

Upthegrove Family

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Upthegrove is one of those quirky little streets on the west side of Greenville that stops and starts frequently, but ambles almost the entire length of town. Roughly it runs from Pace Street to Stanford Street . The name itself is intriguing; does it lead to a grove of trees somewhere in town?

Actually the street was named for Daniel Upthegrove and his wife Amelia. Amelia was the daughter of early Greenville schoolteacher Horatio B. Cushman. Daniel served in Young's (Maxey's) 9th Texas Infantry CSA that was recruited in Lamar, Titus, Collin, and Lamar Counties in 1862. After the war, Daniel relocated to Greenville where he partnered in a law firm with Hardin Hart.

The alliance between Hart and Upthegrove is most unusual. Hardin Hart was an ardent Unionist, appointed District Judge by the military authorities during Reconstruction. Daniel Upthegrove had served as a private in the Confederate Army. Nevertheless the two attorneys placed an ad in the *Greenville Independent* in the summer of 1868 indicating they shared an office if not similar politics.

In May of that year Daniel and Amelia were married in the Methodist Church. They became the parents of three daughters and one son, Amma, Mary, Elizabeth, and Daniel. Daniel, the elder, continued in the practice of law, opened a dry-goods store with Dr. Jefferson Schoonover, local postmaster, and farmed land a few blocks north of the courthouse. Upthegrove, and 17 other Greenville businessmen entered into a contract in February 1880 with the Katy Railroad to bring rail service to the town by October of that year. On April 5, 1886 Daniel passed away and was buried in East Mount Cemetery. By

1900, young Daniel had married Francis (Fanny) Graham and set up a law practice in Greenville. The couple was one of the first to marry in the new Kavanaugh Methodist Church.

Sometime before the 1910 census, Daniel, Fanny, and their children moved to Dallas where Daniel continued his law practice, quickly becoming an attorney for the Cotton Belt Railroad. By 1920 the family resided in St. Louis where Daniel eventually became CEO of the Cotton Belt. But the Upthegrove family continued to visit friends and relatives in Greenville, albeit travelling in their elegant, private railroad car. While in Greenville, the private car was parked on a siding at the Cotton Belt Depot, allowing everyone to know the Upthegrove family was in town.

Richard Porter was an attorney here in Greenville at the time. His daughter Lou was a friend of one of the Upthegrove daughters. Once, Lou and her father were touring the car when Daniel Upthegrove offered it to Lou for a slumber party. Immediately Lou accepted and a group of young ladies, including Mary Shull Powell who told me the story, enjoyed one of the highlights of their lives, a night in a very elegant railroad car. Of course, their children and grandchildren know the story.

When the Hunt County Historical Society wanted to erect a historical marker at the Katy Depot, W. Walworth Harrison was adamant that the name of Daniel Upthegrove (the elder) be listed first since his son had such stature with the Cotton Belt. The woman in Austin charged with writing historical markers insisted the names be in alphabetical order. A year long correspondence continued. To see who won, go to the old Katy Depot and read the marker. State law supersedes local opinion.