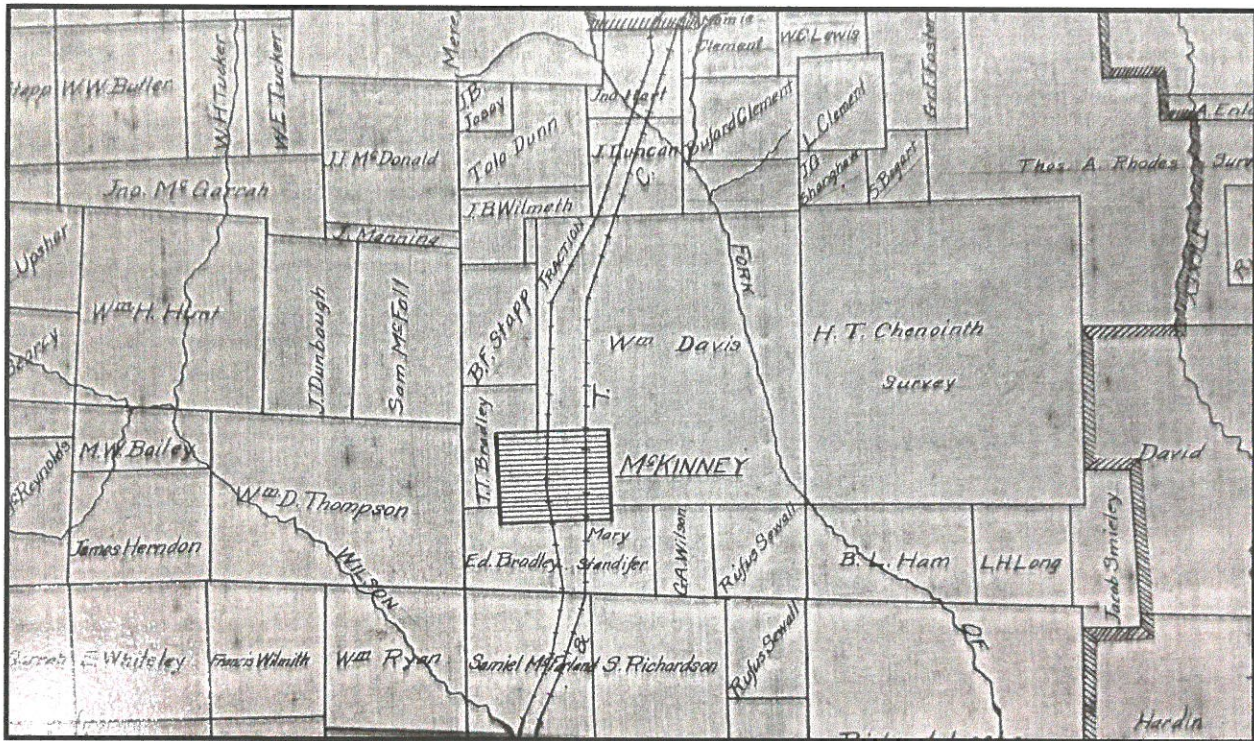


## F. Drawings

### William Davis Headright



When Texas became a republic, it granted land to participants in its battle for independence. There were several classes of grants available depending on when a person arrived in Texas and their marital status. Generally, a married man who was in Texas before March 2, 1836 would be eligible for a First Class Headright grant of one league and one labor of land (4,605 acres). A single man could get 1/3 of a league and one labor.

William Davis was granted 2/3 of a league and a labor of land in 1841. This type of grant did not fit any of the regular headright classes at the time and suggests that William Davis (who was single at the time) was granted an augmentation based on some unique performance associated with his contribution to Texas independence.

This grant became known as the Davis Survey and amounted to 3,129 acres which encompassed the site chosen to be the County Seat of Collin County. William Davis donated 120 acres of his land to the Collin County commissioners to be used to create the town of McKinney as the Seat of the County.

Mr. Davis was no philanthropist, however. Shortly after he made his donation, he abandoned his wife Margaret and child and went to California in search of gold. Though Mr. Davis was one of Collin County's largest land owners, at the time of his death in 1868, his second wife Sarah and child were left destitute with only a few acres of the original tract to their name.

# William Davis Donation

Block 87 of the Original McKinney Donation



In 1949, William Davis and his wife Margaret donated 120 acres of his 3,129 acre headright grant to become McKinney, the new Collin County seat. Commissioners J.B. Wilmeth, J.M. McReynolds, and John Fitzhugh instructed George White and Ethelred Whitely to lay out the new town. Mr. Davis' donation was divided into 87 blocks and became known as the McKinney Original Donation (shown in shaded area). The commissioners "paid" Davis by allowing him to have title to three lots within the donation. These lots are highlighted in red in the above map.