



This is a picture of John Campbell Hutcheson, one of the children of Leander Travis and Olive Irene Hutcheson. When he was a child, he and his mother were gravely ill with typhoid fever. His mother did not survive and John later said that he felt that she sacrificed her life to care for him. Though weakened physically, he graduated from Burritt College at the age of fifteen with the highest average that had ever been attained there. This picture was probably made in Texas where he went upon the advice of a doctor immediately upon graduating. In his last year he told of how he arrived in Amarillo and walked directly into the office of the bank's president "because I didn't know any better". He offered his services to the banker to work on his ranch telling him he had a college degree and a gun and would rid the ranch of prairie dogs. The banker took a long look up and down at the sickly looking young man, did his charity for the day and told him to take a note to the ranch manager telling him to let this sickly boy have anything he wanted to eat. He lazed in the sun and shot prairie dogs until he was better, learned to rope a post, then a calf, became a valuable worker on the ranch. At one point news spread that cattle of the adjoining herd were dying. John, who was an avid reader, asked the symptoms, informed the manager there was a vaccine to prevent "blackleg" and volunteered to inoculate the cattle. He saved the entire herd though near-by herds were lost. Thus the banker was rewarded for his charity. John told many interesting events of the West in another generation.

In World War I, John was assigned to railroad duty. Afterwards he continued with the railroad, managing the loading of stock in Amarillo

It was while he was at the ranch that he met Laura Overhuls, the daughter of a "freight" man, that is he carried freight through the far West as far as Oregon on wagons pulled by oxen. (Incidentally, his saddle is in the museum in Canyon Texas. Also there is a replica of the first permanent dwelling in the panhandle which was less than twenty years before Laura's birth. They were real pioneers!) John and Laura married in 1917. Olive Irene, named after his mother, was born in 1920. About four years later John sent Laura and Olive to Tennessee to see if she would like to live there. She rented a room in Nashville. She missed the wide open spaces in Texas and felt as if she would smother with so many trees closing in on her. Also there was an eerie sound all around which she finally identified as the wind in the trees. In spite of these oddities, she evidently said "yes", and he resigned and joined them. He continued in transportation, working for the railroad, then truck lines until he and a friend started Tennessee Carolina Transportation, known as TCT. At the age of 58, when many men are thinking of retirement, he passed the Tennessee bar exam and began to act as legal counsel for TCT, practicing before the Interstate Commerce Commission in securing routes for the company. After a long day at the office, he taught classes in transportation at the University of Tennessee night school into his eighties. He continued with TCT until three months before his death from cancer at the age of eighty-eight.

As stated in a Memorial Service before the Nashville Bar, any mention of him would be incomplete without reference to his deeply religious conviction. He preached often in rural congregations in the area of Middle Tennessee and in Evansville, Indiana, commuting by train. Later he served as an elder for several congregations.