

A history of the Kennedy family as written by Riley Ingram Kennedy.

On a voyage from Ireland one prosperous family looking for virgin land was the Kennedy family. A few days before landing in New York Mrs. Kennedy gave birth to a ten pound boy. They were very proud of this fine boy even though they already had several other boys and girls. They named this boy Voyage Augustus.

Soon after landing in America they bought some fine river valley land and established several families in houses on their land. Mr. Kennedy started a commissary to supply food and clothing to his tenants. He also acquired a big freight boat to haul supplies to his and other planters and merchants which was a very profitable business.

The Kennedys soon became very wealthy. However, Mrs. Kennedy's health failed and she soon passed away leaving Mr. Kennedy with ten small children. He hired a fine young lad, a half-breed Mississippi Choctaw Indian to care for his children. She soon became the second Mrs. Kennedy. Soon after their marriage they had their first child, a fine boy. They named him William Norris Pinkney Kennedy. Then came Timothy just two years later.

The second Mrs. Kennedy was very fond of horse riding and outdoor life. When the boys were only seven and nine years old, one cold winter morning Mrs. Kennedy's horse slipped on an ice cliff and fell, killing Mrs. Kennedy almost instantly.

Again Mr. Kennedy was left with these two small boys with no mother. One of his father's brothers moved in to care for the two boys. This only lasted a short time. Mr. Kennedy was mysteriously murdered in his home. He had acquired many thousands of dollars in gold. The boys' uncle and Aunt Robert and Nancy loaded the two youngest boys and many thousands of gold in a schooner wagon and hit the trail; after several months travel they landed in Central Texas. Uncle Robert and Aunt Nancy had warned the boys never to tell of their vast amount of gold as they might meet up with robbers who would rob them.

After a short stay in Texas they left Norris and Timothy with a neighbor, Mr. and Mrs. Stevens, stating they would be gone only one week and would pay board and room for the boys as soon as they returned. However, that was the last they ever heard of their uncle and aunt or their many thousands in gold.

Norris was very strong and a good worker but Timothy was small and weak. They lived three years with the Stevens who were good and kind to the boys but worked them hard and did not send them to school, neither did they pay them any money.

Mr. and Mrs. Stevens moved to town stating they had no room for the boys. Norris, nearing his thirteenth birthday, was large and strong so he soon located another home with Mr. and Mrs. Larkin who told him they would give him a fine horse and saddle for one year's work. They were good to the boys. Mrs. Larkin kept Timothy at home to help her as she had no children and Norris worked.

Norris worked the field and cared for Mr. Larkin's stock.

