



HAGGARD

The distinguished Haggard ancestry traces back to Sir Andrew Ogard (Haggard), Knight of Bradenham Castle, County Norfolk, who settled in England and was naturalized in 1433.

Youngest son of John and Mourning Quisenberry Haggard, Clinton Shepard Haggard was born in Winchester, Kentucky, November 12, 1838. Clinton's mother died when he was he was eight years old. This prompted his father to seek a new life for himself and Clinton in Texas. A long journey pursued. Cramped inside a buggy with his father, a slave girl and a few belongings, Clinton arrived in the western prairies of a county named Collin in North Texas. After buying a section of land they invested in stock, horses and mules. Shortly after the death of his father, Clinton married Miss Nannie Kate Lunsford in 1859, at the home of the bride's mother.

Clinton S. Haggard began his early business life in Plano with a savings of \$3,000, and by the practice of frugality and hard work, was well into building his estate when the Civil War broke out. Being Southern by birth, and deeply sympathetic with the Confederate cause, he enlisted in Company G, Alexander's Regiment. By the fall of 1863 he had been transferred to Maxie's Brigade, where he remained until the end of the Civil War.



Honorably discharged, Clinton returned home and, with quiet determination, began the task of retrieving his losses. He succeeded so well that in 1884 he bought more land and built a new colonial home two miles northwest of what is now downtown Plano. The stunning home would later be named "Fairview." Here, their children, in whom were deeply implanted the virtues of hard work, determination and a

long life of honest forbears, grew to maturity. Each, like their father, would become an esteemed member of the Plano community.

In later years, Clinton Haggard was an outstandingly successful farmer and stockman, attaining some of the largest landholdings in Collin County. In 1904, Clinton gave each of his seven children 320 acres of farm land, while still retaining holdings in Collin, Denton and Dallas Counties. Clinton and Nannie Kate contributed liberally to the Church; to Texas Christian University, Juliette Fowler Orphanage and numerous worthy causes. Today, near downtown Plano, Haggard Memorial Park commemorates these early benefactors.



Relatives and close friends were always excited to attend the Haggard family celebrations. Clinton and Nannie Kate were gracious hosts.

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Haggard festivities were always on a grand scale. All anniversaries and special events were celebrated by holding large family dinners. The main dinner table seated sixteen or eighteen,

“If I were to worship anything on earth it would be a good woman . . . my wife never quarreled with me and never spoke a cross word to me that I remember; never, when I had bad luck, said “I told you so.” C.S.H., 1908

although on any occasion one was fortunate (if one were a great-grandchild) to find a place as early as the fifth table!

The invitations for Clinton and Nanny Kate's Golden Anniversary was “to relatives and as many friends as will come.” And come they did — over 800 guests, eighty-one relatives including the seven children, 25 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. The event was so well received that they decided to gather the family together again ten years later to observe the Sixtieth Wedding Anniversary of Clinton and Nanny Kate. Shortly after the sixty-second year of their marriage, Nanny Kate passed away. Nine years later Clinton Shepard Haggard, in his ninety-first year, followed her to rest. In precept and example their courage survived.



Clinton built this stunning home for Nannie Kate.

Born in 1880, Walter Owen Haggard, youngest son of Clinton and Nannie Kate, would carry the tradition of involvement in Plano's growth. Walter was

Cramped inside a buggy with his father, a slave girl and a few belongings, Clinton arrived in the vast and unpredictable prairies of a county named Collin in North Texas.

known to friends for being able to play a mouth harp and piano at the same time.

W.O. married Rosa Lee Rice in 1905 and became a wealthy farmer and stockman like his father. He improved on the original house of his parents and erected a gateway located today near Park and Custer streets as a memorial to his father and mother. One brick column bears the inscription “C.S. -Kate, 1894”, the other “W.O. -Rosa, 1930. The wide arch spanning the columns carries in large letters the name “HAGGARD”.

To W.O. Haggard and Rosa were born five children. The youngest, W.O. Haggard Jr., still lives in the home of his ancestors. His children live and work in Plano today, and continue a tradition that began in a North Texas wilderness over a century ago.

The following letter was written by C. S. Haggard,

“FIRST FIFTY YEARS IN TEXAS”

“I was born in Clark county, Kentucky, November 12, 1838; came out to look at Texas, Christmas 1856; was in Clarksville, Texas, at Cousin Garrett Igo's. We went down to the Red River hunting, killed two bear. That winter was cold, sleet on the ground for over one week, trees broke down covered with ice. We went to Clarksville, five miles on the ice, skating and sliding on foot. This is my fiftieth Christmas in Texas. Came out to Collin county and was at Cousin A. E. Quisenberry's the night the frost killed the wheat in 1857. Got acquainted with Capt. R. W. Carpenter and his good wife. Her sunny disposition made me wonder if she had a sister like herself; they came to Texas same fall from Kentucky. We were married September 1st, 1859. My mother died when I was eight years old. My sisters had all married and had children older than I was; my next youngest brother was eleven years older than me and about the time I was growing up all had gone to homes of their own; so my father and I were left alone, except the darkies, and my brothers said he petted and spoiled me. He came to Texas with me, but died in December, 1858. Since I was married my wife has petted and spoiled me; which I am glad they did, for it has made the world brighter and more beautiful to me. My wife never quarreled with me and never spoke a cross word to me that I remember; never, when I had bad luck, said ‘I told you so,’ and when I would bring my friends, no difference how many, she never said, ‘What did you bring those folks here for?’ but always met them with a smile

and made their stay pleasant. We have raised eight children to be grown, five girls and three boys; we lost one grand good boy at the age of 23 years, and the other six are all doing well, and a noble set of boys and girls of which we have a good right to be proud of all of them, and hope they will imitate the life of their mother and raise families that will be an honor to their country and a blessing to mankind and a help to Christianity and workers for Christ. Among the best women I know were Mrs. R. W. Carpenter, Mrs. Garrett Igo (she was a Haggard), and Mrs. James Bush (Cousin Arie Barnett's mother). The last but not the least was my Kate. They have made my life better and brighter for which I am truly thankful. If I were to worship anything on earth it would be a good woman. If there are any bad women I do not know them and I am glad of that. Our children have been good, obedient, never talking back or saying ‘I won't do it,’ but helpful and pleasant to their parents and to one another, never quarreling among themselves, but bright and cheerful, and we have been surrounded by good friends and kind neighbors and we are proud of our connection and good people for which I am truly thankful. Wishing one and all a Merry Happy Christmas.

(Signed) C. S. HAGGARD.

“P. S. I gave each one of the children fifty dollars pin money for them to remember my fiftieth anniversary in Texas, and when I had given the children their gifts, Kate says, ‘Where is mine?’ so I have her fifty also. Some bought one thing and some another, but all have some keepsake to remember my 50th anniversary in Texas. But September 1st, 1909, will be our Fiftieth Marriage Anniversary, and if it is the Lord's Will and all are spared, we hope to have another Jubilee and cause for rejoicing.

C. S. H.”