

# FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## *ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE*



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### Abstract: **Virginia Davis Scarborough**

In 1854 three Wessendorff boys, Antone, Bernard and Joseph, crossed the Atlantic Ocean in 75 days to get from Germany to Galveston. These are Virginia Davis Scarborough's ancestors. The focus of this interview is the Wessendorff family.

15 Pages

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**Key Words:** (with notes from Virginia Scarborough inserted)**People**

Mary Jones Prowell – cousin of Virginia

Mary Jones Prowell and I are both descendants of Old 300 Henry Jones and Nancy Stiles. Their second son, James Jones, was my great great grandfather. Their tenth child, Wiley Powell Jones, was Mary's grandfather. We were ten months apart in age, and were very good friends.

Virginia Davis Scarborough – b. May 6, 1921 in Richmond, Ft. Bend Co, TX

Wessendorff Family

Lizzie Wessendorff- Mother of Virginia Davis Scarborough; oldest child of T.B. Wessendorff & Jennie Jones

T. B. Wessendorff- Husband of Jennie Jones; Father of Lizzie Wessendorff

Jennie Jones- Wife of T.B. Wessendorff; Mother of Lizzie Wessendorff

Antone Wessendorff aka A.B. Wessendorff- Father of T.B. Wessendorff

Antone was not called Tony in any written or printed information that I have seen, and I did not ever hear a family member speak of him as Tony. My grandfather, T.B. Wessendorff, was named Antone, but changed his name to Tonie and his initials to T.B. Antone who came to America with his two brothers in 1854 is referred to as A. Wessendorff in documents soon after his death. The family always used the spelling Tonie.

Bernard Joseph Wessendorff was one of the three brothers who came to America in 1854. He was born in 1833 and died in 1861 in Texas. He lived most of his life in Galveston, I think, but he is buried in the Old Wessendorff lot in Morton Cemetery with Antone and his family. His brothers were Antone (my great grandfather) and Bernard John, the oldest of the brothers. It is confusing because they were all named Bernard. Joseph was an uncle of my grandfather, T.B. Wessendorff.

Joseph G. Wessendorff was the oldest child of Antone and Johanna Wessendorff. He was a brother to T.B. Wessendorff. He was the father of Joe A. Wessendorff, and grandfather of Joe Clyde Wessendorff.

Antone Wessendorff- Father of Tonie B. Wessendorff, brother to Bernard and Joseph Wessendorff.

Johanna Janentzy – wife of Antone Wessendorff; A German lady

Parents – John Frederick Janentzy and Dorothea Elizabeth Rave; parents of Johanna Janentzy

2 Sisters- Sisters of Johanna Janentzy; Daughters of Mr. & Mrs. Janentzy

Janentzy Family- From northern Germany; arrived in America about 1850

Wessendorff brothers- From Germany; arrived in America November 1854

Peter Wessendorff – father of Antone Wessendorff; Grandfather of Tonie B. Wessendorff; cabinet maker

Joe Clyde Wessendorff – Child of Joe A. Wessendorff & Jane Johnson

Joe A. Wessendorff- Aka Joseph Antone Wessendorff; Husband of Jane Johnson; Father of Joe Clyde Wessendorff

Joe G. Wessendorff- Father of Joe A. Wessendorff; Grandfather of Joe Clyde Wessendorff

Syd Davis- Husband of Lizzie Wessendorff

Antoinette, Virginia, Syd Jr, Tony, Frank & Tommy- Children of Syd Davis & Lizzie Wessendorff

Jane Johnson- Wife of Joe A. Wessendorff

Doctor J.C. Johnson- Husband of Carrie McMickin; Father of Jane Johnson

Carrie McMickin- Wife of Doctor J.C. Johnson; Mother of Jane Johnson

Loise Henderson- Wife of Joe Clyde Wessendorff; Daughter of Bob Henderson & Loise Jackson

Bob Henderson- Husband of Loise Jackson; Father of Loise Henderson

Loise Jackson- Wife of Bob Henderson; Mother of Loise Henderson; Sister of Annie Jackson Darst

Darst Family

Annie Darst- aka Annie Jackson; Sister of Loise Jackson

Baby Loise – aka Loise Henderson; aka Loise Henderson Wessendorff; aka niece of Annie Jackson Darst

Stanton Marsh-Manager of Joe Clyde Wessendorff's lumber company

Jack & Billie Wendt- Neighbors of Joe Clyde & Loise Wessendorff on Hillcrest

Newt Griffith or Griffin- Friend of Joe Clyde Wessendorff; From Nederland

Ransom girls- Virginia Davis Scarborough's friends from down the street

Leila and Janice Ransom, the daughters of Robert Ransom and Will R. Mc Dill, were cousins and good friends. Robert aka Tudy was the son of Real Ransom and Mamie Wessendorff. Mamie was the ninth child of Antone and Johanna Wessendorff. Their home was on the corner of Morton St. and 10th ST. in Richmond.

Bobby or Billy Wallace- First cousin of Joe Clyde Wessendorff; Joe A Wessendorff's sister married Mr. Wallace

Bob Wallace came to Richmond several summers to visit the Joe A. Wessendorffs. He was probably born about 1922 or 1923 because he was near the age of my brother Syd. And he was the son of Joe A's sister.

Syd, Tony, Frank & Tom- Brothers of Virginia Davis Scarborough; Cousins of Joe Clyde Wessendorff

Annie- Third oldest child of T.B. Wessendorff & Jennie Jones; Wife of Alec Holmes

In addition to my four younger brothers, Antoinette Davis Reading was our older sister.

Alec Holmes- Husband of Annie Wessendorff

The Anton Wessendorff siblings were: Joe G. 1859-1943, Lizzie 1860-1885, Anna or Annie 1863-1948, Henrietta 1865-1886, Willie 1867-1867, Johnnie 1868-1870, Kate 1870-1929, Tonie 1872-1930, Mamie 1874-1939, Bennie 1875-1878, Tom 1877-1923, Ed 1879-1954, Bob 1882-1956. Antone and Johanna had thirteen children. The ones listed on the paper were siblings of T.B. T.B. and Jennie had six daughters.

Archietta Davis – wife of Walter Little Jones; aka Archietta Archietta Jones

Walter Little Jones- Grandson of Old 300 Henry Jones

George Foundation's Jones Family

Bernard Wessendorff – older brother of Joseph and Antone Wessendorff owned a grocery store in Galveston. After his wife and children died, he went back to Germany, and we have no information about him after that.

Joseph Wessendorff – middle brother of Bernard and Antone Wessendorff.

Frank Davis- Brother of Virginia Davis Scarborough; Retired attorney; Lead attorney for the Howard Hughes Estate

Howard Hughes- His attorney was Frank Davis on settling his estate

Jeanetta- Aunt of Virginia Davis Scarborough

Jeanetta Wessendorff was the second child of T.B. and Jennie Wessendorff. After their mother died in 1926, Jeanetta stayed at home with her father. She did not marry. She was born 1896 and died 1948. The other sisters were my mother, Lizzie 1894-1975, Bernadine 1899-1900, Marguerite W. Perkins 1901-1956, Doris W. Goodwin 1904-1980, Marie W. Murphy 1907-2001. Lizzie was the only one who had children.

## Places/Businesses

George Ranch Historical Park- Richmond, Texas

Richmond, Texas –where Antone Wessendorff settled; county seat of Fort Bend County.

America- Destination of the Wessendorffs in 1854

Galveston- Brothers Bernard and Joseph Wessendorff settled there after the ship docked in 1954; Antone, the third brother, arrived with them in 1954.

Germany- Homeland of the Wessendorffs; Homeland of the Janentzys

Bellville- Where the Janentzys settled

The father and mother of Syd Davis, his brother, Claude, and Sister, Lida, died when the children were four, six and two years old .

North Germany- Where the Janentzys originated

Atlantic Ocean- Voyage took 75 days from Germany to Galveston; Landed in November

George Foundation- Has possession of Peter Wessendorff's tool chest from Germany

Wharton County- Syd Davis, Virginia Davis Scarborough father born in the county

Richmond, Texas –where Antone Wessendorff settled; county seat of Fort Bend County.

Lumberyard- Antone opened up Wessendorff's in Richmond Texas

Valley- Located in Texas; Carrie McMickin the mother of Jane "Janie" Johnson

Houston- City in Harris County Texas

A&M- Texas A&M University where Joe Clyde attended

Morton Street- Location of Joe G. Wessendorff's insurance agency; Joe G. Wessendorff also had a real estate office; Located in Richmond Texas

Methodist Church- Loise Henderson's faith

Saint John's United Methodist Church- Richmond Texas

Fort Worth- Where some Wessendorff members lived

Railroad Tracks- Located at 8th Street in Richmond Texas

Preston Street- Wessendorff Lumber backed up to it at 8th Street in Richmond Texas

Baptist- Joe Clyde Wessendorff's faith

Episcopal Church- Where Joe Clyde Wessendorff & Loise Henderson attended; Located in Richmond Texas

Hillcrest Drive- Where the Joe Clyde Wessendorffs and the Jack Wendts lived next to each other

Fulshear- Where Billie Wendt was raised

Grandfather's house- T.B. Wessendorff, Grandfather of Virginia Davis Scarborough

Nederland- Where Newt Griffith or Griffin lived

Moore Ranch- Near Orchard, Fort Bend County

Orchard- Small town close to Moore Ranch

Jackson- Street in Richmond Texas

The highway

T.B. Wessendorff home faced east on Eleventh Street and was bounded by Jackson, Union, and Morton.

Life Check Drug is now on the block where the T. B. Wessendorff home was located, but the home was nearer the middle of the block.

Grocery Store- Bernard Wessendorff owned one in Galveston Texas

Teacher- Frank Davis brother of Virginia Davis Scarborough

Hospital- Located in Houston where Jennie Wessendorff died

Henderson Wessendorff Foundation

University of Texas- Loise Henderson attended

## Events

Fishing at George Ranch

Virginia born May 6, 1921

Came to America 1854

Settled in Galveston

Came to Richmond Texas

Came from Germany

The Janentzy family settled in Bellville abt 1850

75 days across the Atlantic

Father's family all died

Antone brought Peter's tool chest to America

Married a lady, Johanna Janentzy

Antone & Johanna had 13 children; 3 boys & 2 girls died

Uncle Joe lived in Bellville

Buried in Bellville

Joe Clyde born 1917

Syd Davis born in Wharton County

Father died when Syd 4 years old

Raised by his father's brother & sister

Lizzie married Syd

Had 6 children- Antoinette, Virginia, Syd Jr., Tony, Frank and Tommy

Stayed in Fort Bend County

Joe G. lived in Fort Worth

Joe A. married Jane Johnson

Had Joe Clyde

Loise came to birthday parties and weekends

WWII enlisted in the service

A & M attended by Joe Clyde, Joe A., Joe G.

Opened insurance business on Morton

Grandfather, T.B. Wessendorff buys lumber business

Grandfather died in 1930

Left lumber business to 5 daughters

Joe A. gets one-sixth interest of lumber business for managing

Joe Clyde buys lumber business

Stanton Marsh worked and ran lumber business

Joe Clyde opens insurance agency and real estate business

Active in the Episcopal church

Joe Clyde raised Baptist

Loise raised Methodist

Built on Hillcrest Drive

Jack Wendt's family came in 1928

Billie Wendt raised in Fulshear

Playing Red Rover and Wink

Joe A.'s daughter married Wallace

Hunting on Moore Ranch; hunting between Richmond and Rosenberg

Annie Wessendorff named guardian of 3 younger brothers

The father and mother of Syd Davis, his brother, Claude, and Sister, Lida, died when the children were four, six and two years old .

Annie married Alec Holmes

Wessendorff family lived within 3 or 4 blocks of each other

Antone buys property

Archietta Jones

Archietta was a Davis. She was the youngest child of William Kinchen Davis and Jane Pickens. Her siblings were J.H.P. Davis, the father of Mamie Davis George and Bud Davis; Eleanora Davis, the wife of B.A. Hinson; and Kinchen Davis who was killed when trying to catch a train ride to Rosenberg. Kinchen was married to Rachel Glasscock.

Frank Davis the attorney for settling Howard Hughes estate

Frank was born in 1928

Frank teacher for one year

Frank went to law school

Grandmother died when Virginia 5 years old

T.B. had heart attack and died

Jennie gall bladder surgery in Houston hospital

Loise attended University of Texas