

No

Marriage License

W. L. Pass

AND

Carrie Elizabeth Bruce

Issued the 7th day of

Nov

1916

J. B. Madison Clerk County Court

By J. Hall Deputy

Returned and Filed for

Record the 10 day of

Nov 1916 and recorded

the day of 19

J. B. Madison Clerk County Court

By J. W. Dice Deputy

Recorded in Book Page 136

of Marriage Records

The John S. Bruce Family

As written by Carrie Pass

The James R. and Elizabeth (Cox) Bruce came to Texas from South Carolina in the year of 1871. They first settled at Linden, Cass Co. Texas.

James Edward Harris followed the Bruces from S.C. to Linden. He married the third daughter of James & Elizabeth Bruce. They stayed in Linden. James & Elizabeth Bruce & family moved to Bell Co. 5 or 6 miles south of Temple, Texas. They lived in a log house close to a railroad that went from Temple to Belton. The oldest girls helped with the farming. The youngest were boys. They went to school at a school on a hill close by named Mount Vernon. Sarah M. (Sallie) married James (Jim) Watson. Achashbucious (Epie) married James (Jim) Carroll. Anna Rebecca married Enoch Alexander Barber. James & Elizabeth Bruce & James W. & John S. & Handy H. moved to Grayson Co. near a

he came more often could make the trip much quicker in the car. In the early fall we were in a picture show when he asked me to marry him. I said yes, he had a pretty cameo necklace with four small pearls set around it, that he gave me. He didn't want a ring I do not know just why. Anyway that was for our engagement.

We later set the date for Nov. 7, 1916.

Late that afternoon Witt and Russel came (a Tuesday) got me we went by a cousin of mine in Temple. Got she & her husband, Lizzie & Delbert Rich. Russel was driving. We drove about 4 miles to the Methodist parsonage at Midway. There Rev. Keener married us. He was our pastor at Taylors Valley. We took Lizzie and Delbert home, then went on to my home to pick up some of my things. We went to Blevins where Witt's parents lived. Mrs. Pass had a nice supper waiting

for us. The next day Wednesday Nov. 8
Witt's father & mother, Witt and I
all went to Naco to the Cotton
Palace. Something like a big fair.
We lived the first year with
Witt's parents. Witt worked for
Mr. J. L. Litterall in his grocery
store there in Blevins. There was a
cotton gin that Witt's dad ran.
Another grocery store a blacksmith
shop a school two churches Baptist
and Methodist. About ten houses.
Litterall's store was general merchandise
a little of everything. There was a
tabernacle that the Baptist and
Methodist both used for revivals
in the summer. Methodist had
church once a month the fourth
Sunday of each month, the Baptist
once a month the ^{second} fourth Sunday
of each month. Neither pastor lived
there they had a church somewhere
else where they lived. Our pastor
lived at Durango about ten miles
from Blevins. While Witt was
working for Mr. Litterall he would

go to Temple sixteen miles in a wagon bring back groceries anything else that was needed including ice. The second year Witt rented some land on the halves from a Mr. J. W. Adams. They belonged to the Methodist Church as we did. Witt had known them most of his life. He lived in a little two room house with a small porch and a little room on the end about 6x6 feet. Used it to store a few things in. Mr. & Mrs. Adams were very good to us. When Witt was through working the land he had rented he would work for Mr. Adams. One time he took a wagon load of hogs to Temple. He got up at three o'clock in the morning so he would get to Temple before it got warm. Was after dark before he got home. I waited at the Adams until he got in. Mrs. Adams learned me to tat. World War I was going on. The next draft Witt would have

had to go. Before the draft call peace was declared. The next year 1919 we had 20 acres of cotton. Witt's Grandpa Parham looked it over and said you have prospects of a bale to the acre. Worms struck it later and ruined it. I think we got $2\frac{1}{2}$ bales. I was over at Mrs. Pass' waiting for our baby to be born. She arrived about 10:00 P.M. June 17, 1919. Witt went after my mother the evening before. She only stayed two days. When I did go home two months later the army worms that destroyed our cotton were webbed up in everything that wasn't put away. In 1920 Witt rented some land from a Mr. Pratt who lived close to Mr. + Mrs. Pass. He rented it on the third and fourth. Mr. Pass went to Ft. Worth bought a pair of mules. They were both bay one was larger than the other was small. Later Witt bought a

large bay horse to help in breaking the land. The year 1920 was a good year. Witt made some 30 bales of cotton. Got a good price .30 to 35 cents per pound. Altho got a good price by the time he gave $\frac{1}{3}$ for rent and paid for the picking. Paid \$2.50 to \$3.00 per hundred pounds for picking. Had a family of colored people from Temple who lived in a small house on the place. Mr. Pass would go after them Sunday afternoon so they would be ready to start to picking early Monday morning. The family was a widower with three children. They each had two sacks. They would tie the second sack on the end of the first sack. When they got the first sack full they would untie the sack and use it until they filled it. Then they would go to wagon & weigh it and empty. We ~~of~~ also had a one leased colored man who

was a good cotton picker. He also had two sacks. He would leave his wooden leg where he started picking. Either Witt or Mr. Pass one would help him to the wagon with his two sacks. Cotton was five and six feet tall could not see ten feet in front of you. Witt was quite busy going from one end of the row to the other to keep the pickers on the right rows. I picked some in the afternoons. One afternoon I picked over 100 pounds. That was good for me as I could not pick too much. Malcolm and Jay my brothers picked some for us. Uncle Chum Witt's mother's brother and three of his small girls. The girls were Bapna 9 Ruth about 8 and Mildred about 7. They were good pickers. Uncle Chum was a good picker. Witt's dad was not running the gin at Blevins. Witt had to take the cotton to

Eddy and Troy to be ginned. Most of it he took to Troy about ten miles from Blewins. Witt worked Mrs. Pratt's land seven years. In 1924 Mrs. Pratt told Witt she had a piece of land that was grown up with weeds and Kinkie burs. About two acres of it said Witt could have all it made if he would work it. So he broke it and bedded it and rebedded it. Then planted it in cotton. Looked like it was not going to make much so Witt and Mr. Pass said that Mrs. Pass and I could have what it made. It turned out better than they thought. We got a big bale of cotton (got \$40. for it) off it. I bought a New Home sewing machine with what I got out of it. (\$20) Mrs. Pass bought a coat, shoes and some dresses.

Mrs. Pass' mother passed away in 1926. She had a farm at old Harrisville. In early 1927 the farm was sold to Mr. Pass'

brother J. J. Pass. Mr. Pass + Witt
begin to look for a place to buy.
They found one a few miles west
of Mary Harding Baylor College in
Belton. After they had bargained
for it Witt decided he didn't want
to live over there. The fast talking
Real Estate man Joe Ferguson
talked them into buying it. There
was 40 acres of it, the house was
a rock house on the south side
of a small mountain. The gravel
road was in front of the house,
the land was on the south side
of the road. Witt found out
that there were rattle snakes
over there. The people who lived
there had found a snake in the
kitchen behind their stove. They
found one in the field under a
shock of oats when they were
picking up the oats to take to the
thresher. Witt said he would lose
what they had put in it if
they couldn't get rid of it. The
real estate man found a Mr. Cobb

at Little River who would trade us 40 acres for the 40 acres west of Belton. The house was on the back side of the 40 acres in a pasture not far from the Katy railroad track.

where
house X
was
40 acres
where the
house was
moved to
X

So Witt and Mr. Pass paid a man \$150 to move the house up to the front of the 40 acres. Close to the highway 95.

The house was a six room house without any porches. Two rooms 12X14, two 10X14, two 8X14. The 12X14 were a bedroom and living room, the 10X12 were a bedroom and dining room. We had a wood heater in the dining room where we sat. The 8X10 was a kitchen and bedroom. We had a wood cook stove. Witt, Odessa and I moved in Jan. 1927.

Mr. + Mrs. Pass stayed in Blevins until they could sell their house and lot. They sold it to Ola

Bowers she was a cousin of Mrs. Pass had never married. But did marry later.

The cook stove was all we had to warm by. We had left the heater for Mr. & Mrs. Pass to use. We burned tree roots in the cook stove. They made a hot fire after it got started. Witt got the roots across the highway where they were clearing some land. In late spring 1927 (summer) Mr. & Mrs. Pass moved in with us.

Odessa was in second grade. We were about one fourth mile from the school. Witt got work in Temple. Mr. Pass worked the place. Odessa got along well in school. Mr. Pass said that was the reason he wanted the place was on account of there were good schools there. Had a Consolidated high school about two miles. Was the first Consolidated high school in Bell Co. When Odessa

small town of Tom Bean. The two
older girls who married in South
Carolina lived near there. They were
Nancy (Nan) who married Frank
Burkett, Carrie who married John
C. Burkett a brother of Frank's.

Handy Harris married Julia Eyrp.
They lived in Denison, Texas. John
Samuel married Mallie Simmons, 16.
They were divorced. Later he married
a widow in 1896 with a 3 year old
boy, Malcolm. Her name was Octavia
(Jessie) Hudson. James W. married
a 15 year old niece of Frank & John
C. Burkett. She was Fannie Burkett.

I (Carrie Elizabeth) was born
Oct. 30, 1897. James & John went back
to Bell Co. to find a place to move to.
They found the same farm they first
lived on. Uncle (James) Jim moved
his wife & two children and his
father & mother into a house on
Frier Creek. John S. moved mother
Octavia & myself (Carrie E.) six months
old into a house on the hill above
Uncle Jim. The place was owned

was in fourth grade the teacher said if they didn't know their multiplication tables the next day she was going to whip them. That was when the teacher could use the paddle. The next morning Witt had to take Odessa to school. She was afraid she would get a whipping. Witt talked to the teacher she said she meant the big boys who were not trying. One time later there was a train wreck on the Katy tracks close to the school. School turned out send the children home.

Mr. Pass was to work the farm about 30 acres in cultivation. Witt got work in Temple at a feed store. Mr. Pass worked the place. The farm did not make very much. Taxes and interest on the farm had to be paid. We raised most our living. Always had a large garden. Had hogs for our meat and shortening. Witt was interested in White

Leghorn chickens. So he and Mr. Pass built a chicken house 50X150 feet. We had a few hens, some roosters sold setting eggs. We had trap nest a hen would go in the nest a door would close. I had to let the hens out when she had laid the egg. Sometimes the hen would break want out before I went to let her out, sometime the egg would be broken. Had to keep book on how many eggs each had laid. Each hen had a leg band with a number. There was a floor under their roost which had to be cleaned at least once a week sometimes oftener. Mr. Pass cleaned it most of the time. But when he could not get to it I would clean it. Would take a hoe and rake the droppings into a wheelbarrow. Would put the droppings on the land. We finally built two brooder houses where we hatched and raised

our own chickens. We had two incubators a large one that held 100 eggs. The little one held 50 eggs. Had to keep the temperature about 103. Had to turn the eggs each day. One time all 50 eggs hatched in the small incubator. There was a lot of work hatching and raising chickens. We ate and sold the roosters, culled the pullets kept the best for layers ate and sold the rest. We were in chicken business several years.

We finally went to raising naraganset turkeys. Made nest in boxes and iron barrels. We let the turkey hen set on the eggs. It takes four weeks for the turkey eggs to hatch, only took three weeks for the chicken eggs. Odessa had a few bantams. When the little bantam went to setting under the house I put four turkey eggs under her. She had to stretch her wings to cover

the eggs, she hatched every egg. I put the little turkeys with a turkey hen that had hatched some eggs at the same time. We also had two ducks and a drake. Witt got the eggs somewhere set the eggs under a bantam hen takes four weeks for ducks to hatch. When they hatched Witt filled a small shallow pan with water for the little ducks to swim in. They took to the water at once. The bantam hen didn't know what to do she would walk around the pan of water making a noise. Those ducks turned out to be pests when grown. Couldn't keep any chicken water out. When it rained they would make the yard a mess.

Mr. Pass died March 27, 1934 early one morning before day of a heart attack. Sure was hard on us as that left us to have to hire someone to work the farm or rent it out. We hired help for

some time. My brother Clifton stayed a little while helping us out. Witt was still working in Temple or Belton. While Witt was working for Fletcher's Feed Store he got hurt. One evening he was closing a door on a freight car door a roller fell off and hit him on the head. He was knocked to the ground where he hit his head on the back of some concrete. He went to the Dr. then to the hospital for tests. Dr. said his head was kind of like a bruised heel. Witt had the shakes couldn't hold his head still or his hands. He used a cane to hold when walking. He couldn't sleep at night, some times he would walk to the back of the farm at night. He sued the Santa Fe railroad, his lawyers were Henry Taylor and Woody Zacery. The jury awarded Witt some money but didn't say who was to pay so

the Santa Fe got out of paying. This happened in 1930. Witt did not work for over a year.

Odessa was going to college in San Marcos so we rented our farm out also the house and moved to San Marcos. We rented a large house close to the college that had three apartments.

Rented out two apartments which paid the house rent and our utility bills. Witt got his first job since he had been hurt. He was a night watchman at a wool mill. The mill took wool cleaned and spun and made it into blankets. He worked there until 1942 when we moved to Moody to work my Mama's farm as my brother Ballard had gone into the service. We made a good crop in 1942. In the fall of '42 Witt got work in Temple at the West Side Lumber Co. We bought $2\frac{1}{2}$ lots on south 33rd street built a small house moved

into it before it was finished
in the spring of 1943. We sold
the house and lots in 1944
moved back to Little River.
Witt still working at West
Side Lumber Co. We remodeled
our house at Little River. Little
River dug a water well which
furnished water for all Little
River. The well was about $\frac{1}{8}$
mile from our house. So we
got water we put in a bathroom.
Put in a cabinet and sink in
the kitchen. Put sheetrock in all
the rooms. I painted most of
the rooms. Witt worked for
West Side Lumber Co. eleven years.
He then started driving a taxi.
Would go early, come home late.
He was making more money
than he ever had all his life.
He drove a taxi several years.
He had hemorrhoids and a fischer
from sitting so much driving.
Was in hospital for a while.

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soon after his death. We tore down the old garage added to the old barn. Had a garage, storeroom and a shed room. We put up sheetrock in all the rooms. Had the sheetrock painted. Bought blinds for all the rooms except the pantry. Blinds cost us \$195. Had the living room, front bedroom and dining room floors all refinished. They were pine floors. They were real pretty when refinished. Bought drapes that cost \$58. We still had 3½ acres with house at Little River. Witt still goes down there and works a garden. We rented the house out. We finally sold the place at Little River for \$4500. We painted the house at Temple. Witt had been disabled since 1958. He was drawing social security on disability. Was in the hospital some. He would not do what the Dr. would tell him to do.

In 1963 he fell and broke his hip. Got along good. He was still using the walker in Dec. 2, 1963 when my mother Octavia died after being in a nursing home for almost 2 years. Witt kept going to the Dr. We finally sent him to Austin to the mental hospital stayed for awhile came home did good for awhile. Don + Odessa took him to Arkansas the summer of 1964. The spring (1965) Easter vacation Don + Odessa took me to Linden in east Texas to see some cousins of mine that I had never seen Vada Watson and Lallie Cloninger. We went on to Hodges Gardens in Louisiana.

Witt had built a plastic shed to grow plants. His tomatoes took damping off he lost all his plants. He had used something on them. The company gave him a \$100 check

by a Mr. & Mrs. Rich. My father & Uncle Jim drove the distance from Tom Bean to Temple in wagons brought their milk cans. Aunt Fannie & children & James & Elizabeth Bruce & Octavia and Carrie E. all came to Temple on the train. My papa and family lived on the hill above the old Morent Vernon school house. Malcolm & I started school there. Church services were also held in the school building. On Sept. 8, 1899 a sister Clara was born. A cousin of Papa's Sidney Perry Bruce lived with Papa & Mama. He worked for Papa & Uncle Jim. A schoolteacher roomed & boarded with Mama. She was Miss Flora. Later she & Sidney Perry married. The school was a big one room building. I do not remember too much about my first year in school. The big boys would make like they were going to hurt Malcolm to see what I would do. It would scare me. When I was older I

so he broke even.

On May 9, 1966 we had to send him back to the hospital in Austin. He got to where he would not eat. Said he was going to lay there and die. He fought the men when they came to get him. When they got to the hospital they asked Witt to walk to his room. He said you brought me this far you can carry me the rest of the way. He was so contrary and would not do as they told him the first night that he slept on the floor. From then on he went down. He had a prostate operation while there. He passed away Sept. 8, 1966 on his 72 birthday. I stayed in Temple until November 1966. Odessa would come up each week end and take a carful back with her. The last of November 1966 a moving van came up from El Campo

brought a few pieces of furniture to put in the house as we were going to rent it furnished. They were almost all day unloading and loading.

played with other children my
age & older. There was a large deep
ditch down the hill from the
school close to the road. We
played tag in the ditch. One or
two would be in the ditch they
would try to catch the rest as we
tried to go from one side of the
ditch to the other. We also played
drop the handkerchief & pop the
whip. Clara started to school there.
John Samuel. Jr was born Feb. 27,
1902. Edie was born Feb. 7, 1905.
About this time Papa bought a farm
about 4 or 5 miles west of the
Rich place. He bought it from a
Mr. Feby. The house was an old
house but comfortable. It was a
five room house with front & back
porches. In the fall of 1909 the old
house burned loss everything. Papa
had \$50. in his pant pockets hanging
behind the door in the bedroom.
Mama had been ironing, leaving the
sad irons in the fireplace. When
she got through there were only a

few coals left. She covered them with ashes & then set a screen made of paper & cloth in front of the fireplace. The doors were all open. A little breeze came in & fanned the ^{coals that caught the} paper & cloth screen fire. Mama, Ebie & Clifton two years old, born Dec. 19, 1907 were in the yard feeding the chickens and gathering the eggs. Fire was well on its way when she saw it. She halloed at us we were quiet away up in the field picking cotton. Nothing much was saved. Papa had no insurance. People all around even Temple & Belton were so good to us. They gave us things we could use like quilts & money & other things. We moved back on the hill where we lived before Papa bought the place. Papa bought some furniture from a man in Temple who was leaving Temple. We lived on the hill until Papa had a new house built. He did not build on the same spot

where the old house was. Built
Built a little south of where the
old house was. We went to
school + Church at Taylors
Valley about three miles south. ~~of~~
This was a one room school
had church in the school until a
church was built. On June 14, 1910
William Ballard Bruce was born.
He was named after Mama's father
William Ballard Hudson. Papa was
having his oats threshed that day.
Flora Bruce was there to do the
work. The new house had five
rooms a hall + two porches. We
walked the three miles to school.
If a cold wet norther came up
Papa would come after us in a
buggy with curtains up on each
side. One year we had five
teachers. There were six or seven
boys larger than the teachers.
They were so bad that the Teachers
would quit.

Papa sold the farm. He bought
a farm about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the north

east of the farm he sold.
Known as the Watson place. There
were 68 acres in the place
later he bought a few acres
joining the Watson place.
Clara & I went to school in
Temple. We drove a pony (Nelly)
to a buggy. She was afraid of
cars. She would stop when
meeting one, about the time they
passed she would jump forward &
run. We did not meet many cars
as they were just beginning to
come into the county. We stopped
at a grocery store on S. 25th St.
in the edge of Temple tie Nelly
to a telephone pole. We walked
from there to north 3rd St. which
was 2 miles I guess. Too many
cars and trains to drive to the
high school. The other children went
to school at Taylors Valley. It was
at least 3 miles.

In the fall of 1915 Clara had
diphtheria. She was well on the way
to recovery. She loved black eye

peas, she wanted some for dinner on a Sunday. So Mama called Dr. Knight her Dr. and asked him if she could have a few. Monday she took worse and died before the Dr. could get there. He did have a car. He said the solid food took the mucuous down and it went to her heart. I never went back to school. I had already met Witt Bass at a Primitive Baptist (Hardshell) meeting at Taylors Valley where they were holding their association which they had once a year. Witt lived at Blevins about six miles southeast of Eddy, Texas in Falls County. He came with a second cousin he had a car. Russel Bowers the cousin had met a girl Tonie Sewell a friend of mine. He would bring by to see me he would go to see Bonnie. Later Witt bought a good looking horse and buggy. He would drive the fifteen miles to Temple then

on to see me. He would come on Saturday afternoon we would go to Temple that night to the picture shows and ice cream parlor after the show. He would take me home he would go back to Temple put the horse and buggy in the livery stable get a room for ~~myself~~^{him} and spend the night. Then late Sunday evening he would come we would go to church. The first Christmas after we met he put a small manicure set on the Christmas tree at the church. The summer of 1916 he bought a model T Ford touring car. The first time he came down to see me in it he brought his mother and father. They were going to Rogers to see his mother's sister & family. I went with them. Met his aunt and uncle and their three children. After a short visit they took me home. They went on home from there. Guess Mitt wanted to see if his parents approved me. After that

Odessa Pass Baylor's line

Hardy McGlaun (1806-1893)

Md. Eleanor M. Patton (1809-1859)

Elizabeth Martin McGlaun (1830-1908)

Md Stith Meade Parham (1809-1873)

Stith Alfred Parham (1849-1938)

Md Mary Jane Bowers (1852-1937)

Susan Louella Parham (1872-1935)

Md Robert Edward Lee Pass (1869-1934)

Witt Randolph Pass (1894-1966)

Md Carrie Elizabeth Bruce (1897-)

Odessa Pass (1919-)

Md Don Baylor (1919-1988)