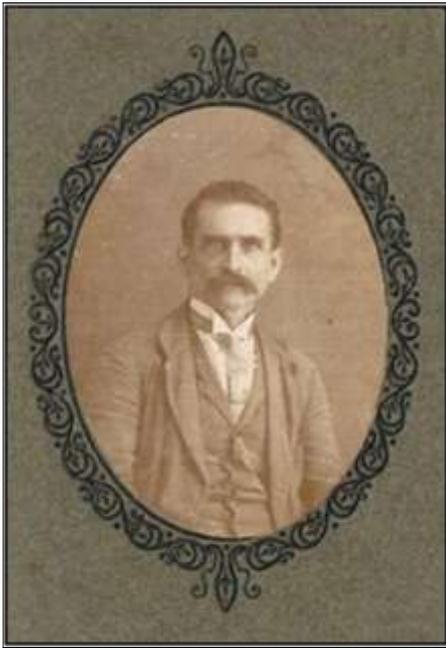


Terrell County Memorial February, 2019
Sanderson, Texas

Museum News

Joe Bean

Second Sheriff of Terrell County



No photo of Joe Bean has been discovered. This is his brother, John Egbert Bean, who probably bears resemblance to Joe, who also sported a big brush mustache

when the post office was established.

Joe was the youngest of sixteen children born to James Bean and Martha Sarah Jane Garrett. His father was a farmer and a Baptist preacher, and several of his brothers entered the ministry as well. The Bean family descended from the Clan MacBean of Scotland. Their ancestor was a shoemaker who eloped with a high-born lady, causing her to be disinherited by her family. They moved to London, and then immigrated to the United States to pursue a new life, settling in South Carolina. Joe's father was born in Edgefield District, South Carolina, and his mother was born in Georgia. Her family immigrated to the U. S. on the last immigrant ship to leave Britain before the English blockade of American waters began at the start of the Revolutionary War.

Around 1900 Joe left Magnolia Springs and followed his brothers,

Joseph Cecil Bean, second sheriff of Terrell County, was born in Magnolia Springs, Jasper County, Texas on August 19, 1874. Magnolia Springs started life as a small settlement in the heart of the Piney Woods of East Texas, near the Louisiana state line and north of Beaumont. Originally called Pine-tucky, the name was changed to reflect the creek and magnolia trees of the area



The Reverend James E. Bean and Martha Sue Garrett Bean, Joe Bean's parents. The Reverend Bean was a Baptist preacher and a farmer, descended from the Clan McBean of Aberdeen, Scotland. Joe was the youngest of sixteen children.

James and John, to Ozona, Texas, where he worked in a drugstore. Apparently he was not suited to that line of work and soon moved west to Sheffield, Pecos County, Texas, to live with his sister, Sarah "Sally" Jane Bean Turner, wife of Richard James Turner. Raised in the Piney Woods and exposed to the lumber industry, sawmilling and the building trade, he moved on to Sanderson around 1905 and ran a lumberyard, a lucrative business in that day when the town was still being built.

In 1906 the first Sheriff of Terrell County, George Fenley, resigned to return to his ranch enterprise. Joe had some background in law enforcement and was appointed to the sheriff's position. He was elected at the next election, but was defeated in 1910 by J. J. Allen, the third sheriff. Sanderson at

the time was a wide-open, lawless society and being a lawmsn required a very tough character. Joe Bean was certainly tough enough, but apparently popularity was difficult and the next elected sheriff had taught school in Sanderson for several years and was well known and liked. Joe ran once again in the next election but was defeated once again.

Life for a single man in Sanderson was somewhat difficult, due the lack of marriageable women in town. He was a dashing young man with a big handlebar mustache and quite handsome. During his stay in Sanderson he courted several ladies but nothing worked out, so he moved to El Paso for new opportunities, both in romance and in business.

In 1911 he went back to East Texas

Immediately after the barbecue a clay pigeon shoot was given, to which entries were open to all. Fourteen entered, Joe Bean winning the first prize, scoring 12 out of a possible 15. For second money Dr. B. F. Berkeley, of Alpine, T. L. Bryan, of Dallas, J. C. Green and W. D. Hunter, both of Sanderson, tied, breaking nine out of a possible 15. In the shoot-off Hunter won second money and Bryan third.

Joe Bean's shooting skills were legendary. This El Paso Herald article reports on the Southwest Press and Commercial Organization's fall meeting and barbecue with a shooting contest held in Sanderson in September of 1910.

and married a Miss Mollie Cobb, but the marriage ended in divorce several years later. No children were born to the marriage.

For the next several years he worked as a night watchman in El Paso and applied several times for a position with the police department and the sheriff's department. In 1912 he was appointed a Texas Ranger, Company A, but due

to the economy of the time he was let go in 1913 due to overstaffing. "The last man hired is the first man fired."

Over the next few years he is frequently mentioned in the El Paso papers for his law work as a watchman and for his involvement in the Masonic order. He joined the Scottish Rite Temple in El Paso and was very active.

In addition to his law enforcement, he also worked for a time in the oil fields. He also advertised as a building contractor in Big Bend newspapers so he kept himself busy.

His record is sparse during the 1920s, but in 1930 he is listed in the census at Bay City, Texas, as farmer.

In the 1940s and growing much older, he went to live with his namesake nephew, Cecil Turner, in Alpine, Texas.

OH YOU, JOE.

From Sanderson (Texas) Times.

Joe Bean came back from a trip to east Texas Saturday night. It seems he was not able to get the young lady's consent on this trip, but we believe his case is hopeless, as he came back minus his facial adornment. Joe says he enjoyed his trip very much and imagined he was a boy again back in east Texas when he straddled a mule for a visit to some of his kinfolks in the rural districts of that section. That may be what caused him to give up that handsome mustache, too, but we rather believe that his girl would be betetr pleased with it off, and hence his visit to a tonsorial artist. Joe is getting to be a great ladies' man lately.

WATCHMEN ARREST TWO MEN; SAFE BREAKING CHARGE MADE

Overtaken near the Southwestern Electric and Machine company's office, 104 San Francisco street, about 2 oclock Tuesday morning, two Mexican youths, Juan Ochoa and Francisco Alvarez, were arrested by watchman Joe Bean and patrolman B. P. Wilson, and charged with attempting to break open a safe. Another, who is supposed to have been the eldest of the trio, escaped.

Watchman Bean heard a noise in the Southwestern company's office. On his unlocking the front door, two men fled through the back door. Bean fired a shot, which caused one of them to halt. Another was captured by officer Wilson, who heard the shot.

It is said the Mexicans pried off the face plate of a safe and tried to pry open the safe door with a screw driver.

After Joe left the Sanderson area and moved to El Paso, he worked in private security and as a night watchman. He is often mentioned in El Paso news articles and at one time was in the top three candidates for chief of police.

Not much is known of this period.

Joe Bean passed away on April 25, 1947 in Alpine. He was 72 years old. His service was held at the Livingston Funeral Home Chapel, conducted by the Baptist pastor, the Rev. Frank Dutton, and Masonic graveside services were conducted by the local Masonic order, of which he had been a member for many years.

Joe Bean was sheriff of Terrell County at a very critical time in its history. The first

three sheriffs and the passage of the Prohibition Act enabled the town to move from wild and dangerous status to a modern community, safe for its citizens and a good place to live. Without the efforts of these three law enforcement professionals, Sanderson could not have become an oasis in the desert, the place we call our home.

BEAN MAY RUN FOR SANDERSON OFFICE

Sanderson, Tex., Aug. 10.—Joe Bean was here a few days from El Paso this week. He will probably become a candidate for sheriff of Terrell county at the November election. Mr. Bean held that position for four years.