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JOHN SIMPSON CHISUM, 1877-84

By HARWOOD P. HINTON, JR.

(Concluded)

In the early fall of 1880, civil authorities in Lincoln County launched another determined and concerted move to rid the range of rustling. Operations, in the main, were directed against its principal head, William Bonney. Support from only a few indigenous stockmen was proffered however, for the previous range war's aftermath ebbed slowly. The campaign was actually set in motion by investigations undertaken by small groups of cowboys sent by ranches in the Texas Panhandle to locate evidence regarding the disappearance of their cattle from the eastern drainage of the Pecos. Periodically, the animals had drifted into that region during the winter.<sup>19</sup>

In corrals at White Oaks, northwest of Lincoln, and in the government slaughter pens at Fort Stanton, they found hides bearing brands which were obviously altered or from known unauthorized ranges. From this evidence, the party quickly traced last ownership of the cattle to Pat Coghlin, a Three Rivers rancher who held the local government beef contract. Bonney was his known procurer.<sup>20</sup>

In the spring of 1879, Chisum had suggested to Governor Wallace that Patrick F. Garrett, a resident of Fort Sumner, be appointed to direct periodic scouting east of that town for stolen cattle.<sup>21</sup> When Garrett, who had previously befriended Bonney, settled at Roswell the following fall, he was deputized by George W. Kimball, Sheriff of Lincoln County, at the urging of Chisum and other major cattlemen in the locale. Kimball's posses waged such a vacillating, unsuccessful campaign to curb stock losses during the summer of 1880 that

19. McCarty, *Tascosa*, pp. 83-6. In the early fall of 1880, four men, each representing a major Panhandle ranch, arrived in Lincoln County and reconnoitered a short while. A second group arrived from the Panhandle on November 16, 1880, and in December joined Garrett's posse south of Anton Chico.

20. *Ibid.*; Siringo, *A Texas Cowboy*, pp. 125-53. The LX ranch in the Texas Panhandle sent Siringo with a group. In the spring of 1881, he located evidence that conclusively linked Coghlin with Bonney's rustling.

21. Chisum to Wallace, April 15, 1879.

the deputy was urged to run for Sheriff and promised support. He won the election, but pending the expiration of the incumbent's term remained in his former capacity. In October, Garrett led a small posse up the Pecos to search the country east of Fort Sumner. In a letter to Governor Wallace, Bonney later commented on this move as follows:

. . . Deputy Sheriff Garrett Acting under Chisum's orders went to Portales and found nothing. J. S. Chisum is the man who got me into trouble and was benefitted Thousands by it and is now doing all he can against me.<sup>22</sup>

Early in December, a Garrett posse was again in the Fort Sumner locale. About the middle of the month it was enlarged by the addition of heavily armed cowboys from ranches in the Panhandle. This group arrived in answer to a request voiced some months earlier by the Sheriff-Elect, when he found partisan feelings and fear in Lincoln County precluding the raising of an adequate scouting force. Garrett was now ready to proceed with confidence. A few days after Christmas his force surrounded Bonney and several others in a stone sheep herder's hut, some fourteen miles east of Fort Sumner, and forced them to surrender.<sup>23</sup>

The citizenry of Lincoln County and ranchers, large and small, throughout New Mexico breathed a sigh of relief. A "reign of law," as Almer N. Blazer was later to say, had begun.<sup>24</sup> Especially were the Chisums relieved, for they had not only suffered the greatest stock losses but had repeatedly been the object of Bonney's threats. For them, as for the County, a full measure of hope seemed guaranteed by the coming year. The sprawling Jinglebob with its countless herds was now a memory, but perhaps this was for the best.

#### *Prosperity and Extinction*

Beginning in 1881, the Jinglebob ranch empire and its titular head, John Chisum, entered a short-lived period of

22. William Bonney to Governor Lew Wallace, December 12, 1880, in the Wallace Collection; Hoyt, *A Frontier Doctor*, p. 158.

23. *Denver Tribune*, December 28, 1880. Full account of capture.

24. Almer N. Blazer's statement in the *Alamogordo News* (Alamogordo, New Mexico), July 16, 1928. Blazer was a youth in Lincoln County during the civil strife there in 1878 and after.

vigorous activity. Ranching facilities were improved, selective breeding accelerated, and participation in local and regional livestock associations intensified. And as days of endless anxiety and misgiving concerning stock holdings and personal safety were now passed, the Chisums left the ranch more frequently on matters business or otherwise.

John and James Chisum, together with William Robert, arrived to the rail terminus at Las Vegas during the last week of January 1881. Here, several days later, James entrained for a visit with friends in Denton County, Texas. His two companions, however, left for Santa Fe to post bond to appear as witnesses against William Wilson, a counterfeiter, in April.<sup>1</sup> On February 26, the day following their return from the territorial capital, the *Las Vegas Gazette* endeavored to arrest a rumor:

John S. Chisum and W. Robert came up from Santa Fe yesterday. They were in disgust at the statement in the *New Mexican* to the effect that they were bondsmen for Wm Wilson, accused for counterfeiting. The facts in the case are that Wilson has not been able to give the amount of bond required which is \$5000. Chisum and Robert were only held in the sum of \$250 to appear as witnesses in the case.

Chisum remained in Las Vegas through the first weeks of March and possibly longer, for the spring term of district court annually attracted many prominent ranchers with whom he could visit and discuss the variables of the stock trade.<sup>2</sup>

On April 3, James Chisum returned to Las Vegas. His sons, Walter and Will, had driven in a day or so before from South Spring with two wagons to transport a shipment of several hundred young fruit trees and miscellaneous shrubs which their father had purchased in Colorado during his trip. Within a week, these plants were received, carefully packed, and the journey south commenced.<sup>3</sup>

1. *Las Vegas Optic*, January 26, 1881; *New Mexican*, February 25, 1881; Garrett, *Authentic Life*, pp. 98-9, 131. Garrett had been informed the previous fall of the circulation of bogus bills in southeastern New Mexico.

2. *Optic*, March 9, 1881; *Las Vegas Gazette*, March 9, 1881.

3. *Optic*, April 3, 1881; WC to HPH, April 24, 1954. Tape No. 10 elaborates on this episode considerably.

A heartfelt loss occurred on the ranch soon after their return. Johnny Ewer, an employee of the Chisums for nearly a decade, was drowned while attempting to ford the Pecos. He had been sent with Bill Hutchison and Will Chisum to check on a herd of brood mares being pastured about thirty-five miles below the headquarters and on the east side of the river, which at that time was at flood stage. At a point just below the mouth of the Felix, according to Will, Ewer

... had hardly started into the river when his horse got into deep water . . . and turned back to the bank. . . . When the horse's feet struck the bank, Johnny fell off backwards. Bill just sat his horse, but I jumped off my horse and began to throw off my clothing at the same time Johnny was floating down the river. I hit the water on the run and . . . went down and down but I never contacted Johnny. . . .<sup>4</sup>

When news of the tragedy reached South Spring, a group of cowboys with a wagon immediately set out to search the east bank of the river in hopes of locating the body and giving it a decent burial. After covering twenty miles they gave up.<sup>5</sup>

During the second week in April, Dr. D. McLean of the Brooklyn Veterinary Hospital arrived to the Jinglebob ranch. He had come to New Mexico and the Pecos in answer to a plea voiced by indigenous ranchers to the Department of Agriculture earlier that year regarding the threatened spread of an unfamiliar stock contagion. The Chisums were particularly concerned for their graded herds now numbered over fifteen thousand head. Upon completing his inspection of infected U brand cattle, the veterinarian moved north, successively visiting the ranches of Captain J. C. Lea in the Roswell area and Pete Maxwell near Fort Sumner. After a week in the field, he returned to Las Vegas and announced that the disease was local and not epizootic, thus allaying the ranchers' fears.<sup>6</sup>

Ten days following McLean's departure from the Territory, southeastern New Mexico was rudely aroused by a

4. Tape No. 3. WC to HPH, April 3, 1954, relates Ewer's death.

5. Tape No. 3; Brothers, *A Pecos Pioneer*, p. 44. Mrs. Brothers states that Ewer was drunk when he entered the river and that his nickname was "Judge." WC to HPH, January 28, 1955, avers he never heard of the nickname.

6. *Optic*, April 12, 18, 1881

stirring episode. From Lincoln came word that William Bonney, awaiting execution, had killed his jailors there on April 28 and vanished into the mountains. Posses immediately began searching old haunts, and the young outlaw's enemies quickly restricted their traveling. It is generally believed that John Chisum left the ranch upon hearing of the escape, yet evidence to support his presence at South Spring until about the first of June has come to light. A bill of sale for fifty-eight head of cattle, signed by Chisum and dated May 26, was displayed in Las Vegas by John Singer, an itinerant stock buyer, on June 16.<sup>7</sup> Whatever the case, rumors soon reached the Chisums that the cattleman's life had been threatened.

Especially to enjoy wide newspaper circulation was a story which appeared in the *Las Vegas Optic* three days before Singer's arrival. It stated that Bonney had ridden into a cow camp near Roswell late one evening. Learning the herders were Jinglebob employees, he killed three of them, but spared the fourth and last man to bear the following warning to John Chisum:

Tell him I am living now to get even with my enemies; I shall kill his men whenever I find them and credit him with five dollars for each man I kill. Whenever I see him I intend to kill him and then I will call the account square.<sup>8</sup>

In entirety, this episode smacks of fabrication. It is quite unlikely that Bonney risked recognition near Roswell, a hostile area, when most of his friends lived in or near Fort Sumner. On the other hand, it is very probable that Chisum was responsible for originating the story, as he was utilizing every means to stir civil authorities into action against the fugitive.

Chisum arrived in Santa Fe during the second week in July to testify in the Wilson hearing, which had been post-

7. *Ibid.*, June 16, 1881; Brothers, *A Pecos Pioneer*, pp. 91-2. According to her father's notes, Mrs. Brothers declares that George Swaggert, one of the ranch cooks, drove Chisum to Las Vegas by buggy soon after the cattleman heard of the escape.

8. *Optic*, June 13, 1881. Information for this story seems to have emanated from Santa Fe. The *Arizona Star*, on June 16, 1881, printed it and pointed out that the version had been received from Santa Fe on June 11. Other versions subsequently appeared, the most colored probably being that published by the *Laredo Times* (Laredo, Texas), August 10, 1881.

poned until summer. The *New Mexican* seized the opportunity, true to form, to comment on his apparent temerity. On the 13th it observed: Chisum does not seem to be very concerned about the Kid's threats to take his life. When he gets ready to go anywhere he goes. He was still in the capital city when Marcus Brunswick, a friend in Las Vegas, wired that Bonney had been killed by Sheriff Garrett at Fort Sumner on the night of the 14th.<sup>9</sup> All of Santa Fe soon knew of the deed by this communication. Chisum made no public statement concerning the incident; it was his nature to decline comment on issues which previously rankled deep in the contemporary mind. As the month drew to a close, it became obvious that the counterfeiting hearing would not be held due to the absence of two witnesses. So, on July 30, the cattleman left Santa Fe and the next day passed through Las Vegas en route to the ranch.<sup>10</sup>

Before the end of August, Chisum personally led an armed reconnaissance of Pat Coghlin's range, a hundred miles to the west. The Three Rivers rancher and former beef contractor had been indicted by Panhandle cattle interests on charges of purchasing and butchering stolen beeves and was to stand trial at Lincoln that fall. The Chisum party, consisting of a dozen men, had been alerted for trouble; even "Nigger John" Manlove, the cook, sensed the seriousness and expressed his wont to handle a firearm. The search, which lasted about two weeks, proved uneventful though, and what few stolen cattle as could be located were leisurely trailed back to the Pecos.<sup>11</sup>

By the early fall, several new buildings had been erected by the Chisums on the south bank of South Spring River. The old square headquarters establishment, used since the spring of 1875, was razed; and on a slight rise several hundred yards to the southeast a new ranchhouse, the "Long House," was completed. It faced west, measured about one hundred and fifty feet in length by sixteen feet in width, and contained eight rooms—four on each side of an open hallway, which was ten feet wide. The walls, made of adobe

9. Maurice G. Fulton to HPH, October 3, 1954. Personal interview.

10. *Gazette*, July 31, 1881.

11. Description from WC to HPH, February 15, 1954, and Tape No. 3.

bricks, were plastered on the inside; the roof was pitched and shingled; and the interior floors and outside verandas, running the length of the structure on both the east and west, were planked. The first room north of the hallway, John Chisum's quarters, was actually a combination bedroom and office. Its basic furnishings consisted of the following: a bed, a small safe, a walnut writing desk, and a heavy wire stand which supported a large dictionary.<sup>12</sup> In construction and outlay, the residence cost over twelve thousand dollars. To a visitor at the Chisum ranch that fall it was

... wonderfully modern in all its equipment and furnishings. The fact that his home was two hundred miles from a railroad had not deterred [Chisum] ... from providing the home with everything the East might have to offer.<sup>13</sup>

East of the Long House, other improvements of note could be seen.

Two utility buildings had been erected, each about twelve feet east of the north and south corners of the house respectively. The walls of these flat-topped, floored structures, which measured twenty by sixteen, were probably constructed with the old adobe bricks from the square house. The single room behind the northeast corner became the commissary; the one to the south was partitioned, the west end serving as living quarters for Aunt Mary Blythe, the Negro housekeeper, and her young son. The opposite room was set aside as a dance hall. Chisum didn't intend to have his "... new axministers all beat up by ... cowboy's hoofs," said one contemporary.<sup>14</sup> Two hundred yards to the northeast, a large barn, with adjoining adobe and piling horse corrals, was put into use. Stretching east from these structures was a section of land with four strands of one half inch wide smooth ribbon wire as a pasture for horses.<sup>15</sup>

The system of irrigation was also improved by the addition of new ditches for domestic and agricultural uses. Most

12. Construction and location of the new buildings: WC to HPH, February 8, April 9, May 3, 24, 1954; Tape Nos. 1, 2, 6, 8 and 10. For a description of the ranch in 1885, see Recollections of Mary N. Dow in the *Roswell Record*, October 8, 1938.

13. Poe, *Buckboard Days*, pp. 160-2.

14. *Ibid.*, p. 157. Descriptions of neighboring buildings from WC to HPH, February 8, March 22, May 3, 1954.

15. WC to HPH, February 15, March 5, 1954; Tape No. 12.

important perhaps was the small canal taken out near the head of South Spring River to run under the hallway of the residence and east into the garden. This artesian stream was used exclusively for cooking and drinking purposes. Somewhat paralleling it and passing near the south end of the house was another channel which flowed east through the orchards. Along a majority of these artificial watercourses young willows and cottonwoods were spaced and planted as practicable. About twenty feet east of the house, on the "drinking ditch," three willows were set out and entwined. Later, this growth was called "The Tree of the Three Brothers," referring to John, Pitzer and James.<sup>16</sup> To the west of the new headquarters, two rows of cottonwoods, planted in 1877, were already promising shade and colorful relief to the bleak landscape. Such, in summary, was the physical transformation of the Chisums' center of operations in 1881.

Changes were readily apparent in the Jinglebob range claim at this time too. No longer extending from Bosque Grande down the Pecos to the New Mexico-Texas line, it was now confined to a domain about sixty miles in length, lying between Salt Creek, above Roswell, and Artesia to the south. Although a majority of the far-flung line camps had been abandoned, there continued in use several old-established range sites. The more important were: Yellow Lake, twenty-five miles northwest of Roswell; Stirrup Bend, east of present-day Artesia; Prickly Pear, seventeen miles northeast of the headquarters; Buffalo Valley, twenty miles east; and Good Bend, sixteen miles to the southeast.<sup>17</sup> The ranch, though still extensive, began to assume definable boundaries, particularly with new cattle companies settling along its flanks.

Late in 1881 a mild cattle boom swept the Southwest, and a number of open range stockmen sold their herds to large ranching syndicates, many of which were supported by foreign capital. Such was the case with George W. Littlefield who closed out his LIT holdings in the Texas Panhandle and purchased the land and buildings at Bosque Grande for a new

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16. WC to HPH, February 8, May 24, 1954; Tape No. 10.

17. WC to HPH, April 9, 1954.

ranch, the LFD, during the spring of 1882. By summer, nine thousand heifers and cows had been driven in and loosed along the Pecos south of this location. Chisum was away on a trip when his new neighbors to the north began operations, but sometime during the summer he met its manager, Phelps White, when he visited the Jinglebob to purchase bulls. In a letter dated September 29 to a relative in Texas, White commented:

I wish you could see old man Chishoms Ranch & cattle, the best in the Territory. His house cost him twelve thousand Dol All well fitted out, but the old man will have to leave soon as he is getting old.<sup>18</sup>

Although nearing sixty years of age, Chisum, through his interest in cattle, remained fairly active however.

Regularly, he continued to import registered bulls from out-of-state sources, and instead of exploiting the steadily rising cattle market, retrenched, retaining the annual heifer crops for breeding purposes. One shipment of graded stock from the East especially received considerable comment. The *Las Vegas Gazette* on April 3, 1883, observed:

Uncle John S. Chisum, the pioneer cowman of the Pecos country, and who is reputed as having owned all the cattle in N. Mexico at one time, has recently imported from Clay County, Missouri, forty-two head of shorthorn Durhams—as fine animals as ever held down hoofs. The cattle cost him from \$150 to \$1500....

In the eyes of the Territory, the Jinglebob continued prosperous.

Chisum probably remained at South Spring during the late spring and summer of 1883, but nothing is presently known of his whereabouts that fall. It is known that by this time he was suffering from a large tumor which had appeared on his neck under the right ear, and that some relief had been realized from treatments by local physicians.<sup>19</sup> Other than the encounter with smallpox in the spring of 1877, which left

18. Haley, *Littlefield*, pp. 137-41. Chisum was in Denton County, Texas, in the early part of 1882. See Deed Book S, p. 492, Denton County, Texas. WC to HPH, March 22, 1954, says his Uncle visited school in the summer of 1882.

19. Cox, *Historical and Biographical Record*, p. 302.

his face horribly pitted, this was the cattleman's only serious and extended illness of record. Concurrent with this decline in his health, Chisum control of the ranch began to disintegrate.

Pitzer was the first of the three brothers to retire from the stock business and leave the Pecos. Circumstances directly responsible for this decision are not clearly known; however, a review of available pertinent information reveals certain conditions which undoubtedly influenced or probably caused the departure. First and foremost, his older brother, John, with whom he had worked for over fifteen years, was in ill health and gradually entrusting the management and finances of the ranch to James and William Robert. Both manifested little experience or insight into the cattle trade. There is no record of jealousy or aspiration on the part of Pitzer regarding this situation, but there is an overtone of disgust. Justification for this feeling arose when his brother and nephew began heavily mortgaging the holdings to perpetuate and expand ranching operations. This jeopardized Pitzer's share in the Jinglebob, a \$100,000 note, previously assigned to him for his land and stock claim. He requested settlement. After some dissension, he finally received—a reliable source says through delusion—\$50,000 in cash. On February 14, 1884, Pitzer married Angie Wells in Paris, Texas. Here, he settled to live out his days, a stoop-shouldered, taciturn old man.<sup>20</sup>

At Lincoln, New Mexico, two days following his uncle's wedding in East Texas, William Robert executed a \$10,000 promissory note to his father-in-law, James Chisum, for legal title to the bulk, if not all, of the Jinglebob land assets. This was likely done at John's request, for the nephew, who had served as bookkeeper for the ranch for over a year, seems to

20. Lea Statement discusses this situation fairly objectively. Also see Jack Potter to Lamar Moore, May 10, 1941, in the personal files of Lamar Moore, Winslow, Arizona. Potter says: "The version on the range was that he John Chisum transferred the entire estate to the Jinglebob Co with Jim Chisum and his family as beneficiaries, including Wm Robert, Sallie's husband. I was told that he asked them to pay Pitzer Chisum one hundred thousand dollars for his part. And according to my knowledge, the first borrowed went to pay off Pitzer." Potter also notes seeing a Warranty Deed from the Jinglebob Land and Livestock Company to M. J. Farris for \$100,000. Mary V. Daniel to HPH, March 29, 1954, says Pitzer returned to Paris, Texas, early in 1884, with \$50,000 cash in hand. Alexander W. Neville, editor of the *Paris News* (Paris, Texas), in a letter to HPH, dated February 15, 1954, writes that he printed Pitzer's wedding invitations, and sent one for perusal. Pitzer died January 2, 1910, at the age of 75.

have been his choice to direct the subsequent fortunes of the holdings. By this transfer, Robert received a strip of one hundred and sixty acre tracts, extending roughly from near Bosque Grande down the Pecos to Artesia. Deed records indicate that James had begun the acquisition of these homesteads during the spring of 1883, and that prior owners were friends, employees, or relatives of the Chisum family. It is very probable the initial filings had been at the suggestion of the Chisums, for by the early 1880's they were utilizing every means to retain control to a well-watered range along the frontage of the Pecos.<sup>21</sup> The Santa Fe *New Mexican Review*, on March 6, alluded to the Chisum-Robert transfer, and added that James Chisum had returned to his farm in Denton County, Texas.

John Chisum and his graded Jinglebobs were still being accorded considerable notoriety in the Southwest. For example, the Denver *Daily News*, on April 11, commented:

One of the finest bunches of cattle in New Mexico is controlled by John S. Chisum . . . his herd numbers 30,000 head of the best graded cattle . . . last year 6,000 calves were branded with the U on the shoulder, the distinguishing mark of the cattle king.

In spite of the incapacitating growth which surgery repeatedly and vainly strove to check, Chisum apparently kept quite active. He attended the meetings of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association at Santa Fe as a representative from Lincoln County; locally, he was an interested and influential member of the Lincoln County Stock Association. More than once in its sessions, he tangled verbally with Captain J. C. Lea over points and procedures.<sup>22</sup> This organization was vigorously operated, experienced close co-operation with civil authorities regarding stock theft, and posted liberal rewards. During the late spring of 1884, it paid \$1000 for recovery of cattle previously stolen from the Chisums.<sup>23</sup>

Jinglebob beef continued to find steady local and regional

21. Deed Book I, Lincoln County (Carrizozo, New Mexico), pp. 480-554.

22. *New Mexican Review* (Santa Fe), March 5, 1884, mentioned Chisum's membership in the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association. Maurice G. Fulton to HPH, November 26, 1954, says old timers around Roswell recall the Chisum and Lea disagreements.

23. *New Mexican Review*, May 2, 1884.

markets. Two thousand head were sold at Las Vegas on May 1, and in the weeks that followed a large herd of range cattle, under the supervision of William Robert, were taken to Dodge City for Medicine Lodge parties. On June 23, on his return to the Territory with a carload of thoroughbred bulls, Robert was quoted in the *New Mexican Review* as saying that a trainload of fine grade heifers, one and two years old, would soon be located on the Chisum ranch in southeastern Arizona. This claim, first occupied by Rail brand herds in the early 1870's, lay along the San Pedro River from St. David north to a few miles above Benson. The Jinglebob manager's announcement was not long in stirring ranchers in that locale to remonstrate vehemently.<sup>24</sup>

Early that fall, the Cochise County Stock Association resolved to prevent by force, if necessary, the entry of Chisum cattle, stating ". . . that if Chisholm with his hundreds of thousands of cattle once gets a foothold here he will drive all the small dealers out. . . ."<sup>25</sup> To this, the *Yuma Arizona Star*, on September 20, replied:

It is difficult to conceive why Mr. Chisholm has not an equal right with any other American citizen, to buy land and graze cattle . . . there is something ludicrous in the idea . . . that intelligent men will interfere with the vested legal rights of John Chisholm or any other man.

Speculation over the move ceased, however, when it became publicly known that the cattle king's health was failing.

Chisum had left South Spring on July 7 to seek medical attention for the tumor, which had enlarged rapidly during the late spring. At his departure from the ranch, "he . . . was very much overcome with parting . . . and for the first time in his life he gave way. . . ."<sup>26</sup> On the 15th, while in Las Vegas, he attended a called meeting with the general stock agent for the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad to discuss the possibility of the Lincoln County Stock Association obtaining special shipping rates for their stock. Weeks later at Kansas City, Chisum underwent major surgery.<sup>27</sup>

24. Edward Vail "Reminiscences;" Edward L. Vail to Mrs. George F. Kitt. Personal interview circa 1937. In the files of the Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society.

25. *Sunshine and Silver* (Tucson), September 14, 1884.

26. Cox, *Historical and Biographical Record*, p. 302.

27. *Ibid.*; *New Mexican*, July 7, 1884.

His convalescence was cheered by the news that he had been appointed a deputy commissioner to represent the cattle raising industry in the territories at the Southern Industrial Exposition, which was to be held at New Orleans from December 1 through the following spring of 1885.<sup>28</sup> When able to travel, Chisum entrained for New Mexico. Upon arrival at Las Vegas, he began suffering from post-operative complications and was advised by local physicians to spend the winter at Eureka Springs, Arkansas, a popular resort with nationally advertised mineral baths.<sup>29</sup>

Early in December, at John's request, James Chisum arrived to Eureka Springs to remain with his ailing brother as long as needed. About the middle of the month, newspapers in New Mexico reported that the Pecos cattleman had suffered a serious relapse. During the night of the 22nd, John Chisum passed away.<sup>30</sup>

According to his brother's wishes, James accompanied the remains to Paris, Texas, where interment had been arranged in the family plot. On Christmas Day the Wildey Lodge administered the final rites appropriate for an Odd Fellow, and John Chisum was laid to rest.<sup>31</sup>

Public announcement in Lincoln County of Chisum's death was made by the White Oaks *Golden Era* on January 1, 1885. After recounting the particulars, it concluded:

Mr. Chisum was one of the pioneers . . . of Lincoln County, having come here at a very early day, and had been identified with its history ever since. Eccentric in many ways, gruff in manner, yet he was always a warm friend, and no man ever looked closer after the pleasure and comfort of the men under his employ. . . .

28. *New Mexican Review*, August 5, 1884.

29. Cox, *Historical and Biographical Record*, p. 302.

30. WC to HPH, May 25, 1954; *The Chronicle* (Las Vegas, New Mexico), December 20, 1884.

31. WC to HPH, April 9, 1954; Cox, *Historical and Biographical Record*, p. 302. S. M. Williams, Grand Secretary of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, to HPH, February 17, 1954, states Chisum became a charter member of Wildey Lodge No. 21, Paris, Texas, on December 21, 1851.