

Faces from the past

Cora and husband Will Wallace

Texas Agriculture Looks Bleak

continued from page 7



Will your agriculture business be able to survive and what steps do you need to take to ensure your survival? If you are trying to determine what decisions you need to make in order for your farm or ranch to survive the drought, don't miss the upcoming field day at Prairie View A&M University. The Cooperative Extension Program at Prairie View A&M University would like to invite you and your producers to participate in its Forage Field Day to be held on Saturday, June 11, 2011. Registration will begin at 9:00 A.M. at the Carden-Waller Cooperative Extension Building. The program will start at 9:30 A.M. A total of 3 CEU's will be provided for Licensed Pesticide Applicators. Topics for the Field Day include: Soil Testing and Soil Fertility, USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program opportunities, Rotational Grazing, Economics of Year Round Grazing, Pesticide Laws and Regulations, Dealing with Drought, and Tours of the PVAMU Farm. This program is free but please RSVP so that we can prepare materials for you. For more information contact Rene' McCracken at 903-683-5416 or rmccracken@ag.tamu.edu or Hugh Soape, Integrated Farm Management Specialist, hsoape@ag.tamu.edu or Dr. Nelson Daniels, Program Specialist-Agriculture and Natural Resources, ndaniels@ag.tamu.edu. 936-261-5112. More information can also be found at: <http://pvcepvamu.edu/index.html>

Pictured above are Cora and Will Wallace about 1950 in front of their home in Rusk, Texas. Mrs. Wallace was the sister to the late Maggie Alexander Richie, Catherine Alexander Burley, Babe Alexander and Tommy Alexander. It was common practice for both men and women to smoke a pipe filled with Prince Albert tobacco, the most popular brand of tobacco at that time. She is sitting in a rocking chair in front of their house. Their attire also reflects everyday wear of the day for women of her age, a head rag, full apron over her dress with laceup shoes and cotton stockings that came to the knee. He is wearing overalls, long-sleeve shirt, felt hat and brookann laceup shoes. She and her sisters made quilts, plaited rugs from strips of discarded family clothing, canned fruits and vegetables, baked fresh pies and bread and cakes daily and operated a family laundry. Clothes were taken in from all over Rusk for a minimal fee, washed in a tin tub on a rubboard, rinsed, starched, hung on an outdoor line to dry and ironed with a smothering iron heated on a woodburning stove. In his younger years he was a farmer and a very well known horseback rider, even after cars were in common use.

Tom from page 2

Two other slaves named Minerva and Alexis were mentioned by first name only indicating that this was the norm. Our birth name or given name identifies us and plays a great part in making us who we are. Can you imagine not having a birth

Having no family and no family ties must be almost total devastation of the mind and soul. If Tom was about twenty in 1858, he would only have been about 27 in 1865 when freedom was publicly announced in Texas. I would like to imagine that he was able to locate some family and do as thousands of others did, file the family name that could identify him as the person he was..

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