

## A LOOK BACK IN HUTCHINSON COUNTY HISTORY

### T. S. Bugbee

Thomas Sherman Bugbee, cattleman, the third of five children of John Brewer and Hannah (Sherman) Bugbee, was born on January 18, 1842, in Washington County, Maine. After limited schooling he left home at the age of fourteen to work on a farm and later at a sawmill. In 1860 he secured an 80 acre homestead in western Maine, but service in the Tenth Maine Infantry during the Civil War kept him away from home from 1861 to 1864. Due to the postwar recession, Bugbee and his brother George made their way west, working as teamsters. Hearing of money



to be made in the cattle market, Bugbee visited Fort Worth and formed a partnership with George Miller and M. M. Shea. In 1869 they bought 1,200 cattle for \$11 a head and sold them in Idaho for \$45 a head. With the profits from this venture, they bought and sold several more herds and amassed a small fortune. From Rice, Kansas, at the end of a trail drive, Bugbee met and married Mary Catherine (Molly) Dunn on August 13, 1872. The newlyweds loaded their wagon and drove their herd west. In the fall of 1876, the Bugbees arrived with 1,800 cattle at the Canadian River in Hutchinson County and established the Quarter Circle T Ranch, the second oldest ranch in the Panhandle. Bugbee sold his land and cattle in 1882 and moved to Kansas City. During the next 15 years, he began cattle ranches in Texas, Kansas, and Indian Territory. In 1897 Bugbee moved his family from Kansas City to Clarendon, Texas and continued his ranching interests there. He introduced many grains and grasses to the Panhandle and also introduced the first harvesters and tractors. Bugbee led in the founding and supporting of schools and other civilizing institutions. He died at his home in Clarendon on October 18, 1925. ■

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