

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Scarcely any way exists for me to adequately express my thanks to the numerous people who have contributed to this book. I am forever in the debt of generous family and friends who have helped me create a family history as comprehensive as it is.

Most of all, I am indebted to Isabelle Ikard Pearsall, researcher and exception historian, for generously sharing her enormous store of documents, letters, maps and collection of family groups. She has for six years supplied me with materials, responded to appears for advice and urged me to write this book. With her insatiable interest and vast resources, she should have been the writer of the Ikard book. But Isabelle is committed to “getting the facts” and less to telling a story. Writing is a pain to her, she says. She was kind enough to edit the first three chapters of the book, and I am most appreciative. She keeps me honest.

My cousin Carl, thirty years ago, began his search for the story of the Ikards. He gave me his first booklet on the generations of Ikards. After his death, his niece Donita Weedn Shelton and my cousin Edwin Ikard gave me access to Carl’s papers for one day. It was a frantic search, knowing all the while that I surely would overlook treasured information, but that was all the time I could spend in Lawton. Carl said that he had a letter that James Mosley Ikard wrote to his son Lanson Odell. I would have loved to have included that letter among the letters of this book. Carl was not a person to give half measure to a task. His sense of history came through as he evaluated documents and interviews. He formulated a wealth of questions. If only we knew.

Edwina Ikard Boyd is the historian of the Texas branch of the family. She prepared perhaps the first papers of the descendants of Dr. Milton and Isabella Tubbs Ikard. Her cousin Frank Neville Ikard, as Congressman from Wichita Falls, Texas, and later President of the Petroleum Institute, had little time for research. But he did hire a genealogist to peruse the files and volumes of the National Archives in Washington and in the Catawba County Public Library in Newton, North Carolina, to separate fact from legend about the earliest generations of Ikards in this country. I am grateful to both Texas cousins for their contributions.

My own aunt Mae Ikard Hicks, who wrote a column for her local newspaper and could have written this book. Mae's interests in family matters was keen. Her memory of the sights, sounds, smells and feels of prairie living are a pleasure to read. Her daughters kindly made her papers available to me, and I think them.

Martha Penn Ikard and Joe Blackman, each in their own way contributed facts and insights to understanding the struggles of Ikards who dared pioneer the plains.

Clemmie White "Topsy" Ikard Simmons responded to numerous requests from me for documents, pictures and information about Tom's and Allie's family and of Tom's siblings.

All my 20th century cousins have contributed again and again as I sought to weave the story of "our time."

The picture section of the book results from cousins willing to share treasured photographs of people in the family. Viola Hamilton Golden had a valuable collection of pictures and allowed me to copy them. Thom Garner, a long time collector of Ikard memorabilia, entrusted his photos to special handling of the U.S. Postal Service so they could be included. Topsy's collection of pictures of Tennessee Ikards adds to our pleasure of seeing images of the Ikards at the turn of the century. My cousin Joan Ikard Warfield shared a picture of Delly's and Betty's family before leaving Tennessee. Pat Hicks Stephens shared pictures in Mae Ikard Hicks collection. Isabelle provided me with copies of pictures of the children of Elijah Harrison and Marticia Wilson Ikard. To all these kind and generous people, I say "Thanks."

Being a blunderer rather than skillful in the use of my computer, I am indebted to Sandra McBride and Robert Hoover for technical advice in getting the job done.

My niece, Cindy E. Ikard, a printer and master of graphics, kindly offered to take the text and pictures and enhance them for a more professional appearing book. She also did research for me in the National Archives in Washington, D. C. I appreciate her contributions.

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And, finally, I am grateful to my husband, Fred, for some editing but mostly for picking up on my share of running a household so that I had time to write this book.

Mildred Ikard Bourgeois
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