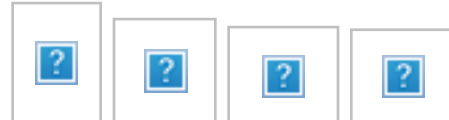




## Home Search Gendex Index



Copyright 1985, 1999, The Jameson Perspective

## WILLIAM JAMISON OF BARREN COUNTY, KY

### [47000-47199]

**47000-1 WILLIAM JAMISON**, born circa 1770s, early 80s resided with his wife, Jane, in Barren county., KY. Mr. Jamison died about 1835 in Barren co., KY.

#### Children:

- (1) 47010 Willis L., b.c. 1793; m1) 11/22/1816, Peggy **Barlow**; m2) \_\_\_\_; m3) \_\_\_\_;
- (2) 47011 William M., b.c. 1795; d.c. 1831/2; m. 5/16/1819, Gilliann Jamison;
- (3) 47012 Mary Sarah(Sarah Mary), b.c. 1796, Christian co., KY; m. 9/20/1819, Pouncy **Nuckolds** {Nuckols} {Knuckles};
- (4) 47013 Emily, b.c. 1800; d.c. 1831, Barren co., KY;
- (5) 47014 Juliann, b.c. 1804; m. 1826, John W. **Miller**;
- (6) 47015 Green B., b. 1807; d. 3/6/1836;
- (7) 47016 Eloise(Louise), b.c. 1809; m. 11/15/1832, Samuel D. **Howell**;
- (8) 47017 Christopher Hawkins, b.c. 1810; res. Miles Pt., KY;

#### Notes:

Mr. Jamison took out a grant of 400 acres of land, South of the Green River, on June 4, 1808 in Barren co., KY. Nothing else has been established to determine if he had come to the region prior to this time.

Louise Jamison was married to Samuel D. Howell by Ralph **Petty**, surety by her father, William Jamison.

A letter written by C. H. Jamison to his brother, Green, of Austin, Tx. in 1834, indicates that Mr. William Jamison was still alive, though Green's brother, William, and sister, Emily had both died in 1830/1. The letter is presented here in its entirety:

*"Miles Point, Kentucky, Feb 3rd, 1834.*

*Dear Brother:*

*With pleasure I spend the evening in writing to you. I am well and hope these lines to find you enjoying the same blessing. Sir, I think it my duty to commence by way of an apology for not having written you before this time. Eight years have now elapsed since I have seen you, during which time I have written to you but once, and that I expect you did not get, for I rote with a view of it meeting you at New Orleans, and I have since learned from your one letter that you did not get it.*

*I spent 3 months of the fall and winter of 1833 and 34 in the State of Mississippi from whence I went to Louisville, Ky, and there I spent 5 months. Since that time I have been on the river. I have been engaged in selling my goods on the river.*

*I have now quit that business, and am engaged in loading of a flat boat. I expect to have her loaded by this day week at farthest, and then I expect to float her to New Orleans as quick as the water will float her there. At that place I expect to continue for some weeks. I want you to write to me as soon as you get this, and let me know where you are at present, and also tell me your situation at present., and what you are doing, and if I should come there, what I could make per year, and if I can do well. I expect I shall come to that country in the course of the summer. I dont want you to deceive me in any shape whatever. I want you to tell me in plane terms everything you do tell me, and deceive me nothing.*

*Father and all of us, our brothers and sisters, were well the last time I herd of them. I was at Mr. Miller's in Oct. and at Willisses at Christmas. Emily has been dec. for three years, and William Jameson has been dec. for near three years. Our sisters are married. Eloise has been married to Samuel D...I am yet single, and to remain so. Willis has his third wife.*

*You will please to excuse my diction and bad writing, as the river is rough, and I have to write on my nee, and besides my mind is much confused. I am done, but still remain your sincere and affectionate Brother, till death.*

*C. H. Jameson."*

The following land deeds were filed in Barren co., KY., and also in the county of Marion, Texas as they describe Green B. Jamison's relationship to his parents, William and Jane Jamison and family.

*"The State of Kentucky County of Barren Personally appeared before me the undersigned authority Pouncy Nuckols to me well known to be a sensible person, who after being duly sworn according to Law befor us and says that he knew and was well acquainted with Green B. Jamison and Mary S. Jamison his sister who married Pouncy **Knuckles** both the said Mary S. and the said Green B. Jamison the children of William and Jane Jamison of Barren county Kentucky that about the year 1828 the said Green B. Jamison emigrated to the State of Texas.*

*Pouncy Nuckols.*

*Sworn before the undersigned before me this 4th day of March 1875.*

*J. P. Nuckols, clerk Barren county court."*

*"The State of Kentucky County of Barren Personally appeared be fore me the undersigned authority B. G. **Smith** to me well known and who is to me well known to be a credible person and who after being duly sworn according to Law before us and says that he knew Green B. Jamison of the State of Kentucky and County of Barren son of William & Jane Jamison, who emigrated from the State of Kentucky to the State of Texas about*

*the year 1828 He further says that he knows and is well acquainted with Mary S. Nuckles wife of Pouncy Nuckles dec'd and that she is sister of the said Green B. Jamison or daughter of the said William and Jane Jamison afroesaid. B. J. Smith*

*Sworn before the undersigned*

*before me this 27th day of April*

*1875.*

*J. P. Nuckols,*

*clerk Barren county court.”*

In a final disposition the following was filed July 13, 1876 in Marion County, Texas:

*“The State of Texas County of Marion Be it remembered that on this 13th day of May A. D. 1876, personally appeared before the undersigned authority Joseph M. Jamison who after beign dult sworn deposes and says that in the 24th day of January A. D. 1850, he married out Samarimus L. **Nuckles** and that since said date he has lived with the said Samarimus L. Nuckles as her husband that said Samarimus L. Nuckles was the niece of Green B. Jamison dec'd who died in the state of Texas on the day of A. D. 1836 and that as far as this assigned is informed and believes there are no heirs of the said Green B. Jamison now living in the state of Texas except the mother in law of assigned.*

*J. M. Jemison*

*Sworn to and submitted before me this the 1st day of June A. D. 1876.*

*S. I. **White** Land Ex officio*

*Notary Public Marion County Texas.”*

#### References:

1] Milam Bounty Records, File #1487, dated 7/13/1876, Marion co., TX.; dated 11/20/1875, Barren co., KY undersigned by B. J. Smith, affidavitt; dated 11/20/1875, Barren co., KY, undersigned by Pouncy Nuckles, affidavitt; 2] Correspondence, C. H. Jamison to Green B. Jamison, 1834; 3] The Alamo Heroes & Their Revolutionary Descendants, DAR of TExas, 1976; 4] Records on File at the Alamo Library, San Antonio, TX(file of over 100 letters and documents); 5] Mormon Genea. Library, Abstracts(marriages); 6] Extracts from Kentucky Land Grants, Jellison, 1925, bk.23,p.5; 7] 1820 KY Census, Barren co., 1992(011301-001000);

**47010-2 WILLIS L. JAMISON** [William], was born circa 1798 the son of William and Jane Jamison (47000). Mr. Jamison married November 22, 1816, Barren co., KY., Peggy **Barlow**. He later married two other women. He resided in Barren co., KY. The bond of marriage was issued November 19, 1816, surety by Joshua Barlow. They were married by Jacob **Locke**.

References:

1] Marriage Records of Barren co., KY., 1799-1849, Martha P. Reneau, Gorin Publ. Co.; 2] Correspondence, C. H. Jamison to Green B. Jamison, 1834;

**47011-2 WILLIAM M. JAMISON** [William], was born circa 1795, the son of William and Jane Jamison (47000). He died circa 1832 in Barren co., KY. Mr. Jamison married May 16, 1819, Barren co., KY., Gilliann Jamison. They were married by Zacheus **Quissenberry**, surety by father, Will Jamison and bonded May 14, 1819.

References:

1] Marriage Records of Barren co., KY., 1799-1849, Martha P. Reneau, Gorin Publ. Co.;

**47012-2 MARY SARAH JAMISON** [William], was born circa 1800, Christian co., KY., the daughter of William and Jane Jamison (47000). She died in Texas. Miss Jamison married September 20, 1819, Barren co., KY., Pouncy **Nuckles** of Barren co., KY. Mr. Nuckles died some time between March and April of 1875.

The Only child appears to be:

(Born Barren co., KY.)

- (1) Semarimus L., b.c. 1821; m. 1/24/1850, Joseph M. Jemison(#39458);
- (2) Robert,
- (3) William Green,
- (4) Augustine
- (5) Virgil,
- (6) Helina

Notes:

Mary S. Jamison was born a few miles north of Clarksville, TN. She and her husband removed about 1860 to Tuscaloosa, Al. By 1870, they were settled in Marion co., Texas where they died. Mrs. P. Nuckles was the sole heir to Green B. Jameson's entire estate which consisted of property throughout the territory: Marion co., Milam co., Tx. Semarimus Jemison, after her mother's death was heir to Green's property through her mother, Mary.

Semminus **Nuckles** Jamison

For quite some time knowledge of Green's ancestry has eluded many of us. Not until recently through my researching at the Alamo has there been some movement toward that determination. Several deeds in the area has resulted in locating not only where he was from, but his parents, William and Jane Jamison, as well.

Additional information has arose in connection to another Jemison family out of Tuscaloosa, AL. Through Green's sister(Mary)'s daughter, Semminus Nuckles, and her marriage to Joseph Marshall Jemison of AL there may now be a possible link to Green's ancestry. Not only does Semminus' marriage provided evidence of the relationship, but in all the Jamisons I've searched, Joseph's family has a collaborating link through his brother's wife, Priscilla Taylor. Her father, oddly enough, was named Greenberry, and long has it been thought that Green's middle name or full name was Greenberry. Having investigated the *other* Jemison family in some detail, no William Jamison has provided any promising lead to this quest. However, the data below reflects the pertinent aspects for your own inquisitive natures. Perhaps the matter may be solved prior to the publication of this volume. We can only hope.

**39351-2 WILLIAM JEMISON** [Robert][1,3], was born July 1, 1778[10], Richmond co., Georgia the son and second child of Robert and Margaret (Kirkham) Jemison(39312). Mr. Jemison died June 2, 1829, Tuscaloosa, Alabama[10,13,30]. He married first, 1801, Sarah **Mims**[9,15,20], born October 25, 1784, Lincoln co., GA., and died December 25, 1826, Tuscaloosa, AL, the daughter of Shadrack and Elizabeth (**Kirkham**) Mims. Mr. Jemison married second, 1828, Mrs. Rebecca Caldwell (**Jones**) **Wimberly**[9,12,20,31], born Twiggs county, GA. and died 1840 Macon Bibbs co., GA., the widow of Captain Ezekiel **Wimberly**.

Children:

((1-3) b. Lincoln co., GA.; (4-7) b. Twiggs co., GA.; (8-12) b. Pickens co., AL.)

(1) 39450 Robert, b. 9/17/1802; d. 10/17/1871; m. 1837, Priscilla C. **Taylor**.

(2) 39451 Shadrack?, b.c. 1804\*([1](#)); may have died in infancy.

(3) 39452 Elizabeth, b.c. 1806; m. 8/29/1827, John B. **Jones**.

(4) 39453 Margaret F., b. 11/23/1808; d. 10/27/1845; m. 12/29/1826, Charles **Walker**.

(5) 39454 Thomas Hardeman, b.c. 1814; educ. in France; never married.

(6) 39455 Mims, b.c. 1816; d. June 1836, Florida.

(7) 39456 Harriet S., b.c. 1818; m. Dr. Doric S. **Ball**.

(8) 39457 William Henry, b. 3/4/1820; d. 11/11/1892; m. 10/23/1839, Elizabeth A. **Patrick**.

(9) 39458 Joseph Marshall, b. 1821; d. 3/3/1883; m.c. 1843, Semminus **Nuckles**;

(10) 39459 John Steel, b.c. 1823; d.c. 1846; m. Jane Ann **Jordan**.

(11) 39460 Mary Mims{Mariah}, b.c. 1828, Dr. Henry M. **Arrington**.

-----

(12) 39461 Carolyn Helen, b/ 3/10/1829; d. 4/25/1925; m.c. 1856, William F. **Plane**.

**39450-3 ROBERT JEMISON** [William, Robert], was born September 7, 1802, Lincoln co., Ga., the son and first child of William and Sarah (Mims) Jemison(39351). He died October 17, 1871 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Mr. Jemison married circa 1837, Priscilla Cherokee **Taylor**, born April 16, 1812, Mobile, Alabama, died May 30, 1886, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, the daughter of Greenberry and Elizabeth (**Van Meter**) Taylor.

Only child was:

(1) 39700 Cherokee Mims

**39458-3 JOSEPH MARSHALL JEMISON** [William, Robert], was born 1821, Pickins co., AL., the son and ninth child of William and Sarah (Mims) Jemison(39351). He died March 3, 1883, in Waco, Texas. Mr. Jemison married circa 1842-43, Perry co., AL. Semminus Jamison born 1829 in Kentucky.

Children:

(Born in Perry co., AL.)

(1) 39720 daughter

(2) 39721 daughter

References:

1] Marriage Records of Barren co., KY., 1799-1849, Martha P. Reneau, Gorin Publ. Co.; 2] Milam Bounty Records, File #1487, dated 7/13/1876, Marion co., TX.; dated 11/20/1875, Barren co., KY undersigned by B. J. Smith, affidavitt; dated 11/20/1875, Barren co., KY, undersigned by Pouncy Nuckles, affidavitt;

**47014-2 JULIANN JAMISON** [William], was born circa 1804, poss. Christian co., KY., the daughter of William and Jane Jamison (47000). She married November 1826, Barren co., KY., John W. **Miller**, the son of Robert Miller of Barren co., KY.

References:

1] Marriage Records of Barren co., KY., 1799-1849, Martha P. Reneau, Gorin Publ. Co.;

**47015-2 GREEN B. JAMISON** [William] was born 1807, poss. Christian co., KY., the son of William and Jane Jamison (47000). He appears not to have married and died March 6, 1836, San Antonio, TX.

Notes:

Above, under Green's sister, Mary, is noted the connections that may prove expedient to this family's antecedents. Data, however, on other matters are as follows:

**File # Type of Certificate: Certificate # Cert. Date: Cty: Acres: Survey: Patent:(date/No./Vol)**

MIL-1-1819 Unconditional 66 6/10/1851 Bell 312 3/10/1873

ROB-1-1213 Johnson 569 4/1882 5/18/1882/Heirs/612/23

MIL-B-1487 Conditional 852 6/18/1851 Lampasas 1920 3/27/1872 11/23/1875Heirs/391/15

*(Power of Attorney, 8/29/1874, Marion Cty-Mary Knuckles, surviving wife of Pouncy Knuckles and sister of Green B. Jameson and Christopher Hawkins Jameson, deceased, appoints Jno. T. **Smith** as her lawful attorney, signed by Mary S. Knuckles)*

*(Affidavit, 3/4/1875, Barren cty., Ky, Pouncy Nuckols swears Green B. Jamison and sister Mary S. Jamison were children of William and Jane Jamison of Barren county, Kentucky, and Green B. Jamison emigrated to Texas in 1820, signed Pouncy Nuckols.)*

*(Affidavit, 4/27/1875, Barren co., KY Ishmael **Higdon** swears he knew Green B. Jamison, son of William and Jane Jamison of Barren county, KY, who emigrated to Texas about 1820 and his sister Mary S. Jamison who married Pouncy Nuckles, signed Ishmael Higdon.)*

ROB-1-1212 66 Hood & Johnson 195 12/13/1871 9/13/1876/Heirs/14/22

*(Power of Attorney, 8/29/1874, Marion Cty-Mary Knuckles, surviving wife of Pouncy Knuckles and sister of Green B. Jameson and Christopher Hawkins Jameson, deceased, appoints Jno. T. **Smith** as her lawful attorney, signed by Mary S. Knuckles)*

LIB-B-197 316 6/12/1851 Chambers 640 9/15/1873 12/17/1873/Heirs/477/14

*(Power of Attorney, 6/1/1876, Marion Cty-Mary Knuckles, swears she is the wife of Pouncy Knuckles, deceased, and sister and sole surviving heir of Green B. Jameson who died in 1836, signed by Mary S. Knuckles)*

*(Affidavit, 6/1/1876, Marion Cty., TX, Josph M. Jemison swears he married Semaramis L. Nuckles, niece of Green B. Jamison who died in Texas in 1836, signed J. M. Jemison.)*

*(Affidavit, 6/1/1876, Marion Cty., TX., Semaramis L. Jemison swears she is the niece of Green B. Jamison who died in TX in 1836 and his only surviving heir is his sister Mary Nuckley, signed Semaramis L. Jemison.)*

**Notes II:**

The following is an edited and updated version of the article, "Remember The Alamo" as written by this author for the Jameson Newsletter, published in March of 1990.

*"These men were all kinds. They were farmers, clerks, doctors, lawyers. There was a blacksmith...a hatter...a house painter...a jockey...a shoemaker...a Baptist preacher. Very few were the frontier type, although one was indeed the greatest bear hunter in all the west. They came from Boston, Natchez, New York, Charleston, Philadelphia. From Illinois, New Jersey, Tennessee, eighteen states altogether. A few were from across the ocean, but only two or three had been to Texas as long as six years. As a group, they had little in common-yet everything. For they were all Americans, sharing together a fierce love of liberty and a deep belief that the time had come to take thie stand and keep it \*(2)".*

One hundred and eighty-three men \*(3) died taking their stand at the San Antonio Mission known as the Alamo, among whom was Green B. Jamison of Barren county, KY., a lawyer with a vague, unknown engineering background who came to San Filippe, Tx. in 1828. Here in the center of Stephen **Austin's**



thriving colony, a place that swarmed with men like himself, and others who were self-motivating, and many with a scheme to make money, Jamison set himself up as a backwoods lawyer with an inkling to do business. Employed by the Mexican government, Austin administered the Spanish empresario program, a plan by which Mexico hoped would lead to development of her vast stretches of empty land in Texas. Under the colonization laws of 1824 and 25 Americans and other foreigners were invited to settle the territory for ten years free of taxes and duties. Each settler and his family received 4,428 acres for a nominal payment of \$30.00, take the Mexican Oath of Allegiance, and “promise to be at least nominal Catholics.” <sup>\*(4)</sup> Marketing the Mexican plan, Austin used the newspapers to describe the wonders of Texas, and before too long “Texas fever” grew nationwide and many scrawled across their cabin doors, “G.T.T.-Gone to Texas”. <sup>\*(5)</sup>

Green’s ancestry is short. Up to 1990 it appeared he was a descendant of Benjamin Jamison of Greene co., TN and while destitute of proof may still be. A brief and fragmentary account of Green’s ancestry is addressed by Almus Day Jameson in the file kept at the Alamo Library. He alludes to three men, Samuel, John, and Benjamin Jameson of Scotland who settled in northern Ireland and emigrated to the colonies just prior to the Revolution. Col. John Jameson, he notes, was a “Minuteman” from Culpeper co., VA. Unfortunately, the material here is incorrect as research shows that Col. Jameson was a son of Thomas Jameson <sup>\*(6)</sup>, whose great, great grandfather emigrated in 1698 to Virginia. Benjamin Jameson, Almus Jameson notes, settled in New Jersey (there is no proof of this traditional aspect of Benjamin’s residences-see Index #35000), later settling in Kentucky and having been referred as the parent of Green B. Jameson. Of the ten children Ben and Jane Jameson had, none were named Green. The Christian name of Green might have surfaced from the surname Quissenberry, proffered by the man Zacheus Quissenberry, who married a number of William and Jane Jameson’s children. While remote, no other relationships with Green or Berry seems to intrude upon the present records of the day.



As



noted in William Jameson's bio several land deeds have appeared establishing proof to Green's parentage. These documents listed under his father's index exist and have been properly notarized for inclusion as proof of his relationships to his sister, Mary Nuckols, his niece, Semarimus Nuckols Jemison, Pouncy Nuckols, his brother-in-law, and parents, William and Jane Jameson of Barren co., Kentucky. Green appears as one of the last of the brood. He was nicknamed **Benito** by James **Bowie** in a dispatch dated February 23, 1836, and members of his family were around in Texas in 1851, 1873, and 1876.

On October 3, 1830, in the "Register and Texas Telegraph" published in San Felipe was announced: "Green B. Jameson. Counsellor & Attorney-at-law." Now set up he handled a number of accounts for James **Prentiss** of New York City, Capt. H. **Austin** of Angleton, TX., Edmund **Andrews**, and even Samuel **Swarthout**, Collector of the Port of New York who pocketed men like Sam **Houston**. Though Jameson resided in nearby

Brasoria he traveled widely in Texas concluding land deals for the government and for those who had settled in the territory, including the plotting and surveying of these plats which he apparently possessed some experience. He came in contact often with Austin, Houston, and a great many other demonstrable leaders who were finding it increasingly harder to deal with Mexico's harsh attitude toward the colonists. Stephen **Austin**, now in Mexico, was getting the run-around as Santa **Anna** had recently opened the Custom house at Anahuac, and again slapped duties upon the settlers in early 1835. William B. **Travis** was stirred up over the Spanish government's "centralism departure for colonial administration" yet the 1824 Mexican constitution supposedly guaranteed self-government for the settlers. Angered by the opening of the Custom House, Travis along with 25 men marched upon the duty station and sent the Mexican Tenorio packing. Though not favored by Austin and his "peace party", so-called, Travis understood long before others what Mexico really wanted—complete dominion of the Texas territory. No upstart settlers were going to interfere with Ana's claims to it.

Surprisingly, many of the colonists were upset with Travis' brand of justice at Anahuac. More than anything, the settlers wanted a secured future without outside influence and without the prospect of having to fight to get it. Brooding under this "slap across the face", Travis waited as Santa Anna overplayed his own hand in the game. This came when the General poured more troops into Texan land, ordered the arrest of Bill Travis and his group for their ready hand in ousting Tenorio, and threatened martial law throughout the territory.

Overnight the banner for liberty and justice hung outside, splashed across the face of Texas. Austin, now back from Mexico City, spoke in somber tones of Anna's desires to repeal the very rights that were given the settlers in 1824. In the small town of Gonzales, sitting between San Filipe on the east, and San Antonio on the west, the fulcrum of Texas independence and Mexican domination rested for the first time on September 29, 1835. Eighteen colonials met and parlied with Lt. Castaneda and his hundred men, but indecision on both sides stalemated any fruitful discussions. In the interim, the Committee of Safety at Gonzales sent a message out for help. In the morning 150 men stood waiting now to see what the Mexicans would do. On October 2, the men from town slipped out in the middle of night preferring to attack first, but the silence was shattered when someone tripped and a rifle fired out. More talks took place. Yet, as the two sides faced each other, a "rattle of muskets—no one really knew who fired first"\*(7) rang out. A resulting barrage of nails and old horseshoes shot from a cannon thundered from the Gonzales side hitting the Mexican troops head on. A few more shots in reply and Castaneda's men broke ranks and headed back toward San Antonio.

The revolution had begun. Davy **Crocket** was just then heading toward Texas. In Gonzales, an army was established, organized, and marched west to Bexar. The Mexican General **Coz**, bottled up at the Alamo at San Antonio, remained stuck there as Travis ran about setting small traps and securing the lines. Prior to the five day siege in San Antonio, all the leaders had managed to be gone at the same time. Austin had gone to America to drum up support; Jim **Bowie** had retired to his farm, and Sam **Houston** was nowhere to be found. Bill Travis eventually resigned, and General Edward **Burleson**, who was managing while Austin was gone, was in no mood to fight. At dawn of December 5th with General Burleson still hesitating, a man named Ben **Milam**, stepped out of the General's tent and rallied up 240 men, one of whom was Green B. Jameson. In house to house searches and arm to arm combat the men pushed the Mexican troops out and after four days of fighting, December 9th, General Coz had had enough and capitulated. The terms of the surrender re-instituted the rights of '24, and the Mexican General retired below the Rio Grande.

Many of the Texan volunteers of this force were equally ready to go home. A few stay, like Jameson, while Col. James C. **Neill** and others were rallied up by a shrewd man named Dr. James **Grant**, who proposed carrying the battle down to Matamoros, Mexico. Desiring to free his lands from the Mexicans, Grant urged his fellow compatriots not to wait for the authority to attack and on December 30th of 1835 he marched off with 200 men in a "blaze of enthusiasm".\*(8) Of these men 104 were left by January 6, 1836 with only what clothes remained upon their backs. By the 14th, conditions had worsened, twenty four men having left to go back to their homes, while Neill and Grant realized that the effectiveness of the march had drained their

supplies and their engeries. They finally turned back to San Antonio.

Among the ruins of the mission, Green had sized up the place and gave his report to Col. Neill, who was ordered there by Houston to blow the place up. Overcome by this decision, Jameson, on the 16th of January wrote to Houston saying, “You can clearly see that the Alamo never was built by a military people for a fortress.” \*(9) But it remained the only fortification that the town had. Asking that he be appointed the fort’s engineer he concludes “I have been in the field on actual duty more than four months, and have not lost an hour from duty on account of illness or pleasure, but have served my country in every capacity I possibly could. When I left home it was with determination to see Texas free and independent and I have sanquine hopes of seeing my determination consummated.” \*(10)

The appointment made, Jameson wasted no time in drawing up the plats of the mission and setting up the defenses which were already, then, in a state of disrepair. The Alamo, originally a Franciscan mission, was built in 1722. By 1750 it sprawled over three acres with various buildings and walls, varying in height from nine to twelve feet, surrounding a compound, or plaza. In 1762, a convent 50 yards square with arcades \*(11) above and below consisted of the living rooms, porter’s lodge, dining room, kitchen, and the offices situated along the east side(see diagram). Appended to this was a second court north of the convent alongside which ran a room which held four looms adjoining two other rooms which kept the materials used by the Indians in weaving the clothes. An eleven yard long chapel with its stone cross and altar was constructed along the south and southeast corner of the convent. On the south side of the compound ran a long, narrow one-storied building called the “low-barracks” where Bowie would eventually die and where the southeast corner abuted these barracks was the main gate. Along the west side of the plaza were the Indian’s arched porticoed adobe huts supported by the outside wall. At the northern width of the compound was a similar wall several feet thick and about twelve feet high. From the northeast corner of that wall and running south to the second court was another barracks, two-storied and narrow, supported by the construction of a corral.

By the time Green entered the picture the Church and the broad walled-in plaza where in a deplorable state and with only 80 men to help him there was considerable work ahead of them in shoring up the weaker points. While he and his men earnestly began work buttressing up the walls, adding breastworks and the like some 800 miles to the south Santa **Anna** had decided, too, that San Antonio had to be held to maintain not only the texas territory, but to keep his overall plan in place. Leaving Mexico City on November 11, 1835, he reached the Rio Grande River on February 12th in the following year. Eleven days later the Mexican General with 2500 men had come upon the wide waters of the San Antonio river and faced the town that sat peacefully on the east. Against him and holed up in a crumbling, delapiladed old fort, once a mission, stood some 150 valient volunteers, tense and ready.

While Houston had originally demanded that the Alamo be blown up and in general everything pulled out, Jim **Bowie**, of the same opinion, who reached the mission on January 19th of 1836, felt differently by the time Santa Anna arrived upon the scene. Prior to Bowie’s arrival, Bill **Travis** had lent his expertise and knowledge to maintaining the post’s garrison and drill. Supplies and other materials were brought in, stored, and parceled out in limited quantities. The two men clashed of sorts, but Travis deferred to Bowie until that man contacted an ailment that left the famous fighter nearly helpless in the days to follow. With Bowie’s drive and energy the men fell into equal step and Jameson reported that “with the Alamo’s artillery they could whip the Mexicans ten to one.”\*(12) With perseverance and hard work he oversaw the construction of the palisade of stakes, dirt-packed, in the southeast angles; platforms were thrown up along the walls as parapets and gun mounts; the 18 pounder cannon was placed in the southwest angles overlooking the town; and the main gate was replaced with a sturdier one at the center of the south wall.

At the end of January, Bowie, already ill with his unknown disease, sent James **Bonham** out with several letters for more supplies and men. Meanwhile a returning scout rode in with a listing of Mexican forces

nearby showing that nearly 5000 men sat just south of the Rio Grande. Bowie's pleas for more men and materials as time became shorter went unheeded. He sent Bonham with a letter to Governor Henry **Smith**, whose political infighting with the Texan Provisional Council, kept him from his daily affairs. Grimly, Bowie held on, the spirits high inside the Old Mission, as Bowie lent his special talents to addressing the safety and well being of his men and Texas. He writes to Smith stating, "Colonel Neill and myself have come to the solemn resolution that we will rather die in these ditches than give it up to the enemy." \*(13) But there were problems inside the fort as well, despite Jameson's and Bowie's upbeat assessments to Smith. Samuel **Houston** at this time had left on furlough, disgusted at the political difficulties that plagued the new government never knowing that Bowie and Neill were considering the defense of the territory at San Antonio. Desertions, lack of equipment, men, and the money to pay the men at the mission failed to come in. As Travis gloomily wrote to Gov. Smith, "The patriotism of a few has done much, but it's worn down." \*(14)

On February 8th, Davy **Crocket** arrived at the Alamo with his Tennessee Mounted Volunteers. When Neill left the garrison, he placed Travis in charge, but pressure from Bowie made the moment of the order tense and so a vote was taken to determine the leadership. With Bowie's winning, a split inevitably followed between the army regulars and Bowie's volunteers made more difficult by the great man's illness. However, on the 14th a simple agreement was reached and each man led their own contingents while both men made and considered all major decisions together. With a new spirit in the air, Green Jameson wrote to Gov. Smith with his latest improvements and of his optimistic views of the whole affair.

On February 20th, Anna plunged across the Rio Grande and three days later the 18 pounder cannon boomed out its defiance. Travis and Bowie wrote to Col. James W. **Fannin**, in command at Goliad, that "We have removed all our men into the Alamo, where we will make such resistance as is due to our honour..."\*(15) Though no direct and hostile action was taken thereafter by either side, Bowie, learning of a rumor of truce, sent Jameson out to Santa **Anna** to determine the nature of this. Refusing to see Bowie's emissary, Anna replied through an aide that only unconditional surrender would lead to any peaceful negotiations. With that Jameson returned and Bowie and Travis set into motion battering down and closing the fort up tight in preparation.

Now extremely ill and near collapsing on February 24th, Bowie gave over the reins of command completely to Bill Travis. Now hourly expecting an enemy attack, the men sat in tenseful waiting their patience wearing thin, while Bowie languished in one of the barrack's rooms. By early afternoon the Mexicans unleashed the first salvo attacks of their two nine pounders. Incredibly, on that first day, no one was killed or wounded from the constant bombardment. Just as incredible, Santa Anna ordered his musicians to serenade the besieged defenders, the music drifting into the compound that night. With a blare of Mexican bugles the following morning, the enemy crept through the town closing the gap. Though he had been repulse, the General was now across the small San Antonio river, on the Alamo side, continually mounting his defenses until he had the mission entirely surrounded and cut off. Inside, Jameson urged his men on, rebuilding and repairing, digging trenches, and bolstering the walls- difficult work as they had to dodge the constant barrage of Mexican shot. The 26th dawned with a torrential rainstorm, but the mission's defense continued while neither side seemed encouraged to defend or besiege in their monumental struggle. On the morrow, Santa Anna attempted to cut off the Alamo's water supply, but Green Jameson, having laborously worked through the night, completed the digging of the well. The resulting work, however, undermined the earth beneath a parapet which collapsed and had to be rebuilt.

Under a wet sky on February 28th, morale sagged. Bowie was brought out so he could encourage the troops. Crocket, ever the most charismatic of men, joked, fiddled, and laughed his way into their cold, worn hearts. The bantering helped, but failed to hide the uneasy fact that Santa Anna's psychological gambit was paying off. For the Mexicans, however, things hadn't been running as smoothly either. Food was becoming increasingly scarce for the more than 4000 mouths that had to be fed. The lack of clothing, the click and



misfire of old rifles, and the heavy rains of the last few days left a feeling of weariness and drain on the large camp. Yet the day wasn't a complete disaster, either. Word reached Travis that Col. James Fannin with 300 men and four cannon had left Goliad the previous day. Not one day out from town, however, and Fannin experienced trouble, not from the Mexicans which he would have expected, but from delays in equipment, lost oxen, and wagon breakdowns. Deciding sound tactics depended upon defending Goliad, rather than risking a march to the Alamo, the Colonel found himself back in the small town on the same day, the 150 men in San Antonio abandoned.

But, thirty-two men found their way into the Alamo, none-the-less, on the first of March. On the second, Houston, back from his furlough, with hundreds of other delegates to a convention declared Texas independence at Washington-on-the-Brazos. It was also on that day that Col. Fannin once again attempted to drive out toward the Alamo, but Santa Anna had out-flanked him, sending Mexican troops out along the eastern frontier toward Matamoros and Gonzales. Fannin stayed put. March third dawned bright, and morale was good as Jameson kept the men busy solidifying the weaker structures of the fort. Bill Travis never once ceased making demands for more money, supplies, and men. His needs when unanswered from both Samuel Houston and Gov. Smith.

With the dawn of the fourth and Santa Anna's army only 250 yards away, the resumption of Mexican cannon shot commenced against the north wall. While the bombardment rained upon them, Green Jameson and his men frantically worked to keep their defenses up. "The sounds of the shovels and mallets drifted to the Mexican lines, and the rumor spread that the Texans were mining the walls, planning to blow everyone up together." <sup>(16)</sup> On Saturday the fifth, more bad news: the army was now within 200 feet of the north wall, their concentration of continuous shot and rifle fire a downpour of death. But by early afternoon scattering fire had replaced the heavier outpouring of cannon until it stopped altogether. In the eery quiet of the Church, Travis summoned his men together, explained that no help was forthcoming, and gave three solutions to their plight-either surrender, try to escape, or put up the valiant fight to the finish. Drawing his line into the dark earth, all but one man crossed over, and he escaped under the cover of nightfall.

Around the Alamo some 1800 men waited anxiously when just before five o'clock on Sunday the 6th of March, a cry resounded in the stillness of the dawn. With cries in their throats the hordes of Mexican troops stormed against the north wall. To the east and the south the enemy was hopelessly pinned beneath the toxic fire of the mission's defenders. Two successive charges had been led only to come within a hair's width of over-running the fort. On the third attack the Mexican army carried the battle to the walls, threw their ladders up, and finally scrambled over the top to join the men inside in a fierce hand to hand combat along the parapets. Most of the Texans fought to their deaths, a few finding momentary refuge beneath bushes and bridges, only to be discovered and executed on the spot. No quarter was taken and by 6:30 am the fighting was over. With the exception of some women and children, all defenders had died with a heroes courage and unrelenting belief that freedom was everything.

On April 21, exactly one month and sixteen days later, Samuel Houston caught up with Santa Anna at the mouth of the San Jacinto River. In eighteen minutes he demolished the Mexican force with 783 men who shouted as they charge, "Remember the Alamo!"

After Green's death referenced was made in which his heirs received 640 acres on June 12, 1851 for his having fallen at the Alamo. This land lay in Chambers County and given to the heirs December 17, 1873.

#### References:

1] A Time to Stand, Walter Lord, 1987; 2] Handbook of Texas, Walter Webb, v.1, 1952, ps. 904-905; 3] The Alamo Heroes and Their Revolutionary Ancestors, Alamo DAR, 1976, ps. 88,89; 4] Milam Bounty Records, File #1487, dated 7/13/1876, Marion co., TX.; dated 11/20/1875, Barren co., KY undersigned by B. J. Smith,

affidavitt; dated 11/20/1875, Barren co., KY, undersigned by Pouncy Nuckles, affidavitt; 5] Green B. Jameson, An Account, Cora C. Glassford, 1952, p.2; 6] History of Texas, v.2,ps. 76,77, Yoakum; 7] January 18, 1836 Letter from Green B. Jameson to Samuel Houston; 8] The files of the Alamo Library, San Antonio, TX: G.B.J. to Gov. Smith(letter-2/18/1836, 2/16/1836, 2/11/1836, 1/18/1836, 1/1/1836,(incl. plans, ,); C.H. Jameson to G.B.J.(letter-2/3/1834); Bounty patents, GLO Printed Abstracts, Pat. #477, v.14, abst. 166, GLO file libr. Don 197; Correspondence from James Prentiss, H. Austin, Edmund Andrews, James Norton, William H. Logan, J. Stone, J. Morgan, & C. B. Stewart(betwe, 1830-1835); 9] Texas General Land Office, Archives & Records Div., Room 800, 1700 No. Congress, Austin, TX, 78701-1495;

[top](#)

- [1.](#) Based on very limited circumstantial evidence; unable to verify factually.
- [2.](#) The opening section is from “A Time to Stand”, Walter Lord, 1961, foreward page, p.11.
- [3.](#) This figure changes as new evidence is uncovered in light of the men you were or were not there.
- [4.](#) A Time to Stand, p.22.
- [5.](#) Ibid, p.23.
- [6.](#) See Index #37139 for a more detail report on Col. John Jameson.
- [7.](#) Ibid, p.39.
- [8.](#) Ibid, p.58.
- [9.](#) Letter from G. B. Jameson to Samuel Houston, January 16, 1836, located in the files at the Alamo Library, San Antonio, TX.
- [10.](#) Green B. Jameson, An Account, Alamo Hero Series, Cora B. Glasford, 1952, p.2.
- [11.](#) Arcades are a series of arches supported by pillars.
- [12.](#) A Time to Stand, Lord, p.77.
- [13.](#) Ibid, p.79.
- [14.](#) Ibid, p.80.
- [15.](#) Ibid, p.102.
- [16.](#) Ibid, p.144.

