

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **David R. Beard**

Mr. Beard's ancestors arrived in Fort Bend County in the 1820's. He and his family have always earned a living as farmers/ranchers raising rice, corn, maize, cotton, cattle and horses.

David describes in this interview the process to grow and harvest rice and maize. He is also a certified pilot but decided to remain a farmer/rancher rather than become a professional airline pilot. Dave is semi-retired but still raise cattle and hay.

16 Pages

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Interview Summary

People (in alphabetical order)

Andrew Jackson Beard – great grandfather
 Austine Beard – sister
 Barbara Ann Beard – sister
 Connie Thompson Beard – spouse
 Etta Crook Beard – mother
 Julia Josephine Beard – grandmother
 Mary Jane Beard – sister
 Sarah Pentecost Beard – great grandmother
 Shirley Austin Beard – father
 Shirley Beard Jr. – brother
 Sydney Andrew Beard – grandfather
 Sydney Pierce Beard – brother
 William Beard – great great grandfather
 Joe Bingham Crawford – former George Ranch foreman
 Albert George – prominent rancher
 Paul Henry – George Ranch foreman
 Don Hull – owner of Hull Airport
 George Pentecost – Sarah’s father

Places / Businesses

U. S. Army

Beard Ranch
 George Ranch
 Germany
 Houston, Texas
 Huntsville, Texas
 Sam Houston State University
 Sugar Land, Texas

Events

David Ralph Beard was born in Fort Bend County in 1935. His ancestors arrived in the county in the 1820's.

He and his wife Connie operated the Beard Ranch that was inherited from his family.

David describes the process of growing and harvesting rice and maize. He is also a skilled horse trainer. He bred and trained horses as well as trained cowboys.

Today, he still raises cattle and grow hay.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Beard and his father, Shirley Austin Beard, rode on horseback to drive cattle from Damon, Texas to the Houston Stockyards in the 1950's, a distance of 50 miles.