

## Cooke County History

# A Mover and a Shaker

## Part 1 of a 4 Part Series on the Hulens

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Referred to as a Cooke County pioneer, James "Harvey" Hulen lived in this area in the exciting years of the late 1800s. He worked in both city and county government, grew prosperous through real estate transactions, and took part in cultural organizations.

He was a mover and shaker locally for many years. But, at the time of his death, Hulen primarily was known as the father of John Augustus Hulen with most of his own earlier contributions being lost to the fame of his son.

But, that was not always the case. Eighteen years after his birth in 1845, Harvey Hulen in 1862 enlisted in Company L of Captain Young Purcell's Missouri regiment, the First Northeast Cavalry.

The Civil War had erupted during the previous year and for the young men of Hulen's generation the expectation was that they would fight on one side or the other. He later shared his experiences with his sons, a few of whom followed his example and entered the military.

A few years after the war

ended, Harvey married Frances (Fannie or Fannie) Mary Catherine Morter in Boone, Missouri on September 20, 1870 and welcomed their first child John Augustus the following year. Two years after the birth of John Augustus, the family made the move to Cooke County.

Cattle was a big industry in Texas after the Civil War and into the 1870s. With such a big state and not enough law enforcement officials to patrol it, rustling often happened and it was not always possible to find the thieves.

To combat that problem, in 1875, Hulen and several other men "met in Valley View to organize a cattleman's organization to stop cattle rustling in the area. That group became the nucleus for the Southwestern Cattleman's Association which was formed in Graham in 1887"

In the following year, Hulen was elected to the first of what became two terms as county surveyor. He "served one term as county tax collector beginning in 1880 and later would serve two terms on the Gainesville City Council." His final political office was his appointment to the board of Jury Commissioners in 1890.

Fraternal organizations were popular during that era and many businessmen and political leaders participated in those groups. Harvey Hulen was no exception to that practice. In 1893 he "became a charter member of the Knights Templar of Gainesville and was eminent commander of the chapter in town from 1893 to 1895."

In 1895 "Paul Gallia and Harvey Hulen, as partners, razed the brick mansion of Zach Addington and moved the dismantled building to be recycled into the impressive 3-story Gallia Opera House. It attracted many notable performers in its heyday, including the band of John Phillip Sousa."

As his financial success grew, the family enjoyed the trappings that went along with that prosperity. In 1897, Hulen constructed a new 9-room brick home in Gainesville. The house still stands today and has been on the Gainesville homes tour. The 1900 census shows several members of the family living in that house along with two live-in African Americans servants.

But, despite the success they also experienced sadness. That same census shows that by 1900 Har-

vey and his wife Fannie had had 10 children but by that point only seven were still living. In fifteen short years, they would lose another son.

They left Cooke County in the early part of the twentieth century and moved to Oklahoma to live with their son Victor and his family. They remained in Oklahoma for the remainder of their lives. Harvey Hulen died in Ft. Gibson, Oklahoma on October 9, 1932. He is buried in Fairview Cemetery next to his wife and one of his sons.

The location might have made him smile as he had known success in an earlier time at a county fair located close to the cemetery, "when his Berkshire hogs were prize winners."

