

## KNOXVILLE TO TEXAS

By Jack and Jean Carmichael  
1120 Trailwood Drive, Hurst, TX 76053  
Submitted by Margaret Vance Webb  
116 Westwood Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919

**Thomas Bell** (born 21 July 1785, died 22 July 1862 in Texas) left his Knox County, Tennessee farm (located near Bull Run Creek) in 1848 and set out for Texas, the new country with rich and cheap land. With him were his wife **Eleanor Tillery** (born 1784, died 18 June 1861 in Texas), a native of Knoxville, Tennessee, and all of Bell's slaves except "Ole Mammy" who stayed behind to care for the grandchildren.

Bell, well along in years, was advance scout. When he reached northeast Cherokee County, Texas, he reconnoitered the area on John Engledow's survey, acquired hogs and cattle from his only neighbor, George W. Stone, and purchased 644 acres of land.

After making one more crop in Knox County, Tennessee, Bell's children were to come to Texas where each was to be given a home. The second caravan, traveling in Bell's covered wagon, called "Old Buncombe" and pulled by a 6-mule team, arrived at Thomas Bell's newly built log house on Christmas Eve in 1849, making the trip in six weeks. Had they used oxen, as most had done, the trip would have taken much longer.

Members of the second arrival included "Ole Mammy;" Thomas Bell's sons, **Samuel Perry Bell**, who settled in Blackjack, Texas, **Richard S. Bell**, and **Ephraim E. "Eps" Bell**, who bought land in the Bell School area; sons-in-law, **Daniel D. Fox**, who settled southwest of Blackjack, and **Thomas Norman**, husband of **Margaret Bell** who built the first water-powered grist mill at Bell School; **William W. Salmon**; **Milton Cornelson**; **David D. Coupland**; and **A. P. Coupland** (born in Knoxville, Tennessee); **Samuel Smith**; and **Archibald Carmichael**. **James G. Bell** and **Amp B. Norman** arrived in 1851.

In 1854 Archibald Carmichael, with William A. Pope, purchased two-thirds of 30 acres of the Bell survey for a township which they named "Knoxville" in honor of their home in Tennessee. The land had earlier been deeded to Thomas Norman.

William A. Pope ran the first store in Knoxville, Texas; Dr. Rudd practiced medicine and ran a drug store; Mr. Englewood ran the hotel; Jesse Davidson was the blacksmith. There was a mill, a distillery, a flour mill, a sawmill, and a cotton gin, all under management of Charles Smith. There was never a saloon in Knoxville, but stores sold whiskey. A tannery served farmers as a ready market for their beef hides, or they could receive a share of the leather tanned. A large spring furnished the town with good clean water with abundant flow for the baptismal pool, tanyard, mill and distillery. For 21 years there was a post office at Knoxville, Texas, with postmasters William A. Pope, John W. Gready, John F. Patton, E. E. Bell, James G. Bell, and Franklin Gilbert.

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The post office was discontinued 6 May 1875. William A. Pope built the first white painted house. The town founders donated three-quarters of an acre for a Baptist Church in 1856, and the building was used by Methodists and Presbyterians.

**Archibald Carmichael**, born 4 April 1819 in Tennessee, died 15 August 1896 in Texas, was a descendant of early Scotch-Irish Tennessee families. His father, **Archibald Carmichael**, was a son of **John** and **Isabel Pomeroy Carmichael**. John Carmichael was a Revolutionary War Soldier who settled in Leesburg, North Carolina, before it was Tennessee. His mother, **Jean Blair**, was the daughter of **John Blair**, Revolutionary War soldier, who was an early miller on Big Limestone Creek and first commissioner of Leesburg.

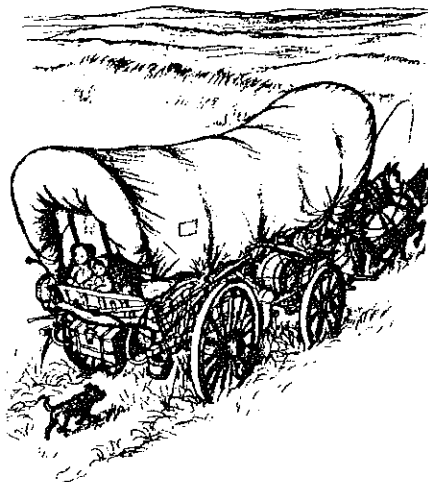
Jean Blair Carmichael's grave in the old Giffin Cemetery, Cherokee County, Texas, is one of the oldest in the cemetery and is marked with a small D.A.R. marker which reads:

**JEAN B. CARMICHAEL**

**Daughter of a Revolutionary War Soldier**

**D.A.R. Emblem  
placed by Wm. Elliott Chapter  
Palestine, Texas**

Today Knoxville, Texas belongs to the past, abandoned when old trade routes were changed in 1890 after the International Railroad by-passed the town. Only a cemetery remains of this once-thriving village. The location of this extinct town is now marked with a Texas Historical Marker on County Road SH110, seven miles north of New Summerfield, Texas. It bears the name of Archibald Carmichael as one of the founders.



**DAVID CAMPBELL'S LOG HOUSE  
AND FAMILY NOTES  
KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

Submitted by Alicia S. Chandler

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following photograph was submitted by Mrs. Alicia S. Chandler, 121 N.E. 51, Seattle, WA 98105. The text is a verbatim transcription of an inscription which came with the photograph. For a genealogical account of the David Campbell family, see "Some Founders of Campbell's Station, Tennessee: A Genealogy of Alexander, David, and James Campbell," by Laura Luttrell, in East Tennessee Historical Society Publications, No. 25, 1953, and No. 26, 1954.

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**THE DAVID CAMPBELL HOUSE  
CAMPBELL'S STATION, KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE  
[Built 1810]**