



Photo courtesy of Panhandle Plains Museum

Col. Herring's office at the LS Ranch

to ship down river to New Orleans and the Confederate Army. He found life on the trail tough, but it gave this young cattleman a back-



Col. C. T. Herring with great grandsons Charles and Neal Ware

ground of experience that paid dividends for his years as the entrepreneur of the High Plains.

“At age 19, while on a cattle drive through Smith County, Texas, he met Sarah Jane Lawrence,” Janie continued. “He married her on February 23, 1869 in a simple ceremony performed under a brush arbor in Starrville, Texas. The 1870 Smith County census showed him as age 22, male, white, farmer, value of real estate \$2,000, can read and write, with personal property of \$750.”

By the late 1870s, Herring realized the best opportunities for the cattle business were not in East Texas, but to the West. When he headed West, his wife could not be convinced to leave her family home and parents. After several separations, a divorce was granted on

February 28, 1888. Sarah Jane never remarried and it's reported she became despondent and went to bed and stayed there for nearly 20 years. “In fact,” Janie said, “from the day they divorced until the day she died she wore black. When she died, and (Big Papa) C.T. Herring heard about it, he died within two hours of Sarah Jane's death.”

In the 1880s, Fort Worth was a stopover for cowboys driving cattle to the northern markets. It was here that Colonel Herring, a title granted out of respect by his many friends and associates, went into the cattle business, running as many as 20,000 head in Indian Territory, under his “Chain-C” brand. The “Chain-C” Ranch had it's headquarters southwest of the present day ghost town of Navajo, in (then) Old Greer County, Texas. It