

It is obvious that our little corner of north central Texas is going through a remarkable transition. It amazes those of us who have been here for a while, how our communities have changed in the last 25 years or so. What must have been even more incredible are the changes that south Denton County went through in the first 25 years after the county was formed.

A few months ago I wrote about one of the pioneers who first came to this area. Elisha Chinn brought his family here in 1853 and he is rightfully thought of as a community leader who started this area which was at one time called "Chinn's Chapel Settlement." We should never forget the contributions of the Chinn family but they were certainly not alone. There were several families that took root here in the 1850's and most of them have been just about forgotten. Three of the clans that were closely tied to the Chinn's had family names of Sublett, Fry and Mundy. These are great examples of the incredibly resilient people to whom we are all indebted.

Very little is known of Edmond Mundy. He was born in 1833 in North Carolina and evidently became an orphan at an early age. Historical evidence of Edmond first appears in the 1850 census when he was listed as a farm laborer living with, and working for, the Chinn family in Surry County North Carolina. Edmond was still living with Elisha and Mary ten years later after the Chinn's had established themselves in Texas. Edmond was about the same age as the oldest Chinn daughter, but if there ever was a romantic relationship between Edmond and any of the Chinn girls, it never developed. He remained close to the family that he grew up with and was probably thought of as an older brother. A young man like Edmond would have been a great asset to Elisha Chinn on the trip from North Carolina to Texas. Edmond was certainly considered a valued member of the community. He would have attended the church services at the chapel and would have been a good friend to have when you needed help. He was also a late bloomer but we'll get back to Edmond Mundy a little later.



In a peaceful corner of the Chinn's Chapel Cemetery, amid the grave sites of several of their family members, are the final resting places of Edmond Mundy and his wife Sara Sublett Mundy.

Isaiah Sublett was born in 1827 and Susan Cawthon in 1822. They were both from Tennessee. The two were married there in 1847 in Wilson County. The Sublett's migrated, along with Isaiah's parents and family, to Shelby County, Texas around 1851. Susan and Isaiah were probably lured to Denton County by the promises of land grants by the Peters Colony. Isaiah received patent number 63 on February 2, 1860 for 160 acres in south Denton County. The location of his grant was in what is now Double Oak just to the west of the Clayton Downing Middle School. The Sublett's were not content to remain tied to this one piece of real estate. As Isaiah established his farm, he bought and sold property all over the area. Susan Sublett had seven children that we know of: Frances (1849), Sarah (1851), Susan (1854), John (1861) Mary (1863), and two more in 1857 and 1860 that died in infancy. As the kids grew up the family became pillars of the community and would have been well known by all who lived here.

Frances Sublett married George McCombs who came here from Tennessee along with his parent's large family. They had three children: Susan (1865), Sarah (1867), and Wade (1868.) In 1861, Susan Sublett married John S. Martin who came here from Kentucky. Susan, who died in 1876, had three children named Ella (1872), Nannie (1875) and James (1875). John Sublett

married a girl named Lydia Eliot who came from Alabama. They had at least three children who died in infancy and are buried at the Chinn's Chapel Cemetery.

That leaves the second daughter of Susan and Isaiah Sublett. Sarah would have been just a toddler when the family arrived in Denton County. As she grew up she would have been close to the cluster of families who were settling here. Sarah Sublett was a bit younger than the

Chinn children, but she would have known them. She would have also known the young man who lived with them. Despite the fact that he was 18 years older than she, Sarah married Edmond Mundy in June of 1871

Edmond must have been well accepted by his new bride's family. He was only six years younger than his father-in-law but just one month after the wedding, the Sublett's gave 38 year old Edmond 80 acres of prime farmland.

*July 4th 1871, Denton County Texas
Know all men by these presents, That we
A. P. Sublett & Susan F. Sublett, for the love and affection
that we have for our son-in-law E. Mundy & our daughter
Sarah E. Mundy do this day give them a certain tract
of Land situated in Denton County & on the waters of
Denton Creek & off of the west end of a 320 acre survey
R. + 18.54 + ...*

Among the many microfilmed records of Denton County is the deed for the gift that was given to Edmond and Sarah Mundy on July 4, 1871.



The 80 acre Mundy farmstead was once in the middle of nowhere. Edmond and Sarah wouldn't recognize the land that where they once cleared, plowed, planted and harvested crops.

The location of their gift was in what is now the southwestern part of the Wellington Subdivision of Flower Mound. Sarah Mundy had six children that we know of: Carrie Belle (1872), Zula (1876), Susan Amanda (1878), James Emmett (1881), and Edmond (1889.) There was a baby born in 1884 who died before its first birthday and it is likely that other infants were born and died very young. As the Mundy children grew up, they attended school in the Chinn's Chapel Settlement.

Carrie married a salesman named Euell Fox and the two raised a family in the city of Denton. She died in 1935 and is buried in the chapel cemetery. Her sister, Zula Mundy married Evander Fry in 1896. Evidently the two were childless. They had a farm between Denton and Argyle; Vannie died in 1944 and Zula in 1945. Susan preferred to be called Amanda. She apparently never married and died in 1905 at the age of 26. James Mundy married Ada Graham who came from Arkansas. They moved to the City of Denton where James was a teamster. They had at least six children. James died in 1969 and like most of his siblings is buried in Chinn's Chapel Cemetery. Edmond, the youngest of the Mundy family married a girl named Zeta Hendrix. They lived in Denton where Edmond worked as a house painter. The two had at least two children and Edmond died in 1956 at the age of 66.

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As stated, the senior Edmond Mundy, who arrived here in 1853 in a covered wagon, was an influential member of the Chinn's Chapel Community. He was instrumental in starting a Cumberland Presbyterian church close to Old Alton. He died in 1895 at the age of 62. Sarah, his younger widow, married a widower named Thomas Fry. Mr. Fry, whose father was one of the first businessmen in the town of Denton, was first married to Ella Lemon. Thomas and Ella had a farm on Hickory Creek where they raised their family of seven children. One of the Fry children, Evander Lemon Fry, married Sarah Sublett Mundy's daughter, Zula, just two months before Zula's mother married Evander's father. Evander, or Vannie as he was also called, farmed on Hickory Creek with his wife who became his step-sister after they married. (This does get complicated.)

The information presented here comes from the records in the Denton County Court House, the Emily Fowler Library, U.S. Census Records and tombstone records from several area cemeteries. These cold dry facts just give us a few small snap shots of three of the pioneer families that once lived here. However the people were neither cold nor dry. They were Great Americans and they did a lot to build this area that we call home. We should be grateful to them.

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