

## LA VERNIA

*The following newspaper article was found in a scrapbook kept by Mrs. Mamie Scull Dorsett, daughter of Mr. J. G. Scull. The name of the newspaper is unknown. It was written prior to December 24, 1878, as that is the date Mr. A.O. Elam married Miss Anna M. Perkins. (W. R. Elam Family Bible, published in 1858). The article was given to Mrs. Shirley Grammer of La Vernia, Texas by Mrs. Perdie Southern Scull, wife of Dr. Jackson Scull. Mrs. Scull passed away on September 10, 2004, and is buried in the Concrete Cemetery in La Vernia. Mrs. Shirley Grammer generously allowed the Wilson County Historical Society to use the article in HISTORIC MOMENTS IN WILSON COUNTY, TEXAS. It offers a glimpse into the early days of La Vernia. Some of the sentence structure has been changed to make it easier to read.*

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This progressive little town of La Vernia is situated on the Gulf Shore Railroad on the south side of Cibolo Creek, on the Wilson County side. It is the center of as fine an agricultural section as can be found in any section of Southwest Texas.

The country about La Vernia, north of the Cibolo and on the Guadalupe County side, is a grand landscape for one to view. From gently sloping hills, stretch after stretch of rich country may be seen with valleys lying in pensive quietness between. These valleys are dotted with the homes of a thrifty, well-to-do class of farmers, who say the country is just as fertile as it looks. We believe it.

We had the pleasure of meeting Mr. A. O. Elam who is running the old Newton farm one mile northeast of La Vernia. Mr. Elam keeps "bachelor's hall" in the old Newton home on the hill. It is a large white house commanding a beautiful view of the surrounding country. We expressed our surprise at his keeping "bachelor's hall". He should be a prominent candidate for matrimony, since he is surrounded by so many young maidens. Mr. Elam cultivates 135 acres in corn, cotton and sorghum. From Mr. Elam's we pass up the road one-half of a mile to the pretty and comfortable home of Mr. John Gambier Scull. This is certainly a model country home. Mr. Scull is a most scientific and successful agriculturist. His farm contains 282 acres, and 125 acres is in a high state of cultivation. It is situated on table land known as the Mesquite and Live Oak Sand Prairie.

Mr. Scull says it is well adapted to cotton and corn. He said he had frequently grown as much as a bale of cotton to the acre. He has a fine lot of mules and horses.

Mr. Charley Scull, one of his brothers, lives in a charming home about 200 yards south of Mr. J. G. Scull. What we have said of Mr. J. G. Scull is also applicable to Mr. Charley Scull. They are both pleasant gentlemen with happy, accomplished families. Their sister, Mrs. Levi (Emma Scull) Maddox, lives about 200 yards north of them and is comfortably situated. Mrs. J. B. (Mary Elam) McLemore, sister of A.O. Elam, lives one-half mile west of them and owns a tract of 165 acres, of which 80 acres is in cultivation.

From the little nest of "Sculls" we pass on to Mrs. Louisa (Gus) Tiner's farm of 200 acres. She rents part of her place and her two oldest boys are cultivating 75 acres in cotton and corn.

In this same favored section also lives that good citizen, Mr. Curtis Warren, who owns a nice farm.

We met Mr. L. W. Conner and Mr. W. Kay, who is farming with him. They are cultivating 85 acres in corn and cotton.

Mr. W. D. Scull is another substantial farmer. His farm contains 279 acres, and he has 135 acres in cultivation. Mr. Scull said he would sell his farm if he could get his price, but he laughed when he said it.

Compiled from archives of the Wilson County Historical Society. 4/20/2007.