

Biography of Rhoda Ann (Roddie) Pierce PDF Version March 1999

MY Grandfathers Aunt was Rhoda Ann Pierce (Andrew Jackson², Reuben¹) She was born April 19, 1862 in Cherokee Co., GA (Rome??), and died November 25, 1941 in Spearman, Hansford Co., TX. She was Called "Roddie" by all. She married **Allen Mansel (Mannie) Wilbanks** May 24, 1877 in Johnson Co. TX at the Pierce Ranch Homestead, son of Hiram Wilbanks and Permelia Hale. Notes for Rhoda Ann (Roddie) Pierce: Gravestone Marker states death as Jan 25 1941 not Nov 25 1941 More About Rhoda Ann (Roddie) Pierce: Buried Hansford Cemetery, Hansford Co., Wilbanks Gardner: By Gail G Hazlewood Johnson County History book.

Allen Mansel Wilbanks son of Hiram, was born in 1858. Although a very small boy he served as a lookout for the Indians during the War Between the States. The older youths and men were away at war and the community was in a constant fear of Indian Raids. He married Rhoda Pierce, who had come to Johnson County from Georgia at age three by covered wagon. In 1902 Allen and his family of eight children, including two married sons, moved to Hansford County in the Texas

Panhandle travelling by wagon for sixteen days. One son Andrew Jackson Wilbanks, had married Dove Oaks of Hood County. The other son, Allen Mansel, jr., had married Ophelia Ewing of Johnson County. Allen had a contract to drill forty water wells on the XI T ranch and had purchased four sections of land in Hansford County for two dollars an acre. This land is being cultivated by his Descendants today. Allen's two brothers, Ernest, Married to the former Eva Mae Burran, of Johnson County, and Floyd, married to the former Susan Bowden, also of Johnson County, traveled to the Panhandle and settled on adjoining land. Another brother Arthur Died in Hansford County in 1908. He never married. Thomas Calvin Hazlewood, an active businessman of Cleburne, TX is the great grandson of Allen Mansel Wilbanks. Mary and Calvin Hazelwood of Fort Worth TX are his parents. His grandfather was Howell L (Hix) Wilbanks who was born in Johnson County in 1886. Hix was a pioneer farmer and rancher and was Sheriff-Tax Collector of Hansford County for twenty years. Note on death date: Gravestone death date and death date in Hansford

County History book differ. (date here is from gravestone until I can obtain copy of death certificate.) LD Pierce editor 1998.

A M and Rhoda Pierce Wilbanks Story:

In 1877 Manny and Rhoda Wilbanks were married in Cleburne TX where they made their home and were farmers. Nine children were born to the couple. A desire to move west for better land and brighter opportunities, the Wilbanks family moved to Hansford County in 1902. Packing their belongings in some two covered wagons, a buggy and a surrey, the family joined some thirty-five families from Fort Worth with the same desire. Arriving in Hansford County on may 2 1902, the family made their home on four adjoining sections which Manny Wilbanks had purchased for \$200 each. Their first home was a dugout, which was quite small. Until their home was built, some of the family slept in covered wagons at night; while the kitchen table was made into a pallet for the two small girls. Mr. Wilbanks broke his sod and planted his crops, as well as fenced his land, to make preparations for his first crop. Aside from farming and ranching Mr. Wilbanks also drilled water

wells. He was assisted by his son Edgar who continued to drill wells throughout his life. Many of the first water wells in the county were drilled by Manny Wilbanks and his son Edgar. They also drilled many of the wells on the XIT Ranch. The early pioneer days brought service of a telephone service atop a barbed wire fence. Many hardships were encountered by the family. One of the biggest was getting to market and back. The closest market and railroad was Channing, and the eighty-mile trip would take three days to make, while another day was needed to buy supplies. Many times the men were unable to make the trip, and Rhoda Wilbanks, and the two small girls would go by themselves. They would camp out on the prairie and cook out on a campfire during the six day trip. The children who had not completed their education at Cleburne, attended the school of Happy Jack. The Wilbanks home was often the center for parties, and several members of the family were musically talented. Many dances and socials were held in their home. Some of the younger children attended school at Goodwell, Oklahoma. The family attended the Church of Christ

Memorial: from Hansford County History Vol. 1 1980 page 325 author not listed
Partial History of the Wilbanks family: Allen M Wilbanks a retired rancher with homes in Spearman TX Hansford County, was born on the frontier of Tennessee, and has spent most of his life among the advance guard of settlers, having come up into the Panhandle of Texas (July 17 1902) a quarter of a century ago. He was born Dec 15 1858, son of Hiram and Fanny Hale Wilbanks, the former a native of Tennessee, and the latter of Georgia. They were married in Rusk County Texas where Hiram settled before the Civil War. He was a Confederate Soldier under Capt. Jack Hart. He had ten sons and three daughters. Allen M Wilbanks grew up on a frontier farm in Johnson County Texas in an area known as GoatNeck. He was about three years old when the War broke out and the family lived in a time of general alarm caused by Indian raids. When he was five or six years old he was put to the task of herding cattle. Some years later a large party of Indians surrounded the Wilbanks home and he was sent away on a pony by his mother to secure help, returning with two men and a local preacher who used a stratagem to scare the

Indians away. Mr. Wilbanks attended an old log cabin school with split log benches. Beyond this he gained his real education by experience after leaving school. He worked for a salary for several years, and the first money he earned was ten dollars paid him for breaking sixty acres of land for his father. This money he used to buy a dress for his bride. On May 5 1877 at his father's home in Johnson County, Mr. Wilbanks married Rhoda Pierce, daughter of Jack Pierce and Nancy (Abercrombie) Pierce, natives of Georgia who moved to Texas when Rhoda Pierce was four years old. The father of Allen M Wilbanks (Hiram) died in Oklahoma and his mother died at the old homestead in Johnson County. A.M. remained with his father for a year after his marriage and then was given 160 acres of land, improved with a house, which his father built. There he lived and pursued farming and ranching until 1901 when he came up into the Texas Panhandle and settled Hansford County, buying four sections of land for eight hundred dollars. He increased his holdings from time to time as his boys married he gave each of them a section of

land. He still owns a large acreage and has about 540 acres under cultivation. He also owns vacant and improved real estate in Spearman.

Early in 1927 the first strike of oil was made on his land. Mr. Wilbanks is a democrat but has never sought any public office. He is a member of the First Christian Church. More About Allen Mansel (Mannie) Wilbanks: buried in Hansford Cemetery, Hansford Co., TX

Children of Rhoda Pierce and Allen Wilbanks are:

- + 2 i. **Andrew Jackson⁴ Wilbanks, born March 19, 1878 in Johnson Co., TX; died July 1943 in Amarillo, Potter Co., TX.**
- + 3 ii. **Allan Mansel (Bogus) Wilbanks, born June 22, 1879 in Johnson Co., TX; died 1932 in Perryton, Ochiltree Co., TX He was 52 years old.**
- +4 iii. **Pearcy Fone Wilbanks, born February 17, 1881 in Johnson Co., TX.**

- 5 iv. Stillborne Child Wilbanks, born January 21, 1883 in Johnson Co., TX; died January 21, 1883 in Johnson Co., TX.
- 6 v. Angie Wilbanks, born June 04, 1884 in Johnson Co., TX.
- +7 vi. Howell Lorenzo (Hix) Wilbanks, born September 17, 1885 in Johnson Co., TX; died June 02, 1963 in Spearman TX, Hansford Co.,
- 8 vii. Stillborn Male Wilbanks, born January 08, 1887 in Johnson Co., TX; died January 08, 1887 in Johnson Co., TX.
- +9 viii. Edgar Napoleon Wilbanks, born March 11, 1889 in Johnson Co., TX; died February 19, 1955 in Spearman, Hansford Co., TX.
- + 10 ix. Samuel Theodore Wilbanks, born November 20, 1891 in Johnson Co., TX; died November 20, 1918 in killed during WW I
- +11 x. Wanda O. Wilbanks, born January 09, 1895 in Johnson Co., TX; died April 09, 1977 in Amarillo, Potter Co., TX.
- +12 xi. Monica Ruth Wilbanks, born July 17, 1897 in Johnson Co., TX