Randolph Scott—Some History Vignettes

As researched by Norman Rozeff, January 2010

6/13/1900 Census of Jasper Township, Crawford County, Arkansas: Randolph Scott is noted as the son of Noah and Febee Scott. Noah is 37 and was born March 1863. Tennessee born, he is a farmer. His wife Febee was born in Arkansas. She is 33 and was born June 1866. Their children are Andrew L. (August 1885), Minnie D. (February 1886), Mary F. (December 1887), Randolph (August 1890), Fred L. (January 1893), Ethel B. (January 1896), and Gracy E. (March 1898).

Ten years later when the US Census of April 28, 1910 was conducted in Van Buren Ward 1, Crawford County, Arkansas, Rudolph (census taker's handwriting mistakenly interpreted as Rondalph) is 19 and working as a teamster for an express company. He is married to Ruby who is 21. She is Arkansas born as were both her parents. They have no children.

By the January 9, 1920 census Randolph and Ruby are living in Memphis Ward 15, Shelby County, Tennessee. Because of the months in which they were born, he lists his age as 29 and she at 30. He lists his occupation as president of a cotton company. They still have no offspring.

When the US Census is conducted on April 9, 1930, Randolph is still living in Memphis City, but now Ward 20 in Shelby County. His wife is now Mabel and at age 29 she marries for the first time. She was born in Mexico to a father from Georgia and a mother from Mississippi. She notes that she is fluent in Spanish as well as English. Randolph is now a cotton broker. Ruby, the census reports, is now living in Little Rock, Arkansas in a boarding house. She and Randolph had been divorced. She is unemployed.

According to information provided January 2010 by Martha Lugo-Thompson of California, Randolph and Mabel had a daughter, Mabel Claire (later Hamlin) in 1933. This would make the mother Mabel either 32 or 33 at the time of birth.

The first documentation found to put Randolph and Mabel in Harlingen, Texas is the telephone directory of July 1952. No home address or telephone number for one is found. The listing is for Randolph Scott and Company, cotton (could be buyer, merchant, or broker). The business is located at 521 North C Street. The 1954 directory has Randolph Scott and Company, he, owner and cotton merchant. The office has moved to 119 ½ North Commerce Street. The 1958 directory has the same listing. In these years cotton is still a major commodity in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, and in Harlingen alone there are numerous cotton brokers. The home address for the Scotts was ¼ mile South Dilworth Road. As a hobby Mr. Scott was an avid bridge player.

By the 1962 directory there is no listing for this firm. Indeed, Ms. Lugo-Thompson writes that Scott died in 1960. His wife Mabel had preceded him in death in 1957 according to
Lugo-Thompson. Neither Scott is listed on the Social Security Death Index. Apparently Mr. Scott, being self-employed, chose not to contribute into the plan.

When Mrs. Scott died, she lacked a will, but conceivably had indicated that all her possessions should go to her daughter Mabel Clair Hamlin of Oregon, Illinois. Ms Hamlin was 24 years old at the time of her mother's death. When Randolph died in 1960 he did will his property to Mabel Clair or her two sons. As of this date there is a M. Hamlin living in Joliet, Illinois, (815) 582-4445, though no one of this name lives in Oregon.

And what is Mrs. Martha Lugo-Thompson's connection and interest in Randolph Scott? He is her father. When her mother, Antonieta Lugo and Martha's older brother immigrated to the United States from Mexico in 1953, Mr. Scott was their sponsor. Martha was born in 1956. At that time the family lived at 714 W. Tyler Avenue. The facility was the Hi-Way Inn Courts, later to be listed as the Hi-Way Inn Apartments. These were located adjacent to Harlingen's most popular restaurant, the Hi-Way Inn. The eleven apartments were small and offered minimal amenities. All tenants were Hispanic as this was the west side of Harlingen and largely populated by Latins. The apartments were demolished some years ago.

In 1957 Ms. Lugo married Anacieto Garcia. They would leave Harlingen forever in 1959 for California where a son was born. Mrs. Lugo-Garcia would die in December 2009. At that time her daughter, Martha, uncovered papers that gave her a little information about her father. Among the documents that she was able to secure was a copy of Scott's Cameron County, Texas will executed by Brownsville lawyer Robin Pate.

Through the wonders of the internet search engines Martha Lugo-Thompson contacted me in hopes of unearthing more information on her father.