

CSA Lt. **Benjamin H. Brantley**, (d Oct 5, 1862), was of brief stay at the farm home of **Stephen Groves**, but while there, President Lincoln visited the farm which was then the battlefield headquarters and this famous photograph below (left) was taken on Oct 3rd 1862 while young Benjamin lay in the house in the background, dying from his wounds.



Photo taken Oct 3rd 1862 at the Union Headquarters then located at the farm home of Stephen Grove. Young Benjamin Brantley, then in the house, would die from his wounds just two days later.



Photo. I think, taken about 1980 when I visited the one time farm home of Stephen Grove near Sharpsburg Maryland.

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Hist 47

Story  
**John Franklin Brantley**  
aka John Booky

John Franklin Brantley was born in 1803 in Washington County, Georgia; son of James and Elizabeth Brantley. He had 5 sons all who served in the Confederacy. One son Benjamin H., died during the conflict (see Hist 37 and Benjamin H. in Brantleys of Georgia).

John was a rough character. While he was highly respected, he embraced many aggressive characteristics. He earned the name "Booky" by traveling through middle Georgia booking fights. He was a large man and would fight any one who was too so inclined. He would book his own fights. The fights were not what we think of today. Many involved gouging; that is the winner would be immediately recognized if he was the first to gouge out the eye of his opponent. One story related by Tim Brantley was handed down by his grandfather. It seems that John came in late one night drunk with his eye ball hanging out on his cheek. Wife Lucindy took his eye and reset it in its socket with a patch. It reportedly healed up. Notwithstanding his conduct at times, John was a justice of the peace. One newspaper account reported an event in or about Sandersville, Georgia, I believe about 1852. John encountered a man at the local saloon. The man was drunk and angry. On his hip, was a hatchet in scabbard. His hostile feelings may have been because of John's actions toward him as a J.P. The man, seeing John, began to curse him. John ignored him at first, but after the man's continued badgering, he made a remark to the person about his character. At that point the drunken man came after him with the hatchet. The reporter stated that in one move, Mr. Brantley, retrieved the hatchet, knocked the man to the floor whereby, he commence to stomp him to death.

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Hist 165

Study 2012

For many years we have wondered about the history of Hannah who married **John Brantley** about 1730. The couple are the ancestors of about one fourth of the Brantley population in America (white). I am among their descendant as well as most Georgia citizens of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century. We have never had any serious evidence to establish Hannah's maiden name. Some 25 years ago, we speculated that she was **Hannah Harper**, as that was shown on an entry in DAR papers submitted by an applicant of the 1960s. We later all but proved that wrong. First, I personally talked to the applicant who stated she did not make the entry, but that some unknown visitor made the entry in the DAR records center after her application. Then we realized that there was not one entry out of the thousands we have, where a Brantley and a Harper were mentioned in the same record. There was, in fact, nothing to support the hypothesis. Unfortunately, although we recanted the proposed hypothesis, it was ultimately spread all over the internet and can still be seen in many Brantley pedigree charts on line today. We fell reasonably certain that she was not a Harper. We did suspect however, that she was a Harris girl. There are countless Harris Brantleys who descend for John and Hannah and it is possible that the well-meaning visitor to the records just got the name Harris confused with Harper. The Harris family mingled with the Brantleys of Granville and Orange/Chatham Counties in North Carolina for generations. In fact we have them mingling with our very own Edward of 1638 as early as 1672 in Isle of Wight, VA (Exb 6). Of course the same name has been seen on all lines of his

the household & kitchen furniture ---- To my two beloved daughters I give all my negro property save the two purchased of me ??? which were purchased of said ????? on sixty days time & which now I desire to be resented? to him and thereby liquidate said? property or purchase negroes.

I give my said negro property – to my beloved two daughters in as much as my dear wife has sufficient negro property of her own?

I desire that all the balance of my property of what ??? is to be given to my beloved wife. It is my wish & I hereby desire & will that My dear brother Wm Brantley should be & act as the guardian of my two daughters I hereby will & appoint my dear brother A. H. Brantley as my Executor & desire that no further action should be taken of my estate in the county & probate court room the filing an iBanventory of my property – by my said executor & the giving of bond and probate and registration of this my will.

Attest - } } Witness my hand and  
J.E Nicholson} seal using sor?? for  
Geo T Davis } seal at said county of  
E. Keyser? } Gonzales this the  
26<sup>th</sup> day of Feb'y AD 1859

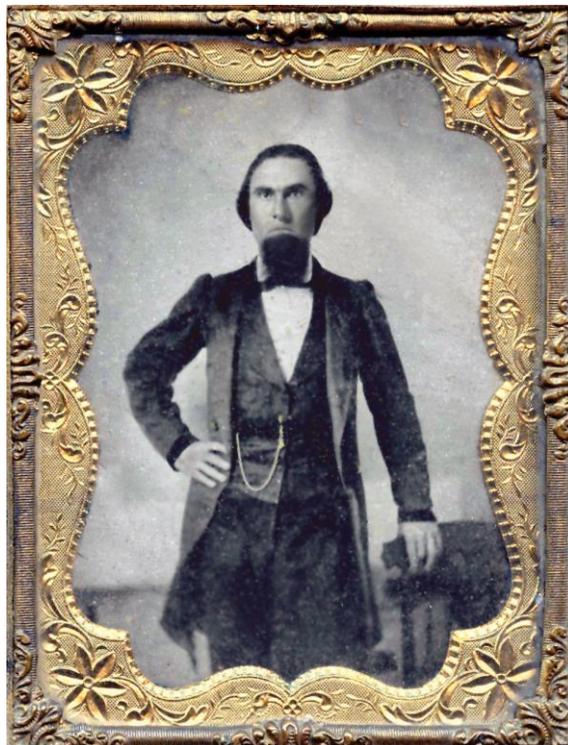
J. R. Brantley {Seal}

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Hist 1237

### *General William Felix Brantley*

William Felix Brantley, son of William Brantley and Marinda Jolly, was born March 12, 1830 in Green County, Alabama. He was a student in law school in 1850. As a lawyer, he rose to some prominence by the early 1860's and was commissioned an officer in the Confederacy shortly after the declaration of war. He began his military career in 1861 as Captain of "The Wigfall Rifles (*Company D 15th Mississippi Infantry, later the 29th Infantry*). He was rapidly advanced to the rank of Colonel, and commanded his regiment at the great battles of Murfreesboro and Chickamauga. For his part in the fight on Lookout Mountain, he was particularly commended by **Colonel Walthall**, the Brigade Commander. At Resaca, Georgia he led a charge on the enemy that was reported as "of notable gallantry", and his line, three times, repulsed Federal assaults. At the battle of Ezra Church, near Atlanta, General **Samuel Benton** was killed, and Colonel Brantley took command of the brigade, which he retained with the promotion to Brigadier- General, to the close of the war. William's brother, Dr. **John Ransom Brantley** was killed in Gonzales, Texas in 1859. The brothers' reprisal for this act, lead to other murders. On August 16, 1870, William's brother, **Arnold J Brantley**, was shot in cold blood, according to reports. The "Weekly Clarion" stated in November 1870 that it was the General's attempt to bring to justice the party responsible for this murder that led to his own. He was shot and killed near Winona, Mississippi on November 2, 1870 as he drove his buggy from town toward his home. None of the assassins were ever apprehended. William married first, **Cornelia S. Medley** on Dec 27, 1855. She died in 1863 and after the war, in 1867, he married **Julia C. Cunningham**, daughter of Dr. **James M. and Emily Cunningham**. Only one child "Mary", survived the General.



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Hist 1237 -2 Article form the American Traveler (Boston, MASS) - Apr 3, 1858 (*Lawyer is Wm Felix Brantley*) A few days since a case was argued in the Probate court at Greensboro's Miss, in the course of which Brantley one of the lawyers, denounced **Nowland** and **Davis**, the opposing counsel, as "d-d rascals, who would steal" &c. An angry altercation ensued, when Brantley drew a pistol and presented it at Nowland, who

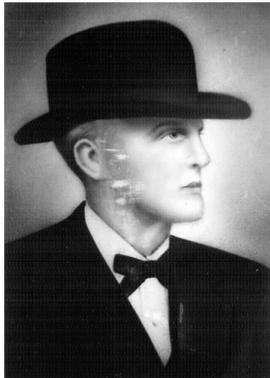


Above Allan F- 1



Roan Allen F-38 then ridden by James R. Brantley

Allan F-1 was the first Tennessee Walking Horse. In 1885, Black Allen (later known as Allan F-1) was born. He became the foundation horse of the Tennessee Walking Horse breed. The breed was developed by James Robertson Brantley (1862-1945) of Manchester, Tennessee. Tennessee breeders were working toward a horse which could be ridden comfortably all day over the varied terrain of the large plantations. Breeders later added Thoroughbred, Standardbred, Morgan, and American Saddlebred blood to refine and add stamina to their gaited horse. This Brantley family has seen the growth and popularity of the breed increase for generations. One of the greatest of the line was Roan Allen F-38 which Brantley owned until its death in 1930. See comments below.



James Robertson Brantley  
About 1900

*"It is impossible to express in words or figures the great impact ROAN ALLEN F-38 had on the Walking Horse breed. The offspring of this unusual horse are the Tennessee Walking Horse. The breed is his family. The United States Trotting Association claims 99 percent of all modern trotters trace to HAMBLETONIAN 10; if this is true, ROAN ALLEN F38 is one percent stronger in the Walking Horse Registry, for 100 percent of all living Walking Horses trace to this stallion. There are over thirty stallions registered to ROAN ALLEN in the stud books of the Walking Horse Breeders' Association" {Walkers West}*

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Hist 2513 Taken from Montana History Wiki

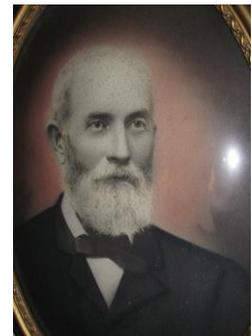
The Brantly Mansion can be found in Helena, west-central Montana, built on Holter Street, sitting on top of a hill, which gives the mansion a full view of the city. Helena is 64 miles north of Butte on I-15. The Mansion now is currently owned by a private party, so please respect their privacy.

DESCRIPTION:

Built in 1887, this grand, imposing mansion was created to impress the neighbors, with three floors, an attic, and a full basement. Inside, oak was extensively used throughout the interior. A main staircase wound majestically up toward the second and third floors. The dining room held a magnificent, built-in breakfront, fitted with lead glass doors. Sometime during its long history, each of the 4 floors, (including the basement), was converted into an apartment, dividing this grand mansion into 4 separate units. The attic was partially sealed off, and not used.

HISTORY:

This stately, majestic mansion was originally the dream home of Judge **Theodore Brantly**, his wife, and three children, and was owned by the Brantly family until 1963. In 1887, **Judge Brantly** was a successful, self-made man, who was much admired by his community. The one big fault of this conscientious man was that he was a work-a-holic, who made little time for his family. He often came home after the children were in bed, and often brought work home with him.



**“RED” SMITH FATALLY SHOT  
HE VISITED THE “TWO BILLS” SALOON ON SOUTH AUSTIN  
STREET  
A SHOOTING SCRAPE ENSUED.  
WM. AND ROSE BRANTLEY JAILED**

The Former Makes a Statement-Smith Was Too Far Gone to Talk  
Yesterday-The Details

J.C. Smith, known as “Red” to his more intimate acquaintances, was shot and fatally wounded at the “Two Bills” saloon at 3 o’clock yesterday. The “Two Bills” saloon is a frame shanty two doors south of the Farmers’ Alliance building on Austin street. It was known for years as the Farmers’ Alliance saloon and is conducted by William Brantley, formerly of Mineral Wells.

After the shooting William and Rose Brantley surrendered to officers to the officers and were taken to the county jail and locked up. Smith fell in the sawdust near the ice chest in the saloon, bleeding like stuck beef. He was picked up and laid on a bed in a rear room and a surgeon summoned. Smith was hit once, the ball entering his left side just below the armpit, passing clean through the body and perforating the lungs. It came out just under the right shoulder blade.

“He’s a goner” remarked the surgeon after examining the wound. “Unless I am greatly mistaken this man has been given a through ticket and will start on his long journey before tomorrow night.” Owing to his feeble condition Smith as unable to make a statement.

A representative of the News visited the county jail. Brantley was in the “Murderers Row” on the second floor and Mrs. Brantley was in the cell in the section of the building reserved for females. Brantley is about 27 years old, a stocky built young fellow, and very intelligent. On being pressed for a statement he said:

The “Two Bills” saloon is my property and Red Smith was my bartender for a time. He quit five or six weeks ago. Well, this afternoon visited the wineroom in my building and beat a woman. I remonstrated against this and tried to protect the woman. Hot words led to blows and we had a scrap. Then he walked away saying “I’ll get my pistol and smoke you out” I phoned for a police officer to come down to the place and gave my pistol to my wife and took down a double barreled shot gun to better protect myself should Smith attempt to carry out his threats. I stationed my wife at the rear entrance thinking he might sneak in the back way. I stood behind the bar with the gun cocked and ready for action. Sure enough my surmises proved to be well founded. I heard my wife say “Look out! He’s coming!” and in he walked, with pistol elevated and ready for business. I let drive the contents of one barrel and missed him. He was so closed to me that I could not give the second barrel, so I knocked up his pistol hand with the barrel of my gun and then grabbed the muzzle of his pistol with my left hand. While we were engaged in a fierce struggle I heard the sharp report of his grip a pistol and Smith lost his grip and sank down to the floor saying “I am shot” Give your pistol to Rose.” Then we got ready to give ourselves up. Three parties witnessed the shooting and their names will be handed to the proper authorities. It was a case of shooting in self defense.

Mrs. Brantley corroborated the story of her husband. She is 31 years old and has been a resident of Dallas for several years. The Brantleys retained a well-known criminal lawyer last night and say they will have no trouble convincing a jury that the shooting of Smith was justifiable.

J.C. Smith is 29 years old and came to Dallas 15 years ago. He is a bartender by trade and has been working of late for Charles Hudlow. His brother who lives on Allen street called at the “Two Bills” an hour after the shooting. He said to a representative of the News:

“The physician tells me that he is badly wounded. If he rallies I will have him taken to his home out on Chestnut Hill.

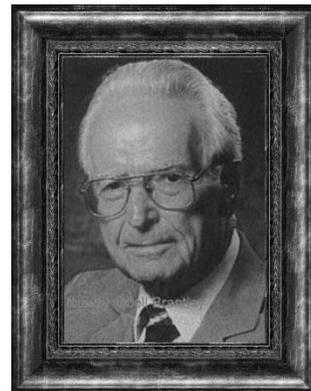
The wounded man did not rally last night. At 10 o’clock his pulse was 125 and the physicians said that he has been bleeding internally. “He has one chance in one thousand” remarked one physician. “and that chance is a slim one.”

## NEWBY ODELL BRANTLY

### "A mover and shaker; founder and builder; a visionary genius"

by J. Kenneth Brantley

When I first learn to fly in the mid 60s, I had never heard of N. O. Brantly, as he was known, or the "Brantly Helicopter". When I started flying professionally with the FAA in 1971, I found that I was one of about six Brantleys in the U.S. who flew professionally. One of the commercially rated pilots listed in our FAA registry, was Newby O. Brantly. I had no idea what relationship he was to me, nor his fame in aviation. I, by then, had been ask by several fellow aviators however, if I was related to the Brantly helicopter designer. I always responded " yes, if his name was Brantly, and he was white, then he was surely a cousin". In 1971, while flying in Pensacola Florida, I saw my first "Brantly Helicopter" in flight. It was just after that, when I saw another one in an earlier movie "Goldfinger". It would be 20 years later before I would meet the creator of this popular helicopter of the 1960s and learn not only of his relationship to me, but his significant contribution to aviation as well as other fields of technology. N. O. Brantly, as he was called, was then (1989) living in Frederick, Oklahoma. I was attending a flight course in nearby Oklahoma City, in February, when I drove down to Frederick to meet him. I had discovered, by then, with the name Newby Brantly, from Mississippi, that he was likely kin to Larkin Newby Brantly, who received land in Yalobusha County Mississippi in 1839. This Larkin Newby, was the son of James and Lettice (Newby) Brantley, formerly of Chatham County, North Carolina. The name "Newby" has been associated only with this line. My suspicions were confirmed.



Before visiting with Newby, I dropped by the airport at Frederick and met Olvis Jones. Olvis had work for Newby for several years in the late 60s and early 70s, as his test pilot. I found him in a hangar with four Brantly Helicopters. He explained to me, the special design of the Brantly rotor system which helped eliminate ground resonance. Olvis had flown over half of the 350 production models. He had some good comments on the Brantly, but gave Newby even higher marks as a person.

I drove to Newby's place and found him in the back yard of his beautiful subterranean home. He was a stately looking gentleman, especially for a man of 86 years. He invited me in, and we chatted for some time. I soon found that I was talking to a very talented and gifted man. Inquiring about his life, I learned that he had graduated from Tech University in Calgary, Canada in 1922. He had spent a 5 year hitch in the military, and had lived most of his life in Pennsylvania. When the government started issuing pilot licenses in 1927, Newby had been flying for some time. He received one of the first ones issued. He later flew jet aircraft in the military reserves, until he retired in 1961. That year he was voted the nation's " Pilot of the Year " by the National Pilots Association. I learned that it was Newby Brantly that invented "two- way stretchable elastic" in 1931, and at one time had seven plants in four different countries. In 1946, he designed a helicopter, just for something to do. It would later become of such great demand, that he would open a plant in Frederick, Oklahoma and begin production. After it appeared in several of the early James Bond movies, sells would soar (see photo).



A good shot of the Brantly is here in the closing seen of "Goldfinger" filmed in 1964. After the film's release, Newby said, sales soared.

Later a 5 place version was developed and was being manufactured in Vernon, Texas at the time of my visit. In 1972, Newby designed a brassiere that is presently marketed by Cameo.

Newby explained too, that he needed a small backhoe one day, and found that there was no such thing for the smaller tractors; so he built one. It was not long, before Ford, John Deere, Allis Chalmers and others were wanting him to build them for their tractors. The Brantly backhoe was soon found all over the country.

I did enjoy meeting this distinguished Brantly who has contributed so much to modern technology and put the Brantly name in highlights. It was fun too, to talk to the number one Brantly aviator in the world, after being in aviation myself and hearing his name for over two decades. I looked forward to another visit, but Newby died just a year or so later, before I could visit again.



The original production model Brantly B2 (left) was a two seater and very small compared to other makes. Several years of its production, the Brantly 305 (right) was designed and manufactured. It could carry 5 persons.

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