

TEXAS JOURNEY

by Gerry Booth

Winter on Shoal Creek

Corrections: I appreciate knowing that someone is reading my articles. Genealogy articles, I believe, are always open to correction. I like it when someone can correct or add information to what I have written. Susanne Bergum has found a date that needs to be corrected. I try to add dates behind people's names because so many people have the same name. Susanne who is directly related to the Lee's informed me of the information she has learned about the death date of Phoebe Lee Landers. Robert Abel Lee was Susanne's 4th great-grandfather; Isaac Burluson was her 3rd; and Rachel Lee who married Levi Verdin, was her 2nd great aunt. So she has done much more research about the Lees than I have. This is what she has learned about Phoebe's death:

In 1850, Phoebe (Lee) Landers is living with her brother, Isaac Lee. Likely helping to take care of Isaac's orphaned grandchildren who were returned from Missouri after the death of their father, Daniel.

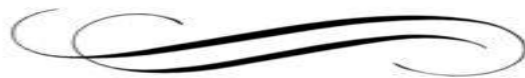
In 1860, she is living in Township 45 Range 17, Moniteau, Missouri, USA with her son, H.(Hezekial) Landers and family. After that she disappears and there's no death record.

A more accurate identification of Phoebe Lee would have her dates listed as (1774 – after 1860).

Another correction. In searching for a good map to show the continuation of the Shipman journey, I found a map that placed Fort Russell, where Daniel Francisco (Gage) lived when he arrived in Illinois. In my placement of the fort in the last article, trying to follow the description of the location, I placed it east of Shoal Creek. This recently found map places Fort Russell west of Shoal Creek and closer to the Goshen area.

This makes a difference, but the family is still located relatively close to each other in Illinois. Who would have ever thought the road to Texas ran through Illinois?

One typo to correct. James Burluson Allard died in 1849, not 1949.

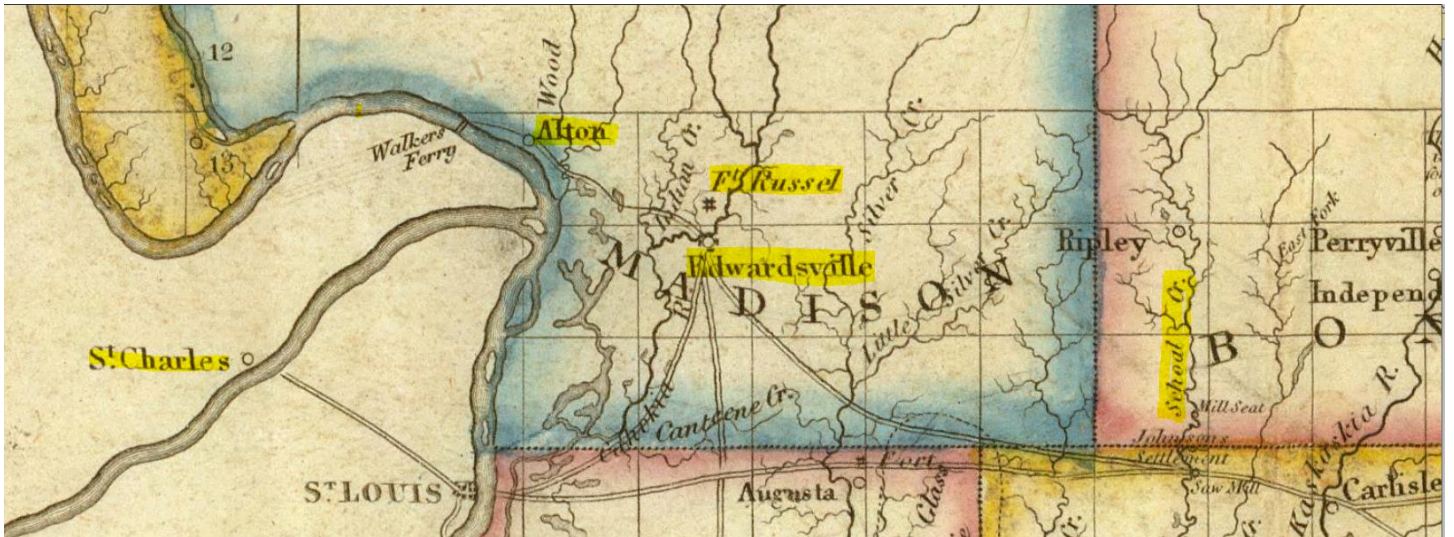


We left the Shipmans located on Shoal Creek in Illinois for the winter. Remember the Shipmans went to the Goshen settlement first then to Shoal Creek.

Daniel Shipman continues writing about his time in Illinois:

When there father gave a good horse for a small improvement on government land, a small log cabin and a little patch enclosed. Brother Edward and myself went to work, cleared and fenced about eight acres, cultivated, and made a tolerably good crop of corn and vegetables, making a living by our own exertions. In the first place mother bought a cow and calf, paid for them with what we called coverlen. Father, brother and myself paid for another cow, and with them and the help of our guns, and wild honey, we lived pretty well in the wilderness - - I say wilderness because ours was the outside house — — next to the Indians. We had many of the red skin rascals to visit us that Summer, such as Kickapoos, Patawatomies and Sioux; but they appeared to be quite friendly. That Summer I found forty three bee

trees; brother and myself saved many bee hives, and father took the honey to St. Louis and bought necessities with the product for the family. In the fall father sold our bee-stands and made some others, and bought a bunch of cattle, and a small drove of hogs, with all of which we started in the fall, I think sometime in October.



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When we left Shoal Creek, we traveled westward several days; passed through a little town called Edwardsville, then to the Mississippi river, at a place then called Smelser’s ferry, now Alton, Illinois, a large city, where the State penitentiary is now located. At the time we passed through, there was not a stick-a-miss, except what travelers had used in the way camping.

The ferry was owned by George Schmelzer² also spelled like Daniel wrote “Smelser” or sometimes “Smeltzer” or Smelcer” as seen on the 1790 US Census. George Schmelzer was born in the 1760s in Pennsylvania and died in 1829 in Missouri.

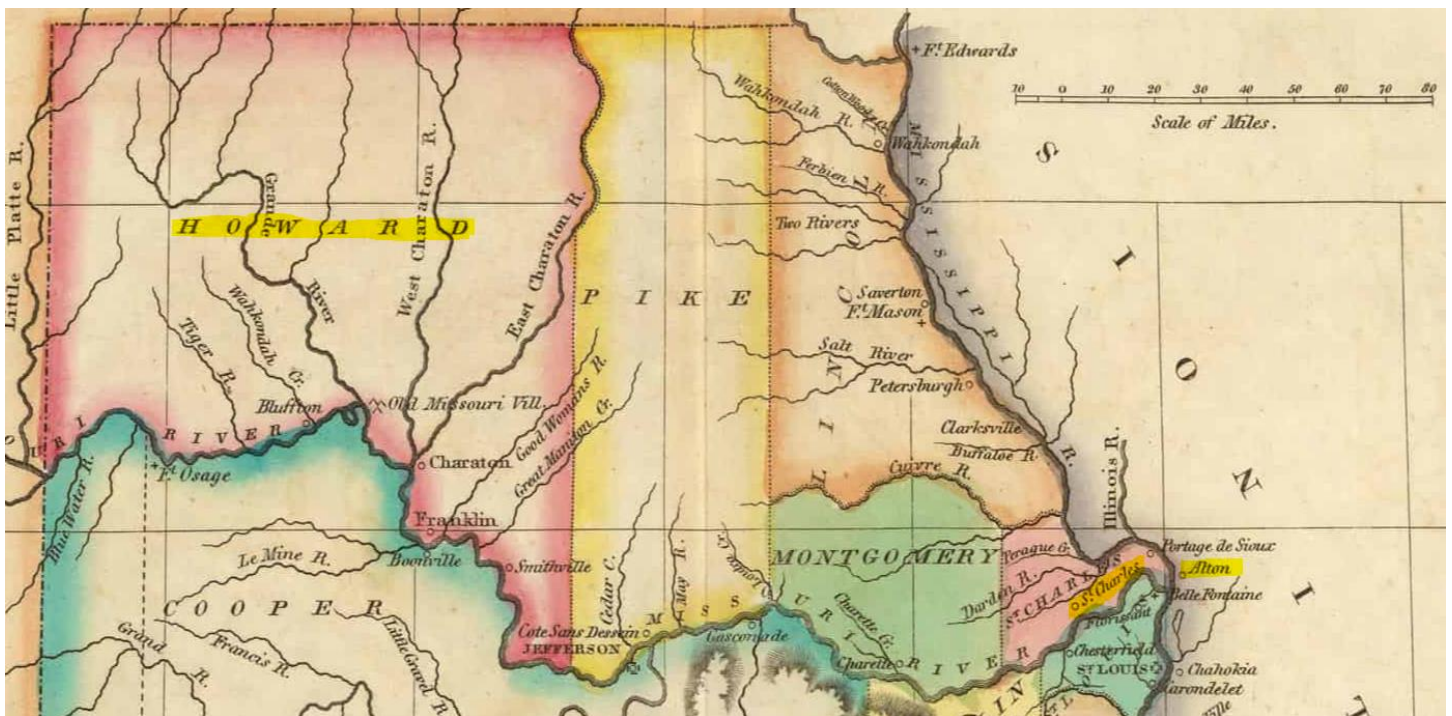
He came from Pendleton County, South Carolina, the same area where Mary Robinson Shipman’s family lived.

I mention George Schmelzer because I could not help but wonder if Moses and Mary had known him from the times they lived in or near Pendleton County.

1790 United States Federal Census for George Smelcer						
South Carolina > Pendleton > Not Stated						
4	a	7	James Thompson	1	a a u	Capt.
2			James Thompson	1	3 3	Danl
1	a	1	George Smelcer	1	1 3	John

¹ John Melish, *Map of Illinois, 1820*
<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/workspace/handleMediaPlayer;JSESSIONID=228167e7-a0fa-4757-b6ed-1c9414c1df4a?qvq=&trs=&mi=&lunaMediaId=RUMSEY~8~1~1961~130157>
² “We Relate” https://www.werelate.org/wiki/User:Schmelzer/George_Smeltzer_1760s_-_1829_Ferryman

When we were ferrying our cattle, they, having been driven but a short distance, were almost as fat as they could be, and nearly all others, of which there were a great many; as a great number of emigrants going westward at that time — — and their cattle being very thin and light, the boat could hold and carry almost as many as could stand in it. When we drove ours in, the ferryman took all in at one time, and it seemed like it was about all the boat could carry. When we got nearly across, the wind rose, and it looked very much like the boat might sink; and the ferryman would curse the d—n fat cattle, and wish they were all in h—I, but good luck happened to be on our side, and we got over safe, paid the ferryman, and set out again westward. It was not far to the city of St. Charles, and when in a short distance of the town, we met an old darky, and some of our company asked him how far it was to the town, he first looked one way and then the other and said: oh, massa! it is so near I can't tell you; and after taking a good hearty laugh at the poor old negro's funny way of expressing himself, we passed on through the town, and I do not recollect anything more worth writing, until we got to Howard county.



While the Shipmans were at the beginning of finding their new home, someone who had already migrated to Missouri and was completely settled and established was Moses Austin. By this time Moses had a lead mining business in Potosi, Missouri. Unfortunately during the War of 1812 England's control of the sea prevented long-distance water transport and even though lead was needed for bullets, the only way to move the lead was stopped and Austin's sales stopped. Money in Missouri disappeared and credit evaporated. Austin felt the economic collapse by December of 1812. In the summer

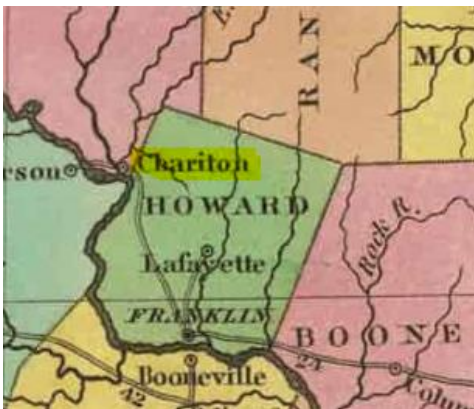
³ Henry Charles Carey and Isaac Lea, *Carey's 1822 Geographic, Historical and Statistical State Map of Missouri* (1822). <https://mapgeeks.org/missouri/#!fancybox/e2f58960/1822-Geographical-Historical-and-Statistical-Map-of-Missouri.jpg>

of 1813, Austin and a group of investors received the authority from the Territorial Legislature to organize the first bank in the Territory, the first bank west of the Mississippi, the Bank of St. Louis.

In November of 1814, the war was over and the price of lead soared. Austin made capital improvements to his business but the lead market turned around and prices fell back to normal. To add to this, the bank failed. In 1817, Moses Austin lost money heavily. He had to do something with his mine and he had to find a different way to make money.

Things were going very differently for the Shipmans.

I think we arrived at the old gentleman Burleson's⁴ about the middle of November, 1817 father; looked around a few days, and concluded to settle on a good piece of land on the east side of the Missouri river, thought to be government land; we went to work; built us a comfortable log house, split and hewed puncheons, and made a tolerably good floor. We split rails, fenced and cleared about fourteen acres of as good land, I think, as there is in the state of Missouri, or any other state in the Union. Cultivated it well; made a fine crop of corn, Irish potatoes and many other vegetables, and lived well for a new country.. Made our own salt, pork, milk, butter and raised chickens, and all such thing we needed, and was enjoying ourselves fine, in the way of good living, good society, and sociable neighbors. But it was not long until a land speculator came along and notified us that we were on his land. His name was Berry; he claimed under what was then called a "New Madrid" claim, which was quite numerous in that country at the time. These claims were granted to the sufferers, by the falling into the Mississippi river the city of New Madrid. The aforesaid Berry told father he might stay another year, and that he was going to lay off a town there, and that he would donate to him a block of lots, so as to include his house. The place is where the city of Glassgo now stands.



1836 Map – town named Chariton



1845 Map – town named changed to Glasgow

⁴ Daniel Shipman called Captain James Burleson, old gentleman Burleson.

⁵ Henry Schenck Tanner, *Tanner's 1836 State Map of Missouri* (1836). <https://mapgeeks.org/missouri/#!fancybox/fa05512b/1836-Map-of-Missouri.jpg>

⁶ Sidney Edwards Morse and Samue Breese, *Morse's 1845 State Map of Missouri* (1845). <https://mapgeeks.org/missouri/#!fancybox/51b232a5/1845-Map-of-Missouri.jpg>

We remained on the place about two years; the town was laid off, but no improvements made in the way of a town when we left. The second year we staid at the place, father, a young man by the name of Aaron Allard and myself concluded to go above a little river called Charataw, I think it is now called Chariton river, bee hunting, and each of us took two five gallon kegs, lashed them together with ropes, and threw them across our horses; we



rode upon the ropes between the kegs. It took us about three or four days to go and find, cut down, take out, and squeeze the honey out of the comb, fill our six kegs with honey, and then about a day and a half in go back home.

This" young man," Aaron Allard is probably the same Aaron Allard (1798-1865) I found on the Illinois map of land owners. He was Moses Shipman's second cousin. His mother was Mary "Polly" *Burleson* Allard.

Sometime the next winter father and three or four of his friends took a notion to go bear hunting, and at the same time looked for bee trees. It was near

the same place, where we went bee hunting. I was too small and young to take part in that hunt, and had too much work to do, so I did not go. I now do not recollect how many bears they killed, nor how much honey they

AARON HARDIN ALLARD

brought in, but they had as much as their horses were able to bring in, they brought their meat and honey, both in bear and deer skins, as fresh as they came off the carcass. The way they fixed the bear skins for carrying: they skinned the bear, leaving as little meat on the skin as possible, then trim the skin as round as convenient, so as to make it as even around the edge as possible, then cut off a lacing string, then, with a sharpe pointed knife, made holes all around the skin, and lace up all the skin, except a small place to put the meat or honey in, after all in, sew up the small place; manage at the same time to make it ballance. In case of a deer skin, they cased the skin like I did a rabbit skin when a boy; they turn the flesh side in, tie the skin of the legs and neck, when the meat or honey is all in and properly divided so as to ballance well, then sew up the back of the thighs, and put it on your horse, then get on top, and you are ready for traveling. Bear skins were not so much used as deer skins in the first settling of Texas, as they were in Missouri. The deer skins were frequently used that way in Texas.

Daniel was between 16 and 18 years old when these hunting trips occurred. It is obvious from the details he provides he was more interested in hunting than in genealogy, but I will continue to try to fill in the blanks in the next Texas Journey.