

THRICE TOLD TALES OF CREED TAYLOR

We of the third generation of the J. P. Lorenz family, who have owned the Creed Taylor homestead since 1877, cannot vouch for the real truth of these tales. They were passed down from our grandparents to our parents and to us.

Originally the Creed Taylor house consisted of two large rooms with a hall between, two shed rooms across the back of the house, and a porch across the front. There was a stairway in the hall leading to a room in the roof. The house was built of 12" by 12" cypress logs. The house burned down in 1938. By that time the logs had been covered over with siding. When it burned it took the logs much longer to burn than the siding.

The house was said to be haunted. Adolph and Will Lorenz, boys of 15 and 12, came ahead of the remainder of the family from Panna Maria in Karnes County. They found that the doors would come open in the night regardless of the fact that they had been carefully closed before going to bed. They decided that new locks and hinges were needed on the doors and after they had installed these, they were no longer bothered with open doors.

Noises were often heard in the room in the roof. When it was investigated one day, an elderly man was discovered up there. He was trying to scare the two boys into leaving.

Doughboy and Hays Taylor, sons of Creed Taylor, were anything but law-abiding. After the slaves had been freed, Mr. Taylor paid a Negro man for doing some work for him. The man was paid in gold. Doughboy and Hays followed the Negro, killed him, took the money, and threw the body in an old well in the pasture. The old well is still there, but no one has ever looked for bones in it.

Hays met his death at the hands of officers of the law, who were not soft hearted. He met death in the following manner. Hays and Doughboy had a number of horses which they were planning to drive north to sell. They were holding these horses several miles from the house. They knew that the Federal officers were after them for some of their unlawful deeds and were hiding out near the horses. Doughboy decided to go to the house. The Federal officers shot at him, but he managed to get away. Hays, on hearing the shots, went to Doughboy's aid. The officers shot him on his horse. It ran under a tree and Hays was knocked off.

After killing Hays, the officers brought his body to his father's home, threw the body into the hall and would not allow Mr. Taylor to touch it all night. The officers told Mr. Taylor that if he had reared his boys right, Hays would not have been brought home like this. The blood stains on the cypress floor were dark looking in dry weather, but when it rained they took on the look of fresh blood. This bothered Alvina Lorenz so much that her father had the logs covered with flooring.

Across the road about one half mile from the Creed Taylor land is the Steel Branch Cemetery. There is a grave in it that has been pointed out to us as that of Hays Taylor.

Written by Birdie Lorenz, Stockdale, Texas in August of 1966. Wilson County Historical Society. 1/6/2008.