

THE LIFE OF GOVERNOR SAMUEL WILLIS TUCKER LANHAM

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Master of Arts

by  
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Approved by:

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### Acknowledgement

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## Preface

It is the purpose of this paper to give the career of S.W.T.Lanham showing the part he had during the periods of struggle and strife through which the United States passed during the years of his life, as Soldier of the Confederacy in the War between the States, as Pioneer on the western frontier of Texas, as Teacher in a log cabin schoolhouse, as Lawyer and District Attorney, as Congressman from a district of eighty-odd counties, and finally as Governor of Texas.

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## Part I.

### Ancestry

Samuel Willis Tucker Lanham was the son of Louisa D. Tucker and James Madison Lanham. Through both parents, he was descended from Revolutionary soldiers and statesmen of those early times. In tracing his ancestry, it has been found that there is little written record of his father's family, but that there is rather plentiful material concerning the family of which his mother was a member, the Woffords, due to the fact that there is a Wofford Memorial Association which has carefully collected and preserved records pertaining to those of the family.

Louisa D. Tucker was a descendant of the Wofford family, the founders of which were among the earliest settlers of South Carolina. This section will be largely devoted to this family, for S.W.T. Lanham inherited many of the characteristics of these forbears, although the name differed.

The name Wofford ~~is~~ derived from woe, the Slavonic word for ox, and the quite ordinary word, ford. Thus the name is rather synonymous with the famous name, Oxford. It is known that in England, bridges and crossings

were designated as fords, but these were "too indefinite to designate every one who lived at such crossings, so we have many surnames combining the termination, ford with some other word to show who lived at or neard certain crossing-places." <sup>1.</sup>

So far back as this family can be traced, their original home was in northern England. About the beginning of the eighteenth century, as far as can be definitely established, two brothers named Wofford came to America and settled in Maryland. Five sons of one of these brothers came to South Carolina several years before the Revolutionary war, and settled in Spartanburg District. These brothers were James, John, William, Benjamin and Joseph Wofford. James established his home at Friendship Neighborhood, John near Woodruff, William at Enoree, Benjamin where Glendale Cotton Mills now stand, and Joseph on the south side of the Tyger River.

Colonel William Wofford, the oldest of these brothers, was born October 25, 1728, near Rock Creek, Maryland, about twelve miles from washington, D.C. Little knowledge is had of his early life, although it is believed that he took part in the French and Indian War

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1. wait, Mrs. Jane Wofford. History of the Wofford Family  
p.42.

as a member of a company of Maryland troops, for it is suggested that due to this service, he gained the title colonel. After migrating to South Carolina, he built on Lawson Fork the famous iron works, bearing his name, which is referred to in histories of the Revolutionary War, because it was destroyed in November, 1781, by the raid of the notorious 'Bloody Bill' Cunningham. These iron works were known by other names, i.e., Buffington's Iron Works, and Berwicks, so named because after the war, Colonel Wofford sold his interests to one Simon Berwick. Colonel Wofford was one of the leading patriots of that section, serving under General Lincoln in Georgia and South Carolina. After the Revolution was over, he moved to Habersham county, Georgia, where he busied himself surveying.

During the course of the war, he built a fort for his own and his neighbors' protection on the Upper Catawba. His death occurred shortly before 1820.

The following is a copy of a furlough he  
2.  
granted:

"Ft. Charles, June 16, 1782

"The bearer, James Brown, declares he had a promise from the colonel that after two weeks duty at their station he should have leave of absence. Therefore he has leave of absence.

"Signed W.Wofford."

Another interesting relic which is its existence is found written on a blank sheet in a French Dictionary by Colonel Wofford. This is in the possession of one of his descendants:

3.

"Wm. Wofford was born in the province, now State of Maryland, near Rock Creek, about 12 miles above the federal city, on the 25th day of October, 1728, then Prince George county, now in the ninety-third year of his age. Wrote without spectacles the 30th day of July, 1820."

James, another brother of this family, who lived on the road between Spartanburg and Woodruff during the American Revolution, did not serve in the army, due to the fact that he was of rather infirm health, his patriotic activities perforce lying in ardent speech-making. He married a Scotch-Irish woman named Katie Hopnugh. They had ten children: Nathaniel, Margaret, John H., Gurry, Jesse, Kate, Isaac, Elizabeth, Rebecca, and Nellie. Isaac, Jesse and John H. Wofford married daughters of Ephraim Drummond. Many descendants went West.

James Wofford was a staunch Whig. Of his life little is known except that he was a surveyor, and at one time owned nine thousand acres of land in the region of South Carolina wherein he lived.

Of John Wofford, the third brother, little trace is

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3. Landrum, J.B.O. *ibid.*, p. 221, note.

found. He was a Quaker, and did not take up arms in the War for Independence, although it is certain that he was sympathetic with the Whigs. He was the father of eleven children, John, James, Isaac, William, Hiram, Preeia, Dorcas, Eleanor, Clary, Sarah and Cynthia. His descendants, one of whom is Colonel Jefferson L. Wofford, Chief of Artillery of General S.D.Lee's staff, Army of Tennessee, have been distinguished in both peace and war.

The youngest of the five brothers was Benjamin. His life is rather vaguely known. Even the few details are contradictory. One story is that "he did not marry in this country, but went back to the north of England, immediately after the close of the Revolution, and that the last seen of him, he was standing on an out-going vessel."<sup>4</sup> Another account, and the one more generally accepted is that he married Miss Llewellyn, a sister of his brother Joseph's wife, and at the close of the war, left the Carolinas for Tennessee. It is believed that in the early part of 1775, his sympathies were with the king. At one time he was arrested as a suspect with a Colonel Fletchall, who was officer under Royal Authority, his residential district covering territory between the Broad and Saluda Rivers. However this wofford was released due to the influence of his brother, Joseph.

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4. Wait, Mrs. Jane Wofford, op. cit., p.50.

The last of the brothers to be discussed is Joseph Wofford, the great-grandfather of S.W.T.Lanham. In June, 1768, Captain Wofford married Martha, daughter of Hugh Llewellyn. She was born in Pennsylvania in 1752, her parents moving to South Carolina when she was quite young.

The service of this Wofford in the American Revolution included captainship of a company which formed a part of the famous Spartan regiment, whose leader was Colonel John Thomas during the well known "Snow Campaign." He was in command of a company at Charleston before the fall of that city, and he was also at Ninety Six. He was hated by the Tories -- during the war and for many years later. When he was not in active service, he was virtually an outlaw, because of the plundering, murdering tactics of the Tories. It was scarcely possible for him to sleep at his home during this time, because of the risk of death, not only to himself, but to his family.

An interesting event which occurred during this period is related by descendants. It is told that Nat Young, a Tory leader, kept watch for any return the soldier might make. One night he saw Captain Wofford enter his home. Young's band of Tories surrounded the house. The patriot was captured, amid threats of hanging.

His wife, Martha, lying on a bed at the back of the house, saw and heard all that happened. She called the leader to her. As he stood near, she begged for her husband's life, saying: "Nat, is Joe is killed tonight it will kill me. I cannot survive the shock. So you will have to give an account at the Great Day, not for the killing of Joe alone, but for two others. It is murder, Nat, and you know it. I plead for the life of Joe, my life, and for the life of my babe."

The Tory, who had once been a suitor for the hand of Martha, touched by her plea, promised: "Nat Young pledges you his life, Mat, that not a hair of Joe's head shall be hurt this night. While it is necessary to take him away bound tonight he will return to you before daylight."<sup>5.</sup>

True to his word, Captain Joe was allowed to escape and return. During that night, Benjamin Wofford, later a Methodist preacher, and founder of Wofford College was born.

Including Benjamin, there were six children in the family: Martha, Benjamin, Joseph, Jeremiah, Rebecca and Nancy..

In the list of the heads of families in the First Census in 1791, the name of Joseph Wofford appears among those for Spartanburg District. Captain Wofford was a

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5. This conversation appears on page 47 of Wait, Mrs. Jane Wofford, op. cit.

quiet citizen, but very firm in the stand he took on public questions. In later years, he was a rather stooped figure, and the scars on his head and neck, received during the war plainly showed. At the time of his death he was eighty-four years old.

His son Joseph, married Jane Huckaber, and they lived at the bend of the Tyger River above Beard's Shoals. They had eleven children: Harvey, Benjamin, John, Westley, Jerry, Joseph Llewellyn, Rebecca, Sallie, Nancy, Pattie, and Jane. A very successful farmer, he was one of the Commissioners for the Poor for Spartanburg District, and a leading member of the Methodist Tabernacle Church, which his mother helped organize.

Martha, daughter of Captain Joseph Wofford, married Moses White, and moved to Mississippi about the year 1839. Her son, Captain John W. White, born in Spartanburg, was killed at the battle of Chickamauga, when leading his company of Mississippians.

Benjamin, born in 1780, the founder of Wofford College, a Methodist institution located in Spartanburg, had two wives. The first, Ann Todd, died in 1835. The second was Maria Baron who met Doctor Wofford when he was traveling in Virginia after the death of Ann. He had no children.



Jeremiah, the eldest son of Captain Joe, married and went west to Georgia. No more is known about him, except that many persons of that name are found there, some of them probably being his descendants.

Rebecca Mullinax, the second daughter in the family, lived to be very old -- she never married, but little is known about her life.

Nancy, another daughter, married John Tucker, a young Revolutionary soldier from Maryland. They had six children, four of whom went west, leaving Samuel Willis and Nancy. The latter married Emanuel Allen, also of Spartanburg District. Their sons Wade and Garland, gave their lives in the service of the Confederacy.

Samuel Willis Tucker married Laodicea, a daughter of James Howard, a soldier in the war of Independence, January 2, 1812. Their children were: John born October 25, 1813, died November 27, 1816; Nancy born May 26, 1815; John A., born April 27, 1817; unnamed child, born and died the same day, February 22, 1819; Louis D. born May 17, 1820; Joseph Wofford, born October 4, 1822; Jeremiah W.F.M., born November 2, 1828; Anna W., born August 8, 1820.

Joseph Wofford Tucker practiced law in Spartanburg, served as representative in the State Legislature, and

was the first president of Spartanburg Female College. He later resigned, and moved to St. Louis where he became a judge, and was editor of the Missouri State Journal, which was such an advocate of State's Rights, that it was "suppressed by Federal bayonets",<sup>6.</sup> During the War between the States, Judge Tucker accompanied the army of General Sterling Price south from St. Louis, and published regularly a paper called The Army Argus. Shortly after, he joined the Secret Service of the Confederacy for the remainder of the struggle. A reward was placed for his arrest -- because of this he went to Bermuda, living there for several years. After the amnesty proclamation had been issued, he returned and settled in Florida, where he spent the rest of his life.

John A. Tucker went to Georgia, practiced law, and became a judge, but little else is known about him.

Francis Marion Tucker practiced medicine until the Civil War, when he organized a company of volunteers. He was killed while leading this group in a charge at the second battle of Manassas.

Annie W. Tucker married Captain John McCravy.

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6. Landrum, J.B.O. op.cit., p. 229.

Her sister Nancy, who married J.W.Durham, died November 26, 1839.

The third of Samuel Tucker's daughters, Louisa D. married J.M.Lanham on September 4, 1845. As much as is known about his family is herewith given.

About the opening of the nineteenth century, Joseph Lanham and some of his brothers came to South Carolina, from a little town, Lanham, Maryland, where several generations of the family had lived, prior to this time. The little town may be found today between Washington and Baltimore on the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Joseph Lanham settled in Spartanburg District, one of the brothers going to Edgefield, South Carolina, another continuing to Georgia, making his home in the neighborhood of Rome.

Joseph died in the year 1828, after raising a large family. Apparently he had accumulated little propert. One of the younger sons, James Madison Lanham was apprenticed to a tailor. He was poor, having little education. The tailor's goose he used belongs to a grandson, Dr. Joseph W. Allen, who lives at Spartanburg, and another grandson, Hon. S.T. Lanham, likewise of Spartanburg, owns his shears.

In a letter received from Hon. Sam T. Lanham the following is noted: "It was a natural thing that he

(Samuel W. Tucker mentioned above) should object to the marriage of his daughter to a young tailor, a poor boy, unestablished, with no particular standing in the community. But the young people were married, and the tailor, who didn't get any help from his rich father-in-law, bought a farm of 350 acres in the neighborhood, and acquired a score of negroes, and by careful economy managed to pay for it and become a sort of country gentleman on his own account. Having married into a rather distinguished Methodist family, he joined Old Tabernacle Church.

"Like his father-in-law, he was irascible and testy, and somewhat of an autocrat in the family circle. Starting as a tailor's apprentice, he became a freeholder, and slaveowner -- and stamped his strong will and determination (to some extent) upon ~~every one~~ of his descendants. Perhaps the intelligence and the religious bent which many of his descendants possess was inherited largely from the Tucker side of the family."

It is related that James M. Lanham became a tax-gatherer for the Government of the Confederacy, taxes being payable in cotton during the later part of the war -- some of this being seized by Federal detachments from the old gin-house on the plantation after the end of the war.

The children of James M. and Louisa D. Lanham were: Samuel Willis Tucker, the eldest, subject of this paper; Josephine, who married B.L.Allen; Ellen who married W. E. Rogers; Adeline, who married V.M.Rogers; John C., who is still living at Summerton, South Carolina; Ben G., who was forced to leave South Carolina during the Reconstruction Days on account of his activities in the KuKlux Klan, came to Texas and lived at Weatherford; Emily, who married George A.McCall of Weatherford, living at that place; Willie, who died in childhood; Loulie May, who died in infancy; Joseph Marion, born 1861, a gentleman farmer and country doctor, who died in 1909.

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## Part II

## Early Life of S.W.T.Lanham

In 1846, exactly seventy years after the Liberty Bell rang out the glad news from old Independence Hall in Philadelphia, and while the Fathers of Texas Independence were wiping the blood from the swords with which they had so shortly before written their Declaration of Independence on the backs of Santa Anna's infantrymen, and had just won the right to be a State of this great Union, a future congressman, jurist, governor and statesman of Texas was born July the Fourth, on his father's farm in Spartanburg County, South Carolina. This boy, the first child of James M. Lanham and Louis D. Tucker was named for his maternal grandfather, Samuel Willis Tucker.

Young Same grew up on the farm, plowing when he was ten years old, and spending his time doing odd jobs about the place. As a boy he was fond of reading. Associates declare that often when he was sent into the fields to help with the work, he would climb a tree and bury himself in a book forgetting all else. One day his father went to the field wherein his son was supposedly plowing. The first thing he saw was the mule running around crazily, dragging the plow hither and thither, without

any human guidance. Mr. Lanham began hunting for Sam, wondering what could possibly have happened to him, when he saw him sitting on a stump reading a book on his knees, indifferent to the havoc the mule was causing. After his father had scolded him for neglecting his work in the field, just for the sake of a book, Sam calmly replied, "Well, I don't intend to make my living in the fields."

By the time he was fourteen years of age, he had memorized Pollock's Course of Time. When he was fifteen, Lanham had his first and only great teacher, Reverend Clough Beard, a celebrated educator of that day. Throughout his life he constantly paid tribute to this man under whose guidance he learned "as much Latin, Greek, and English in one year as most boys do in four"<sup>1.</sup> This school was at Glenn Springs, about twelve miles from his boyhood home. Mrs. Lanham was anxious for her son to retain the home influence, so she sent him every Sunday evening to Glenn Springs where he boarded and sent old Jerry, the slave basket-maker, for him every Friday afternoon.

The Honorable John C. Lanham of Summerton, South

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1. Pennybacker, Mrs. Anna J.H. -- A New History of Texas, p. 329.

Carolina, describes his brother Sam as "big-hearted, brainy, good mixer, honest and the chief boy in any crowd of boys or men. He was the pet of the neighborhood; didn't know which was his sweetest sweetheart". Continuing, Mr. Lanham says "his mother always knew his whereabouts, or what sort of crowd he had been in -- an accounting always had to be made to his sainted mother. He had a most excellent memory, read a good deal, and was naturally gifted with a flow of words."

With all the interest in his being, Lanham eagerly followed the activities of the statemen of the South and North. We can imagine that few, if any, of the exciting events prior to the War between the States failed to absorb his deepest attention. He was brimful of patriotism, like others of his make-up.

One Friday evening, old Jerry returned from Glenn Springs without his young master and told the boy's mother that Sam had run away to the war. Learning that he had gone to Charleston to enlist, his father left immediately to bring his fifteen year old son back to school.

Sam, after being found and having learned his father's wishes, said, "Pa, I'll go back with you, but is no use, for I shall run away again".

When Mr. Lanham had explained to the young patriot that he was too young to go off to war, the latter



replied: "It is my patriotic duty to enlist, as all other boys ought to do, for the Confederacy needs men, and it will take both young men and old men, as well as boys, who can fight and shoot as well as grown men, to supply the needs of the Confederacy."

Colonel John W. Wofford, a third cousin of the boy, had organized a company at Charleston ready for action, and the father consented to his son's joining the army, only after he had promised to enlist in this company.

This was the closing event of his boyhood, for though he went to war a boy, he returned after four years, a man.

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## Part III

The Young Manhood of S.W.<sup>th</sup>.Lanham

Thus, a mere boy, young Lanham enlisted in the ranks of the Gray, joining Company K, Third Regiment, South Carolina Volunteers, under Longstreet in Tennessee.

Hon. John C. Lanham, previously quoted, in writing of the war service of his brother declared that "the neighbors would congregate at the post office, then called Crowsville, to inquire of the mother as to news of the war, and from Sammie, as ever body called him. Every time, "the latest news is, he is still alive and fighting'."

Throughout the war he served 'with distinction' as a private. Of his war service, we find the following in the records of the company: "Sam W.T.Lanham, wounded at Spotsylvania, surrendered at Greensboro".

In an address delivered by Captain John W. Wofford at the first meeting of the Wofford Memorial Association, September 1, 1893, we find this description of the wounding of Sam Lanham: "At the battle of Spotsylvania Court House, with a large force of the enemy about thirty yards in our front, assaulting our rudely and hastily constructed breastworks of fence rails, while men were falling around us, a young stripling of

a boy, about seventeen years of age (a recruit), right in the midst of the fight stopped firing, and exhibiting his wrist to his captain, says: 'Look, sir; I have shed blood in this cause'. The wound was slight, caused by a splinter torn from one of the rails by an enemy's bullet, and the next-instant he was firing away at the enemy with his old Enfield rifle. No doubt, he caused some of the enemy to bite the dust that day, for many were slain in our front. The pitty-pat of Sam Lanham's feet has oft been heard where we stand today".<sup>1.</sup>

The late Reverend P.F.Brannan, a lifelong friend of Lanham, and drummer-boy in the Confederate ranks, writes graphically:"we were both Confederate soldiers, in the same division, and the same corps of Lee's army. We marched, tired and footsore, on the same turnpikes, with slender rations, in the vernal valleys of Virginia; drank from the same streams, heard the same volleys of musketry, the thunders of the same artillery, witnessed the fierce and sanguinary contentions in those battles, the results of which brought glory, honor and imperishable renown to Stonewall Jackson, which will live as long as the blue mountains of his country, which were silent witnesses of his greatest achievements".

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1. Quoted in : Wait, Mrs. Jane Wofford, op.cit.,p.17

In his book, My Story, General Anson Mills, officer in the Union Army, relates an event which Lanham described to him years after the war was over. During one of the battles in which his company was engaged, the young Confederate was stopped in the midst of the fighting by a cry for water from the lips of a wounded Union soldier. As Lanham gave him water from his canteen, he noticed that the enemy was a boy of about his own age. The Federal lad, drinking his fill, while he leaned against the shoulder of his enemy of a few minutes before, gasped for breath, and as he died, murmured: "I am dying for a good cause". This occurrence brought Lanham to the realization that if the tables were turned, he would have passed on, whispering the same words -- thus he saw the futility of this war of brother against brother and friend against friend.

Returning from Greensboro, North Carolina, where he had been paroled as a sergeant, Lanham came back to Spartanburg. There, through his sister, Joe, he met one of her classmates, Miss Sarah Beona Meng, daughter of Garland T. and Susannah Thomas Meng, of Union County, South Carolina. Miss Meng was engaged in teaching in a school which Lanham's father had in the upper part of his store-building, for the benefit of his children and his neighbors'. She had been educated at Reverend Colon Murchison's school at Union. Sam began helping

in the school, and in return, was coached in higher mathematics.

On September 4, 1866, Lanham and Miss Meng were married at the ancestral home of the latter, four miles from Pacolet. The Honorable Fritz G. Lanham, son of the couple, and now a Representative in Congress from the Twelfth District, Texas, writes the following:

"I remember hearing my father tell of his trip to his wedding. He lived several miles from Woodruff in Spartanburg District (the counties were then called districts in South Carolina). My mother lived four miles from Pacolet in the adjoining county of Union. My father borrowed his grandfather's horse and buggy to make the journey. He was accompanied to the residence of his bride-elect's father, Garland Meng, by Mr. Newt Walker, who was best man at the wedding. After the wedding, my father brought his bride back to the family residence several miles out from Woodruff. Perhaps he was thinking more of the bride than of his grandfather's horse, for he drove very rapidly. When they reached home, his grandfather, thinking more perhaps of the horse, and noting that it was foaming with sweat, came out to meet them; but instead of rushing up to kiss the bride, he looked at his steed, and said to my father, 'Sammy, just look at that horse'".

Hon. John C. Lanham states that "just after the close of the war, or before he reached home, he(Lanham) read the piece or speech of the celebrated Horace Greeley, caption: Go West, Young Man. He devoured that. He saw that there was no room for professional young men here; that he would have to wait ~~fall~~ the old heads died out before there would be room for the young men; that, in the west, there was room, room, room for a young man to show what he is and to grow up with the country. That settled things in his mind".

It may be recalled that practically every Southerner was 'broke' after the war. It so happened that Lanham's father had, among other enterprises, manufactured wagons and buggies in a small way, and there was a two-horse wagon left that was donated to the emigrants. His father gave him a mule, his mother sixty dollars in gold. His father-in-law presented the couple with a mule and a sum of gold.

On October 9, a company composed of thirteen single and four married men and their wives met at Woodruff, South Carolina, and a ~~start~~ was made for Texas. One of these married couples was Sam Lanham and his bride of a month. We are told that their property consisted of two mules, small cloth-covered wagon and gears, a few cooking vessels, a small amount of bedding, a tent, some wearing apparel, a small quantity of uncooked food, and somewhere around two hundred dollars.

About ten minutes after Lanham and his wife had left the old homeplace, his grandfather Tucker came riding up on his horse, Charlie, and said "Whar's Sam? They tell me he's goin' to Texas".

The news was broken that the party had already gone.

He said, "The rascal didn't tell me good-bye," and with that he raced away and overtook them about three miles up the road.

After stopping the pair, he said "So you're going to Texas, eh?"

"Yes, Sir," said Lanham.

The old man chided him because he hadn't told him goodbye. Said Lanham "Well, grandpa, I just hate to tell anybody goodbye, and especially you, who have always been so good to me."

The old grandfather said: "It looks like a foolish sort of a long journey to a foreign state, and I hate to see you go; well, here, you may need something on the trip; take this". Looking the other way, he handed his grandson a tendollar gold piece, and wheeled around on Charlie and left without saying another word.

"Day by day the procession moved westward toward the setting sun across Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Indian Territory into Texas", relates a member of the party, ex-Lieutenant-Governor Shands of Mississippi. He tells us that never on this journey did the group break camp on Sunday.

An incident which Lanham often described occurred while the party was camped enroute. One of his mules -- either Union or Spartanburg, for thus they had named them -- had turned his face away from the 'wild and wooly West' and started post-haste for South Carolina. Riding the other, he went in pursuit. The runaway was found several miles distant.

About November 20, the body of emigrants reached Texas, entering the country from the Indian Territory, by the Mill Creek ferry over the Red River. They were welcomed by the first 'norther' they had ever experienced. Some of the party had stopped in Arkansas. Those left felt rather discouraged at the cold treatment they received. A conference was held. Shands, with two or three others, decided to return to Mississippi. Shands declared that he would never live in a state where the saloons and gambling houses "ran full blast on Sunday" without any respect for the Sabbath as they did in Texas. Due to his impoverished circumstances, resulting from the war, Lanham and his wife declared that they would remain in Texas.

"When they reached Red River County they were about out of funds and needed money," writes Hon. Fritz G. Lanham "accordingly, my father sold the wagon and team, but the wagon sheet was retained and my mother used it to make shirts for my father."



They first settled in east Texas at the small town of New Boston in Red River County. There their first child was born, a boy named Claude Russell Tucker, who died shortly after, and was buried at that place.

After looking over the country, the Lanhams decided to make their permanent home at Weatherford, in Parker County. They built a two or double-room log cabin. One room was for the school which they held, the other was their home.

The following is a verbatim copy of an advertisement which appeared in a Weatherford paper in 1868, regarding the opening of their school:

" A MALE AND FEMALE

H I G H S C H O O L  
under the combined tutorship of  
S.W.T.Lanham and Wife,

Will open in the town of Weatherford on  
Monday 22nd day of June.

Our past experience as Teachers warrants a confidence in our ability to give satisfaction in the advancement of students, and general scholastic system. We expect to merit a share of the public patronage, and respectfully solicit a trial. We have located here with the intention to remain and establish a permanent school.

RATES OF TUITION.

Primary class, per month, specie,	\$2.00
Intermediate " " "	2.50
First " " "	3.00
Latin, etc, " " "	4.00

Students charged from admission to close of session except in case of protracted illness. Session to last 20 weeks.

Weatherford, June 20th, '68."

In reference to this school, Lanham in his last speech, which was delivered at Weatherford College in 1907, told how he would encounter problems in arithmetic which he could not solve, he would take them to his wife and that night they would work them together, so that he could explain them to his class the next day.

Two other children, Sam and Hood, were born at Weatherford, but they died while young, and were buried there. The children who lived past childhood, all of whom were born at Weatherford, were: Howard Meng, now a physician at Waco; Edwin Moultrie, who died at Weatherford in December, 1908; Fritz Garland, Fort Worth, present Congressman from the Twelfth District; Grace, now Mrs. Ed. C. Connor of Dallas; Frank Valentine, also of Dallas.

While he taught school during the day, he spent quite a bit of time reading law at night. Thus, we might say that he taught school as a stepping stone to the practice of law. In 1899, at Weatherford, he was admitted to the bar. Probably his first appearance as an attorney-at-law occurred in the Corn Trial to which Lanham often referred. These were the circumstances:

An old man and his wife, who had made a long troubled journey from one of the states in the old South to Texas, had toward the latter part become

destitute of money and food. Finally, the old fellow could no longer stand seeing his wife suffer for want of food, broke into a barn near Weatherford, and took some ears of corn. Snow on the ground enabled the owner to trace the couple, and they were arrested and charged with burglary. The young lawyer heard about the trial which was to be held. Because of the circumstances of the case, because he could so well remember what it meant to be cold and hungry on a trip through strange land, he went to the court house. There he found the old couple could not afford to employ the services of a lawyer to defend them. Volunteering his services, Lanham's request that the trial be postponed until that afternoon, in order that he might more thoroughly acquaint himself with the facts in the case, was granted. Going home, Lanham remarked to his wife that there was a verse somewhere in the Old Testament of the Bible, which his Mother had once read to him as a child, that fitted the case. Mrs. Lanham took down the Book, and soon found the thirtieth verse of the sixth chapter of Proverbs, which reads: "Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry." Using this as a text, the lawyer spoke so persuasively to his fellow-citizens of the hardships attending a peioneer, that overcome by memory, with tears rolling down his cheeks, and with powers of appeal, which might well be envied by the defenders of blonde murderesses

today, Lanham soon had the people in the court room and the members of the jury in tears. Without leaving the 'box' the jury, to a man, declared the defendants "Not Guilty".

The lawyer did not expect payment for his services. As soon as the crowd began to leave, the old woman stood up and asked where her "long-bearded young man" was. (It was the custom for all men to wear long beards at the time, and Lanham was no exception). Spying him in the crowd, overcome by emotion, she flung her arms around his shoulders and kissed him. This was his fee.

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## Part IV

## PUBLIC CAREER

## A. The District Attorney

Shortly after his admission to the Bar, Lanham was notified of his appointment as District Attorney of the Thirteenth District under the administration of Governor Edmund J. Davis," a very intense partisan Republican and affiliated closely with the negro element of his party".<sup>1</sup> After grave deliberation and consultation with his friends and men who had the interest of the State at heart, and who deemed it advisable that the future welfare of the people depended upon the right sort of office holders, he accepted the appointment, holding the office until 1876. This marked the beginning of his public career.

We have vivid descriptions of Lanham as District Attorney. One contemporary, Rev. P.F. Brannan, has given this: "His burning, scathing and terrible denunciation of crime made the culprit feel like the rocks from the mountain were falling upon him".

In 1871, representing the State, the future governor made the famous speech which several authorities declare started him on the rise to the chief magistracy of the State of Texas. This occurred in a trial which

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1. Kittrell, Norman G. Governors Who have Been and Other Public Men of Texas -- p. 51.

dealt with Satanta and Big Tree, Kiowa chiefs, charged with murder. These were the first and only Indian chiefs ever tried for murder, committed on a raid, before a civil court in America.<sup>2.</sup>

These Indians were leaders of a band of one hundred Indians who fell upon a train of teamsters near Salt Creek, killing seven men and escaping with their mules and supplies. This occurred in May, 1871. Shortly afterwards, General William T. Sherman, then the commanding general of the United States army, visiting Texas on a tour of inspection, arrested the chiefs at Fort Sill, directing their return to Texas for trial on charges of murder.

Only two of the leaders, Satanta and Big Tree, were tried -- Lone Wolf and Kicking Bird were released, having satisfactorily explained their connection with the massacre; Satank, another leader was killed by a soldier as he tried to escape.

Their trial was held at Jacksboro beginning Wednesday, July 5, 1871, before Judge Charles Soward of the thirteenth Judicial District of Texas. The jurors were: T.W.Williams, S.Cooper, Peter Lynn, Lucas Bunck, John Cameron, William Hensler, Peter Hart, James Cooley, Everett Johnson, W.B.Werner, John H. Brown and Daniel Brown.

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2. For details of this raid and trial see Appendix A and Appendix B.

The principal witnesses were General R.S. Mackenzie, Lowrie Tatem and Thomas Brazale (one of the teamsters who had escaped from the massacre). After the testimony had been finished, the attorneys for the prisoners, Thomas Ball and Joe Woolfork, tried to convince the jury of the innocence of the Indians. In closing his final address to the jury, Lanham said:

"This is a novel and important trial, and has perhaps no precedent in the history of American criminal jurisprudence. The remarkable character of the prisoners, who are leading representatives of their race; their crude and barbarous appearance, the gravity of the charge, the number of the victims, the horrid brutality and inhuman butchery inflicted upon the bodies of the dead, the dreadful spectacle of seven men who were husbands, fathers, brothers, sons and lovers on the morning of the dark and bloody day of this atrocious deed, and rose from their rude tents, bright with hope, in prime and pride of manhood, found at a later hour beyond recognition, in every condition of horrid disfiguration, unutterable mutilation and death, 'lying stark and stiff under hoofs of vaunting enemies'.

"This vast collection of our border people, this sea of faces, including distinguished gentlemen, civil and military men who have come hither to witness the triumph of law and justice over barbarism; the matron

and the maiden, the grayhaired sire and the immature lad who have been attracted to this tribunal by this unusual occasion, all conspire to surround this case with thrilling and extraordinary interest!

"Satanta, the veteran council chief of the Kiowas, the orator, the diplomat, the counselor of his tribe, the pulse of the race; Big Tree, the young war chief, who leads in the thickest of the fight and follows no one in the chase, the mighty warrior athlete, with the speed of the deer and the eye of the eagle, are before the bar in charge of the law. So they would be described by Indian admirers who live in secluded and favored lands, remote from the frontier, where the distance lends enchantment to the imagination, where the story of Pocahontas and the speech of Lodan, the Minco, are read, and the dread sound of war whoop is not heard. We who see them today disrobed of all their fancied graces, exposed in the light of reality behold them through far different lenses! We recognize in Satanta the arch fiend of treachery, the cunning Cataline, the promoter of strife, the breaker of treaties signed with his own hand, the inciter of his fellows to rapine and murder, the artful dealer in bravado while in the pow-wow, and the most abject coward in the field, as well as the most cunning and double-tongued hypocrite when detected and overcome. In Big Tree, we perceive the tiger demon who has tasted blood, and loves it as his food; who stops at no crime, how black soever; who is swift at every



species of ferocity and pities not any sight of agony and death. He can scalp, burn, torture, mangle and deface his victims with all the superlatives of cruelty and have no feeling of sympathy or remorse. They are both hideous and loathsome in appearance, and we look in vain in them for anything to be admired or even endured.

"Mistaken sympathy for these vile creatures has kindled the flame around the cabin of the pioneer, and despoiled him of his hard earnings, murdered and scalped our people, and carried off our women into captivity worse than death. We have cried aloud for help, we have begged for relief, deaf ears have been turned to our cries, and the story of our wrongs have been discredited. Had it not been for General Sherman and his most opportune journey through this section, and his personal observation of this tragedy, it may well be doubted whether these brutes in human shape would ever have been brought to trial. We are greatly indebted to the military arm of the government for kindly offices and cooperation in procuring the arrest and transference of the defendants. If the entire management of the Indian questions were submitted to that gallant and distinguished officer (General Mackenzie) who graces this occasion with his dignified presence, our frontier would soon enjoy immunity from these marauders. It speaks well for the humanity of our laws, the tolerance

of this people that the prisoners were permitted to be tried in this Christian land and by this Christian tribunal".<sup>3.</sup>

Both were sentenced to hang, but Governor Davis commuted their sentence to life imprisonment. After three years in the penitentiary, they were paroled at the instance of the societies in the East for the welfare of the Indian. The conditions of the parole were broken and General Sheridan ordered their return to imprisonment. Satanta and Big Tree were arrested and held at Fort Sill. The former was returned to Huntsville, where in October, 1878, he committed suicide by jumping from a balcony of the penitentiary. Big Tree was imprisoned for a while and released. He died at his home near Mountain View, Oklahoma, in November of the past year.

In 1880, Lanham was the Democrat elector of the Third Congressional District in Texas when James A. Garfield defeated the Democratic ticket of General W.S.Hancock and W.H.English of Indiana.

Unfortunately the Courthouse of Parker County was destroyed by fire several years ago, and records of the years when Lanham was District Attorney, many of which were written by hand by Mrs. Lanham, were burned. Material concerning this phase of Lanham's public

career is rather scarce, with the exception of reports of this Indian trial. Contemporaries declare that he was one of the most efficient and fearless prosecuting attorneys that ever appeared at the Bar in Texas court-rooms. From the manner in which he fulfilled his obligations while holding other public offices, it can safely be assumed that as District Attorney he served his constituents faithfully, conscientiously, successfully, for promotion to high and higher offices followed.

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## Part IV

## PUBLIC CAREER

## B. The Congressman.

"Weatherford, Texas,  
21st Nov, '82.

"My dear Brother:-I acknowledge with great pleasure your postal of the 15th. As soon as the result was definitely ascertained I addressed a letter to our mother informing her of my success, and laying at her feet, my first trophy in politics. I am glad, Johnnie, because it may serve to help our family name, and because I know it will be gratifying to our kindred blood. I shall strive with all the energy of my nature and manhood to sustain myself and reflect credit upon my people. I would rather have been defeated than to make a failure in the Federal Legislature. There are 80 counties in my District. It is the largest Representative Dist. in the American Union. The territory is as extensive as that of Mississippi and Alabama combined. My success was truly phenomenal. I had three competitors, two Democratic and one Greenbacker. One of my Democratic opponents, Maj. Davenport had been in politics for 20 years -- had just retired as State Senator, was a man of prominence -- lived near the geographical center of the Dist., and had much to do with the formation

of the Dist., as a member of the Texas Legislature which redistricted the state. Mr. Buck, the other Democrat, is a young man of worth and ability, having made much character as District Attorney. Dr. Burnett, the Greenbacker, is of my own county -- a man of worth and prominence, having served as a member of our last constitutional convention and being a man of popularity and large personal following. As far as heard from I carried every county in the Dist., except three, possibly four, and have received more votes in the District than all my competitors combined. -- Being elected to the 48th Congress I shall not take my seat until Dec. '83, unless a Republican President will convene a Democratic House before the regular time, without some extraordinary emergency. I shall apply myself diligently in the meantime to the study of such practical questions of political economy as will likely demand my attention in the future. I have this morning rec'd a letter from Ma which was evidently written before she had rec'd my letter. I gave her the first authoritative tidings, as above intimated".<sup>1.</sup>

In these words we find Lanham describing to his brother, his first election to Congress. As shown, he was elected in November 1882 to the 48th Congress. He was a Representative in the 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 55th, 56th and 57th Congresses. His District, which was

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1. See Appendix C., letter from S.W.T.Lanham to J.C.Lar

known as the 'Big Jumbo' district, and which he once described as "bounded on the west by the Grace of God", embraced an "empire of territory" in the 83 counties which he represented. A clearer conception of the District may be gained from these words: "In it there are more than 120,000 square miles. It is as large as the combined area of the ten states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Ohio, represented on this floor by sixty-one members."<sup>2</sup>

The counties in Lanham's district were:  
 Andrews, Armstrong, Baily, Borden, Briscoe, Brown, Callahan, Carson, Castro, Childress, Cochran, Collingsworth, Comanche, Coryell, Cottle, Crosby, Dallas, Dawson, Deaf Smith, Dickens, Donley, Eastland, El Paso, Erath, Fisher, Floyd, Gaines, Garza, Gray, Greet, Hale, Hall, Hamilton, Hansford, Hardeman, Hartley, Haskell, Hemphill, Hockley, Hood, Howard, Hutchinson, Jack Jones, Kent, King, Knox, Lipscomb, Lubbock, Lamb, Lynn, Martin, Midland, Mitchell, Moore, Motley, Nolan, Ochiltree, Oldham, Palo Pinto, Parker, Pecos, Porter, Presidio, Randall, Reeves, Roberts, Scurry, Schakelford, Sherman, Somervell, Stephens, Stonewall, Swisher, Taylor,

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2. Remarks made before the House of Representatives in debate. Found in Vol.15, part 1, page 926, House Proceedings

Terry, Tom Green, Throckmorton, Val Verde, Wheeler, Yoakum and Young. "About one half of the eighty-three were unorganized, and two of which covered the area of an average state"<sup>3</sup>. Some of these counties have since been redistricted and there are probably more than one hundred counties in the same area.

To give an idea of Lanham's strength in this district, we find that in his election to the 49th Congress as a Democrat, he received 29,738 votes against 184 for Saylor, a Republican.

In 1894, he voluntarily retired. In that year he was a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Governor, but was defeated by the Honorable Charles A. Culberson.

After a period of four years, during which time, Lanham devoted himself to the practice of law at Weatherford, he was drafted by the Democrats to run for re-election to Congress, representing the eighth District, in order to defeat Honorable Chas.H.Jenkins, now of Brownwood, the Populist candidate. Lanham received 20,936 votes against 17,510 votes for Jenkins.<sup>4</sup> This District was composed of thirteen counties: Brown, Coleman, Comanche, Coryell, Erath, Hamilton, Hood, Lampasas, Mills, Parker, Runnels, Somervill, and Tarrant.

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3. Daniel, L.F. Personnel of the Texas State Government. p.14  
 4. See Appendix D. Letters to Judge W.E. Spell from Judge Jenkins and Fred Cockrell.

While a member of Congress, he was twice chairman of committees in the House: Claims, and Irrigation of Arid Lands in the United States. He was also a member of the committees on Territories, Military Affairs, Coinage, Weights and Measures, and the Judiciary.

He was a member of the select committee on the contest of Roberts from Utah, Lanham's speech closing the debate against Roberts, who practiced polygamy. Delivered January 25, 1900, and punctuated with laughter and applause, this speech is marked with humor and sarcasm as well as sound and forceful arguments as to why Mr. Roberts should not be granted a seat in the house. The closing words indicate the points which are specifically emphasized: "in behalf of the altars and firesides of our common land, the rooftrees of American homes, the holy estate of matrimony, and the sacred and inviolable associations of the family circle, with a solemn regard for the Constitution of my country and the dignity of the great popular branch of its Legislature, and 'a decent respect to the opinions of mankind', and the fear of God before my eyes, I declare my belief that Brigham H. Roberts ought not for one instant of time to be admitted to membership in this House of Representatives".

Brief reviews of his most important speeches are herewith given:

April 22, 1884, the bill under consideration was H.R. 5893, to reduce import duties and war traffic taxes. The highest point of Lanham's speech showing his stand



on this question may be found in the following statements: "The country demands and expects of the majority in this House the inauguration of some measure of substantial reform, and the faith of the Democratic party is pledged to relieve the people. To fully execute this purpose, there must be excluded from consideration every thought of protection to particular persons or special localities, and the question must be viewed supremely from a national standpoint. For, one, I am willing to lay upon the altar of the common country every selfish consideration, and that my people shall rely upon their own natural resources, their own protective energies, the legitimate profits of their own pursuits, unaided by any tribute to be extracted at the toil and expense of their fellow-men".

On January 10, 1891, the speech titled 'Fraternalism vs. Sectionalism' was made. The House considering the bill for the support of the Army for the year beginning June 30, 1892. Lanham opened his address with the explanation that memories of the past conflict had been aroused due to occurrences in the meetings of the Committee on Military Affairs of which he was a member. These occurrences included "providing for marking the battlefields of Gettysburg and Chickamauga; listening

to the stories of individual claimants for relief, in consequence of real or imaginary injustice done them during the war; hearing of the vicissitudes in personal military history, the fluctuations of individual fortunes, the calamities and casualties of army life, the recitation of valorous deeds, the relations of sorrowful experience in disappointments, hopes deferred, impediments to meritorious promotion and the infinite variety of circumstances attributable to the war". Reference to the War between the States and the participants is made. The intermingling of Northerners and Southerners is remarked. One of the finest passages reads: "Sir, we of the South know no other flag than that which hangs abover your head, and we serve no other c untry than this glorious Republic. We did what we honestly believed was right; we fought for it and many a gallant hero died for it. Similar motives inspired the Union soldier to the espousal and vindication of his country's cause". Reference was made at this point to the incident of the dying soldier told in Part II of this paper, and the speech was closed with an appeal to "fully enlarge all the elements that logically combine to make this the best Government on the face of the ear h".

The theme of Lanham's speech on Tariff, made July 19, 1897, is contained in this sentence:

"Mr. Speaker, heavy taxation and scant money are incongruities and cannot be made to blend in unison. In the mathematics of no economic philosophy can scarce money plus high taxes equal prosperity".

On February 16, Lanham made a speech on Bankruptcy when the House had under consideration a bill (S.1035) to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States. The salient features of the measure are rapidly mentioned, with reasons for his support. The talk concluded with this statement: "that in case of the creditor it will afford every faculty for the protection and enforcement of his rights that he can reasonable demand; that in the case of the deserving debtor it will 'raise the fallen and cheer the faint', that by its aid thousands of good men will be lifted from the mire and clay of despair, endowed with nascent strength, and with new songs in their mouths and fresh hopes in their breasts will resume the walks of business activity, of profitable enterprise, and of useful citizenship".

During consideration by the House of Representatives of a bill for the reorganization of the Army of the United States, Lanham said in a speech delivered January 24, 1899, that he was against the bill: "there may be a necessity for a reorganization and some increase of the Regular Army, but I do not believe it ought to

be enlarged to the extent here contemplated". Closing this address, he uttered a beautiful eulogy on the flag: "Mr. Chairman, we do not need a colossal armament to maintain the flag in peaceful times if we steadily bear in mind and faithfully observe what the flag symbolizes. This leads me to say, in conclusion that there floats above your head the emblem of liberty and not the ensign of vassalage. May it wave on and wave forever, but only over free men. May no act of spoliation or oppression ever tarnish or desecrate its folds. May it never lower its proud colors to any embattled foe nor be 'hauled down' by any rude and violent hands, but may its own defenders ever be ready to voluntarily withdraw it from wherever its presence is a menace to their future tranquility, the perpetuation of American principle, the integrity of the Republic, the dignity of citizenship, or stands for the subjugation of men. Wherever it is kissed by the breeze, at home or abroad, on the land or on the sea, on the mountains or in the valley, under the sun or under the moon" at the dawn's early light or under the twilight's last gleaming", may it only and ever reflect and represent in their highest expression American institutions, American honor, the American Constitution, and American freedom. Flag of my forefathers, flag of my reunited country -- my flag, with all benediction, and every aspiration for thy true and abiding glory, I salute thee"

May 31, 1900, during a discussion of a joint resolution (H.J.Res.138) proposing an amendment to the Constitution concerning trusts, Lanham declared himself to be against it. The views he held may be summed up in this statement, taken from his speech: "With the courts open, with remedies civil and criminal at hand, and which may still be further enlarged, with all the agencies that may be brought into action and utilized, with laws, State and Federal, put in motion and working in unison, it is not apparent that trusts and cognate organizations cannot be outlawed and practically driven out of existence. Then why give to these conspiracies that continuance which the submission of a Constitutional Amendment would inevitably assure?"

January 31, 1901, Lanham made a speech on the Democratic party during the consideration of the bill (H.R.13822) making appropriations for fortifications and other works of defense, and for their armament. Speaking of the part played by the Democratic Party we find this statement: "If its record were expunged from the political history of the country, there would go with its pages many of the best achievements. The names and deeds of its statesmen are inseparably connected with the pride and glory of this Republic. It

will live on and live as long as our system of government shall endure. When its principles are abandoned, the end of free institutions will come and the structure our fathers erected will be in ruin".

June 3, 1902, the House was considering a bill for the purpose of protecting the President. Lanham was opposed to the bill for the reason that it was unfair in its operation, in his opinion: "it is a violation of the fundamental tenets of criminal law". He shows his adherence to the political creed of State's Rights. Closing his speech after quoting words of Thomas Jefferson, with this statement: "Let us preserve all the jurisdiction and all the judges and the triers of offenses committed in violation of their laws within their own territory."

Lanham remained in Congress serving until January, 1903, when he resigned to return to Texas for his inauguration as Governor on January 20 of that year.

On announcement of his resignation January 15, the following resolutions were adopted by the House Judiciary Committee:

"For nearly sixteen years, Judge Lanham has honorably and ably represented his district in Congress; for nearly six years he has been an honored and respected member of this committee. His committee associates

congratulate the people of Texas upon his accession to the high office of Governor of that great State, but recognize that the people of his district and the people of the United States have lost an able and useful member of Congress. During Mr. Lanham's long and valuable service upon this committee he has always demeaned himself as a cultured gentleman, a lawyer of great ability, and has shown great and ennobling qualities that make a true and upright statesman. His unselfish and honorable conduct has endeared him to all; no question has arisen to divide our friendship. We part with him with deep regret, recognizing that our loss is the gain of the people of Texas".<sup>5.</sup>

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## Part IV

## PUBLIC CAREER

## C. The Governor.

Without opposition, Lanham had been nominated for the office of governor by the Democratic Party which met in Galveston in July, 1902. It is told that Thomas M. Campbell, later Governor of the State, at the time of the convention, was asked if he intended to contest Lanham's candidacy. His reply was: "What's the use to run your head against a stone wall?"

The Senate and House official canvass of the vote<sup>1</sup> for Governor showed the following votes cast:

"For S.W.T.Lanham, 269,076 votes.  
For Geo. W. Burkett, 65,706 votes.  
For J.M.Mallett, 12,387 votes.  
For G.W.Carroll 8, 708 votes."

2.  
In the Lieutenant Governor's race, there were cast:

"For George D. Neal, 285,651 votes;  
For D.H.L.Bonner, 14, 752 votes.  
For A.E.Everts, 7, 463 votes.  
Scattering, 4,041 votes."

Hon. Pat M.Neff, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the twenty-eighth Legislature of Texas, announced to a joint meeting of the two Houses, January 16, 1903, that: "S.W.T.Lanham, having received the highest number of votes cast, I, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution

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1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Texas Legislature. Regular session of the 28th Legislature, 1903, p.82  
2. ibid., p.82



and laws of the State of Texas, declare him legally and constitutionally elected Governor of the State of Texas for the ensuing term of two years.

George D. Neal having received the highest number of votes cast, I, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, declare him legally and constitutionally elected Lieutenant-Governor of the State of Texas for the ensuing term of two years".<sup>3.</sup>

The inauguration occurred on Tuesday, January 20, 1903 at high noon. It was a brilliant affair according to witnesses.

The joint session of the Legislature was opened with prayer by Reverend Z.V. Lyles of Williamson County. Associate Justice of the Supreme Court F.A. Williams administered the oath of office to the Governor-elect, who then affixed his signature to the official oath.

Retiring-Governor Sayers spoke first, introducing the incoming officer:<sup>4;</sup> "It is with profound gratification to all that the record, personal and public, of the man who has been called to the Chief Magistracy of this great Commonwealth is such as to make certain that his administration will be wise, honest and efficient. In presenting him, my countrymen and countrywomen, I pray that Heaven's richest benedictions may continually fall upon the State during his term of office; c 13

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3. Ibid., p.82.

4. Ibid., p.104.

that there may not be storm, or drought, or pestilence; that entire peace may everywhere prevail; and that prosperity and happiness may abundantly abide in every home within our borders.

"Ladies and Gentlemen -- The Governor."

Governor Lanham replied: "Gentlemen of the Legislature and Fellow-Citizens: the oath just administered is a solemn and comprehensive one. It has been unreservedly taken and with a 'conscience void of offense' as well as with an acute sense of the obligations it imposes. So far as it relates to the future, it shall be faithfully observed; so far as it relates to the past, it gratifies him who has taken it to declare that neither in letter nor in spirit has there been the least departure in thought or conduct from any fact or purpose its terms embrace and imply. Self-respect and good conscience demand of any officer chosen by the people of our great State a scrupulous regard for everything involved in the oath prescribed by our Constitution. He who cannot accordingly qualify should never aspire to be permitted to hold a public trust."

The entire message was permeated with hope and prediction of a greater Texas that would result from cooperation, intelligent and thoughtful, on the part of all. The conclusion of the address is marked with praise for Governor Sayers, and concluded: "I can only hope that when it shall come to me to turn over this

exalted station to another as he now does to me, it may be to receive the approval which we sincerely extend to him, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant!".<sup>6.</sup>

In turn, the oath of office was administered to Lieutenant-Governor Neal, and the speeches of retiring Lieutenant-Governor Browning and Mr. Neal were "models of brevity and to the point", according to a newspaper dispatch.<sup>7.</sup>

Lanham's first term of office passed without any unusual events. Copies of his messages to the Legislature and records of his vetoes of measures are preserved in the Journal of the House of Representatives, which stressed these points: advocacy of improvement of State institutions; the favoring of a "broad and enlightened policy towards capital and corporations doing business within our state, and towards those desirning to enter our state for the purpose of developing its great natural resources ... opposition to trusts, mergers, and other combinations for the restriction of trade, and demand that the next Legislature shall pass a law or amend our present laws so that it will be impossible for such corporations to do business in Texas";<sup>8.</sup> that "no proper subject of taxation should

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6. Ibid., p. 104-107. The entire message may be found here.

7. The Galveston Daily News, January 21, 1903

8. Journal, House of Representatives, 28th Legislature. p. 110-11.

be allowed to escape just rendition and assessment.

. . . Taxation should be equitably imposed and distributed, and its burden be <sup>9.</sup>proportionately and as far as possible uniformly borne;" <sup>8.</sup>improvement of roads and highways; continuation of the iron works at the Musk Penitentiary, "generous dealing with all State educational institutions <sup>10.</sup> <sup>9.</sup>.... economy in the public expense".

In the speech made by Hon. Edward F. Harris of Galveston at the Democratic Convention in August, 1904, re-nominating Governor Lanham as standard-bearer for the Party, we find this evaluation of Lanham's first term as Chief of State: "Standing unequivocally upon our platform of 1902, ~~he~~ made a vigorous campaign, marked by a series of public addresses of the ablest character, setting forth the fundamental doctrines of our party and the issues of the day so clearly and so powerfully as to completely justify the confidence we had reposed in him. Indeed, his speech of acceptance, his inaugural address, his messages of information and of veto to the Legislature all breathe forth the spirit of a statesman of the Jeffersonian type -- one caring more for the birthright of liberty than the mere accumulation of wealth, valuing rather the rights of the humble than the pomp of power, holding in esteem equal and exact justice to all men rather than the domination

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9. *ibid.*, p. 113.

10. *ibid.* p. 115

over aliens by the right of carnage and the red hand of war.

"No evil escapes his virile pen and voice. Monopoly's horrid front is bared to his pitiless thrusts. Unequal taxation sucking the little of the poor and sparing the much of the rich, finds in him a merciless adversary. The freedom of the ballot, the safeguarding of the fruits of labor, the conservation of agriculture, the education of all the people, economy in public service are his watch words and the shrines of his devotion.

"Nor has he at all confined himself to words. He has carried his thoughts into the act. He has made the platform of his party the creed of his political life. Over and over again, when the legislative department faltered a little, the Governor has, by kindly messages, instilled new courage and new determination in the hearts and brains of his co-workers in the affairs of state, and led them on to the practically complete fulfillment of the party's covenant of 1902 with the people of the State of Texas.

"To him a prior pledge means a subsequent performance. Nor comes he to duty with a tardy step. With the courage of the warrior and the vision of the seer he held steadily before our eyes the danger of the deficiency in our general funds of the State. It was not a pleasant task, but he never flinched. He preached economy and retrenchment and he practiced all he preached.

"He dared brave the displeasure of powerful classes rather than the violation of his official oath. He preferred the dangers of political destruction to the searing of his own conscience.

"No braver man than he ever framed a veto message. His comprehensive view embraced all subjects from the common highways of the state to the faulty title of some proposed legislative enactment. He signed no papers as a mere formality. Each had to pass the keen scrutiny of his inspection. No unconstitutional measure could evade the grasp of his tenacious brain.

"He gave attention to his public duties even to the impairment of his own health. I have personally pleaded with him more than once to be juster to himself in this respect, and his modest answer was simply that the state's business required the sacrifice.

"After the supreme test of doing and dying, of assenting to the good and dissenting from the evil, the Governor still stands in the fierce light that beats upon a throne unblemished and unstained, worthy of the victor's chaplet and the multitude's acclaim.

"He has run a good race. He has fought a good fight. He has kept the faith. It is the verdict of the intelligent and patriotic people." <sup>11.</sup>

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11. Quoted in an editorial appearing in The Daily Herald, Weatherford, Texas, July 31, 1908.

At the convention of the Party, the nominating speech of Mr. Harris, previously quoted, ended with these words: "His life is the record of a man. Brave in war, gentle in peace, a wise counsellor, a gifted orator, he needs no vindication. But did he need vindication, it waits for him here and now at the hands of a grateful people."

"I nominate, as his own successor, for the commanding office of Governor of Texas, the clean citizen, the honest official, the sincere patriot, the survivor of the thin gray line, the Democratic Commoner ---- Samuel Willis Tucker Lanham."

He was nominated by acclamation and on November 8, 1904, was again elected Governor. The votes cast at this time gave Lanham 206,167; Lowden, 56,865; Jackson, 4,509; Mills, 2,847; Clark, 9,301; Leitner, 552; scattering, 170.

12.

Lieutenant-Governor George Neal also was re-elected.

The beginning of Lanham's second term of office was not marked by any especial show of brilliance as had occurred when he was first inaugurated. January 17, 1905, the oath of office was administered, and the message to the Legislature delivered, in which the Governor re-

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12. Journal, House of Representatives, 29th Legislature, p. 58-64, complete returns of the election.

stated the policies which he had pursued during his first term of office, and invoked the support and guidance of the people and their representatives, promising the same in return.

Mr. Neal spoke briefly after the administration of his official oath.<sup>13.</sup>

Messages to the Legislature are preserved in the Journal of the House of Representatives of the Legislature holding sessions during 1905 and 1906. During Lanham's second term of office, he assisted in the reception accorded President Roosevelt April 6, 1905 on his visit to Texas.

In the Governor's chief message to the Legislature, delivered January 12, 1905, he emphasized the subject of Revenue and Taxation for especial remedy, adding a report of the condition of all of the government. Particular attention was paid the educational institutions of the state, particularly the establishment and opening of the Girls' Industrial College of Texas at Denton, and the progress made by the University of Texas at Austin, then twenty-one years old, and the Agricultural and Mechanical College at College Station. Accompanying the message, was a statement of public monies paid from state funds subject to the order of the Governor, the vouchers for which were on record<sup>14.</sup>

~~in-the-Comptroller's-office.~~-----  
13. *ibid.*, p.112-113.

14. This message may be found in the Journal, House of Representatives, 1905, pp. 40-54.



The administration of Governor Lanham lacked the distinction of any spectacular achievement because it was not his way to do big or startling things. There were not present during his incumbency any 'burning issues' which would add notoriety to his work. His method was to do the things his hands found to do, intelligently, patiently and justly. Simple, economical and honest government was his desire. He was content to maintain the excellent qualities which he found existing in the government when he took office. Perhaps the most notable incident of the administration was "his successful insistence upon the restoration of the iron industry at the Rusk penitentiary and the outcome demonstrated his political wisdom".<sup>15.</sup> His conduct of office was that of a conservative balance of power as suggested by the Constitution, rather than that of a domineering militant and ultra-progressive character. His attitude toward legislation was suggestive, but conservative. He did not try to coerce.

On January 15, 1907, showing his intense devotion to his State and Party, Governor Lanham delivered his farewell address before the Legislature and a group of Texas citizens:

"In popular governments the transition from public office to private citizenship is easy and simple and accomplished without friction or tumult. Adminis-

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15. Fort Worth Record, July 31, 1908

trations change by the will of the people, to which there is always a patriotic deference. No Democratic Governor has ever failed to acquiesce in and yield to the mandate of the citizenship as expressed at the polls, and every retiring chief executive takes his place in the ranks with cordial good wishes for the well being of his State and the success of the administration that comes after him. A moment ago he who now addresses you was your Governor, and he who shall presently speak to you was a private citizen. How quickly and quietly and peacefully have these relations been changed. The private citizen is now Governor and his predecessor is no longer in official position.

"I make grateful acknowledgements to the people of Texas for the honors they have conferred upon and the confidence they have reposed in me. I leave their service without consciousness of any infidelity to their interests or lack of devotion to their cause. No candid man can claim perfection.

"I bespeak for him who officially follows me, the loyal support of the people and ask that his hands be upheld in his efforts to promote the public welfare. At all times let him have the credit of being actuated by good motives and doing what he believes right. Let no encouragement be given to unjust criticism of his acts.

Let him, under all circumstances, receive the consideration due the Governor of the greatest State in the Union. May the State grow better and greater through his guidance. May patriotism, prosperity and progress mark his administration. May God bless him, and the Commonwealth to whose service he has been called.

"I now have the honor and do myself the pleasure to introduce to this splendid audience, his Excellency, Thomas M. Campbell."

With these words, Governor Lanham left public office with the same reputation of a scrupulously honest, earnest and faithful man, bearing which he had entered office.

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## Part V

## His Last Days and Death

Completely broken in health, Governor Lanham returned to Weatherford, but a semblance of his former self. Because of his weakened condition he did not re-enter the practice of law. Mrs. Lanham was also in poor health.

September 13, 1907, he was appointed as a Regent of the University of Texas by his successor in office, Governor Campbell. The minutes of the meetings of the Board showed that he was present October 15, 1907, January 31, 1908. He did not attend the three meetings following, May 30, June 8, and July 6, 1908, for at this time his health was failing fast.

July 2, 1908, the birthday of their daughter, Grace, Mrs. Lanham died very suddenly, and was buried July 4, the birthday of her husband.

During the morning of Wednesday, July 29, of the same year (the birthday of his son, Howard), Governor Lanham rallied a bit. His condition had become worse since the death of his wife, and his recovery was doubtful. As the day wore on, he asked for his glasses, and asked that the papers be brought to him. It was not until after dark that it seemed apparent that

the end was so near. At 11:25 that night, conscious to the last, he passed away -- calmly, peacefully, with a smile on his lips.<sup>2.</sup>

Governor Lanham had no fear of death. His outlook on life and death is beautifully expressed in the following excerpt of a letter, written February 27, 1898, to his brother John and his wife, shortly after the death of their son, Wilbur: "We have learned, with deep sorrow, of your sad bereavement. We can sympathize more fully because of the fact that we barely escaped a similar affliction last year. It is hard to give up our children -- hard when they are infants as we know from experience -- but it must be ar more severe when they are just entering young manhood. But death is inevitable -- and every human life must sometime and somewhere reach the end. Ere long and we must all part with each other at the grave. We must suffer what we cannot avoid. Time and change and your own philosophy and Christian resignation are all that can come to your relief in such a trouble as you are no called upon to endure".

The funeral was held July 31, in Weatherford. Reverend M.K.Little read the service, concluding with -----  
2. See Appendix F. Letters from Howard M.Lanham and Dr. J.M.Lanham.

these remarks:

"Both his history and principles have made this man a great man. He was a Prince because of his position among us. He was a man because of his intellectual power, the gift of God to man. He bore the stamp of the real who walk close to God.

"It is a man who has not failed, not the man which the tailor may array in togs, but such a being as God had in mind when he said "Let us make man in our own image". He had a mind and used it. He had a heart and yielded to it. He was a man who made his own conditions and succeeded in life in spite of his conditions. He cared little of things for himself, but for his country and his God he reckoned no task too great to have his efforts and he considered no duty too small to have his best endeavor. He was a man fortified to meet emergencies and none found him unprepared. As a boy he became a soldier and a faithful one. As a young man he entered upon the struggle of life as a poor man, but well equipped with the things of God. He undertook his duty regardless of the cost. It is said truly of the men who with the help of God dare everything that their works do follow them. They cannot die.

"True it is that the best men must pass away. The lofty poplar, the stately pine, the lordly oak, the shapely fir, like the flowers of the day, must drop their leaves at our feet. The child passes into age, and soon

or late each must render an account unto God of the things done in the body. Whether the blossom be in the protecting shade or in the sun of the tropics, or in the ices of the frozen north, nothing is out of reach of death.

"The earthly physician may stay for a time the advance of disease, but at last he must stand helpless and a silent spectator. None but God can turn back the years of a Hezekiah and move against its course the finger on the dial of an Ahaz. The child passes away on the bosom of the mother. The parent leans more and more heavily upon the arm of the son. The sear and yellow leaf must come to all. The sap of life must fail, and the shock of battle must finally come as conqueror of all that is mortal.

"But through all time has come the comfort of the immortality. Glory to God for the consciousness of the Christian that such men as this, though he died, shall live again, and living and believing shall never die. In Church and in State, in home and in business, this Godly man has done more in his sixty-two years of life than many others can do in a hundred. And the spirit that raised Jesus up from the dead shall ever keep in us the germ of new existence. This body shall live again. One day it shall come forth in glory and it shall die no more forever. Faraday precipitated the silver of the cup that had been dissolved in acid and from the pre-

cupitate he formed a new and more beautiful cup. So God shall do with this body".

The body was placed in the cemetery at Weatherford by the side of his wife's grave.

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## Part VI

## The Man: His Characteristics.

Governor Lanham was about five feet, eight and one-half inches in height of "rotund bodily contour, and of a restful movement".<sup>1.</sup> He limped slightly as a result of a broken leg, sustained when he was a boy.

His speech was slow and deliberate; his vocabulary practically unlimited. As a pleader and advocate at the Bar he has been described as "well-nigh resistless".<sup>2.</sup> He enjoyed a good joke, and was famous for his ability to recount humorous incidents. His power of mimicry was unexcelled.

Concerning oratory, Governor Lanham followed this rule: "Begin low, go slow, rise higher, take fire". He had a really phenomenal memory. He could write speeches which would require two hours for delivery, and when it was written he could repeat every word without reviewing it.

One peculiar thing about his speaking, according to Hon. Fritz G. Lanham, was that "he felt he could not speak with my mother present, so she was always deprived of hearing his public utterances."

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1. Daniel, L.F. - Personnel of the Texas State Government, p  
 2. Daniel, L.F. - op. cit., p. 146.

It is interesting to note that many of his speeches he 'tried out' on his sons. Hon. Fritz G. Lanham relates several incidents when he held the script as his father practices delivery. One of the most famous of Governor Lanham's speeches was the one he used at Confederate Reunions. It was never published in reports, for he specifically asked reporters and correspondents not to publish it. Doctor Howard Lanham tells the story that one day, as a boy hurrying in from play to get a baseball bat to replace one just broken, his father called to him. Going to him, he found the Governor crying. Play forgotten, alarmed at the sight of his father in tears, he paused as Mr. Lanham asked his son to listen to the paper he was writing which vividly painted pictures of the hardships which the Confederates, starved, ragged, suffering, had to undergo. Thus he was the first person to hear the words which were later known as "Lanham's Confederate Speech".

An interesting incident with reference to his knowledge of Latin is given by Hon. Fritz G. Lanham: "When Professore Rowland, who is now teaching at either Vanderbilt or Columbia, came to take charge of Weatherford College, he invited some speaker to come and make the opening address. The exercises were to be at eleven o'clock in the morning and the train arrived at ten. For some reason, the speaker did not put in his appearance. Mr. Rowland then asked my father to make

this opening speech, and he accepted and went forth to the College. Mr. Rowland told me afterwards about his speech. He said that, much to his surprise, my father quoted from memory a page or two of one of Cicero's Oration against Cataline in Latin and then proceeded to give it in English. Mr. Rowland is himself a classical scholar, and he told me that he did not suppose that there was any man not engaged in school teaching who could at an advanced age duplicate that performance".

Governor Lanham was a very devoted and conscientious member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. His extensive and thorough familiarity with the Bible was evidenced by the frequency and aptness with which he utilized Scriptural quotations.

Although not a particularly demonstrative man in the home circle, he was exceedingly devoted to the welfare and interest of his family, and ambitious for his children. It was his desire that his children might have every educational advantage. It was not possible for him to attend schools as he desired due to the impoverished conditions of his family, and the fact that he was fighting in the Confederate forces at a time when most boys attend school. Though a well educated man, Lanham's knowledge was a result of his own effort and not due to attendance at schools, as shown in a previous part of this paper.

Governor Lanham was very adept at playing the fiddle. His instrument, with rattlesnake rattles within, and Masonic emblem on the bridge, is still intact. He was able to whistle with a briar leaf between his lips -- the sound being similar to that of the flute, though of a richer, fuller note.

It is significant to note the fact that he was the last Confederate soldier to hold the office of Governor of Texas. It is interesting to mention that in June, 1905, Governor Lanham was granted the honorary degree of "Doctoris Legum" by Baylor University.

Farm lad, soldier, pioneer, teacher, lawyer, Congressman, Governor -- thus ran the eventful life of my grandfather, Samuel Willis Tucker Lanham.

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## Appendix A

SUBJECT: MURDER TRIAL OF THREE INDIAN CHIEFS

COPY: FEATURE STORY IN WEATHERFORD DEMOCRAT

### WEATHERFORD ATTORNEYS HELPED IN MURDER TRIAL OF THREE INDIAN CHIEFS

In the early part of 1871 three Indian chiefs, Satank, Satanta and Big Tree, in company with about twenty-five warriors left Fort Sill, Indian Reservation Territory, and made several daring raids in and around Weatherford and what was then Parker County. On one of these raids they killed and scalped a bunch of teamsters near Jacksboro. On May the seventeenth of that year they were arrested by General William T. Sherman at Fort Sill and sent to Texas for trial.

Near the scene of the murder and scalping of the teamsters, Satank, who was a large and powerful Indian, succeeded in removing his chains, and seizing a gun, attempted the life of one of the troopers. The following account of the incident and the trial is taken from Smythe's "Historical Sketch of Weatherford and Parker County, Texas":

As quick as he was observed, a file of soldiers poured a volley into the desperado, and he fell at their feet. This sudden and unexpected termination of Satank created the greatest consternation and alarm in Satanta and Big Tree, and the balance of the trip, while they were perfectly docile, they were placed under the closest surveillance until lodged and chained to the floor of their prison cell.

The arrest of Satanta and Big Tree occasioned general rejoicing throughout North Texas; and it is not to be wondered at when the condition of the country and the number of atrocious murders are considered. As soon as the prisoners were taken to Jacksboro, and the fact was made known to Judge Soward, of the thirteenth Judicial District, at weatherford, his Honor fixed an immediate trial at the term then ensuing.

The trial commenced on Wednesday, July 5, 1871, Judge Charles Soward on the bench. The district attorney, S.W.T. Lanham, Esq., of Weatherford (and later Governor of Texas) conducted the prosecution. Thomas Ball, then of Weatherford, and later of Jacksboro, and J.A. Woolfork, appeared for the prisoners. The court room was densely packed, during the progress of the case with men, women and children. It occasioned the greatest curiosity and excitement. These Indian chiefs were the first and only chiefs ever tried before a civil court in America. The interest then, as might be supposed, was intense.

Judge Soward's charge was delivered to the jury on July the eighth. "The jury was absent but a little while. When they returned a verdict of 'guilty of murder in the first degree' and fixed the punishment at death -- there was a silence, and indescribable silence, until the audience broke forth in one shout of rejoicement. The result closed the trial which was second to none in importance in America".

Governor Davis, on August 2, 1871, commuted the sentence of Satanta and Big Tree to life imprisonment. They entered the prison at Huntsville, November 2, 1871.

The following note may be found opposite the records of these two Indians -- "Set at liberty by Governor Davis, August 19, 1873, upon recommendation of U.S. Grant, president of the United States".

The following note may be found opposite the record of Satanta: "Returned to the penitentiary by Lieutenant General Sheridan, November 8, 1874, having violated his parole".

Big Tree was never captured, but Big Bow, another Kiowa chief was held as hostage in his stead. Before parole Big Tree worked constantly bottoming chairs, and became very expert, and could put in as many or more bottoms than any other hand. Big Tree was punished once, by being placed in the stocks, for being disrespectful to a guard. Satanta was never punished. Both were very fond of tobacco and whiskey. Satanta was very much addicted to the use of opium, having used it for fifteen or twenty years. He preferred it to whiskey".

SUBJECT: SATANTA

COPY: MAGAZINE SECTION OF FORT WORTH STAR TELEGRAM 10/13/29

EXCERPTS FROM FEATURE STORY BY PAUL SOWARD LEEPER

SATANTA

STORY OF THE TRIAL OF THIS INDIAN  
WHOSE NAME WAS SPOKEN WITH FEAR  
IN PIONEER DAYS OF TEXAS

On the afternoon of a hot, bright day in June, 1871, the garrison of Fort Richardson at Jacksboro, Texas, was hurriedly assembled. The flurry attracted the attention of citizens of the little county seat, and a questioning crowd gathered. A lookout had seen a cloud of dust to the north.

The cloud became a cavalcade. Soon in that clear the watchers were able to make out that the riders wore army blue, and a cheer went up. It was a detachment of the Fourth Cavalry, with a covered wagon and a band of Tonkawas trailers.

A little later the wheel-beaten column wheeled into the grounds of the fort, the garrison band blared its liveliest tunes, there were salutes and dismountings -- but the eyes of the townspeople were upon a gaunt Indian. His feet were lashed under his pony's belly, his hands were manacled, and he was closely guarded by the Tonkawa trailers.

"Satanta!"

"He was stark naked except for a breech clout and a pair of embroidered moccasins", wrote Lieutenant R.G. Carter, who saw him that day. "Owing to the intense heat he allowed his blanket to slip down to his saddle and around his loins. His coarse, jet black hair, now thickly powdered with dust, hung tangled about his neck, except a single scalp lock with but one feather to adorn it. His immense shoulders, broad back, powerful thighs and hips contrasted singularly with the slight forms of the Tonkawas grouped around him. The muscles stood out on his gigantic frame like knots. Proud and erect in the saddle, his immobile face and motionless body gave him the appearance of polished mahogany, or perhaps a bronze equestrian statue sprinkled with dust. Nothing but his intensely black, glittering eyes betokened any life in that carved figure".

It might not be news today if a man bit a dog. But the arrest of Satanta and his fellow chief, Big Tree was news upon the Texas frontier, and their subsequent trial before a civil court was drama. Never before in the history of the Southwest had wild Indians been dealt with upon the plane of white man's justice. With the

wntire border enraged to the point of violence, the trial of Satanta and Big Tree was not conducted without strain. They were undoubtedly guilty of the crime with which they were charged and suspected of many more, and the trial, if grotesque and almost comic in places, was conducted with full benefit of oratory and was utterly legal throughout. But some conception of its tragic background is necessary to the full appreciation of the novel affair.

On May 17, 1871, a wagon train left Jacksboror for Fort Griffin. Some hours later a bedraggled and terror-stricken teamster staggered into Jacksborro with a terrible story. Alone of the seven men who had set out with the train he had escaped a butchery. A hundred or more Indians had attacked them, killing the teamsters and driving off their mules.

The little town seethed and General Mackenzie with a detachment of cavalry at once set out to pursue the marauders. The pursuit was all in vain but the general was only too able to confirm the massacre. He found the embers of the two wagons and the horribly mutilated bodies of the victims. Two of them had been chained under a wagon and burned to death.

It was a fortunate incident that a man arrived in Jacksboro that day whose stern common sense was to grasp the insanity of the Indian policy and whose authority was to end it. General William T. Sherman had come from San Antonio on a tour of inspection. A delegation of Jacksboro citizens at once called upon him and laid before him the situation which had resulted from allowing the Indians to leave their reservation. General Sherman was impressed and promised to make recommendations to the Washington authorities. Two days later he was at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, on the reservation conferring with Laure Tatum, Indian agent, who admitted sadly that the experiment was going from bad to worse.

It is doubtful if the perpetrators of the wagon train massacre would ever have been apprehended but for Satanta's crazy pride. He could not contain himself. A few days after the arrival of General Sherman, he appeared at the agency with several other Kiowa chiefs, among them, Big Tree, Satank, and Kicking Bird and Lone Wolf. Presumably he had exhausted his audience among the tribes and now he wanted to strut before Tatum. That astonished person listened with his mouth open while the glory-drunken chief boasted of his deed. Satanta wanted it understood that while Satank and Big Tree had accompanied him on the raid, he alone had commanded. And he called upon the sun, the moon and the stars to witness that if any other Indian claimed part of the glory such a one was a liar and lower than a white man. All this was punctuated with mighty thumps of the chest.



The braggart was taken at his word. The horrified Tatum rushed to Fort Sill and reported the matter to General Sherman who immediately ordered the arrest of Satanta, Big Tree and Satank. And on May 30, heavily ironed, they were sent under military escort to Jacksboro to stand trial for murder.

The ignominy of arrest and the humiliating prospect of trial before white men was too much for one of the prisoners, Satank, less spectacular than Satanta, but a much feared medicine man of his tribe, never reached Jacksboro. He was in the leadwagon, telling Satanta and Big Tree that he was a warrior and a chief and not to be treated like a little child. And suddenly the guards head a wierd chant. They did not know it but Satank was singing his death song. The thing sounds like Fenimore Cooper, but it is a fact. Here is the song (translated):

"O, Sun, you remain forever,  
but we, Kaitsenka, must die;  
O, Earth, you remain forever,  
but we, Kaitsenka, must die".

Having finished the song, Stank sprang from the wagon and wrestled with one of the guards. But the military were on the alert for just this sort of thing, and Satank was riddled with bullets. It was found that under cover of the wagon top he had loosened his manacles by gnawing his wrists to the bone.

On July 5, the two shiefs were duly indicted for murder before Judge Charles Soward of the Thirteenth (now Forty-third) Judicial District of Texas. The prosecuting attorney was S.W.T. Lanham, and it is probable that his eloquence on this occasion first brought him into political prominence. The jurors were: T.W. Williams, S. Cooper, Peter Lynn, Lucas Bunch, John Cameron, William Hensley, Peter Hart, James Cooley, Everett Johnson, W.B. Werner, John H. Brown and Daniel Brown.

The morning of the trial found the little town swarming with frontiersmen and their families, and every man had his 'shooting iron' strapped to his hip. The log courthouse could not hold half of them, and those who could not get inside packed 10 feet deep at the open windows.

Satanta and Big Tree, their chains clanking, were marched into the court-room and seated inside the railing. Wild Indians could usually be apprehended by more than one sense.

Counsel for the defense opened with a speech which would have delighted the Eastern Indian cult. He referred to the wrongs done the noble red man. He delved into history and called up the ghosts of Montezuma and Guatamozin.

He pulled the tremolo stop for all it was worth; he we and perspired. Despite the travesty of the thing, the listened solemnly and there was utter silence in the courtroom. Apparently the listeners reasoned that as long as Satanta and Big Tree were to be dignified by a trial they might as well have everything from soup to nuts.

The prosecuting attorney followed with a burst of oratory, part of which demands quotation. Hear him:

'This vast collection of our border people, this sea of faces, including distinguished gentlemen, civil and military, who have come hither to witness the triumph of law and justice over barbarism; the matron and the maiden, the gray-haired sire and the immature lad who have been attracted to this tribunal by this unusual occasion, all conspire to surround this case with thrilling and extraordinary interest!

'Satanta, the veteran council chief of the Kiowas, the orator, the diplomat of his tribe, the pulse of his race; Big Tree, the young warrior chief who leads in the thickest of the fight, and follows none in the chase, the warrior athlete, with the speed of the deer and the eye of the eagle, are before this bar in the charge of the law! So they would be described by Indian admirers who live in more secure and favored lands remote from the frontier, where distance lends enchantment to the imagination and where the dread war-whoop is not heard. We, who see them today disrobed of all their fancied graces, exposed to the light of reality, behold them through far different lenses! We recognize in Satanta, the arch-fiend of treachery and blood, the artful dealer in bravado while in the powwow, and the most abject coward in the field, as well as in the double-tongued hypocrite when detected and over come! Big Tree, we perceive the tiger-demon who has tasted blood and loves it for his food, who is swift at every species of ferocity and pities not at the sight of agony and death. Mistaken sympathy for these creatures has kindled the flame around the cabin of the pioneer and despoiled him of his hard earnings, murdered and scalped our people and carried our women into captivity worse than death, etc. '

But Satanta furnished the climax of the occasion. Liar and poseur to the last, treacherous, cunning, immensely conceited, he was nevertheless a striking personality. And he knew it. When he arose to speak for himself at the end of the trial, he took the show away from all the assembled dignitaries. His harangue was spoken in the Comanche tongue and was quickly translated by the interpreter. Holding up his manacled hands dramatically, he said:

'I cannot speak with these things upon my wrists; you make me a squaw. Has anything been heard from the Great Father? I have never been so near the Tehannas (Texans) before. I look around me and see your braves, squaws ar

pappooses and I have said in my heart that if I ever get back to my people I will never wage war upon you again. I have always been a friend of the white man. My tribe has taunted me and called me a squaw because if have been a friend to the Tehannas. I am suffering now for the crimes of bad Indians -- of Satank and Lone Wolf and Kicking Bird and Fast Bear and Eagle Heart -- and if you will let me go, I will kill the three latter with my own hands. If you will let me go, I will withdraw my warriors from Tehannas. I will wash out the spots of blood and make it a white land and there shall be peace and the Tehannas may plow and drive their oxen to the river. But if you killeme, it will be a spark on the prairies -- make big fire -- burn heap!

But the oratory on both sides was mere ornament. The evidence against the two distinguished devils was overwhelming.

The jury was briefly charged. There being no private room for their deliberations, the jurymen simply went into a huddle in one corner of the courtroom. There was a vigorous and unanimous nodding of heads and they were back on their benches. The foreman could hardly wait for the question, and there was an instinctive hitching of 'shooting irons' here and there. Some of the frontier gentry had little sympathy for this palaver.

'What say you, Mr. Foreman? Is this Indian chief, Satanta, guilty or nor guilty of murder?'

'He is', roared the answer, 'We figger him guilty!'

Tension dissolved into wild cheer. When order was restored, Big Tree was tried and 'figgered' the same way. Both were sentenced to be hanged and the entire border called it a good day's work.

But sentence was never executed. Satanta had been wiser than his lawyers; the climax of his speech contained a truth. Judge Soward, knowing the Indian's nature and fearing that capital punishment would but excite the tribes to revenge, and knowing too the Indian's morbid dread of confinement, recommended to Governor Davis that their sentences be commuted to life imprisonment. The Governor agreed, and Satanta and Big Tree were transferred to the state penitentiary at Huntsville. There they suffered intensely from the confinement.

But not far long. For once again the Indian lobby at Washington was able to influence the authorities and two years later Satanta and Big Tree were paroled on promises of good behavior and sent back to the reservation. Big Tree had seen the light and lived up to the terms of his parole but Satanta could not understand clemency or realize that the day of the warpath was done. Raiding began in 1874. Satanta's hand was once more apparent. He was rearrested and returned to the penitentiary.

But he was a wild bird, and the cage was worse than death. He brooded and drooped. Once when his chance came he flung himself headlong from the third floor of the prison. He had escaped at last, as they say in the melodramas.

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SUBJECT: ELECTION TO 48TH CONGRESS.

COPY: LETTER FROM S.W.T.LANHAM TO J.C.LANHAM. --NOV.21,1882

Weatherford, Texas.

21st Nov. '82.

My dear Brother:-

I acknowledge with great pleasure your postal of the 15th. As soon as the result of the election was definitely ascertained, I addressed a letter to our mother informing her of my success, and laying at her feet, my first trophy in politics. I am glad, Johnnie, because it may serve to help our family name and because I know it will be gratifying to our kindred blood. I shall strive with all the energy of my nature and manhood to sustain myself and reflect credit upon my people. I would rather have been defeated than to make a failure in the Federal Legislature. There are 80 counties in my District. It is the largest Representative District in the American Union. The territory is as extensive as that of Mississippi and Alabama combined. My success was truly phenomenal. I had three competitors, two Democratic and one Greenbacker. One of my Democratic opponents, Maj. Davenport, had been in politics for twenty years -- had just retired as state senator -- was a man of great prominence -- lived near the geographic center of the Dist., and had much to do with the formation of the District as a member of the Texas Legislature which re-districted the State. Mr. Buck, the other Democrat is a young man of worth and ability having made much character as Dist. Atty. Dr. Burnett the Greenbacker is of my own county -- a man of worth and prominence, having served as a member of our last constitutional convention and being a man of popularity and large personal following. As far as heard from, I carried every county in the Dist., except three, possibly four, and have received more votes in the Dist., than all my competitors combined. Being elected to the 48th Congress, I shall not take my seat until Dec. '83, unless a special session be called, and it is not likely that a Republican President will convene a Democratic House before the regular time, without some extraordinary emergency. I shall apply myself diligently in the meantime to the study of such practical questions of political economy as will likely demand any attention in the future. I have this morning received a letter from Ma which was evidently written before she had received my letter. I gave her the first authoritative tidings as above intimated. Tell her not to be uneasy about my morals. I shall be totally abstemious from drink and will strive to make her proud of me. Give my love to your wife. She is a favorite with my wife and myself. Remember me to my old school-fellow, Sank Camp, and all my old friends. I will be glad to have you write to me whenever you have leisure and inclination. God bless you!

Y'r brother,

Signed -- S.W.T.Lanham

SUBJECT: OPPONENT IN CONGRESSIONAL RACE, 1896

COPY: LETTER FROM JUDGE W.E. SPELL TO JUDGE C.H.JENKINS

Law Offices

SPELL NAMAN & PENLAND

Waco, Texas

August 9, 1928.

Judge Chas. Jenkins,  
Brownwood, Texas.

My dear Friend:-

One of the high school girls of this city is writing a paper on the life of her grandfather, the Hon. S.W.T. Lanham, of blessed memory. She asked me the name of the Populist standard bearer that ran against him for Congress in 1896. I could not for the life of me recall accurately and I have been unable to find any data at hand that would give me this information. I told her that I would write to you, to write me, by return mail, the name of the Populist who was an opponent of S.W.T.Lanham for Congress. I would be glad if you would do this.

My recollection is that Chas. K. Bell was at that time a member of Congress, but fearing that he would be unable to defeat the Populist candidate, he withdrew and then ex-Congressman S.W.T.Lanham was called out and put in the race.

Please give me the facts as to this.

Your friend, very truly,

Signed: W.ESpell.

SUBJECT OPPONENT IN CONGRESSIONAL RACE, 1896

COPY: LETTER FROM JUDGE C.H.JENKINS TO JUDGE W.E.SPELL

Law offices of  
Jenkins, Miller & Wilson  
Brownwood, Texas

September 1, 1928

Judge W.E.Spell,  
Waco, Texas.

Dear Sir & Friend:

I have been absent on a vacation for three weeks and hence my delay in answering your letter of the 9th inst. It was I who made the race against Governor Lanham in 1896. I had made the race the previous year, but Governor Lanham's votes gave him a majority.

I have known Governor Lanham since he was a young lawyer at Weatherford, and I was a boy. Our relations were cordial, and they continued so during the campaign. Governor Lanham was one of the most lovable men I have ever known. He was one of the hardest working governors that Texas has ever had. If there is any further information for the Granddaughter of Governor Lanham I will be pleased to furnish this.

With kindest regards to yourself and Mrs. Spell.

Your friend,

Signed: C.H.Jenkins

SUBJECT: OPPONENT IN CONGRESSIONAL RACE, 1896

COPY: LETTER FROM FRED COCKRELL TO JUDGE W.E.SPELL

LAKELAND

Abilene, Texas

Sept. 4, 1928

Judge,

Charles H. Jenkins ran against Lanham in 1896 and got 17,510 votes while Lanham polled 20,935 and Peter Smith 747 on Gold Standard ticket. My father ran against Dean in 1894 on the Democratic ticket as the Convention failed to make a nomination under the two-thirds rule, Judge Cockrell failing to get a two-thirds majority by less than one vote. He defeated Gilliland of Jack Co. by the small majority of something over 500.

It looks like a divided party this year means a reduced vote for the nominees in this State but I feel sure the electoral vote will be all right.

I am glad to be able to give any assistance to Governor Lanham's Granddaughter for the West always held in the highest esteem the name of Lanham, and his old district as he described it, 'as bounded on the West by the grace of God' has no bounds in its affection for its old time Representative.

Yours,

Signed: Fred Cockrell



SUBJECT: RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF  
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS.

COPY: MINUTES OF MEETING, OCTOBER 16, 1908.

"Minute of the regents in memory of Governor Lanham --  
On the 29th day of July, 1908, died Regent S.W.T. Lanham,  
at his home in weatherford, after a long illness.

"Samuel Willis Tucker Lanham was born at Spartanburg,  
S.C., July 4, 1846. After a common school education,  
though only a boy, he entered the Confederate army and  
served with distinction in the Third South Carolina  
regiment. In 1866 he was married to Sarah B. Meng, a  
woman whose strength and sympathy formed one of the chief  
elements of his success through forty-two years, dying at  
last less than two months before him. Shortly after his  
marriage he came to Texas and taught school for a time.  
He was admitted to the bar in 1869, and soon built up a  
strong practice. Entering politics he was in 1880, made  
a professional elector and in 1882 was chosen for Congress.  
As a member of congress for eighteen years he distinguished  
himself by his devotion to the interests of his constituents,  
his large minded study of public questions, and his faithful  
performance of duty. In 1902 his prominent position as  
a public man secured his nomination and election as gov-  
ernor of the state. This office he filled for the usual  
two terms the keynote of his administration, as of his  
whole life, being fidelity to trust. Though weakened by  
serious illness, he stood constantly to his work, his  
actions guided always by conscience that knew no wrong.  
On the resignation of J.W. Presler, he was appointed by  
his successor as Governor a member of our Board. His  
interest in the University was sincere, and had he been  
spared longer it would have borne abundant fruit.

"We mourn his loss as a man able, true, upright in  
all his dealings and faithful to his trusts. we direct  
the secretary to dispatch to his family a copy of this  
minute as a token of our sympathy and to the leading  
newspapers of the state as a mark of honor in which we held  
him".



SUBJECT: ILLNESS OF S.W.T.LANHAM

COPY: LETTER FROM DR. HOWARD M. LANHAM TO DR. J.M.LANHAM

Weatherford, Texas.

July 24, 1908.

Dr. J.M.Lanham,  
Woodruff, S.C.

My dear Uncle Marion:

Your letters reached me this morning. I have been here all the time since Mama's death, except one day, which I spent in Waco.

Papa is extremely emaciated and weak. You know he has had Diabetes for several years, and during his tenure of office as Governor he was subjected to great strain and worry. \* \* \* But in sustaining the strain and worry of official life and combating the Diabetic trouble he has exhausted his reserve and depreciated his recuperative faculties to a minimum. Something more than a year ago he had a severe attack of La Grippe \*\*\* Neither the Diabetic nor the pulmonary lesion seem severe or extensive enough to account for his present condition. But he presents the picture of mal-assimilation and mal-nutrition. \* \* \* He was barely able to attend Mama's funeral. He has been confined to bed since then and he is now too weak to sit up at all. \* \* \* He is apt to pass away any time but may linger for a time. I am doing all in my power to make him comfortable.

He is still interested in the papers and his letters. He reads the papers himself part of the time and at other times we read them to him. This morning he seemed rather weaker than usual but brightened up and when the papers came he had me to read all of the news of the political situation to him and he listened with much interest. \* \* \*

Signed: Howard M. Lanham

SUBJECT: DEATH OF S.W.T.LANHAM

COPY: LETTER FROM GEORGE MCCALL (brother-in-law) TO J.M.  
LANHAMMCCALL & EATON  
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

Weatherford, Texas.

7/30/08.

Dear Bud:

Sam passed away last night at 11:30. Nanie and I were not present at his death, but reached the house a short time thereafter. He died without pain. His children except Frank were present. He was conscious to the last. I had a number of talks with him, both before and after Sallie's death. He recognized the inevitable and was ready and anxious to go, especially since her death. He seemed to be spiritually all right. He expressed himself as a believer in Christ Jesus, and had so endeavored to live according to the revelation of the word. I have always believed that he was truly a follower of Christ. I cannot but think that a man who lives as upright and blameless a life as he did, will sure get his reward. I have been specially intimate with him since he came back home. I might say I was his spiritual friend and confidant, since he often talked to me about the world beyond, his prospects, hopes and beliefs. The preachers here used to harass him no little, and sometimes he would turn on them, and they would flee before him in a way that was laughable and even ridiculous, but with all that he was a sincere Christian man, always trying to live righteously or rightly before God and man. He will be buried tomorrow at eleven o'clock. He has thousands of admiring friends over Texas, and they all believe and know that the world has been better and not worse for his living. He made a fine governor, his appointments to office were always happy and his schemes of government when allowed to carry them out were successful. Of course, he was often hampered by the legislature and by opposing policies. It is a remarkable thing that after he was once elected to Congress he never had opposition so too, after elected governor he had no opposition. His oratorical talents was very remarkable. Sometimes it was really wonderful. He was always ready and made a eloquent speech, full of thought on any occasion, but at times, I have seen him moved by a spirit of eloquence both in the courthouse and on the hustings that seemed to me to reach the most loft heights of eloquence. I have not time to particularize. He had not filled out the measure of his days. We all hoped he and Sallie could give a number of years to

of peaceful and happy life, but it was not so decreed, and we must needs submit to the will of providence. Sure it is that beginning as a humble farmer boy he reached the highest gift that could be granted him by the great State of Texas, and the reputation of none of her governors will be greater than that of Sam's. He will be remembered as an upright, conscientious officer, and a brilliant honest, earnest statesman and politician. I tender my condolence to you all, and let me assure you, none of you will miss him more than myself, for he has always been a helpful friend to me. Remember me to Lula and the rest of the folk.

Yours in love,

Signed: G.A.McCall

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