

Historical Notes Capt. James Grant of Corpus Christi Texas created by Melvyn Trenton Jones
son of Helen Grant.

As the story has been told, James Grant was an immigrant from Ireland to Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. He and his family moved there sometime in early 1800 to escape the potato famine and starvation.

As a young boy James would hang out at the boat docks and became friendly with the sailors. Seeking adventure and surely trying to escape a life of poverty James convinced some of his sailor friends to allow him to stow-away on a ship bound for Mexico.

The story has also been told that perhaps James worked on this ship as a cabin boy in exchange for passage.

Once the ship reached Texas and somewhere around Port Aransas or Corpus Christi James was obliged to leave the ship. As our uncle Jack told the story the ship was wrecked along Mustang Island thus bringing an end to his trip.

Once in Texas James went to work around the docks and the ships. He learned the trade of helping guide ships into the port of Corpus Christi, helping them avoid the sand bars.

In 1852 James traveled to New Orleans. There he met Mary Hayes, or orphan who was being raised and cared for by the nuns at a Catholic Church.' The two fell in love and were off to Texas to be married.

In Texas they ranched, farmed and began raising a family. We know that they lived in Brownville for a while for census records show that they baptized three children there. From Brownsville, they ended up back on Mustang Island where James and Mary built a ranch house and ranched goats, cattle and sheep.

During the Civil War James helped the southern cause by "running" Northern shipping blockages and bringing needed supplies to the citizens of Corpus Christi.

Together James and Mary had eight children. Two of their children, John Grant and his twin brother Edward, were born on July 19, 1870 in Corpus Christi. John Grant and wife Blanche had a daughter Helen Grant. Helen Married Luther Jones and they had four children, Grant Jones, Luther Jones, Melvyn Jones and Janice Jones.

Mary Hayes died February 12, 1899.³ James Grant Died November 6, 1900. When he died he left the Mustang Island Ranch to his sons Edward and Jack. Edward and Jack ran cattle on the island for many years past their father's death.