

Interview Essay: John Oglesby

By John Duus



John Duus with his scholarship essay subject, John Oglesby.

"Family is not an important thing. It's everything." This is the quote that perfectly describes how John Oglesby landed back in Mills County after so many years.

John's family history in Mills County dates way back to the 1800's and continues from there. It all starts with John's Grandfather, Jacob Allington Mohler. JA Moher was born in Shenandoah County, Virginia on October 9, 1839. After the Civil War, JA Mohler found himself in the Mills County area of Texas. JA was elected as Tax Assessor in 1888. John's paternal grandfather, on the Oglesby side, ran a General Store in Big Valley. John's father did not fall far from the tree, he bought and ran a general store in Center City from 1923-1945. During the Great Depression, John's father ran a grocery store route three days a week. He did not get paid money for this; instead, he traded for chickens and eggs. This is a great example of how people made it through the Great Depression by working together. John's mom worked as a teacher in Star for a while before moving to Goldthwaite. John eventually attended Goldthwaite High School from 1945 to his graduation in 1947. This is when he left Mills County to attend Texas A&M University where he graduated in 1951. After the Korean War, John found work in other states for the U.S. Government. After retiring, John returned back to Goldthwaite after thirty years of working. John described Mills County as the perfect place to retire to, but he ultimately came back to Mills County because of his deep family history here. For many summers, John spent his time at his cabin in Colorado. Even though he could have chosen to live there permanently, John continued to come back to Mills County to spend a majority of the year here. Mr. Oglesby

continued throughout the interview to enforce that his family and friends are here and this is exactly where he wants to be. John finished the interview saying his family's cemetery is located here and when the time comes, he would like to be buried with them.

Mr. Oglesby has a long family history in Mills County and surrounding areas, and he is a living book when it comes to telling the stories of Mills County. He has been able to experience many decades in Goldthwaite including the Great Depression, World War 2 and the turn of the Millennium. He can tell you a detailed history of Goldthwaite to before the 1900's. The stories he tells you are not from a book he read, but from the stories of parents and grandparents passed down through the years.