

THE BLAKES

COMMERCE AND PHILANTHROPY ON THE
WESTERN FRONTIER

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PREFACE

As Major Charles Henry Blake and his wife of 31 years, Mary Ann Upshaw Blake, pondered relocating to Texas, they realized it wouldn't be easy to leave their West Kentucky home, but it would be very hard to stay. The year was 1866. The War Between the States (as Southerners preferred to call the Civil War) had come to an end the previous year, in May of 1865. Homecoming for Kentucky's Confederate soldiers was devastating. "The state was in chaos postwar," explains James C. Klotter, the state historian of Kentucky and a professor emeritus of history at Georgetown College. "Violence was prevalent. Slavery had ended, and race relations were in flux. Many had lost property."¹ Wealth had drained from the commonwealth.² With crops lost, livestock taken, and property destroyed, Kentucky's economy was low, but the morale of its people had sunk even lower.³ Now in their 50s, Charles and his wife were proud Southerners; nothing could dim their love for Dixie. Charles—a graduate of the College of William and Mary,⁴ and an educator and scholar of history, Latin, and Greek—served in the Confederate Army as a captain and, later, a major. During his service, Mary

Ann proved her own dedication to the cause by personally delivering quinine⁵ to help treat Southern soldiers afflicted with malaria. Because "quinine was proclaimed contraband south of the Mason & Dixon line by Lincoln and his consorts, and was tremendously needed in the Southern army,"⁶ Mary Ann prevented its discovery-which would have resulted in her execution-by stitching the medicinal salts into the hem of her Balmoral petticoat.⁷ She then hitched up a one-horse buggy to undertake the perilous drive from southwest Kentucky to Mississippi and back again, crossing federal lines six times. "Think, Love, Pray, Dare, Live" is the motto of the United Daughters of the Confederacy; those antebellum ideals were embodied beautifully in the person of Mary Ann Upshaw Blake.

Traveling long distances never daunted her or her husband. The couple had relocated once before, moving to Blandville, Kentucky⁸ (in Ballard County), from their native Virginia, where they had deep roots in Gloucester, Essex, and Queen Counties: Several Blakes had fought in the Revolutionary War, and their ancestors numbered among Virginia's earliest settlers. Charles's grandfather Benjamin had been a county clerk and justice of the peace; another relative, Daniel Blake Smith, served as a member of the Virginia State Assembly. Sadly, the first child of Charles and Mary Ann Blake, Charles Edwin Blake, died in Virginia in 1842, aged six; the boy's untimely death prompted the grieving couple to migrate further south, for a much-needed change of scenery.⁹

Academic achievement had always been a priority for Charles Blake, but there was little demand for scholars in the current market: the population decline had led to the

loss of rural services (stores and schools), which prompted an exodus, as people left the countryside for the nearest urban area. With scholarship taking a back-seat to practical skills, it was clear to Charles Blake's heirs that success in business, not books, was the

key to staying solvent. Times had changed. Money, too, was different: before the Civil War, only coins were legal tender, but now United States currency circulated in the form of paper "greenbacks." As they weighed the pros and cons of leaving versus staying, the Blakes heard first-hand reports of Texas from their son Joel Foster Blake.¹⁰ The second-eldest of their seven children, Joel, 28, had recently made a trip to the Lone Star State. (He returned from the Civil

War the year before, having served as a captain in the 7th Kentucky Mounted Infantry, Confederate States of America.) Describing the many opportunities for economic advancement he'd observed in the growing city of Dallas, which was fast becoming a wholesale distribution hub, Joel was optimistic about Texas's rapidly expanding economy, and encouraged his parents in no uncertain terms to undertake the move. Texas had seceded to join the Confederate States in 1861, and was still under military rule; it would not be readmitted to the Union until 1870.

Gently, Joel explained how Texas offered the chance to make more money--and improved financial prospects would ensure that he, his siblings, and their descendants could afford to uphold the values that Charles and Mary Ann had lovingly instilled in them. His intellectual, idealist parents had always placed their faith in learning and culture, i.e., the things money cannot buy, but now they reckoned that the pursuit of profit need not cancel out the pursuit of

knowledge. The family's youngest son, Samuel Diggs Blake, and his two younger sisters, Lucy Roane Blake, 14, and Alice Upshaw Blake, n, listened raptly to the discussion about Texas. They never forgot that family powwow. Samuel, a charismatic young man of 19, was very eager to go into business for himself; he'd had a taste of the mercantile life by working at retail stores in Kentucky, and resolved to test Dallas's entrepreneurial waters. Samuel knew of the Sanger Brothers, pioneer Texas retailers whose specialty was opening stores all along the Houston and Texas Central Railway; among its many firsts, Sanger Bros. became the first store in Texas to establish a buying office in New York, enabling them to purchase a wider range of stock than they found on the Houston-Galveston-New Orleans market, and to obtain price discounts and other advantages.¹¹ The next generation of Blakes was driven by the quest for prosperity that unites all enterprising Americans. Their parents were fortunate to have such ambitious sons and daughters looking out for the family's security: it was their just reward for always thoughtfully consulting their heirs when making important decisions. By all accounts, members of the Blake family were deeply devoted to one another.

In short order, the matter was resolved: Texas promised a better life for thousands of pioneers, and the Kentucky Blakes would be among them. Charles and Mary Ann set about disposing of their worldly goods, packing only the essentials in preparation for their journey south and west, as part of a caravan of fourteen covered wagons. Three of the Blakes' possessions were not absolutely necessary, yet the family could not-would not-leave them behind: a trio of handsome, framed family portraits, likenesses of Charles, Mary Ann, and their eldest son, Joel, painted in 1847. These

were carefully bundled to survive the trip. Young Alice was especially attached to those paintings, which spoke volumes about the Blakes' values. For these people, art—whether painting, music, or poetry—was a priceless treasure. In his picture, Major Charles Blake appears as the distinguished, scholarly gentleman and Civil War veteran he was. Joel is depicted as a miniature version of his father: a serious, thoughtful young man wearing a dark jacket and collared white shirt. His mother, Mary Ann, is portrayed as a lady of quiet dignity, with clear gray eyes that hint at vast reserves of strength, her infant son, Samuel Diggs Blake, held securely in her arms. The little boy clearly inherited his mother's gray eyes, only his had the quality of tempered steel. Even attired in a christening gown, baby Samuel wears the solemn expression of a determined adult—precisely what he grew up to be.

Within six years of the family's move to Texas¹² ambitious, hardworking Samuel Diggs would become a versatile and influential competitor on the Texas business scene, constantly on the lookout for lucrative commercial ventures; when there weren't any, the entrepreneurial Samuel tirelessly applied his initiative to create and capitalize them. His father had set an excellent example through grit and determination: together with Samuel's elder brother Thomas Roane Blake, Major Blake opened a dry-goods business in Granbury, Texas,¹³ 70 miles southwest of Dallas. On hand to help, Samuel delayed his long-anticipated move to the big city. In 1872, he was relieved of duty when an enterprising man named John Daniel Baker, son of Alvin Baker, arrived in Granbury. Baker had traveled from Alabama to Texas on horseback, and Major Blake was the first person he met. The two men bonded over their Civil War heritage and

shared experience as former schoolteachers. J. D. Baker¹⁴ entered into partnership with Charles and his son Tom (Thomas Roane Blake), and took Tom's sister Alice as his bride. Samuel was now free to move on to the destination that had always been his target: Dallas. That same year, Samuel reached his goal in style, merging his fortunes with those of his bride, Lulu Lee Barkley. She was the daughter of Major James E. Barkley—a Civil War veteran known to all as the Sheriff of Dallas and Margaret Irene (Moberly) Barkley, who had moved their family to Texas from Warsaw, Missouri. The marriage of Samuel Diggs Blake and Lulu Lee Barkley would produce five children: sons Mack and Edwin and daughters Lucile, Rhena, and Lulabel (the couple's first son was stillborn; his name is not known). Mack Barkley Blake was named after his mother Lulu's brother, Mack Barkley.

In 1873, Samuel partnered with his father-in-law to purchase land along Elm and Jefferson Streets and Pacific Avenue, with the intention of building a hotel. Instead, he teamed with fellow Kentucky native Bartholomew Blankenship to open Blankenship & Blake; in 1886, the firm opened Texas's first cotton mill. As president of Dallas Cotton Factory and, later, president of Dallas Manufacturers—Samuel would campaign tirelessly for reduced railroad freight rates. A quarter century later, a newspaper would recall this phase of Samuel's career:

Twenty-five years ago, Mr. Blake was in the wholesale clothing business in Dallas, and under the firm name of Blake, Blankenship started the first cotton mill in Texas. The railroads were fighting him, however; they did not want Texas cotton to be manufactured into cloth in Texas, and deprive them of the long

*haul to New England; hence Mr. Blake found it necessary to issue a call for a convention of the leading businessmen of Texas to devise means to end the oppression by the railroads. Among those who attended this memorable convention was Dr. W. o. Farrington of Chillicothe. The railroad commission of Texas had its origin at this meeting, called by Mr. Blake.*¹⁵

Samuel also branched into banking: the Blake Mutual Building and Loan Association in Dallas County, Texas, was incorporated on April 19, 1888, with a capital stock of

\$500,000. Its president was Samuel Blake. He was a highly accomplished jack-of-all-trades, a pioneer venture capitalist, but retailing was still in his blood, and despite his many successes in other business arenas, he never abandoned the plan of opening his own store. The realization of that dream came on September 1, 1880, when Blankenship & Blake opened a wholesale and retail dry-goods business at 5n Elm Street in Dallas. Later, the firm would be housed in a four-story brick structure at the corner of Commerce and Lamar Streets—the first four-story building in Texas, which "marked the beginning of the city's subsequent era of high-class business structures."¹⁶ He had a great eye for property: for his family, Samuel secured a plot on Gaston Avenue and built a house with a fountain out front. The Blake homestead was situated squarely in what would later become the exclusive Dallas suburb of Munger Place.¹⁷ Samuel understood a basic business principle: rich or poor, in times of boom or bust, everyone is obliged to buy the necessities of life—dry goods and groceries. And that need is what a merchant must fulfill, in such a way as to become indispensable in the lives of his neighbors. There would always be demand for what a well-stocked store and its savvy proprietor had to offer. Some years later, a newspaper retrospec-

tive of Samuel's career would describe him as "a citizen of large and successful business experience, a man of great energy and resourcefulness," concluding that the mercantile milieu is where "the popular merchant" left his most enduring legacy:

Few men of our present day have left their imprint upon their generation in a more unmistakable manner. Scores of young men, who started their business career under Mr. Blake, are now leading merchants, and look back at him as the man who gave them their training and frequently furnished them the money to start in business with. Among the wholesale folks the intelligence that a new customer had been a pupil of Sam Blake's is sufficient to give him good standing Mr. Blake was a genius in drawing trade. Time and again, we have seen him come back from New York when the town was quiet and not a stranger could be seen upon the streets. One week afterward, big ads in the Tribune-Chief appearing meanwhile, the town would be thronged with people, all eager for trade with the popular merchant.¹⁸

Soon, Samuel would be pleased to discover that his boy Mack would be his most apt pupil. The son had inherited his father's keen entrepreneurial instincts: he, too, had retailing in his blood and would prove to be a natural-born merchant, building on what Samuel had started while developing his own unique talent for increasing profits.

THE MAKING OF A MERCHANT

Mastery of the retail milieu prepares an entrepreneur for success in any commercial venture. Retail has all the elements needed to capture and hold the interest of business-minded individuals: the profitable practice of buying low and selling high, the challenge of acquiring stock that meets the customers' satisfaction and exceeds their expectations, building and liquidating inventory, the strict science of supply and demand. Those in the trade enjoy merchandising their wares, and meeting the constant challenge of setting prices low enough to keep customers coming back, yet high enough to turn a profit. For the customer, a well-curated store is more than a place to buy necessities: it's a gateway to all that is new and timely in the world beyond the store's walls, a cross between a museum and an amusement park ... a refreshing travel destination. Retailing affords a store owner the exciting perk of the buying trip: travel to far-flung places for the purpose of browsing the latest items and then purchasing, importing, and devising attractive displays to entice the shoppers back home. Good salesmen offer expert

wardrobe and home-décor guidance along with quality merchandise at fair prices, and their daily transactions build trust among customers. The savvy retailer swiftly acquires a high profile in his community, becoming well respected for his opinions in and out of the market—a veritable VIP. No post-Civil War American market was as sophisticated as New York City, the nation's most modern metropolis, and Samuel Blake astutely established a presence there. The Dallas Daily Herald announced the September 1, 1880, opening of Blankenship & Blake, identifying Samuel Diggs Blake as the firm's "resident buyer in New York" and adding that Mack Barkley, Lulu Lee's brother and Samuel's brother-in-law, "so well and favorably known in Dallas, is with this house."¹ The 1880 U.S. Census shows that Samuel and his family lived in Manhattan, with his wife and children, his occupation listed as commission buyer. Samuel's mother-in-law, Margaret Barkley, also resided in Manhattan, at 153 West 14th Street, near Sixth Avenue. Mack Barkley Blake, Samuel's six-year-old son, was enrolled in a New York City public elementary school.

THE MUNICIPAL ARCHIVE of the New York City Board of Education does not hold student records, so it is not known which school Mack attended. However, given its close proximity to his grandmother's address, Mack most likely went to Grammar School No. 41², just three short blocks away at 116 West 11th Street, in Greenwich Village. A few blocks further west, on 14th Street, was a bustling commercial district; it was supported by an elevated railroad line, opened in 1868, which ran along Ninth Avenue and Greenwich Street, carrying deliveries to and from the "farmer's market," an open-air space for the buying and selling of

regional produce. Even further west, the New York Central Railroad's street-level freight trains transported coal, dairy products, and beef along Tenth and Eleventh Avenues, as men on horseback—the "West Side cowboys," hired by the railroad—waved flags in front of the trains as a safety measure. An atmosphere of danger was palpable in New York's answer to the Wild West; accidental collisions between the trains and other traffic were so frequent that this part of the city earned the nickname "Death Avenue." Doubtless, Mack was impressed by the lightning speed of transactions for which New York—birthplace of the "New York minute"—was always renowned, the fast-paced hunt for bargains and nanosecond negotiations of mutually profitable deals. As with any new culture, childhood exposure creates fluency for life, and young Mack learned to keep pace with New York's legendary rapid tempo, such that the skill never left him. It's likely that he accompanied his grandmother on a shopping expedition to Arnold, Constable & Co., the luxury emporium on Broadway and 19th Street dubbed by newspapers the "Palace of Trade"; its marble facade and striking two-story Mansard roof were architectural reflections of the exquisite goods on offer within. Walking along Broadway with his father or grandmother, Mack would have seen another retail landmark: Wanamaker's department store, big enough to merit its own subway station.

The boy was doubtless impressed by the elegant parade of fashionably dressed New Yorkers he saw promenading on Broadway: beautifully dressed ladies escorted by dapper gentlemen, outfitted in properly starched collars, top hats ("toppers") or derbies, and tailored three-piece morning suits with a narrow silhouette. By day, the women's slender, corseted figures were clad in tailored coats and long, narrow

skirts, called "hobble skirts" because their tightness restricted the wearer from taking long strides. Evening gowns had low necks and no sleeves; they were worn with long, over-the-elbow opera gloves and wide chokers—very à la mode, since the style-setting Alexandra, Queen Consort of England, favored them to conceal a scar on her neck (Her Royal Highness's signature look would influence fashion for several decades). The ladies' slow gait would have afforded a little boy a waist-height-view of splendid laces, ribbons, buttons, and other dressmaker details of women's fashions from that period, as well as the finer points of tailoring on the gentlemen's outfits. These left quite an impression: as soon as he was old enough to outfit himself, and for the rest of his life, Mack would hew to this high standard of dress, never appearing less than perfectly outfitted in his uniform of a business suit, tie with pin, stiff collar, cuff links, polished shoes, and hat. Sealing Mack's fate as a well-dressed gentleman was his favorite book: *Little Lord Fauntleroy*.³ This classic story of the rags-to-riches genre tells the story of Cedric, a boy in New York City who lives with his mother in genteel poverty—until one day they are notified by his rich grandfather's lawyer that the boy is heir to an earldom, title, and fortune. Cedric travels to England, where he is outfitted in a black velvet suit, to begin his education as an aristocrat. The novel left quite an impression on young Mack Blake: improving his lot in life would always be a top priority, and so would dressing well.

AT ARNOLD, Constable, Mack would witness the impressive sales tactics of smooth-talking, quick-thinking clerks. Perhaps Grandmother Barkley explained to her grandson that this luxury emporium catered to the "carriage trade":

Rockefellers, Vanderbilts, Morgans, and other elite members of society.⁴ On the other hand, if young Mack were to have accompanied his father or his namesake uncle, Mack Barkley, on a visit to Arnold, Constable—a likely destination for an ambitious buyer, as it was a key stop on the market research circuit—the boy might have learned the inspiring story of how the Palace of Trade got its start: fifty-five years earlier, hardworking merchant Aaron Arnold had opened a dry-goods store further downtown. A self-made man, Arnold had immigrated to the island of Manhattan from the Isle of Wight in Great Britain; now his store's buyer routinely went on buying trips in style—to Paris, even! Observing his father collaborating with his uncle taught young Mack that it's good business to work with close family members. Today, we have a term for the type of schooling Mack received in New York City: entrepreneurship education, which encourages success in students at all levels, from primary and secondary schools all the way up to graduate university programs. Although comprehensive, Mack's learning did not take place in a traditional classroom. The boy's early exposure to the fast-paced commercial activity of his adopted city—especially to its markets, both indoors and open-air—gave him invaluable skills that would stay with him for the rest of his long, successful career. By the time of his return to Texas, young Mack was a business prodigy, with the life skills needed to make his mark.

LITTLE ELSE IS KNOWN of Mack Blake's childhood, and only two photographs of him from that period have survived. One image reveals an infant who very much resembles his father at that age; in the other, a solemn Mack, aged three,

looks dashing in a double-breasted coat, brimmed felt hat, and boots—a serious, determined baby businessman. It's almost as if Mack sprang, full-grown, from his enterprising father's desktop: a child of diligence and ambition, born and groomed to do business. But even without photographs, it's not hard to imagine Mack as every inch the can-do entrepreneur in early youth, a boss who easily dominated his younger siblings. One family legend told of how Mack had the chore of milking the family's cow. Occupied with other pursuits (doubtless profitable ones), he convinced his parents that his kid brother Edwin could very well milk the cow. The next hurdle was convincing the younger boy of this in such a way that he wouldn't feel "milked." Mack proved his managerial skills by doing exactly what it took to motivate Edwin: paying him! Meanwhile, business prodigy that he was, Mack was developing a keen eye for feminine beauty, along with a knack for selling accessories to enhance it. He convinced his kid sister Rhena that she should have pierced ears, the better to wear diamond post earrings. However, Mack was also quite frugal, so he saved money on this transaction by piercing Rhena's ears himself. These two anecdotes⁵ paint a picture of young Mack the capable salesman, manager, and deal-closer. And yet he could also be a generous elder brother, whose siblings would rely on him for financial guidance all their lives. Mack was never stingy with his most valuable treasure: his economic counsel. As he grew, Mack would demonstrate many more qualities of successful business leadership. At age 15, he began working for Blankenship & Blake. The Dallas City Directory of 1889-90 lists him as a member of the firm thus: "Mack Blake, Occupation: Clerk." While working for his father in various capacities, Mack wasted no time identifying business prospects of his own.

. . .

YOUNG MEN HAVE BEEN MAKING regrettable mistakes since the beginning of time, but Mack made only one big blunder, and it taught him an invaluable lesson. In 1891 or 1892, Samuel Blake decided that his son must have a college education, so Mack was sent 180 miles south of Dallas, to the campus of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas (now known as Texas A&M).⁶ Leaving home with the money Samuel had allotted for tuition stowed in his pocket, Mack arrived one day ahead of enrollment. The money grew heavy in Mack's pocket, ensuring that his first night on campus would be a memorable one.

ENTERING into a card game with some other students, Mack promptly lost all of his tuition money and sent a wire to his father the following morning explaining the fix he was in. Could he please send more funds? The return wire from Samuel Blake was a lesson that Mack would never forget: "The first time you lost your tuition money, it was your fault. The next time, it will be mine." His father did come through but he shrewdly sent the tuition money directly to the college. Mack diligently set his nose to the academic grindstone, and never squandered money again. His one year at Texas A&M would be Mack Blake's only experience of higher education. College days came to an abrupt end in 1893, when his father encountered business setbacks that prevented further payment of tuition. That year saw a serious, nationwide economic depression: the Panic of 1893. It began in New York with the crash of the stock market, but quickly spread financial contagion across the country, affecting every sector of the economy. Five Dallas banks and

several industries failed; cotton prices dropped to less than five cents per pound.⁷ For the first time in his successful career, Samuel Blake was struggling. He thought wistfully of the family discussion, back in, Kentucky-especially his parents' dismay that business had taken priority over books and Joel's solemn promise that he and his siblings would use profits to ensure that their heirs would always know learning and culture. Samuel shook his head: business was bad now, and his boy was unable to further his education.

FOR HIS PART, Mack took the setback in stride. New York City had been his experimental elementary classroom. From here, the business world would be his collegiate campus, and he had every intention of making the grade in all subjects. To help further his ambitious ends, Mack gave himself a suitably businesslike handle, consisting of his first and middle initials plus his surname: M. B. Blake. He got to work flexing his entrepreneurial muscles, beginning by selling groceries to farmers and ranchers around Amarillo, Texas—a smart move, as that part of the state was the center of a booming cattle market and a crossroads of commerce, with two railroad depots. Making rounds through the countryside, M.B. often enjoyed the hospitality of his customers; regular patrons graciously invited him to dine with their families and stay overnight. He would later recall that, in the era before refrigeration, some of those meals brought on terrible bouts of indigestion. At one farmhouse, M.B. was served biscuits covered with honey—but when he lifted a biscuit from the plate, he saw flies trapped in the sweet syrup beneath!⁸ To prevent stomach upset from such unwelcome digestive surprises, a doctor advised M.B. to drink a shot of liquor before meals. The Rx worked.²⁶

Meanwhile, his father, Samuel, resolutely sorted through the financial fix he was in. He could have filed for bankruptcy, and business associates urged him to do so, but the very idea gave him an upset stomach. Financial integrity was paramount to Samuel Diggs Blake: filing for bankruptcy was out of the question. Instead, he vowed to pay all his debts--with earnings from his next business venture, the job of general manager at a dry-goods store in the town of Quanah, Texas,⁹ 217 miles north and west of Dallas. The 1900 Census of Hardeman County listed Samuel as a "dry goods merchant." Eventually, Samuel was in a position to invest in a business he worked for, Evans & Baker. The partners were his sister and two brothers-in-law, John D. "J.D." Baker (husband of Samuel's younger sister Alice Blake) and Thomas J. Evans (husband of his elder sister, Mary Francis Blake). The firm sold dry goods and groceries, wholesale and retail.¹⁰ Later, Samuel would manage the Baker-Hanna store, which opened in Quanah in 1906; there, he further burnished his reputation for charismatic salesmanship with "a great knack for bringing outsiders to town."¹¹ Named for Quanah Parker, last of the Comanche Indian chiefs, Quanah, like Samuel, had recently recovered from a major setback: two years earlier, in June of 1891, 14 inches of rain fell in four hours, destroying the town and the local farmers' wheat crops. Then disaster struck again the same year, with a fire that destroyed many businesses. Quanah rallied and rebuilt, maintaining its place as the market center of Hardeman County.¹² Ultimately, Samuel too rallied: he was able to repay every penny he owed back in Dallas, for the new store's hardest worker was none other than his son, the retail prodigy Mack Blake, now becoming widely known by his handle M. B. Blake. Helping his father operate the Quanah store--and, later taking over management duty

when Samuel moved on to other ventures-would be Mack's continuing education, an advanced degree of sorts. The Harvard Business School wouldn't be established for another 15 years, but Mack's early career was an exhaustive entrepreneurial curriculum that would lay the groundwork for a lifetime of success in business.

WHILE WORKING for his father in various capacities, Mack wasted no time identifying prospects and forging connections of his own. In 1901, he worked as the local manager for the Evans & Baker Co. of Mangum, Oklahoma¹³-- the firm's name came from the same J. D. Baker and Thomas J. Evans who had partnered with Samuel. Like his father, Mack's uncles placed a premium on family bonds when doing business, and Mack would continue the trend throughout his career. J. D. Baker was an important mentor and role model in his nephew Mack's career. In addition to being head of Baker & Poston and the Famous Shoe Store, enterprising J.D. had diverse other business interests: he was a member of the wholesale grocery firm of Cameron, Hill and Baker; president of the First National Bank; and a director of the Crystal Palace Flouring Mills. He also operated stores in Cisco, Quanah, Granbury, Anson, and Henrietta, as well as owning a ranch in Palo Pinto County and a 7,000-square-foot Victorian home in Weatherford, Texas. With investments in many different ventures, J.D. was more than a versatile entrepreneur; he was a capitalist, and Mack aspired to that high level of economic influence.

HE WAS WELL on his way, already enjoying the high-profile status that comes with being a successful merchant. Mack

became what today's newspapers call a boldface name: the Mangum Sun-Monitor began frequently reporting his comings and goings--buying trips, vacations--in its society column,¹⁴ as it did for other prominent members of the community. Except M. B. Blake never really took a vacation per se; he was always working, his sights set on the next opportunity. Even when he traveled far from the office, he was still very much on duty. The local papers' society columns continued reporting on his movements and doings through 1902 and 1903. In January 1902, he "went to Quanah to attend the annual meeting of the board of directors of the Evans- Baker Dry Goods Company," and in March 1902, he "bought a \$30,000 stock of dry goods for \$16,000."¹⁵ By October of 1903, Mack had relocated to Amarillo, but two months later, he was visiting (read: prospecting) in Mangum.¹⁶

IN 1904, at age 30, Mack opened his own business, a dry-goods store in Mangum, together with partner Dell Curreathers; they called it Blake & Curreathers. Mangum, in Greer County, was a frontier town in the extreme southwest corner of Oklahoma. Mercantile life on the frontier was not easy: Blake & Curreathers stayed open for business from five a.m. until midnight. The partners worked hard to maintain this punishing schedule so they could accommodate customers' odd hours--especially the owners and patrons of the five saloons that shared the block with the store, all of them catering to the ranchers, who worked up a powerful thirst and only had time to shop for necessities in between rounds of drinks, when it was too dark to work outside. The proprietors of Blake & Curreathers did more than sell dry-goods items and groceries; as was customary for mercantile

stores on the Oklahoma frontier, Mack and Dell also functioned as bankers, providing a safe-deposit box for customers, "especially wealthy cattlemen who traveled with large amounts of currency in canvas bags," explains historian Lynne Pierson Doti.¹⁷ Both bachelors, Messrs. Blake and Curreathers shared a room at the back of the store, where they would take turns sacking out for the few hours during which they weren't besieged with customers. Minding the store was a 24-hour endeavor. When Dell found himself a bride, Mack shared the back room with an unmarried business colleague named Duff Pierce. But Mack wouldn't remain a bachelor for long: a merchant at the top of his game immediately recognizes quality stock, and one day, on a visit to Quanah, Mack's keen eye landed on lovely Kathryn Talbott.¹⁸

NINETEEN-YEAR-OLD "KITTY" (as she was called by family and friends) took a job at the Evans-Baker store in Quanah, with the goal of earning enough money to pay for tuition at the prestigious North Texas Female College.¹⁹ Among the wares Kitty sold were hats designed by her friend Dorothy Clabaugh.²⁰ Kitty's ancestors had deep roots in Virginia, as did the Blakes. She had a familiar look about her: like Mack's grandmother Mary Ann Upshaw Blake, Kitty was a tall, aristocratic beauty, her serious expression conveying a quietly compelling dignity. With her natural flair for fashion, Kitty was the living embodiment of the fashion plates Mack saw on his buying trips and in magazines: here, she wears a dress with a wide choker, in the style of Britain's Queen Consort Alexandra; there, she and her milliner friend Dorothy model matching shirtwaists and caps of Dorothy's design, giving the glamorous Gibson Girl a run

for her money. For Mangum's on-the-rise merchant, Kitty was top-of-the-line: Texas's answer to the impeccably elegant ladies he admired as a boy in New York and never got out of his mind. At long last, he'd found a perfect partner for the merger of a lifetime: the co-venture of matrimony. Mack offered Kitty a sales position in his Mangum store, where he could see her every day. She accepted, and moved out of her parents' Quanah home, renting a room with a local family in Greer County.²¹ Soon, neither Kitty nor Mack would need to call a small room home: they were engaged to be married.

ALWAYS DOING BUSINESS

A hard worker by nature, Mack Blake found it difficult, bordering on impossible, not to do business for any length of time, even during what most people would consider downtime. For him, everything was a potential transaction, so he conducted all aspects of his life the way he conducted his business: with maximum diligence, efficiency, and cost-consciousness. Everything in Mack's life happened in a business context, on schedule, and according to plan. His wedding and honeymoon were no exception. On Thursday, February 16, 1905, the front page of the Mangum Sun-Monitor carried an entertaining and very detailed account of Mack's wedding to Kitty Talbott, which took place betimes the previous Thursday, February 9, at seven a.m. -an unusually early hour for a nuptial celebration. The location of the ceremony was the home of E. R. Tinsley (it's not known who Tinsley was, but most likely, he was one of Mack's valued customers). The wedding "ceremony" was not very ceremonious: the couple would be wed in haste, then quickly depart Oklahoma by train, as Mack had conveniently arranged for the honey-

moon to coincide with a previously scheduled buying trip to New York City:

Duff Pierce, Mack's roommate, "didn't know anything about the matter until Blake woke him up and ordered him to come with me." Blake had ordered the businessman to call for him in time to take him to the train. When he arrived, he ordered, "drive to the Methodist Parsonage."

"We haven't time."

"Make time," suggested the traveler.

They did, captured the minister, drove to the Tinsley home, where Mack pulled off his overcoat and stood up. The ceremony was short, but just as good, and the party was very shortly being hurriedly driven to the depot.

45 minutes later, Mr. and Mrs. Blake left for New York City, where Mr. Blake has business to attend to.¹

It is to be hoped that there was time for the Blakes and the Tinsleys and Methodist pastor Rev. J. W. Sims to enjoy a cup of coffee and a bite of cake together, but the newlyweds' hasty departure did not permit even a brief party. But as the Sun-Monitor pointed out, "M.B. Blake ... is one of Mangum's most prominent businessmen, and has many friends here who will be glad to congratulate him when he returns."² From that day forward, Kitty would accompany her husband on many business trips to New York and St. Louis, or travel to join him—each journey, a kind of repeat honeymoon, just as he'd promised on that frantic wedding morning.³ Business had always been Mack's highest priority, and marriage wedded him to his work more sternly than any preacher ever could. Upon returning from that first honeymoon buying trip, Mack was ready to take the business arena by storm. The new responsibility of a spouse to support, together with the anticipation of a family, motivated him to make money as never before—to earn more and

earn better. His nuptial partnership also sharpened Mack's focus: thenceforth, the better to keep things in the family, his closest business collaborators would be blood relatives or kin by marriage. Even Mack's attorney would be a branch on the family tree: John Calvin Marshall, husband of Kitty's sister, Emma Ozella Talbott.⁴

Also making front-page news the same day as the Blake-Talbott wedding-a few columns over in the same newspaper-was a high-profile divorce: Mack and his partner in business, Mr. Dell Curreathers, had gone their separate ways. News of the Blake-Curreathers dissolution also made the Mangum Star on the same day. "Blake & Curreathers Dissolve Partnership and Buy Separate Stocks," read the headline in *The Star*.⁵ Curreathers purchased the building that housed their store, and Mack relocated to a site formerly occupied by another store, Gilliland's, on the south side of the square. The local periodicals were only too happy to publish such detailed business reporting, for now both would have not one but two regular advertisers: from there on out, Blake and Curreathers competed energetically for readers' business in the classified sections of both the *Star* and the *Sun-Monitor*. A few weeks later, the *Sun-Monitor* carried the headline "A New Dry Goods House at an Old Stand."⁶ The battle for business was on. By March 23, an advertisement in the *Sun-Monitor* revealed Mack's genius for marketing. Under the slogan "OUT FOR THE MONEY," he conjured memories of the Confederacy-a smooth marketing move in the Confederate-sympathizing Lone Star State-and declared war on the competition by naming his establishment the Dixie Store. His opening salvo was this take-no-prisoners advertising copy, which cited Carhartt, a sought-after brand of work clothing that's still popular today:

Mr. Cash Buyer we want your business... Compare the goods and prices with the balance of Mangum's dry goods houses ... the credit shops. The Dixie Store is the only one-price cash house in this whole town that does not do a long-time credit business and your money will positively go fartherest [sic] here.

To closeout, two hundred Men's Dress Shirts, \$1.00 quality for 55 cents.

We are the only house in Mangum selling Carhartt's Coveralls and Coats. The best yet, \$1.00 per garment.⁷

To succeed in retail on any frontier requires a fair share of stamina-not to mention a flair for showmanship and skill at working a crowd worthy of P. T. Barnum or Buffalo Bill. Although a serious, no-nonsense type by nature (described as "dour" by Joseph "Joe" Francke Rumsey m, his first cousin once removed), Mack knew how to put on a good show to promote himself and his business, even at one point booking a performer named Prof. Vermelto to entertain customers with "Japanese Magic."⁸ What's more, he always looked the part of the successful businessman, never less than conservatively dressed in a three-piece suit, a stiff white collar, perfectly polished shoes, and a hat. Mack possessed great flair for showmanship in print, as evidenced by a half-page advertisement he placed in The Sun-Monitor touting "The Most Sensational Sale OF THE AGE," featuring "Daring Feats of Under-selling to Dazzle and Delight You." The ad copy paints Mack as benevolent retailing royalty, practically giving his stock away out of noblesse oblige: "\$50,000 worth of high-grade merchandise to be distributed into the homes of the people by M.B. Blake, Mangum's greatest merchant."⁹ Later, the Star ran this item: "Mr. Gully and wife departed Wednesday for Quanah, where Mr. Gully will take charge of a business. They were accompanied to Quanah by Mr. and Mrs. M.B. Blake."¹⁰ The business was

the Quanah store Mack had previously managed. Thus began a beautiful partnership between Mack Blake and Jesse Gully, who married Mack's sister Rhena. Mack and Jesse would collaborate on many successful business ventures for decades to come, and their friendship, blurring the line between work and family, would always remain as harmonious as on that Quanah trip, which amounted to a professional double honeymoon.

For Mack Blake, close relationships would always be cemented by business dealings, and vice versa. There are definite financial advantages to keeping business matters in the family, a lesson Mack had learned from his father; he'd received a refresher course courtesy of his dissolved partnership with Mr. Curreathers, a non-relation. Thenceforth, Mack would count among his most trusted business allies the ones with whom he would also spend Christmas¹¹ and other significant holidays, i.e., family members, chief among them his brother-in-law Jesse Gully. Dedicated investors and loyal employees who shared Mack's work ethic, meanwhile, came to be regarded as practically family, notably the "head manager of Mangum's Dixie Store, Mr. F. D. Chedester, who is also interested in the store with Mr. Blake, [and] has done much to further the popularity of the house."¹²

An important fruit of Mack's diligent labors was acquired in October 1905: a beautiful new home for his bride and himself. As *The Mangum Star* reported, "M'.B. Blake has bought the C.R. Gamer residence property in the south part of town, and has moved into it. This is one of the prettiest residences in town."¹³ Further down on the same page was an ad for one of Mack's retail competitors: Trip-pet's Cash Store. Mack Blake was the trendsetting merchant who'd opened up shop by offering bargains for cash, and

now other retailers were following the Dixie's lead by advertising their operations as "cash houses." Interestingly, the origin of the word "Dixie" has never been precisely determined. It has several etymologies, one of them based on a type of cash: according to a publication of the Louisiana Works Progress Administration (WPA), "Dixie" refers to currency issued first by the Citizens State Bank in New Orleans's French Quarter. This bank and, later, others in Louisiana issued IO-dollar notes, labeled "Dix"-the French word for 10-on the reverse side. The notes were known as "Dixies" by English-speaking Southerners, and the area around New Orleans and the French-speaking parts of Louisiana came to be known as "Dixieland." (Eventually, usage of the term broadened to refer to the Southern states as a whole.)¹⁴ Whether "Dixie" signified a banknote, a retail emporium, a lifestyle, the Virginia values of Grandfather and Grandmother Blake, or all of the above, to Mack it also represented a state of mind: remaining adaptable to all circumstances, the better to stay solvent-and that meant being versatile in business. Mack never sat on his laurels or got too cozy with one idea; he was always moving, on the lookout for new opportunities. Now, having emphasized the virtues of cash transactions, he began exploring the advantages of credit: banking had captured his attention.

The draw of banking for a merchant is self-evident. After all, a financial institution is a store that trades in the most liquid of assets: money. Unlike dry goods, money is one commodity whose price is never reduced in order to move. On December 7, 1905, *The Mangum Star* reported that the First National Bank of Mangum received a County Depository Bond, with M. B. Blake listed among other sureties.¹⁵ As savvy entrepreneurs do, Mack was acquiring an interest in the bank, but he wasn't ready to relinquish the mercantile

life-far from it. For now, banking would join real estate as one more in his expanding portfolio of investments. Two months prior, in September, Mack had purchased property in Guthrie, Oklahoma, from an A. S. Moorman for \$525.52.¹⁶ In March, 1906, the Sun-Monitor reported that Mack paid a weeklong visit to Eldorado, Oklahoma, explaining that "He and his brother-in-law, Mr. Gully, are putting in a store there."¹⁷ (Later, Gully sold his interest in the Eldorado Gully & Blake store to F. D. Chedester-it was renamed Chedester & Blake-and bought an interest in the Dixie in Mangum.)¹⁸ In 1906, Mack began prospecting in Oklahoma City, which was experiencing tremendous growth as the hub of a vast railroad network. In August of that year, he and Kitty are listed among visitors to the city, staying at the Lee Hotel, the first in the territory to have an electric elevator.¹⁹

Mack began to make substantial capital improvements to the interior of the Dixie; more and more, it was arranged to resemble the East Coast fashion emporiums that he and Kitty enjoyed exploring when she accompanied him on buying trips. In advertisements, Mack even billed the Dixie as a "Palace of Economy," emulating renowned "Palace of Trade" Arnold, Constable, the New York retailer he knew so well since childhood. "He has put in a 'double deck' in the rear of the large store room," reported the Sun-Monitor on March 21, 1907, "and elevated millinery and ladies' wear goods to the upper regions." Embodying the fashionable lifestyle that the Dixie Store was outfitting, the Blakes selected the most glamorous nearby spot as their vacation destination: Mineral Wells.²⁰ So chic was Mineral Wells that the newspaper faithfully reported sightings of high-profile locals, and it became something of a competitive sport to note which Mangum retailers--Blakes or Curreatherses--were racking up more downtime there. The May 7, 1907,

Sun-Monitor reported that "Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Curreathers are home from a stay of several weeks at Mineral Wells," while "Mr. and Mrs. M.B. Blake returned Sunday from a two weeks sojourn at Mineral Wells" and "Miss Sallie Harris, saleslady at the Dixie Store, left Wednesday morning for Mineral Wells for a vacation." The Dixie camp clearly won that race.

Proof of Mack's rising stature in the community came in the August 30, 1907, edition of The Mangum Star, which carried an effusive feature headlined "The Dixie Store, a 'Palace of Economy' Always Doing Business." In the Mack is described in flattering terms that would warm the heart of a politician seeking high office:

*Mr. Blake is prominent in all affairs and circles of Mangum and by his good judgment and energy, backed by his large capital, has built up a business of which the most ambitious might feel justly proud. He is in brief a prominent and potential citizen and businessman who enjoys the absolute confidence and esteem of our people.*²¹

Public opinion is invaluable to a banker, and earning people's trust is the principal aim of any financial institution. In New York in mid-October 1907, trust in banks was shaken to the core, resulting in the nationwide Panic of 1907, which lasted for three weeks. Like every other entrepreneur in the country, Mack followed the saga closely: it began with a stock manipulation scheme to corner the copper market; the attempted corner misfired and brought down New York's third-largest trust company, the Knickerbocker, which faced a bank run on October 22. The shock waves from this economic crisis spread all over the country, resulting in full-blown financial contagion as depositors feared for the safety of their accounts and rushed to withdraw them. The crisis would have been exponentially worse had the legendary

financier J. Pierpont Morgan not intervened by pledging large sums of his own money and convincing his New York colleagues to do the same. Meanwhile, Oklahoma Territory was waiting for President Theodore Roosevelt to make the proclamation of statehood; now, instead of celebration, there was financial panic. At the urging of the territory's bankers, in the absence of territorial governor Frank Frantz (who was away in Washington, D.C.), acting governor Charles H. Filson made a different proclamation: he announced a five-day bank holiday beginning on Monday, October 28, and ending the following Saturday, November 2.²² As Michael J. Hightower writes in *Banking in Oklahoma, 1907-2000*, "Filson's proclamation, issued at four o'clock that morning, was both a plea for cooperation and a paean to the can-do spirit of his fellow Oklahomans":⁵⁹

*Invoking the patience and indulgence of the citizens of Oklahoma, I entreat them to show that high forbearance and consideration, and confidence in themselves and in their financial institutions and neighbors that has given Oklahoma such high place in the business and banking world and to refrain from making such comments or remarks as may be calculated to destroy confidence in Oklahoma institutions, firmly believing that conditions will soon become normal; and that necessity exists for the issuing of this proclamation and for the protection and maintenance of our financial institutions which, without warning, are confronted with a situation without parallel in the history of the world.*²³

Oklahoma was in good fiscal shape: "The Oklahoma Bank Guarantee Law guaranteed your deposits-it was part of our constitution [article 14], and it preceded the FDIC by nearly 30 years," says Dr. Bob Blackburn, noted Oklahoma historian. "Bankers hated it, because they had to pay a fee."²⁴ The first week of November brought an end to the financial

contagion, and Oklahoma was granted statehood on the 16th of that same month. Mack Blake had been affected by the previous panic, in 1893, when his father suffered a business blow that resulted in Mack being pulled out of college for lack of tuition funds. But in 1907, his own track record of sound business decisions meant that Mack felt no pecuniary pain-or, if he did, he wasn't showing it. "Capital for a merchant is always critical-if you don't have it and don't know how to get it, then you need to know somebody who does," Points out Dr. Blackburn.²⁵ Mack Blake knew everybody. He lost nothing in the Panic of 1907, and he learned a great deal. One vital lesson, from Mack's viewpoint: don't try to corner any one market--remain flexible, as liquid does.

In April 1908, Mack sold the building that housed the Dixie for \$16,500. In a fine indicator of economic recovery, the buyer was the president of the First National Bank. Meanwhile, the seeds of public confidence, sown by the very positive Mangum Star article quoted above, were putting out leaves. Four months after he sold the Dixie building to the bank, the revamped Dixie was installed in its new quarters on the west side of town; the Sun-Monitor's August 20, 1908, edition called it "a very pretty store." In between the sale of the Dixie building and the reopening of the store at its new location, Mr. and Mrs. Blake took a trip to New Mexico (the May 21, 1908, Mangum Star reported that Mack had "bought a farm there"). They were away almost three weeks, from May 21 through June n, 1908-a shockingly long time, considering that Mack was never one for extended breaks from work. The New Mexico visit was a very happy and productive period, during which the couple's only child was conceived. But first, the Dixie would produce an offspring: a new store in Granite, Oklahoma, where Mack was doing business as "the Oklahoma Mercan-

tile Co."²⁶ In late February of 1909, Dixie manager Dan Mathewson left Mangum for Granite, Oklahoma, to open the new Dixie; as reported a week later in the Sun-Monitor, "The Oklahoma Mercantile Co.'s store here will be under the charge of G.E. Baker."²⁷

On March 10, 1909, Mack and Kitty celebrated the birth of their daughter, Mary Eleanor Blake, thereafter known as Eleanor. The blessed event began as a harrowing ordeal, however, for the baby was born prematurely: her arrival was not expected for another two and a half months, and the Blakes had made birth arrangements with a hospital in Dallas. Now, with the contractions coming fast, there was no time to get to Dallas, and the couple faced a life-or-death emergency. Mack immediately called his friend, Mangum medical legend Dr. Fowler Border.²⁸ A swash-buckling surgeon, Dr. Border lived up to his well-deserved reputation for medical heroics, and both baby and mother pulled through. As the child of such a prominent father, the littlest Blake was born a boldface name, so her arrival naturally made the news: "The stork still favors Mangum with his visits," reported the Sun-Monitor on March 18, 1909. "Last Wednesday week Miss Eleanor Blake came to reside with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mack Blake." Like her father, Eleanor would be groomed early to respect the importance of money through the exercise of thrift, and to value good business practices. One story was repeated often enough that it became legend in the family, and it provides insight into Mack's frugality. When Kitty went shopping at the family store for white flannel fabric with which to make clothing for her baby, she reacted as any customer would to her husband's skillful merchandising: by choosing the finest fabric on offer. Of the three available bolts of baby-soft flannel—one solid white, another hemmed in pink, and the third

in blue-Kitty selected the pink-edged one. Her choice happened to be the costliest option of the three. Displeased that Kitty would select the priciest fabric, Mack did his best to dissuade her, explaining that ornamentation was unnecessary on baby clothes, as it made no difference to the child and was "only for the vanity of the parents."²⁹ Kitty's powers of persuasion were equal to her husband's, however, and she prevailed in the matter of the pink-trimmed flannel. From that moment forward, the new parents agreed that their daughter deserved the best of everything, and that is precisely what Mack and Kitty would give her. However, when well-wishers began sending gifts for baby Eleanor, Mack insisted--to Kitty's chagrin--that all presents be returned to sender. As a general rule, Mack felt very uncomfortable about receiving gifts, and always sternly discouraged them.

Baby Eleanor brought with her the travel bug: her parents resumed their journeys together in May of the following year, taking a trip to Eldorado, Oklahoma, in their new Chalmers-Detroit car.⁶⁷ The family's excursions picked up speed, with the couple covering more ground by voyaging separately: in September 1910, Kitty and baby Eleanor traveled to Colorado and Quanah, while Mack made one of his buying trips to New York.³⁰ In October, the family traveled to their new home base: Oklahoma City. Mack's family of investments was growing along with his investment in family: his newest venture was a partnership in the wholesale firm of Baker-Hanna, now rechristened Baker-Hanna & Blake, together with his equally enterprising first cousins, Thomas Samuel Hanna (son of Mack's aunt Lucy) and Charles Robert³¹ and Joel Harris "Harry" Baker (sons of Mack's aunt Alice, whose late husband, J. D. Baker, had mentored Mack). It would prove to be a very

successful and long-lived partnership, with the fringe benefit that the three branches of the family-Bakers, Hannas, and Blakes-would enjoy not only a lucrative professional alliance but also happy social ties.

At wintertime, the major holidays were made especially memorable thanks to the Hannas' Thanksgiving feast (a highlight of which was their "Oysters Thanksgiving" dressing),³² the Bakers' Christmas party, and the Blakes' New Year's celebration--traditions that continue to this day. The family had much to be thankful for: the firm had started with a capital stock of \$110,000 (\$2.9 million today) and did a thriving trade all over the Southwest; annual earnings were \$450,000 (\$12 million) when Mack came aboard, and would grow to more than \$2.5 million (more than \$66 million) within a decade.³³

By December 8, 1910, The Mangum Star was reporting on the Blake family, no longer as residential royalty but as VIP visitors: "Mrs. M.B. Blake and little daughter Eleanor, of Oklahoma City, arrived Sunday evening to visit relatives and friends." The timing of the Blakes' move could not have been more fortunate: the family's arrival in Oklahoma City coincided with the start of a solid decade of dazzling economic growth. The year 1910 saw the building of several Oklahoma City landmarks, including four structures at Fourth and Broadway erected by media magnate E. K. Gaylord; the Capitol Building, and the Livestock Exchange. Central High School also opened its doors in 1910. (The Colcord Building, the city's first skyscraper, was completed the previous year.) "More miles of railroad line were laid between 1900 and 1910 than in all other decades combined," explains Dr. Bob Blackburn. "In one 10-year time period, Oklahoma City's wealth and population grew by 640 percent, making it the fastest-growing city in the country. This was the world Mack

Blake was moving into: a boom place where you could go and use your sharp elbows to get a seat at the lead table. He was right in the middle of this tremendous cultural boom, bust, and change." Oklahoma City was prime territory, Blackburn adds, for "merchants who could buy things cheap and sell them high, connecting the dots of supply and demand."³⁴ Connecting those dots was the proven specialty of Mack Blake, master merchant, and he was ready to stake his claim.

BANK ON IT

The year 1910 saw unprecedented development in Oklahoma City, including the completion of the Skirvin Hotel, ¹ a landmark hospitality destination, and Mack Blake quickly became one of the moving forces injecting capital into this bona fide boom town. With his family comfortably installed in their new home at 704 NW 20th Street, Mack wasted no time making the money to support Kitty and Eleanor in style, establishing himself in the process as a player on the city's dynamic business scene. Baker-Hanna & Blake, the wholesale business he ran with his cousins, was thriving at its headquarters directly across from the Skirvin. In 1911, Baker-Hanna & Blake moved to its own impressive six-story, three-building--wide headquarters at 212-14-16 West 2nd Street in Oklahoma City. Sales had increased from \$450,000 annually (roughly \$12 million today) to \$2.5 million (roughly \$53 million) with Mack at the helm, and continued booming. According to an article published in February 1941 regarding the death of Thomas Hanna, the firm took a "full-page advertisement in The Daily Oklahoman of January 2, 1911" notifying readers "that

its new store without a customer was now open for business."² Baker-Hanna & Blake also opened a New York office at 40 Worth Street, in the financial district of Manhattan (it would later move to 395 Broadway). Mack continued to expand his mercantile empire, starting with the dry-goods company Hanna, Blake and Evans in Oklahoma.³ His base of operations was officially Oklahoma City; Mangum was now a place to visit and keep tabs on other investments. By January 1911, the *Mangum Sun-Monitor* was heralding the arrival in town of "M.B. Blake, of Oklahoma City," who was "in Mangum this week on business."⁴ Two months later, in March, Mack purchased two lots 180 miles away in Hollis, Oklahoma, with the aim of opening a second Chedester & Blake dry-goods store (together with his partner in the Eldorado store, F. D. Chedester, who, though not a blood relation, was nonetheless a trusted business colleague).⁵ The Hollis Tribune of March 10, 1911, reported that construction was to begin on the Chedester & Blake store,⁶ a two-story brick building, 50 by 140 feet, and described Mack as a "Wholesale Dry Goods Man of Oklahoma City and a stockholder of the Chedester Co. Department Store"; the following year, he was back in town on business, as noted in the Hollis Post-Herald on May 16, 1912.

MACK BLAKE RARELY SAT STILL; neither did his investments. His capital was constantly on the move, seeking the next lucrative docking station. Workaholism ran in the family; it was part of the Blake DNA. His father, Samuel, now 64, was still on the business scene, having migrated to California from Jalisco, Mexico, where he manufactured clothing until suffering a mild stroke. Regaining his health, Samuel was back in action with a new enterprise. In an article head-

lined "Santa Ana's New Business Man's Interesting Career," the Santa Ana Register heralded his arrival in that Southern California city and his plan to open a new store there: "In the coming to Santa Ana of Samuel Diggs Blake, who is opening Blake's Specialty Store ... this city gains a citizen of large and successful business experience, a man of great energy and resourcefulness [The store] will carry hosiery and underwear for men, women, and children; men's neckwear and ladies' wants, men's fancy dress shirts-a line of which he was formerly a manufacturer." The article goes on to reprint a feature from the July 27, 1911, Quana Tribune-Chief, which calls Samuel "a genius, at drawing trade" and "at one time the leading merchant of northwest Texas."⁷

AT THIS POINT in America's history, money-specifically, the making, investing, banking, and regulating of it was also a top priority for our nation's lawmakers, who were equally as interested in gains as the most ambitious capitalist. In November of 1912, New Jersey governor Woodrow Wilson—formerly president of Princeton University and a Virginian raised, like the Blakes, in a Confederate household—was elected 28th president of the United States. Wilson got to work pushing through banking and currency reforms, making good on his campaign promise to aid business by removing obstacles that impeded national prosperity. On October 3, 1913, the president signed the Revenue Act, which lowered basic tariff rates from 40 percent to 25 percent—a godsend for wholesalers like Mack Blake, whose efforts to move dry goods around the country could finally gain serious momentum. The signing of the Revenue Act also made the income tax a permanent fixture in the United States tax system; the Sixteenth Amendment, ratified eight

months earlier, on February 3, 1913, had made possible the country's first income tax.⁸ On the nation's profit-loss balance sheet, the reduction in tariffs would be offset by the revenue generated from the income-tax collection. Two days before Christmas, on December 23, 1913, came the enactment of a new currency law, the crowning glory of this new administration's economic-empowerment plan: the Federal Reserve Act,⁹ establishing the Federal Reserve System--the country's central banking system--and creating the authority to issue Federal Reserve Notes (i.e., U.S. dollars) and Federal Reserve Bank Notes as legal tender. The way was clear for American financial ingenuity to get down to business. From then on, Mack Blake's typed and archived body of correspondence reveals him to be meticulous about money matters, and his accountant and tax attorney, Mr. C. D. Tribbey, to be one of his most oft-consulted business connections. By August of 1914, World War I was a grim reality, but the staunchly non-interventionist President Wilson promised to keep America out of the conflict.

MACK AND KITTY maintained close ties of friendship back in Mangum; as with everything in Mack's life, these were based on business. In 1913, the paper reported that, prior to "accompan[ying] Mr. Blake to market," Kitty left little Eleanor, now four, with Mrs. Mathewson (the wife of Mack's former Dixie manager, who had opened the new Dixie Granite, Oklahoma, in 1909).¹⁰ The Blakes visited Greer County again the following year on sad business: the funeral of Mack's sister Lucile House.¹¹ But their home was Oklahoma City; they were here to stay. The family home was located at the corner of NW 16th Street and Lee Avenue. Eleanor attended kindergarten at Eugene Filed Elementary

School She played with the other neighborhood children, and their games, reflecting current events, often had a war theme: the kids took turns being "Germans," "the enemy," or "a beautiful Red Cross nurse."¹² Mack and Kitty played golf together at the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club, and he always proudly admitted that his wife was the better player. Soon, the time came for the Blakes to upgrade to a new and bigger home, and Mack found just the spot for it. "M.B. Blake to Erect Handsome Residence," read a February 22, 1916, headline in *The Oklahoma City Times*: "Member of the firm of Baker, Hanna & Blake is having plans drawn for a \$10,000 residence on the NW corner of 17th and Harvey Streets."

In the midst of construction, Mack was obliged to toil even longer at the office than usual, because of a looming business crisis that made the front page of the *Oklahoma City Times* on August 16, 1916: a railroad strike was threatened and would tie up all freight traffic, creating a serious logistical challenge for wholesale merchants. Under the headline "Merchants Rush Orders Because of Strike Fear; Dry Goods Wholesalers Two Months Ahead of Usual Sales Season," the article included Mack's expert commentary:

"THE COUNTRY MERCHANTS are uneasy on account of the threatened railroad strike," said M.B. Blake of Baker-Hanna-Blake today. "They are preparing themselves against any emergency that might arise in case the big strike is called... Ordinarily, the bulk of our shipments is sent out in September, but this year shipments were started last month [July]. Talk of the threatened strike is heard from merchants all over the Oklahoma City trade territory. We hear it in the letters they send us. Our force is and

has been worked up to 11 o'clock every night for some time in order to get the shipments out."¹³

SCANNING his copy of the paper that day to ascertain whether he'd been quoted correctly, Mack's eye traveled over to the headlines at the left, where he noted with interest that one column carried news of an entirely different kind of strike, the kind that doesn't strike fear in a businessman's heart (in fact, quite the opposite): an oil strike. The Oklahoma City owners of Keeche Oil & Gas, west of the town of Cement, were "surprised" when their "shallow producer" began gushing black gold. "Sidewalks Serve for Fortune Hunters' Beds," read the article's picturesque sub-headline. Mack's agile mind began to ponder petroleum as yet another source of profit. Could it be added to his portfolio of investments? Such a highly speculative venture didn't befit a rising capitalist with a family; he'd just built an impressive family home, and had no intention of gambling it away in the high-risk venture of oil exploration. But perhaps there was a way to get in on the oil phenomenon that was less speculative than drilling. Exploring the matter further, after considerable research, Mack resolved that he would investigate the buying and selling of leases and royalties in familiar territory: Oklahoma, Texas, and Kansas-i.e., the places he already knew from doing brisk business there. Obviously, oil was a prime commodity in the global war effort, the fuel for battleships, airplanes, tanks, and armored personnel carriers fighting the "War to End All Wars." President Wilson had promised to keep America out of the conflict since it began in 1914. However, on April 6, 1917, the United States had no choice but to join its allies--Britain, France, and Russia--and

declared war on Germany.⁸⁵ Under the command of Major General John J. Pershing, more than two million American soldiers fought on battlefields in France. Here on the home front, on April 24, the Emergency Loan Act authorized the issue of \$1.9 billion in Liberty Bonds, war bonds sold in the United States to support the Allied cause in World War I.¹⁴ As one article noted, "Subscribing to these bonds became a symbol of patriotic duty," and was many American citizens' first exposure to the concept of "financial securities."¹⁵ There would be a total of four bond issues between April 24, 1917, and September 28, 1918; interest on up to \$30,000 in bonds was tax-exempt.¹⁶ In 1918, movie stars Charlie Chaplin and Douglas Fairbanks joined the war-bond drive, appearing at a rally outside the Sub-Treasury building on Wall Street to urge New Yorkers to buy bonds.¹⁷

THE BLAKE FAMILY residence at the corner of 17th and Harvey was completed, and turned out even more stately than the blueprints¹⁸ had led Mack and Kitty to expect—a worthy addition to the landscape of the historic district known today as Heritage Hills. Over the years, this solid, two-story brick structure would host many happy events, including the Baker-Hanna & Blake New Year's celebration, and guests were impressed by the double-peacock frieze above the door.¹⁹ Its interiors—outfitted with all the modern conveniences—were decorated with Oriental carpets, framed artworks (primarily paintings and works on paper), and furniture in the Continental style (a good deal of it upholstered in tasteful chintz), these elements coming together to make a tailored design statement.²⁰ The finishing touches of china, silver, and handsomely bound books lent the Blake home a formal yet welcoming air. Happily for little Eleanor,

the atmosphere was also unpretentious and playful, thanks partly to the sweet antics of Teddy Boy, the family dog, a midsize hound mix. Further enhancing the atmosphere, beautiful music emanated from the Duo-Art player piano,²¹ whose technology enabled private command performances with the world's most distinguished musicians and composers, including the enormously popular Paderewski.²² When in use, the Duo-Art must have appealed to a child's sense of fantasy, as if a ghostly pianist's hands were moving across the keys—a musical Ouija Board. Upstairs, a sleeping porch permitted sweet dreams even on the hottest Oklahoma nights. Closets were ample, to accommodate Kitty's stylish wardrobe. Always a fashionable dresser—her style was one of the first things Mack had noticed about her when they met—she skillfully adapted her look. This was no small feat, for with each passing season, women's fashions were steadily casting off the restrictive silhouettes and corsetry of Edwardian times to become more comfortable and practical; staying au courant necessitated the acquisition of new clothes and the modification of existing ones. Kitty deployed her sewing skills, custom-tailoring her wardrobe to keep pace with the times. Mack made changes too, now relying on a wristwatch instead of an old-school pocket watch. American soldiers in World War I popularized the modern timepiece, preferring its convenience and compact size to the pocket watches of yore. Like many men of his era, Mack joined ranks and made the switch; his wrist-watch was made by the Hamilton Watch Company.²³

THE BLAKES often entertained friends at home. A frequent guest was the highly respected pastor Rev. Forney

Hutchinson of St. Luke's Methodist Church. Unlike Kitty, who had remained staunchly Methodist since her Arkansas childhood, Mack was not particularly observant, so he and the pastor talked business, since "Brother Forney" (his preferred honorific) also served as director of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce.²⁴ Before the advent of air-conditioning, whenever Oklahoma became very hot, Kitty and Eleanor would travel together to cooler climes, visiting hotels in Colorado or South Haven, Michigan. Eleanor attended summer camp at Three Lakes, Wisconsin, while Kitty visited a nearby resort at Eagle River.²⁵ Mack usually stayed put, always dressed for the office in business suit and tie even in the sultriest of weather, with a reserve of pocket handkerchiefs to keep himself looking as dry and distinguished as possible. In the summer of 1918, the family set out on an extended trip. The voyage was cut short, however, upon reaching Albuquerque, New Mexico, where Kitty fell ill. Doctors diagnosed her with tuberculosis and placed her in a sanatorium, while Mack returned to Oklahoma City and Eleanor was sent to Quanah for a couple of months, to live with Kitty's sister Emma. Kitty later stayed in a sanatorium in Oklahoma City, where doctors determined that she, in fact, did not have tuberculosis.²⁶ On pleasant evenings at home, the three Blakes would often relax beneath the awning²⁷ in the side yard, east of their house, with Teddy Boy. They were very happy together.

HERE WAS a home fit for a bank officer-and, in short order, that is precisely what Mack Blake became. With impeccable timing, during this period of energetic American flag-waving, the Oklahoma City office of a new financial institution, branding itself "Liberty," was opened on September 3,

1918: Liberty National Bank & Trust Co..²⁸ Mack Blake was a charter member of the corporation, and a founding investor: he invested \$3,000 in 300 shares, 10 percent of the share offering, acquiring the second-largest block of stock in the bank. Government propaganda campaigns made it abundantly clear that buying Liberty Bonds was the right, patriotic thing to do. The opening of the bank's Oklahoma City office came just two weeks before the fourth and final Liberty Bond issue, on September 28. Everywhere the eye could see, the word "liberty" was writ large on expertly art-directed posters designed to boost war-bond sales. One Liberty Bond poster depicted Columbia, the female personification of America, tied to a stake, against a background of rubble and great clouds of smoke; meanwhile, men with dollar coins for heads are seen diligently using their swords to cut the ropes that encircle her. "Liberty Bound or Liberty Bond? U Can Change It," read the slogan. On another poster, the Statue of Liberty points at the viewer, Uncle Sam-style, urging, "You--buy a Liberty Bond, Lest I Perish." Liberty National would surf the wave of war-bond promotion, a beneficiary of free publicity more valuable than gold. Clever merchandising was Mack Blake's signature and a chief asset he brought to the table as one of Liberty National's founders and directors. The bank opened with a capital stock of \$300,000 (about \$5 million today), and occupied the former Lee Building, at the northeast corner of Main Street and Robinson Avenue. A brochure published by Liberty National introduced Mack to depositors thus: "Mr. Blake is acquainted with business conditions in Oklahoma as only a very few men are, and his judgment and advice will go far toward making the Liberty National a success."

With the idealism of his Confederate upbringing, President Wilson had envisioned voluntary recruitment, but

most Americans were, understandably, not as eager to enlist in the military as they were to purchase war bonds. To muster sufficient manpower, it was necessary for the government to implement a draft. During the War Between the States, men who did not want to fight could hire a substitute. But doing so was expensive—\$300—so only the wealthy could afford not to go to war. (This is how J.P. Morgan, among others, had avoided Civil War service, an injustice that precipitated draft riots in New York City.) This time, hiring a substitute was no longer an option, per Section Three of the Selective Service Act of 1917:

NO PERSON liable to military service shall hereafter be permitted or allowed to furnish a substitute for such service; nor shall any substitute be received, enlisted, or enrolled in the military service of the United States; and no such person shall be permitted to escape such service or to be discharged therefrom prior to the expiration of his term of service by the payment of money or any other valuable thing whatsoever as consideration for his release from military service or liability thereto.

TWENTY-FOUR MILLION MEN who were born between September 13, 1873, and September 12, 1900 (between the ages of 18 and 45), registered for the draft. Mack Blake was born March 14, 1874, making him six months and a day shy of 43 years. There were three registrations: the first, on June 5, 1917, was for all men between the ages of 21 and 31; the second, on June 5, 1918, registered those who turned 21 after June 5, 1917 (a supplemental registration was held on August 24, 1918, for those becoming 21 after June 5; this was included in the second registration); and the third was held on

September 12, 1918, for men aged 18 through 45. On the 12th of September, Mack rose early as per usual--his internal alarm clock, set during his shopkeeping days, still awakened him each morning at 4:30. He dutifully registered, listing his occupation as dry goods, employed at Baker-Hanna & Blake. Mack's draft registration card reveals the color of his eyes to be gray and his hair black. As hundreds waited on line, patriotic songs filled the air. One of them--"America, Here's My Boy"²⁹--was especially poignant, its lyrics describing a mother bravely sacrificing her son to the war effort. Mack thought of the many registrants in their teens and 20s, and felt profoundly grateful to have a girl.

HAPPILY FOR ELEANOR, her beloved father never had to serve; the Selective Service Act was canceled two months later, with the Armistice of November 11, 1918.³⁰ Germany was ordered to pay reparations. But as far as American depositors were concerned, it was the banks that needed to make amends. Despite--or because of--the word "trust" in so many financial institutions' titles, people's trust had been hard for banks to earn ever since the Panic of 1907. Smart bankers were learning how to do well and do good at the same time: gaining global stature and influence, while bringing about positive change in their communities and in the nation as a whole. After all, during the 1907 bank crisis, had not a banker, J.P. Morgan, nobly served his country by coordinating a Wall Street bailout? In 1914, America herself had effectively become a bank: World War I had to be financed, and the United States had the deep pockets for the job. When the Bank of England ran out of funds, America resolved to help ensure an Allied victory by making loans to Britain. Morgan had died in 1913, so this time the deal was

brokered by his company: J.P. Morgan & Co. became the sole underwriter of war bonds for Great Britain and France. Over the course of the war, J.P. Morgan loaned about \$1.5 billion (approximately \$21 billion today) to the Allies to fight against the Germans.³¹

STILL, it would take salesmanship of steel to convince Oklahomans to entrust their hard-earned money to any repository other than their own mattress or safe-deposit box. "They were just one generation removed from the frontier days," explains historian Michael Hightower, author of *Banking in Oklahoma, 1907-2000*. "There was still a strong, populist mistrust of bankers, especially Eastern guys in suits. This would be a consistent theme through the 20th century. The agricultural economy in this country suffered a horrific post-World War I downturn, and any state that was firmly into agriculture-which, of course, Oklahoma was-took a big hit, making the people of those states especially wary of banks."³² Having earned his reputation as a consummate salesman, Mack set about convincing the people of Oklahoma City to become depositors with Liberty National, using promotional consideration in a medium he knew quite well: the newspaper.³³ Liberty National Bank took a prominent ad in the November 19, 1919, edition of the *Oklahoma City Times*, featuring an open letter from Mack, a photograph of him, and, for good measure-harking back to those Liberty Bond posters-a drawing of Lady Liberty. To its author, this letter was more than an advertisement designed to boost his bank's business; it was a concise manual for economic success, predating by a century the best-selling Rich Dad series of advice books. Looking at it today, you notice its contents are highly tweet-able-although they

predate Twitter by 87 years. The paternal tone of Mack's financial coaching could be attributable to a sad milestone in his family history: the death of his father, Samuel, the week before. The elder Blake died on November 11, 1918.³⁴ Mack was still his father's child, and would never be less than a fine credit to Samuel's good name. But more importantly, Mack was his child's father. Eleanor had received an achievement medal at school; he smiled to recall how she'd brought it home and presented it to him as "a sign of loyalty." Mack glanced at the pin, which had pride of place on his desk, and resolved that from this day forward, every decision he made, large or small, must be in Eleanor's best interests- with a focus on her security, present and future.

SCHOOLED FOR SUCCESS

In 1920, Mack acquired an interest in Security National Bank of Lawton, Oklahoma. The previous year, as Mack focused more and more on his banking duties, he relinquished one-half of his 768 shares of stock in Baker-Hanna & Blake, selling them to Baker and Hanna and turning over the firm's operations to his cousin T. S. Hanna; the whole-sale-retail company now rested in Tom's capable hands. Mack continued making mercantile investments, however: the Durant Weekly News announced on August 6, 1920, that he and F. P. Chedester had concluded the purchase of the W. L. Townsend and Company general-merchandise store in Durant; it was renamed Chedester & Blake, with Chedester assuming managerial duties. The Lawton newspaper called Mack "a big man in financial circles." His reputation as a brilliant banker was spreading throughout Oklahoma; reports of his high-flying success reached the state's other financial institutions. By 1922, Mack was literally flying high: that same year, while serving as president of Security National, he was also elected first vice president of Liberty National, an arrangement that turned

him into an early air-travel commuter, making the trip between Oklahoma City and Lawton in an open-cockpit Curtiss "Jenny" aircraft¹ piloted by Thomas George Lanphier, a veteran of World War I and close ally of Charles Lindbergh.² Frequent travel became an occupational hazard for Mack. He was, in his words, "on the job." Also in 1922, the San Antonio Evening News reported on a trade trip to Mexico undertaken by Oklahoma governor J.B. A Robertson with a group of the state's prominent business leaders, including M. B. Blake, T. S. Hanna, hardware merchant S. E. Clarkson, Acme Flour Mills' George G. Sohlberg (director of the Oklahoma Millers Association), lumber magnate Kee R. McKee, insurance and aviation pioneer T. E. "Tom" Braniff, and builder Charles M. Dunning.³

At 48, Mack Blake was one of Oklahoma's most respected and successful businessmen. He held down two demanding full-time jobs at two different banks. But the corporation nearest to his heart-his most satisfying investment and the most gratifying measure of his success was his family. Mack was profoundly pleased that it ran as efficiently as the most solvent trust company. The elegant dining table at West 17th Street was a lively conference space for discussing events of the day. His beautiful wife was much more than a thoroughbred clothes horse whose timeless personal style enhanced the new decade's modern fashions and Marcel-waved short haircuts; Kitty was Mack's right-hand executive, whom he entrusted with power of attorney. As corporate heads often do, Mack and Kitty played many rounds of golf together at the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club. Mack also loved to dance, and enjoyed few things more than leading his bride across the ballroom at the Lotus Club, Oklahoma City's oldest social dinner-dance club. At home, the Blakes entertained friends with spirited

games of bridge, the menfolk occasionally undertaking games of poker that lasted late into the evening. As for the corporation's junior stockholder-daughter Eleanor, now 14--she was exhibiting many talents, notably a gift for drawing and a way with words: an accomplished writer as well as an avid reader, she submitted an original short story to the magazine *Little Folks*. It was agreed that Eleanor would have everything Mack and Kitty didn't at her age, starting with the very best education money could buy. This would be provided by Miss Madeira's School,"⁴ a private, non-denominational boarding school in Washington, D.C., with a well-deserved reputation for exclusivity and excellence. Mack reckoned that his grandfather the educator, Charles Blake, would have approved the choice.

Eleanor left home in 1923 to begin the 10th grade at Miss Madeira's. Although Mack would miss his "Sweetie Peach" terribly, Eleanor's departure for school fortuitously coincided with a very busy time for him: he was obliged to commute even more frequently between Oklahoma City and Lawton,⁵ location of Security National, which had encountered serious financial difficulties and was on the verge of bankruptcy. Mack successfully reorganized the bank, now renamed the Security Bank and Trust Company. He was also persuaded to buy a controlling interest in it and to take over as vice president. Mack moved his family to the nearby town of Medicine Park⁶ (Oklahoma's first resort town), where they stayed at a vacation lodge house and later at an apartment. Security National Bank was capitalized at \$100,000 (roughly \$3 million today), with a surplus of between \$11,000 and \$15,000, but Mack discovered \$200,000 of "worthless paper" on the books. He recapitalized the bank, but predicted it would take three years for Security to recover fully. When he was confident Security was on sound

footing, Mack and Kitty returned to living full-time in Oklahoma City, where they gladly attended dinner dances at the country club and resumed regular games of golf. Excelling on the links, Kitty would joke that she "won most of the furniture from Mack by playing golf."⁷ Meanwhile, at Miss Madeira's, Eleanor became indoctrinated in the school's culture of strictest discipline, as outlined in the 1925 Constitution of the House Pupils and Regulations of the School, which details codes of dress and conduct, exercise, and hygiene, among other topics, plus an uncompromising system of demerits. Marks for misconduct could pile up easily: for instance, if a girl wore her heels too high, or so much as turned a wrong corner while out walking and ventured into a zone of Washington, D.C., that was designated off-limits.⁸

Even with the school providing such close supervision, and despite his substantial workload, Mack made time to do his due diligence as a concerned parent, frequently writing his daughter motivational letters. From the get-go, he wanted Eleanor to tell him "all about your roommate, where she is from, what class she is in, and her father's business if possible." He gifted Eleanor with a subscription to *The Oklahoman*, so she would feel less homesick. While Kitty offered boundless encouragement and updates on the Oklahoma social scene in letters addressed "My Dear Baby," Mack used his correspondence to offer Eleanor coaching on academics and athletics, keeping a vigilant eye on his Peach's progress--and her waistline. Mack was stern in his criticism of anything he considered amiss, and his beloved family was not spared. He adored his daughter, but probably didn't realize how devastating it was for her to receive one letter in which he mentions the cookies that he considered sending, but reconsidered because "cookies produce fat and you were

plump enough." Mack also routinely sent Eleanor warm morale boosts, lavish care packages- including, in one instance, seersucker bedspreads from a dry-goods colleague in St. Louis-and money (usually the sum of \$100, roughly \$1,400 today), always urging her to spend the funds he sent. Style-conscious Eleanor, who'd by now graduated from reading Little Folks to devouring Harper's Bazaar and Vogue, gladly complied. She spent her generous allowance on clothing and shoes-a natural impulse for a young woman in the midst of the 20th century's most exciting time for fashion, the Jazz Age, with its short skirts and high heels."⁹

Mack could be simultaneously lavish and tightfisted; the same letter in which he describes his intention to take Kitty out for a birthday dinner and a show, to "treat her like a queen," finds him gently chiding his princess for overspending on postage on her previous letter home. "I honestly believe I would have received it at the same time if you had attached a 2 cent stamp," he wrote Eleanor testily. Mack offered much unsolicited advice both to Eleanor and to her teachers, addressing himself to the faculty directly. For all of Miss Madeira's stringency, Eleanor admired the lofty ideals of her school's founder, and shared the headmistress's love of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Vailima Letters*.¹⁰ And although she was decidedly not enamored of Miss Madeira's military-grade discipline, Eleanor was absolutely captivated by her studies of French and quickly achieved mastery of the language. When she learned of a private girls' school at Cannes, Eleanor energetically petitioned her parents to send her to France for the final year of her secondary schooling; they agreed, and forwarded tuition to the Fontaine Academy. If you judge from her letters and photographs, Eleanor thoroughly enjoyed her academic experience abroad, making many new friends and writing

delightful notes home, her charming correspondence peppered with words and phrases *en Français*. During the Christmas holiday, Eleanor toured North Africa, visiting the ruins of Dougga and the Baths of Constantine in Tunisia, the Casbah in Algiers, the Garden of Allah in Biskra, and the Sahara Desert.¹¹ Somewhere between Washington, D.C., and Cannes, Eleanor had become profoundly affected by the concept of noblesse oblige: the duty of the privileged to extend generosity to those less fortunate. It was an ideal she would always hold dear.

In 1924, Governor Martin E. Trapp¹² made Mack an honorary colonel on his personal staff. June of 1925 found Mack on top of the world: the merger of Oklahoma National Bank with Liberty National was legally completed, with Mack serving as one of the directors of the board. The merger would create the fourth-largest bank in Oklahoma at that time. Having achieved a level of success high enough to satisfy his competitive entrepreneurial nature, and with his wife and daughter spending their share on travel, fashion, home furnishings, antiques, opera, and other enriching cultural pursuits,¹³ Mack now felt more free to indulge in a bit of play in his business pursuits- and the industry where "play" was a key word was oil. Wherever there was significant petroleum exploration, it was called an "oil play."¹⁴ Until now, Mack Blake had been resolutely risk-averse, all work and no play. His hobby was achieving financial success, and bursts of enjoyment came from doing business in style-visiting New York on buying trips, commuting to Lawton via private plane, rounds of golf with Mrs. Blake, occasional trips with their daughter. Few were immune to the circulating tales of wildcatting oil men. These stories captivated the nation, reaching a crescendo with the 1926 publication of *Oill*, the novel about California petroleum

explorers by Upton Sinclair, author of the 1906 literary sensation *The Jungle*. By 1928, the lure of oil was tough to resist: the discovery, that year, of the Oklahoma City Oilfield, would tempt many of the community's most conservative business leaders to want in on the action, one way or another. Yet Mack was as staunchly conservative in his investments as in his style of dress. The seasoned entrepreneur in him was always up for a new and profitable business venture—he'd made his first foray into the oil and gas business in 1922, purchasing a deed to the underground minerals on a 40-acre property in Beckham County, Oklahoma—but the actual drilling for oil was an exorbitantly expensive prospect, which he wanted no part of. It was, in a signature Mack Blake phrase, "too wildcat for me," and far too great a gamble, especially now that Eleanor was looking ahead to four years at Smith College,¹⁵ the progressive liberal-arts college for women that was famous for producing highly distinguished alumnae. No, Mack refused to gamble with his daughter's higher education—his own had come to an abrupt end, but nothing, he vowed, would jeopardize Eleanor's academic career. Mack Blake was not, and never would be, a wildcatter. At the same time, he was torn, for he didn't want to miss out on profitable new business opportunities. He briefly entered the refining business, opening a refinery in the East Texas field, but soon closed it. Mack decided that buying and selling oil and gas leases and continuously collecting royalties (as he was doing thanks to the Beckham County deed), showed far greater promise as a way to keep his minerals investment liquid. Okay, so it was still a risk—but it was an educated one. And so Mack resumed a routine of taking buying trips, just as he had during his mercantile days; only now, he was acquiring leases instead of wholesale dry goods.

In May of 1926, father and daughter toured the British Isles by sea, departing from New York. Mack's internal alarm clock was still set for 4:30 a.m., so early-morning hours on board the ship gave him time to think. Upon his return to Oklahoma that summer, he began hatching a business scheme with his in-law the geologist, Kitty's brother William Robert "W.G." Talbott.¹⁶ The men entered into an oral agreement to purchase royalties and split the profit 50-50. Talbott would supply Mack with information as to the most geologically promising locations to buy land, and Mack would finance the purchase of those plots. When Mack received the return on his investment, what was left would be owned by the partners on an equal basis. The following year, the plan was made official and set in motion: W.G. was working as a geologist for Shell Petroleum Company (Roxana), but Shell was not interested in purchasing royalties, so W.G. passed information to Mack. In April 1927, W.G. and Mack met with Jesse Gully, who had already been making purchases on Mack's behalf and was interested in the deal. "I have been doing a lot of gambling in oil and gas leases and royalties in hopes of getting into the big money," Mack wrote in a letter to Eleanor, "and I should know how lucky or unlucky I am within the next two or three weeks. Maybe your daddy will become a big oil man. I am going to make a lot of money to support my family." By 1928, the Skeleton Creek¹⁷ Oil Company was chartered, and the parties' agreement modified, with Talbott taking a one-third interest in all purchases: Mack was president, Jesse Gully was secretary/treasurer, and Rhena Gully (Jesse's wife and Mack's sister) was vice president. By 1928, the firm's holdings included the McCully pool. The McCully Number One well, drilled on May 9, 1927, became the first major oil producer in

Logan County, giving rise to the nearby boomtown of Roxana.

Mack discovered yet another, even safer angle on the oil business when he discussed a possible partnership with Mr. John B. Nichlos.¹⁸ As he wrote to Eleanor, "He has offered me a good salary and the work would be very easy. He wants me to look after the financing of his oil business." Instead, he and Nichlos made a deal in which Kitty was also involved: in April 1929, Mack and John Nichlos signed a deal for gas leases; their wives, Kathryn Blake and Marjorie Nichlos, signed a deal for the corresponding mineral grant. Boxes of meticulously typed and carbon-copied correspondence reveal Skeleton Creek to be a consuming preoccupation of Mack Blake's—as if he tried to impose the iron discipline he lived by on the unpredictable oil business through a barrage of fastidious letters crafted with Latinate formality. Mack used the abbreviations *inst.*, *ult.*, or *prox.*, signifying *instante mense* (the current month), *ultimo mense* (the previous), or *proximo mense* (the next). At the stockholders meeting in August of 1929, the Skeleton Creek board of directors was reconfigured: Rhena resigned as director and vice president, Jesse resigned as secretary/treasurer, and Mack resigned as president. Now W.G. Talbott was elected president; Jesse Gully, vice president; and Mack, secretary/treasurer. Mack was very busy with bank business: that year, 1929, saw him playing a key role in what newspapers described as a "mutual strengthening" between Exchange National and Liberty National.¹⁹ By purchasing 40 percent of stock shares, Liberty gained access to nearly \$10 million in equity. During this transaction, numerous offers to buy Liberty were tendered by other financial institutions, among them American First National. Mack and his fellow bank directors unanimously, categorically, refused them all. The

bank they had built was as vital to Oklahoma's business landscape as the bank directors' own established firms, and inspired the same loyalty. Relinquishing her to outside interests was simply not an option.

By December of that year, the Gullys relocated to California. Eleanor, too, was planning to relocate: she had been living at home with her parents for two years, attending the University of Oklahoma, but looked forward to moving east. She had unwittingly fallen one credit short of the ultimate goal of all her hard work, admission to her first-choice institution of higher learning; Smith College had declined to accept Eleanor on a technicality. While she was at Fontaine, Mack had cabled Eleanor, advising her to reduce her academic load from seven subjects to four in preparation for Smith. One of the courses Eleanor dropped was a history class, and that ended up costing her a mandatory academic credit. The Blakes were overjoyed to have their daughter back home. She studied at the University of Oklahoma for two years, became a member of Kappa Alpha Theta²⁰--the first Greek-letter fraternity for women--and motored with friends in the 1930 Buick Roadster Mack bought for her (later, he would write Eleanor about borrowing her car, which he enjoyed driving). Her time in France gave Eleanor new perspectives and a new goal: a career that would take her back there. With the authority of a cultural anthropologist, she spoke like a seasoned commentator about her favorite place in Europe, giving an interview to *The Daily Oklahoman*. The article ran on Tuesday, July 19, 1927, beneath the headline "French Girls See Ideal in Man from America: Miss Eleanor Blake, Back from School, Relates Views of France":

"French women think American men are ideal," is the observation of Miss Eleanor Blake, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M.B.

Blake, 301 West Seventeenth Street, who has just returned from a year's study at Cannes, France. "French girls are of the opinion that men of no nation know how to treat women with so much magnanimity as do American men." French women aren't allowed to enter politics, nor to handle even their own finances, and if they don't many are required to pay a tax, Miss Blake explained. Salaries of working girls are low and not many fields are open to the efforts of women."²¹

Eleanor diligently studied and re-applied to Smith for her junior year--and this time she was accepted. Her reward was a sleek, wooden motorboat, gifted to Eleanor by her parents, which she enjoyed taking for spins on Lake Overholser all that summer. Mack was especially proud when his girl pulled impressive stunts in the water. In the autumn of 1929, Eleanor set off for Northampton, Massachusetts, the extremely picturesque location of the Smith College campus, eager to begin her junior year and resume her studies of French language and culture. Work in the foreign service greatly appealed to Eleanor as she pondered the future. However, her mind was busy with more than her rapidly advancing academic career--she was also thinking of tall, dark-haired John Kirkpatrick, the very nice young man she'd befriended that summer in Oklahoma City, and what she would write in her first letter to him. The two had shared some memorable nautical adventures aboard Eleanor's boat; together, they'd taken her out on Lake Overholser, which straddles the line separating Oklahoma and Canadian Counties. The latter had special significance for John: as he explained to Eleanor, he'd spent several happy years of his childhood in Canadian County, at the farm of his grandparents, L. M. and Mollie Spencer, proud pioneers who were first to frontier the town of Yukon, Oklahoma. Mollie had willed the farm, and the acres of land on which

it stood, to him. Perfectly in his element on the water, John was a midshipman about to enter his third year at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, where he excelled at football, lacrosse, and wrestling. He was training to be an officer in the United States Navy, and would soon become an officer of a different stripe in the Blake family corporation.

GRACE UNDER PRESSURE

Shortly after Eleanor left home to begin the academic year at the prestigious Smith College, America would learn some of the most devastating lessons in its history when the stock market crashed on October 29, 1929. "Black Tuesday" was the beginning of a global financial crisis—the Great Depression—whose terrible effects were felt in all Western industrialized countries. For a capitalist, it was a nail-biting time, one that tested the most brilliant business minds. Mack thought of his father: always a believer in free, unrestrained trade, the proudly Republican, anti-protectionist Samuel Blake had crusaded against restrictions imposed by railroads. Mack, also a proud Republican, was of the same economic mind. But to the horror of any American with mercantile interests, especially Mack and his relatives in the Baker-Hanna & Blake business, the severely protectionist Tariff Act of 1930—a.k.a. the Smoot-Hawley Tariff,¹ authored by two Republicans—was signed into law in June of 1930. The act—"one of the most destructive pieces of economic legislation ever written"²--implemented protectionist trade policies by raising U.S.

tariffs on over 20,000 imported goods. Mack had survived two previous financial emergencies, in 1893 and 1907, but this one harkened back before his time, to an even earlier crisis. The new act created the second-highest tariffs in the previous 100 years, exceeded only by the Tariff of 1828, which marked the high point of U.S. tariffs. That earlier tariff had been labeled the Tariff of Abominations by its detractors in the Southern states because of the terrible effects it had on the antebellum economy of the South,³ making it a main cause of the Civil War. Economic historians agree that the Tariff Act of 1930 compounded the Great Depression,⁴ reducing American exports and imports by more than half, as other countries raised their tariffs in retaliation. Merchants all over America sustained huge losses.

Independent petroleum producers, on the other hand, were all for a tariff on oil, so they wouldn't be undercut by their competition: the big, integrated oil companies, with their wells in Colombia, Venezuela, and Arabia. President Hoover disappointed the independents; instead of pushing for a tariff, he called for cooperation on the part of the big, integrated companies to secure voluntary curtailment of oil imports. In 1930 production increased by at least 10 percent over the previous year, while markets shrank. By March 1931, production in the United States was about three million barrels daily, while an additional 300,000 barrels were imported daily. The inevitable result was a dramatic decline of prices. Crude oil sold for 75 cents a barrel. Mack was glad that he hadn't gotten his hands dirty with oil drilling; the industry was now in hot water. The discovery of the Oklahoma City Oilfield in 1928 had led to a boom, as oil companies stepped up production, drilling rapidly. Oklahoma oil companies kept the drill pace steady. But falling oil prices

led Governor William "Alfalfa Bill" Murray to order the militia to shut down oil production on August 4, 1928, until the price returned to one dollar a barrel. By 1931, the price of oil was just 16 cents a barrel. This spelled bust for both the oil business and the banking business in Oklahoma. The banks had put up the loans to finance the drilling, and when oil producers took a hit, so did the banks with which they did business. The crisis was real, and it was felt in every sector of the economy. Before long, homeless encampments were a heartbreakingly familiar sight in Oklahoma City; half of the camp residents were former tenant farmers or sharecroppers who'd migrated to the city from rural areas.⁵ Cities across the nation had seen the emergence of "Hoovervilles," so named after the unpopular President Hoover, who bore the blame for the Depression, but Oklahoma City was unusual in developing a municipal transient camp. In 1931, nearly 600 families were living in one of the shantytowns that had sprung up along the North Canadian River.⁶

Mack's wise and varied investments meant no such fate would befall his family: it was business as usual for the Blakes of Oklahoma City, even during the Depression's darkest days. Kitty required an operation to remove her tonsils; it was arranged that she would undergo the procedure in Texas, while Mack traveled the state to buy royalties—yet another example of his talent for efficient scheduling that meshed professional appointments with personal ones. After Kitty's two-week recovery, he picked her up and they drove home to Oklahoma together. Mack was starting to get nervous, for the Depression was hitting perilously close to home. Baker-Hanna & Blake felt the force of the Crash: the family wholesale-retail firm had thrived throughout the 20s, doing a brisk business princi-

pally in Oklahoma and Texas, but now saw a devastating decline in sales as the Depression cast a pall over the Southwest. In 1931, sales were down to \$607,000 annually and gross profit had sunk to \$86,000. But Mack didn't let his family see him sweat. Just as he did when playing bridge with Kitty and their friends, Mack deftly concealed his hand—and his careful management of funds meant he never had to deprive his wife or daughter of whatever luxuries, large or small, their hearts desired. He and Kitty still took trips to Mineral Wells; they'd been pioneer visitors to the spa, which in the years since became a top-tier destination frequented by movie stars on the order of Douglas Fairbanks, Mary Pickford, and Clark Gable. The only hint that Mack was under strain appeared when he confided in his daughter that he'd taken up smoking again. Naturally, he took a "do as I say, not as I do" stance, and strongly cautioned Eleanor against it: "I am smoking again and it's making me sick. It's a foolish bad habit, and bad habits are hard to break when they get hold of you, and smoking is a very bad and dangerous habit for your health, and that's the reason I wouldn't like for you to get the habit." Although, in a classic case of well-meaning parental mixed messaging, Mack also wrote to Eleanor that "I haven't smoked any in 12 days and you know me when I get off tobacco: I get mean, nervous, and have no ambition to do anything. Take my advice and leave tobacco alone, as no possible good can come from its use."⁷ Kitty did her part to economize, making dresses at home for herself and Eleanor, with the beautiful fabrics that the Bakers, Hannas, and Blakes always had access to. Many letters mailed from Oklahoma City to Northampton reference the latest party frock Kitty was preparing to send her "Dear Baby." For Mack, the entrepreneurial versatility he had displayed throughout his

career strengthened his resolve to succeed for his family at all costs.

To incentivize the completion of his daughter's college education, Mack had made Eleanor a promise: if she obtained her diploma in four years, she would be rewarded with a new car of her choice. Of course, this was before the Great Depression changed everything. Well informed by her travels through Europe and her time at the best schools, Eleanor acquired a discernment in all things that was impeccable. She'd graduated from Buick ownership, and now her preferred vehicle was a Packard,⁸ the marque that carried a four-figure starting price. At this point in history, few could afford to purchase even an inexpensive automobile, much less a luxury model. But a promise was a promise, and Eleanor held her father to it. Mack had to hand it to his daughter the Smith College alum: she had excellent, if expensive, taste. During her two years at the University of Oklahoma, Eleanor had made a good many new friends, several of them eligible young men, but she'd promised her parents that she would wait to get married until after she earned her college diploma. Foremost in the running for Eleanor's hand was John Kirkpatrick, her escort for several social occasions, including a party at Wildwood, the country home of Tom and Bess Braniff.⁹ 136 Tall and handsome, John Kirkpatrick was the object of female admiration wherever he went, a quality Eleanor noted with pleasure; she also appreciated that the story of his ancestors, who counted among Oklahoma's first settlers, had cinematic shades of *Cimarron*,¹⁰ the epic Western about Oklahoma's frontier beginnings. In June of 1931, Mack and Kitty hosted a dinner at the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club to celebrate Eleanor's graduation from college. The newly minted Smith graduate, with a bachelor's degree in French, was looking

forward to applying all she'd learned at home and abroad—especially her study of Eastern philosophy, a field she loved—to a diplomatic career. In the meantime, she would have to undergo instruction of a different sort: classes at secretarial school, to gain the administrative skills needed to help out her father at his office. Ever so politely, she broached the topic of the promised Packard: Eleanor had upheld her end of the bargain. She got her wheels. Eleanor promptly signed up for a secretarial course at Blackwood Business College in Oklahoma City. The graduate was interviewed for *The Oklahoma News*, as one of the daughters of affluent families entering the world of business. "Though Eleanor was born with a silver spoon in her mouth," wrote reporter Lois Worth Burnett, "she thinks nothing is nicer than a rusty pewter one on a camping trip."¹¹ Eleanor also worked on Saturday afternoons in the employment department of the YWCA.

In the summer of 1931, the Blakes traveled to California, where Eleanor saw a great deal of John Kirkpatrick, now a commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy. Assigned to the *U.S.S. Arizona*,¹² part of the Pacific Fleet, he excelled at manning the battleship's impressive armaments. John was also gunning for Eleanor's hand. One enchanted evening, Ensign Kirkpatrick proposed after a dinner with the Blakes—yet Eleanor held out. She would wait nine months to give John the answer he wanted, a gestation period that enabled her to be absolutely certain that this was the best investment for her heart to make. During that time, John persistently proposed several more times, while Eleanor kept herself busy. In March of 1932, she became a provisional member of the Junior League of Oklahoma City. Her recently acquired secretarial skills were put to work for her father at his office in the Oklahoma Savings Building. In May, John wrote

explaining that he would complete his gunnery exercises in June, and that the Arizona would be in port the rest of that month—perfect timing for a wedding and honeymoon. Eleanor agreed. "Time is so short," she wired John. "When is the soonest you can get home?" He promised, "As soon as possible." Mack and Kitty announced their daughter's engagement at a luncheon on June 6, 1932, at the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club. John arrived in Oklahoma City on June 12, and the couple purchased their marriage license the next day. Eleanor and John were married two weeks later, on June 20, at the home of the bride's parents. Attired in his white uniform, the groom cut the wedding cake with his ceremonial naval sword. His best man was Philip Gully.¹³ Mack was very pleased to welcome this hardworking young man into the family, for John Kirkpatrick would prove himself to be a gladly adopted son, business Protege, and capable partner in enterprise. The newlywed couple drove Eleanor's Packard to the Kirkpatrick Family Cabin in Green Mountain Falls, Colorado, for a weeklong honeymoon. Afterward, John reported for duty in Bremerton, Washington; the Arizona left Bremerton Naval Yard and returned to its station at San Pedro, California. Eleanor drove the Packard to Long Beach, where the couple had their first home together, a rented apartment with a Murphy bed: not the most likely place one might find a Packard parked out front. By the end of that month, Eleanor became pregnant.

With their new son-in-law an ensign, the Navy was now part of the Blakes' everyday life. In 1932, a Navy man rose to national prominence: the Democratic candidate who challenged Hoover for the presidency—and won by a landslide—had served as secretary of the Navy in the Wilson administration. During his campaign, Franklin Delano Roosevelt spoke against the Tariff Act, among other reprehensible

Republican business, and yet Mack refused to support the charismatic new commander in chief. The dining table at NW 17th Street was a lively forum for discussing events and developments of the day, locally and nationally, for despite being the same height (five feet eight inches), Mr. and Mrs. Blake did not see eye-to-eye on politics: he was a Republican, staunchly anti-FDR, and she a confirmed Democrat. Kitty's sister Emma Talbott Marshall was also pro-FDR; in a letter to Emma, Mack critiqued his wife's and his sister-in-law's choice of candidate:

*There was one part of your letter that had a sour note for me, and that was your declaration that you are a strong Roosevelt supporter. At one time I was completely sold on this party myself I still believe that his intentions are for the good of the ordinary man. But his methods are those of a dreamer or an amateur who has had no previous business experience. I am firmly sold at this time on the idea that he has made a terrible mess of the matter, and if we continue into a deeper depression than we are now in, then the Congress and the Senate are going to have to take a hand and give business a better chance to function than Mr. Roosevelt has. Business pays taxes. Therefore it must have a chance to prosper and make earnings with which to pay the taxes.*¹⁴

However, the Blakes agreed wholeheartedly that their daughter had elected the right man for the job of spouse. The more Mack got to know John Kirkpatrick, the better he liked him. The proof was a letter in which he declared, "As a son-in-law, you suit me just fine." Their compatibility came as no surprise to the other stockholders of the Blake family corporation: John was the protege Mack had always wanted, an apt and willing pupil for the many business lessons Mack had to teach. They were lessons John was happy to learn. Mack advised John against going into the oil business because it was too great a gamble. But as a Navy man, John

knew a thing or two about oil: it was critical to the nation's sea power. In the modern era, oil would fuel not only the aircraft but the battleships—including aircraft carriers and their cargo—that defend America in times of war. The Naval Petroleum Reserve, established in 1910 by President Taft, comprised federally owned and operated oil fields in California, Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming (location of the famous Teapot Dome).¹⁵ The Reserve would be a stalwart contingency source of fuel for our nation's military throughout the 20th century. But farsighted observers—John Kirkpatrick included—understood that even those mighty oil fields were not bottomless, and would one day reach their limit. The time for exploration was now. Out of respect for Mack's anti-drilling stance, John would limit his involvement in the petroleum industry to buying stock in Texaco. He purchased 100 shares of stock at \$9 a share, and Mack—who invested that year in Venezuelan and other South American oil ventures—was impressed when John's Texaco stock rose to more than \$28.¹⁶

John's first, and most important, tutorial from his father-in-law took place when Mack faced—and faced down—the professional crisis of a lifetime. His son-in-law learned how to handle a business emergency with equal parts intelligence and integrity. The year before, 1931, Liberty Bank earned \$122,711, but by 1932, the bank lost \$50,979. Similarly alarming financial troubles were felt by Baker-Hanna & Blake, which had taken a loan from Liberty: the family wholesale-retail business saw sales drop to \$506,000 in 1932, continuing the previous year's decline. In 1933, Liberty sustained a devastating loss of \$665,346. During the optimistic 1920s, deposits in Oklahoma City banks had soared. Now it was a very different story, as the Depression caused an erosion of confidence in the banking system that was felt

nationwide, leading to a growing wave of bank failures. As banks were closing, Liberty National appeared to teeter on the brink of collapse. However, in a stranger-than-fiction scenario seemingly concocted by an imaginative Hollywood screenwriter,¹⁷ Liberty did not fail: Mack Blake convinced his fellow board members¹⁸ to join him in leveraging their personal assets to raise the funds needed to save the bank. He cashed in his life insurance policy, and mortgaged the Blake family home, to inject new capital into the bank. The bankers of Liberty National protected their customers, although no law required that they do so. Their heroic sacrifice saved Liberty National and earned its loyal depositors' confidence, with interest. Liberty, and all associated with it, became synonymous with humanity and progressiveness.

Selling his life insurance policy and mortgaging the family home amounted to what is known in Methodism as "Christian social action": Mack owed his noble deeds to the influence of his wife, Kitty, and her steadfast faith. Methodism has always had a strong foothold in Arkansas, and Kitty's birthplace-Center Point, Howard County- had not only a Methodist church but also a Methodist campground: Ebenezer Campground, which was added to the National Register of Historic Places.¹⁹ Members of the church founded by John Wesley believe that salvation evinces itself in good works. Mack was not a Methodist himself; he wasn't even particularly religious, yet he'd heard Kitty and her pastor friend, fellow Arkansan²⁰ "Brother Forney," speak often enough about the spiritually exalting effect of good works for the doer and for the community. Their Methodist social principles had guided Mack to do the right, righteous thing: "Scriptural holiness entails more than personal piety; love of God is always linked with love of neighbor, a passion for justice and renewal in the life of the

world."²¹ Now more than ever, what was needed in the depths of this Great Depression was a leap of faith-so Mack took one, on the belief that the bank would rebound and continue to serve its community.

Liberty Bank did survive, but the stress of saving it took a toll on Mack's health; he was smoking himself sick again. Perhaps his noble action had granted him access to the kingdom of Heaven, but it was the kind of financial risk he had carefully trained himself never to take. He had, in effect, gambled on God. That gamble would pay off in astonishing ways, for the Blake family and for the people of their community. But for now, all Mack could see was continued difficulty-and he had only to ponder his oil interests to feel even worse off. A stake in the McCully Number One well, the first major oil producer in Logan County, had been one of the triumphs of Skeleton Creek Oil Company; the strike had given rise to the boomtown of Roxana, platted in July 1927. Now the Depression, compounded by natural disasters (including fire and a tornado), were conspiring to bring about the demise of Roxana.²² The newspaper headlines spawned by the nationwide Banking Crisis of 1933, which resulted in the Emergency Banking Act,²³ were enough to convince Mack he'd meet his Maker sooner rather than later. Then, as if to remind him that the Maker took away but also gave, he soon received a reward better than any he could have asked for: a grandchild.

Mack was deeply touched when the Kirkpatricks told him they intended to name their child Blake Titus, in the event the baby would be a boy, after Eleanor's father and Rembrandt's son, Titus van Rijn. (Also the name of the Roman Emperor whose motto, *Festina Lente*, is the motto of Miss Madeira's School, "Titus" became the couple's code when referring to their unborn child in conversations and

correspondence.) "I appreciate the feeling much more than I can express," Mack wrote in a letter to Eleanor. "By the way, what are you and John hoping it will be? A girl is so much easier to handle, not half the trouble an old boy will cause, I know." A girl is what the family got: Joan Elson Kirkpatrick was born on August 7, 1933. Kitty traveled to California to stay with her daughter and granddaughter. As Joan's godparents, Eleanor designated her cousins, Aunt Emma's daughters Mildred Marshall and Katherine Marshall.²⁴ With the arrival of the future heir-for that's what Mack had taken to calling the baby months before her arrival-the Blake family corporation gained a new junior officer, and would thereafter be called, by its mutually adoring stockholders, the "Family of Five." The proud parents promptly acquired a home movie camera to record their "and baby makes three" adventures. As so often happens in families, the bond between grandparent and grandchild bridged a generation gap, a bridge upheld by pylons of profoundest respect and love. Mack treasured Joan, and the feeling was mutual. To secure her financial future, he resolved to work harder than ever before.

JOHNNY, IT WILL BE YOUR JOB

In 1934, sensing intimations of mortality, Mack expressed concern about his estate. He made his son-in-law promise that, in the event of his death, John would take over his business interests, and take good care of Kitty as well as Eleanor and Joan. Ever the consummate salesman, Mack knew precisely how to sweeten this deal and get what he wanted. He made John an attractive offer: resign his U.S. Navy commission and apply to Harvard Business School. Mack would pay his tuition plus a salary to compensate for the loss of his Navy salary (\$145 a month). After Harvard, Mack would front the capital to set John up in a business. With this scheme in place, Mack could rest assured that, in the event of his untimely demise, his business affairs—most importantly, the family corporation—would be run by a dependable businessman he'd groomed for the job himself. All went according to Mack's plan: on March 25, 1935, John resigned his commission in the active U.S. Navy, continuing as a Navy reserve officer; if America went to war, he'd be recalled to active duty. Eleanor was happy not to endure long separations from her husband,

and would gladly help him type his Harvard Business School reports. John started at Harvard that fall. He'd graduated from Annapolis, which trained its students to command Navy vessels; now Harvard would mold him into a captain of industry. And not a moment too soon, as far as Mack was concerned: in June, the board of Skeleton Creek Oil—Mack, W. G. Talbott, and Jesse Gully—voted to liquidate the company. It was now another skeleton in the graveyard of oil misadventures. The family corporation could not afford another such disappointment; doing business with John would ensure that it wouldn't have to. During this period, Eleanor and John prudently exercised strategic frugality—a lifesaving practice, what with so many businesses and institutions nationwide succumbing to Depression-era closure.¹ Still, the couple managed to afford a few “bargains” at auctions in Boston and Cambridge, acquiring rare books, art, and antiques whose value would appreciate significantly (one notable acquisition being a print by Mary Cassatt, the American artist renowned for iconic depictions of mothers and children; like Eleanor, Cassatt was a Francophile). It was the beginning of what would develop into the Kirkpatricks' lifelong pastime of collecting art and antiques. Mack was pleased to learn that his daughter was an apt pupil for his lifetime of lessons on financial gain: describing recent auction purchases in a letter to Kitty, Eleanor wrote, “I did get some lovely things, which I can either keep or sell at a profit.”

AT THE END OF 1936, John and Eleanor returned to Oklahoma for the summer. Having learned business from the top, John now took a job in the oil fields, to learn business from the bottom. As the summer drew to a close, John

reached a fork in the road when he met with two men who wanted to start a steel-fabrication business. Instead of returning to Harvard Business School to complete his MBA, he dove headfirst into the real world of commerce: a milieu monogrammed MBB, the initials of his father-in-law. John entered into a partnership with E. C. Hinkfent and Duke B. Merrill to form the Allied Steel Products Corporation of Tulsa in October, with Hinkfent as president, Merrill as vice president, and John as secretary-treasurer; Mack financed the startup. Allied Steel was an evolution of Mack's M.O. of conservative, circumspect (i.e., non-drilling) involvement with the oil industry: the firm designed and fabricated steel buildings for the petroleum and natural gas industries—often traveling to oil and gas wells to build them on-site. Just as Mack had in his mercantile days, Allied offered its on-the-move customers comprehensive, thoughtful service; when drilling needed to relocate, the firm gamely dismantled the buildings, then transported and re-erected them. The growth of oil and gas drilling in Oklahoma and Texas during the 1930s meant that Allied would have plenty of demand for its services, but the first year in business, during the Great Depression, was tough. With the Kirkpatricks now living in nearby Tulsa, Mack kept close tabs on his investment, traveling to Tulsa often with Kitty to visit their beloved granddaughter, whose lifelong love for animals of all species had taken hold: throughout her childhood, Joan would be the loving, attentive guardian to horses as well as numerous dogs, cats, rabbits, and parrots. During those Tulsa visits, the Blake business school was back in session (in fact, it was never not in session) with "Professor Mack" offering his son-in-law constant counsel, as if prepping him for entrepreneurial exams. When the latter fell short of his father-in-law's expectations, he was met with frustrated

exclamations of “Johnny, you’re blindfolded, you’re blindfolded!” Few were more qualified to give business advice—or criticism, for that matter. Always demonstrating razor-sharp acumen, Mack started a new business in 1937: the Shawnee Ice Company, Western Ice and Cold Storage, which offered, in addition to storage services, ice delivery for old-school iceboxes as well as newfangled refrigerators, for homes equipped with more modern appliances. With refrigeration technology becoming more and more in demand, thanks to Oklahoma’s famously hot, humid climate, this was a typical example of Mack’s talent for identifying a need in the community, then incorporating a service to cater to it—all while keeping his investment portfolio versatile.²

JOHN’S DECISION not to continue graduate school was validated many times over. As he would later recall, “I received more business-administration education when Mack Blake came to see Joan than I ever learned at the Harvard Business School.” He also received, courtesy of his thoughtful father-in-law, a copy of Dale Carnegie’s best-selling book, *How to Win Friends and Influence People*.³ Mack the salesman could appreciate a book-length sales pitch. The Navy, too, had taught John well. He’d drawn on his engineering education at the Naval Academy to help with the design of Allied Steel products, including a gas engine cooler that became a standard part of the firm’s inventory. His time in the Navy—studies at Annapolis as well as port duty—also gave John a first-hand appreciation of oil’s significance as a key component of national defense, and a wise investment for a capitalist. Mack Blake likewise understood the importance of owning petroleum-rich prop-

erty. He summed up his philosophy vis-à-vis petroleum in a letter he wrote in reply to an offer of a lease: "I am not interested in any property that is not producing oil or gas." Variants on that mantra would be repeated often in his correspondence with anyone seeking to interest Mack in new prospects. John now began the process of warming Mack to the idea of petroleum exploration. It made perfect sense for a Navy man to enter the oil business; petroleum was John Kirkpatrick's destiny. However, Mack was more concerned than ever for the security of his wife and daughter, and needed assurance that they would always enjoy the lifestyle to which they had grown accustomed. Compounding his concern was the consideration of yet another young lady's comfort: that of his beloved granddaughter. Finally, father and son—for that's what Mack and his son-in-law effectively had become, even before the 1936 death of John's father, Dr. Elmer Kirkpatrick—reached an accord on petroleum. John assured Mack that, as co-guardian of the Family of Five, he would proceed with the utmost caution. Satisfied that John would deal conservatively in oil, as he had—and continue to provide for the Blake women, as he had—Mack agreed that, with John at the helm, a petroleum partnership would be one entrepreneurial ship that would not capsiz.

IN EARLY FEBRUARY 1937, Mack traveled to the renowned Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, for an audit of his declining health. The swelling in his legs was making him uncomfortably anxious, and he wanted the doctors to tell him how much time he had left. Denied a concrete answer, he was disgusted, complaining that doctors are "vague." Later that month, Mack was traveling in Kansas on a buying

trip, acquiring leases for \$100 an acre, with the intention of flipping the leases for \$600 an acre, when he was involved in a car accident. He sustained a bruised chest and a few broken ribs, and spent several days hospitalized at Sumner Regional Medical Center in Wellington, Kansas. While confined, Mack was unable to flip the leases. In a letter to a friend, he lamented that “almost every investment I have made in the oil business in the past year has been a failure.” In another letter, Mack said his business had “gone to the dogs.” He recalled with a wince the now defunct Skeleton Creek Oil Company. In December 1936 Mack’s accountant, Mr. Tribbey, CPA, prepared the postmortem, completing the final audit report for Skeleton Creek. Nevertheless, Mack had the impeccable instincts of a successful oilman. His outline of terms for joining in on a deal proposed by his attorney, J. C. Marshall of Quanah, would prove excellent advice to anyone looking to score in the oil game: buy on all four sides of a producing well, “north, south, east, and west. Don’t just buy on one side of a well, as often the side you don’t buy on is the side you should have bought. It is safer to buy on all sides. If you should decide to do this I will be very glad to cut in.”

DURING THIS PERIOD, Mack managed several wheat farms in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas (plus one that cultivated cotton, barley, and oats), necessitating the timely payment of insurance premiums on those properties. He also fielded numerous letters from business associates and relatives asking for loans; most of the would-be borrowers already owed him money. In these cases, he used his banker’s acumen, wisely letting numbers do the talking: “At this time I have less than \$300 in the bank, and I am indebted to the

Chase National Bank of New York for more than \$60,000," he wrote in a letter to one of his nephews. Like a financial institution denying a loan application, he replied to his brother-in-law W. W. Merritt (Lulabel's husband), who had appealed for funds, with "I regret to advise you that I am not in a position to furnish you the money you need, as I am in about the same position you described in your letter. ... As far as I am concerned, you will have to keep a stiff upper lip and work the matter out as best you can." A business deduction Mack had claimed in 1934 came back to haunt him in 1936, when he was subjected to an Internal Revenue Service tax audit; counseled by Mr. Tribbey, Mack would mount a lawsuit in 1938, but as he later lamented, "the government won." It was a very stressful time. Still, despite his lifelong allergy to receiving gifts, Mack was more than happy to lavish largess upon his nearest and dearest.⁴ Christmas 1936 had him sending \$50 (\$868 today) in lieu of a gift to Mrs. J. C. Marshall (Kitty's sister Emma), with a letter that read, "I hope you can purchase a little happiness for yourself." He added: "Now Emma, please don't try to send me a Christmas present. I never was very good at accepting presents and will really appreciate your not sending me one." (Even-handed Mack sent the same amount to the Merritts at Christmas 1939.) While Emma's younger son, Nealy Edward "Bud" Marshall, attended law school at the University of Oklahoma, Mack was pleased to contribute to his tuition.⁵ Other family members experienced Mack's much-sterner side. He was unsparing in his criticism of nephew Edwin T. Blake Jr. (the son of Mack's brother Edwin), who encountered financial troubles in his mercantile dealings, first as a retailer and later as owner of the necktie-manufacturing company Navajo Weavers. Left in the lurch on a deal he'd made with Edwin, Mack complained in a letter to his attorney, J. C.

Marshall, who was Emma's husband: "Edwin has no money and I don't believe he will ever have any money, as he is wholly irresponsible. His mother and father haven't any money.... That leaves it up to me to make the settlement and it is nasty medicine for me to take."⁶ Mack knew how awful medicine could taste, for he was following a doctor-prescribed regimen of bitter "concentrate" medication for the management of his coronary disease.⁷

THE LEADERSHIP of the United States as a whole also left a bad taste, as far as Mack was concerned. Firmly believing that Mr. Roosevelt had to go, and that what this country needed was a corporate executive for a chief executive, Mack made a donation to the presidential campaign of Republican Wendell Willkie.⁸ His candidate favored greater U.S. involvement in World War II to support America's allies. Mack was conflicted on this point: on the one hand, he didn't want to think about losing his son-in-law, but on the other, he knew that entering the war was an economic and political inevitability. President Roosevelt defeated Willkie and began his third term in office. The United States had begun to re-arm as early as 1939. Construction of warships was authorized to develop a two-ocean Navy, gearing up for battle on the Pacific and the Atlantic. This created an urgent need for more officers and men—and oil, to fuel the battleships. In early 1941, plans were implemented for the U.S. Navy to patrol sea lanes in the North Atlantic. A lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Reserve, John was recalled to active duty in February 1941. He reported to the *U.S.S. North Carolina*⁹ on April 1, 1941, in New York City. Eleanor and Joan moved to an apartment in Forest Hills, New York, then came home to Oklahoma to stay with Mack

and Kitty for the duration of the war. The business John had so diligently built for the previous five years was left in his father-in-law's care. And that's when Mack really went to work. The pressure was on: the Great Depression continued to pummel businesses, hitting Baker-Hanna & Blake hard. In December 1939, the firm sent out its usual holiday card. But by 1940, sales had dropped to a perilous all-time low. When Baker & Hanna Bros. at Altus filed for bankruptcy, the store owed Baker-Hanna & Blake \$200,000; in a letter, Mack noted that, "as a stockholder of BHB, I lost more than \$2,000 by this action." Tom Hanna Sr. died in January 1941, aged 65.¹⁰ In December 1941, the business had to fold. It was the end of an era: Mack and the other directors of Baker-Hanna & Blake surrendered their stock and liquidated the corporation in its entirety. With solemn discretion, Mack described the "remaining assets" as "limited in number."¹¹ All that remained operational was the Baker-Hanna store in Quanah; Tom Hanna Jr. moved back there to manage it.¹²

HIS INCREASED WORKLOAD didn't deter Mack from micromanaging his family. As he had while Eleanor was away at school, Mack coached his daughter on how to be her best. He was unstinting in his advice on becoming a better wife, mother, businessperson, and specimen of physical fitness. Some of his criticism stung. Mack was still not a churchgoer—religion was Kitty's realm—but he had to agree with reverend radio personality Norman Vincent Peale on his well-observed point: "The trouble with most of us is that we'd rather be ruined by praise than saved by criticism." Now, there was a man with some business sense.¹³ Mack ended up handling most of the administrative business surrounding the investments he made for his daughter

and son-in-law. In between checking in on his and the Kirkpatricks' various interests, Mack was obliged by his heart

Figure 113: Joan Kirkpatrick is standing in front of Woolworth's store in New York, 1941

condition to make more doctor visits than he cared to. Now, in addition to looking out for the security of his wife, daughter, and granddaughter, he was worried sick over his son-in-law, who may or may not come home. Mack and John agreed that, in the latter's words, "the war was not safe." Neither wanted Eleanor saddled with the responsibility of Allied Steel if anything were to happen to John. So Mack arranged for the sale of Allied Steel. When he notified his son-in-law of the transaction, John was happy to learn that he and Eleanor were now richer by \$57,720—enough capital to start a new business once the war was over. Overall, John was happy with everything his father-in-law was doing, with one exception. Mack's mantra—"I am not interested in any property that is not producing oil or gas"—hit home for John when his father-in-law insisted, more than once, that he divest the Mollie Spencer Farm, the property in Yukon, Oklahoma, deeded to him by his grandmother Mollie Spencer. Mollie's farm was a place near and dear to John's heart, and he had solemnly promised his beloved Grandma that he would never sell it. Mack was becoming relentless on this point in several letters, even going so far as to show the property to some interested buyers, and to have his photograph taken on-site. Despite his father-in-law's strenuous efforts, John remained firm by his silence on the matter: the farm was not for sale.¹⁴

WHILE MACK WAS WORKING to increase profits and keep the family's finances secure, his daughter's focus was the

nonprofit sector. With her husband serving bravely in the Navy, Eleanor did yeoman's duty boosting community morale through volunteerism. Father and daughter teamed up, in February 1943, to participate in a KOCY Radio recruiting program for the Women's Army Air Corp. So grateful to have her healthy little girl, Eleanor signed up to help less fortunate children, volunteering as a caseworker at the Sunbeam Home in downtown Oklahoma City, a medical center for children with medical and physical disabilities due to polio. Mack was baffled by his daughter's do-gooding. In his lexicon, doing well meant donating money to a worthy cause, then being done with it. After all, that's what Mack had done when, moved by Herbert Hoover's empathy for the Polish people,¹⁵ he bought Republic of Poland bonds in the 1920s. He was concerned about the amount of time and effort Eleanor was spending on charitable works. However, understanding how important it was to her, he was careful to express his concern only to John. He'd made the mistake of overstepping the line by criticizing his daughter's parenting methods in bringing up Joan, and Eleanor's strong reaction had prompted him to write a missive unlike any found in his many boxes of correspondence: an abjectly humble letter of apology. Then again, Mack himself was spending a lot of letter-writing time on a charity case: his correspondence from 1939 reveals that he was helping Mrs. B. E. "Bennie" Chedester, the widow of his long-ago retail partner, to establish and manage a variety store of her own in Britton, Oklahoma. Mack volunteered himself as the guarantor¹⁶ for Mrs. Chedester's wholesale purchases, and also acted as her *de facto* buyer: haggling with Oxford University Press to secure for her the lowest prices on Bibles for re-sale, and insisting on the freshest possible sweets from Chicago's National Candy Company (makers of the

highly popular Spice Jelly Strings). Here was proof that, despite Mack's protestations, the altruistic apple hadn't fallen too far from the tree. Had he paused to recall the favorite book of his childhood, *Little Lord Fauntleroy*, Mack would have acknowledged that the current father-daughter dynamic was practically foreordained. The book's title character is sent abroad to learn the aristocracy's ways and means, but it's the boy's rich grandfather who gets an education—in compassion, as his idealistic young heir challenges him to be kinder to those less fortunate. Now Mack was the millionaire patriarch and his daughter the conscientious voice of the younger generation, intent on making the world a better place.

ELEANOR'S COMMITMENT to philanthropy only grew stronger as the war continued. Later that year, she took the Red Cross home-service course. Donating her time to the Red Cross had been Eleanor's dream since childhood, during the First World War. It became a reality when she received her first assignment with the Home Service Corps. It couldn't have been more appropriate: the proud wife of a Navy man, she was dispatched to the Bureau of Naval Personnel, making calls on the dependents of Navy men. Later, her job with the Home Service Corps would be working with the Department of Prisoners of War—a duty that hit home for Eleanor in 1943, when her brother-in-law, Spencer Kirkpatrick, commanding officer of Fort Drum in the Philippines, died of pneumonia while imprisoned by the Japanese. In April 1944, Eleanor continued her Red Cross work, and was appointed chairman of the Home Service Corps (a distinction she would receive again the following year). She also joined her cousins Mary Baker Rumsey and Margaret Hanna Dudley

in dedicating substantial time to the Junior League of Oklahoma City, working with the Radio Committee to plan for the Junior League fall and winter programs. In 1945, Oklahoma City's Beaux Arts Ball, a formal costume party, made its debut on the city's social scene, immediately becoming the *fête* of the year and raising \$2,500 (about \$34,630 today) for the Oklahoma Art Center, better known today as the Oklahoma City Museum of Art. The glamorous gala's first chairman was Eleanor Blake Kirkpatrick, who would continue to devote substantial time to this as many cultural initiatives for decades to come. In 1946, the ball became a presentation of debutantes where, in 1956, radiant Joan Kirkpatrick would shine brightly in a beautiful white gown and gloves. The ball would become a much-anticipated annual event, which each year sees the crowning of a king—in 1956 the honoree was John Kirkpatrick. It's an Oklahoma City tradition that's still going strong.

SEVENTY YEARS AFTER ITS FOUNDING, it would be calculated that the Beaux Arts Ball had raised more than a million dollars for the museum. For Mary Eleanor Blake Kirkpatrick, the duty of donating time to worthy causes was its own reward. Eleanor had always felt a connection to her great-grandmother Mary Ann Upshaw Blake, fascinated by her courageous selflessness in delivering quinine to the Confederate troops. That trio of portraits¹⁷ which had survived the trip from Kentucky to Texas now hung in the home of her favorite aunt, Alice Upshaw Blake Baker. Indicating the handsome figures in the paintings, Aunt Alice would proudly say, "My birthright is of the best."¹⁸ Aunt Alice, in Eleanor's estimation, was never wrong.¹⁹ Eager to know more about her family's Virginia roots, Eleanor

applied for membership in the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America. She received notice number 4398, dated November 24, 1944, informing her that she was elected to the society. (Her cousins Mary Baker Rumsey²⁰ and Margaret Hanna Dudley²¹ were also elected to the society.)

IN 1943, Mack made numerous investments on the Kirkpatricks' behalf, and involved them in two new business ventures: the first was a partnership with R. Olson (of the R. Olson Oil Company), Frank Buttram, and W. E. Hightower, to purchase the Twin Hills Golf Course and Country Club; the second was with Hubert Bale, a petroleum engineer and geologist, to form Kirkpatrick & Bale, an oil-exploration firm. Having protected his wife, daughter, and granddaughter from the pitfalls of petroleum exploration, Mack was now sufficiently confident in his son-in-law to support this more daring involvement in the oil industry. Clearly, he was satisfied that John would deal conservatively in oil exploration, and would continue to protect and provide for the Blake women. Kirkpatrick & Bale was incorporated in May 1943. Giving his unconditional blessing to this enterprise, Mack had his daughter Eleanor sign the document of incorporation.

IN THE EARLY 1940S, the link between heart disease and diet/lifestyle had not yet been discovered. Bypass surgery, angioplasty, stents, statin drugs—all were a long way from development. Prevention, life extension, and the links between smoking, stress, and well-being were not yet fully understood, by the medical profession, the media, or the general public. The International Society of Cardiology

(ISC) wouldn't be formed until late in the decade. In 2020, cardiovascular disease remains the main cause of death worldwide, but it is considered treatable; in 1945 it was an irreversible death sentence. Living under that sentence, Mack was intent on learning how much time he had left to get his business affairs in order. He held medical doctors to his own high standard of need-it-now professionalism, and grew increasingly frustrated when none—neither local physicians nor the staff at the famed Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, whom he consulted again in June of that year—could provide him with as exact an expiration date as possible. He still awoke each morning before daybreak: in his own words, “sometime between 4:00 and 5:30 a.m.”²² And he still enjoyed his favorite breakfast of bacon and eggs with fresh sliced tomatoes; during the summer months, when Rocky Ford cantaloupes were in season, Mack never missed a daily serving of this exquisite melon.²³ His failing heart necessitated that he scale back his activities out in the field: with so many balls in the air, checkups on his investments now had to be made exclusively by letter. Mack didn't miss a beat, dictating letter after letter to his administrative assistant. His office in the Ramsey Tower issued a daily flurry of typed correspondence, with carbon copies of each letter retained for the files. Mack even used the business-letter format to keep in touch with well-loved family members, signing those missives “Affct” (the very businesslike abbreviation of “affectionately”).

HE'D ALWAYS BEEN his loved ones' toughest critic, but Mack's criticism sometimes took on a harder edge while he was in business mode. It is poignant to see how Mack refused to slack on his principles: as allergic to gifts as ever, he thanked

his brother-in-law Jesse Gully for sending a case of delicious California grapefruit in December 1944—then proceeded to chide Jesse with “now cut it out,” reminding him that they had an agreement never to exchange holiday presents. Doing business, especially with family members, required strict adherence to agreed-upon rules: no exceptions. (Jesse wrote back in a hurry to say, “I am glad you enjoyed the grapefruit, forget it as being a Christmas gift, it was just a small present and not a Christmas gift. Our pleasure to give.”) Earlier that month, Mack had sent the Gullys a mixed message, breaking his own rule with this endearing excuse: “Well, as it is almost Christmas time and the government is very anxious for us to get all presents that are to go through the mails out early, you will find enclosed a cashier’s check for \$50.00 [\$720 today] as a Christmas present from Kathryn and myself. We hope you will have a Merry Christmas and all the good things of life as well as Happiness during the New Year.” With his own longevity beyond his control, and with his brother Edwin having just suffered a brain hemorrhage, Mack grew extra-solicitous about the Gullys’ health. Jesse had undergone cataract-extraction surgery, and Rhena was experiencing trouble with her equilibrium²⁴ because of an inner-ear ailment, plus a painful back that kept her awake at night. She was prescribed injections as well as medication to help her sleep. Uncannily prescient, and several decades ahead of the 21st century’s deadly phenomenon of widespread pharmaceutical opioid addiction, a concerned Mack wrote to Jess: “You tell [Rhena] I told her to ‘leave off the sleeping tablets’—as they are very dangerous and I know they are habit forming, also I do not know of anyone who has gotten the habit who has been able to break themselves of it.”²⁵ Mack softened his stance toward his brother-in-law Bill Merritt, cutting him in on a

Pantepec Oil stock-purchase deal, sending regular stock updates, and profusely thanking him and Lulabel for their Christmas gift (gift!) of Mexican cheese, in a letter with the warm sign-off “Love to both.” Giving his daughter Eleanor a run for her volunteerist money, Mack paid several visits to Jesse Gully’s brother, Bob, after Bob was admitted to St. Anthony’s Hospital in Oklahoma City for a series of operations. Mack purchased slippers for the patient, and wrote detailed letters to Bob’s wife, keeping her up to date on her husband’s progress. Meanwhile, to ensure peace of mind about his own wife’s fiscal health, in 1945 Mack made substantial deposits—in increments of \$5,000, or \$69,263 today—to bank accounts of which Kitty was the primary account holder. (This was a temporary measure while he got to work devising a financial strategy on her behalf—in his own words, “until I find a suitable investment for all or part of the funds.”) Making deposit arrangements with an old banker friend in Mangum, B. H. “Jim” Squires, Mack could not resist doing still more good, digressing from the business at hand to recommend his trusted dentist: “Jim, I hear you are having denture troubles, and I know of the best man in the U.S.A. to give you relief.... I know I am sticking my neck out, but I do speak after much experience, and his prices are low.”²⁶

WITH THE FORTITUDE his business colleagues and loved ones knew and admired, Mack managed to stave off death as he waited anxiously for World War II to come to an end. After the Japanese surrender of September 1945, Mack got the full return on one of his most important investments: John Kirkpatrick arrived home, unharmed. Mack and Kitty gave their 17th Street home to the Kirkpatrick family, and moved to a

rental unit in the nearby Aberdeen apartment building (later, their address was the Winans Highland Terrace Addition). Mack had waged and won many battles on the business front, displaying a kind of heroism that isn't rewarded with medals. He had behind him a lifetime of driving the hard bargain. Only after five solid decades could the capitalist afford to retire from active duty, turning over the controls to the younger officer in the family corporation, confident that what he had fought for—the security of Kitty, Eleanor, and Joan²⁷—would be safe in the care of the valiant son-in-law he'd groomed to take over his business interests. Now, if he could just escape this Oklahoma heat. Hoping to recapture those old times when he and Kitty vacationed at Mineral Wells, Mack began making arrangements to spend some downtime together by the sea in Brownsville, Texas, figuring the cooler temperatures and breezes off the gulf would do his heart good. He wrote several letters to Jesse and Rhena Gully—who had moved from Anaheim, California to Pettus, Texas, in 1943 to be closer to their son Phil²⁸ and his family—urging them to come along for the trip. Mack promised to pay the Gullys' travel expenses and to pick them up at their choice of train station.²⁹

IN JUNE OF 1946, Mack was admitted to St. Anthony's Hospital; the tightness in his chest was excruciating. John Kirkpatrick had just survived artillery attack, a hundred feet above the waterline in his battleship's Sky Control, never once losing his cool—but a review of his father-in-law's complex, Hydra-headed investment portfolio made him sweat in a way that no Japanese air raid ever had. How in hell had Mack maintained this blazing command post all by

himself? How would John take it over? In tribute and trepidation, he broached the topic with his father-in-law, now seeing him in an entirely new light. For the first and only time in his life, Mack Blake was dead set on relinquishing the reins. "Johnny," he told his son-in-law firmly, "it will be your job." Nobody could argue with that. The final arrangements had already been made with Street & Draper Funeral Home: Mack Blake was never less than perfectly prepared for any new venture. He took his last breath on June 16, 1946, at St. Anthony's Hospital. It was a Sunday afternoon, his first day off in a very long time. To nobody's surprise, the death announcement had a requirement: that no flowers be sent. He was interred at Fairlawn Cemetery. Finally, Mack Blake, workaholic extraordinaire, would get some well-deserved rest. It was now the Kirkpatrick family's turn to get "on the job," picking up where he left off—and that's exactly what they did, in such a way as to do their father and mentor very proud indeed.

EPILOGUE

Mack Blake died in 1946, but his legacy—first built at the dawn of the 20th century and expanded into the 21st—thrives in the impressive achievements of his heirs, whom he treasured above all else. The actions Mack took throughout his career continue to have a positive impact on Oklahoma's business landscape, and the many wise investments he made still work efficiently to this day. Case in point: earnings from the very first minerals lease he purchased, in 1922, are earmarked to benefit the nonprofit Kirkpatrick Foundation, supporting arts, culture, education, animal well-being, environmental conservation, and historic preservation, primarily in Central Oklahoma. In 1987, four decades after his death, Mack Blake was honored as one of the historic pillars of Mangum, Oklahoma. John and Eleanor were present as Mack and Kitty Blake were inducted into the Hall of Fame at the Old Greer County Museum. On the monument raised in her father's memory, a beautifully written epitaph, lovingly drafted by Eleanor, reads in part: "He was tempered like steel." Those five words sum up Mack Blake to perfection. As Eleanor

knew from her husband's time in the metal industry, tempering gives an alloy greater toughness by decreasing its hardness. Mack was certainly tough, but as his family knew, he never grew brittle-and this enabled him to perform at his best at all times, even under unrelenting pressure.

THE INSCRIPTION ELEANOR artfully penned for Mangum's monument to her father concludes thus: "He became one of Oklahoma's most outstanding businessmen. His many adventures in business met the basic need for adventure in his heart." For all his daring, Mack Blake the barn-storming banker never dented a wingtip, and for that he could thank his devotion to family, directly or indirectly. In 1933, inspired by his wife's faith, Mack righteously placed his own security behind that of the greater good to save the bank. Later, during World War II he narrowly avoided an epic blunder thanks to his son-in-law's refusal to sell the Yukon farm, which nobody yet knew would prove to be one of the most valuable assets in the family's entire portfolio. All along, the Mollie Spencer Farm in Yukon, Oklahoma, was the location of a gusher, the Mollie Spencer #1-20, and an offset, the

L. M. Spencer #1-wells so productive that the computers at Kirkpatrick Oil had to be recalibrated to measure the profits. By drilling the farm, Mack's business protege John Kirkpatrick turned it into a producing property whose profits were funneled into numerous charitable initiatives.

OVERSEEING those and all of the Kirkpatrick family's philanthropic activities was Mack's beloved daughter Eleanor, whose dedication to seeking duties rather than rewards sustained her for the rest of her long life. Eleanor's

generosity was passed down to her daughter, Joan, who worked tirelessly on behalf of many charities, most notably those related to animal well-being. Joan's fierce protection of creatures great and small is celebrated every day at the Joan Kirkpatrick Animal Hospital, the state-of-the-art veterinary facility at the Oklahoma City Zoo, where magnificent animals such as lions and bison receive the most sophisticated medical care. It is one of many compelling cultural projects spearheaded by Joan's son Christian Keese--Mack Blake's great-grandson--who chairs Kirkpatrick Bank of Oklahoma and Colorado. Just as his forebearers did, Keese makes it his business to invest in his home state and its people, giving equal attention to both the for-profit and the nonprofit spheres. In recognition of his many contributions to Oklahoma culture, Christian was crowned king of the 2015 Beaux Arts Ball.

MACK BLAKE'S indefatigable work ethic, and his daughter Eleanor's profound appreciation of Eastern philosophy--especially the Taoist ethics emphasizing the Three Treasures of compassion, frugality, and humility--were rooted in Virginia, birthplace of Major Charles Blake and Mary Ann Blake, whose values continue to govern their extended family's actions. Nowadays, whenever descendants of the get-together the gatherings are attractive arrangements of branches from a sturdy family tree--an evergreen that has weathered the test of time. Here is a family that has mastered something not all families can: the art of working and playing well together. Within the immediate family of the Blakes, Kirkpatricks, and Keesees, we recognize a traditional household that faced life's challenges with courage and ingenuity: visionaries evolving with the times in which

they lived, always fixing one eye firmly on the future. Their descendants take pleasure and pride in celebrating the family heritage, actively and with contemporary panache. On October 4, 2017, Christian Keesee and Lawrence Keigwin were married before the Reverend Canon Carl F. Turner, the XIII Rector of the landmark Saint Thomas Church on Fifth Avenue in New York City. The first same-gender couple to be wed at this historic house of worship, Christian and Lawrence (Larry), a New York-based choreographer, had met 13 years earlier, on St. Patrick's Day 2004, at a gathering of friends in downtown Manhattan.¹⁸ Christian's son, born in 1997, served as best man to both. Together, the three men form a modern family, consciously honoring their forebears while boldly embracing the future. Heir to the extraordinary Blake legacy--and proudly exhibiting a strong affinity for his ancestors' appreciation of culture, scholarship, and philanthropy--is Mack Blake's only great-great-grandchild. First in his clan to carry the family surname as a given name, he is Blake Keesee.

UNTITLED

GENEALOGICAL APPENDIX

From Upshaw to Roane to Ruffin: The Blakes, the Talbotts and Early America

By David Hull, Kirkpatrick Family Archive

Before we establish any family line, the inspiration of which emanates from Alice Upshaw Blake Baker, it is important to acknowledge more modern forerunners of these ancestral investigations. Decades before the convenience of the internet made sojourns into genealogy as casual and easy as they are now, the dedication to discovering family lines and sifting through paperwork was much more arduous. Eleanor Blake Kirkpatrick took it upon herself to investigate much of her paternal and maternal stories in an era that preceded modern technological conveniences. She solicited assistance from professional genealogists and collaborated with other family members along the way. One of her central liaisons was Dixie Clement, who shared Mrs. Kirkpatrick's affection for sleuthing for old library books and

digging through scraps of aging documents and photographs. These two individuals worked tirelessly with impositions that many modern genealogical researchers might consider insurmountable. Their perseverance sparked the text that follows.

Baker

In her memories, Alice Upshaw Blake Baker wrote, “My birthright is of the best, the Roanes, the Ritchies, the Brockenbroughs, the Ruffins, the Upshaws,” and so forth. Alice represented one of four aunts to Mack B. Blake. Aunt Alice’s husband was John D. Baker, whose father, Alvin R. Baker, was born in Anson County, North Carolina, but who settled eventually in Walker County, Alabama. According to *History of Walker County*, Alvin (sometimes spelled “Alven” was

*thought to be the son of Peter Baker and was brought to Walker County by his parents in 1821. Upon reaching manhood he entered government land...in the vicinity of King’s Chapel or Steadman’s, originally Lost Creek Post Office, on November 16, 1836. Mr. Baker was a man of extraordinary mind and neighbors said of him that he was a benefactor to all.”*¹

As the text indicates, there is little certainty beyond Alvin Baker’s father, Peter. The father of Mack’s eventual business associate was a justice of the peace and present at the organization of Walker County’s first circuit county court. It would not be the first nor the last time a servant of the court would be represented in Mack’s genealogy. According to some historical accounts, Peter’s other son was Lambert William Baker, who resided for a time in Walker County, specifically in Jasper, and, as a Whig, briefly held a seat in

the legislature before serving as a parish judge in the Bossier Parish, Louisiana.²

Lambert likely inherited his bravado along with his middle name from his grandfather, though their connection is not as direct as it could be. According to one historical work on Louisiana, Peter Baker's ancestors were a "Stephen" and a "William Baker," both of whom arrived in Baltimore "probably a century before the war of 1776."³ They became wealthy planters residing near Richmond, Virginia. "At the beginning of the Revolution," according to some historical accounts, William "moved to West Virginia, then a wilderness."⁴ At the conclusion of the Revolutionary War, this particular William Baker

*sent his two sons, John and William, with a large herd of cattle down in North Carolina, and he [William] started back to Richmond with his negroes and the rest of his family, but was never heard of any more....The two sons remained with the cattle in North Carolina until they found that they were all being stolen in spite of their efforts to protect them; they became discouraged, and abandoned them and joined the army."*⁵

William, it is reported, became a soldier at 17, when his career brought him under the tutelage of General Brigadier Francis Marion,⁶ who was also known as the Swamp Fox, an unorthodox military officer who used guerrilla-warfare tactics in resistance to the British, especially in their occupation of South Carolina. Describing William directly, one account notes:

Bereft of family and property this boy soldier fought the enemy with a desperation that none but those similarly situated can

*fight. The gallant band to which he belonged soon struck terror to the enemy. He remained with the army until the war closed.*⁷

William would eventually marry Sarah Arnett, and the couple settled in Anson County, North Carolina, “where they reared a large family.”⁸ Peter would meet and marry Luvenia Rushing, who was possibly born in Anson County, North Carolina. Among Alvin’s brothers would be Lambert William Baker, named after their paternal grandfather, who had returned to Louisiana and become a judge.⁹

Upshaw

When Charles Henry and Mary Ann Upshaw Blake gave their first daughter, Alice, the middle name Upshaw, they were bringing the Blake line parallel with a long family history. The origins of the Upshaw name in America, as all genealogies inevitably reveal, mix legend and fact to create a story as fanciful as it is revelatory. Historian and genealogist Ted O. Brooke has worked for decades to navigate the Upshaw family with its extensions into other familial lineages.¹⁰ For many years he served as the managing editor of *The Upshaw Family Journals*. From 1974 through 1981, such print publications allowed curious amateur sleuths to investigate their heritage long before computers and Web services facilitated the process. With the Upshaw family coalescing, such research was no small task.

One of the Upshaw legends was originally promoted by the Kentucky Historical Society. In a 1906 publication, it was suggested that an “Abel and Arthur Upcher, aged eighteen and sixteen,” ran away to America

from their homes in Essex and Norfolk, England (still there, and called "Sheringham Hall"), it is said, to escape the persecutions of a stepmother, and landed at the capes of Virginia in the year 1640....Capt. Stone paid the passage money of the youths. He (Capt. William Stone) was the first Protestant Governor of Maryland.¹¹

The above narrative has found its way into other research and may even be repeated as lineage charts are compiled. It is often the most harrowing tales which are passed down, even when their veracity is suspect. Brooke, in his dealing with many Upshaw family members, concluded:

The legendary account of the ancestry of William Upshaw is based on two supposed brothers, Abel and Arthur Upshur, coming from Essex County, England, to the Eastern Shore of Virginia in 1640 and William Upshaw is supposedly descended from the brother Abel. The Upshur family in America descends from Arthur, whose name first appears as "Upshott" and he is well documented in early Virginia records. However, contrary to the legendary story, the name of Abel Upshott/Upshur/Upshaw does NOT appear in any record yet examined. There is no factual record of there being any such person as Abel Upshaw.¹²

The more reliable narrative is simpler though less dramatic. William Upshaw was the son of Jeremiah Upshaw. Records reveal Jeremiah Upshaw's name on a patent for acreage dated April 10, 1667.¹³ While there are iterations of the names, including Upshot, Upshur, and Upchur, here is the traditional "Upshaw" as Alice Baker would understand it. Jeremiah was married to a "Cordelia," whose maiden name is uncertain, though the name Martin, which came from her

second marriage, helps identify her within the Upshaw genealogy.¹⁴

While Jeremiah and Cordelia's marriage may have produced other children, reliable records indicate that William, more formally known as "William Upshaw Sr. 'Gent.," was likely born in Gloucester County, Virginia, sometime before 1676. He lived mostly in Petsworth Parish,¹⁵ also in Gloucester County, as a series of land grants (which also affirms his father as Jeremiah) and acreage transactions record between 1697.¹⁶ This elder William Upshaw held several appointments through the 1700s, both as "overseer of highways in upper parts of Petsworth Parish" and later "Churchwarden" for the same region.¹⁷

William married twice: the first wife was known only by the name "Susanna[h]," with her identity as an "Upshaw" overtaking any record of her maiden name. The only two children from this first marriage would be girls: the first one taking on the name of William's mother, Cordelia, and the latter one taking her mother's name, Susannah. William Upshaw's second wife was named Hannah Forrest, a widow herself whose first husband was named James, with the last name of either Carber or Garber. With her second marriage to William, the couple would carry Jeremiah Upshaw's line forward with other sons (Jeremiah, Richard, William junior, Forrest, and John) and four daughters (Sarah, Margaret, Ann, and, of course, Hannah).

This story will narrow toward John Upshaw, who "served Virginia with zeal and distinction through a long series of years and in important stations," one article noted.¹⁸ Among the titles he was appointed to were "Tobacco Inspector," a

“Gentleman Justice of Essex,” “Sherriff,” and a member of the “House of Burgesses from 1758–1765” representing Essex County.¹⁹ He participated against British rule by opposing the Stamp Act, and he demonstrated a risky colonial solidarity against using “proscribed British merchandise.”²⁰ However, for the purposes of genealogy, John’s most significant contribution emerged from his son, Edwin, whose wife, Lucy, would merge the Upshaws to the Roanes.

Roane

While the name Roane has occurred previously, it is through John Upshaw that Alice Baker’s pride becomes more plainly understood. Not long after Thomas Jefferson’s public proclamation of independence, “things had changed and a new authority in place of the king was proclaimed,” writes Charles W. H. Warner, a noted historian of Virginia’s pre-colonial times through the revolution.²¹ When a meeting was convened on August 19, 1776, that included allegiances being sworn to the new Commonwealth of Virginia, the justices who administered the oaths would include John Upshaw and Thomas Roane.

William Roane’s name appeared near William Upshaw in the text of *The Vestry Book of Petsworth Parish*. It is not far-fetched to suggest they both served the Virginian community in the early 1700s with a sense of familiarity about each other. How their ancestries intersect, however, is open to different interpretations in examining varied materials. The more straightforward lineage is described below.²²

It is likely the Roane ancestral line started in the United Kingdom, though its origins were Scots-Irish. According to

historical texts²³ and ongoing genealogical research,²⁴ the progenitor of Sarah Upshaw's husband was Archibald Gilbert Roane, who was likely born circa 1680 and possibly married "Jeannet," whose maiden name is unclear.²⁵ How they achieved the wealth that afforded not only passage to America but also a comfortable lifestyle after their arrival is a matter of conjecture.²⁶ According to land records, it becomes obvious that Archibald Roane had wealth enough to send his sons, most likely William and James, on such a possibly lucrative voyage. Their substance is verifiable both in their ability to obtain land and, as a typical measure of means during this time, in their owning slaves—over 50 men, women, and children.²⁷

In an 1861 record of some of Virginia's oldest families, there is a note regarding Essex County and the names of its justices serving from 1695 to 1800. Many of these names are ones Alice Blake Baker described earlier. From 1720 to 1740, William Roane is mentioned;²⁸ 1740 to 1760 includes mention of Archibald Ritchie,²⁹ who married Molly Roane, William and Sarah's daughter. He is joined by Samuel Hipkins,³⁰ the father-in-law of Thomas Roane,³¹ William and Mary's firstborn son, who would marry Mary Ann Hipkins;³² they would both be joined by John Upshaw. From 1760 to 1780, Thomas Roane occurs along with his brother-in-law Dr. John Brockenbrough,³³ who was the husband of Sarah Roane, and the list concluded with 1780 to 1800, which includes James Upshaw.³⁴ From the Leedstown Resolutions to the Essex Resolutions³⁵ and finally to the Declaration of Independence, there is a span of 10 years where several families conjoined, both in a union for a new, independent nation and in family ties.

One of the more famous Roane family members would emerge from this line of jurists: Spencer Roane. The son of William Roane and Ms. Ball (occasionally referred to as “Elizabeth Judy”³⁶), Spencer Roane was born April 4, 1762, attended the College of William and Mary in 1780, and later joined a law society in Philadelphia, where he “devoted his time to *constitutional law*.”³⁷ In 1783 he was elected a member of the Virginia House of Delegates and served alongside Patrick Henry,³⁸ whose daughter, Anne, he would later marry. Roane would also be a member of the committee that drew up the address of “thanks and gratitude” to General George Washington, including the commission of a statue of the nation’s first president.³⁹ Though the text would spell his name “Roan,” the passage was replete with gratitude, including the following:

*Resolved, That a committee be appointed to draw up an address to his excellency General Washington, expressive of the thanks and gratitude of the House of Delegates for his unremitting zeal and services in the cause of liberty, congratulating him on his return to his native country and the exalted pleasures of domestic life.*⁴⁰

In 1789 Roane was elected to fill a vacancy on the General Court, and in 1795 he was elected to the Virginia Court of Appeals at only 33 years old. Roane joined heartily in the debates that included Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, and others cautious about the lines between federalism, states’ rights, and the tyranny their young nation had overcome only a few decades earlier. His connection with Jefferson was such that the president-elect considered him for a vacancy on the Supreme Court, but John Adams, then a lame-duck president, appointed John Marshall instead.⁴¹

In 1804, Roane founded the *Richmond Enquirer*, appointing his cousin Thomas Ritchie as its initial editor.⁴² As one author noted, “it became the greatest paper in the South and one of the country’s leading exponents of states’ rights philosophy.”⁴³ It would be this philosophy which would not only lead to the Civil War but also stoke a Confederacy advocated by some of Alice Baker’s fiercest relations.

Ruffin

In his biography of Thomas Ritchie, Charles Henry Ambler notes,

*Like many another man of distinction, Thomas Ritchie owed much, if not most, of his success to his mother.... She supplied an environment for the development of the tastes which gave. Among her relatives and connections were some of the ripest scholars, the profoundest thinkers, and the most upright and honest men and women to be found in Virginia.*⁴⁴

The mother of Thomas Ritchie was Mary Roane, the wife of Archibald Ritchie, who has previously been mentioned. Her niece was Alice Roane, whose husband, Sterling Ruffin, was the son of the third generation of Robert Ruffin. The name Ruffin and the family line that goes with it is the final connection that Alice Blake Baker recalled, with pride. It may also be the most controversial and inevitable, given the contentions between the rights of states versus those of the federal government, a dispute that would be settled only by a bloody and divisive war.

The Ruffin line most well-known for its ties to the Confederacy also has a parallel in the Blake family, who saw

fathers fight alongside sons against federal troops. The Ruffin heritage was likely Scottish, with some genealogy research suggesting Perthshire. This region lays to the west of Argyllshire, which some genealogies mentioned here also suggest as the origin of the Roane family. As one family member notes,

The traditions of our settlement here [America] vary. One account is that our first ancestor was a parson of the English Establishment. Another, somewhat more ambitious, is that we are a part of the family of the Ruthvens of Perthshire in Scotland, who attained and driven in to exile into France, returned to England on the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, whence some members of the family migrated to this country [America]. I have no means to decide this point, nor to tell whether we are of the Noble or Scullion Branch of the family—whether we are descended from gentlemen, or whether our ancient but ignoble blood has crept through scoundrels ever since the flood.⁴⁵

This observation comes from Francis “Frank” G. Ruffin, whose interest in agriculture and dedication to the Confederacy saw him ascend to the rank of colonel during the Civil War.⁴⁶ It was during this time that he would serve as the commissary of subsistence, a job that fed the Army of the South and was accountable to President Jefferson Davis himself.⁴⁷

Some of Frank Ruffin’s most prolific notes on genealogy come to light from a collection of papers written by his distant cousin Judge Thomas Ruffin.⁴⁸ That collection includes a four-volume set collected by the famous jurist and vocal secessionist. These texts elaborate on the Ruffin-Roane relationships mentioned here, and were likely tomes

of pride for ancestors such as Judge [Spencer] Roane's other distance cousin Alice Baker. They include Edmund Ruffin III,⁴⁹ famous for firing the first shot of the Civil War onto Fort Sumter. Edmund was the great-great grandson of Robert Ruffin (II),⁵⁰ whose other son John Ruffin⁵¹ would be the great-grandfather of Sterling Ruffin,⁵² Alice Roane's husband and Thomas and Mary Ann Hipkins's son-in-law. Judge Roane's papers draw out such connections as Mary Roane—sister to Thomas and John Roane and wife of Archibald Ritchie—whose daughter Margaret Ritchie married William Ruffin,⁵³ a participant in the Revolutionary War.⁵⁴ Hence, the researcher may see the culmination of spirit that inspired Alice Baker's ancestors in their battles for independence, first from an empire and later from a nation.

For a sense of how the whole family intertwined, this letter from Frank G. Ruffin may provide a fitting conclusion:

Alice Roane was first cousin to John Roane Jr.,⁵⁵ to Judge William Brockenbrough⁵⁶ of the Supreme Court of Virginia, to Thomas Ritchie, to Col. Archibald Ritchie, likewise her brother-in-law, for many years a leading man in Essex...and to Capt. John Ritchie,⁵⁷ who so far retrieved an ill spent and dissolute life by a heroic death on the field of battle in Canada in the last British War.⁵⁸... She was thus of near kind to several persons, who in their day were among the most distinguished men of the State [Virginia]. They were men of like descent with Henry, Washington, Jefferson, the Masons, Madison, Monroe, and Marshall and Giles, sprung from the great middle classes, the fruitful source of civic worth and popular honor. They had fortified by congenial marriages based on higher sentiments than interest, the footing they had won among their fellow citizens....[T]hey yet had virtue enough to win and retain the regard of the great body of the

*people and to attain patrician eminence without seeking patrician aid or alliance—some of them in spite of it—because the great body of the people knew by true instinct that they had the sympathy of these men who were too wise, honest, brace, and proud to betray or wrong them intentionally.*⁵⁹

In the 17th century, long before the War Between the States and even preceding the Revolutionary War, Robert Ruffin, the progenitor of the preceding namesakes, would marry Elizabeth, her last name speculated to have been Prime. He would be her second husband. Her first was named George Watkins, and while their union would not yield children, it would foster a marital link between the Ruffin family and the line that would eventual lead to Mack Blake's wife, Kathryn "Kitty" Talbott.

Talbott

In order to qualify for membership in the Order of the First Families of Virginia, one must demonstrate a connection between those first colonists in the New World and present-day descendants. Eleanor Blake Kirkpatrick's research and that of her collaborators like Dixie Clement resulted in membership for three generations of family members, including herself, her daughter, and her grandson, in this prestigious organization. Like her Aunt Alice Baker, Eleanor Blake Kirkpatrick understood the significance in American history of her father's line and its prestige for his descendants. Mack Blake's ancestors by and large came to a new world which, though in its infancy, was nevertheless prepared for their arrival with established government and business. What Kitty Blake's daughter sought in connecting her mother's genealogical line was the legacy that helped to

create those circumstances. For it was the ancestors of Kitty Talbott who built the foundations that made possible the progress achieved by her husband's ancestors.

One of the terms applied to an original colonist of the New World was "ancient planter."⁶⁰ The term designated someone who migrated to Virginia before 1616, paid for his passage, and remained at least three years.⁶¹ William Spencer's name appears both on the list compiled by the "Order of Descendants of Ancient Planters"⁶² and among several references.⁶³ Sailing aboard the *Sarah*, William came to the New World with his wife, Alice, and his four-year-old daughter, named after her mother,⁶⁴ sometime before April 1614, likely between 1611 and 1612.⁶⁵ He had a secured patent dated August 14, 1624, "for a narrow ridge of land on Jamestown Island fronting the James River," though his land holdings changed and grew to include property from John Lightfoot.⁶⁶ The Spencer's first daughter is understood to have died not long after their arrival, as there are no further references to her; there also appears to have been a son, who was named after his father and also died, possibly before his sister.⁶⁷ Neither a male heir nor anyone born outside of the New World would carry forward the Spencer name. The line would continue through two daughters: Anne and Elizabeth, each one born in the Virginian colony.

Anne Spencer would marry William Cockerham,⁶⁸ a lieutenant and later a colonel in the Surry County militia. His name appears alongside Charles Barham⁶⁹ and Robert Ruffin among land patents,⁷⁰ and it becomes clear these men were contemporaries of each other or their children. Anne's sister Elizabeth would marry Robert Sheppard, who himself rose from lieutenant to major in the Surry County

militia, eventually serving both as a justice and as a burgess. She would be his second wife; his first, named Priscilla, bore two daughters, Susan and Priscilla.⁷¹ Between Robert and Elizabeth they would have four children, including three boys—John, Robert, and William—none of whom would have any children of their own. Nevertheless, Elizabeth and Robert would continue the line with another girl, Ann Sheppard. It would be her three marriages that forged the connection between the founding families of Virginia and Kathryn “Kitty” Talbott Blake.⁷²

The first husband of Ann Sheppard would be Thomas Hart, a descendant of Henry Hart.⁷³ One reference described him as “a neighbor of the Warrens and Shepards (*sic*) who lived in this locality and with whom his family intermarried.”⁷⁴ Thomas Hart would inherit 100 acres from his father in 1648,⁷⁵ and based upon the birth of their first child, the couple was likely married before 1662.⁷⁶ Thomas and Anne would have three sons: Henry, who would marry Mary Foster (a daughter from Ann Sheppard’s third marriage); Thomas Hart Jr., who would marry Elizabeth Fortes (a step-sister of the same Mary Foster);⁷⁷ and Robert Hart, who would marry Priscilla Barham, a daughter of Charles Barham, the aforementioned contemporary of Robert Ruffin.

According to the earliest tax records—then called “tithables”—it appears Thomas Hart died by June 1669, when Anne Sheppard Hart is listed as a “widow.”⁷⁸ But her bereavement would be short-lived, as she entered her second marriage before 1670 to William Newsome (sometimes Newsom or Newsum).⁷⁹ William was only one generation removed from his father, who had sailed to Virginia

around 1635 from Dublin, Ireland, though his father, also named William, can be more directly connected to Newsom Hall in Lancashire, England.⁸⁰ Perhaps even more interesting than these origins is how the Ruffin family continues to emerge. William Newsom's father was married four times: Penelope Ramsay, Sarah Fisher, Elizabeth Wilson, and a "Gertrude."⁸¹ It is this fourth wife who becomes intriguing, especially after her first husband's death, as she would marry George Watkins, a clerk of Surry County.⁸² This is the same George Watkins who, after Gertrude's death, would marry Elizabeth Prime (sometimes Price), who herself would later marry Robert Ruffin after George Watkins's death in 1673.⁸³ Thus, we see a marital link from Newsom to Ruffin. Although the ancestral connections appear strained at some points, this connection still represents the first link between the descendants of Kitty's family and Mack Blake's ancestors. As previously described, Robert Ruffin's great-great grandson Sterling Ruffin would marry Alice Roane and bridge the Ruffin, Roane, and Upshaw families. This other family line now welcomes ancestors of the Talbott family, again via marriage, into the fold Alice Baker cherished.

William Newsom and Anne Sheppard Hart would have six children: William, John, Robert, Thomas, Elizabeth, and Anne. Two of their sons—Thomas and John—would marry sisters Elizabeth and Sarah Crafford.⁸⁴ When William Newsom died, Anne Sheppard Hart Newsome would marry one final time. George Foster was 55 years old when he married Anne,⁸⁵ both of them having been widowed, with George's second wife inheriting four more stepchildren into her prolific family: William, Thomas, Mary, and Elizabeth. As previously mentioned, George Foster's daughter Mary

would marry Henry Hart, her stepbrother from Anne Shepard's first marriage, to Thomas Hart. Her sister Elizabeth would marry Thomas Hart, Henry's brother. Their brother Robert, as already stated, married Priscilla Barham.

Robert and Priscilla Barham Hart would be the parents of several children, including three boys (William, Thomas, and Robert) and four daughters (Elizabeth, Sarah, Mary, and Priscilla). According to the probating of Robert Hart's will, it appears Robert Hart died in 1720 and an account of his estate was updated years later in September 1724.⁸⁶ One of the omissions of that estate is Robert and Priscilla's daughter Elizabeth Hart, among the other children's names, especially daughters. But there is the inclusion of "Thomas Foster" among those inheriting from the Hart estate, and this portion is described as "paid a legacy."⁸⁷ The likely reason to include the son of George Foster and a child from his first marriage would be that Thomas had married into the estate generated from a previous marriage. With the only daughter omitted from the heirs listed, it becomes clear that Thomas Foster married his father's stepdaughter Elizabeth Hart, providing a link between the Hart family and the Foster ancestry.⁸⁸

The significance of this union is very important in that the maternal great-grandmother of Kathryn Talbott was Maiden Foster, the great-granddaughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Hart Foster. The son of Thomas and Elizabeth was also named Thomas, and he married Lucille Clements.⁸⁹ Among their children was William Foster, who with his wife, Mary A. Jones,⁹⁰ were the parents of Maiden. Maiden would marry Collins Smith,⁹¹ and the couple would have all daughters, including Mary Ann Jane Smith, the

daughter who impacts the Blake and Talbott lineage, as she would marry Moses Meers, the father of Sarah Meers and grandfather of Kitty Talbott (later Blake).

In her recollections, Alice Baker brought several names of prominent men and women whose revolutionary spirit, military service, and civic duty solidified America as much as it solemnized their roles upon it. Nevertheless, from the Talbott side we can see a foundation laid which allowed for the success of these future accomplishments. Two important families whose forebears guided the founding of America. The rebellion, which successfully forsook one form of tyranny, led other Blake and Talbott members to interpret the emergent United States government as encroaching upon a similar pattern. There would be a division between family members, as happened in homes across the new country. But as this book demonstrates, those descendants of familial division would help return the United States not only to prominence but to prosperity. They would become leaders of its evolving business success and establish across parts of a nation barely settled an unmatched entrepreneurial spirit. Mack and Kitty would also impress upon the generations following them not only in this pursuit of industry but also in philanthropy.

NOTES

Preface

1. Interview with James C. Klotter by Julia Szabo, July 11, 2017.
2. Four states-Kentucky, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Virginia-officially designate themselves as "commonwealths," i.e., the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Before 1776, each was a British colony (or part thereof), and each still shares a strong influence of English common law in some laws and institutions. Kentucky was a part of the land grant of the Colony of Virginia. "Commonwealth (U.S. State)." Wikipedia, 19 April 2019, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commonwealth_(U.S._state)#:~:text=The%20four%20s-tates%20%E2%80%93%20Kentucky%2C%20Massachusetts,a%20part%20of%20col
3. "More damaging than the economic costs was the war's effect on the psyche of the populace. So much of what had once been was no more. The optimism that drove settlers to frontier Kentucky now seemed a rare commodity. Uncertainty caused citizens to wonder just what this postwar world would hold for them. What was their life going to be like now?" (Harrison, Lowell H., and James C. Klotter. *A New History of Kentucky*. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1997. p. 216.)
4. The College of William and Mary, now known as William & Mary, is the second-oldest college in America. The original plans date to 1618-decades before Harvard-but were derailed by an "Indian uprising." On February 8, 1693, King William III and Queen Mary II of England signed the charter for "a perpetual College of Divinity, Philosophy, Languages, and other good Arts and Sciences" to be founded in the Virginia Colony. Construction on the College Building (now known as the Sir Christopher Wren Building, in honor of its illustrious architect) began in 1695. William & Mary has been called "the Alma Mater of the Nation" because of its close ties to America's Founding Fathers (a.k.a. the Virginia Dynasty): among its Virginian alumni are George Washington (surveyor's license), Thomas Jefferson, John Tyler, and James Monroe. The college's eighth president was the theologian James Madison, first bishop of the Diocese of Virginia of the Episcopal Church in the United States. Famous for its firsts, W&M was the first U.S. college with a royal charter, the first with a Greek-letter

society (Phi Beta Kappa, founded in 1776), the first with a student honor code, the first to become a university, and the first to establish a law school in America. ("History & Traditions." Wm.edu, April 24, 2019, <https://www.wm.edu/about/history/index.php>)

5. Quinine, which is included on the World Health Organization's List of Essential Medicines, is derived from the bark of the cinchona tree, native to the tropical Andean forests of South America. Its medicinal properties were discovered and cultivated by the Quechua peoples of Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador. During wartime, quinine has historically become a precious and regulated commodity. In the early nineteenth century, Peru maintained a monopoly on cinchona bark and outlawed the export of cinchona seeds and saplings. In the eighteenth century, Swedish botanist-physician Carl Linnaeus named the genus *Cinchona officinalis* L. in honor of the Madrileña noblewoman Ana de Osorio, the 4th Countess of Chichon and wife of a viceroy of Peru. When, in Lima in 1638, the countess contracted malaria—which was introduced to the Americas by Europeans—the governor of the nearby town of Loxa offered husband the powdered bark of the cinchona tree to give to her. After a few days, her fever was cured, and the countess is credited with introducing the medicine in Europe. Quinine is also used as the flavor component of tonic water (on the soda gun behind many bars, tonic water is designated by the letter "Q") and bitter lemon. The bitter taste of anti-malarial quinine tonic led British colonialists in India to create the iconic gin-and-tonic cocktail. ("Quinine." *The Columbia Encyclopedia*, 6th ed. Columbia University Press. 2001-5).
6. Recollections of Alice Upshaw Blake Baker, circa 1940, transcribed by Joseph F. Rumsey III, Kirkpatrick Family Archive collection.
7. Popularized by Queen Victoria, the Balmoral petticoat was made of sturdy fabric and embellished with stripes that encircled the hem (Victoria's sported the Balmoral tartan, designed by her husband and consort, Prince Albert). It was designed to be worn under a dress whose skirt was raised off the ground (*repoussé*) for ease of movement—during equestrian, ice skating, hiking, driving a gig cart, or any activity that would make a white petticoat impractical. The fashion was eagerly adopted in America, where it was further popularized by the style periodicals *Godey's Lady's Book* and *Peterson's Magazine*, whose readers gamely patterned and tailored their own Balmorals (worn over hoop skirts) to suit their needs. (Sigourney, L. H. (Lydia Howard), 1791–1865, Sarah Josepha Buell Hale, and Louis Antoine Godey. *Godey's Magazine*. New York[etc.]: The Godey company [etc.], <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/umn.31951d00322043u> and <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.39015016441506>) The Balmoral petti-

Virginia).

coat provided de rigueur coverage to protect the modesty of Victorian ladies' legs, while its stripes detracted attention from the inevitable dust and mud kicked up during outdoor activity or travel. In an ingenious tactical maneuver, Mary Ann Upshaw Blake used this stylish garment to camouflage the quinine powder she transported, filling long, narrow bags of muslin, then inserting the bags into similar ones made of stronger cloth. These she inserted into the horizontally quilted channels that formed her petticoat's stripes, securing the opening to enable the swift removal of quinine upon arrival at her destination. As her daughter Alice would later write, "If she had been caught, she would have been executed—but God was with her and she was not even questioned but once when passing through the federal lines. The petticoat would pass to a casual observer to be an ordinary skirt of the period. Then I suppose her size and conveyance helped her disguise—as she was very small and frail-looking and was always traveling in a one-horse topless buggy. Courageous mother! I wonder if we women of the present day could display so much heroism. ... May we and our descendants never forget [our mothers'] bravery and entire self-forgetfulness in those times of stress and danger" ("Recollections of Alice Upshaw Blake Baker"). More than a century later, Mary Ann Upshaw Blake's great-granddaughter Eleanor Blake Kirkpatrick would reminisce about Alice Upshaw Blake, Eleanor's great aunt: "It would take a book to write about Aunt Alice and I am not qualified, but I will just say that I always remember her in voluminous black dresses, spic and span with her hair brought back from her face tight. ... She wore no makeup, and had a perfectly lovely face. She was to me culture personified." If you study the portrait of Mary Ann Upshaw Blake, and read Alice's memoirs, it's evident that Alice took after her mother in more ways than one. (Kirkpatrick, Eleanor Blake. "Family Dinners." September 18, 1974. Kirkpatrick Family Archive collection.)

8. Blandville, Kentucky, "in the extreme western part of the state, opposite Cairo, Illinois," was organized in 1842 and named for Captain Bland Ballard, a pioneer and hero of the War of 1812. Ballard was born near Fredericksburg, Virginia, in 1761 and died in 1853 in Shelby County, Kentucky, aged 92. His remains are interred in the state cemetery at Frankfort. (Collins, Lewis, *History of Kentucky*. Richard H. Collins, 1877. *Google Books*. books.google.com/books?id=F5FQAQAA-IAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q=Cairo&f=false. Accessed 29 April 2019.) Ballard County was created on February 15, 1842, from Hickman and McCracken Counties. Ballard County lies in the Jackson Purchase region of far Western Kentucky. ("Ballard

- County, Kentucky Genealogy, History & Facts.” *Genealogyinc.com*. 24 April 2019 <https://www.genealogyinc.com/kentucky/ballard-county>)
9. Of the couple's seven children, only Joel F. Blake could remember his elder brother Charles Edwin Blake, who died in 1842. The boy was given the middle name Edwin in tribute to his maternal grandfather, Edwin Upshaw. It is not known where Charles Edwin is buried.
 10. Joel Foster Blake died July 18, 1870. He is interred at City Greenwood Cemetery, in Weatherford, Texas, in Parker County. The loss of their eldest son at age 32 was a great shock to the Blakes. His death and its tragic circumstances were later recalled by his sister, Alice Upshaw Blake Baker. Remembering the family's voyage from Kentucky to Texas, she wrote, "Brother Joe located us temporarily, while he and some of the young men of the party decided to go further west on a tour of inspection. They had only been gone three nights when my darling brother was shot accidentally and instantly killed. This prostrated us all-and in fact was a death blow to my poor mother, who only survived him a short time" ("Recollections of Alice Upshaw Blake Baker"). Mary Ann Upshaw Blake died in 1872, four months shy of what would have been her 61st birthday. After the untimely passing of Joel Blake, Samuel's brother Thomas Roane Blake was the eldest surviving son, and Samuel the second-eldest. Their father, Charles, died in 1895, aged 81.
 11. Lindsley, Philip. "A History of Greater Dallas and Vicinity, Vol. 2." 1909. (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph21071/>: accessed April 24, 2019; Kleiner, Diana J. "SANGER BROTHERS." April 29, 2019, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/ijsqj>)
 12. Life was far from easy in the Blakes' new home state. Of the family's life in Texas, Alice Upshaw Blake Baker later recalled: "Then the struggle for existence began all over. My father secured a school in East Dallas in a Swiss settlement. These were all high-class people and we became much attached to them, and they to us, during the year we were among them" ("Recollections of Alice Upshaw Blake Baker"). Alice's sisters, Mary Francis, Kate (Martha Catherine), and Lucy, were sent to the Seminary at Blunderville, and later to Add-Ran College, the institution in Thorpe's Spring, Texas, founded by Addison and Randolph Clark Landis (which later became Texas Christian College, and moved first to Waco, then Fort Worth). "We had always had a strenuous life," Mary Francis Blake Evans recalled, "and after we moved to Texas it didn't improve much. Keeping boarders and sewing were about the only occupations open to women at that time, and all of the women in our family did both." ("Notes from Landis Fleming." Circa 1990s. Kirkpatrick Family Archive collection.)

13. The city of Granbury was named after Brigadier General Hiram B. Granbury (March 1, 1831–November 30, 1864), a lawyer and county judge in Texas. Upon the secession of Texas from the Union, Granbury organized the Waco Guards, a volunteer infantry company, and headed east to Kentucky with them as their first captain. In October 1861, he was elected major of the 7th Texas Infantry Regiment. Granbury rose to the rank of brigadier general in the Confederate Army, and was one of six Confederate generals killed at the Battle of Franklin. (Warner, Ezra J. *Generals in Gray*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1959, p. 114.)
14. John Daniel “J.D.” Baker (March 23, 1848–April 2, 1899), who married Mack’s aunt Alice Blake, was born in Alabama, the son of Alvin and Susan Kitchens Baker. Becoming a teacher at the age of 19, J.D. taught in a small county school in Alabama. He learned the business of retail while employed with the Maxwell Dry Goods Company in Tuscaloosa, Alabama (“Recollections of Alice Upshaw Blake Baker”). He subsequently migrated to Hood County, Texas, where he established his own general-merchandise store. According to a front-page article in *The Daily Herald* of Weatherford, Texas, “In 1872 J. D. Baker came to Texas from Alabama. He rode into Granbury, Texas, on horseback, the first man he met was Major Blake (who with his family had come to Texas from Kentucky). Major Blake and his son, Tom, were conducting a store in Granbury at this time, and as Mr. Baker had had some years of experience in the dry goods business, he became associated with the Blakes and soon after this, the business was taken over and established what was known in Granbury as the ‘J.D. Baker Store.’ Mr. Baker married Miss Alice Blake, the youngest daughter of Major Blake, and they continued to live in Granbury until 1888, at which time they moved to Dallas.” (*The Daily Herald* (Weatherford, Tex.), Vol. 24, No. 252, Ed. 1 Monday, November 5, 1923, newspaper, November 5, 1923 (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph644549/m1/17/>; accessed December 31, 2017). J. D. Baker was later instrumental in the development of Weatherford College, the oldest continuing-education institution west of the Mississippi River (which would have been a source of great pride to his late father-in-law, the educator Major Blake). In the 1880s, J. D. Baker moved his business to Weatherford, in Parker County, Texas, becoming partners with a Mr. Poston. They expanded their firm, Baker & Poston, as a chain enterprise, operating businesses in several locations in the western counties in the north-central part of Texas. Alice’s sister Lucy would marry Dr. Andrew Earl Hanna, and their son Thomas Samuel “T.S.” Hanna would also distinguish himself in business. Starting out as manager of Baker’s

- Granbury store, Tom (T.S.) later managed Baker-Poston & Co. in Weatherford, Texas (1889), and ultimately entered into partnership with Baker to open Baker-Hanna Co. in Quanah; opened in 1906, the store was the sturdy cornerstone of a family of successful businesses in Texas and Oklahoma that would interlace the professional and personal lives of the Bakers, Hannas, and Blakes for decades to come. (“Hanna’s Death Takes Second of Adventurous Pioneer Trio.” *The Oklahoman*, February 1, 1941. Newsok.com <http://archive.newsok.com/olive/apa/oklahoman/SharedView.Article.aspx?href=DOK%2F1941%2F02%2F01&id=Aro0300&sk=248EB4C6>. 29 April 2019.)
15. “Santa Ana’s News Business, Man’s Interesting Career.” *Santa Ana Register*, October 28, 1911. Newspapers.com. 29 April 2019. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/74325995>.
 16. Lindsley, Philip, 169.
 17. Established in 1905 by cotton-gin manufacturer Robert Munger, Munger Place was the very first deed-restricted neighborhood in Texas. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. (“History.” *Mungerplace.com*. 29 April 2019. <https://mungerplace.com/about.html>)
 18. “Santa Ana’s News Business, Man’s Interesting Career.”

1. The Making of a Merchant

1. “New Firm.” *The Dallas Daily Herald*. September 5, 1880. Newspapers.com. April 29, 2019. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/50052780>
2. Grammar School No. 41 (later renamed P.S. 41) was founded in 1867 at 116 West 11th Street in Manhattan. Among its notable alumni are the actors Robert De Niro and Scarlett Johansson and the country singer-songwriter Bob Woodruff. In 1957, the old P.S. 41 was torn down and replaced with a new building at the same location. (Basoli, A. G. “Happy 150th Birthday Public School 41.” *School History: PS 41 Greenwich Village School*. 2017. Ps41.org. 29 April 2019. <https://www.ps41.org/pdfs/2017HistoryArticle.pdf>).
3. Fleming, Landis. “Reminiscences of Eleanor Blake Kirkpatrick” circa 1993–94. Kirkpatrick Family Archive. First published in 1886, author Frances Hodgson Burnett’s first children’s novel was an international literary sensation on the order of *Harry Potter*. The first edition of *Little Lord Fauntleroy* featured illustrations (by Reginald B. Birch) that instantly created a fashion for dressing middle-class children in formal clothes. Widely influential in America and England, the book would be adapted often for the stage and screen.

4. Pearson, Marjorie (ed.) "Ladies' Miles Historic District Designation Report Vol. 1." New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. May 2, 1989. Neighborhoodpreservationcenter.org. April 29, 2019. http://www.neighborhoodpreservationcenter.org/db/bb_files/1989LadiesMileHDVol1.pdf
5. "Reminiscences of Eleanor Blake Kirkpatrick."
6. The first public institution of higher education in Texas, the university opened in 1876, originally teaching no classes in agriculture but rather concentrating on classical studies, languages, literature, and applied mathematics. After four years, students could attain degrees in scientific agriculture, civil and mechanical engineering, or language and literature. (Dethloff, Henry C., *A Pictorial History of Texas A&M University, 1876-1976*, Second Edition. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2016. p. 18. Google.books. Web. April 29, 2019. <https://books.google.com/books?id=IyWpCwAAQBAJ>).
7. Hazel, Michael V. and Jackie McElhaney. "DALLAS, TX." *Handbook of Texas Online*. 29 April 2019. <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hddoi>.
8. "Reminiscences of Eleanor Blake Kirkpatrick."
9. Named for Chief Quanah Parker (1845–1911), last of the Comanche Indian chiefs, Quanah is the county seat of Hardeman County, Texas. Quanah is eight miles south of the Red River, which forms the Oklahoma-Texas state line. (Hunt, William R. "QUANAHA, TX," *Handbook of Texas Online*. April 29, 2019, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hgqoi>.) Chief Parker came to visit his namesake city in 1884, and pronounced his blessing on the town:

May the Great Spirit smile on your little town. May the rains fall in season. And in the warmth of the sunshine after the rain, may the earth yield bountifully. May peace and contentment be with you and your children forever.

According to the oral history of the Talbott family, on one of his visits, Chief Parker met Emma Ozella Talbott at her father's harness and saddle business (Emma was the sister of Kathryn "Kitty" Talbott, who would later marry Mack Blake). Emma, then 24, was proud to assist the Comanche chief in composing an abbreviated version of his lyrical blessing. (Interview by Julia Szabo with John Hampton Marshall, grandson of Emma Ozella Talbott.)
10. Mary Francis Blake Evans later recalled the sale of her parents' Kentucky property: "In 1874 we succeeded in selling the land we owned in Kentucky. With my share of the money I started in the mercantile business with my brother. That was the beginning of the Baker business." The year 1874 was also the year of Mack Blake's birth. ("Notes of journalist Landis Fleming").

11. Neal, Bill. *The Last Frontier: The Story of Hardeman County*. (published *Quanah Tribune-Chief* in cooperation with the Hardeman County Historical Society, 1966, p. 86.
12. *Ibid* and “QUANAHA, TX.”
13. Mangum is the largest city in, and the county seat of, Greer County, Oklahoma. It was originally part of Old Greer County in the Texas Panhandle. The community was named for A. S. Mangum, who fought in the Battle of San Jacinto. Texas rewarded his service to the state with a land grant in Greer County, on which the town was founded in 1882. Mangum became part of Oklahoma Territory in 1896. (“QUANAHA, TX.”)
14. “Mack Blake, local manager for the Evans & Baker Co., left Tuesday morning for Quanah on his summer vacation. He will be absent two or three weeks” (Crittenden, H. L. *Mangum Sun-Monitor*. (Mangum, Okla.), Vol. 14, No. 27, Ed. 1 Thursday, June 27, 1901. gateway.okhistory.org. 29 April 2019. <https://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metad-c285988/m1/5/?q=%20%22Mack%20Blake%22%20date:1901-1901>). Six weeks later, on Thursday, August 8, 1901, the *Sun-Monitor* reported: “Mack Blake, manager of Evans & Baker Co’s store, has returned from a purchasing tour to New York City.” Many more of his departures and arrivals would appear in the pages of the *Sun-Monitor* and its competitor, the *Mangum Star* (Crittenden, H. L. *Mangum Sun-Monitor*. Vol. 11, No. 33, Ed. 1 Thursday, August 8, 1901. The Gateway to Oklahoma History. April 29, 2019.)
15. Crittenden, H. L. *Mangum Sun-Monitor*. Vol. 12, No. 14, Ed. 1 Thursday, March 27, 1902. The Gateway to Oklahoma History. April 29, 2019. <http://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metad-c286044>.
16. Crittenden, H. L. *Mangum Sun-Monitor*. (Vol. 13, No. 43, Ed. 1 Thursday, October 22, 1903. The Gateway to Oklahoma History. April 29, 2019. <http://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metad-c286114>; Crittenden, H. L. *Mangum Sun-Monitor*. Vol. 13, No. 51, Ed. 1 Thursday, December 17, 1903. The Gateway to Oklahoma History. April 29, 2019. <http://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metad-c284797>.)
17. Lynne Pierson Doti, “Banking Industry.” *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*. Okhistory.org. April 29, 2019. <https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=BA011>.
18. Kathryn May Marie (“Mayrie”) Talbott, a.k.a. Kitty, was the youngest of seven children born to Sarah Emma Meers of Spartanburg, South Carolina, and William Johnson Talbott of Center Point, Arkansas. The Talbotts married in 1869 in Sevier County, Arkansas; Kitty was born in Center Point, Arkansas, in 1885. When she was ten, in 1895, the family migrated to Hardeman County, traveling by wagon along what was known in Texas as the “Arkansas road”; they crossed Groes-

- beck Creek, eight miles from the little town of Quanah, and settled east of the creek. The meeting point of the Arkansas Road and Groesbeck Creek came to be called Talbott's Crossing. In Quanah, William Talbott served as the constable (peace officer) before he retired in 1923. (Interview with John Marshall by Julia Szabo, March 21, 2017; "Center Point (Howard County)." *EncyclopediaofArkansas.net*. April 29, 2019. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=7107>.) Kitty was inspired to pursue higher education by her eldest sister, Emma Ozella Talbott Marshall, a teacher and poet. (Interview with John Marshall, March 21, 2017)
19. North Texas Female College, so designated in 1874 by the North Texas Methodist Conference, was located in Sherman, Texas. The college began the school year in 1888, with 100 students (including the daughter of Mississippi's governor), under the leadership of the formidable new head of school, Lucy Ann Thornton Kidd. Formerly a teacher at Whitworth College in Brookhaven, Mississippi, Mrs. Kidd, a widow, emphasized the fine arts, especially music, and insisted that the students have pianos in their rooms. Upon her re-marriage to Bishop Joseph S. Key in 1892, she styled herself Mrs. Kidd-Key—a bold move at a time when marital name hyphenation was far from the norm—and the college was renamed the North Texas Female College and Conservatory of Music. Mrs. Kidd-Key, a Southern gentlewoman of the old school, strictly enforced the college's policy of off-campus chaperonage (students marched two-by-two in a line, with a chaperone at each end of the line), mandatory church attendance, presidential inspection of outgoing mail, and stringent regulations regarding dress and demeanor (including school uniforms). Students were admonished to be devout and ladylike, and to cherish their future duties as wives and mothers above all other pursuits. Mrs. Kidd-Key became so synonymous with the academic institution she directed that, in 1919, three years after her death, it was formally renamed Kidd-Key College and Conservatory in her honor. (Wolz, Larry. "KIDD-KEY COLLEGE." *Handbook of Texas Online*. April 29, 2019. <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/kbko2>; Domatti, Ruth O. "A History of Kidd-Key College." *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 63, No. 2 (October 1959) pp. 263–78.; Crittenden, H. L. *Mangum Sun-Monitor*. Vol. 14, No. 27, Ed. 1 Thursday, June 27, 1901. The Gateway to Oklahoma History, April 29, 2019. <https://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadc285988/m1/5/?q=%20%22Mack%20Blake%22%20date:1901-1901>.)
 20. Dorothy "Dottie" Edna Clabaugh Hanna (1878–1964), a native of La Monte Township in Pettis County, Missouri, had an ahead-of-her-time talent for millinery; her chic, witty, fashion-forward designs

included jaunty feminized versions of the newsboy cap and the campaign hat (the broad-brimmed topper with a high crown, pinched symmetrically at the four corners, that is worn as part of the uniforms of Scouts and United States Park Rangers). These timeless styles would look lovely on today's fashion plates. Dorothy married Mack's cousin Baker-Hanna co-founder Thomas Samuel Hanna Sr. (son of Lucy Roane Blake and Andrew Earl Hanna) on May 23, 1905, in Waxahatchie in Ellis County, Texas. (Kirkpatrick Family Archive). By 1906, the couple had a son, Thomas Samuel Hanna Jr., and the Baker-Hanna store that Tom Sr. managed and co-owned was already Quanah's most popular retail destination, a distinction it would hold for many years. In 1913, Dorothy and Tom welcomed their daughter Margaret. Always a welcome guest at parties, "Dottie" (or occasionally "Dolly") typically held a cigarette in one hand and a bourbon cocktail in the other. She was a beloved hostess, and guests eagerly anticipated the festively decorated table that commanded attention at the annual Baker-Hanna & Blake Thanksgiving feast, held each year at the Hannas' residence. "Dottie always had her dining room table extended to its fullest and brought out her lace cloth and her best china and crystal. I remember still her fall centerpieces of vegetables and fruit, and the nuts spilling out and going down the center of the table." ("Family Dinners"). The strong sense of style expressed during Dottie's hat-design days revealed itself throughout her life in a penchant for pink: the Hanna home sported many rosy accents, indoors as well as out, including patio furniture painted pink and a shaded garden landscaped with pink-flecked coleus and caladium plants. After the arrival of her baby granddaughter, Dottie was delighted to deploy her pedal sewing machine to create accessories for her family's youngest fashion plate, including ruffled seersucker panties—in pink, of course. Dottie believed that all little girls should wear dressy underthings, and would conduct impromptu inspections at family get-togethers by telling the little ones to lift up their skirts! Whenever small children misbehaved, Dottie would discipline them with a swift pinch—usually on the derriere. Soon, Dottie/Dolly acquired a third nickname: little Ann Hanna Dudley enjoyed adding the suffix *-ia* to loved ones' names, and creatively re-christened her grandmother "Dottia" (pronunciation: *dot-TEE-uh*). Ann's brothers, Tom and John, discovered that their grandmother was less captivated by little boys, who were too rambunctious for her taste. "She did favor me over my brothers," Ann recalls. As payment for mowing her lawn, Dottia threw dollar bills out the window in her grandsons' direction. Ever protective of her daughter Margaret's fragile health, Dottia added the caveat, "Now, don't nag your mother!" Dottia, her grand-

daughter remembers, “said what she wanted, when she wanted—she was quite the character. A very strong-willed woman, she smoked like a chimney even after developing emphysema—and continued even with the oxygen on.” Dottie died on November 9, 1964. (Interview with Ann Hanna Dudley Marshall by Julia Szabo, January 5, 2018.)

21. Crittenden, H. L. *Mangum Sun-Monitor*. (Mangum, Okla.), Vol. 15, No. 8, Ed. 1 Thursday, February 16, 1905. Mangum, Oklahoma. *The Gateway to Oklahoma History*. <http://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadc284865/>. Accessed June 27, 2017.

2. Always Doing Business

1. Crittenden, H. L. *Mangum Sun-Monitor*.
2. *Ibid.*
3. According to family legend, Kitty balked at her marital holiday being just another one of Mack's frequent business trips, and actually refused to board the train; fortunately, this gifted salesman was able to sell his beautiful new bride on the idea of coming along for the ride. (“Reminiscences of Eleanor Blake Kirkpatrick.”) Doubtless, Mack promised Kitty that married life would not be all business all the time and that this was but the first of many exciting journeys they would undertake together. He made good on his promise. No photographs of their wedding have survived.
4. Kitty Talbott Blake's elder sister, Emma Ozella Talbott (July 1, 1880–March 1, 1955) was a schoolteacher who oversaw Kitty's studies, ensuring that she completed her homework and instilling in young Kitty a lifelong respect for scholarship. An 1898 honors graduate of Quanah High School, Emma attended the University of Texas at Austin, then Mayo's East Texas Normal College at Commerce, Texas (where one of her classmates was Sam Rayburn, future congressman and 43rd Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives). As previously noted, Emma befriended Chief Quanah Parker, the namesake of Quanah, Texas, and assisted him in writing the “Quanah Parker Blessing.” She also corresponded with folklorist, newspaper columnist, and prolific author J. Frank Dobie (*Tales of Old Time Texas*, among many other titles); he enlisted Emma's help in researching the Medicine Mounds near Quanah, site of the Comanche Indians' peyote ceremonies. A poet and baseball aficionado who could throw a mean fastball and curve, Emma was an active member of the Methodist Church, 1904 Club (a history and social group in Quanah), Texas Folklore Society, and United Daughters of the Confederacy. She also organized the Red Cross volunteers of Quanah. On June 10, 1903,

Emma married attorney John Calvin Marshall (February 6, 1874-February 11, 1936), and the couple had four children: Hugh Talbott Marshall (January 11, 1905- September 20, 1981), Edward Nealy "Bud" Marshall (November 3, 1906-December 28, 1981), Mildred Isabella Marshall (May 30, 1909-october 27, 2005), and Johnnie Katherine Marshall (November 3, 1912-June 12, 2007). Although Emma gave up her teaching career to raise her family, she still had many lessons to impart. Both of her daughters followed their mother's example by becoming dedicated schoolteachers; neither one married. Mildred and Katherine were especially beloved by their nephew, John Hampton Marshall, and niece, Mary Marshall Bishop, who considered them "second parents." One day, while visiting his aunts, John recalls asking why a hole existed in the top of the front-door screen. They explained that it was a bullet hole, made by their mother, Emma, when she fired her Colt 44 to scare away a hostile stranger. The suspicious-looking man had been standing about 10 feet away on the porch, drunkenly boasting that he would come inside and take anything he wanted. Emma's response was to fire one round through the screen, directly above his head. "I fired to miss," she warned him, "but will not miss next time." The stranger took off running and didn't darken that door again. (Interview with John Hampton Marshall by Julia Szabo, January 25, 2018; Kirpatrick Family Archive Collection; Neal, Bill, p. 156)

5. Echols, R. C. *The Mangum Star*. Vol. 17, No. 33, Ed. 1 Thursday, February 16, 1905. The Gateway to Oklahoma History. April 29, 2019. <http://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadc280603/>.
6. Crittenden, H. L. *Mangum Sun-Monitor*. Vol. 15, No. 11, Ed. 1 Thursday, March 9, 1905. The Gateway to Oklahoma History. April 29, 2019. <http://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadc284868>.
7. Crittenden, H. L. *Mangum Sun-Monitor*. Vol. 15, No. 13, Ed. 1 Thursday, March 23, 1905. The Gateway to Oklahoma History. April 29, 2019. <http://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadc285413>.
8. Crittenden, H. L. *Mangum Sun-Monitor*. Vol. 17, No. 49, Ed. 1 Thursday, November 21, 1907. The Gateway to Oklahoma History. April 29, 2019. <http://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadc285568>. It is possible Mack saw Vermelto perform in person during a buying trip, or read about his acclaimed feats of legerdemain, which were reported in a weekly publication called *The Shoe Retailer*: "The J.G. Brandt Shoe Company, 619 North Broadway, St. Louis, is one of the most progressive retail shoe stores in the World's Fair city. Something is always being thought of to attract attention, and their latest effort of having a magician give public performances in one of the big display windows was a great success. The young man was Vermelto, a magician in the

- employ of one of a Japanese concern in New York City. That he is clever goes without saying. ... The leading trick, and the one that was a source of wonder to the thousands who daily watched his performance, was the one in which he forced a rose bush to grow from an ordinary flower pot filled with plain, cheap sand. Into the sand he placed the seed. When he lifted the conical cover a small plant was sticking its head above the sand. Placing the cover on again, and then removing it, he showed to his audience a full-grown rose bush. These he deftly cut off, and they were distributed among the customers inside the store.” (*The Shoe Retailer*, Boston, MA, Vol. 51, No. 13, (1904). p. 21. Google Books. April 29, 2019. <https://books.google.com/books?id=WNk-AQAAMAAJ>.)
9. Crittenden, H. L. *Mangum Sun-Monitor*. Vol. 15, No. 23, Ed. 1 Thursday, June 1, 1905. The Gateway to Oklahoma History. April 29, 2019. <https://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadc285949/m1/5/?q=%20%22Dixie%20Store%22%20date:1905-1905>.
 10. Echols, R. C. *The Mangum Star*. Vol. 17, No. 51, Ed. 1 Friday, June 2, 1905. The Gateway to Oklahoma History. April 29, 2019. <http://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadc281155>.
 11. Echols, R. C. *The Mangum Star*. Vol. 19, No. 26, Ed. 1 Thursday, December 27, 1906. The Gateway to Oklahoma History. April 29, 2019. <http://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadc280786>.
 12. Echols, R. C. *The Mangum Star*. (Vol. 20, No. 9, Ed. 1 Friday, August 30, 1907. The Gateway to Oklahoma History. April 29, 2019. <http://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadc280729>.
 13. Echols, R. C. *The Mangum Star*. Vol. 18, No. 14, Ed. 1 Thursday, October 5, 1905. The Gateway to Oklahoma History. April 29, 2019. <http://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadc281672>.
 14. “Why Is the South Known as ‘Dixie.’” History.com. 30 April 2019. <https://www.history.com/news/why-is-the-south-known-as-dixie>.
 15. Echols, R. C. *The Mangum Star*. Vol. 18, No. 23, Ed. 1 Thursday, December 7, 1905. The Gateway to Oklahoma History. April 29, 2019. <https://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadc281305/m1/6/?q=Blake>.
 16. *The Guthrie Daily Leader*. (Guthrie, Okla.), Vol. 26, No. 29, Ed. 1, Wednesday, September 13, 1905, newspaper, September 13, 1905; Guthrie, Oklahoma. (<https://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadc76253/m1/8/?q=%20%22M.%20B.%20Blake%22%20date:1905-1905>: accessed April 30, 2019), The Gateway to Oklahoma History, <https://gateway.okhistory.org>; crediting Oklahoma Historical Society.
 17. Crittenden, H. L. *Mangum Sun-Monitor*. Vol. 16, No. 12, Ed. 1 Thursday, March 15, 1906. The Gateway to Oklahoma History. April 29, 2019. <https://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadc285441/m1/5/?q=%20%22Mr.%20Gully%22%20date:1906-1906>.

18. Crittenden, H. L. *Mangum Sun-Monitor*. Vol. 18, No. 22, Ed. 1 Thursday, March 5, 1908. The Gateway to Oklahoma History. April 29, 2019. <http://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadc285121>.
19. In 1900, Oscar G. Lee built the Lee Hotel at 22 N. Broadway, at the southeast corner of Main. The hotel housed Oklahoma City's first electric elevator. Among its guests were Theodore Roosevelt and Buffalo Bill Cody. The five-story redbrick building was destroyed by fire in 1908, rebuilt that year, and later renamed the Huckins Hotel. (Griffith, Terry L. *Images of America: Oklahoma City, Land Run to Statehood*, Arcadia Publishing, Oklahoma. 1999. p. 56; "[Lee Hotel in Oklahoma City]" Date Unknown; New York, New York. University of North Texas Libraries. <https://texashistory.unt.edu> (Private collection of Joe E. Haynes). April 29 2019. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph35749>.
20. The mineral-water springs and wells of Texas attracted health-conscious visitors from Texas (including Sam Houston and Davy Crockett) and from all over the country, as it was believed these waters had medicinal properties; medical doctors offered curative regimens based on balneology, the science of bathing. More than a hundred places in Texas developed into storied resorts, including Mineral Wells, named for its mineral springs. In the early 1900s, visitors to Mineral Wells, a town of 8,000 residents, numbered 150,000 annually. The Mineral Wells resort attracted many celebrities, including J. P. Morgan and, later, Douglas Fairbanks, Tom Mix, Marlene Dietrich, and Clark Gable, who stayed at the famed Baker Hotel, the first skyscraper built outside a major metropolitan area. (Valenza, Janet Mace. "MINERAL-WATER SPRINGS AND WELLS." *Handbook of Texas Online*. April 29, 2019. <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/sbm11>.) Although Mack never set up shop there, one of his colleagues, retailer George Poston (J. D. Baker's partner in the firm Baker & Poston), opened the Poston Dry Goods Co. in Mineral Wells in 1904. (*The Daily Herald*, Vol. 24, No. 252, Ed. 1 Monday, November 5, 1923. University of North Texas Libraries. The Portal to Texas History. April 29, 2019. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph644549/m1/17/?q=%20%22Mineral%20Wells%22%20date:1923-1923>.)
21. Echols, R. C. *The Mangum Star*. Vol. 20, No. 9, Ed. 1 Friday, August 30, 1907. The Gateway to Oklahoma History. April 29, 2019. <http://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadc280729>.
22. Gatch, Loren C. "An' the West Jes' smiled: Oklahoma Banking and the Panic of 1907." *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. 87 (Spring 2009), pp. 7-8.

23. Hightower, Michael J. *Banking in Oklahoma, 1907–2000*. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2014, p. 9.
24. Interview with Dr. Bob Blackburn by Julia Szabo, March 21, 2017. “The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) is a United States government agency providing deposit insurance to depositors in U.S. banks. The FDIC was created by the 1933 Banking Act, signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt during the Great Depression to restore trust in the American banking system; more than one-third of banks had failed in the years before the FDIC’s creation, and bank runs were common” (“Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.” Wikipedia.org. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Deposit_Insurance_Corporation#cite_note-FOOTNOTEWalter200539-2)
25. Interview with Dr. Bob Blackburn by Julia Szabo, March 21, 2017.
26. Farris, Giles W. *The Mangum Star*. Vol. 22, No. 45, Ed. 1 Thursday, May 5, 1910. *The Gateway to Oklahoma History*. April 29, 2019.
27. Crittenden, H. L. *Mangum Sun-Monitor*. Vol. 19, No. 23, Ed. 1 Thursday, March 4, 1909. *The Gateway to Oklahoma History*. April 29, 2019. <https://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadc285416/m1/5/?q=%20%22Oklahoma%20Mercantile%22%20date:1909-1909>. It is important to note that while the name is “Baker,” there is no one as yet determined from the Baker family who would correspond to John D. Baker or his lineage. There is mention of a “G. E. Baker” in later Mangum newspapers, but these accounts are unrelated to any mercantile business. J. D. Baker’s brother George H. Baker was a dry-goods businessman who affiliated himself with J. C. Bryant, but he and his wife moved to Anson, Texas, in 1891, where he resided until his death in 1928. (“J. C. Bryant in Business Half Century.” *The Western-Enterprise*, August 24, 1933. [newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com). April 29, 2019. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/82778917>.)
28. Dr. Fowler Border (1873–1950) was born in Texas and graduated from Louisville Medical College in 1895. He and Mack Blake became friends in 1900, when the doctor came to Mangum, where he opened the first hospital between Oklahoma City and Amarillo, Texas. (Source: Reminiscence of Eleanor Blake Kirkpatrick, as told to journalist Landis Fleming, circa 1993–94.) Baby Eleanor couldn’t have been in more competent hands: accustomed to handling emergency situations, Dr. Border served as a surgeon for the M. and C. division of the Chicago Rock Island & Pacific Railway and for the Frisco Railway system. In 1905, four years before Eleanor’s birth, a tornado hit Snyder, Oklahoma, 50 miles southeast of Mangum. Trains were delayed, and Dr. Border arrived 24 hours late to the scene of the disaster. He remained in Snyder tending to the wounded until the emer-

gency hospital there was closed—then returned to Mangum, bringing with him the remaining victims of the tornado, so he could care for them at his hospital in Mangum. A member of the International Association of Railway Surgeons and of the American Medical Association of Railway Surgeons, Border was a devoted public servant. He served as the mayor of Mangum for 17 years, and was renowned for his many philanthropic deeds in the field of medicine. (“Border, Fowler: 1932.” Oklahomaof.com, April 29, 2019. [https://oklahomahof.com/member-archives/b/border-fowler-1932.](https://oklahomahof.com/member-archives/b/border-fowler-1932/))

His hospital building in Mangum now houses the Old Greer County Museum & Hall of Fame (www.oldgreercountymuseum.com).

29. “Reminisces of Eleanor Blake Kirkpatrick.”
30. Farris, Giles W. *The Mangum Star*. Vol. 23, No. 14, Ed. 1 Thursday, September 29, 1910. The Gateway to Oklahoma History. April 29, 2019. <http://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadc281858/>.
31. In March of 1908, Charles R. Baker traveled to San Francisco, with plans to continue on to Seattle the following day. He was never seen or heard from again. The Blake family printed posters offering a reward of \$5,000 (\$138,480 today) “for the body, dead or alive, of Chas. R. Baker, last heard of March 9th, 1908, in San Francisco, Cal., and supposed to have gone to Seattle the following day.” The description of Charles read as follows: “Age 29 years, height 6 ft., weight about 150 lbs., hair light, eyes blue, sharp features, smooth shaven. Has a very perceptible limp in walking, caused by rheumatism, affecting feet mostly. He is a constant sufferer of this disease. Has scar on the first finger of right hand caused by a severe glass cut. Holds finger in crooked position. Dry-goods merchant by occupation. Well versed in business matters generally. Very quiet and gentlemanly in demeanor. Not dissipated.” The offer of reward was signed by Charles’s brother Harry, with this appeal: “Address all communications to Harry Baker, c/o Baker, Poston & Co., Weatherford, Texas.” The final line of the poster proved that the Baker family was very serious about seeking Charles’s whereabouts: “The First National Bank of Weatherford, Texas, guarantees the payment of the above reward.” Below this was printed the signature of the bank president, W. S. Fant. (“The Baker Mansion.” [Texasescapes.com](http://www.texasescapes.com). April 29, 2019. <http://www.texasescapes.com/CentralTexasTownsNorth/WeatherfordTexas/Baker-MansionWeatherfordTexasHauntedhouse.htm>.) Also, a copy of the flyer shown below was forwarded to the Kirkpatrick Family Archive in 2018 by Bill Baker, a relative of Charles who himself lives and works in Weatherford, Texas. The mystery of Alice’s elder son and his disappearance haunted Alice Blake Baker, who would spend the rest of her life trying to locate him. Charles was unmarried; in the City Green-

wood Cemetery of Weatherford, a grave marker lists his birth date, but no date of death.

32. “Family Dinners.” The recipe for “Baker-Hanna-Blake Oysters Thanksgiving” is simple, but this delightfully rich seafood recipe, the family’s variant on Oysters Rockefeller, was the edible definition of success. “The world is my oyster” has been a famous phrase to express luxury, privilege, and entitlement ever since William Shakespeare first deployed it in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (“Why, then the world’s mine oyster, which I with sword will open”); the oyster itself remains an eternally symbolic status item (cf. Rolex Oyster Perpetual timepiece).

BAKER-HANNA-BLAKE OYSTERS THANKSGIVING

Ingredients:

One pint frozen, shucked oysters, thawed (reserve ¼ cup of the oyster liquor)

Two cups cracker crumbs

¼ to ½ cup melted butter

¼ teaspoon salt (this should be omitted if you use salted butter and if the cracker crumbs already contain a lot of salt, e.g., Saltines)

Dash of pepper, to taste

¾ cups cream

¼ teaspoon Worcestershire sauce; 1 greased Pyrex dish, 8x10 inches

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Combine crumbs, butter, and pepper. Spread 1/3 of the butter-crumbs mixture in the Pyrex dish, then cover with half of the oysters. Spread 1/3 of the butter-crumbs mixture over the oysters. Combine cream, Worcestershire sauce, and oyster liquor, and pour over, covering the entire dish. Bake in oven for 40 minutes.

Serves four.

Courtesy of Ann Hanna Dudley Marshall

33. Inflation calculator. westegg.com. 6 January 2018. <https://westegg.com/inflation/>.
34. Interview with Dr. Bob Blackburn by Julia Szabo, March 21, 2017.

3. Bank On It

1. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Skirvin Hotel (now the Skirvin Hilton Hotel) is named for its founder, William Balsler “Bill” Skirvin, the real estate developer and oil millionaire who was an 89er (a settler who acquired property in Oklahoma Territory

- in 1889). The hotel was opened in 1910 as an eight-story, two-winged tower containing 220 rooms; Skirvin and his family lived in a suite on the ninth floor. The Skirvin Hotel is a member of Historic Hotels of America, the official program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Bill Skirvin fathered two famous daughters: silent-film actress Marguerite Skirvin, who co-starred with Lionel Barrymore in *The Upheaval* and *The Quitter* in 1916 (“Marguerite Skirvin.” *Imdb.com*. April 29, 2019. http://www.imdb.com/name/nmo804388/?ref_=fn_al_nm_1) and Perle Mesta, a.k.a. “Hostess with the Mostest,” who became the ambassador to Luxembourg under President Harry Truman. (Mesta, Perle. 1889-1975.” *Okhistory.org*. April 29, 2019. <http://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=ME018>) Mesta inspired the satirical musical *Call Me Madam* (music and lyrics by Irving Berlin; based on a book by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse). The show opened on Broadway in 1953 with Ethel Merman in the lead role.
2. “Hanna’s Death Takes Second of Adventurous Pioneer Trio.” Please note research regarding this advertisement was not discovered in the archival copies of the January 2, 1911 editions of *The Daily Oklahoman*, so it is possible this advertisement was an insert not scanned with its original pages.
 3. *Ibid.*
 4. Marble, W. C. *Mangum Sun-Monitor*. Vol. 21, No. 17, Ed. 1 Thursday, January 12, 1911. *The Gateway to Oklahoma History*. April 29, 2019. <http://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadc284776/>.
 5. Williams, Harry Hampton. *Hollis Tribune*. Vol. 1, No. 30, Ed. 1 Friday, March 10, 1911. *The Gateway to Oklahoma History*. April 29, 2019. <http://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadc234476/>.
 6. Three years later, the partnership among F. P. Chedester, J. H. Baker, and M. B. Blake was dissolved by mutual consent, as reported in the *Hollis Post-Herald* (Roberts, Luke. *Hollis Post-Herald*. Vol. 12, No. 12, Ed. 1 Thursday, October 22, 1914. *The Gateway to Oklahoma History*. April 29, 2019. <http://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadc268078>).
 7. “Santa Ana’s New Business Man’s Interesting Career.”
 8. The United States Congress had introduced an income tax to fund the Civil War through the Revenue Act of 1861; what came to be known as the Civil War income taxes proved to be highly lucrative. (“Featured Document: The Revenue Act of 1861.” *Senate.gov*. April 29, 2019. https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/common/civil_war/RevenueAct_FeaturedDoc.htm.)
 9. When it was signed into law by President Wilson, the Federal Reserve Act—the most important banking legislation of the 20th century—

- was also known as the Glass-Owen Act, after the legislation's co-sponsors, who were the chairmen of the Banking and Currency Committees in the House and Senate: Representative Carter Glass, Democrat of Virginia, and Senator Robert Latham Owen, Democrat of Oklahoma. A Virginia native, Owen had migrated to Salina in Indian Territory in 1879. At his death, Owen (1856–1947) would be mourned as Oklahoma's most influential national figure in the early-statehood era ("Owen, Robert Latham." Okhistory.org. April 29, 2019. <http://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=OWoo3>).
10. Wileman, Herbert. Mangum Weekly Star. Vol. 26, No. 21, Ed. 1 Thursday, November 13, 1913. The Gateway to Oklahoma History. April 29, 2019. <http://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadc284817>. The partnership was dissolve by mutual consent on August 5, 1916, with J. C. Gully and M. B. Blake retiring and D. Mathewson & Co. remaining. (Wileman, Herbert. Mangum Weekly Star. Vol. 29, No. 9, Ed. 1, Thursday, August 17, 1916. The Gateway to Oklahoma History. April 29, 2019. <http://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadc285039>.)
 11. Watt, W. O. *The Greer County Democrat*, Vol. 25, No. 11, Ed. 1, Thursday, November 26, 1914. The Gateway to Oklahoma History. April 29, 2019. <http://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadc281598>. Lucile Maurine Blake House was one year younger than her brother Mack; she had worked for Jesse Gully in the Dixie Store in Mangum. ("Reminiscences co-written by Wade Blake House [the son of Lucile and Cyrus Ellis House] and his cousin Eleanor Blake Kirkpatrick" from the Kirkpatrick Family Archive collection).
 12. "Reminiscence of Eleanor Blake Kirkpatrick."
 13. Stafford, R. E. Oklahoma City Times, Vol. 28, No. 117, Ed. 1 Wednesday, August 16, 1916. The Gateway to Oklahoma History. April 29, 2019. <http://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadc170106>.
 14. "Liberty bond." Wikipedia.org. April 29, 2019. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberty_bond.
 15. *Ibid.*
 16. *Ibid.*
 17. "Charlie Chaplin and Douglas Fairbanks Helping the Loan Along." New-York Tribune. April 9, 1918. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. 29 April 2019. <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83030214/1918-04-09/ed-1/seq-8/>.
 18. Though the architect is unknown, the house, according to one architectural historian, is a restrained version of the Italian Renaissance style, identified by its low-pitched hipped roof (in this case an asymmetrical L-shaped plan), overhanging eaves typically with brackets (this example has decorative elements at the corners of each second-floor window that imply the bracket), round arches above the doors,

and an accentuated entrance. The residual neoclassical elements, on the other hand, would have had natural appeal for a banker, as that type of architectural detail—stately columns, in particular—was typical of financial institutions all over the country and the world. New York architect Peter Brotherton has an intriguing take on the style of the Blake house, which he sees as neoclassical with a contemporary twist: “It looks to me like the architect was very influenced by the Frank Lloyd Wright Prairie Style—the strong horizontal lines—but was not ready to abandon the neoclassical entirely. I’ve seen similar houses of that era in a few other places, namely Pittsburgh” (interview with Julia Szabo, undated). The bold approach of modernist master builder Frank Lloyd Wright, inspired by the broad, flat landscape of America’s Midwest, was influencing architects around the country—and the flat topography of the Great Plains was certainly a perfect setting for this dynamic new building style. (Lynda Schwan Ozan, architectural historian, State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society, interviewed by Julia Szabo August 8, 2017.)

19. Traditionally a totem of nobility, the peacock, with many “eyes” on its tail, symbolizes vision, protection, and watchfulness—all apt virtues of an ornamental over door.
20. Rugs were among the elegant home furnishings that Kitty purchased from the Harbour-Longmire Furniture Co. (various correspondence from Mack B. Blake from the Kirkpatrick Family Archive collection). The store opened in 1925 at 420 W. Main Street in Oklahoma City, in an impressive nine-story Gothic-style building designed by the architectural firm of Hawk & Parr. By 1945, when it moved from the building, Harbour-Longmire was the second-largest furniture store in the United States. If Mack, veteran merchant, had time for a visit, he would have noted the large, arched windows on the second level, designed to flood the main selling floor with appealing natural light. Mack also would have noticed the building’s many uses for the design, manufacture, wholesale and retail of furniture. The building was placed on the National Register in 1980. It stood vacant for some time, and today, “Main Place,” as it is known, houses many municipal offices. (“Harbour-Longmire Building—Oklahoma City, Ok.” Waymarking.com. April 29, 2019.)
21. Ann Hanna Dudley Marshall recalls her delight with the workings of the player piano during childhood visits to the Blake home. (Interview with Ann Hanna Dudley Marshall by Julia Szabo, March 20, 2017.) Popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, these ingenious instruments contained a pneumatic or electro-mechanical mechanism that operated the piano action via pre-programmed

- music, recorded on perforated paper by the most distinguished classical and popular pianists of the day.
22. A favorite of concert audiences around the world, Ignacy Jan Paderewski, the second prime minister of Poland, was a statesman and spokesman for Polish independence as well as a globally renowned pianist, composer, and supporter of new composers and many charitable causes. Paderewski was very generous with his wealth and sponsored the building of several monuments, including the Washington Square Arch in New York City. Among his many admirers were Presidents Woodrow Wilson and Herbert Hoover.
 23. Correspondence of Mack Blake from Kirkpatrick Family Archive collection. Founded in 1892 and known as “the Railroad Timekeeper of America,” Hamilton Watch was the preferred timepiece of railroad watch inspectors and personnel—a fact valued by sticklers of punctuality such as Mack Blake, who traveled many miles by rail. The company branded itself in homage to Andrew Hamilton, lawyer in the Thirteen Colonies, whose victory on behalf of New York printer and newspaper publisher John Peter Zenger in a high-profile 1735 libel case inspired the term “Philadelphia lawyer,” i.e., an excellent legal eagle. Andrew’s son James Hamilton was the original owner of the Hamilton Watch Company’s site in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. (“Brief History: Hamilton Watch Company.” Pocktwatchrepair.com. April 29, 2019. <http://www.pocketwatchrepair.com/histories/hamilton.html>; “Philadelphia lawyer.” merriam-webster.com. April 29, 2019. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/Philadelphia%20lawyer.>)
 24. Like Kitty Blake, Forney Hutchinson was a native of Center Point, Arkansas, and a staunch Methodist since childhood. After earning degrees at Hendrix College (1899) and Vanderbilt University (1905), Hutchinson came to Oklahoma City to pastor St. Luke’s United Methodist Church in 1918; he also served as a director of the Chamber of Commerce and as a member of the State Board of Education. Renowned for his modesty—he was often heard to say, “Call me ‘Brother Forney’”—he turned down the nomination for the role of bishop of the Methodist Church in Oklahoma. His response was “Who me? Oh no!” (“Hutchinson, Forney: 1936.” Oklahomahof.com. April 29, 2019. <http://oklahomahof.com/member-archives/h/hutchinson-forney-1936.>)
 25. The resort in Wisconsin was likely Eagle Springs Golf Resort, which opened in 1893 and boasted a grand hotel as well as an 18-hole links course. Considering Eagle Springs’ proximity to her daughter’s summer camp (Idyl Wyld, also in Wisconsin), it makes sense that this

- exclusive property would have been a desirable summer vacation destination for an avid golfer such as Kitty Blake.
26. Most likely, Kitty had contracted influenza, which was rampant that year. The flu pandemic of 1918–19 was the deadliest in modern history, infecting an estimated 500 million people around the world, including people in remote Pacific islands and the Arctic. Of those infected, an estimated 10 to 20 percent died. (Taubenberger, Jeffery K. and David M. Morens “1918 Influenza: the mother of all pandemics.” *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Vol. 12, No. 1. January 2006. www.nc.cdc.gov. April 29, 2019. https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/12/1/05-0979_article.) More than 25 percent of the U.S. population became sick during the pandemic, and some 675,000 Americans died when the virus reached their lungs and caused pneumonia. At the time, there were no effective drugs to treat this flu strain or prevent it from spreading, as penicillin would not be discovered until 1928 (pneumonia and tuberculosis became curable when penicillin was purified in 1942 and made available as a therapeutic drug in 1945). (Bud, Robert. *Penicillin: Triumph and Tragedy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2007.) The Blakes were very fortunate not to have succumbed, as the 1918 pandemic was notable for killing mainly healthy young adults; most influenza outbreaks target children, the elderly, or those in a weakened state. All the time spent in previous years at Mineral Wells was arguably among Mack’s most brilliant investments, as it likely helped to fortify Kitty’s immune system. Eleanor would later recall that her mother returned from the sanatorium “brown as a berry from the sun treatments” (“Reminiscence of Eleanor Blake Kirkpatrick”).
 27. Mack’s pointed letter to the awning company disputing its bill, DATE, is an example of the thrift for which he was renowned and which he encouraged in all members of his family. (“Note from Landis Fleming.”)
 28. Liberty Bank of St. Louis was the second-oldest bank in Missouri. Formerly doing business as the German Savings Institution, its name had been changed by its dynamic, youthful president, J. L. Johnston, 31, who rebranded the bank “on the very day the United States entered the war on German terrorism and inhumanity,” reported *The Daily Oklahoman* on May 19, 1918. “That ‘liberty’ sounds better to me than anything else in the world,” Johnston told the newspaper. “Liberty, liberty in its best and truest sense, is what all of us are fighting for today—all who know what it means.” An energetic Red Cross supporter and fund-raiser, young Johnston was an old hand at rallying customers to contribute to the cause: “It is for our own liberty and for our very existence that the people of the southwest soon are

- to make gifts to the great American Red Cross. And we are going to give even more freely than we did in the first war fund campaign. It is imperative. We must do it. And we shall do it.... The people of the southwest ... are the most human people I have ever met. Their blood is red—there is no yellow in the southwest. And that is why we shall ‘go over the top’ in the second war fund campaign, which begins tomorrow just as we did in the Christmas membership campaign, with a flag of liberty entwined with the flag of humanity and right and justice.” (“Leader of Southwest Is Ready to Go.” *The Daily Oklahoman*. May 18, 1918. Newsok.com. April 29, 2019. <http://archive.newsok.com/olive/apa/oklahoman/SharedView.Article.aspx?href=DOK%2F1918%2F05%2F19&id=Aro6100&sk=EBB8C544>) and “Institution History for Oklahoma City Downtown.” Ffiec.gov [National Information Center]. April 29, 2019. https://www.ffiec.gov/nicpubweb/nicweb/InstitutionHistory.aspx?parID_RSSD=872159&parDT_END=20151204.)
29. Written at the peak of the preparedness movement, “America, Here’s My Boy” was one of the most popular songs in the country that year. It was the musical reply to “I Didn’t Raise My Boy to Be a Soldier,” the pro-neutrality hit published two years earlier, in 1915, during the pacifist movement. (“America, Here’s My Boy.” Wikipedia.org. April 29, 2019. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/America,_Here%27s_My_Boy#cite_note-4.)
 30. Also known as the Armistice of Compiegne, after the forest in the Picardy region north of Paris, where it was signed, the Armistice was the agreement between the Allies and Germany that ended the fighting on the Western Front. It went into effect at 11 a.m. Paris time —“the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month”—and marked a victory for the Allies and complete defeat for Germany. The Armistice ended the actual fighting, but it took six months of negotiations at the Paris Peace Conference to conclude the peace treaty, the Treaty of Versailles. The Armistice is commemorated each year on November 11, coinciding with Veterans Day. (Further reading: Czernin, Ferdinand. *Versailles, 1919: The Forces, Events, and Personalities that Shaped the Treaty*. New York: G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 1964).
 31. Wolff, Geoffrey. *Black Sun: The Brief Transit and Violent Eclipse of Harry Crosby*. New York Review Books Classics, 2012. p. 63.
 32. Interview with Michael Hightower by Julia Szabo, August 2, 2017.
 33. Using the newspaper to further his mercantile ends was a technique learned from his father, Samuel, who was the subject of this encomium in the *Quannah Tribune-Chief* (which doubled as a clever advertorial for the paper): “One of the livest merchants in town was S.D. Blake, who managed the Baker-Hanna store, and had a great

knack for bringing outsiders to town. He frequently bought one thousand copies of the *Tribune-Chief*, and to use his own words “The *Tribune-Chief* helped me make many a dollar.” (Neal, Bill, p. 86.)

34. After his venture in California, Samuel returned to Texas, staying with his daughter, Rhena, in Mangum. He subsequently moved to Wichita, Kansas, where he died, aged 71. (Notes of journalist Landis Fleming.) Samuel is buried in Texas at Granbury Cemetery, as are his parents, Charles and Mary Ann Upshaw Blake, and three of his siblings: Mary Francis Blake Evans, who had died the year before, in 1917; Lucy Roane Blake Hanna, who died in 1938; and Joel Blake, who had died in 1870. Samuel’s brother Thomas Roane Blake died in 1927 and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Waco, Texas. He married Martha Ellen Bacon and fathered three daughters and five sons. (Kirkpatrick Family Archive collection.)

4. Schooled For Success

1. Introduced in 1915 and used during World War I as a training aircraft by the U.S. Army Air Service and the Royal Flying Corps, the Curtiss JN-4 “Jenny” two-seat biplane would become one of the most popular planes of all time. It was designed by Benjamin D. Thomas and built by the Curtiss Aeroplane Company of Hammondsport, New York. In the years after the Armistice, thousands of surplus Jennys were sold to private owners; this led to the barnstorming era of the 1920s, which popularized civil aviation throughout the United States. (“The Curtiss JN-4 ‘Jenny’.” Centennialofflight.net. April 29, 2019. <https://www.centennialofflight.net/essay/Aerospace/Jenny/Aero3.htm>.)
2. Thomas George Lanphier (April 16, 1890–October 9, 1972) was stationed at Post Airfield, a military-use airport at Fort Sill, in Comanche County, Oklahoma, from 1921 to 1924. (United States Adjutant-General’s Office. *Officers of the Army Stationed in or Near the District of Columbia*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1923. Internet Archive. Web. April 29, 2019.) A career officer in the Air Corps, Lanphier graduated from West Point in 1914, in the same class as his friend Dwight D. Eisenhower. (Longden, Tom. “War Flights by Two Lanphiers Made History.” *Des Moines: Des Moines Register*, 26 January 2009. *Newspapers.com*. April 29, 2019. <https://www.newspapers.com/newspage/131347205/>.) Later head of the Transcontinental Air Transport Company and president of Bird Aircraft Corporation, Lanphier was a flying instructor, friend, and business partner of fellow aviator Charles Lindbergh. Lanphier was also a dashing, charismatic figure who enjoyed acting in amateur theater produc-

tions at Post Field; Eleanor Blake later recalled that he had top billing in the first stage plays she ever saw: “Major Lanphier was a very handsome man, and he usually took lead. His wife was lovely-looking, and they had three sons, all under ten at this time.” Mack and Major Lanphier enjoyed a cocktail prior to taking off. “Before they would fly back, they would be out at the house and my father would offer the major a drink. Mother took a dim view of this, but Major Lanphier said that a little drink helped him fly” (“Reminiscence of Eleanor Blake Kirkpatrick”). Lanphier is buried at Arlington National Cemetery, as are two of his sons, who also became aviators: Thomas George Lanphier Jr. (1915–1987), ace fighter pilot, was involved in Operation Vengeance, the mission to shoot down the plane carrying Admiral Yamamoto, commander in chief of the Imperial Japanese Navy (Longden), and Charles Cobb Lanphier (1918–1944), a captain in the U.S. Marine Corps, whose F4U Corsair aircraft crashed while on a mission in Papua New Guinea. Imprisoned by the Japanese, Charles died of neglect at the Rabaul POW camp. (“1st Lt. Charles Cobb Lanphier.” Pacificwrecks.com. April 29, 2019. <https://www.pacificwrecks.com/aircraft/f4u/02577.html>.) Tom junior is a character in the 1960 movie *The Gallant Hours*, while Lanphier’s third son, actor James Francis Lanphier (1920–1969), inherited his father’s theatrical gene: making his Broadway debut in the Cole Porter musical *Mexican Hayride*, James appeared in numerous television shows as well as the movies *Breakfast at Tiffany’s* (1961), *Days of Wine and Roses* (1962), *The Pink Panther* (1963), *The Green Hornet* (1967), and *The Party* (1968). (“James Lanphier.” Imdb.com. April 29, 2019. https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0487036/?ref=fn_al_nm_1.)

3. “Oklahoma Governor and Party Tour City.” San Antonio, Texas: *San Antonio Evening News*. February 25, 1922. Newspapers.com. Accessed April 29, 2019. Later, Eleanor would recall that the Blakes and the Charles M. Dunnings spent many leisure hours together, including annual Fourth of July visits to the Dunnings’ country retreat and a 1926 trip abroad. “Betty Lou Dunning was a good friend of mine. She had two older brothers, Jack and Charles.” (“Reminiscence of Eleanor Blake Kirkpatrick” and “Rites Are Today for City Builder, Charles Dunning.” *The Daily Oklahoman*. August 29, 1951. Newsok.com. April 29, 2019. <http://archive.newsok.com/olive/apa/oklahoman/SharedView.Article.aspx?href=DOK%2F1951%2F08%2F29&id=Aroo80o&sk=9D1E4E5B>.)
4. Miss Madeira’s School was founded in 1906 “for the purpose of preparing girls for the leading women’s colleges” (“History, Mission, and Vision.” Madeira.org. April 29, 2019. <https://www-madeira.org/about-madeira/history-vision>). During Eleanor’s time

there, the school was still under the stewardship of its legendary founder, Lucy Madeira Wing, who remained headmistress for 51 years (she retired in 1957). Originally located in Washington, D.C., the campus was relocated to the suburb of McLean, Virginia, in 1931; two years before that, in 1929, it was incorporated as the Madeira School, as it is known today (*Ibid.*). Its motto, “Festina Lente,” is Latin for “Make Haste Slowly”—the same motto adopted by two Roman emperors, Augustus and Titus, and two European noble families, the Medicis of Florence and the Onslows of Great Britain (“Festina Lente.” *Educalingo.com*. April 29, 2019. <https://educalingo.com/en/dic-en/festina-lente>). Prominent alumnae include Brooke Astor (née Russell), Ruth Carter Stevenson, and Katharine Graham (née Meyer) (“The Madeira School.” *Boardingschoolreview.com*. April 29, 2019. <https://www.boardingschoolreview.com/the-madeira-school-profile>). However, it was not widely known (until *Time* magazine featured Madeira in 1948) that Madeira’s founder, a 1896 graduate of Vassar College and herself a public-school alumna, had a radical streak. She hoped “to see the day when private schools like Madeira close down.” Her school, the article continued, “was founded for a grubbier motive than most educators like to admit: Lucy wanted to make more money” (“Education: Retribution.” *Time.com*. May 31, 1948. <http://content.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,798745,00.html>. Accessed April 29, 2019). Mack Blake, master merchant, would surely appreciate that today, nearly a century after his daughter studied there; the school’s store pays tribute to its founder by masterfully merchandising a range of Madeira-branded products. An online retail portal, Lucy & Co., earns its diploma in dry goods with distinction, selling items ranging from apparel and accessories to magnets and water bottles to tote bags (“Madeira.” *Madeira-school-store.com*. April 29, 2019. <https://madeira-school-store.myshopify.com>).

5. Lawton, Oklahoma, some 98 miles southwest of Oklahoma City, is the county seat of Comanche County. Built on the former reservation lands of Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache Indians, it was founded on August 6, 1901, and named after U.S. Army officer Henry Ware Lawton, who served with distinction in the Civil War, the Apache Wars, and the Spanish-American War, and was the only United States general officer to be killed during the Philippine-American War. A borough in the city of Havana, Cuba, also takes its name from Lawton, and Bonifacio Square in downtown Manila was formerly named Plaza Lawton in his honor (“Henry Ware Lawton.” *Wikipedia.org*. April 29, 2019. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Ware_Lawton).

6. Located near the city of Lawton, Medicine Park is a town in Comanche County, Oklahoma, situated in the Wichita Mountains near the entrance to the 60,000-acre Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge. It is named for Medicine Creek, which flows through the center of town. Medicine Park has a long history as a vintage cobblestone resort town. Many of the original structures were built from naturally formed red granite cobblestones, which are unique to the Wichita Mountains. ("Medicine Park." Okhistory.org. April 29, 2019. <http://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=ME006>.)
7. "Reminiscence of Eleanor Blake Kirkpatrick."
8. For students of Miss Madeira's School, taking in a "moving picture" was almost as involved a production as making one: girls could attend a play or movie "with their parents only" and even then only with prior permission, as Miss Madeira allowed girls to see "only especially good moving pictures." What's more, "no permissions for moving pictures are given during an epidemic, and since there is an especial prevalence of contagious diseases during January and February, these permissions are withheld throughout these months" (The Students' Association of Miss Madeira's School: Constitution of the House Pupils and Regulations of the School. Kirkpatrick Family Archive collection). Parents had only to remember the deadly 1918 flu pandemic to appreciate Miss Madeira's erring on the side of extreme caution on this point. It is tempting to wonder which popular movies of 1925 would have earned Miss Madeira's approval. The year's features included *The Gold Rush* (Chaplin), *The Phantom of the Opera* (starring Lon Chaney), *Seven Chances* (Buster Keaton), *The Freshman* (Harold Lloyd), *Strike and Battleship Potemkin* (directed by Sergei Eisenstein), *The Unholy Three* (Lon Chaney), *Go West* (Keaton), *The Plastic Age* (Clara Bow), *Little Annie Rooney* (Mary Pickford), *Zane Grey's the Vanishing American* (Richard Dix), and *Lady Windermere's Fan* (starring Ronald Colman and directed by Ernst Lubitsch). The last one, an adaptation of Oscar Wilde's play, would likely have been off-limits for Madeira girls, because of the male lead's smoldering looks plus the playwright and director's shared penchant for racy double entendres. *Lady of the Night* (Norma Shearer) would certainly have been a no-go, as would *The Pleasure Garden* (Virginia Valli).
9. Eleanor's love for fine fashion would get her in a jam on room-inspection day, when she was obliged to hide her splendid wardrobe in a laundry sack and her impressive collection of party shoes behind stacks of books, to escape censure from those "mean things" (i.e., the school inspectors). (Letters of Eleanor Blake Kirkpatrick, Kirkpatrick Family Archive.) Madeira's rigorously disciplinarian culture recalls

- that of Kidd-Key, the Texas college that Kitty's marriage to Mack had pre-empted her from attending.
10. *The Vailima Letters of the Scots* author Robert Louis Stevenson were written from his estate on Samoa. This passage was Eleanor's favorite: "The world must return some day to the word duty, and be done with the word reward. There are no rewards, and plenty duties. And the sooner a man sees that and acts upon it like a gentleman or a fine old barbarian, the better for himself" (Vailima Letters being correspondence addressed by Robert Louis Stevenson to Sidney Colvin November 1890–October 1894. 7th Ed. E-book. Gutenberg.org, 2013. <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/387/387-h/387-h.htm>.)
 11. Impressively, Eleanor managed to fashion for herself a creative update on the grand tour, the itinerary of global destinations that was historically an educational perk for young men from the European elite. In this venture, she was fortunate indeed to have her parents' cooperation, and she knew it. Her self-styled academic experience also presaged programs that wouldn't be in place for several more decades, including Junior Year Abroad and Model United Nations.
 12. Martin E. Trapp (1877–1951) was Oklahoma's sixth governor. A Democrat, he entered politics in 1905, serving as Logan County clerk. At statehood, in 1907, he became Oklahoma's first auditor, under the state's first governor, Charles N. Haskell. Trapp won the race for lieutenant governor in 1914 and was reelected in 1918 and 1922. When Governor John C. "Jack" Walton was impeached on November 19, 1923, Trapp became governor—the first to do so not through an election but because of the previous governor's removal from office. Trapp's legacy as governor was economizing state government (at the end of his term in 1927, the state treasury had a surplus); establishing the State Bureau of Criminal Investigation and environmental conservation initiatives, including the creation of the Oklahoma Forestry Commission, Oklahoma Conservation Commission, and Oklahoma Fish and Game Commission; and victories against the Ku Klux Klan in Oklahoma, notably the passing of an anti-mask law. ("Trapp, Martin Edwin (1877–1951)." *Okhistory.org*. April 29, 2019. <http://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=TR007>; "Trapp, Martin E.: 1938." *Oklahomaof.com*. April 29, 2019. <https://oklahomahof.com/member-archives/t/trapp-martin-e-1938>; "Martin E. Trapp." *Wikipedia.org*. April 29, 2019. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_E._Trapp.) As for being an honorary colonel on the governor's staff, Mack was in excellent company: the honor was later conferred, in 1929, by then governor W. J. Holloway upon Will Rogers ("Oklahoma's Favorite Son"), oil baron E. W. Marland (later a U.S. congressman and Oklahoma's 10th governor), and rancher-showman

Zachary T. “Zack” Miller (Wallis, Michael. *The Real Wild West: The 101 Ranch and the Creation of the American West*. New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1999, p. 607). As for Trapp’s charismatic predecessor, Governor John Calloway Walton (1881–1949), the circumstances of his impeachment were too complex to summarize in a footnote. On June 26, 1923, Walton put Okmulgee County under martial law to investigate Ku Klux Klan activity; it was the first in a series of confrontations between the governor and the Klan. In August of that year, Walton placed Tulsa under martial law to examine the Klan. While the National Guard was stationed in Tulsa, legislators in the state capital—a majority of whom belonged to the Klan—began organizing a movement to remove Walton from office. Walton declared the state under martial law to prevent the House and Senate from meeting, but the public voted, three to one, on an initiative petition to allow the two bodies to convene. Walton offered to resign in exchange for strong laws against the Klan. But by October 16, 1923, the Oklahoma House of Representatives had passed 22 articles of impeachment, including accusations of improper pardons and paroles, failure to use the death penalty, the hiring of unnecessary employees, and putting Tulsa and Okmulgee under martial law. Walton told the press that he would produce witnesses to testify to Klan terrorism; the prosecution one-upped him by dismissing the six articles that dealt with Klan activity, and placing emphasis on Walton’s alleged corruption in office. On November 19, 1923, the Senate convicted Walton on 11 of the remaining articles and rejected 5. The lawmakers then voted unanimously (41 to 0) to remove Walton from office. Walton resolutely continued trying to be of service to the public, winning the Democratic primary for an Oklahoma Senate seat in 1924, but losing the general election; he also lost a bid for mayor of Oklahoma City in 1931. In 1932, he successfully campaigned for corporation commissioner. It would be his last office in Oklahoma politics, but not for want of trying: despite so many setbacks, Walton still wanted to serve his state, and after 1932 he subsequently ran for governor, county sheriff, and corporation commissioner—all unsuccessfully. (“Walton, John Calloway” (1881–1949)). *Okhistory.org*. April 29, 2019. <http://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=WA014>.)

13. In 1926, the Blake family took a trip around Europe, setting sail from New York; the itinerary included stops in England, France, Italy, Germany, and the Netherlands. Mack cut his trip short, compelled to return home and get back to work, while Kitty and Eleanor continued their travels without him. (Kirkpatrick Family Archive collection.)
14. In geology, a play is a group of oil prospects “in the same region that are controlled by the same set of geological circumstances.” (“Pe-

- troleum play.” Wikipedia.org. April 29, 2019. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petroleum_play.)
15. Smith College was founded in 1871 in an unforgettable act of philanthropy: Sophia Smith of Massachusetts provided in her last will and testament that her fortune of \$387,468 be used to endow a college for women. Smith College was chartered in 1871 and opened its doors in 1875 with 14 students. In her will, Smith stated, “It is not my design to render my sex any the less feminine, but to develop as fully as may be the powers of womanhood, and furnish women with the means of usefulness, happiness and honor, now withheld from them.” Smith College’s campus in Northampton, Massachusetts, remains a destination for young women with the highest academic aspirations. In 2000, the college’s founder, Sophia Smith, was inducted posthumously to the National Women’s Hall of Fame. “It is my wish that the Institution be so conducted, that during all coming time it shall do the most good to the greatest number,” Smith wrote. “I would have it a perennial blessing to the country and the world.” Smith got her wish: of the original Seven Sisters liberal arts colleges founded between 1837 and 1889 (Barnard, Bryn Mawr, Mount Holyoke, Radcliffe, Smith, Wellesley, and Vassar), Smith College is the largest, and continues to be one of five that continue to offer all-female undergraduate programs (Radcliffe merged with Harvard in 1977, and Vassar has been co-educational since 1969). Smith’s notable alumnae include Anne Morrow Lindbergh, Gloria Steinem, Madeleine L’Engle, Sylvia Plath, Margaret Mitchell, Julia Child, Molly Ivins, Sally Quinn, Julie Nixon Eisenhower, Nancy Reagan, Betty Friedan, and Maya Deren. (“Smith History.” Smith.edu. April 29, 2019. <https://www.smith.edu/about-smith/smith-history> and “Sophia Smith Collection.” Fivecolleges.edu. April 29, 2019.
 16. Although his formal name was William Robert Talbott, W. G. Talbott actually used the nickname “Garland” as part of his initials rather than his middle name, “Robert.” The name “Garland” is different from that of his brother Jessie, whose middle name was “Garlan.” (Kirkpatrick Family Archive and genealogy text in this book.)
 17. Skeleton Creek was a stream in Logan, Kingfisher, and Garfield Counties, so named by Oklahoma pioneers in 1867, when they found the bones of “Wichita Indians who had died during an outbreak of cholera.” (“Feature Detail Report for: Skeleton Creek.” Usgs.gov. April 29, 2019. <https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/f?p=gnispq:3:0::NO::P3-FID:1098089> and “Skeleton Creek (Oklahoma).” Wikipedia.org. April 29, 2019. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skeleton_Creek_\(Oklahoma\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skeleton_Creek_(Oklahoma)).)

The correct spelling of John B. Nichlos’s name has been verified; he was no relation to the co-founder of Devon Energy, John W.

- Nichols, a business colleague of John Kirkpatrick. (“Nichlos, John Bruce: 1938.” Oklahomaof.com. April 29, 2019. <https://oklahomahof.com/member-archives/n/nichlos-john-bruce-1938>.)
18. The correct spelling of John B. Nichlos’s name has been verified; he was no relation to the co-founder of Devon Energy, John W. Nichols, a business colleague of John Kirkpatrick. (“Nichlos, John Bruce: 1938.” Oklahomaof.com. April 29, 2019. <https://oklahomahof.com/member-archives/n/nichlos-john-bruce-1938>.)
 19. “Finance Deal Joins City Tulsa Banks.” *The Oklahoman*. June 27, 1929. Newsok.com. 11 June 2019. <http://archive.newsok.com/olive/apa/oklahoman/SharedView.Article.aspx?href=DOK%2F1929%2Fo6%2F27&id=Aroo100&sk=578CE03D>.
 20. The first Greek-letter fraternity for women, Kappa Alpha Theta, was founded in 1870 “as a supportive space in which women develop confidence, grow as leaders, and become the change agents and innovators of tomorrow.” Celebrating their Founders Day each year on January 27, “Thetas” take pride in being part of a distinguished tradition of “leading the way for women’s groups and women in higher education.” (“Theta Roots” and “Media Resource.” Kappaalphatheta.org. April 29, 2019. www.kappaalphatheta.org.)
 21. “French Girls See Ideal in Man from America.” *The Daily Oklahoman*. July 19, 1927. Newsok.com. April 29, 2019. <http://archive.newsok.com/olive/apa/oklahoman/SharedView.Article.aspx?href=DOK%2F1927%2Fo7%2F19&id=Aroo400&sk=04A07B55>

5. Grace Under Pressure

1. The Tariff Act of 1930 was co-sponsored by Oregon congressman Willis C. Hawley and Utah senator Reed Smoot, the Finance Committee chair. Introduced in the House of Representatives in May 1929, it passed the House on May 28, 1929, and passed the Senate on March 24, 1930. (“The Smoot-Hawley Tariff.” Britannica.com. April 29, 2019. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Smoot-Hawley-Tariff-Act>.)
2. Schweikart, Larry. “A Tale of Two Tariffs.” Foundation for Economic Education. June 1, 2002. fee.org. April 29, 2019. <https://fee.org/articles/a-tale-of-two-tariffs/>
3. Krugman, Paul. “Nineteenth-century trade policy.” Princeton.edu. April 29, 2019. https://www.princeton.edu/~pkrugman/Nineteenth_century_policy.pdf.
4. Whaples, Robert. “Where Is there Consensus Among American Economic Historians? The Results of a Survey on Forty Propositions.”

- The Journal of Economic History. 55(1): 144. March 1995. JSTOR.org. April 29, 2019. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2123771>.
5. "Migrant Camps." Okhistory.org. April 29, 2019. <http://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=M1012>.
 6. Ibid.
 7. Ample evidence of Mack's unkickable habit could be found in almost every corner of the Blake home. An appraisal of residence furnishing at 301 NW 17th Street, conducted in May of 1937 by the Federal Appraisal Company of San Francisco, reveals numerous smoking accessories, including assorted lighters, ashtrays, match stands, cigarette boxes, a vermilion enamel smokador, and wrought iron smoker's table with glazed ceramic tile top. Certified dated June 16, 1937, from the Federal Appraisal Company. Kirkpatrick Family Archive collection.
 8. Considering its competition to be Mercedes-Benz and Rolls-Royce (rather than Oldsmobile or Ford) Packard prided itself on positive customer word of mouth. "Ask the man who owns one," went Packard's famous advertising slogan. (Editors, Post. "Ask the Man Who Owns One: Packard Ads from 1908-1953." The Saturday Evening Post, 18 Sept. 2018, www.saturdayeveningpost.com/2017/05/ask-man-owns-one-packard-ads-1908-1953/.)
 9. Insurance man Thomas Elmer Braniff was also an aviation pioneer and co-founder (with his brother Paul Revere Braniff) of Braniff International Airways, the only U.S. air carrier that retained the original owners' name throughout its entire history of operation. Tom and Bess had two children: a son, Thurman Braniff, and a daughter, Jeanne Braniff Terrell. Sadly, Thurman was killed in a training aircraft crash at Oklahoma City in 1938; Jeanne died in childbirth 10 years later. The Braniffs had no heirs. (Perez, Joan Jenkins. "Braniff, Thomas Elmer." Tshaonline.org. April 29, 2019. <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fbr22>.)
 10. The 1931 epic Cimarron, starring Richard Dix and Irene Dunne, was based on Edna Ferber's novel, which spanned four decades, from 1889 to 1929. In the depths of the Great Depression, RKO Pictures invested a breathtaking \$1.5 million in the production, purchasing 89 acres in Encino, California, to construct a fictitious version of the Oklahoma town of Osage. ("Osage." Okhistory.org. April 29, 2019. <https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=OS002>.) Designing a complete Western town, including a three-block main street, art director Max Ree won the Oscar for Best Art Direction. Opened to great critical and popular acclaim, the movie was the first to receive more than six Oscar nominations, and one of very few Westerns to ever win the Academy's top honor: Outstanding Produc-

- tion, better known today as Best Picture. (“Cimarron.” Afi.com. April 29, 2019. <https://catalog.afi.com/Catalog/moviedetails/899>.)
11. Nichols, Max J. *John & Eleanor: A Sense of Community*. Tulsa, Oklahoma: Council Oak Books, 1995, p. 47.
 12. The *U.S.S. Arizona* was one of two super-dreadnought battleships built for the U.S. Navy just before the First World War (the other was the *Pennsylvania*). Built at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, it was named in honor of the 48th state’s recent admission to the Union. Modernized between 1929 and 1931, the *Arizona* was regularly used for training exercises during the inter-war period. Two decades earlier, dreadnought battleships were state-of-the-art—until the new generation of more powerful “super-dreadnoughts” was launched by Britain’s Royal Navy in 1910. The superpowers of this new battleship were its unprecedented 2,000-ton jump in displacement, the introduction of the heavier 13.5-inch gun, and the placement of all the main armament on the center line, with some turrets superfiring over others. The super-dreadnought’s weight of broadside—the weight of ammunition that can be fired in one salvo—doubled that of the dreadnought. In response to Britain’s technological innovation, the U.S.S. *New York*, laid down in 1911, carried 14-inch guns, and this caliber became standard. (“Dreadnought.” Wikipedia.org. April 29, 2019. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dreadnought#Super-dreadnoughts>.)
 13. Although John Kirkpatrick had three brothers—two of whom were in the Army (Spencer Kirkpatrick and Elmer Kirkpatrick) and one who was in the Navy (Claude Kirkpatrick)—the siblings were stationed in different parts of the world and unavailable to attend John’s wedding. It was logical for John to ask his bride’s cousin and close friend, Phil Gully, to stand as his best man.
 14. Emma Talbott Marshall and her husband (Mack’s attorney) were both die-hard Democrats. Very active on behalf of the Democratic Party of Texas, John Calvin Marshall was an associate delegate to the 1912 Democratic Convention in Baltimore, which nominated Woodrow Wilson; he was a full delegate to the 1924 Democratic Convention (held in New York City’s Madison Square Garden), which saw the nomination of James C. Davis, who was defeated by Calvin Coolidge. (Interview with John Hampton Marshall by Julia Szabo, January 26, 2018.) Mack was in agreement with FDR on one point: both men supported Senator Elmer Thomas, Democrat of Oklahoma. Thomas was the man behind the creation of Medicine Park, where the Blakes had lived in the 1920s while Mack was reorganizing the bank in Lawton. Although he normally voted Republican, Mack recognized merit enough in Thomas to contribute to his election campaign. A shrewd businessman like Mack, Thomas had observed

that water was Lawton's scarcest commodity and, seeing an economic opportunity, opened Medicine Park, which featured a dam that supplied water to Lawton, 15 miles away. Mack likely knew Thomas from his days in Lawton, where the senator was renowned as the "Sage of Medicine Park" because he would often host gatherings at the resort. Elected to the United States Senate in 1926, Thomas was reelected in 1932, and actively supported Roosevelt and the New Deal. The Oklahoma senator's distinguished political career included proposing an amendment, known as the Thomas Amendment, to the Agricultural Adjustment Act, intended to help farmers financially by empowering the president to reduce the gold backing for dollars and to print bills backed by silver alone when cash became depressively tight. Thomas also served as chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs between 1935 and 1944. Roosevelt visited Oklahoma in 1938 and campaigned for Senator Thomas's reelection; Thomas won. ("Thomas, John William Elmer." Okhistory.org. April 29, 2019. <http://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=TH008> and Lott, David C. *Medicine Park: Oklahoma's First Resort* (Images of America). Mount Pleasant, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, pp. 43–78.) Later, in a letter to Tom Evans of Muskogee, Oklahoma, responding to Evans's request for assistance with a federal loan, Mack would describe his pull with the senator thus: "You must realize that I have a good many calls to write him letters for various people and unless I think I can be of assistance, I do not like to trouble him. You can believe me, that if you are still under the impression that he can help you in any way, and will suggest the kind of letter I should write Senator Thomas, I will be glad to do so, and I will guarantee that as a friend of mine, he will do his best to help you obtain the loan." (Letter from Mack Blake to Tom Evans, October 11, 1940, from Kirkpatrick Family Archive collection.) Apart from his freely expressed opinions, Mack was not very active in politics, although he was friendly with politicians on both sides of the aisle; since the 1920s, Mack had remained friends with another staunch Democrat, Martin E. Trapp, Oklahoma's third lieutenant governor and sixth governor.

15. The Teapot Dome Scandal erupted in April 1922, when *The Wall Street Journal* reported that President Harding's secretary of the interior, Albert Fall, had accepted bribes in exchange for providing oilmen Harry F. Sinclair (Mammoth Oil Corp.) and Edward L. Doheny (Pan-American Petroleum and Transport Co.) with leases to drill in parts of the Naval Reserves without open bidding. During congressional hearings in 1924, Fall took the fall: he was found guilty of conspiracy and bribery, and was jailed for one year—the first former Cabinet officer sentenced to prison as a result of misconduct

- in office. Doheny was acquitted on the charge of bribing Fall, and his corporation foreclosed on Fall's New Mexico home because of "unpaid loans" (the bribe of \$100,000 Doheny had paid Fall). Harry Sinclair was fined and served six months for contempt of court. ("Senate investigates the 'Teapot Dome' Scandal." Senate.gov. April 29, 2019. https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/minute/Senate_Investigates_the_Teapot_Dome_Scandal.htm and "Teapot Dome Scandal." Wikipedia.org. April 29, 2019. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teapot_Dome_scandal.)
16. Nichols, p. 68
 17. Later, Hollywood would develop a story about a family of bankers, the Baileys, who were so ethical, so upstanding, so committed to their community, that when hard times hit, without thinking twice, they sacrificed their own financial security to ensure that their customers would not suffer the hardship of bank failure. That premise was even more fantastical than the movie's other main plot element: an "angel second class" named Clarence, dispatched from Heaven. Clarence works to earn his wings by showing George Bailey, the head of Bailey Building & Loan, how dismal his hometown would look if he'd never been born and if the wicked banker, Mr. Potter, had prevailed in taking it over. Director-producer Frank Capra's 1946 movie, *It's a Wonderful Life*, was adapted from the story "The Greatest Gift," by Philip Van Doren Stern, who got the idea in 1938 (doubtless inspired, in part, by Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*) and started writing in 1939. *It's a Wonderful Life* was not a hit upon its release; reappraised in the decades since, it is now regarded as one of the great cinema classics, ranked by the American Film Institute as one of the 100 best American films ever made. In an interesting coincidence, the film's production company, which Capra co-founded, was called Liberty Films. ("It's a Wonderful Life." Tcm.com. April 29, 2019. <http://www.tcm.com/tcmdb/title/79566/It-s-a-Wonderful-Life/notes.html>.)
 18. Among Mack's colleagues on the board of directors who made similar sacrifices to save Liberty National were fellow banker P. A. (Phineas Allen) Janeway, chairman of the board of directors, the bank's executive manager, and an old acquaintance from Mangum; C. R. (Charles Ross) Anthony, founder (in 1922) of Anthony's department store; Virgil Browne, formerly a soda jerk in Houston and now owner of All-American Bottling, who also headed the local Coca-Cola bottling outfit; and K. R. (Kee R.) McKee, president of the Oklahoma Industrial Finance Corporation. ("Phineas Allen Janeway." *The Daily Oklahoman*. July 10, 1946. Newsok.com April 29, 2019 <http://archive.newsok.com/olive/apa/oklahoman/SharedView.Arti->

- cle.aspx?href=DOK%2F1946%2F07%2F10&id=Aro1401&sk=BD555260; "Anthony, Charles Ross: 1959." Oklahomahof.com. April 29, 2019. <https://oklahomahof.com/member-archives/a/anthony-charles-ross-1959>; "Browne, Virgila: 1961." Oklahomahof.com April 29, 2019. <https://oklahomahof.com/member-archives/b/browne-virgil-1961>; and "McKee Funeral Plans Await Family Return." *The Daily Oklahoman*. July 31, 1940. Newsok.com. <http://archive.newsok.com/olive/apa/oklahoman/SharedView.Article.aspx?href=DOK%2F1940%2F07%2F31&id=Aro0201&sk=CCDF47C6>. April 29, 2019.)
19. "Center Point (Howard County)." *Encyclopediaofarkansas.com*. April 29, 2019. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=7107>.
 20. Kitty's Arkansas Methodist heritage also influenced the management of her husband's health: in 1927, Mack wrote that the couple made frequent trips to Hot Springs, Arkansas, for 10 days, "on account of my health." (Letter from Mack Blake to Eleanor Blake, February 15, 1927, from the Kirkpatrick Family Archive collection.) The hot spring water of Hot Springs National Park, set aside as a federal reserve in 1832, was believed to possess medicinal properties, giving rise to "Bathhouse Row" ("Bathhouse Row." *Arkansas.com*. April 29, 2019. <https://www.arkansas.com/articles/bathhouse-row>) and the city's development as a spa town, which billed itself as "America's First Resort." ("Bathhouse Row." *Nps.gov*. April 29, 2019. https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/harrison/harrison2.htm.) The first Methodist hospital in the state began as the Methodist Sanitarium in Hot Springs in 1908. ("Methodists." *Encyclopediaofarkansas.net*. April 29, 2019. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=310>.) Famous Methodists include Hillary Clinton, George W. Bush, Stephen King, George Lucas, and Beyoncé Knowles-Carter. ("Lists of Methodists." *Wikipedia.org*. April 29, 2019. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Methodists.)
 21. Methodist Social Principles are the church's "prayerful and thoughtful attempt to speak to contemporary issues through a biblical and theological lens," seeking "to apply the Christian vision of righteousness to social, economic, and political issues." ("Advocating for Justice." *Umc.org*. April 29, 2019. <http://www.umc.org/how-we-serve/advocating-for-justice>.)
 22. "Logan County." *Okhistory.org*. April 29, 2019. <http://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=LO005>
 23. The Banking Crisis of 1933 was one of the biggest challenges faced by President Roosevelt when he took office. On Monday, March 6, 1933, the president suspended all transactions in the Federal Reserve as

well as other banks and financial institutions, until Friday, March 10. The four-day bank holiday was the opening step in the New Deal. The Emergency Banking Act, passed by Congress on March 9, gave the president the power to stabilize all insolvent banks, and provided him with the means to reopen sound banks without delay. (“Great Depression Bank Crisis.” U-s.history.com. April 29, 2019. <http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h1525.html>.) Roosevelt’s implicit 100 percent guarantee on March 12, 1933, convinced depositors to trust the reopened banks. (Siber, William L. “Why Did FDR’s Bank Holiday Succeed.” Federal Reserve Bank of New York Economic Policy Review. (July 2009). (pg. 19–30.) Newyorkfed.org. <https://www.newyorkfed.org/medialibrary/media/research/epr/09v15n1/0907silb.pdf>. Accessed April 29, 2019.) Displaying admirable resourcefulness during the Bank Holiday of 1933, Oklahoma’s private employers worked with civic leaders and banks to issue a local currency—scrip—that would substitute for United States currency and be “both within the law and accepted by the public. They did so not only in the absence of consistent guidance from the national government but in the face of open hostility from Governor William H. Murray.” (Gatch, Loren. “This Is Not United States Currency”: Oklahoma’s Emergency Scrip Issues During the Banking Crisis of 1933. *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. 82 (Summer 2004), p. 169. <http://sites.uco.edu/la/political-science/files/gatch/this-is-not-US-currency-optimized.pdf>.)

24. Interview with John Hampton Marshall by Julia Szabo, March 21, 2017.

6. Johnny, It Will Be Your Job

1. One notable casualty of the Great Depression was Kidd-Key College, formerly North Texas Female College. Kitty Blake’s presumptive alma mater was forced to close in 1935 after enrollments fell and the Methodist Church withdrew financial support. In 1937, the property was sold to the city of Sherman, Texas, and reinvented as the Sherman Municipal Grounds. The site subsequently became Lucy Kidd-Key Park, where visitors today may see two features of the original campus: a statue and a fountain. Nothing else remains. A Texas Historical Marker, placed in 1967, eloquently commemorates the cultural contributions of the college and its founder. (“Lucy Kidd-Key Park.” Ci.sherman.tx.us. April 29, 2019. <https://www.ci.sherman.tx.us/966/Lucy-Kidd-Key-Park>.)

2. Eleanor, with her keen interest in Eastern philosophy, was doubtless impressed by her father's mastery at balancing out the very different elements of fire (huo) and water (shui): first investing in oil (fuel for ignition) and then ice (frozen water). As for Mack, his new investment doubtless got him thinking back to his long-ago selling days in Amarillo, before refrigeration technology, when he was obliged to accept fly-infested biscuits and other heat-spoiled delicacies offered by well-meaning customers.
3. Born in poverty in 1888, Dale Carnegie changed his surname to Carnegie, rising to success and international fame as the entrepreneurial author, lecturer, and developer of courses in self-improvement, salesmanship, and corporate training. One of his core principles is that it is possible to change other people's behavior by changing one's behavior toward them. The self-starter's *How to Win Friends and Influence People* was an instant best-seller and remains a popular motivational book to this day. ("Dale Carnegie." Biography.com. April 29, 2019. [https://www.biography.com/writer/dale-carnegie.](https://www.biography.com/writer/dale-carnegie))
4. Much as he squirmed at being the giftee, Mack had no trouble expressing spontaneous generosity when the spirit moved him at Christmastime—or, indeed, any time throughout the year. In May of 1938 he dictated a letter to a (now defunct) producer of Louisiana sugarcane syrup, ordering gifts for his kinfolk-colleagues T. S. Hanna and Joseph F. Rumsey (son-in-law of Alice and J. D. Baker). (Correspondence from the Kirkpatrick Family Archive collection.) This sweeter-than-molasses delicacy, made by cooking cane juice in open kettles, is a beloved gourmet condiment in the South, just as maple syrup is in the Northeast.
5. Mack was impressed that his enterprising nephew Bud had diligently earned extra money as an undergraduate by waiting tables during the academic year at his fraternity, Sigma Chi, and securing summer employment. However, at one point during Bud's legal studies, Mack grew disappointed that Bud was not making good enough grades, and withdrew his financial assistance. Still, Bud and his brother Hugh continued to hold Uncle Mack in high regard. Upon graduation from law school, Bud secured a position as a crime investigator with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, then under the direction of J. Edgar Hoover; the bureau sent him to Marine Corps base in Quantico, Virginia, for advanced firearms training. According to *The Phoenix Gazette*, Bud "was one of the few men in the Department of Justice considered as good a shot as Machine Gun Kelly." ("Quanah Attorney Bud Marshall Recalls FBI Days During Depression." *Quanah Tribune-Chief*. July 1, 1976, pg. 8. [Newspaperarchive.com. https://newspaperarchive.com/quantico-tribune-chief-jul-01-1976-p-8/.](https://newspaperarchive.com/quantico-tribune-chief-jul-01-1976-p-8/))

- Accessed April 29, 2019.) George Kelly Barnes, a.k.a. Machine Gun Kelly, was one of Bud's criminal quarries, as were Pretty Boy Floyd and the gangsters involved in the Kansas City Massacre. Bud took part in a stakeout at an apartment building where Kelly was expected to appear, but the infamous gangster, wanted for kidnapping Oklahoma oilman Charles Urschel, never showed. Later, when asked by his nephew John whether he was scared during that stakeout, Bud replied, "Yes, Johnny boy, I was scared as hell. Who in their right mind would not be?" Mack appreciated Bud's no-nonsense approach in requesting a loan: "Whatever the outcome however I hope you won't think I am a damn fool and ingrate for having tried, for I want you to know it will have no bearing on my feeling towards you and what you have done for me in the way of favors in the past." (Letter from Bud Marshall to Mack Blake. December 2, 1936, Kirkpatrick Family Archive collection.) A woman ended Bud's career as a G-man—a term, incidentally, coined by Kelly himself when, according to FBI legend, at the tense moment of his capture in 1933, the gangster cried out, "Don't shoot, G-men!" ("A Byte Out of History." [Fbi.gov](https://archives.fbi.gov/archives/news/stories/2003/sepember/kelly092603). April 29, 2019. <https://archives.fbi.gov/archives/news/stories/2003/sepember/kelly092603>.) Bud's choice of fiancée, Ethel Sue Miller of Arkansas, refused to accept his proposal of marriage until he found a less dangerous line of work, saying she didn't want a husband who "ran around getting shot at." (Quannah Tribune-Chief, pg. 8.) Ethel finally said yes in 1938, when Bud was working in Dallas for the Works Progress Administration, the New Deal agency that provided thousands of jobs during the Great Depression (it was renamed Work Projects Administration in 1939). Later, Bud would spend many years in the oil and gas industry as a lease and royalty broker in Illinois. (Interview with John Hampton Marshall by Julia Szabo, January 26, 2018.)
6. Letter from Mack Blake to J. C. Marshall, February 3, 1936, from Kirkpatrick Family Archive collection. Mack was disappointed by what he perceived to be a lack of financial savvy in certain members of his kinfolk's younger generation. He characterized his niece Virginia Merritt, daughter of William and Lulabel Blake Merritt, as "thoroughly irresponsible" and "not competent to handle her own finances." (Letter from Mack Blake to William Merritt, December 31, 1937, from Kirkpatrick Family Archive collection.)
 7. The medication Mack's doctors prescribed could have been Digoxin, used frequently for the treatment of heart conditions. It was first derived from the foxglove plant (*Digitalis*) in 1930. (Cartwright, Anthony C. "The British Pharmacopoeia, 1864 to 2014: Medicines, International Standards, and the State." *History of Medicine in*

- Context. Routledge, 2016. pp. 182–83. Google Books. April 29, 2019. <https://books.google.com/books?id=gI21CwAAQBAJ>.) Foxglove leaves, fresh and dried, have a disagreeably bitter odor and taste. (“Foxglove.” Botanical.com. April 29, 2019. <https://www.botanical.com/botanical/mgmh/f/foxglo30.html>.)
8. Utilities executive, lawyer, lobbyist, activist, and humanitarian, Wendell Willkie was a man of many achievements. A “business man with a heart,” the dark horse went up against the hugely popular incumbent, FDR, in the 1940 presidential election, appealing to delegates at the Republican convention as the only interventionist. Willkie favored greater U.S. involvement in World War II to support Britain and other allies. Like Mack Blake, Willkie had switched his party affiliation from Democrat to Republican. At the 1940 Republican Convention, Indiana congressman Charles Halleck gave the nominating speech for Willkie on June 26, arguing that his recent (1939) conversion to the Republican Party was no reason not to nominate him. “Is the Republican Party a closed corporation?” Halleck asked. “Do you have to be born into it?” (Peters, Charles. *Five Days in Philadelphia: The Amazing “We Want Willkie” Convention of 1940 and How It Freed FDR to Save the Western World*. New York: Public Affairs, 2006, p. 94.) An unrepentant smoker, Willkie died of heart disease in 1944, aged 52.
 9. Built at the New York Naval Shipyard, the U.S.S. North Carolina was ordered in August 1937, laid down in October 1937, launched in June 1940, and commissioned in April 1941. (“History.” Battleshipnc.com. April 29, 2019. <http://www.battleshipnc.com/about-the-ship/history/>.) An American battleship hadn’t been built in two decades, and she was the first newly constructed ship to enter service during World War II. Rigged with the latest in shipbuilding technology, North Carolina received so much attention during her construction and sea trials that she won the nickname “Showboat” (inspired by the world-famous musical *Show Boat*, the classic of both stage and screen by Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein II, based on Edna Ferber’s best-selling novel of the same title). Declared a National Historic Landmark in 1986, she is now a museum ship and memorial kept at the seaport of Wilmington, North Carolina, on the Cape Fear River, and virtual visitors may explore her at www.battleshipnc.com.
 10. Thomas Samuel Hanna Sr. died at St. Anthony Hospital in Oklahoma City on January 31, 1941. Born on August 19, 1876, in Granbury, Texas, in Hood County, Mack’s cousin Tom showed entrepreneurial spirit early, working after school as a ribbon clerk and dreaming of one day owning his own store. After one year of study at AddRan College (Texas Christian University) in Thorp Spring, Texas, Tom, 18, went to

work at his uncle J. D. Baker's Granbury store in June 1894. Soon, Uncle J.D. put Tom in charge of his new dry-goods retail store at Henrietta, Texas, and by 1898, he was a partner in the firm of Baker & Hanna. This was followed by his co-founding, in 1906, of the wholesale and retail dry-goods house Baker, Hanna & Company in Quanah. When the firm moved to Oklahoma City and Mack came aboard as president in 1910, it was renamed Baker-Hanna & Blake, with Tom as vice president. Tom served as the company's president from 1919 until his death in 1941. Tom was also active in banking. In January of 1937, he was appointed director of the Oklahoma City Branch—Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. At the time of his death, the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce presented his widow, Dorothy Hanna, with a resolution that described Tom as “one who has done many things and accomplished much in the civic life of Oklahoma City, and who has assisted in establishing the high standard of leadership among the civic minded citizens of Oklahoma.... Although his invaluable services will be greatly missed, he will not have passed on without having achieved many things that are fundamentally most worthwhile in life and his community, for he bears the friendship of all who knew him.” A newspaper assessment of Tom Hanna's career stated that “he was here during the heyday of the city's growth and the contacts made by his team of salesmen helped to make Oklahoma City widely known as the wholesale and jobbing center it is today.” Tom's wife, Dorothy Clabaugh Hanna, died in 1964. Their son, T. S. Hanna Jr., attended the University of Wisconsin and worked for Douglas Aircraft in Tulsa, then joined the Baker-Hanna & Blake team in Oklahoma City, where he worked until the death of his father and the closing of the business. Divorced from his first bride, he was widowed by his second, Yvonne J. Hanna (née Duval), who died during the couple's honeymoon, when she fell from a window of New York City's Barbizon-Plaza Hotel on March 14, 1936. (Source: Associated Press, March 14, 1946.) Tom married for the last time in 1941. He and his third wife, Florence Kaye Keller Hanna (born on October 23, 1908 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania), returned to Tom's native Quanah in 1942. A dapper dresser and dog lover (with a Chow Chow named Toughy), Tom managed Baker-Hanna in Quanah, where he cut a dashing figure until the store closed its doors in 1954. He and Florence moved to Dallas, where Tom underwent treatment for cancer; he died in 1956. Tom senior, Tom junior, and Dorothy Hanna all are buried at Fairlawn Cemetery in Oklahoma City. Florence stayed in Dallas, then moved to San Diego, where she died on February 4, 1981. (“Maj. White's Rites Saturday in City Chapel.” *The Daily Oklahoman*. August 3, 1956. Newsok.com. April 29, 2019. <http://archive.newsok.com>)

com/olive/apa/oklahoman/SharedView.Article.aspx?

href=DOK%2F1956%2F08%2F03&id=Aro2000&sk=235E4D39; also family correspondence and reminiscences archived by Ann Hanna Dudley Marshall, granddaughter of T. S. Hanna Sr. and niece of T. S. Hanna Jr.)

11. Letter written by Mack Blake on behalf of Baker-Hanna & Blake Company, and addressed to Mr. F. W. Kennerly of Quanah, Texas, December 30, 1941 (Kirkpatrick Family Archive collection).
12. As manager of Quanah's Baker-Hanna store, T. S. Hanna Jr. joined retailers across the country in merchandising a mythical reindeer with an illuminated nose. Pride of place in the store's Christmas windows went to a two-foot-tall Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer figurine made of wood and papier-mâché, much to the delight of Quanah's children (among them John Marshall, who recalls those windows being "a big deal for little kids of that time"). Santa's ninth reindeer and sleigh guide, and an immortal icon of holiday folklore, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer sprang from the imagination of Robert May, an advertising copywriter at Chicago's Montgomery Ward department store. In early 1939, May was charged with the task of creating a "cheery" Christmas booklet for customers, and the famous poem about Rudolph was the happy result. Printed during the 1939 holiday season, the booklet was so beloved that 2.4 million copies were distributed. Wartime restrictions on paper use prevented the store from reissuing the booklet until 1946, when an additional 3.6 million copies were distributed to Montgomery Ward shoppers. In 1948, May's brother-in-law, songwriter Johnny Marks, set the poem to music; the catchy tune would be turned down by several vocalists (including Bing Crosby and Dinah Shore) before it was picked up by singing cowboy Gene Autry. His recording of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," released in 1949, would—like Rudolph himself—go down in history, outselling all other Christmas songs with the exception of "White Christmas." (Bloom, Nate. "Shining a Light on the Largely Untold Story of the Origins of Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer." December 20, 2011. interfaithfamily.com. April 29, 2019. https://www.interfaithfamily.com/arts_and_entertainment/popular_culture/Shining_a_Light_on_the_Largely_Untold_Story_of_the_Origins_of_Rudolph_the_Red-Nosed_Reindeer.) In 1949, T. S. Hanna gifted the Baker-Hanna Rudolph mannequin to his niece Ann, and it swiftly became a cherished centerpiece of her family's Christmas décor. "He had white antlers and always sat on a sparkly blue stand in front of my parents' living room fireplace, where our Christmas stockings were hung by the chimney with care," Ann says. Spending Christmas in 1973 with Ann's family during their courtship, John

immediately recognized the Rudolph figurine from the Baker-Hanna Christmas windows of his childhood: "I walked over to it, inspected it, and was amazed to see it there." (Interview with Ann and John Marshall by Julia Szabo, December 2018.)

13. Norman Vincent Peale, pastor of New York City's Marble Collegiate Church, started a radio program called *The Art of Living* in 1935; it lasted for 54 years. During the Depression, he teamed with James Cash Penney (founder of J. C. Penney & Co.), Arthur Godfrey (the radio personality), and Thomas J. Watson (president and founder of IBM) to form the first board of 40Plus, an organization that helps unemployed managers and executives. Peale was raised a Methodist and ordained as a Methodist minister, but changed his affiliation to the Reformed Church in America in 1932. (Vecsey, George. "Norman Vincent Peale, Preacher of Gospel Optimism, Dies at 95." *The New York Times*, December 26, 1993. <https://www.nytimes.com/1993/12/26/obituaries/norman-vincent-peale-preacher-of-gospel-optimism-dies-at-95.html?mtrref=undefined&gwh=9B2FE5FCCDA7403B42EFC9EE3F93E8B8&gwt=pay>.)
14. In a letter, Mack put this basic business philosophy another way: "I have been in the oil business for the past 18 years, and I have learned from experience that it does not pay for me to give a lease to anyone for the drilling of oil." However he worded it, this was the rule he played by without exception. (Kirkpatrick Family Archive collection.)
15. While a student at Stanford, Herbert Hoover had booked the great pianist Paderewski for a concert, intending that the proceeds from ticket sales would pay for his tuition. When ticket sales fell short, Paderewski generously donated the rest of the money needed for Hoover's tuition *and* performed the concert. President Hoover never forgot Paderewski's kindness, and for the rest of his life, as a private citizen, statesman, and humanitarian, he did all he could to aid the survival and well-being of Poland, especially its children. (Trei, Lisa. "Traveling Exhibit Showcases Herbert Hoover's Humanitarian Efforts in Poland." *Stanford News*. July 26, 2006. [Stanford.edu](https://news.stanford.edu/news/2006/july26/hoover-072606.html). April 29, 2019. <https://news.stanford.edu/news/2006/july26/hoover-072606.html>.) Hoover very likely urged his fellow Americans to buy Republic of Poland bonds in 1920. Coincidentally, Paderewski happens to be one of the musicians whose artistry was reproduced by the Blakes' Duo-Art player piano. The most common Polish bond, the 1920 issue "20 Year Republic of Poland 6% \$50 U.S. Dollar Gold Bond," came due in 1940. ("Everything You Want to Know about Republic of Poland 1920's and 1930's U.S. Dollar Gold Bonds." [Santafeworldcurrency.wordpress.com](https://santafeworldcurrency.wordpress.com/2016/08/03/everything-you-want-to-know-about-republic-of). August 3, 2016. <https://santafeworldcurrency.wordpress.com/2016/08/03/everything-you-want-to-know-about-republic-of>

- poland-1920s-and-1930s-u-s-dollar-gold-bonds. Accessed December 16, 2017.) The Polish bonds Mack invested in—denominations of \$500 and \$1,000—were issued in 1925 and had a 25-year term, coming due in 1950. (Letter to M. B. Blake from Harris, Upham & Co. of Kansas City, Missouri, July 16, 1935, notifying him that his Republic of Poland 8% Bond bearing the number 24364 was called for payment on July 1. Kirkpatrick Family Archive collection.)
16. Although quick to let vendors know that Mrs. Chedester had a K3 credit rating (meaning adequate ability to meet short-term obligations), Mack was proud not to have any credit rating himself. As his credit references, Mack simply gave contact names at the banks in Oklahoma and New York with which he did business. He never abandoned the cash-and-carry ethic of his early mercantile days. In a 1940 letter to the United Sash & Door Company of Wichita, Mack explained, “The reason I have not rated in Dun & Bradstreet’s is that I seldom ask for any credit, generally paying cash for what I buy.” (Correspondence from the Kirkpatrick Family Archive collection.)
 17. The identity of the artist who painted the portraits of Charles and Mary Ann Blake and their son Joel is unknown. The paintings resided with Alice Upshaw Blake Baker until Alice bequeathed the portrait of Mary Ann to Eleanor Blake Kirkpatrick, with the condition that it never leave the family. In 1942, Eleanor Kirkpatrick commissioned an artist (whose name is also unknown) to create a miniature copy of Mary Ann’s portrait; framed by a wooden oval, this artwork was given to nine-year-old Joan Kirkpatrick in 1942, to commemorate her great-aunt Alice Baker’s death. The original portrait of Mary Ann with baby Samuel resides today in the art collection of Christian Keese, third great-grandson of Mary Ann and Charles. The portraits of Charles and Joel remain with the Rumsey family.
 18. “Recollections of Alice Upshaw Blake Baker.”
 19. “What Aunt Alice said was law to me,” Eleanor Kirkpatrick said. “She was to me culture personified.” (Reminiscence of Eleanor Blake Kirkpatrick.) Alice Upshaw Blake Baker (1855–1942), youngest daughter of Charles and Mary Ann Blake—and object of Eleanor’s lifelong admiration—was a formidable presence throughout her long, eventful life. Attired strictly in black, not unlike Queen Victoria, she had a distinctly regal bearing, and retained her beauty well into older age. Some perceived Alice as austere and humorless, but her gravitas was the result of a heart broken many times over. Alice wore perpetual mourning to commemorate the loss of her closest family members: her husband, J. D. Baker (March 23, 1848–April 2, 1899), and three of their four children: Alice Ethel Baker (1881–1894), Charles Robert Baker (born in 1878; his mysterious disappearance in 1908 was never

solved despite the family's diligent efforts to locate him), and Joel Harris "Harry" Baker (1885–1924). Her son Joel's death, on August 12, 1924, of appendicitis, hit Alice particularly hard, as it brought up the memory of another untimely death: that of his namesake, Alice's beloved brother, Joel Foster Blake. Neither son had married, so they left Alice no grandchildren. Her husband J.D.'s death in 1899, at age 51, had necessitated Alice's increased involvement in the Baker-Hanna & Blake enterprise, and she did her part to ensure that the business would continue to thrive. The entire family was impressed with how Alice discharged her executive duties, and her commercial acumen was passed down to all of her business-savvy descendants. Her family's *de facto* historian and archivist, Alice safeguarded, among other treasured artifacts, the portraits of her parents and brother, a wooden box carved by her father, a cork-stoppered bottle of the quinine her mother had smuggled to the ailing Confederate troops, and a swatch of the petticoat whose hem concealed the contraband quinine on those missions of mercy. (The latter two items were, sadly, discarded by accident many years after Alice's death, but the paintings and wooden box remain safely in the family's possession.) Profoundly proud of her parents and brother Joel, Alice ensured their immortality with detailed written descriptions of the family's travels and travails—accounts written with such exquisite clarity of observation that it's safe to say the completion of this book would not have been possible without her literary efforts. Her parents' legacy—especially their pioneer spirit of adventure and courageous endurance—enabled Alice to survive the many hardships she encountered. Alice adored her daughter, Mary Baker Rumsey, and Mary's sons, Joseph Francke "Joe" Rumsey (1920

–2010) and Charles Baker Rumsey (1926–1990), who called their grandmother "Babba" (although Joe later admitted to being terrified of her). In January 1934, at age 78, Babba arranged a once-in-a-lifetime family sea voyage around the world. She, Mary, and young Joe set sail together from San Francisco, accompanied by Dolly Hanna and Dolly's daughter Margaret. Their comprehensive itinerary included stops in Honolulu, Yokohama, Kamakura, Nikko, Tokyo, Kyoto, Kobe, Shanghai, Manila, Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Ceylon, Bombay, Suez, Cairo, Alexandria, Naples, Rome, Florence, Venice, Milan, Interlaken, Lucerne, Paris, Versailles, Nice, Monte Carlo, and Marseilles. The nearly four-month-long odyssey ended in New York in May. A dazzling trip the travelers never forgot, it would be described in detail to their children and grandchildren. Alice died on April 13, 1942, two weeks shy of her 87th birthday. She is buried in City Greenwood Cemetery, Weatherford, Texas, alongside her husband

and their children, Alice, Charles, and Harry. The mansion in Weatherford that was the Baker family home still stands, although it is no longer in the family. It would later be the birthplace of another formidable Texan: the acclaimed stage actress Mary Martin (December 1, 1913–November 3, 1990), multiple Tony Award winner and 1989 Kennedy Center Honoree. (Various interviews conducted by Julia Szabo and information from the Kirkpatrick Family Archive collection.)

20. “She was to me culture personified.” Eleanor’s assessment of her great-aunt Alice applies equally well to Alice’s daughter, Mary Brockenbrough Baker Rumsey (born December 26, 1891), whose creativity and radiant personality were cherished by her family and friends. “She was one of the most artistic people I’ve ever met,” says Mary’s grandson Mark Rumsey. A gifted musician, Mary studied at conservatories in Paris and New York; it was her dream to become a concert pianist. Instead, the piano would play second fiddle to the cultivation of her family. Mary inherited her mother’s commercial acumen, serving on the Baker-Hanna & Blake board of directors for many years. She also inherited Alice’s lifelong interest in genealogy, as well as her deep pride in the family’s Virginia heritage, and was elected to the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America (she, Margaret Hanna, and Eleanor Kirkpatrick all qualified for membership through their great-grandmother Mary Ann Upshaw’s ancestral line). Mary served on the board supervising the restoration of Gunston Hall, an NSCDA National Museum Property; the Georgian-style mansion, located in Lorton, Virginia, was the home of Founding Father George Mason, principal author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights. Mary’s own home was a warm and inviting setting for many memorable social gatherings—including the annual Baker, Hanna & Blake Christmas dinner—always with an elegant, creative overtone, a prominent feature of the décor being her treasured Steinway concert grand piano. “She had an incredible outlook on everything,” Mark observes. It was an outlook broad enough to permit Mary, a proud daughter of the Confederacy, to remain partisan-blind in love and take a Yankee for a husband: Joseph Francke Rumsey II, of Chicago (October 23, 1888–January 24, 1946), whose family had served proudly in the Union Army. “Every morning at the breakfast table, they relived the Civil War,” Mark notes with a laugh. Their skirmishes were playful, however, for Mary hadn’t an ounce of hostility toward anyone. That warm, upbeat personality was a magnet for some of the world’s most interesting people. In 1929, Mary hosted a tea for the famed aviator Amelia Earhart. Later, she befriended a fellow musician: the internationally acclaimed piano legend Van Cliburn, who

performed in 1968 with the Oklahoma City Symphony Orchestra (where Mary was a board member). “One of my favorite memories was seeing them play together on her Steinway at home,” Mark recalls. Those in attendance at Mary’s 90th-birthday party, held at the Oklahoma Golf and Country Club, were delighted when the guest of honor sat down at the piano to play. Not long after that performance, she was involved in an automobile accident; Mary’s arm was broken, and she was no longer able to play her beloved instrument. It was a sad reminder of an earlier trauma, yet her positive attitude—practiced for a lifetime—never deserted her. “While traveling in Europe in 1925, Mary had sustained serious, disfiguring injuries in an automobile accident,” Mark explains. At first, the experience threatened to dim her worldview, but Mary rallied, making up her mind that, in Mark’s words, “she was going to live instead of mope and die.... And from that moment forward, she looked at her life, and everything in it, as a wonderful gift.” The most treasured of those gifts were her grandchildren, Mary, Mark, and Joe (Joseph F. Rumsey, IV, February 26, 1953–May 24, 1982). “Our dad [Mary’s son Joseph F. “Joe” Rumsey III] would always say, ‘You’re looking at them through rose-colored glasses,’” Mark says. “But she thought we were the most wonderful things in the world.” The feeling was absolutely mutual: “She was my hero,” says Mary Rumsey Foley, Mark’s sister, of their treasured grandmother. “I lived and died for her—I only wish I’d asked her more questions!” Adds Mark, “She was just incredible: a blessing to us, Heaven-sent.” Mary Baker Rumsey remained an intrepid and curious traveler well into her 70s, escorting her teenage grandchildren on various getaways: to Europe, Montreal (for Expo ’67), and New Mexico (location of the cabin built for Mary’s mother, Alice, in the 1930s), among other destinations. Mary died December 4, 1983, aged 91. She is buried in Fairlawn Cemetery, Oklahoma City, alongside her husband and their son, Joseph Francke “Joe” Rumsey III (July 13, 1920–August 13, 2010), who established the Mary Baker Rumsey Memorial Garden for the Junior League of Oklahoma City. Mary was the league’s first president, in 1927. Today, the Mary Baker Rumsey Lifetime Commitment Award is presented by the Junior League of Oklahoma City each year in honor of Mary’s lifetime of service and her belief that volunteers have a positive impact on their community. Joe funded this award to honor his mother through the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. The Mary Baker Rumsey Lifetime Commitment Award was conferred on Eleanor Blake Kirkpatrick in 1992. (Various interviews conducted by Julia Szabo; Kirkpatrick Family Archive collection; and “Mary Baker Rumsey Award Recipi-

- ents. Jiloc.org. April 29, 2019. [https://www.jiloc.org/mary-baker-rumsey-award-recipients/.](https://www.jiloc.org/mary-baker-rumsey-award-recipients/))
21. Eleanor's cousin and close friend Margaret Elizabeth Hanna Dudley served as president of the Junior League of Oklahoma City in 1941. Born January 5, 1913, she was the daughter of Thomas Samuel and Dorothy Clabaugh (Dolly) Hanna, sister of T. S. Hanna Jr. and granddaughter of Lucy Roane Blake. Margaret inherited her mother's strong sense of style, expressing herself with clothing and accessories (especially hats) throughout her life as one of Oklahoma's best-dressed. At age 12, Margaret contracted rheumatic fever, an inflammatory disease that can develop from strep throat or scarlet fever. To help Margaret recuperate, her mother, Dolly, escorted her to the famed Battle Creek Sanitarium in Michigan (founded by Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, who invented Kellogg's Corn Flakes with his brother). For years before and after, the Hannas summered at a beach resort in South Haven, Michigan, with Eleanor and Kitty occasionally joining them for the trip. Margaret and her mother also traveled often to California, enjoying the beach and staying at the Hotel del Coronado. Connoisseurs of fashion and jewelry, Margaret and her mother were happy to shop for pearls at the source—Mikimoto of Japan—when the opportunity arose, i.e., on the 1934 Baker-Hanna trip around the world they took with Aunt Alice, Mary Rumsey, and Mary's son Joe. Margaret came home with many other wearable souvenirs from that trip, including several new trinkets to add to her collection of charm bracelets. Each Hanna also acquired a splendid star sapphire (later made into rings in Oklahoma City). On their stop in Hong Kong, the Hannas ordered chic clothing from one of the custom tailors for which that city is renowned. As Chow Chow fanciers—Dolly and her son T. S. Hanna Jr. loved this noble, native Chinese dog, and each had one—the Hannas were enchanted by the Foo dogs they saw on the temples and palaces: stone likenesses of their beloved breed. While in Paris, they shopped for fragrance at Guerlain, master parfumeur and maker of Margaret's signature scent, Shalimar. Never suffering through an awkward phase as so many do, Margaret was always a looker, even as a child and adolescent; as a young woman, she blossomed into a striking beauty. She pursued a career as a model and actress, moving to New York City to attend the Finch School on East 78th Street, known for a faculty comprised of actors, fashion designers, poets, musicians, and artists. (The school later became Finch College, which, before closing in 1975, was the alma mater of, among others, John F. Kennedy's sister Kathleen Cavendish, Arlene Francis, Suzanne Pleshette, Tricia Nixon Cox, and Grace Slick.) Returning to Oklahoma City, Margaret enrolled at the University of

Oklahoma, joining the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority, like her cousin Eleanor before her. Joan Kirkpatrick was a flower girl at the wedding of Margaret and John Dudley on June 28, 1941. During the war, in addition to her work with the Junior League, Margaret also volunteered for the Red Cross, folding sterile bandages in Washington, D.C., where her attorney husband, John, served with the Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG Corps, the military's legal branch, concerned with military justice and military law). Later, Margaret would serve on the board of the Beaux Arts Ball; she was elected chairman of the ball in 1955. Margaret inherited hosting duties for the Baker-Hanna & Blake Thanksgiving dinners, and continued her mother's tradition of creating a stunning centerpiece of seasonal vegetables. At age 47, Margaret's childhood rheumatic fever came back to trouble her when the valves of her heart started to weaken. She underwent cardiac-valve-replacement surgery at Johns Hopkins, where her procedure was performed by the hospital's famed chief of surgery, Dr. Alfred Blalock. The operation was a success, and the patient enjoyed renewed health until early 1987, when her heart began to fail. Now 74, she bravely opted to undergo a second valve replacement on February 16, 1987, at St. Anthony Hospital. Her operation's chance of success was 85 percent, and Margaret was confident in the skills of Dr. Allen Greer, one of Oklahoma City's early leading heart surgeons, assisted by the now famous Dr. Nazih Zuhdi (the cardiovascular surgery team had made history in 1985 by achieving Oklahoma's first heart transplant). Sadly, despite the odds being in her favor, Margaret died on the operating table. She is buried in the Dudley family plot at Memorial Park Cemetery, just north of Oklahoma City. Ann was very touched when Eleanor helped her to write her mother's obituary, published in *The Daily Oklahoman*. (Source: Interview with Ann Hanna Dudley Marshall, the Dudleys' daughter, who herself volunteered with the Junior League of Oklahoma City, serving on its executive committee, and was also elected to the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America. The fondness for Chinese dogs also continues with Ann, who recalls how, as a baby, her grandmother's Chow Chow, Ouija, helped Ann learn to walk by letting her grab hold of him to pull herself up.)

22. Letter from Mack Blake to Jess Gully, January 2, 1945 (Kirkpatrick Family Archive collection).
23. "Reminiscences of Eleanor Blake Kirkpatrick."
24. Equilibrium is a component of the body's vestibular system, which provides sensory input to the cerebellum (which in turn coordinates and regulates posture, movement, and balance) and to the brain stem, which integrates and sorts sensory information. ("The Human

- Balance System.” Vestibular.org. April 29, 2019. <http://vestibular.org/understanding-vestibular-disorder/human-balance-system>.)
25. Letter from Mack Blake to Jess Gully, January 15, 1945 (Kirkpatrick Family Archive collection).
 26. Letter from Mack Blake to Mr. B. H. “Jim” Squires, February 7, 1945 (Kirkpatrick Family Archive collection).
 27. “She was witty, stylish, understated, and courageous”: So begins Joan Elson Kirkpatrick’s obituary. Like many children of Navy officers, the only child of Eleanor and John Kirkpatrick was very well-traveled from an early age. Born in Long Beach, California, on August 7, 1933, Joan attended nursery school in Boston, followed by schools in Tulsa, Oklahoma City, and Brooklyn, New York—all before her eighth birthday, which was celebrated by her “Moms” and “Dads” (as she dubbed them) aboard the U.S.S. North Carolina, with a cake and a rendition of “Happy Birthday” by the Navy band. Like her beloved grandfather Mack, Joan briefly attended a New York City public school (P.S. 101 in Forest Hills, Queens). Later in 1941, she and her mother settled in Oklahoma City, moving in with Mack and Kitty; Joan attended Wilson Elementary School. Joan and Mack were photographed playing cards together for *The Oklahoman*; the image was published on January 17, 1943, as part of an article describing grandparents’ wartime role in their grandkids’ lives. Mack was delighted to help raise his granddaughter, who would always credit him with teaching her the value of thrift. He was particularly proud when Joan, a somewhat reserved child, overcame her shyness by gamely completing a course in public speaking. Mack enjoyed reading to Joan in the evening. Whether or not *Little Lord Fauntleroy* was on the reading list is unknown, but Joan followed Eleanor’s example in helping others. Doing her part for the war effort, she gladly assisted her mother with volunteer work for the Food Rationing Board. Their typical activities would have included distributing ration stamp books and collecting signatures on forms stating how much sugar was present in the household. Thanks in part to the efforts of dedicated volunteers, on May 19, 1942, state rationing administrator Bert McDonel reported that Oklahoma led the nation in registering almost 94 percent of its total population. (“Rationing.” *Okhistory.org*. April 29, 2019. <http://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=RAo16>.) With her granddad’s help, young Joan even purchased war bonds. From childhood on, she proved to be an accomplished artist and sculptor, and creating art—notably, portraits of beloved animal companions—was a pastime Joan always enjoyed. She graduated from Classen High School in 1950, then began her college career at Mount Vernon Junior College in Washington, D.C. Following a

tradition among the Blake and Hanna women, she joined the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. Joan continued her studies at Colorado College and graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1954 with a degree in English. Although it wasn't her major, art sustained her creative spirit, and that year, Joan traveled to New Orleans to paint murals at H. Sophie Newcomb Memorial College at Tulane University. (Established in 1834, it was the first coordinate women's college within a United States university, and renowned for the excellence of its art department; sadly, the college would close after sustaining damage during Hurricane Katrina in 2005.) Joan took classes at the Weaver Real Estate School (part of Blackwood Business College, where, 25 years earlier, Eleanor had taken a secretarial course in preparation for lending Mack office assistance). After passing her examination and earning her real estate license, Joan worked for Karnes Real Estate in Oklahoma. She dedicated substantial time to various charitable endeavors, including the Junior League—once again, continuing a tradition proudly upheld by the Baker, Hanna, and Blake women—and the Women's Committee of the Oklahoma City Symphony Orchestra. Kitty Blake did not live to see her beloved granddaughter wed; Eleanor's mother died on June 12, 1959, aged 73. The following year, Joan married real estate broker Konrad Payton Kent Keesee (1934–2017) on May 10, 1960, at her parents' home at 1001 West Wilshire Boulevard in Nichols Hills, Oklahoma. The couple's son Christian was born in December 1961. Joan and her husband separated, yet remained on such good terms that Margaret Hanna Dudley and Mary Baker Rumsey found it easy to continue extending their warm hospitality to Kon, even after the divorce was finalized in 1963. By the time her son reached the age of 12, in 1973, Joan had re-dedicated herself to philanthropic work, beginning by volunteering twice weekly at Deaconess Hospital. In 1974, she was elected to the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, like her mother (and cousins Margaret Hanna Dudley and Mary Baker Rumsey) before her; Joan became NSCDA member #8736. By 1976, when Joan became a member of the board at the Kirkpatrick Foundation, she had served 500 volunteer hours. But she was just getting started: Joan would serve many hundreds more, always with a focus on funding medical research (both veterinary and human), environmental 501(C)3 agencies, and the arts. She subsequently served on the boards of the Oklahoma Orthopedic and Arthritis Foundation (which owned St. Anthony's Bone and Joint Hospital in Oklahoma City), the Kirkpatrick Family Fund, the Oklahoma Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, Oklahoma City Art Museum (where she was proud to be part of the Collections Management Committee, a committee her mother

had served on since the museum's founding), Free to Live Animal Sanctuary, and the Kirkpatrick Foundation, where she tirelessly led numerous animal-welfare initiatives and helped to donate the Kirkpatrick Foundation art collection to the Oklahoma City Art Museum. Diagnosed with leukemia in 2007, she was obliged to reduce the scale of her philanthropic activities, and took great comfort from the beloved cat companions who shared her elegant home. In 2006, the Joan Kirkpatrick Animal Health and Welfare Complex was dedicated at the Oklahoma City Zoo, in recognition of her many efforts on behalf of the Oklahoma Zoological Society. In 2008, a gift from the Kirkpatrick Family Fund created the Joan Kirkpatrick Chair in Small Animal Internal Veterinary Medicine at Oklahoma State University's Center for Veterinary Health Sciences. Joan died at Deaconess Hospital on August 4, 2009, three days before her 76th birthday. She is buried in the family plot at Fairlawn Cemetery in Oklahoma City.

28. The son of Mack's sister Rhena and his business partner Jesse Gully, Philip Diggs Gully was very close to his cousin Eleanor from early childhood on. Born in Quanah on November 3, 1903, educated in Oklahoma City, and prepped at Exeter, Phil graduated in 1926 from Princeton University (where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa), then completed postgraduate studies at the University of Oklahoma. Beginning in 1935, Phil worked as an independent geologist in the South Texas area, and was a member of the Corpus Christi Geological Society, the South Texas Geological Society, and the Abilene Geological Society. His 1936 marriage to Zella Mae Rees produced a son, Philip Diggs Gully Jr., and two daughters, Ann Frances Gully Crisp and Jane Gully West. Phil could be counted on to lend a sympathetic ear to his Uncle Mack's anti-FDR rants. In a letter dated April 24, 1944, Phil opined: "Bet you a good hat that if the Republicans nominate Dewey and the Democrats Roosevelt, we will have another four years of the present mis-administration." This must have pleased Mack, for on November 21, 1945, Phil wrote this letter acknowledging a gift from his uncle: "The check for a hat was very, very much appreciated. I have needed one badly, but a good hat has been a rather rare item, and not at all easy to find. I intend to wait and look around until I find one that suits me down to the ground. I have always liked a Cavanagh edge, but they were unobtainable during the war. Perhaps they will be releasing a few soon." Phil died in Corpus Christi, where he had lived since 1959, on October 31, 1975. He is buried in Saint Joseph Catholic Cemetery, Beeville, Texas. ("Philip Diggs Gully '26." Princeton Alumni Weekly, Volume 76, 1975. Google Books. April 29, 2019. <https://books.google.com/books?id=-RVbAAAAYAAJ>.)

29. Earlier, in December 1943, Mack had schemed to escape different, yet equally uncomfortable, weather conditions. He described “the severe winter here in Oklahoma City” and his plan to travel with Kitty “to the [Rio Grande] Valley, possibly McAllen or Edinburg, Texas,” where temperatures average in the mid-70s. (“Climate Washington—District of Columbia.” Usclimatedata.com. April 29, 2019. <https://usclimatedata.com>.) Then, too, Mack invited the Gullys to join the Blakes for the trip. (Source: Letter from Mack Blake to Jess Gully, December 16, 1943, Kirkpatrick Family Archive collection.)

Untitled

1. Dombhart, John Martin. *History of Walker County: Its Towns and Its People*. Thornton, Arkansas: Cayce Publishing Company, 1937. pp. 123–24.
2. According to the Bossier Parish Library Historical Center and its curator of collections, Marisa Diedrich Richardson, Lambert W. Baker and his son Percy were both Republican advocates of Reconstructionist policies in Louisiana. Just after the Civil War in 1868, the murder of as many as 200 African-American citizens of Bossier Parish occurred as a means of preventing their political inclusion. Baker himself described the massacre as “the most thoroughly wanton, unjustifiable, and in every respect uncalled-for slaughter of innocent and unoffending people, solely on account of their color and political sentiments, that ever occurred among civilized people.” Baker also reported threats to him and his son by a collaborative effort between the state government and Ku Klux Klan members represented as the “White League” committee, which may have led ultimately to his removal as a judge. (“Bossier Bios: Lambert W. Baker.” Bossier Parish Libraries History Center, June 2, 2015. <http://bpl-hc.blogspot.com/2015/06/bossier-bios-lamber-w-baker.html>. Accessed July 2, 2019.)
3. Southern Publishing Company. *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwest Louisiana Comprising a Large Fund of Biography of Actual Residents, and an Interesting Historical Sketch of Thirteen Counties*. Nashville and Chicago: The Southern Publishing Company, 1890. p. 692.
4. *Ibid.*, p. 692.
5. *Ibid.*, p. 693.
6. Marion’s success was so significant that, in 1822, Muckle Ridge in Alabama was renamed Marion after the Swamp Fox; twenty years later it would also become home to Marion Military Institute (1842), which Mack Blake’s son-in-law John E. Kirkpatrick would later attend

- before beginning his career at the United States Naval Academy. ("About Marion." *Judson College*. February 13, 2019. https://web.archive.org/web/20120425231646/http://admissions.judson.edu/parents_about_marion.p
7. Ibid.
 8. According to *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwest Louisiana*, the siblings included the names "William; John; James" and "Sarah; Elizabeth; Jane; Susan; and Jennie," but these individuals are not entirely corroborated; further research will be needed to attest (p. 693).
 9. According to the Bossier Parish Library Historical Center, there is a great deal of evidence that reflects Judge Baker and his son Percy as 19th-century human-rights advocates for those black individuals living in and around the Bossier Parish. For example, the tragic murder of reportedly 200 African Americans mentioned in the previous note (2). Throughout his life, Baker found himself an enemy of organized "White League" committees and Ku Klux Klan members. A less than charitable newspaper decried Baker and his son as the only two whites in the region to have voted in favor of a state constitution which recognized the black vote. ("Bossier Bios: Lambert W. Baker.")
 10. Ted O. Brooke is associated with the Georgia Historical Society and continues to supplement his Upshaw data. Upon notice of this Blake work, Ted forwarded his enormous family-tree material and offered any guidance through the research to understand his conclusions. (Brooke, Ted. "Some Descendants of Jeremiah Upshaw & Cordelia Waring." *The Upshaw Family Genealogy Page*. April 2018. <http://www.upshaw.org/familytree//jeremiah.html> and <http://www.upshaw.org/familytree//ufjfiles/UpshawJeremiah.pdf>. Accessed July 2, 2019.)
 11. Jackson, Sally. *Register of Kentucky State Historical Society*, Vol. 4, No. 11 (May 1906), pp. 53–55.
 12. Brooke, p. 12.
 13. Mason, Polly Cary. *Records of Colonial Gloucester County, Virginia. Volumes I and II: A Collection of Abstracts from Original Documents Concerning the Lands and People of Colonial Gloucester County*. Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2009. p. 7.
 14. Brooke notes that "several Upshaw researchers believe that Cordelia's maiden name may have been 'Waring,' although this it totally unsubstantiated as far as I know." As for "Martin," he says that a "Cordelia Martin (Widdo)" is listed in some documentation from King & Queen County, Virginia, dated 1704 [Smith, Annie Laurie Wright. *The Quit Rents of Virginia, 1704*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1975. p. 59]. Also, the will of William Upshaw mentioned "Cordelia

Martin” as “mother,” indicating that she was being referenced by her secondary marital name [Sweeny, Lenora Higginbotham. “The Upshaw Family of Essex,” *William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine*, Volume 18, Number 1, January 1938, p. 68]. As Brooke notes, “This indicates that his [William’s] mother ‘Cordelia’ had been widowed by Jeremiah Upshaw [and] had remarried to (given name unknown) Martin, and also widowed by him, all prior to 1704 when she was named as ‘Cordelia Martin’ in the Quit Rent Roll for King & Queen County” (Brooke, p. 3).

15. The Virginia Humanities provides insight into a “parish,” noting its civil and religious significance within the then Virginia colony. “[T]he parish was the layer of government closest to the people, and for many it probably had a greater day-to-day impact on their lives than the county or colony-wide government,” notes a historian writing for *Encyclopedia Virginia*, a benefit provided by the Virginia Humanities. It is added that “parish vestries that developed in Virginia, like their English counterparts, engaged in a variety of civil and religious functions because the colonial church was not merely a religious institution but also the largest and most effective social welfare agency of the period.” Thus, Upshaw’s role within the vestry and the seemingly nominal title of “churchwarden” would be the equivalent today of holding an upper status within a modern state government. His participation garnered him a reputation within the community itself, and his proximity of holding such a position as it relates to Virginia’s young colony in general—and Gloucester County in particular, as it is believed to have been founded in 1651—meant the Upshaws were prominent in an America still a hundred years shy of declaring its independence. (Bond, Edward L. “The Parish in Colonial Virginia.” *Encyclopedia Virginia*. Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, 14 Nov. 2016. https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Parish_in_Colonial_Virginia_The. 3 Jul. 2019.)
16. Mason, Polly Cary, p. 21. Brooke also speculates in his text that William’s age, according to the land purchase year of 1697, meant William was at least 21 years old and, therefore, able to own property. This allows for a supposed date of birth of 1676 as well.
17. According to *The Vestry Book of Petsworth Parish*, “Mr. Wm Upshaw” would be joined “Wm Roan” to take care of the sixth precinct following the care orders pronounced by the Gloucester Court. Chamberlayne, Churchill Gibson. *The Vestry Book of Petsworth Parish, Gloucester County, Virginia*. Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, © 2009, p. III.
18. Sweeny Higginbotham, Lenora, “The Upshaw Family of Essex,” *William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine*, January 1938.

p. 80.

19. Sweeny, 81.
20. *Ibid.* As a signatory to the Articles of the Westmoreland Association, which opposed the Stamp Act, Upshaw aligned himself with Richard Henry Lee, who made the motion in the second Continental Congress that called for the colonies' independence from Great Britain. Later, in 1774, Upshaw would join with other Essex County leaders to help "in raising of provisions for the poor of Boston who now suffer by the blocking up of their port" by the British.
21. Warner, Charles W. H. "Independence and the Essex County Court." Essex County Historical Society and Essex County Bicentennial Commission. Volume 9, November 1975.
22. One genealogical journey begins with Robert Roane of Chaldon, a village in Surrey, England, and a little over 15 miles south of London. Robert died at some point before May 5, 1676 ("Roane Family." *William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine*, Volume 18, Number 3 (January 1910), p. 194). Among his children were Charles ("Virginia Gleanings in England." *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Volume 16, Number 1 (July 1908), p. 68), whose son Alexander would marry a "Mary Hipkins" (Christ Church Parish (Middlesex County, Virginia), editor with National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Virginia. *The Parish Register of Christ Church, Middlesex County, VA from 1653-1812*. Genealogical Publishing Company, 1975, p. 169.). The name "Hipkins" is recurrent within the Upshaw and Roane lineages in many areas. William and Susannah Upshaw's daughter Cordelia married a "Thomas Hipkins" while her half-sister Margaret would marry "Samuel Hipkins." Mary Ann Hipkins, a daughter from Samuel and Margaret's marriage, would marry Thomas Roane, the first son of William and Sarah Upshaw Roane. Charles, sometimes referred to as "the Immigrant," also had a son named William, who is said to have married a "Sarah Upshur," a name which later texts would presume to be a version of "Upshaw" (Tyler, Lyon G., Editor. "Roane Family," *William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine*, Volume 18. William and Mary College: Richmond, Virginia, p. 258.). The article notes "In line 20 from top of page 196 'Sarah Upshur' should be Sarah Upshaw ("Roane Family," p. 258), though others have qualified this claim. Ted O. Brooke, in his extensive "Some Descendants of Jeremiah Upshaw" and whose credentials include editing the Upshaw family journal over several years, went to great lengths to dispel an occasional family legend that all of the Upshaw family originated from two brothers—Abel and Arthur. His research connected surnames spelled "Upshur," "Upshott," Upcher," and, of course,

- “Upshaw.” It would seem the delineation of “Upshur” to “Upshaw” would yield to this legend, even indirectly, and the etymology makes an allowance for its continuance. However, early documents discussed here reveal “Upshaw” was widely used, making the Sarah described less fact than supposition.) Nevertheless, following this particular genealogy leads to the union of William Roane and Sarah Upshaw/Upshur (Brooke, p. 1-3).
23. In the Branch Historical Papers, collected by the Randolph-Macon College, “the Roanes are of pure Scotch origin.” Dodd, William D., Ph.D. “Branch Historical Papers,” Volume II, Number 1, June 1905. Published by Vaughan, Department of History, Randolph-Macon College, p. 5.
 24. Genealogy researcher Brian Sheffey has attempted to apply not only traditional paper-trail research but also newer investigative tools, including DNA research, to map both an English and a Scottish path among the Roanes in America. Sheffey allows for the English Roane family’s immigration, and he concedes that marriages between families of Scottish origin and English origin were not uncommon, but he is able to note Archibald Roane’s living in Ireland at some point, which diverges significantly from the story of Charles and Robert Roane and their English origins. (Sheffey, Brian. “The One Where I Give Sir Archibald Roane a Demotion.” Genealogyadvetnures.net. March 8, 2015. <https://genealogyadventures.wordpress.com/2015/03/08/the-one-where-i-give-sir-archibald-roane-a-demotion/>. Accessed July 2, 2019.)
 25. Ibid.
 26. The Branch Historical Papers suggest that “after serving with distinction under William III, in the civil wars of his time, [Archibald Roane] removed to Ireland to a grant of land given by the King to him and his heirs...in reward for his services” (Dodd, p. 5). But in investigating this claim, Sheffey has concluded that no such land grant was made, at least none that resulted in any documentation to substantiate it. Moreover, there are no coat of arms that reference “Roane” or even a delineation “Rowan,” which would be expected with someone given such formal land grants from William III. (“Archibald Roane a Demotion”).
 27. Sheffey, Brian. “Tracing Slave Ownership for the Scots-Irish Roane Family of Virginia.” Genealogyadvetnures.net. September 29, 2014. <https://genealogyadventures.net/2014/09/29/tracing-slave-ownership-for-the-scots-irish-roane-family-of-virginia/>. Accessed July 2, 2019.
 28. Meade, Bishop. “Old Churches, Ministers, and Families of Virginia: In Two Volumes.” J. B. Lippincott & Company: Philadelphia, 1861. p. 405.

29. Ibid. According to a biography of his son, Thomas, "Archibald Ritchie...was a Scotchman who emigrated to this country to engage in the mercantile business" (Ambler, Charles Henry. *Thomas Ritchie: A Study in Virginia Politics*. Bell Book & Stationary Company: University of Michigan., c 1913. p. 9). Many of Ritchie's clients included firms in England, and "in early February 1766, Ritchie announced that he had a cargo of grain destined for the West Indies which he intended to clear on stamped paper unless others were willing to take it off his hands at cost" [Warner, Charles W. H. "Tappahannock and the Stamp Act (February, 1766)." *Essex County Historical Society* newsletter. Barbour Printing Services: Tappahannock, Virginia, p. 1]. Ritchie's father-in-law led a group of men who, possibly applying some mob tactics, pressed the merchant. Ambler notes that the reluctance to defy the British was due to financial losses. Ritchie relented and, as the biography of his son notes, "in 1776, he was appointed by the General Assembly a member of the Committee of Public Safety of Essex county, and at a later date he supplied Colonel Landon Carter with gunpowder with which to fight the British" (Ambler, p. 10).
30. The connection of the Hipkins family with the Roane family has already been established. Samuel Hipkins would ascend within the Essex militia, taking his oath as an ensign in May 1741 and being promoted to lieutenant before being commissioned as a justice of the peace on March 15, 1742. In 1751 he would be made "Captain of a Troop of Horse" in Essex County before finally being promoted as a "Colonel of the Essex County Militia" in May 1757. [*Genealogies of Virginia Families from the William and Mary College Quarterly*. Volume V. Indexed by Robert and Catherine Barnes. Genealogical Publishing Company: Baltimore, 1982. pp. 285-86.]
31. According to one recollection, Thomas Roane was "a man of great personal strength" who also served "as a member of the Legislature" and "voted against the adoption of the Constitution of the United States, and was a colonel in the militia at the battle of Yorktown." Financially, he was very wealthy, having "large estates in King and Queen, Essex, and Middlesex, and was a very successful manager of his property." ("Roane Family." *William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine*, Volume 18, Number 4, April 1910, p. 272.)
32. *Genealogies of Virginia Families from the William and Mary College Quarterly*, Volume V., p. 283.
33. The Brockenbrough family would recur with the Roanes, as Moore Fauntleroy Brockenbrough would become the second husband of Lucy Roane, Sarah's sister (*Genealogies of Virginia Families from the William and Mary College Quarterly*, Volume V., p. 284). Dr. John Brockebrough would be elected to a committee in December 1774 desig-

- nated to maintain unity in keeping to the “resolutions of the General Continental Congress.” He would also become president of the Bank of Virginia. These men, who included William Roane, John Upshaw, Thomas Roane, and a newborn patriot in Archibald Ritchie, were to prepare, in essence, for the military that would eventually clash with the British in America’s fight for independence. Carlton, Emory L. “Col. Meriwether Smith and His Time, 1730–1794.” *Essex County Historical Society newsletter*, Volume 21, November 1982. Dr. Brockenbrough would serve as a surgeon in the “Navy of the Revolution.” Stewart, Robert Armistead, *The History of Virginia’s Navy of the Revolution*. Richmond, Va.: Mitchell & Hotchkiss, printers, 1934(?).
34. James Upshaw Jr. was a not only a justice of Essex County but also, according to the *Genealogies of Virginia Families*, a “Captain in the Virginia Line, War of the Revolution, being called into service from Essex, August 28, 1777, and served until the end of the war. He was an original member of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Virginia” (p. 259), an ongoing organization which recognizes a very narrow, direct line of ancestors related to soldiers of the Revolutionary War.
 35. Warner, Charles W. H. “Essex Resolutions, July 4, 1774, Exemplifies Revolution.” *Essex County Historical Society newsletter*. Volume 9. November 1975.
 36. Headley, Robert K. *Married Well and Often: Marriages of the Northern Neck of Virginia, 1649–1800*. Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2003. Also noted in *Daughters of the American Revolution, Lineage Book—National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution*, Volume 72. Published by the Daughters of the American Revolution: Washington, D.C., p. 132.
 37. Branch, p. 6. Ironically, Roane was one of the most outspoken advocates against the adopted Constitution of the United States. As one writer noted in the *Harvard Law Review*, Roane “implied the Constitution would encourage aristocracy and monarchy” (“Judge Spencer Roane of Virginia: Champion of States’ Rights Foe of John Marshall.” *Harvard Law Review*, Vol. 66, No. 7 (May 1953), p. 1,243–44). The article adds, “He felt that [the Constitution] gave some powers to the Federal Government which should have been withheld and failed to set forth the reserved powers of the states with adequate explicitness” (*Harvard Law Review*, p. 1,244).
 38. One biographical note explains that Roane was an “ardent supporter of the Revolution, and though only fourteen when it broke out, he organized his playmates into a company of little militia, who wore native hunting shirts with the famous words of Patrick Henry, ‘Liberty or Death,’ on their breasts.” (Branch, p. 6.) In 1784, Henry, as the first

- governor of Virginia, would appoint Roane to his Council of State as an adviser. Their disagreement, especially in regards to matters of church and state, were as public as any other typical debate between politicians, though possibly atypical between a father and his daughter's future husband.
39. Branch, p. 7, 30.
 40. *The Magazine of American History with Notes and Queries*, Volumes 3–5. Compiled by William Abbatt. A. S. Barnes, Harvard University, 1880. p. 103.
 41. Branch, p. 14. The aforementioned *Harvard Law Review* is an exceptional resource that should be read in full by anyone interested in how Roane and Marshall sparred both before and after his Supreme Court appointment. Their battles included foundational issues of national finance, slavery, and the contention of federal jurisdiction in state court and legislative issues.
 42. Thomas Ritchie was the son of Archibald and Mary Roane Ritchie. An exhaustive biography written in 1913 by Charles Henry Ambler details Ritchie's life and accomplishments. A controversial figure, he foresaw that his views on state's rights and slavery might guide the United States toward civil war. (Ambler, p. 300).
 43. *Harvard Law Review*, p. 1,244. The article also details how to combat local politicians whose views dissented from his own. Roane helped to found the "Richmond Junto" with family members from the Ritchie and Brockenbrough side. As the article notes, "by 1815, 'Roane was the most powerful politician in the state.'" Their network of influence in the state stretched through all the branches of government, with Roane himself being able to suggest legislation and then orchestrate the courts typically into upholding the laws (*Harvard Law Review*, p. 1,245).
 44. Ambler, p. 10–11.
 45. Hamilton, J. G. de Roulhac, Ph.D. *The Papers of Thomas Ruffin*, Volume IV. Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton Printing Company, 1920, p. 237. This quote comes from a longer letter by Frank G. Ruffin, who is described in more detail in the text. The quote he uses near the end of his assessment of his family's lineage via Scotland comes from *An Essay on Man*, by Alexander Pope.
 46. Francis Gildart Ruffin married Caryanne Nicholas Randolph, the son of Thomas Jefferson Randolph, himself the eldest grandson of Thomas and Martha Wayles Skelton Jefferson. ("Thomas Jefferson's Family." *Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Inc.* July 2, 2019. <http://tjrs.monticello.org/letter/44>.) Like his father-in-law, both men were colonels in the Civil War, though Randolph was too old to fight. (Hackford, Heidi. "Thomas Jefferson Randolph. *Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Inc.* with

acknowledgement of the *Thomas Jefferson Encyclopedia*. 2004. <https://www.monticello.org/site/jefferson/thomas-jefferson-randolph>. Accessed July 2, 2019.) His wife died in 1857 and was buried among her relatives at the Monticello graveyard. ("Persons Buried at the Monticello Graveyard, 1773-1997. *The Monticello Association*. February 18, 1998. <http://web.archive.org/web/20060619205513/http://monticello-assoc.org/burials.html>. July 2, 2019.)

47. "Collection Title: Frank G. Ruffin Papers, 1802-1909." University of North Carolina Libraries. <https://finding-aids.lib.unc.edu/00640/> April 16, 2019.
48. Thomas Ruffin was the son of Sterling and Alice Roane Ruffin. A judge and staunch secessionist, Judge Thomas Ruffin had been admitted to the bar at twenty-one, served in the House of Commons, was elected twice to the Superior Court in North Carolina, was president of the State Bank of North Carolina, and was elected to the Supreme Court of North Carolina where he eventually became Chief Justice (Hamilton, J. G. de Roulhac, Ph.D. *The Papers of Thomas Ruffin*, Volume I. Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton Printing Company, 1920, p. 5).
49. As Ambler recalls, it was Edmund Ruffin, "the prince of agriculturists of the South," who thought "farmers should be educated in the rudiments of agricultural chemistry" (p. 221). Also,

To promote these objects, he advocated the formation of local agricultural societies centering in a state organization, the distribution of prizes and premiums for model farms and rare products and the founding and operating at state expense of agricultural stations (Ibid).

Ruffin would eventually found and edit the *Farmer's Register* between 1833 and 1842. His work would lead to the formation of the State Agricultural Society. This would lead to great strides in unifying farmers across the state and lead to the first successful fair in Richmond, Virginia, in 1853, a tradition continued for eight years, until 1860, when the state and Mr. Ruffin himself would become occupied with greater causes. (Ambler, 221. Morrison, A. J. "Note on the Organization of Virginia Agriculture" *The William and Mary Quarterly*, Volume 26, Number 3, January 1918. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1915138>, p. 172.)

50. Davis, Virginia Lee Hutcheson. *Tidewater Virginia Families*. Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2004. Robert was likely the son of William Ruffin, who would have been the speculated immigrant from Scotland and who possibly embarked aboard a ship called the *Assurance* in July 1635 (p. 502). The county was named after the Isle of Wight in England; it was established in 1634, making

William one of the earliest colonists in the new land. Robert was likely the only son of William, though records are scarce regarding these early Ruffins (p. 503). He inherited and maintained his father's tobacco farm, and he married Elizabeth Prime Watkins, the widow of a Captain George Watkins (p. 505) who also outlived her husband, Robert, and never remarried. There is potential confusion regarding these early "Watkins" wives and their "Robert Ruffin" husbands. While Robert Ruffin (I) married Elizabeth Prime, who became Watkins with her first marriage; their son Robert Ruffin (II) married an Elizabeth Watkins whose parents were John Watkins and Elizabeth Spencer, who Davis notes "owned land on College Run as early as 1638" (p. 516).

51. Davis includes a broader sketch of John Ruffin, though his genealogical status is also confirmed elsewhere ("Ruffin Family." *William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine*. Vol. 18, No. 4 (April 1910). p. 251-258.) John was one of seven children (four boys and three girls) born to Robert and Elizabeth. A distant uncle of later secessionist Edmund Ruffin III, John would serve in the House of Burgess from two different counties—Surry and later Sussex— and also be appointed a colonel in the Surry County militia. His wife, Martha (possibly nicknamed Patsy) Hamlin, and John would have eight children, who Davis recalls grew up "with a secure, gracious lifestyle" (p. 523). Like his father before him, John would die before his wife, and Martha would not remarry, though in her long life she would grow to see all of her sons die, including one, Thomas, during the fighting of the Revolutionary War in Brandywine, Pennsylvania (p. 526). Among her children would be Robert, who with his wife, Mary Clack, would become grandparents to Judge Thomas Ruffin (Davis, p. 522).
52. The collected papers of Judge Ruffin include an account of Sterling Ruffin, who, according to an account by Frank Ruffin, was attached to his younger brother, James. "These two brothers were as you know, devotedly attached to each other, and Judge Ruffin once told me, in proof of the fact, that his father [Sterling], when dying grasped my grandfather's [William Ruffin, who married Margaret Ritchie] hand, exclaiming: 'twin brothers; brothers by nature, and brothers in faith'" (Hamilton, p. 235). Their connection would continue as Sterling would eventually marry Alice Roane. His brother James would eventually marry Mary Roane, the daughter of John Roane and his wife, whose last name was "Jones" and whose first name is uncertain. John's grandparents were William and Sarah Upshaw Roane, thus making Sterling and James Ruffin related both by blood and by marriage (Hamilton p. 255.).

53. William and Margaret Ritchie Ruffin were also the parents of William Hooper and Frances Gildart Ruffin, the parents of Frank Ruffin (Hamilton, p. 235).
54. Hamilton, p. 235. Frank Ruffin notes, "My grandfather, William Ruffin, a volunteer aged sixteen at the siege of Yorktown...."
55. John Roane (Jr.) was the son of William and Sarah Upshaw Roane. He was elected as a Republican to Congress from March 1809 to 1815 and then again intermittently from 1827 to 1831 and 1835 to 1837. He would be succeeded by his son John Jones Roane, who previously had served as a private in the Fourth Regiment of the Virginia Militia in the War of 1812 (United States, Congress. "John Roane." *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774–2005*. House Document No. 108-222. United States Government Printing Office, 2003-2005. <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/GPO-CDOC-108h-doc222/pdf/GPO-CDOC-108hdoc222.pdf>. Accessed July 3, 2019. p. 1816.).
56. Judge William Brockenbrough was the third son of Dr. John and Sarah Roane Brockenbrough. He was a justice for the Court of Appeals, a general court judge, and a representative to the House of Delegates from Essex and Hanover Counties. (Miller, F. Thornton and the Dictionary of Virginia Biography. "William Brockenbrough (1778–1838)." *Encyclopedia Virginia*. Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, 18 Jan. 2018. https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Brockenbrough_William_1778-1838. 3 Jul. 2019.)
57. According to *Genealogies of Virginia Families*, "John Ritchie, a Captain in the War of 1812, was killed at the head of his company at the Battle of Lundy's Lane, 1814" (Volume V, p. 277).
58. Her reference here is to the Battle of Lundy's Lane, which took place on July 25, 1814, during the War of 1812. The battle claimed over 800 men and was considered one of the bloodiest of the war. ("Battle of Lundy's Lane National Historic Site of Canada." *Government of Canada*. https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/dfhd/page_nhs_eng.aspx?id=428. Accessed February 12, 2019.)
59. Hamilton, p. 245.
60. Quisenberry, A. C. "The First Pioneer Families of Virginia." *Register of Kentucky Historical Society*, Vol. II, No. 32 (May 1913), pp. 55, 57–77. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/23367151>. Accessed February 11, 2019. Also see Boddie, John Bennett. *Colonial Surry*. Genealogical Publishing Company, 1974, p. 45.
61. "About Us." *Order of Descendants of Ancient Planters*. February 11, 2019. <http://www.ancientplanters.org/about-us/>. Also see Boddie, *Colonial Surry*.

62. "Ancient Planters." "About us." *Order of Descendants of Ancient Planters*. <http://www.ancientplanters.org/ancient-planters/>. February 11, 2019.
63. Davis, Virginia Lee Hutcheson. *Jamestown Ancestors, 1607–1699: Commemoration of the 400th Anniversary of the Landing at James Towne, 1607–2007*. Genealogical Publishing Company, 2006, p. 10. Also Dorman, John Frederick and Virginia M. Meyer. *Adventures of Purse and Person, Virginia, 1607–1624/5*. 3rd ed., Order of the First Families of Virginia, 1607–1624/5, 1987, pp. 580–81.
http://www.virtualjamestown.org/Muster/search.muster.cgi?start_page=0&search_type=basic&data-base=muster_1624&last=Spencer&first=&muster=&age-op=&age1=&age2=&month=&year=&date=
64. McCartney, Martha W. *Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers, 1607–1635: A Biographical Dictionary*. Genealogical Publishing Company, 2007, p. 662–63.
65. Rigby, Henry W. *Early Spencers of Virginia*. Spencer Historical & Genealogical Society. Indianapolis, IN, 2000, p. 9.
66. McCartney, Martha W. *Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers, 1607–1635*. Genealogical Publishing Company, 2007, p. 662. John Lightfoot arrived possibly just two years before William Spencer, and both men shared a common acquaintance in Captain William Peirce (also spelled Pierce), who crossed the Atlantic several times, bringing many settlers to the New World. In January 1629, John Lightfoot became very ill and bequeathed his entire estate, which included cattle and tobacco holdings, to William Spencer (McCartney, pp. 462–63). While it has been speculated that this "Lightfoot," sometimes spelled "Lytefoote," was related to those individual Lightfoots mentioned earlier in this genealogy, there is no known common ancestry, and some works have stated outright that the two men were not related (Stanard, Mary Newton. *Colonial Virginia: Its People and Customs*. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, p. 48).
67. William Spencer II is mentioned among other Virginian immigrants, though it is not clear if he was born after his father settled or came aboard with the family on the *Sarah* (McCartney, p. 663). It is more likely that Alice's daughter of the same name arrived with the family, and it appears she outlived her brother, though, not into adulthood.
68. McCartney, p. 663.
69. Charles Barham would be a future father-in-law to Robert Hart, Elizabeth Spencer's grandson. His family was a very prominent one from Kent, England, whose pedigree could be traced to 1210 and who "resided in Surry County Virginia continuously for more than 300 years." (Boddie, John Bennett. *Southside Virginia Families*, Volume 2. Genealogical Publishing Company, 1966, p. 25.)

70. Ancestry.com. *Early Virginia Families Along the James River: Their Deep Roots and Tangled Branches*, Vol. III [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2006. Also *Tidewater Virginia Families*, p. 506.
71. Nugent, Nell Marion. *Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants: 1623–1666*. Genealogical Publishing Company, 1934, p. 28.
72. While the descendants most relevant to our analysis come from Elizabeth's marriage to Major Robert Sheppard, she was married twice more after his death, further cementing the Spencer line among other prominent members of early Virginia history. Her second husband would be Thomas Warren, who is most famous for building the "Warren House" in Surry County. The home which Elizabeth likely shared with her husband was constructed in 1652 on land originally held by Thomas Rolfe, the son of John Rolfe and Pocahontas, the property being given to Pocahontas by her father, Powhatan, chief of the Powhatan Confederacy ("Surry: Smith's Fort (Warren House). *National Park Service*. February 10, 2019. <https://www.nps.gov/articles/smiths.htm>). After Thomas died in 1669, Elizabeth married a third and final time to John Hunnicott/Hunnicut. Although he was not as prominent as her other husbands, it is thought he participated in Bacon's Rebellion, a 1676 uprising by Virginia settlers against Governor William Berkeley and the early colonial government for its trade restrictions imposed upon colonists. The rebellion was suppressed, with record of Hunnicutt's petitioning the king of England for pardon (Cabel, James Branch. "The Hunnicutts of Prince George." *William and Mary Quarterly*, Vol. 27, pp. 34–35. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2307/1916109>. Accessed February 11, 2019).
73. According to Alabama Department of Archives and History, "[Henry Hart] 1st appears in the V[irginia] records in 1627 and he d. [died] before 1648.
Ancestry.com. *Alabama, Surname Files Expanded, 1702–1981* [database online]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc.
74. Boddie. *Southside Virginia Families*, Vol. 2, p. 153.
75. Nugent, *Cavaliers*, p. 176.
76. Alabama Department of Archives and History. *Alabama, Surname Files Expanded, 1702–1981 for Anne Hart*.
77. Alabama Department of Archives and History. Ancestry.com. *Alabama, Surname Files Expanded, 1702–1981* [database online]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc.
78. Boddie. *Southside Virginia Families*, Vol. 2, p. 154.
79. Rigby, p. 14.

80. Holtzclaw, B. C. "The Newsom Family and Related Families of Surry, Isle of Wight, Southampton and Sussex Counties, Va." *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 47, No. 3 (July 1939), p. 266. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/4244964>
81. There is no general consensus on Gertrude's last name, and it appears a mystery, with little speculation regarding its resolution (Holtzclaw, p. 267).
82. Holtzclaw, pp. 266–67.
83. *Ibid.*
84. William Ruffin, Robert Ruffin's son, would marry Sarah Crafford Newsome after her husband John's death. Holtzclaw, pp. 364–65.
85. Holtzclaw, pp. 269–70.
86. Boddie. *Southside Virginia Families*, Vol. 2, p. 154.
87. Holtzclaw, p. 271.
88. *Ibid.*
89. Research into verifying this marriage between Thomas Foster and Lucille/Lucy Clements has produced mixed results. There is some information regarding Lucy and even another spouse, "Jane," though there is uncertainty which wife came first. (See *Foster Family Genealogy in Early Amelia County, Virginia*. Laurie McKenna. <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~fosterameliacova>. Accessed February 10, 2019.) It is clear that William Foster was the descendant of one of these two (possible) marriages, though affirming the lineage will take more research, even with as prominent a name as "Clements" (Clement, N.E. "Clement, Clements, Clemans. With a Notice of Twain's Ancestry." *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*. Vol. 32, No. 3 (July 1924), p. 292 (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/4243982>).
90. Marriage between William Foster and Mary Ann (Jones) James. National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. *Lineage Book*, Vol. CVII. Washington, D.C.: Daughters of the American Revolution, 1914 (<https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.b3024213>), p. 204. Also *Lineage Book*, Vol. CXXI, 1916 (<https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.b3024221>), p. 26. Mary Ann Jones originally married Thomas James, who was killed in 1779 on the battlefield in South Carolina (Landrum, John Belton O'Neill. *History of Spartanburg County; Embracing an Account of Many Important Events, and Biographical Sketches of Statesmen, Divines and Other Public Men*. Spartanburg, South Carolina: The Reprint Company, 1960 (original edition, 1900), p. 284.
91. The marriage of Maiden Foster remains under some research by the Kirkpatrick Family Archive and its genealogists. According to original research by Eleanor Blake Kirkpatrick, her husband was Collins Smith. This evidence seems to be supported by a reference to the

children of William and Mary Ann Jones James Foster, where one of the daughters is listed as "Maiden Smith" with no further description of her, including marriage or children (Landrum, p. 285). Maiden is also noted as "Smith" in her father's will, though no husband is described. However, the same cemetery that contains the remains of Maiden's mother, Mary Ann, includes a grave marker for Maiden Foster Wingo, with the note that this "Maiden" married a "Paschal Charles Wingo" (see Landrum, p. 293). There is no mention of that "Foster" of a previous marriage, and, according to Landrum's book, there were two men named "William Foster" who were contemporaries of each other, and possibly each had a daughter they both named "Maiden." The impact does not disparage the birth parents of Kathryn Talbott Blake's grandmother Mary Jane Smith.

