

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

March 9, 2012

Summary:



The Fort Worth block between Main, Houston, 3rd & 4th Streets now famous for the Chisholm Trail mural was the site of a hotel for more than 100 years. In 1877, the El Paso Hotel (C.K. Fairfax, Proprietor; Fort Worth City Hotel Company, owner) opened its doors; in 1885, the Pickwick (J.M. Huffington); in 1895 the Delaware Hotel (M.C. Hurley). The Tillar family under the direction of Benjamin Johnston Tillar (1866 – 1923) purchased much of this block, including the Delaware in 1898, tore down the old hotel by 1909 and in 1910, built the Westbrook, which was imploded in 1978. J.T. Westbrook Tillar (1833 – 1908), Ben's father, was both the source of the financing as well as the source of the name for the Westbrook Hotel. The Westbrook Hotel Collection, which was researched and organized by [J.P. Barentine III](#) documents the Tillar family financial history and the management and daily financing of the hotel. The 240 linear foot collection contains the records, legal papers, accounts and corporate minutes such enterprises would generate. It also contains personal information concerning the Tillar family and their employees. The collection contains five general categories: Banker Boxes, Record Books, Ledgers, Weekly Guest Bills, and Miscellaneous Items.

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

**Tarrant County Archives
Fort Worth, Texas**



To whom will this be of interest?

People with an interest in the following topics:

- Arkansas land holdings 1860 – 1920's
 - Joshua Thomas Westbrook Tillar (J. T. W. Tillar)
- Charitable giving
 - Benjamin Johnston Tillar (Ben Tillar)
 - Genevieve Eagon Tillar
 - J. Garland Tillar
 - Mrs. T. Franklin Tillar
- Dallas, Texas, property owned by Tillar Estate
- Forensic accounting
- Fort Worth downtown commercial enterprises 1900 – 1960
- Fort Worth downtown land owners 1900 – 1950's
- Hotel management, growth and decline 1910 – 1965
- Little Rock, Arkansas, property owned by Tillar Estate
- Mercantile business, Little Rock, Arkansas 1865 – 1900
- Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, beneficiary of Tillar Trust
- Monnig's Department Store (Monnig's Dry Goods), downtown Fort Worth
- Probate, trust and estate legal construction
- Sanger Building, Fort Worth: construction costs, original leases and foreclosure
- Tillar Family
- Trust and estate management and control
- Westbrook Hotel, Fort Worth

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

The Westbrook Hotel Collection documents the Tillar family financial history and the management and daily financing of the Westbrook Hotel in downtown Fort Worth, Texas. It contains the records, legal papers, accounts and corporate minutes such enterprises would generate. It also contains some personal information concerning the Tillar family, the people they employed and the employees of the Westbrook Hotel.

The Westbrook Hotel documents cover, with extreme specificity, management and finance from the early 1920's to the ultimate closing of the hotel and its sale in 1976.

For example, for the years between 1924 and 1968, Record Book 200, alone, shows a monthly and yearly average for the following entries:

Beer profit, percentage of occupied rooms, revenue per occupied room, revenue all rooms, revenue per house count, payroll expense per occupied room, merchandise expense per occupied room, miscellaneous charges per occupied room, laundry expense per occupied room, power plan expense per occupied room, general upkeep per occupied room, overhead per occupied room, total expense per occupied room, receipts, pay rolls, merchandise supplies, provisions, miscellaneous, laundry, power plant, general upkeep, overhead, rent, pressing commissions, laundry commissions, telegraph commissions, prepay toilets, profit or loss, profit or loss combined, profit or loss combined to date, profit or loss actual, profit or loss actual to date, bank balance controlling account, bank balance voucher account, bank balance combined accounts, hotel inventories, café, barber shop, drug store and grill.



Item	Hotel Page	Cafe Page	Barber Shop Page
Receipts	2	12	20
Exp. Roll	3	13	21
Merchandise Supplies	4	14	22
Provisions	5	16	23
Miscellaneous	6	17	24
Laundry	7		
Power Plant	8		
General Upkeep	9		
Overhead	10	18	25
Rent	11		
Pressing Commission	12		
Laundry Commission	13		
Telegraph	14		
Prepay Toilets	15		
Profit or Loss	16	33	34
Profit or Loss Combined	17		
Profit or Loss Combined to Date	18		
Profit or Loss Actual	19		
Profit or Loss Actual to Date	20		
Bank Balance Controlling Acct	21		
Bank Balance Voucher Acct	22		
Bank Balance Combined Acct	23		
Hotel Inventories	24		
Cafe		42	
Barber Shop			43
Drug Store			44
Grill			45

Record Book 200

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

**Tarrant County Archives
Fort Worth, Texas**

What does this collection contain?

The collection is made up of information from five different sources: banker boxes, record books, ledgers, weekly guest bills and information in flat files, boxes, binders.

Westbrook Boxes



Westbrook Boxes



Box 121 and some of its contents



1. 140 banker boxes with contents dating from the 1880's to 1970's and containing:

- Abstracts of Title
 - Fort Worth, Texas and Arkansas properties
- Bank deposit slips
 - Westbrook Hotel
 - Tillar Fidelity Company
- Bank statements
 - Westbrook Hotel
 - Tillar Fidelity Company
- Cancelled checks
 - Westbrook Hotel
 - Tillar Fidelity Company
- Cash receipts
 - Westbrook Hotel
- Check stubs
 - Westbrook Hotel
 - Tillar Fidelity Company
- Correspondence
 - Tillar heirs
 - Westbrook Hotel
- Daily tally sheets for hotel departments and stores
 - Westbrook Hotel
 - Tillar Fidelity Company
- Dining room guests checks

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

Fort Worth downtown business leases
Guest registration cards and room invoices
Long distance telephone logs and charges
Menus from Fort Worth, Dallas, cities unknown and The Westbrook Hotel
Newspaper clippings
Payroll slips
Photographs
Profit and loss statements
Real estate notes: Fort Worth, Dallas and Little Rock, Arkansas
Tax receipts
Tax renditions
Vendor vouchers for The Westbrook Hotel
Withholding Tax Statements
Warranty Deeds and related real estate documents
Westbrook Hotel correspondence
Yearly Auditors Reports on Westbrook Hotel and Tillar Trusts

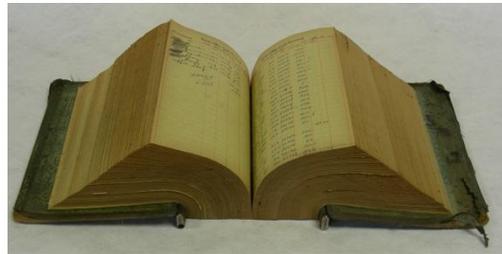
Westbrook Ledgers



Westbrook Ledgers



Ledger 158



Ledger 173

2. Ledgers, 40 in number including bundles of unbound pages, 1917 – 1972

Ledgers, as opposed to Record Books, for the purposes of this inventory are binders to which additional pages may be added, referencing the following:

George's Coney Island, downtown Fort Worth
Stores renting space in the Westbrook Hotel building
Tillar Trusts, land purchases, distributions and loans
 Real Estate Trust
 Personal Property Trust
 Antoinette Tillar Trust
 J. Garland Tillar Trust
Westbrook Hotel, all aspects of the hotel

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

**Tarrant County Archives
Fort Worth, Texas**

Westbrook Record Books



Westbrook Record Books



Record Book 239

3. Record Books, 60 in number, 1861 – 1971

Record Books, as opposed to Ledgers, for the purposes of this inventory are bound volumes to which additional pages may not be added. They reference the following:

Cattle Brands – Tillar Mercantile 1871 – 1898 from stock purchased
(put picture here)

Distribution to Tillar Heirs

German National Bank, Little Rock, Arkansas

Mercantile business in Arkansas, specifically J. T. W. Tillar

Tillar, Ben, copies of written communications 1900 - 1904

Tillar Estate

Tillar Fidelity Company loans to various businesses and individuals

Tillar Fidelity Company corporate minutes, inception to closing

Tillar, J. T. W., land acquisitions Arkansas 1861 to disposition 1930

Drew, Desha and Lincoln counties

Plat maps of Selma and Tillar, Arkansas

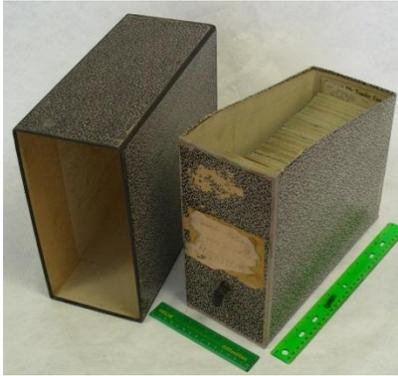
Sanger Building construction Record Book 240

Westbrook Hotel Company

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

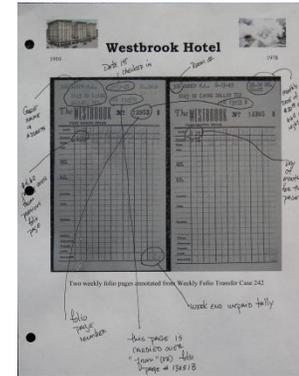
Westbrook Weekly Guests Bills



Westbrook Transfer Boxes



Room 217 Mrs. Florence Jackson, 1954



Folio Guide

4. Westbrook Hotel Transfer Cases containing Weekly Guests Folios, 17 cases: 1947 – 1955

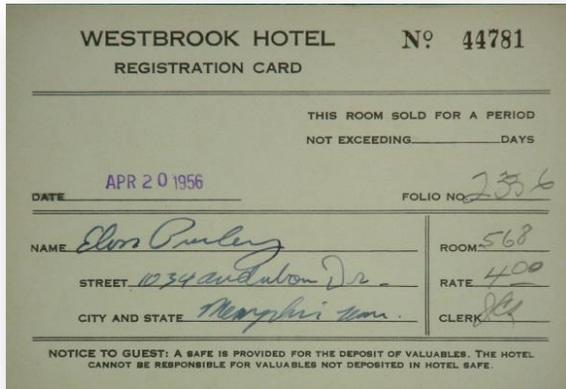
If you stayed at the Westbrook for over a week, or were a permanent resident, these cases contain the weekly room statements and charges such as dining, newspaper and valet. They are alphabetical by guest last name for the years covered.

5. Additional information in flat files, boxes and binders.

- \$200,000 note dated 1910 and lots used as collateral
- Burton Building
- CD back up for all this information as created
- Notre Dame's Letterman's certificate, C. J. Cooper 1924
- Three ring binder with several hundred pages of relevant information
- Tillar Fidelity Company corporate seal
- Tillar Trusts 1921 & 1923
- Westbrook Hotel Company, seal
- Westbrook Hotel hot/cold carafe
- Westbrook Hotel keys
- Westbrook Hotel Office of Price Stabilization information 1951 – 1952

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas



WESTBROOK HOTEL N^o 44781
REGISTRATION CARD

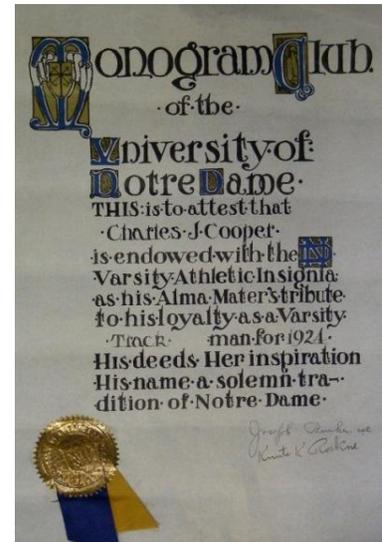
THIS ROOM SOLD FOR A PERIOD
NOT EXCEEDING _____ DAYS

DATE APR 20 1956 FOLIO NO. 2356

NAME Elvis Presley ROOM 568
STREET 1034 Audubon Dr. RATE 4.00
CITY AND STATE Memphis Tenn. CLERK [Signature]

NOTICE TO GUEST: A SAFE IS PROVIDED FOR THE DEPOSIT OF VALUABLES. THE HOTEL
CANNOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR VALUABLES NOT DEPOSITED IN HOTEL SAFE.

Elvis Presley Guest Registration Card, in his own handwriting



Signed by Knute Rockne

How can one access it?

1. The Index, a 168 page document, exists in two forms, one by date and one alphabetized; there are three columns dividing the Index, one labeled “What”, the second “When” and the third “Where”.
2. This Index may also be word searched electronically.
3. Each box, ledger, record book, case and subsequent item was photographed and annotated. These accession sheets were then printed out and attached to each item.
4. All the accession sheets also are in three ring binders organized in the same manner as the boxes, ledgers, record books and cases.
5. All of the accession sheet information exists on CD and can be word searched.

One should first check the Indexes to see if information concerning a search exists in this collection. The Index will direct you to the appropriate accession sheets for further investigation to determine if you need to examine the physical holdings further.

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

When location information in the “Where” column pulls up “Index 1” through “Index 45” this refers to three volumes of documents garnered during research for The Quiet Philanthropist, Genevieve Eagon Tillar. Three physical copies of the Index exist, one at each of the following: the Tarrant County Archives, Fort Worth, Texas, the Dallas Public Library, Dallas History Center, Dallas, Texas and the Washingtonia Collection in the Main Washington D.C. Public Library. The three volumes held by the Tarrant County Archives are located at 200 Taylor Street, 5th Floor, Fort Worth, Texas 76102 under “Barentine, Joe.”

Where did the Westbrook Hotel Collection come from?



Westbrook Hotel, postcard, circa 1910



Westbrook Hotel implosion on January 29, 1978



Westbrook Hotel site, in front of Chisholm Trail Mural, 2009

The Westbrook Hotel was built in 1910 in downtown Fort Worth. The building was imploded in 1978. In 1976 the Westbrook Collection was removed from the Westbrook Hotel and donated to what is now the Tarrant County Archives. A roll top desk was also donated and presently resides in the Heritage Room in the Library Building of Tarrant County College Northeast Campus. The Westbrook Hotel stood on the parking lot in Sundance Square in front of the Chisholm Trail mural.

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

Who were the Tillars?



Joshua Thomas Westbrook Tillar
Painting: Jenny Talbot DeLong
Arkansas History Commission Portrait Gallery



MRS. ANTOINETTE TILLAR

Specific to this story, the heirs of Joshua Thomas Westbrook Tillar (1833 – 1908) and his wife Antoinette Tillar (1840 – 1918) of Little Rock, Arkansas, and their son Ben J. Tillar (1866 – 1923), who moved to Fort Worth, Texas, around 1895 and built the Westbrook Hotel and a family empire with his and his father's fortune.

What is the Tillar Trust?

It is not a single Trust but a number of different trusts which begin with the death of the patriarch of this family, J. T. W. Tillar, in 1908. By the terms of his Will two trusts were created: the **Personal Property Trust** and the **Real Estate Trust** for the benefit of his named heirs. Another Trust was created when his wife died in 1918; it was called the **Antoinette Tillar Trust**. Ben Tillar was the trustee of these three trusts until his death in 1923, at which time the **Tillar Fidelity Company** was created to act as trustee of all three. In 1930, J. Garland Tillar, Ben's brother died, leaving his entire estate to charity, naming the Tillar Fidelity Company as trustee for the **J. Garland Tillar Trust**. The **Benjamin J. Tillar Memorial Trust** was created under the Will of Genevieve Eagon Tillar on her death in 1961, for the benefit of what is now known as the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth.



J. Garland Tillar Building
1424 Summit Ave., Fort Worth



Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth
North floating pavilion floor

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

Are any of these Trusts relevant today?

Yes, absolutely. Ben Tillar left educational endowments to what is now Texas Wesleyan University which still benefits students. The J. Garland Trust still exists and helps fund the All Church Home for Children Foundation in Fort Worth. Ben's wife, Genevieve Eagon Tillar divided her multi-million dollar estate between what is now the Easter Seal Society, Cook's Children's Medical Hospital and the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth and these still exist and benefit Fort Worth enormously.

Is there continuity to this collection and how well accessioned is it to date in 2012?

There is absolutely no rhyme or reason to what was given to the Archives. One senses it was some sort of mad dash to save what could be saved. There will be great continuity and then enormous gaps of years, even decades in the information. There is relatively nothing relating to the construction of the Westbrook Hotel, no plans or construction estimates or payments. There are very few records dealing with Ben J. Tillar personally. Ben officed across the street from the Westbrook Hotel in the Burke Burnett Building and most probably all records pertaining to the construction of the Westbrook were kept in his private offices along with his personal records and after his death in 1923 they were collected by his wife, Genevieve Tillar, and later lost or destroyed.

The 140 banker boxes were only lightly accessioned. The contents of some boxes are simple, filed completely with one type of information, such as guest registration cards or vendor vouchers. Others boxes may contain a vast, disparate and chaotic amount of information covering 80 years or more.



Westbrook Box 115



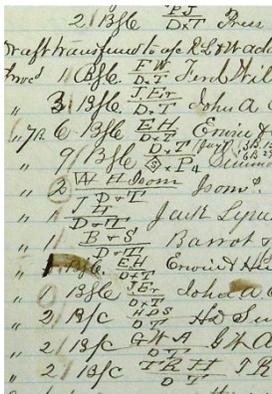
Westbrook Box 130

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

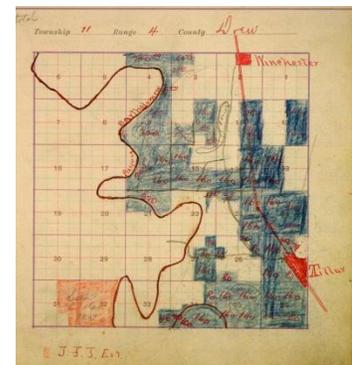
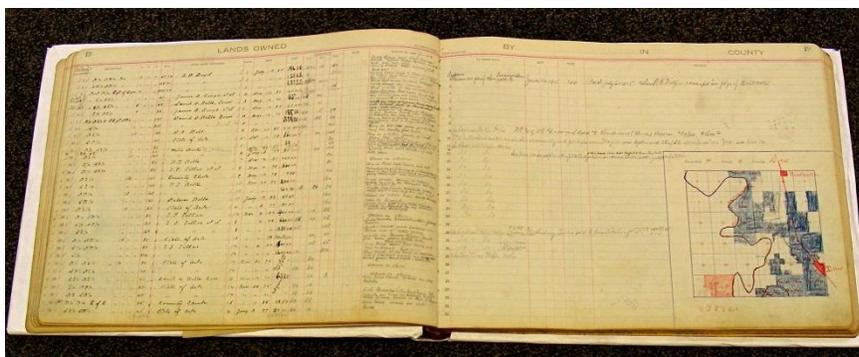
Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

The Ledgers and Record Books were reviewed and detailed to give a simple idea as to their contents. It will require a forensic accountant to fully reveal what these records contain. The pre-1930's record books were created using a double entry system which neither myself, nor my CPA, nor the retired CPA she purchased her business from were ever able to completely understand. As complete a record as these present there are obvious missing items such as check registers and indexes to older volumes.

Of particular interest are the ledgers of J. T. W. Tillar, patriarch of the Tillar family, these date back to the 1860's, when J. T. W. set up his mercantile business in Selma and later Tillar, Arkansas after the War Between the States. Presumably, on his death in 1908, when his son, Ben J. Tillar, became executor of his estate, J. T. W.'s record books were transferred to Fort Worth for Ben's inspection. Possibly on Ben's death, they were transferred to the Westbrook Hotel where they remained until given to the archives.



Record Book 239 belonged to J. T. W. Tillar and covers the Tillar Mercantile business from 1871 to 1896. Above left is a detail of page 71 and above right is a detail of the end papers.



Record Book 208 is the Land Record Book for the Tillar Estate. Pages 19 detail the acquisition and disposition of lands held in Drew County, Arkansas. Detail of map above right shows Bartholomew Bayou and Tillar, Arkansas, with lands owned by Tillar Estate shaded in blue.

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

Joshua Thomas Westbrook Tillar (1833 – 1908)

To better understand the full nature of the Westbrook Hotel Collection one should study J. T. W. Tillar, the patriarch of this branch of the Tillar family.



Tillar Residence, Tillar, Arkansas

Originally an Italianate structure, circa 1880, was later given the “Gone with the Wind” look by removing the ornate gingerbread and wrap around porches, all replaced with Corinthian columns and a spectator balcony. Ultimately the house was demolished when a tree fell on it in the 1970s.

J. T. W. Tillar, traveling west from Virginia, met Antoinette Pruitt (1840 – 1918) in Mississippi and married her in Selma, Arkansas, in 1855. He will fight for the Confederacy in the War Between the States and afterwards return to Arkansas to pursue a career in the mercantile business. A shrewd and aggressive entrepreneur, his business will grow and as it does he will acquire much of the land surrounding Selma, Arkansas. When the railroad by passes Selma, he will move his mercantile business east to that rail road track and there plat and build the city of Tillar. He will also build a new home for his family there as pictured above.



Tillar Postmark showing
J.T.W. as Post Master



Bank of Tillar built in 1915
Photo taken March 2010



Tillar, Arkansas
Population in March, 2010

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

When the business still continues to grow, J. T. W. moves the family to Little Rock, Arkansas, where he will become influential in city and state government. He will also build a new home for the family in what is now downtown Little Rock.



Residence of J. T. W. Tillar
Photograph Courtesy, Arkansas History Commission. All Right Reserved.



TILLAR RESIDENCE, LITTLE ROCK, ARK.
Photograph Courtesy, Arkansas History Commission. All Right Reserved.

The Tillar residence in Little Rock, Arkansas, was located at 621 West Third Street

Three daughters and three sons will survive J. T. W.; however, this lineage of the Tillar name will “daughter out” in that one generation. Two sons, Ben and J. Garland Tillar, will have no children; the oldest son, Frank Tillar, will have only one daughter. Hence, there will be no male heirs to continue this branch of the Tillar name.

A key to understanding this collection is the Last Will and Testament of J. T. W., presumably drafted by him. Though it is a key to understanding the collection, it is itself a truly indecipherable document which all of his children will litigate until their dying days. Judging from surviving typed transcripts (the original does not seem to survive) J. T. W. was over grasping and the detailed complexity of the documents far exceeds his ability to clearly state his objectives in the documents creation. He, on his death, probably the wealthiest man in Arkansas, would not, and most certainly did not, hire a lawyer to prepare his Last Will and Testament. In it, he refers to one child by two different names, fails to mention one of his children and seeks to protect, yet ends up disinheriting others.

It was determined the Will created two different trusts, the Real Estate Trust and the Personal Property Trust. Do not assume the Real Estate Trust is made entirely of real estate or that the Personal Property Trust’s corpus consists of personal property or choses in action as they do not. There is money and real estate in both and the two Trusts will buy and sell property to each other and borrow money from each other, always at 5% interest.

However, not all the blame for thickening the Tillar plot should be placed entirely on the Will of J. T. W., as his son, Ben, will help to muddle it further.

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

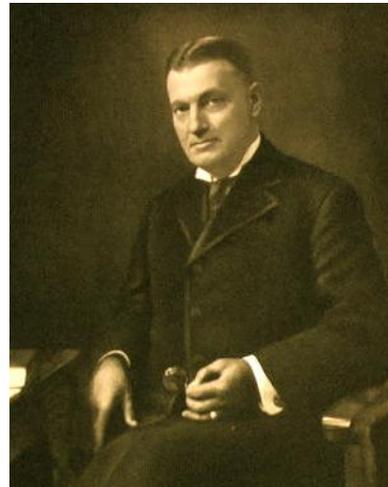
Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

Benjamin Johnston Tillar (1866 – 1923)

Benjamin J. Tillar, the middle son of J. T. W., was well educated and ambitious. He studied law and returned home to practice in Little Rock, but soon after, between the effects of the Arkansas humidity on his health, the iron fist of his father and the Call of the West, he removed himself to Midland, Texas. There he quickly learned the cattle business and began acquiring ranch land both in his name and for his father, with whom he had an excellent long distance business relationship. As Ben's entrepreneurial prowess matured, he bonded even further with his father. Ben moved to Fort Worth, Texas, around 1895 and set about acquiring and building downtown properties.



Ben Tillar was 33 in 1898 when he married Genevieve Eagon



Ben Tillar in the late 1910s
While on vacation, he died in Paris, France, in 1923

By the time of J. T. W.'s death in 1908, Ben was so thoroughly involved with managing the Tillar family fortune he was named executor of J. T. W.'s estate and then Trustee of the Personal Property Trust and Real Estate Trust, which were created under his father's Will. In 1918, on the death of Antoinette Tillar, his Mother, he was appointed executor of her estate and then Trustee of the Antoinette Tillar Trust.

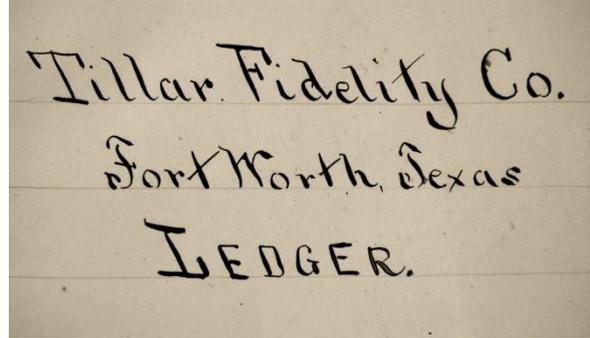


Ben was a handsome mover and shaker. When he found a deal that needed to be acted upon immediately he was not too concerned about which trust account the money came from nor exactly how title vested when the transaction closed. He wasn't doing anything illegal; he was just a little sloppy. After all, it was all the Tillar Trust money and the beneficiaries did not much care about such particulars as from which Trust money was taken out of, or into which Trust the property vested. The money was flowing and the beneficiaries were content with the status quo, until Ben unexpectedly dropped dead in Paris, France, in 1923, while on vacation.

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

With Ben's death all the dynamics of the Tillar family will change. Fourteen days after his death The Tillar Fidelity Corporation is created. The Tillar heirs are the stockholders. Fortunate for the Tillar family, Ben had built an excellent team of attorneys and accountants, such as Murrin and Clendenen, to advise them and further there was the strong business head possessed by Genevieve Eagon Tillar (1874 – 1961), Ben's surviving wife and heir.



With property spread over Fort Worth, Dallas, Little Rock, ranch property in west and central Texas, farm property in southeast Arkansas and gold mines in Mexico, it now became necessary to determine which of the three Trusts owned what and who held what interest in each of the three Trusts. The beneficiaries were different in each and the laws of Texas and Arkansas were different as to corporations and probate. The Internal Revenue Service will step in and also have their say about the division of the estates.

On more than one occasion, while going through these documents, a sheet of paper has been found on which a Tillar attorney, accountant or agent, has tried to make sense of this on their own.

From Box 65

Heirs of J. T. W. Tillar

1st. Alma Admon, granddaughter, living at 2217 Galnes, Little Rock
"omit-claimed her interest in the Estates.

John H. Admon, son, living 2217 Galnes, Little Rock, John
H. Tillar Admon " 401 Pyramid Building, Little Rock, Ark.
They became heirs under the will of May T. Admon (Dr. J)

2nd. Antoinette O'Connor, daughter (grand) 1228 Hiss Bank Building
Detroit, MI, Mich.

Lilla H. Glenn, granddaughter, 270 Monterey Road
Pala Beach, Florida

3rd. Jennie G. Holmes, wife of T. F. Tillar, Little Rock, Ark.
No interest in the Estates

Russ T. Rogers, granddaughter, Little Rock, Ark.
"omit her interest in the Estate to her daughters:

Jane Cookrill, 1228 Pyramid Building, Little Rock, Ark.
Martha Cookrill, address unknown

Ashley Cookrill, husband of Jane, is an attorney at
1228 Pyramid Building, he and his brother Howard act
as trustees for Jane Cookrill and her sister Martha
while any legal papers to be served on any of the
above ladies can be handled through Ashley Cookrill

4th. None

5th. Genevieve E. Tillar, wife of Ben J. Tillar

Address J. J. O'Brien & Company
518 Semple Building,
Fort Worth, Texas

6th. Lilla May Simmons - No issue

7th. None

8th. Ida T. Allen deceased, daughter Miss Ruth Allen, living
41 Borden St.,
Concord, Mass.

9th. J. Garland Tillar, deceased, his estate left in trust
to charity.

Heirs of J. T. W. Tillar

Genealogy - Tillar Family

J. T. W. (John Thomas Westbrook) Tillar - Antoinette Trull
Born April 4, 1852 Died Nov. 20, 1920
Died Jan. 2, 1928 Dns. Apr. 22, 1928

Issue - Five Children

1st. Calista Antoinette - daughter (Now deceased)
Married to W. Gibbs

Issue: Alma (Admon) daughter (T. Tillar Admon, son
John T. Admon, son
" omit claimed her interest in Estates for a consideration

2nd. Flora Virginia, daughter (Died June 23, 1892)
Married Nathaniel Holmes

Issue: Antoinette, daughter (O'Connor) Arthur, Jr., son

Lilla Westbrook (Glenn) daughter (J. K. Glenn, son
Clarence, daughter
Dorothy, daughter

3rd. Thomas Franklin Tillar, son (Died Jan. 10, 1911)
Married Annie W. Adams

Issue: Russ (Dr. F. F. Rogers) daughter (Jane (Cookrill) daughter
Martha (Holmes) daughter
" deceased

4th. Elizabeth, daughter (Deceased)
Married John Haysman

5th. Benjamin Houston Tillar, son (Died Sept. 7, 1922)
Married Genevieve Eagon
No issue

6th. Lilla May, daughter (Died Sept. 7, 1920)
" Jane Carroll 1st
Married H. T. Simmons 2nd
No issue

7th. Wanda, daughter, (Deceased)

8th. Ida, daughter (Died Sept. 11, 1940)
Married Walter S. Allen
Issue: Ruth Allen, same wife.

9th. James Garland Tillar, son, (Died August 4, 1900)
heir

All nine children of J. T. W. Tillar and Antoinette Tillar
are now deceased.

Genealogy – Tillar Family

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

The answer is long, complex, even mind-numbing, yet it requires being addressed as a large portion of the Westbrook Collection consists of the actual financial record books which minutely detail, down to the very last penny, each of these trust's finances, distribution to the individual beneficiaries and then distribution in fee to the grand children of J.T.W. and Antoinette Tillar, where upon the different Trusts collapse.

The Antoinette Tillar Trust and Construction of the Sanger Building in downtown Fort Worth.

The Sanger Building, in downtown Fort Worth, provides a good example of what these records can reveal. This five story building is still extant and extends from Houston to Throckmorton along West Fourth Street. Upon completion in 1929, it sat across the street from the Westbrook Hotel. The building is now on the National Register of Historic Places, yet the application for acceptance by the National Register does not mention the Tillar name.



The Sanger Building, corner of West Fourth and Houston Streets
The Westbrook Hotel would have been directly across Houston Street to the right.

The land the Sanger building sits on was put together from storefront properties in Block 50 by Ben Tillar prior to his death in 1923. One may assume it was his intention to build something on the property that would complement the Westbrook Hotel, but it would take the family a number of years, after Ben's death, to bring such an idea to fruition. In January, 1927, the Tillar heirs agreed to a partition of real estate between the Personal Property Trust and the Antoinette Tillar Trust. This agreement came about in an attempt to bestow order on the somewhat sloppy title practices of Ben Tillar. It was then decided construction of the Sanger building would be carried out under the auspices of the Antoinette Tillar Trust, administered by the Tillar Fidelity Company as Trustee.

In 1929, the Antoinette Tillar Trust would engage Wyatt C. Hedrick as architect and the a firm of Wholfield and Witts as general contractor to build the building to the desired

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

specifications of their prospective tenant Sanger Brothers Department Store. On opening it will be a state of the art, air conditioned building.

20 Bills Payable - Mrs Ben J Tillar	112500								
✓	✓	✓	✓	23000				35500	
✓	✓	✓	✓	15000					
✓	✓	✓	✓	10000					
✓	✓	✓	✓	4500					
✓	✓	✓	✓	280615000	70000				34500
15 Sanger Building									
Wohlfeld & Witts Architects Est # 1									
General Contract				28071	4238116				4238116

Record Book 240, page 38 showing bills payable for Mrs. Ben J. Tillar in the amount of \$70,000.00 on January 24, 1929 and a check for the Sanger Building to Wohlfeld & Witts architects and general contractor for \$42,381.16, on January 15, 1929.

A major part of the financing for the project would come through a 1929 loan from Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company in the amount of \$400,000.00. The repayment schedule for the loan was simple. The first payment would come due April 1, 1935, in the amount of \$60,000.00, with three subsequent yearly payments in the same amount with a final balloon payment to cover the balance. Another \$100,000.00 was borrowed from Texas Christian University, that loan secured by the Monnig's Dry Goods building, which sat across the street facing the Sanger Building.

Built, at a total cost of \$654,645.04, the downtown air-conditioned Sanger store opened to great acclaim on August 17, 1929. The stock market crashed on October 29, 1929, and from that day on, for the next decade, world finances changed for the worse.

Tillar Fidelity Company minutes show that within months of the October crash Sanger Brothers were asking for a rent reduction and before the request could even be acted upon they were asking to be let out of the lease. This was settled with Sanger Brothers buying out the lease with a \$25,000.00 note due and payable to the Antoinette Tillar Trust.

The 1929 crash economy of Fort Worth was such that there were no prospective tenants for the Sanger Building. All property in downtown Fort Worth will plummet in value. There are no available buyers, there is no money available, downtown property will more often than not be sold for back taxes. The three Tillar Trusts, soon to be four with the death of J. Garland Tillar in 1930, own several downtown properties but only the Sanger Building has a purchase mortgage.

The legal advisors for the Antoinette Tillar Trust determine a most interesting solution to this dilemma. First, the note to Texas Christian University is paid off, this payment depletes the Trusts cash reserves. Different Antoinette Tillar Trust beneficiaries are owed money by the Trust, presumably as different beneficiaries had elected to not take distributions thereby

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

increasing their percentage share in the Sanger Building productivity. These different beneficiaries in their individual capacity sue the Antoinette Tillar Trust for the amounts they are due and prevail in Texas Court. But the Trust no longer has any cash to satisfy the court's judgment; it only has downtown Fort Worth property with which to satisfy creditor demands. The beneficiaries execute on their judgment and seize all the downtown property owned by the Antoinette Tillar Trust, which is worth next to nothing, vesting title to the properties amongst themselves as their percentage interests allow. The Tillar heirs will also take the \$25,000.00 note owed by Sanger Brothers.

This bit of legal maneuvering will take a number of years to complete but at the end of the day when April 1, 1935, rolls around and the first payment is due to Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Corporation, the Antoinette Tillar Trust will have only one asset left, the Sanger Building itself, its fixtures and the land on which it sits. The loan secured by the building is judicially foreclosed upon by Massachusetts Mutual and it then takes possession of the building, its fixtures and land. The Antoinette Tillar Trust collapses, its corpus depleted.

The Real Estate Trust

The Real Estate Trust created under the Will of J. T. W. was ultimately construed to mean his six surviving children would each received $1/6^{\text{th}}$ of the income of said Real Estate Trust; the children only, not their spouses. On the death of each child, that $1/6^{\text{th}}$ interest would pay in fee to children of said decedent, i.e., the grandchildren of J. T. W. If the decedent had no children surviving, as in the case of Ben J. Tillar and J. Garland Tillar, then their interest would revert to the then surviving children of J. T. W. and then to his grandchildren in fee on the death of their parent.

The Real Estate Trust will begin to close soon after the Release of All Claims is obtained from Massachusetts Mutual. On December 31, 1931, the family members entitled to distribution in the Real Estate Trust came to a division agreement to occur on December 28, 1935. At that later date, Tillar Fidelity Company made partial distribution of the assets of the Real Estate Trust to the beneficiaries entitled to receive such distribution in fee, i.e., the grand-children whose parents were deceased.

Also, at that time in 1935, the Real Estate Trustee set apart the respective interests of Mrs. May Tillar Simmons (who dies in 1938 without issue) and Mrs. Idee Tillar Allen (who dies in 1940). They are, in 1935, the only two living children of J. T. W. On their respective deaths their interests in the Real Estate Trust will be distributed to their heirs, if any.

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

Taking down the Personal Property Trust in the 1940's

The last surviving child of J. T. W. died in 1940, which initiated final closing of his estate with distribution going to surviving grand-children and spousal heirs, unlike the Real Estate Trust which only paid to grand-children and surviving spouses. There had been attempts to bring the different trusts to final resolution. One problem was the further bifurcation of the different Trusts in 1936 when the I.R.S. ruled the Trusts in Arkansas were not the same legal entities as the ones in Texas.

R. H. Wolfe had worked in Arkansas with different members of the Tillar family for most of his life and subsequent to the I.R.S. ruling was named Trustee of the Trusts in Arkansas. Because of the enormous complexity of ownership of Trust assets it was common for the Trustee



to go to Court to get a judicial Order directing the Trustee to pay and to state exact amounts and to whom payment was to be made; this covered the Trustees from any financial infraction and that is how the beneficiaries proceeded with the Arkansas holdings. A decree issued in the Arkansas Pulaski Chancery Court in 1939, but unfortunately, Mr. Wolfe died shortly thereafter, which left the Trust in need of a new Court Order designating a new Trustee. With World War II in the making, it appears everyone decided to just sit back and leave well enough alone until the war ended.

Subsequent to the war different family members began to reinstate legal action in Arkansas, having a new Trustee appointed; then those assets were distributed to the individual heirs.

Similar action commenced in Texas with the Tillar Fidelity Company, into which, in 1946, a Resolution of Closing was entered. The Trust then distributed ownership in the only remaining Personal Property Trust asset, 499 shares of stock in the Westbrook Hotel. The stock was transferred to the beneficiaries in the following percentages of interest.

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Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

1946 Tillar Fidelity Company Final Distribution of the 499 Shares of Stock in the Westbrook Hotel

Genevieve E. Tillar 17.313% of 499 shares
Surviving widow of Ben J. Tillar

Ruth Allen 20.7705% of 499 shares
Surviving daughter of Idee Tillar Allen

Ashley Cockrill, Howard Cockrill, Trustees Frank Tillar Estate, 23.2225% of 499 shares
Ashley is Frank Tillar's grand-daughter's husband and presumably Howard is
Ashley's brother

Antoinette O'Connor 11.21575% of 499 shares
Surviving daughter of Florence Virginia Tillar Holmes

Lilla H. Glenn 11.21575% of 499 shares
Surviving daughter of Florence Virginia Tillar Holmes

W. Tillar Adamson 2.32225% of 499 shares
Surviving grandson of Calista Antoinette Tillar Holmes

John W. Adamson 2.32225% of 499 shares
Surviving grandson of Calista Antoinette Tillar Holmes

Tillar Fidelity Company, Trustee of the Estate of J. Garland Tillar,
11.618% of 499 shares
The Tillar Fidelity Company Resolution of Closing also requests the Probate
Court be petitioned to appoint a new Trustee for the J. Garland Trust.

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

Genevieve Eagon Tillar (1874 – 1961)



1894



1941

Genevieve Eagon Tillar, the surviving spouse of Ben J. Tillar, was a force to be reckoned with in her own right. While Ben was building an empire for his father and his father's estate, he was also building one in his own name and Genevieve was building another in her own name: to be certain, a capitalist family.

Genevieve was born July 16, 1874, in Jefferson, Texas. She is the oldest of four children. Her father, Dr. Samson Eagon, was a physician. He moved the family to Dallas, Texas and there in 1890, with the untimely death of his wife, daughter Genevieve at age sixteen became head of the Eagon family household. Her father will pursue a successful medical practice and be one of the founders of St. Paul's Hospital, in Dallas, Texas (now part of UT Southwestern University Hospital).



Genevieve's birth place: The French Townhouse
502 Walker St., Jefferson, Texas



Dr. Samson Eagon
1835 – 1915

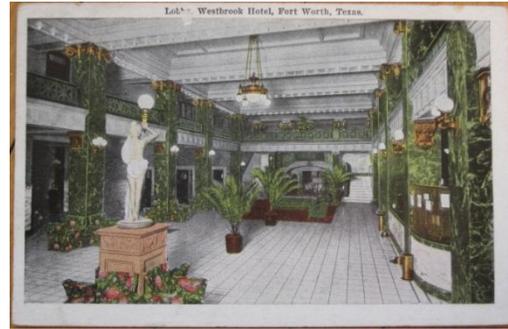
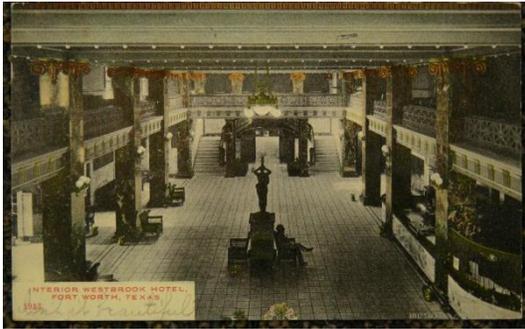
Mrs. Eagon's Death.
Perhaps no death within the confines of the city would have caused more pain to the hearts of a larger number of friends than that of Mrs. Dr. S. Eagon, yesterday afternoon, at 2 o'clock. Her disease was caused by severe cold, engendered, by moving into a new house, and she had been ill only a few days. She leaves a devoted husband and four affectionate children—two girls and two boys—to mourn as few hearts do mourn, and to them the HERALD extends its sincerest condolence.
She was born in Grand Coteau, Louisiana, and was a daughter of Dr. Robert E. Smith, of that place. She was 42 years of age at her death. The funeral will take place today, at 3 p. m., from the residence of her husband, at corner of Olive and Live Oak streets. All friends and acquaintances of the family are respectfully invited to attend.

Obituary for Mrs. Samson Eagon
Dallas Herald March 10, 1883

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

Genevieve is well educated, fluent in French, petite, has high cheek bones and is a clothes horse. She and Ben Tillar meet late in life, by the standards of those days; she was 24. They married within the year at her father's home on December 28, 1898. They will never have children. They will spend 25 years together traveling the world and will build and decorate the Westbrook Hotel in 1910. After Ben's death in 1923, Genevieve will permanently retain Parlor Suite E on the mezzanine level of the Westbrook Hotel.



Postcards of the interior of the Westbrook Hotel Lobby
Genevieve Eagon Tillar retained Parlor Suite E on the mezzanine level

Aside from the Westbrook Hotel suite, Genevieve will have homes in New York City, Washington D.C., and Los Angeles. She will continue to travel the world, and spend a great deal of her time with her niece Bettye Herbert, the daughter of her sister Elizabeth ("Bessie") Hurst. Genevieve is an excellent businesswoman and also enormously philanthropic with both her time and money. She will donate half the land for Camp Carter in Fort Worth, a house in Washington D. C. to the American Society of International Law and serve on the Board of Directors of what is now the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth.



Home of Hollywood actor, Warner Baxter, purchased by
Genevieve Tillar in the 1940's



Washington D.C. home of Genevieve Tillar
She gave this house to the
American Society of International Law

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

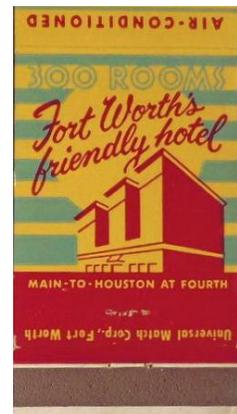
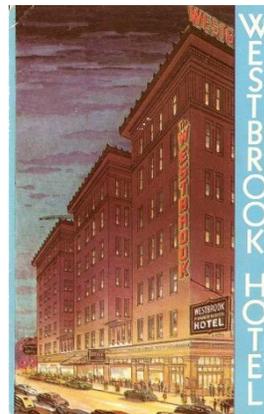
Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

On her death, in 1961, in one final magnanimous gesture, she will divide her multi-million dollar estate between what is now the Easter Seal Society, Cook Children's Medical Hospital and the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth. She never sought personal recognition for her donations, in the instance of the museum bequest only asking the gift be named the Benjamin J. Tillar Memorial Trust.

And so it came to be that on her death, her 17.313% interest in 499 shares of the Westbrook Hotel Company also transferred in thirds to those three entities named in her Will.

The Westbrook Hotel Collection donation in 1976

On opening in 1910, the Westbrook Hotel was considered the finest hostelry between the Mississippi and the West Coast. Afterwards, it experienced a continued increase in business bouncing off the depression with oil booms and World War II with military guests. In the 1950's, the Westbrook began a slow decline, as did most U.S. downtown hotels as a more mobile America favored the easy access and informality of the tourist court motel. In good times and bad, numerous attempts to sell the property had been negotiated; however, none came to fruition until the hotel ceased operation in 1974.



The Westbrook Hotel goes from being "fire proof" in the 1910s to being air-conditioned in the late 1940's

Because the hotel never sold or had a top to bottom refurbishing, it never had a thorough cleaning from the day it opened its doors to the day it closed. Therefore, a lot of stuff got stacked into corners and never discarded. But then came the day when the building and land were sold, and as the old hotel was going to be imploded, everything inside had to be removed, sold, given away, thrown out or left for the dump trucks to haul off to land fill. At this last gasp moment, some very intelligent souls suggested just maybe some historical group might be interested in some of the detritus; so it was that the donation to the archives occurred. Judging from the depth, breath and occasional void, it must have been one chaotic day when the donation was packed up and shipped out.

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

It was also necessary for someone to sign off on this donation because the contents did belong to someone; the same someone's who received checks from the sale of the hotel and land. A September 5, 1977, Star Telegram Newspaper article indicates "a number of trustees and beneficiaries agreed to give the collection . . ." They are the remainder men from the 1946 closing of the Tillar Fidelity Company, those who were deeded shares in the Westbrook Hotel, and three of those named are the beneficiaries under the Will of Genevieve Eagon Tillar: the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Cook Children's Hospital and Easter Seal.

Veve Reynolds and The Portraits of Ben and Genevieve Tillar

Of Genevieve Eagon Tillar's family only her sister Elizabeth ("Bessie") Eagon Hurst had a surviving child, and that was a daughter named Bettye Herbert, who in her turn had only one daughter, and she was named Genevieve Eagon McIntosh, and she was also given the same nickname of her great-aunt, "Vevie." That was a nickname Ben Tillar dreamed up for his wife, Genevieve. It is through this same descent Vevie Reynolds (nee McIntosh) came to own the original oil portraits of Ben and Genevieve Tillar. They came to Vevie in the early 1980's in a somewhat sad state of repair and then spent another 30 years in her garage, which fortunately was in Los Angeles and not subject to Texas summer heat.



Elizabeth Eagon Hurst holding her daughter
Bettye Hurst Herbert
Mother of Vevie Reynolds



Genevieve Eagon Reynolds ("Vevie") with the portraits of
Ben and Genevieve Tillar
Photograph taken by Tulsa Kinney in 2010

In 2010, when Vevie became aware of the Tarrant County Archives and determined the archives would be a good home for the portraits, understanding the portraits would be appreciated, maintained and enhance the Westbrook Hotel Collection. Vevie sold them to Joe Barentine who had them transported back to Texas. Joe then enlisted the help of Pamela Smith and Susan Pritchett to assist in funding their repair and cleaning by Brown Mountain Restoration

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

in Dallas. Coincidentally, this transfer occurred during the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Westbrook Hotel. Later, the three donated the two portraits to the Tarrant County Archives.



The portrait of Ben, by Susan Ricker Knox, was probably painted not long after his death in 1923. Knox was a prominent society portraitist of the day. The painting is based on a photograph of Ben taken in later life. The same photograph was also reduced to a line etching and often reproduced in biographical materials relating to Ben, see page 15. The hand carved and gilded frame is by Newcomb-Macklin of Chicago, important frame makers during the turn of the century arts and crafts movement. This frame retains half of the original manufacturer's sticker on the back. The frame is also very much like the one on the portrait of

J. T. W. Tillar, held by the Arkansas History Commission. Record Book 220, page 47, indicates that portrait was painted by Jenny D. Meyrowitz in 1923 – 1924.



Painting of J. T. W. Tillar (1833-1908) by Jenny Eakin Delony (Jenny Delony Rice Meyrowitz).
From the collection of the Arkansas History Commission, Museum # 71.528

Portrait of J. T. W. Tillar held by the Arkansas History Commission

47

Portrait Account

1923		1924	
Dec 18	Mrs Jenny D. Meyrowitz for 2 portraits of Major J. W. Tillar	31	1000
Jan 30	Payment for frames & glass for portraits	51	133.50
Feb 13	Mrs. Seta P. Allen for packing & shipping oil portraits paid by her	61	253.00
May 26	Mrs. Seta P. Allen for Expense sending bill Portrait Major J. W. Tillar to NY to be copied	107	10.69
			1169.53
			584.76
			584.77

1169.53

Record Book 220 shows Jenny D. Meyrowitz was commissioned to paint two portraits of J. T. W. Tillar. One ended up in the Arkansas State Capitol and the other went to Florence Tillar Holmes, whereabouts unknown, and then one of the Meyrowitz paintings was sent to New York to be copied for Idee Tillar Adams and the whereabouts of that copy is also unknown.

The portrait of Genevieve is one of only three images of her discovered to date. One is a photograph taken in 1941, in which she is dressed in cap and gown, receiving an honorary doctorate from Texas Wesleyan College for the scholastic endowments made to it under Ben's Will after his death in 1923. The other is a large cameo on porcelain, approximately seven

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

inches tall, painted when Genevieve was probably around 20, presently in the possession of Vevie Reynolds in Los Angeles. The origin and date of Genevieve's large oil portrait is somewhat problematic. The painting is signed with ciphers of an as yet undetermined painter. It was possibly painted in the 1930's when Genevieve would have been in her 50's but in the portrait she is obviously looks much younger. Genevieve was meticulous about keeping her exact age from being known. The jewelry in the portrait may not represent specific pieces she owned but she was known for her love of rubies and diamonds, and owned a number of such pieces which her niece Bettye Herbert inherited.



Other Significant Players and Places in the Westbrook Hotel Collection Panoply

Monnig's Dry Goods

The edifice housing Monnig's Dry Goods was owned by the Tillar heirs and sat across the street from the Sanger Building and catty-corner from the Westbrook Hotel. It was not a single building, as later facades would indicate, but a number of different buildings cobbled together with their original facades covered over. Later, additional floors were also added. In 1925 the Fort Worth architectural firm of Sanguinet & Staats was retained for re-construction of the buildings in preparation of being leased to Monnig's Dry Goods. The Westbrook Hotel Collection (Box 138 File 27) contains all the leases from 1925 to Monnig's closing in 1979. Like the Westbrook Hotel, this building will also be torn down for a parking lot.



Monnig's Department Store, c. 1940, Southwestern Engraving
Ft. Worth in *Vintage Postcards*, Quentin McGown
Arcadia Press, 2003

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

In 1929, Monnig's was used as collateral by the Tillar Fidelity Company for a \$100,000.00 loan from Texas Christian University to cover part of the construction costs of the Sanger Building. This loan was subsequently repaid in full. Later, in 1939, the building was again used as collateral for a loan from Texas Christian University, in the amount of \$200,000.00, for refurbishing Monnig's. This loan was repaid in 1944.

C. J. Cooper

Cooper, more often referred to as "Coop" or C. J., was a designated agent for the Tillar heirs. In a 1969 letter to Charles T. Harris of San Angelo, Cooper wrote the following:

"Since 1934, I have been associated with the Tillar Estates. Mr. Jno. R. Halsell was President. He owned a spread in Palo Pinto and Jack Counties and I learned much about ranching operations from him. Prior to that time, from 1925 to 1930, I was with Texas Oil & Land at Santa Rita, Texas. I hunted quail on that section, 7 miles south of Santa Rita. I knew the trails leading to the old Fort Concho outpost, never dreaming that I would later be involved in this section. I was out there in late September and all of the trails were blank to me. I still have a warm affinity for the area.

"I met Fred Boggs. He ran the grocery store at Santa Rita. Now, at best, only two miles away. We had dances out there and a band from Angelo. Everybody came. I remember that Jack and Gertrude Motes invited his sister, Lois, from Greenville to attend – Hallo'ween. Recently, my sister in New York sent me a picture taken in front of the Santa Rita café. Indelible in my mind, are those memories."



The roll top desk, above right, came from the Westbrook Hotel and is presently in the Heritage Room Collection, Tarrant County College NE. In 2011, the desk was found to contain a number of documents and photographs, which were transferred to the Westbrook Hotel Collection.

Possibly above left is a photograph of C. J. Cooper and possibly this was his desk.

Cooper attended Notre Dame and in 1924 lettered in track. His track certificate signed by Knute Rockne was discovered among the Westbrook Hotel Collection papers, see page 8.

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

Robert H. Wolfe

Wolfe was, for many years, president of Tillar & Co. in Tillar, Arkansas. He was also president of the Tillar, Arkansas school board and a long-time director of the Citizens Bank of Tillar. He was Trustee of the Tillar Real Estate Trust in Arkansas until his death. Wolfe High School in Tillar, Arkansas, is named after him. The Wolfe mansion was an architecturally grand house in Tillar until it was destroyed by fire in 1968. A genealogy for the Wolfe family can be found at X File 267.136.1 – 6.



Tillar High School building

George W. Putnam

Putnam was a manager of the Westbrook Hotel in the 1950's and an agent for the Tillar heirs, Personal Property Trust and Tillar Fidelity Company from the 1930's to 1965. He was in partnership with C. J. Cooper from 1955 – 1974.

Frank J. Ortman

Ortman was an attorney residing in Detroit, Michigan, which is also where Mrs. R. C. (Lilla) Glenn lived. Lilla and her sister, Antoinette O'Connor, were the daughters of Florence Tillar Holmes. Their father was Nathaniel Holmes. J. T. W. Tillar immensely disliked Nathaniel Holmes and attempted to disinherit his son-in-law, Nathaniel, by leaving his estate to his grand-daughters, Lilla and Antoinette. Lilla needed an attorney and Ortman got the job.

Ortman would ultimately represent both Lilla and Antoinette's the interest in the Tillar Estate and serve as their agent. He would also represent the two sisters when their first cousin, Ruth Allen, daughter of Idee Tillar Allen, transferred all her interest in the Tillar estates to Lilla and Antoinette. Subsequent to that transfer Ruth Allen would die without issue.

Ortman is associated with the Westbrook Hotel Company from 1939 to 1965 and will purchase the Reagon County land from Tillar heirs.

James M. Stewart

Stewart was an attorney in Little Rock, Arkansas. He represented the Tillar estate after the death of J. T. W. Tillar in 1908.

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

John R. Halsell

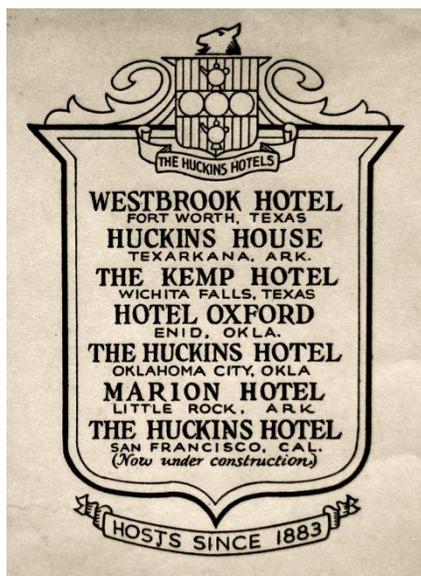
Halsell was president of the Tillar Fidelity Company from 1935 to 1939 and afterwards a Trustee associated with the Westbrook Hotel until 1965. He was also a Trustee associated with the Real Estate Trust from 1935 to 1941.

A. J. Clendenen

Clendenen was the attorney to the Tillar heirs, Tillar Fidelity Company and Westbrook Hotel and yet his name does not even show up in the Index for the Westbrook Hotel Collection but look at the documents and his name shows up everywhere.

Leon "Lee" W. Huckins and brother Paul G. Huckins

In the 1920's Huckins Brothers managed a number of hotels in north east Texas and southern Oklahoma. In the mid 1920's Leon Huckins was managing director of the Westbrook Hotel. They were major promoters and investors in the Huckins-Newcomb Hotel Co. project in San Francisco. That project will ultimately become known as the Sir Francis Drake Hotel, which still stands just a few blocks up from Union Square. The Huckins' efforts will bring the Tillar heirs to invest in the Sir Francis Drake, though the Tillars will ultimately sell their stock after the 1929 crash.



Above left is a detail of a hotel guest envelope postmarked October 13, 1927 (see X File 267.147). By 1980, all of the listed Huckins Hotels, save one, were gone, the Marion Hotel in Little Rock, Arkansas, was imploded in 1980. The Sir Francis Drake, listed as under construction in San Francisco, California, is the only Huckins Hotel remaining to date and it is an art deco masterpiece just a few blocks up from Union Square.

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

Allen Alderson Zoll (1895 – 1969)

"As a member of the press he was especially invited by Adolf Hitler to meet Propaganda Minister Goebbels whose speeches had been copied word for word for Coughlin.

The above is an excerpt from an FBI file especially prepared for Herbert Hoover concerning the activities of Allen Alderson Zoll. Goebbels' speeches had been copied for Father Charles Coughlin, another anti-Semitic.

Zoll is variably described as being un-American, a Nazi sympathizer and anti-Semitic, a classic right wing lunatic. When younger, he possessed a certain rugged handsome appearance and was always a smooth talker. For a while, he resided in Dallas, Texas.



Just when Zoll became aware of Genevieve Tillar is uncertain but late in her life, in early 1953, they met. He swept her off her feet, married her, and directly toured the Middle East with her, where he attempted to stir up anti-Semitic feelings in the then Arab nations. On their return, Genevieve purchased a mansion in Washington D.C. on Sheridan Circle. There Zoll set up sham corporations in which he began investing Genevieve's money. He used the side door to the house as the corporate address.

Zoll physically and mentally abused Genevieve. She hired private detectives and left for Reno, Nevada, where, in December 1954, she petitioned the Court for divorce. The Court was so appalled by Zoll's actions that an annulment was granted. Subsequently, Genevieve Tillar will give the Washington D. C. house to the American Society of International Law and return to Parlor Suite E in the Westbrook Hotel. In 1961, Zoll, having run through the money he absconded from Genevieve, he sold his papers and library to Billy James Hargis.

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

Bettye McIntosh Herbert



Daughter of Genevieve Eagon Tillar's sister Elizabeth Hurst and mother of Vevie Reynolds; Bettye will be a great friend of Genevieve and she will take Bettye on many travels around the world. Bettye's second husband, Montague "Monty" Herbert will be instrumental in prodding Bettye into a last minute grab for Genevieve's entire estate with the creation of a spurious Will. Hotly contested, the spurious Will was ultimately withdrawn. The Last Will and Testament which prevailed had been drawn up by Genevieve after the Zoll affair, on her return to Fort Worth from Washington D.C. Under this Will Bettye received approximately \$250,000.00 which also included all of Genevieve's diamond and ruby jewelry.

Stephen Murrin O'Brien

Stephen Murrin O'Brien, born in 1912, headed the accounting firm of O'Brien and Hukill. His father, Andrew J. O'Brien, was also an accountant and had the Tillar heirs as clients. When Andrew retired, the Tillar heirs became the clients of Stephen O'Brien. The spurious Will signed by Genevieve just before her death left a significant bequest to Stephen O'Brien, an obvious attempt to buy his support. This unusual bequest was just one of the red flags of impropriety evidenced by the spurious Will. Stephen Murrin O'Brien was a first cousin of Susie Murrin Pritchett, former head archivist at the Tarrant County Archives; she is one of the three persons who donated the portraits of Genevieve and Ben Tillar to the archives.

T. Franklin Tillar (Frank) 1861 – 1911 and Mrs. Jennie Holmes Tillar 1862 - 1960

Frank Tillar was the oldest son of J. T. W. Tillar. He resided in Tillar, Arkansas and came to own in his own name most of the Tillar holdings in Drew County, Arkansas, that J. T. W. had put together. His present day descendant's still own most of it. This photograph of Frank was found, in 2010, hanging inside the Tillar Bank Building. Frank Tillar funded the construction of the Tillar Methodist Church in Tillar, Arkansas. The Mrs. Frank Tillar Fund at the Arkansas Art Center in Little Rock purchased eight significant works on paper for the Art Centers collection, including works by Paul Klee, Piet Mondrian and Egon Schiele. They are both buried beside the Tillar Mausoleum in the Oakland Cemetery in Little Rock, Arkansas.



Frank Tillar



Tillar Methodist Church, Tillar, Arkansas



Jennie G. Holmes Tillar

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

Robert Eagon (1878 – 1957) and Imogene Sanquinete Eagon (18?? – 1952)

Robert Eagon was the younger brother of Genevieve Eagon Tillar. He married Imogene Sanquinete, daughter of Marshall R. Sanquinete one of the architectural partners of Sanquinete and Staats, who designed many important buildings in Fort Worth, including the Westbrook Hotel and the Tillar Mausoleum in Oakland Cemetery, Little Rock, Arkansas. On the death of Imogene, at their home in Dallas, Texas, Robert would relocate to Los Angeles, California. There, he and his sister Elizabeth Eagon Hurst would reside in the Warner Baxter home, which Genevieve had purchased but did not care to live in. Robert was assigned the Warner Baxter Bedroom with its masculine paneled walls and beamed ceilings.



Robert Eaton Eagon



Imogene Sanquinete Eagon



Warner Baxter Home interior shot

The Tillar Mausoleum, 1922 - 1924 Oakland Cemetery, Little Rock, Arkansas

Designed by Sanguinete and Staats, of Fort Worth, Texas, with bronze doors executed by Tiffany and Company and an Egyptian themed stain glass widow by Marx and Jones Art Glass of St. Louis, this is the second known use of Egyptian Revival Architecture in Little Rock, Arkansas. Egyptian Revival was again popularized by the discovery of King Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922. The lily capitols on the columns flanking the entrance are symbols of immortality while the winged solar disc above the door is indicative of royalty. The original plans for the mausoleum show a bronze grate on the back window similar to the doors. This appears to have not been executed and was replaced with the stained glass window.



WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

Permanent Residents of the Tillar Mausoleum

Top Left and Down:

May Tillar Simmons (daughter of J.T.W. & Antoinette)

B: August 3, 1868

D: September 9, 1938

Daniel Charles Carroll (first husband of May Tillar)

B: December 17, 1857

D: June 30, 1910

Antoinette Pruitt Tillar (wife of J. T. W.)

B: January 30, 1840 (Selma, Alabama)

D: April 28, 1918

Joshua Thomas Westbrook Tillar (husband of Antoinette)

B: April 6, 1833 (De Soto County, Mississippi)

D: June 5, 1908

Top Right and Down

J. Garland Tillar (son of J.T.W. & Antoinette)

B: August 3, 1875

D: August 4, 1930 (Santa Fe, New Mexico)

Flora V. Holmes (daughter of J. T. W. & Antoinette)

B: March 24, 1859

D: June 16, 1931

Genevieve Eagon Tillar (wife of Ben J. Tillar)

B: July 16, 1874 (Jefferson, Texas)

D: December 28, 1961 (Knickerbocker Hotel,
Los Angeles, California)

Benjamin J. Tillar (son of J. T. W. & Antoinette)

B: September 17, 1866

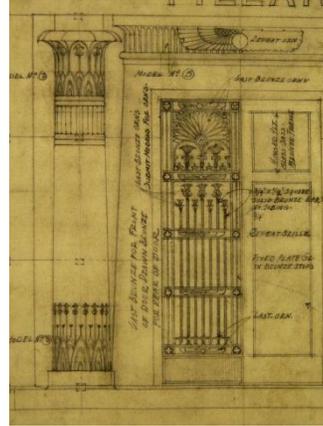
D: September 7, 1923 (Paris, France)

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas



Tillar Mausoleum, Oakland Cemetery, Little Rock, Arkansas
Mrs. Frank Tillar grave front left with drape



Sanquinete & Staats Plans
Alexander Architecture Archives
University of Texas, Austin

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Tillar Mausoleum
1923

1923	Sept 30 Balance LC	138	268908	May 22	By Real Estate Trust	J 18	4000
	Dec 31 Am on stock in storage			"	Genevive E Tillar	"	4000
	2700 - 1923 to 1924	37	187	"	May T Simmons	"	4000
1924	Jan 1 Cash 1923 - 1924	41	20	"	Ebra V Holmes	"	2000
	" " 1923 \$10			"	J Garland Tillar	"	2000
	17 Marx & Jones - art glass window for Mausoleum	67	750	Sept 15	Real Estate Trust	J 26	360518
April 5	Harrison Granite Co - 1st Architect estimate	85	1765350	"	May T Simmons	"	360518
June 16	Jeffrey Studios - final cost	121	500	"	Ebra V Holmes	"	180519
Aug 8	Harrison Granite Co - final estimate	143	1765350	"	J Garland Tillar	"	180519
Sept 10	Sanquinete Staats - final cost	153	115281	"	Genevive E Tillar	"	1000
	Cost of resolutions for 7 sep	153	115281	"	"	J 28	160519
			2042073				3042073

Record Book 220, page 46, showing Tillar Mausoleum account for 1923 – 1924 and each individuals contribution for the total \$30,420.73 cost.



Marx and Jones art glass for rear window



Original sketch for rear window grate
Alexander Archives, UT Austin

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

From the Will of J. T. W. Tillar, the inheritance line that will donate the Westbrook Hotel Collection in 1977

1. W. Tillar Adamson 2.32225% of 499 shares in the Westbrook Hotel
Surviving grandson of Calista Antoinette Tillar Holmes
and
John W. Adamson 2.32225% of 499 shares in the Westbrook Hotel
Surviving grandson of Calista Antoinette Tillar Holmes
Their interest in the Westbrook Hotel Collection was given by:
John Adamson
2. Antoinette O'Connor 11.21575% of 499 shares in the Westbrook Hotel
Surviving daughter of Florence Virginia Tillar Holmes
Her interest in the Westbrook Hotel Collection was given by:
Arthur C. O'Connor and Frank J. Ortman co-Trustees for
Marie Antoinette O'Connor

Lilla H. Glenn 11.21575% of 499 shares in the Westbrook Hotel
Surviving daughter of Florence Virginia Tillar Holmes
Their interest in the Westbrook Hotel Collection was given by:
A. Patrick Nagel & Walter Machette, Jr. co-conservators for
Lilla H. Glenn
3. Ashley Cockrill, Howard Cockrill, Trustees Frank Tillar Estate, 23.2225% of 499 shares in the Westbrook Hotel
Ashley is Frank Tillar's grand-daughter's husband and presumably Howard is Ashley's brother
Their interest in the Westbrook Hotel Collection was given by:
Ashley Cockrill, Trustee of the Rogers Trust
4. Elizabeth Tillar deceased and without issue prior to the death of J. T. W.
5. Genevieve E. Tillar received 17.313% of 499 shares in the Westbrook Hotel
Surviving widow of Ben J. Tillar
Her interest in the Westbrook Hotel Collection was given by:
First National Bank as Trustee for Cook Children's Hospital, Easter Seal Society and the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth
6. Lilla May Tillar was eclipsed by the J. T. W's Will only receiving a life estate
7. Minnie Tillar died in infancy

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

8. Ruth Allen received 20.7705% of 499 shares in the Westbrook Hotel
Surviving daughter of Idee Tillar Allen
Her interest in the Westbrook Hotel Collection was given by:
First National Bank as Trustee for Ruth Allen

9. Tillar Fidelity Company, Trustee of the Estate of J. Garland Tillar,
11.618% of 499 shares in the Westbrook Hotel
His interest in the Westbrook Hotel Collection was given by:
First National Bank as Trustee of J. Garland Tillar Trust

Personal Property Trust Fort Worth, Texas, Buildings Owned 1919

1. Jennings Building
Block 51, Lot 13

2. Gage Building
Block 51, Lot 14

3. Bushong Building



4. Mitchell Building
Possibly 912 ½ Main

5. Johnson-Gage Building
Monnig's Building Block 83

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

Tarrant County Archives Fort Worth, Texas

Tillar Fidelity Company Fort Worth, Texas, Buildings Owned February 2, 1928

1. Westbrook Hotel
Main and Houston @ 4th
2. Thomas Building
413 ½ Main
3. Seeligson Building
4. Jarvis Building
5. Fakes Building
506 – 514 Houston
Corner 5th & Houston
6. Gage Building
7. Jennings Building
8. Burton Building
107 ½ West 7th
Block 113
Southwest corner of Main and Seventh
9. Johnson-Gage Building
Monning's Building Block 83
10. Joshua Building
405 ½ Main
11. Burney Building
12. Haverty Building

WESTBROOK HOTEL COLLECTION

**Tarrant County Archives
Fort Worth, Texas**



*Westbrooke
Hotel*

