

No. 01, 89th Year – Pleasanton Express, 1997
Pleasanton, Texas

Section C

Wednesday, November 19, 1997

Present for the dedication of a memorial marker for Revolutionary soldier John Calcote Sr. were Mrs. J. Taylor Brite, left, Past Regent of Atascosa DAR and Mrs. Erwin C. Ward, State Regent of Mississippi Society Daughters of American Revolution. The wreath was donated by the Mississippi State Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

Calcote family journey
By Frances Calcote Brite

The morning of October 18, 1997 dawned clear and crisp over Brookhaven, Mississippi. The day had finally arrived to dedicate a monument in memory of John Calcote Sr.

Attached to the monument was the bronze marker obtained from the Historian General, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, which honored his life and his service in the American fight for independence.

Many descendants living in Mississippi gathered with their visiting cousins from Alabama, Louisiana, Georgia, Tennessee and Texas.

All came together in the lovely Calcote Family Cemetery on the hilltop section of the historic Calcote Plantation. The cemetery was established in 1830 upon the death of John Calcote Sr.

Members of the Calcote family welcomed all the visiting members of Mississippi Society Daughters of the American Revolution; this included Mrs. C.E. Jackson, Regent of Judith Roberson Chapter; Mary Sue Douglas, Regent of Chloe Holt Chapter and Rita Retebie, Regent of Ole Brook Chapter. All came to participate in the dedication ceremony.

All in attendance were happy to greet the Mississippi Society State Regent, Mrs. Erwin C. Ward, when she arrived from Jackson, Miss.

The entire group was welcomed for the occasion by Frances Calcote Brite, wife of Judge J. Taylor Brite of Pleasanton, Texas. Mrs. Brite is Past Regent of Atascosa Chapter, NSDAR of Texas.

She has just published her first book, "Calcote Family Journey." This is a documented genealogy of over 300 years of Calcote generations in North America.

The invocation was given by Ralph Calcote, a retired Baptist Missionary, who served 35 years in Japan.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Peggy Jean Ledbetter, a descendant of John Calcote Sr., and a member of French Lick Chapter, NSDAR of Tennessee.

The assembly recited the American's Creed, let by Mary Sue Douglas, Regent of Chloe Hold Chapter, NSDAR, of Mississippi.

Fred Calcote Jr. paid tribute to John Calcote Sr. with a heart-felt talk, setting out the bravery of our Revolutionary Soldier ancestor during the battle for independence, and also in the later quest for land when he brought his young family westward to the grandeur of the Mississippi Territory.

John Calcote Sr. and his wife had arrived with their four sons and one daughter in 1802. They were pioneer settlers of Mississippi Territory. They traveled with many friends from South Carolina after servind with Gen. Francis Marion.

Jessica Hunter and Stanci Leighann Long, young descendants of John Calcote Sr., gracefully unveiled the monument honoring his memory.

This memorial monument and inscription had been chosen by Dennis Calcote, Fred Calcote Jr. and Ralph Calcote. All are residents of the Brookhaven-Wesson area of Mississippi.

Approval for the official bronze plaque honoring the life and military service of John Calcote Sr. came from the Historian General, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

This approval was obtained by Atascosa Chapterr NSDAR through the efforts of a member of the Chapter, Frances Calcote Brite, and Mrs. D.D. Heinen, Regent of Atascosa Chapter DAR.

The inscription on the monument and JSDAR marker was ready by Ralph Calcote as follows:

“In memory of John Calcote Sr., born 1755 Newport Parish, Colony of Virginia. Served in Revolutionary War with General Frncis Marion ‘The Swamp Fox,’ South Carolina. Pioneer settler of Mississippi Territory, died 1830, Franklin Co. Mississippi.”

The bronze plaque is titled: “Revolutionary soldier-John Calcote Sr. born 1755 VA, died 1830 MS – Atascosa Chapter NSDAR.”

Mrs. Erwin C. Ward, State Regent of MSSDAR, then presented the beautiful large red, white and blue wreath to the descendants of John Calcote Sr. by placing it at the head of his monument. This wreath was given by the Mississippi State Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

Mrs. Ward then announced to the assembly her pride in being invited to such an historic event, her joy in honoring such a worthy pioneer settler of Mississippi Territory.

The prayer of dedication was delivered by Texas Senior District Judge J. Taylor Brite in which he expressed "...the gratitude we have for the rich heritage of this land, all being evidence of God's favor toward this blessed country.

"Our gratitude for men and women who by blood, sweat, toil and tears, helped build all we hold dear – and, may we never take for granted what our ancestors obtained at great price."

The benediction was a musical prayer by the entire assembly, "God Bless America," let by John Calcote, a music director.

Reception was held at Bethel Methodist Church, hosted by friends of the Calcote family.