoda most likely is the sister

of Priscilla Ridings. Rhoda, maiden name Wright, had married a brother of Alfred Ridings named E. P. "Polk" Ridings. Rhoda probably followed Alfred and Priscilla out to Amarillo after her husband died. According to one source, Rhoda and Polk had a son named Joe⁴². The Joe mentioned in the obituary then, is probably Rhoda's son. One possible point against this theory is that the 1910 Potter County census, on which Joe is listed, shows his father as being born in either North or South Carolina (it is hard to read which) and not in Texas where E. P. "Polk" Ridings was born. However, the census informant could have been confusing the birthplace of Joe's grandfather (Charles, born in South Carolina) for his father.

John and Mabel Ridings had at least eight children of whom six survived. The six were Albert, Gilbert, Annie May, Paul, Louis Frank, and Lois Fannie. Louis and Lois were twins. Ralph and LaFayette both died when very young. Annie married Joe Miller, and Lois married Claude Curb. In the 1920's Mrs. Ridings and her sons apparently operated a dairy, known as the Ridings Dairy, which was located south of the city⁴³. In his latter years John Ridings enjoyed going to the reunions of old XIT cowboys. He attended reunions in 1936 and 1937 and probably in other years as well⁴⁴. In August of 1941 he helped form an organization of early day cowpunchers at a meeting held on the T-Anchor Ranch⁴⁵. John Gilbert Ridings died at his home on Harrison Street on April 22, 1944⁴⁶. His wife Mabel died four years later on October 18, 1948 at Northwest Hospital⁴⁷. They are both buried in Llano Cemetery⁴⁸.

1. *1850 Cherokee County, Alabama Federal Census*. M432, roll 3, p. 55, family 754, C. C. Ridings household; *1860 Fannin County, Texas Federal Census*. M653, roll 1293, p. 202, family 1166, C. C. Ridings household; *Fannin County Folks and Facts: Fannin County, Texas: A Collection of Historical Sketches and Family Histories* (Bonham, Texas: Bonham Public Library, 1977), p. 305; Sammy Duncan, *Cemetery Inscriptions of Northern Fannin County, Texas* (Texas?: S.C. Duncan, 1994-), p. 47.

2. *Fannin County Folks and Facts: Fannin County, Texas: A Collection of Historical Sketches and Family Histories* (Bonham, Texas: Bonham Public Library, 1977), p. 305.

3. *1900 Potter County, Texas Federal Census*. T623, roll 1665, family 138, A. L. Ridings household.

4. Texas Secretary of State, *[Texas] Voter Registration Lists, 1867-1869*, microfilm, Roll 4, Fannin County, entry 600, C. C. Ridings entry. C. C. Ridings entry is dated July 25, 1867. He is listed as residing in Precinct 6, and as having been a resident of Texas, Fannin County, and the 6th precinct for 11 years. He is a native of South Carolina. On the same voter registration list, at entry 645 for July 26, 1867, is the registration of P. P. Ridings. This is probably Perry P. Ridings, C. C. Ridings son. He is shown to have been a resident of Texas and Fannin County for 12 years and a resident of the 6th precinct for 8 months. He is shown as a native of Alabama. If the residencies for both C. C. and P. P. Ridings are correct, then apparently the father followed the son into Fannin County from their previous residence.

5. *Fannin County Folks and Facts: Fannin County, Texas: A Collection of Historical Sketches and Family Histories* (Bonham, Texas: Bonham Public Library, 1977), p. 305.

6. "Fannin County," *A New Handbook of Texas*, (Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1996), Volume 2, p. 946.

7. "A. L. Ridings, Confederate Veteran, To Be 88 Tomorrow," *Amarillo Sunday News Globe*, July 14, 1935, p. 12; "Veteran Amarillo Blacksmith Forges Excellent Portrait of Father in Metal," *Amarillo Sunday News Globe*, Oct 2, 1938, Sec. 2, p. 6.

8. Frances T. Ingmire, *Marriage Records of Fannin County, Texas, 1838-1870* (St. Louis: Ingmire, 1978), p. 26.

9. *1900 Potter County, Texas Federal Census*. T623, roll 1665, family 149, J. G. Ridings household; "John Ridings Dies at Home," *Amarillo Sunday News Globe*, April 23, 1944, p. 1.

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10. Sammy Duncan, *Cemetery Inscriptions of Northern Fannin County, Texas* (Texas?: S.C. Duncan, 1994-), p. 47.
11. "Veteran Amarillo Blacksmith Forges Excellent Portrait of Father in Metal," *Amarillo Sunday News Globe*, Oct 2, 1938, Sec. 2, p. 6; "Blacksmith," *Amarillo Sunday News Globe* (Golden Anniversary Edition, 1938), Sec. 2, p. 22.
12. "McBride Home a Monument to History," *Amarillo Globe-Times*, Oct 23, 1973, p. 17;
"McBride, David Nichols," *New Handbook of Texas*, (Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1996), Volume 4, p. 367.
13. "Veteran Amarillo Blacksmith Forges Excellent Portrait of Father in Metal," *Amarillo Sunday News Globe*, Oct 2, 1938, Sec. 2, p. 6.
14. *Ibid.*
15. "La Plata, Texas," *New Handbook of Texas*, (Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1996), Volume 4, pgs. 72-73.
16. "Blacksmith," *Amarillo Sunday News Globe* (Golden Anniversary Edition, 1938), Sec. 2, p. 22.
17. *Texas County Tax Rolls: Deaf Smith County, 1891-1893 and Potter County, 1892-1894*, microfilm. (Austin: Texas State Library).
18. "Veteran Amarillo Blacksmith Forges Excellent Portrait of Father in Metal," *Amarillo Sunday News Globe*, Oct 2, 1938, Sec. 2, p. 6.
19. "One Hundred Forty Sign XIT Register", *Dalhart Texan*, August 12, 1937, page not given. Clipping found in Amarillo Public Library, Local History file, Topic: Ranch Life.
20. "Veteran Amarillo Blacksmith Forges Excellent Portrait of Father in Metal," *Amarillo Sunday News Globe*, Oct 2, 1938, Sec. 2, p. 6.
21. "Maidens Listen to Mockingbird," *Amarillo Daily News* (Golden Anniversary Edition, 1938), Sec. G-3, p. 16.
22. "John Ridings Dies at Home," *Amarillo Sunday News Globe*, April 23, 1944, p. 1.
23. Della Tyler Key, *Early Records of Potter County* (Amarillo: Tyler-Berkley Co., 1961), p. 221
24. "Mrs. Ridings Dies; Came Here in 1889," *Amarillo Globe News*, Oct 18, 1948, p. 1;
"Rites Today for Mrs. Ridings," *Amarillo Daily News*, Oct 19, 1948, p. 12.
25. *1900 Potter County, Texas Federal Census*. T623, roll 1665, family 149, J. G. Ridings household.
26. Evelyn Chrysler, *Llano Cemetery and Mausoleum: The Panhandle's Cemetery Since 1890* (Amarillo: E. Chrysler, 1967), p. 434.
27. "Veteran Amarillo Blacksmith Forges Excellent Portrait of Father in Metal," *Amarillo Sunday News Globe*, Oct 2, 1938, Sec. 2, p. 6.
28. Evelyn Chrysler, *Llano Cemetery and Mausoleum: The Panhandle's Cemetery Since 1890* (Amarillo: E. Chrysler, 1967), p. 434.
29. Sammy Duncan, *Cemetery Inscriptions of Northern Fannin County, Texas* (Texas?: S.C. Duncan, 1994-), p. 47; Mrs. Jane Ridings entry (no. 1123), *An Index to Death Records, Texas 1903-1940* (Austin: Bureau of Vital Statistics, 1964). The index entry shows that she died in Fannin County in January of 1912. An exact day is not given.
30. "John Ridings Dies at Home," *Amarillo Sunday News Globe*, April 23, 1944, p. 1.
31. "Big Family Reunion Honors 83rd Birthday of A. L. Ridings, Pioneer of Amarillo and Panhandle Area," *Amarillo Daily News*,

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- July 23, 1930, p. 15; "Rites Today for Mrs. Ridings," *Amarillo Daily News*, Oct 19, 1948, p. 12.
32. "Veteran Amarillo Blacksmith Forges Excellent Portrait of Father in Metal," *Amarillo Sunday News Globe*, Oct 2, 1938, Sec. 2, p. 6.
33. *Ibid*; "John Ridings Dies at Home," *Amarillo Sunday News Globe*, April 23, 1944, p. 1.
34. "Big Family Reunion Honors 83rd Birthday of A. L. Ridings, Pioneer of Amarillo and Panhandle Area," *Amarillo Daily News*, July 23, 1930, p. 15.
35. Lois Nix, *Potter County, Texas, Marriage Records, 1888-1910* (Amarillo: Taproots Research, 1994), p. 12.
36. "Pioneer Gun Expert Is Taken by Death," *Amarillo Globe Times*, July 14, 1953, p. 1.
37. Lois Nix, *Potter County, Texas, Marriage Records, 1888-1910* (Amarillo: Taproots Research, 1994), p. 5 and p. 7.
38. 1880 *Fannin County, Texas Federal Census*. T9, Roll 1302, p. 318, family 276. Alfred Ridings household; 1900 *Potter County, Texas Federal Census*. T623, roll 1665, family 138, A. L. Ridings household.
39. "Mortuary," *Amarillo Daily News*, August 2, 1913, p. 6.
40. "A. L. Ridings of Amarillo Dies," *Amarillo Daily News*, Sept 12, 1940, p. 1.
41. Evelyn Chrysler, *Llano Cemetery and Mausoleum: The Panhandle's Cemetery Since 1890...* (Amarillo: E. Chrysler, 1967), p. 431.
42. *Fannin County Folks and Facts: Fannin County, Texas: A Collection of Historical Sketches and Family Histories* (Bonham, Texas: Bonham Public Library, 1977), p. 305.
43. "Mrs. Ridings Dies; Came Here in 1889," *Amarillo Globe News*, October 18, 1948, p. 1.
44. *Cowhands of the XIT*, (No place, no date). This booklet was probably privately printed in Amarillo in 1936 by W. A. Askew, secretary of the organization. The booklet is found in McCarty Collection folder No. 52, Amarillo Public Library; "One Hundred Forty Sign XIT Register", *Dalhart Texan*, August 12, 1937, page not given. Clipping found in Amarillo Public Library, Local History file, Topic: Ranch Life; "Over 100 ... of XIT Register," undated clipping from unidentified newspaper (probably *Dalhart Texan*, August or September 1939). Clipping found in Amarillo Public Library, Local History file, Topic: Ranch Life.
45. "Early Day Cowpunchers," *Fort Worth Star Telegram*, September 28, 1941, (pictorial section) p. 5.
46. "John Ridings Dies at Home," *Amarillo Sunday News Globe*, April 23, 1944, p. 1.
47. "Mrs. Ridings Dies; Came Here in 1889," *Amarillo Globe News*, October 18, 1948, p. 1; "Rites Today for Mrs. Ridings," *Amarillo Daily News*, Oct 19, 1948, p. 12.
48. Evelyn Chrysler, *Llano Cemetery and Mausoleum: The Panhandle's Cemetery Since 1890...* (Amarillo: E. Chrysler, 1967), p. 431.

CYNDI IS COMING TO OKLAHOMA CITY!

Cyndi Howells, creator and webmaster of CYNDI'S LIST and author of NETTING YOUR ANCESTORS, will be the featured speaker at the Annual Oklahoma Genealogical Society (OGS) Seminar to be held April 27, 2002, at Oklahoma City Community College, 7777 South May Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK. The all-day event includes a First Families of the Twin Territories (FFTT) Luncheon and is open to the public, as well as to members of OGS and FFTT.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The first of Cyndi's four sessions on genealogical researching on the Internet begins at 9:00 a.m. Topics include: "Quit Surfing and Start Researching," "Setting Straight the Myths and Misconceptions about Genealogy on the Internet," "Evaluating Web Sites," and "Conquering Internet Search Engines."

For more information, contact Ruth Eager Moran, OGS Workshop Chair, P.O. Box 12986, Oklahoma City, OK 73157, 1-405-751-1979 or RUTHEAGER@aol.com.