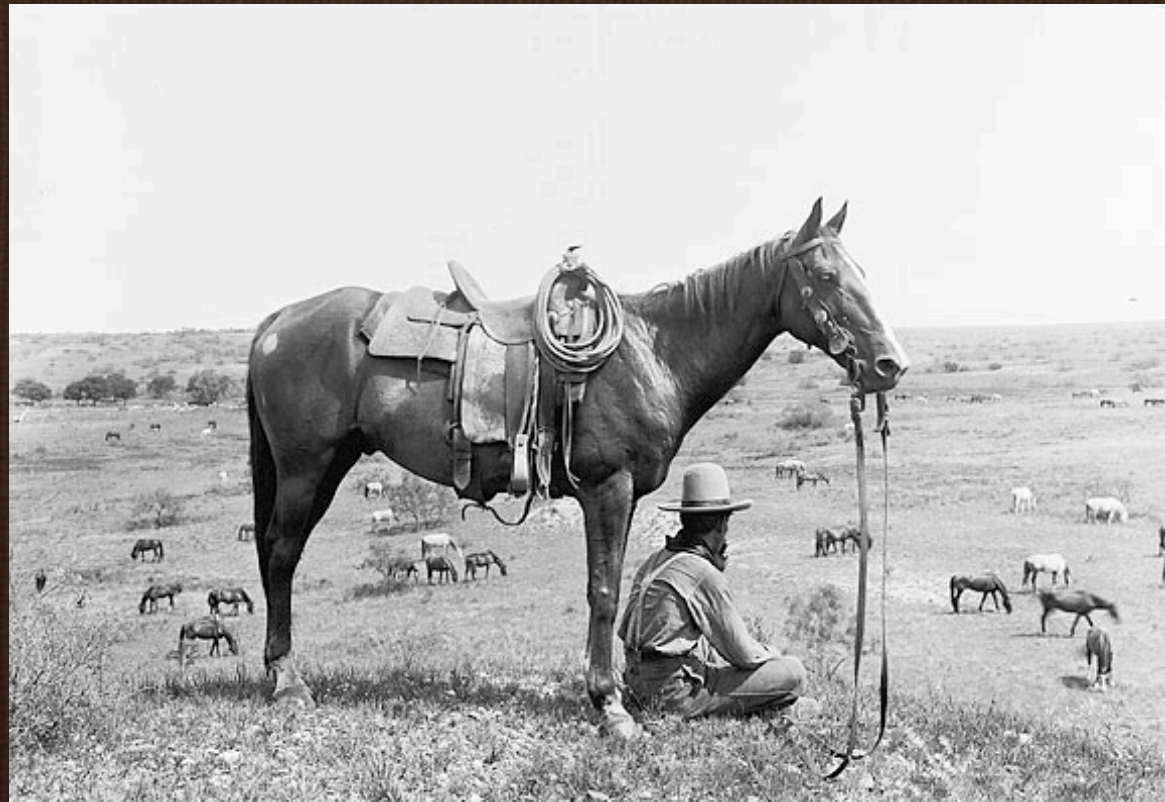


# The SMS Ranches

A Collective History

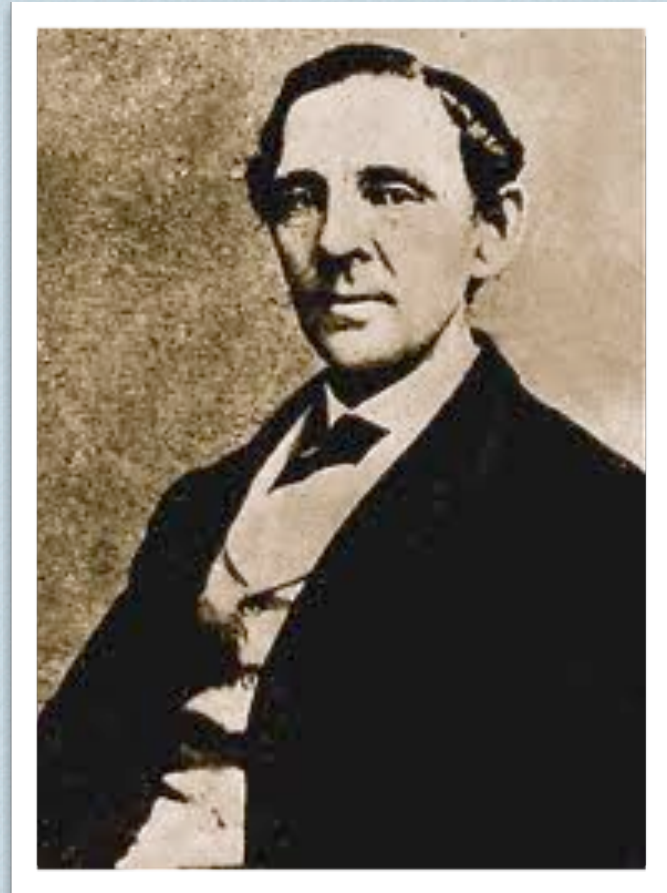




# Svante Magnus Swenson

February 24, 1816 - June 13, 1896

- ❖ Born in Lättarp, Barkeryds Parish, Jönköping, Sweden in 1816 to Sven Israelsson & Margareta Andersson Andersdotter
- ❖ Came to America in 1836 - reports of ship burning in New York Harbor
- ❖ Worked as a store clerk in New York, learned English
- ❖ Worked as railroad bookkeeper in Baltimore, Maryland
- ❖ Moved to Texas in 1838
- ❖ S.M.S. peddled goods in a carriage



❖





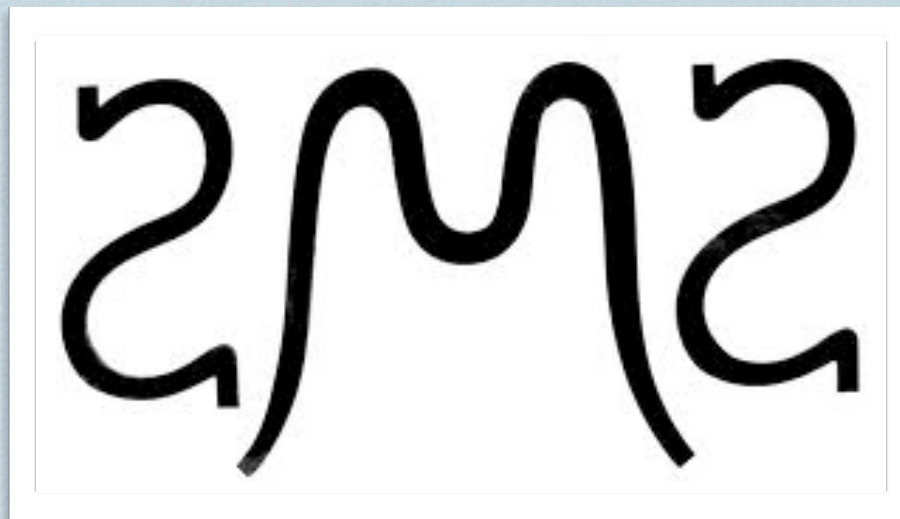
By 1865, S.M.S. went to New Orleans, set up mercantile business with William Perkins, purchased sugar plantation

Same year, took family to live in New York City because of Reconstruction & reported threats to life; established financial house of Swenson Perkins Company

After this company dissolved, S.M.S. established banking house of S.M. Swenson and Sons



- ❖ After dissolution of S.M. Swenson and Sons, S.M.S. became large depositor in the National City Bank which eventually merged into the First National City bank of New York
- ❖ In 1882, S.M.S. wanted to develop West Texas holdings to help pay taxes; S.M.S. and his sons traveled to Texas, inspected properties, formed 3 ranches (named after the children)
  - ❖ Eleonora Ranch (largest) - later known as Throckmorton Ranch (after county it was in)
  - ❖ Mount Albin Ranch which contained flat-topped mesa - later known as Flat Top Ranch
  - ❖ Ericisdahl Ranch, containing 50,000-60,000 acres, 9 miles east of where Stamford would be



- ❖ S.M.S. leased his holdings to sons who operated under the name Swenson Brothers Cattle Company
- ❖ In spring of 1882, SMS brand registered
- ❖ In 1883, company bought 5,700 acres in Jones and Haskell counties that became Ellerslie Ranch



# Division of Ranch Land

- ❖ Descendants of SMS's surviving children (Eric Pierson, Sven Albin and Mary Eleanora) still invested/involved in SMS ranches
- ❖ Extended family too large and diverse to have common goal for land
- ❖ Decision made to divide holdings to allow different family groups to pursue their own visions
- ❖ In 1978, SMS Ranch divided into 4 separate companies, corresponding to 4 family groups; split by acreage according to animal carrying capacity and ease of management





# Flat Top and Throckmorton A&M Ranch



- ❖ Descendants of SMS's son, Eric Pierson, received Flat Top and the part of Throckmorton used by Texas A&M University
- ❖ Lineage = Svante Magnus Swenson > Eric Pierson Swenson > Swen Randolphe Swenson
- ❖ Later named Swen R. Swenson Land & Cattle Company, then Swenson Land and Cattle Company
- ❖ Bruce Swenson was first president; now, Stephen T. Swenson, Bruce's son, is president; Bruce's children serve on board
- ❖ Currently includes 46,000 acres in Jones, Haskell, Stonewall and Throckmorton counties with leased operations in Kent County, TX, Wyoming and Nebraska
- ❖ Company headquarters in 1924 Swenson building in Stamford, TX



# Throckmorton West

- ❖ Descendants of SMS's daughter, Mary Eleanora, received Throckmorton West, (approximately 46,000 acres on west side of Ranch Road 222 in Throckmorton Country)
- ❖ Lineage = Svante Magnus Swenson > Mary Eleanora Swenson Towne > Eleanor Susan Towne Carey
- ❖ Later named Throckmorton Land & Cattle
- ❖ William (Bill) Carey - from Pennsylvania and later, Texas - served as president from 1978-2001
- ❖ Ranch and mineral interests sold to Ross McKnight in 2001
- ❖ Ross and his son, Trent, manage ranch today





# Throckmorton East

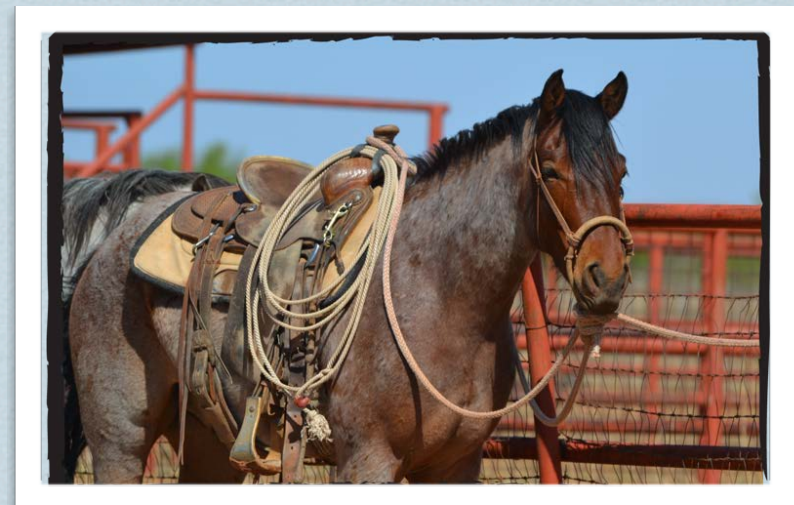
- ❖ Descendants of SMS's son, Eric Pierson, received Throckmorton East - approximately 45,000 acres on east side of Ranch Road 222 in Throckmorton County
- ❖ Lineage = Swante Magnus Swenson > Eric Pierson Swenson > Svante Magnus Swenson
- ❖ Later named SMS Ranch Company
- ❖ Overseen by descendants of Svante Magnus ("Max") and run by Eugene Swenson, grandson of A.J. Swenson.
- ❖ Family sold Throckmorton East in 1982 to Lester Clark of Breckenridge, TX; Clark offered cash plus Circle-Bar Ranch outside of Rapid City, SD (33,230 acres)
- ❖ In 2000, family sold "SMS Dakota".





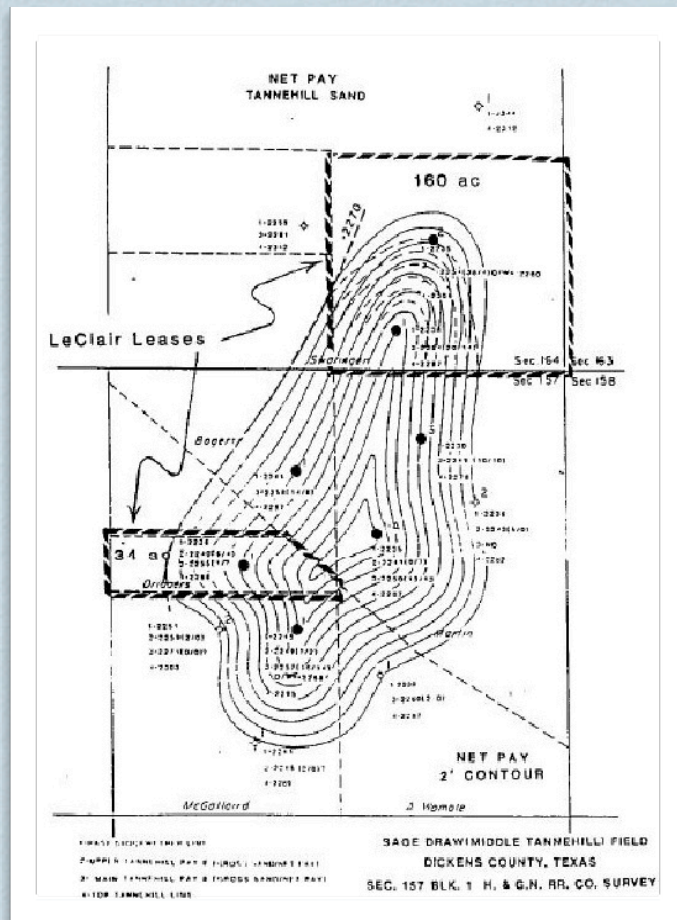
# Tongue River Ranch

- ❖ Descendants of SMS's son, Sven Albin, received the Tongue River Ranch - approximately 77,000 acres in King, Cottle, Motley and Dickens Counties; ranch name did not change
- ❖ Lineage = Svante Magnus Swenson > Sven Albin Swenson > Eric Appleton Swenson & Albin Champlin Swenson
- ❖ Owned/operated by OJ (Jim) Barron from Lubbock, TX - Albin Champlin Swenson's son-in-law
- ❖ Barron family sold ranch and mineral rights to Lester Clark; Lester Clark sold ranch to Millard Morris in 1997 but retained executive and 1/8 share of mineral rights
- ❖ Current size is 79,000 acres; cattle and horse operation
- ❖ In 2007, added 32,000 acres at the foothills of Sangre De Cristo Mountains in New Mexico





# Mineral Rights



- ❖ The four companies retained mineral rights (1/4 each) on each of 4 land areas
- ❖ Sale of properties to Lester Clark and Ross McKnight included stipulations such that, eventually, executive mineral rights would transfer to Clark and McKnight organizations by sellers, as noted earlier