

## Amanda Elizabeth Coffey

Amanda Elizabeth *Hinshaw* Coffey died Aug 20, 1866, on the Duffer Ranch, near Ranger, Eastland County, Texas. She was buried in what would become the Alameda Cemetery. Amanda was brutally murdered by Indians during a raid on the Duffer Ranch. A historical marker is in Alameda Cemetery, Eastland County, Texas

This is the story of how she was killed.

On the evening of August 20th, right before dark, Amanda left the house by herself before the "sitters" arrived, and she went about 400 yards away, down into a ravine. She had staked out a filly there, because the grass was good, and it could be watched from the house. As she approached the filly, she was surprised and captured by Comanche Indians, who were in the process of stealing the horse. We do not know how many Indians were involved. Before she had left the house, however, she had strapped on her husband Lewis's Navy revolver for protection. As the Indians approached her, she fired five shots at them. Whether any of them were hit, we do not know. The pistol was taken from her, and she was placed behind an Indian on a horse, and they all quickly left, leading the filly.

In the meantime, her brother-in-law, Jim Temple, the husband of Amanda's sister, Penina, had come to sit with Lewis. It was then that he heard the shots and screams, and rushed to her rescue, only to become a witness to her murder. It should be assumed that he also brought his wife to the Coffey house, because he certainly had with him his four year old daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, later to become Mrs. Stephen Wade Worrell. She recalled, on many occasions, seeing her daddy bring in the lifeless body of Amanda on his horse, and seeing her brains running out of her head.

She was buried on a grassy knoll near their house on August 24, 1866. This was the site of an old Comanche camp, and it later became the Alameda Cemetery.