

PENNINGTON, ELIAS GREEN. Born in Virginia, he was the son of Elijah Pennington, one of the heroes of Valley Forge, who lost several toes from freezing in the winter of 1777 and whose eardrums were ruptured at the Battle of Trenton. After the Revolution Elijah received a land grant in Virginia. He developed it into a tobacco plantation, and raised a family of eight boys and eight girls, John (1804-1883) being the youngest and Elias Green one of the oldest.

Elijah had a notion that every person, once of age, should go out into the world on his own. When each of his sons reached 21 years of age, he gave him a rifle, a dog, a horse, a saddle and \$2,100 (in silver) and told him to be gone and make a home for himself. Likewise, he endowed his daughters on marrying and sent them away with the admonition that divorce was sacrilege and that they should make the most of their marriage. When it came to Elias Green's turn, he struck out for himself in South Carolina. In 1832 he married Julia Ann Hood of North Carolina, and they made their honeymoon trip trekking west, first to Tennessee where they made their first home in Nashville and lived for five years.

Texas, which had just won its independence, held out to them its vast lands. There was a home and an empire for every Tennessean or Kentuckian with a rifle and the brawn to acquire and to hold. Elias hitched up the oxen, loaded the household goods, and the rumbled on to Texas. Near Honey Grove the family settled and broke ground for a farm. Here Elias also freighted between Shreveport, Jefferson and Bonham.

Elias prospered with his freighting business. His wife bore him twelve children--eight girls and four boys. It was in Texas that his wife died.

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Again he packed the household goods in the wagons in 1857 and taking his twelve children joined a train for California. In June, 1857, they reached Fort Buchanan on the Sonoita river.

Two of his daughters being ill, Elias stopped at the fort and lived near it for a year or two. Renegotiated a contract with the Fort to supply the stock with hay. He and his boys cut hay in the fields. The girls secured odd jobs sewing for the wives of the officers.

There was Jim, the oldest, quiet and hardworking; Jack, a boy of eighteen, who threatened once to shoot his companions who were going to leave a comrade wounded during an Indian attack; and Green, who was as tall as his father and well liked by his sisters. Of the girls, there were ^{Laura} Mary, who married John H. Page in December, 1858; Ellen, married to Underwood C. Barnett, member of the Third Territorial Assembly; Jane, married to William Crumpton; Ann, who died from her illness that year of 1857 and was buried in Sopori; and Josephine, the youngest.

In September, 1859, the family moved to the Santa Cruz and lived in the old Gandara house at Calabasas. In 1861 and 1862 they lived at the Mowry mine, staying there until Mowry was arrested as a rebel sympathizer in June, 1862, by the Federals. The Penningtons kept on moving--Tucson in 1862, Tubac, 1864, Sopori Ranch again from 1866 to 1868; and Fort Crittenden in 1869. The family freighted and when they stayed in one place long enough for a crop to grow, farmed. When in the vicinity of a forest, they cut timber.

In Tucson, at one time, they operated a saw pit in the dry arroyo bed which was to become a street originally called Calle del Arroyo, now Bennington Street.

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It was while hauling lumber to Tucson that Jim met his' death, ambushed by the Apaches after he passed San Xavier.

The family held on to their Sopori Ranch, located ten miles from Tubac. Ann died and Ellen married Barnett. Diminished in number the Penningtons went up to Tubac and to Fort Crittenden in 1869, hoping that here they might be secure from the Apaches.

But in June 10, 1869, while Elias Pennington and his son, Green, were at work in their field on the Sonoita, 14 miles below the fort, the Apaches sneaked up and shot the father from behind. The boy fought the Apaches and was shot. Mortally wounded, he escaped toward home to warn the family. He died. The bodies of the father and son were taken to the fort and buried in the cemetery on top of the hill just above the railroad cut nearest the site of old Fort Buchanan. Sidney R. De Long, quartermaster, read the services.

In May, 1892, all remains in the burial place at Fort Crittenden were dug up and moved to the San Francisco National Cemetery. Dr. Robert H. Forbes, who married a grand-daughter of Elias in 1930, made a search for the graves of the father and son, Green, but could not locate the graves of either of the Pennington men. He believed their remains were in the common grave of the unknown.

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