

## SECTION XIX

### THE BECK FAMILY

Full credit goes to the author's late wife, Mrs. Elliott Beck Mount, the former Miss Elliott Shelley Beck, for doing the historical and genealogical research on which these Sections are based that deal with the Beck family. Mrs. Mount's research carried her throughout the country and involved the research of many documents and records and the conduct of a wide range of correspondence and personal contacts.

The Beck name is of Scandinavian origin (117), the name meaning a brook or a small river, and the diminutive form of the name, "Beckett", meaning a little brook.

As the Viking ships spread the Norse migration along the north sea and adjacent waters during the early centuries of our era we find the Beck name introduced into northern England and Germany. In Germany the Beck name often became "Bach" with its several variations, such as Blumenbach, meaning flowery brook, and Achenbach meaning oak brook. It was, indeed, from Germany that the ancestors of our Beck family came to America. The Beck family has, however, been well represented in both England and Germany for generations. In fact, so many generations of the family have come and gone in both England and Germany that those with the Beck name have long since become thoroughly German or English in their respective homelands.

During the early years of English history a coat-of-arms was carried by the English branch of the Beck family (118), and is described as follows:

Motto: Ad finem fidelis

Arms: Quarterly; 1st, or, a sea bird sable:

2nd and 3rd: sable, a mullet of six points or:

4th, argent a dolphin hauriant.

Crest: A raven proper between two wings erect or.

The meaning of the above ancient heraldic terms are explained on page 86.

The meanings of the heraldic terms used in the ancient description of the Beck coat-of-arms are given below.

Motto: For ever faithful

Quarterly: The shield design divided into four parts, as numbered.

Or: Gold or yellow color.

Sable: Black color.

Mullet: A pointed star.

Argent: Silver color, often indicated by white.

Hauriant: A fish (dolphin) in an erect or vertical position; breathing at the surface.

Crest: A device above the helmet and shield; used by men only.

Proper: Shown in natural color.

A china plate with the Beck coat-of-arms was in Mrs. Mount's collection and is now in possession of the author.

And now to turn to a discussion of the lineage of our own Beck family in America.



Benjamin Beck, the second son listed above, was a well known resident of early Hagerstown, Indiana. In 1859 he built a home on South Washington Street and lived there until his death. The Beck home was later sold to Arch Hindman, a well known auctioneer. Arch Hindman made the home into a famous hostelry during the horse and carriage days; but the hostelry ceased operation in 1907. Arch Hindman's widow, Jane Hindman, was at last account (1932) living in the old Beck home in Hagerstown, Indiana (127).

Beneville Beck, the third son listed above, married Mary Jane Robertson (121, 123). One child, a son, who died in infancy, was born to that union. Mary Jane (Robertson) Beck was born on January 30, 1823, and died on October 24, 1888. Beneville Beck and his wife, Mary, are both buried in Westlawn cemetery at Hagerstown, Indiana (121). As previously stated, Beneville was born on February 14, 1819, and died on March 2, 1892.

Beneville Beck was a man of some wealth. Beneville together with his partner, William Stonebraker, purchased the B.O. Lontz slaughter house, and quoting from the Hagerstown 100 year centennial publication (122), "The new owners remodled the building into a three story brick structure where thousands of hogs were slaughtered every year. The firm offered a convenient market with the prices fully as good as were offered in Cincinnati.

"The institution became immensely popular and soon after they arranged to handle not only hogs but set up an establishment whereby cattle and sheep could be slaughtered and meat cured for shipment. Grain and wool and practically every product of the farms in eastern Indiana was handled by this firm and in addition a profitable business in dry goods was carried on in the Commercial Building up town."

On April 2, 1867, Beneville Beck and his wife were among the group who organized the First Christian Church of Hagerstown. Subsequently Beneville Beck was elected to the Finance Board of the newly organized church (126).

## SECTION XX

George Beck (XIX - 1), a son of Michael Beck and Susan Hahn Beck, was born in Heidelberg, Pennsylvania, on October 10, 1805, and died in 1892 at Hagerstown, Indiana (120, 121).

George Beck married Mary Elizabeth Householder in Hagerstown, Maryland (120, 121). Mary Elizabeth Householder was born in Hagerstown, Maryland, ca. 1810, the daughter of William Householder who was in the dry-goods business for some years in that Maryland city. Mary died at age 76 in Hagerstown, Indiana (121).

In the summer of 1835 George Beck and family, together with his parents and his brother, Beneville, moved from Hagerstown, Maryland, to Hagerstown, Indiana, as previously discussed in SECTION XIX. George Beck was one of the first settlers in Hagerstown, Indiana, where he was in the contracting business for many years. One of the early homes built on a platted lot in Hagerstown belonged to George Beck and is located on the northwest corner of College and Washington streets (125).

Seven children were born to George and Mary Householder Beck. These seven children are listed below, but not necessarily in the order of birth:

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| 1. George H. Beck<br>Born September 5, 1834<br>Died February 23, 1911 | See SECTION XXI  |
| 2. Lydia A. Beck<br>Born 1833   | See SECTION XXII |
| 3. Hamilton Beck  |                  |
| 4. Adeline Beck   |                  |
| 5. Mary Beck  |                  |
| 6. William Beck   |                  |
| 7. Martha Beck  |                  |

An account of George H. Beck and Lydia A. Beck will be given in subsequent Sections, as indicated above. An account of the other children will be given below (121, 123, 124).

Hamilton Beck, child No. 3, was a farmer and lived in Hagerstown, however, during the last few years of his life he lived in New Castle, Indiana. He was married and had two sons, Willard and Ray Beck, who are believed to have moved to California.

Adeline Beck, child No. 4, married a Mr. Kumer and lived and died in Alpine, Michigan.

Mary Beck, child No. 5, married John A. Dolley who was born on April 30, 1828, and died December 20, 1897. Both are buried in Westlawn cemetery at Hagerstown, Indiana.

William Beck, child No. 6, was born on August 17, 1841, and died on May 12, 1916. William Beck married Alice Elizabeth Jackson who was born July 6, 1857, and died December 31, 1888. William and his wife are both buried in Hagerstown, Indiana. When the Civil War started William Beck joined the 75th Regiment, I.K.I. He lost his eyesight in the war. William and Alice (Jackson) Beck had three daughters: Nancy Beck who died in infancy, Kate Naomi Beck and Alicemay Beck. Kate Naomi Beck married Claud E. Stout and had one son, Kenneth Stout, who died in 1957 at age 47. Kenneth Stout had two children: one son now deceased and a daughter, Kandres, who married Dennis Dunnahee and now (1958) live in Ojai, California. The Dunnahees have a daughter, Denise. Alicemay Beck married Roy Mawson who was born in New Castle, Indiana, and died in October 1964, in Indianapolis, Indiana, where he and his wife had made their home for many years. Alicemay Beck Mawson is now (1970) in a nursing home in Indianapolis. There were no children born to the Mawsons.

Martha Beck, child No. 7, was born on March 1, 1839, and died in 1927, in Hagerstown, Indiana, at age 88. Martha was married twice. Her first marriage was to Dick Conover. A son, Frank B. Conover, was a child of that union. Frank B. Conover was born in 1857 and died in 1935 (121). He was owner of the F.B. Conover Coal Co. in Hagerstown. Frank B. Conover married Zoro Dick, a well known artist whose paintings ranged from portraits and landscapes to beautiful animal paintings. Zoro Dick was born in 1873 and died in 1949 (121). Frank and

his wife, Zoro (Dick) Conover, lived at 249 East Main Street in Hagerstown. Their home was known as the Lonely Pine Studio, and those words, "Lonely Pine Studio", can still be seen carved in the steppingstone at the entrance to their former home. After Frank B. Conover's death Zoro married a Mr. Richards.

The second marriage of Martha Beck, child No. 7, was to Obadiah B. Lontz who was born in 1832 and died in 1887. They are buried in Westlawn cemetery at Hagerstown, Indiana.

## SECTION XXI

George H. Beck (XX - 1), a son of George Beck and Mary Householder Beck, was born in Hagerstown, Maryland, on September 5, 1834 (149), and died on February 23, 1911, at Anderson, Indiana (128), and is buried in Batson cemetery at New Castle, Indiana (129).

George H. Beck was nine months old when the family came overland from Hagerstown, Maryland, to Hagerstown, Indiana, as was described in Section XIX. That trip entailed many adventures along the way, and altho only nine months old at the time, George always maintained that he could remember the occasion when the family crossed the Ohio river.

George H. Beck became a highly skilled cabinet maker and contractor. When Purdue University, founded in 1869, was under construction at Lafayette, Indiana, the university engaged George to do some of the cabinet work in the university buildings. George H. Beck moved to Anderson, Indiana, in 1861 (140), and a few years later he built his own home at 234 West 11th Street, on the northeast corner of 11th and Chase Streets. The old Beck home is still standing.

George constructed his workshop in a separate building at the rear of the lot where his home stood. The workshop became a fascinating point of interest for his granddaughter, Elliott Shelley Beck, who remembered it throughout her lifetime. The great piles of curly shavings on the floor, the smell of the glue pot and the activity on the workbench were a source of never ending wonderment on her visits to her grandparents at Anderson.

A number of the older homes in Anderson and their fittings reveal George H. Beck's handiwork. Several articles of furniture made by Mr. Beck and certain of his tools were handed down to his granddaughter, Elliott Shelley Beck (Mrs. Allen Wade Mount, Sr.), and are now in the possession of the author and his son. Among these are three walnut rocking chairs of graduated size made for the John P. Beck family, a child's size oak table with folding leaves and two small oak chairs and a toy chest, both of which were made for Elliott. In addition a



tool chest, a set of drawing instruments, a short hand saw, a 50 foot tape measure and a set of wood carving tools that belonged to George H. Beck are now in possession of the author's son. The carving set was given to Allen Wade Mount, Jr. by Mrs. Hazel Beck Oswalt of Batavia, Illinois. Mrs. Hazel Beck Oswalt is a granddaughter of George H. Beck.

George H. Beck was married twice. His first marriage was to Miss Kate M. Bland on September 27, 1863, in Henry county, Indiana. The ceremony was read by the Rev. M. Mahin in the home of the bride's father.

Kate M. Bland was born in Henry County, Indiana, on May 30, 1842, and died in Henry County on June 8, 1868 (149). She is buried in Batson cemetery at New Castle, Indiana. Kate M. Bland was the daughter of William Bland who was born on May 1, 1802, and died on April 17, 1886, and Sarah A. Bland who was born on September 25, 1805, and died on March 13, 1890 (120). William and Sarah Bland are both buried in Batson cemetery at New Castle, Indiana.

George H. Beck's second marriage was to Miss Martha Ann Shelley of New Castle, Indiana. The marriage ceremony was read on January 11, 1871, at the residence of Daniel Murphy by Rev. Gary. Martha Ann Shelley was born on September 19, 1842, in New Castle, Indiana, and died at Chattanooga, Tennessee, on March 15, 1920, at the home of Richard Donaldson Shannon, her first cousin, and is buried in West Maplewood cemetery at Anderson, Indiana, in lot 114, S.E. square, N.E. corner. A grave marker was placed at Martha's grave in 1958 by Mrs. Elliott Beck Mount (Mrs. A.W. Mount, Sr.), Martha's granddaughter.

Martha Ann Shelley was the daughter of Jesse Shelley and his wife, Sarah (Strange) Shelley. Jesse Shelley was born on September 23, 1805, in North Carolina (152) and was married to Sarah Strange on March 11, 1830. Sarah was born on March 1, 1809, in Garrard county, Kentucky. Their marriage bond was issued on March 6, 1830, in Garrard county(156).

Jesse and Sarah later moved from Kentucky to New Castle, Indiana, where Jesse operated a blacksmith shop (152) and where he was considered

an expert in tempering steel and in all manner of iron work.

Late in the fall of 1850 Jesse Shelley, together with his brother Wince Shelley, left New Castle, Indiana, for California to participate in the great gold rush. Jesse met with success in his search for the yellow metal and in 1854 booked passage on a sailing ship to make the long return journey to the east coast, bringing his gold with him on shipboard. The ship rounded Cape Horn and in due course put into New York where tragedy awaited. Jesse Shelley was murdered for his gold in New York harbor.

Martha Ann Shelley was one of eight children of Jesse Shelley and Sarah (Strange) Shelley; the eight children are named as follows: George Washington; Willie W.; Benjamin N.; Franklin W.; Nancy Jane; Mary Elizabeth; Martha Ann and Aletha Ellen Shelley (150). These eight children are briefly discussed below.

George Washington Shelley was born in Kentucky on December 29, 1830, and died on November 7, 1859. He married Mary E. ---- on September 29, 1858.

Willie W. Shelley was born May 24, 1832, and died in infancy.

Benjamin N. Shelley was born July 24, 1834, and died in 1907. He remained unmarried. Benjamin N. Shelley invented a buggy whip socket and realized considerable money from his invention (151)

Franklin W. Shelley was born on January 14, 1845, and died on June 17, 1885. He was an active Master Mason (157). He married Mary Keiser.

Mary Elizabeth Shelley was born on November 27, 1840, and died in 1910 (157). She first married Granville Jackson ca. 1862. Four children who each died in infancy were born to that union. Mary's second marriage was to Richard Hunt in 1870. There was no issue to the second marriage. Mary, called "Aunt Mary Hunt", never recovered from the loss of her four children; she became a spiritualist and made her home in a spiritualist colony at Chesterfield, Indiana.

Aletha Ellen Shelley was born on May 16, 1848, and died May 25,

1928, at Chattanooga, Tennessee. Aletha married John Thomas Shannon on October 17, 1866. John was born July 29, 1838, and died March 11, 1909, at Anderson, Indiana. He was the son of Joseph Shannon and Matilda (Harpold) Shannon. Joseph and Matilda Harpold were married on November 9, 1831. Joseph was the son of Thomas and Katherine Shannon.

Nancy Jane Shelley, called Jennie, married John McKahan. A daughter, Ann Maud McKahan, who was born in 1863 and died on February 20, 1927, was an issue of that union. Ann Maud McKahan married James Thornton Larmore. James died on January 25, 1935, in St. Louis, Missouri. Three children were born to James and Ann (McKahan) Larmore, as follows: Fred Gray Larmore, born March 10, 1885; James Kenneth Larmore, born March 24, 1888, and died in September 1966; and Robert M. Larmore, born December 6, 1896, and died in St. Louis on January 15, 1964. On July 18, 1928, Robert M. Larmore married May Reynolds Scott who was born on June 13, 1907.

One child, Constance Ann Larmore, was born April 24, 1931, to Robert M. and May (Scott) Larmore in St. Louis, Missouri. On May 24, 1958, Constance Ann Larmore married John Kinsey Tupper. John was born on March 2, 1930. The Tupperes live in New York City.

Martha Ann Shelley, the remaining child of Jesse Shelley and Sarah (Strange) Shelley, has already been discussed.

Sarah Strange was the daughter of Washington Strange and Mary (Copelin) Strange (153, 154). Washington Strange married Mart Copelin on June 5, 1800, in what is now Garrard County, Kentucky (155). Washington Strange's will was probated on April 1, 1854, and his wife's on January 15, 1859, in Platte County, Missouri (154).

Washington Strange was born in Virginia ca. 1779, and Mary Copelin was probably born in Garrard county, Kentucky. She was the daughter of Jacob and Ann Copelin.

Washington Strange and Ann Copelin Strange had twelve children, (154), as follows:

Jacob Strange, born January 30, 1801, in Garrard County, Kentucky, married Elizabeth Morritt on December 30, 1828.

William Strange, born February 10, 1803, married Lucinda Eason in 1842.

Alsey Strange, born November 1, 1806, died young, struck by lightning.

Sarah Strange, born March 1, 1809, married Jesse Shelley on March 11, 1830. Jesse and Sarah Strange Shelley were previously discussed.

Mary Strange, born June 22, 1812, died young, struck by lightning.

Washington Strange, Jr., born August 16, 1814.

John B. Strange, born September 22, 1816, married Mary Hambrick on September 27, 1849.

Martha Ann Strange, born September 17, 1818, married Robert Terrill on February 12, 1836.

Nancy Strange, born August 12, 1820, married Thomas C. Lowe on February 9, 1840.

Benjamin Strange, born September 5, 1823.

Eliza J. Strange, born November 11, 1826, married Elisha Powe.

Louticia Strange, born November 1, 1830.

The above are the twelve children of Washington Strange and Ann Copelin Strange.

And now to return to George H. Beck, the initial subject of this Section. Four children were born to George H. Beck, as shown below.

By Kate M. (Eland) Beck, George H. Beck's first wife:

1. Harry B. Beck  
Born 19, 1865  
Died March 22, 1945
2. Will Beck  
Born May 19, 1868  
Died in infancy

By Martha Ann (Shelley) Beck, George H. Beck's second wife:

3. Edward Beck  
Born July 6, 1873  
Died in infancy
4. John Pence Beck  
Born June 14, 1877  
Died June 12, 1934

Harry B. Beck, the son of George H. Beck and Kate M. (Bland) Beck, was born in Henry county, Indiana, on June 19, 1865 (149), and died on March 22, 1945, in New Castle, Indiana. Harry B. Beck married Miss Mary Etta Stegleman who was born on January 30, 1868, in Henry County, Indiana, and died on March 22, 1963, at Batavia, Illinois. Harry B. Beck and Mary Stegleman Beck are both buried in South Mound Mausoleum in New Castle in the large mausoleum that was built by Mr. Beck.

Harry B. Beck was in the lumber business with his son-in-law, Ernest M. Oswalt, in Wheaton, Illinois (147).

One child, Hazel Beck, was born to Harry B. Beck and Mary Stegleman Beck on December 15, 1888, at the Stegleman farm home in Madison County, Indiana, not far from the city of Anderson (147).

Hazel Beck married Ernest Morgan Oswalt on November 4, 1909, in a ceremony read at the Presbyterian Church in Anderson, Indiana. Ernest M. Oswalt was born on October 2, 1887, in Anderson, Indiana, and died in a Denver, Colorado, hospital on June 1, 1955, and is buried in the mausoleum that he had built in New Maplewood cemetery at Anderson. There was no issue to that union.

In 1915 Mr. and Mrs. Oswalt moved from Anderson, Indiana, to Batavia, Illinois. Mr. Oswalt brought with him to Batavia a small publishing business that centered around the publication of a farm magazine called the Household Management Journal that then had a circulation of about 50,000. (148)

From that start Ernest M. Oswalt was destined to become one of the most successful and widely known business men in Illinois, and, in fact, in the nation. The publishing business prospered and within a few years the magazine attained a circulation of over 850,000 copies and Mr. Oswalt began to consider additional outlets in which to apply his business genius. But for the balance of the story of this remarkable man the following is quoted from Townsfolk, Vol. XIV, No. 2, of April 1935, published by The Townsfolk Co. of Chicago.

"One day the story came to him of a druggist in Toronto, Canada, who for twenty years had been making a hand lotion in the back room of his drug store, and which without advertising .... had attained an enviable reputation in many parts of the Dominion. Investigation of the merits of the lotion proved so astounding that the Batavia man immediately sought to purchase the business. While negotiations were pending the owner suddenly died and the executors readily assented to the sale. This is how Campana's Italian Balm happened to come to Batavia, Illinois, and why Ernest M. Oswalt is no longer in the mail order business but the active head of one of the largest institutions of its kind in the world.

"There is more romance to the story of Italian Balm. It pertains to the conceiver of it, Dr. Roberta Campana, who was one of the world's greatest dermatologist. For many years Dr. Campana was dean of dermatology at the University of Rome and presiding instructor at the University of Milan. ... It was on the occasion of one of his visits to America that the secret of Italian Balm was learned, for he imparted the formula to a skin sufferer who in turn revealed it to the druggist who began the manufacture. He gave it the name of the famous specialist adding the words "Italian Balm."

"In 1927 Mr. Oswalt took command of the marketing of the product that had existed in this country for more than sixty years primarily through its worthiness and usefulness rather than any forced selling. His ideas, however, were commercial and with a background of mail order training his determination was to acquaint millions of people with the lotion through the medium of a trial sample. Just how sound this idea was will be attested in the following figures. In the first three years under the new sponsor the production in Canada was trebled. The only sale in the United States at the time was in Detroit, amongst native Canadian population who continued to write home for the product. During the first year's activities the balm was introduced into five states, in 1929 it was spread to eleven and today it can be had in virtually every one of the Union. In 1927 the production was a hundred thousand bottles, in 1934 it was twenty million. A modest ten thousand dollar advertising appropriation has been swelled to a million a year. Two coast to coast radio programs are sponsored, "Grand Hotel" and the "First Nighter."

"A highly trained selling organization carries the message of Italian Balm to stores throughout the country. Branches are maintained in New York, Boston, Dallas, Los Angeles and San Francisco. The manufacturing plant at Toronto now supplies not only the Dominion, but Australia, England and New Zealand. Demand for the product from many other foreign lands has required a distribution plan which will make the lotion available in every quarter of the globe."

One must remember that the above quoted magazine article was published in 1935. In subsequent years the Campana Co. continued its rapid growth and expansion under Mr. Oswalt's leadership. But now to continue to quote from the magazine article.

"The little town (Batavia, Ill.) where Mr. Oswalt established his

business has prospered much from the firm's activities. Mr. Oswalt is the donow of an air-port to the town. He is a director of the First National Bank and a trustee of the Geneva Community Hospital. His home is on an eighteen acre estate on Fox River bordering between Batavia and Geneva. His recreational hobby is a 1720 acre ranch in the mountains, a few miles from Colorado Springs. It is located in the picturesque Turkey Creek Canyon and there is a hundred and ten foot waterfall and trout streams on the property. Each summer Mr. Oswalt invites a group of Batavia youngsters to the ranch where the lads have their big thrill, riding, hunting and fishing. He has added seven guest cabins to the estate for their accomodation. In August at the ranch there is grouse shooting. Mr. Oswalt is a member of a shooting club on the Illinois River but enjoys most of all the quest for quail in Alabama during January and February. Being a ranch owner he rides, of course, and so does Mrs. Oswalt. He belongs to the St. Charles Country Club at home, and in Chicago to the Union League and the Chicago Athletic Club."

After the above magazine article was written the Oswalt ranch in Colorado was expanded from 1720 to 3000 acres.

Following the death of Ernest M. Oswalt in 1955 the Campana Co. was sold by Mrs. Oswalt and their palatial home, Ridgelawn, located on an eighteen acre estate overlooking the Fox River at Batavia, Illinois, was given to the Catholic Church.

Mrs. Ernest M. Oswalt, the former Miss Hazel Beck, now lives in a beautiful home at 319 North Avenue in Batavia and maintains a winter home at 265 Orange Grove Road in Palm Beach, Florida.

John Pence Beck (XXI - 4), the son of George H. Beck and Martha Ann (Shelley) Beck, was born in Anderson, Indiana, on June 14, 1877, (149) and died in a Houston, Texas, hospital on June 12, 1934. Mr. Beck is buried in Confederate Cemetery at Alvin, Texas (132).

Early in his career John Pence Beck took employment with the Bell Telephone Co. and rose rapidly through the ranks. He was named Manager of the Central Union Telephone Co. at Anderson, Indiana, and then in 1900 was promoted to Manager of the company at Cairo, Illinois, then a busy river port on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers.

In 1908, at his request, John Pence Beck was transferred to Dallas, Texas, where he was employed in the state general offices of the telephone company; and then in a short time was named Manager of the company at Mineral Wells, Texas. During his first night at Mineral Wells a band of outlaws rode into town on horseback, guns blazing, and robbed all of the guests at the hotel where he was staying; they took Mr. Beck's money and his trousers and then rode out of town, never to be seen again.

In 1909 Mr. Beck was transferred to Houston, Texas, as Manager of of the telephone company in that growing city. Some years later he resigned as Manager at Houston and accepted a position with the Kirby Lumber Co. of that city. Later Mr. Beck accepted a position with the Imperial Sugar Co. at Sugar Land, Texas, and the family lived in Sugar Land for some time. In August 1921 John Pence Beck purchased the newspaper at Alvin, Texas, The Alvin Sun, from James L. Twiford. The Alvin Sun was founded in August 1890, and was the oldest newspaper in Brazoria County. Mr. Beck was owner and publisher of the newspaper until his death on June 12, 1934. Mr. Beck was an expert accountant and took great pride in his account books. The neatness and beauty of his account entries were truly examples of perfection.

On June 17, 1902, John Pence Beck married Miss Nelle Tuttle Hurd in Cairo, Illinois (133, 134, 135). Nelle Tuttle Hurd was born in Cairo, Illinois, on August 29, 1872, the daughter and only child of Captain Albert Hinman Hurd and Charlotte Helen (Elliott) Hurd.



John Pence Beck and Nelle Tuttle Hurd were married in the home of the bride's parents at 411 Tenth Street in Cairo, Illinois, with the Rev. J.T.M. Knox of the Presbyterian Church officiating (194). Excerpts from the Cairo newspaper account of the wedding are given below.

"The double parlors of the residence were neatly decorated in green and white, the color scheme being carried out by plumes of asparagus and white carnations; even to the dining table upon which stood a large candelabra with green and white candles. (Note: this candelabra is now, 1972, in the possession of the author's son, Allen Wade Mount, Jr.)

"The ceremony occurred in the front parlor, the couple taking their positions beneath a large wedding bell of white carnations hanging suspended from the arch separating the room from the west bay window.

"The bride was especially attractive and charming in a gown of white d'esprite and she wore a fine illusion veil and carried bride's roses. The groom was handsome in his full dress suit. Mendellshon's Wedding March with its notes of gladness was brilliantly played by Mrs. C. Fred Galigher, cousin of the bride."

Mr. Beck was manager of the Central Union Telephone Co. at Cairo at the time of his marriage to Miss Nelle Tuttle Hurd.

Mrs. John Pence Beck died in Fort Worth, Texas, on July 24, 1951, and is buried in Confederate Cemetery at Alvin, Texas, beside her husband.

In Alvin Mr. and Mrs. John Pence Beck lived in their apartment above the newspaper office, but during summer months they often enjoyed their summer cottage on Galveston Island facing an inlet of Galveston Bay.

One child, a daughter, was born to Mr. and Mrs. John Pence Beck:

Elliott Shelley Beck      See SECTION XVI

Elliott Shelley Beck was born at 2612 Elm Street, Cairo, Illinois, on November 25, 1903, and died in Fort Worth, Texas, on December 25, 1969, and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery at Dyer, Tennessee. The full account of Elliott Shelley Beck, together with her marriage to Allen Wade Mount, is covered in SECTION XVI.

Mr. and Mrs. John Pence Beck were Episcopalians and both were buried from the Episcopal Church at Alvin, Texas. Mr. Beck, who was known as Jack among his many friends, was a Master Mason, a Knights Templar and a member of the Shrine.

In 1920 Mr. Beck was persuaded by his friends to make the race for State Senator from the Sixteenth Senatorial District of Texas that was composed of Harris, Fort Bend and Waller counties, but he was narrowly defeated in the race as a result of his stated opposition to Woman Suffrage.

Mr. John Pence Beck was a member of the Chamber of Commerce and other civic groups and was, indeed, Alvin's leading citizen.