

VOLUME III

**VOL 3**  
**1975**



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VOLUME 3.

WILLIAMSON

COUNTY

HISTORICAL

COMMITTEE

1875



# C O N T E N T S

1. 1975 County Historical Committee. January Committee Meeting.  
State Annual Meeting.
2. Mather Log Cabin.
3. January Newsletter.
- 4-5-6. Mather Log Cabin.
- 7-8 . Henderson Building, Georgetown, Texas
9. Granger, Texas.
10. Story of John H. McLean.
- 11-12. Old Buildings in Georgetown, Texas
13. February Committee Meeting. Mather Log Cabin.
- 14-15. Jarrell, Texas.
- 16-17. Florence, Texas. Historical Ordinance.
- 18-19. Jonah, Texas.
20. Rebuilding Log Cabin.
- 21-22. Burleson vs K K K.
- 23-24. Cedar Park, Texas
- 25-26. Andice, Texas
27. Andice, Texas buildings. Florence Cemetery. Liberty Hill - Store.
- 28-29. Liberty Hill, Texas
- 30-31. Coupland, Texas
32. Cemetery at Granger Dam Project. April Committee Meeting.  
Leander Town Site Marker.
33. Leander, Texas. Town Site Marker.
34. April 1975 Newsletter
35. History of Leander, Texas
36. Land of Good Water, by Clara Scarbrough named the best Historical  
Publication for 1974 by the Texas Historical Commission.
37. Clara Scarbrough receiving Certificate recognizing her book.  
Old Southwestern University Bell in Mood Hall Museum.  
Williamson County Historical Committee to host Regional Meeting.



38. Mrs. Lynn Burnette and Mrs. Jo Ann Morse accepting Bicentennial certificate from Sam Kinch, Sr.
39. Regional Meeting of Texas Historical Commission, April 16, 1975
40. Georgetown Students to publish sketches of historic sites.
41. Bagdad Cemetery. 1420 marked graves.
- 42-43. Round Rock and Georgetown. Historic Past.
44. Committee Meeting, May 1, 1975. Log Cabin Chimney.
45. Leander Marker, Unveiled.
46. Leander Marker unveiled. Woodmen of the World, 1914.
- 47-48-49-50/ San Gabriel Masonic Lodge, Georgetown, Texas
51. San Gabriel Masonic Lodge.  
Meteorite at Edwards Park. Georgetown.
- 52-53. Story of the Williamson County ~~SUN~~. 1877 to 1975.
54. Joseph Rubarth. 1797 - 1867. In Battle of Waterloo.  
Maceconia Baptist Church.  
Pflugger Cemetery, Pflugerville, Texas - to get marker.
55. Mrs. Clara Scarbrough Award for her History of Williamson County.  
Bronze bust of Sheriff Henry Matysek.
56. Williamson County Markers - to be placed.  
Austin Genealogical Society praises Mrs. Scarbrough for her  
book "Land of Good Water".
57. Cemeteries of Williamson, Volume I, Complete.
58. Williamson County Cemeteries compiled, Volume I.  
Historical Survey Committee name changed to Historical Commission.
59. Family Land Heritage Program. . . . more Williamson County Farms  
added to this list.  
John G. Matthews Farm, the Saul Ranch, John D. Mason Farm.
60. Williamson County Historical Commission meets in Round Rock Sept. 4th  
Old Glasscock Home in Georgetown, to be moved.
61. Daughter of Revolutionary Soldier buried in Round Rock, Texas  
Lineage of Jean Dickey Blair.
62. Biographies from Blair Magazine.
63. Lineage of Jean Dickey Blair. Picture of Grave in Round Rock.
64. August 1975 Newsletter.
65. Twelfth Annual Meeting of Texas Historical Commission.  
Nacogdoches, Texas October 24-25, 1975



66. Volume I, Cemetery Inscriptions presented to Round Rock Library.
67. September 30, 1975 Newsletter.
68. Round Rock - Replacement of Marker.
69. Round Rock, History.
70. Letter from - - Log Cabin Register.
71. Williamson County Courthouse.
72. Southwestern University Administration Building and Mood Hall placed on National Register.
73. Williamson County Sheriffs from 1848 to 1974.
74. First Methodist Church, Georgetown, Texas Replacement of Marker.
75. First Methodist Church, Georgetown, Texas - History.
76. Leander, Town Site Marker.
77. Leander, Texas - History.
78. A. M. Brown Log Cabin - - Marker.
- 79, 80, 81, 82. A. M. Brown Log Cabin. History and Description.
- 83, 84. First Baptist Church, Liberty Hill, Texas. History.
- 85.
- 86.
87. Liberty Hill Baptist Church - History.
88. Texas Texas Land Heritage Program.
- 89, 90. Col. J. T. Coffee - Family.
91. Falconer Home, Temple, Texas. Coffee descendant.
92. Dewey Bradford, Austin, Texas. Coffee descendant.
93. Eunice Allen Vontrees Coffee.



94. Texas Historical Annual Meeting, October 23, 25, 1975
95. Ribbons from Texas Annual Meeting.
96. Williamson County Awards.
97. Williamson County Quota Buster Certificate.
98. Congratulations from Texas Historical Foundation for quota Buster Certificate.
99. Williamson County wins Top Awards.  
Williamson County Completes Volume I of Williamson County Cemetery Inscriptions.
- 100, 101. Volume I Williamson County Cemetery Inscriptions presented to Georgetown Library.
102. Gabriel Mills - - Marker
103. Gabriel Mills - - History.
- 104., 105, 106, 107. History of Georgetown Post Office.
108. Williamson County Historical Commission wins many Awards.
- 109., 110. List of Log Cabins in Williamson County.



The SUN  
Sec. 1, Page 8  
Georgetown, Texas  
December 26, 1974

## Historical Committee seeks basic records

The Williamson County Historical Survey Committee met January 2 at the Georgetown Public Library.

Mrs. Clara Scarbrough, chairman, presided and reports were made from the four communities represented. This included additional cemeteries whose listings are complete,

The County Committee under the direction and guidance of the State Historical Commission has a program of Historical Research. Before the basic records are beyond reach, it is of utmost importance that the County Historical Survey Committee catalogue or index the available material. County lands, probates, births, deaths, marriages, directories (city, school, telephone), cemeteries, church and club records, naturalization records, Masonic records, Grange records, social records of all types need to be abstracted, indexed and inventoried. To the above list the Williamson County Committee voted to include pictures that may be in old family albums or trunks in an attic. Any of these could be reproduced by copying machines or cameras and the original returned to the owner if it is so desired.

The committee has done much in this field but there is much material yet to be uncovered and it will require the help of many people who can remember details of past events or hearing older family members tell of them.

Communities represented at the meeting were Taylor, Georgetown, Florence and Liberty Hill.  
Committee reporter

## Clara Scarbrough to chair historical committee

County Commissioners appointed Clara Scarbrough of Georgetown to chair the Williamson County Historical Survey Committee for 1975-76. Appointments were made at Monday's commissioners' court meeting.

Other officers included Vice-

chairman Ruth Mantor of Taylor, Secretary-treasurer Estha Scoggins of Georgetown and Public Relations, Newsletter editor Myreta Matthews of Liberty Hill:

Community representatives include Melba Schwertner, Bartlett; Effie McLeod, and

Dot Goff, Florence.

Community representatives from Georgetown are Laverne Faubion, Judge and Mrs. Luther Chance, Dr. and Mrs. Van Tipton, Judge Sam Stone, Gene Hargett and Mms. LeRoy Johnson, Edith Caswell, Robert Morse, Carl Burnette, Sally

Pettus, Scoggins, and Scarbrough.

Representatives from other communities are Bartlett, Mrs. Stanley Schwertner; Florence, Effie McLeod; Granger, Mrs. Henry Labaj; Hutto, Mr. and Mrs. Emery Blackman; and Jarrell, Cora Sexton and Mrs. Tommie Lee Buchanan.

Also are Fay Richardson, Harold Asher and Miss Matthews of Liberty Hill; Mrs. John Ledbetter, Mrs. D. B. Gregg, Round Rock; A. M. Ahlgreen, Thomas McDonald, Mrs. Joe Hannah Forson, Miss Mantor and Ranken Kennedy, Taylor.

Special committees include historical preservation with Laverne Faubion (west), Thomas McDonald (east) and all community representatives.

Heading the Historical Markers Committee are Harold Asher (west) and A. M. Ahlgreen (east) with all community representatives serving as members.

Mmes. Caswell, Buchanan, Ledbetter, Miss Mantor and Kennedy will be in charge of the History Appreciation and Junior History Clubs.

Hargett is chairman of the Advisory Committee.

The Budget committee will be headed by Judge Chance.

The SUN  
Sec. 2, Page 2  
Georgetown, Texas  
January 9, 1975

## THC Annual Meeting Success in New Braunfels

Over 400 people attended a very successful 1974 THC Annual Meeting in New Braunfels Oct. 25-26.

There were 19 winners in the various contests among county historical survey committees sponsored in 1974 by THC; they were announced at the Annual Meeting and given prizes consisting of a small, framed replica of an Official Texas Historical Building Medallion with a plaque identifying the winning person or committee. The winners are listed below.

### Best Program of Work (Milard C. Cope Award)

1. Nueces County

2. Marion County
3. Travis County

### Outstanding County Committee

#### Chairman (John Ben Shepperd Award)

1. Max S. Lale (Harrison County)
2. Mrs. Katherine R. Wise (Marion County)
3. Mrs. Vernon Schuder (Walker County)

### Outstanding Subcommittee Chairman

1. Dr. Richard Marcum (Nueces County)
2. David Robertson (Marion County)
3. Mrs. R. F. Blackwell (DeWitt County)

### Outstanding Committee Member

1. Mulkey Owens (Travis County)
2. J. R. Hogge (Carson County)
3. Mrs. H. A. Willey (Fort Bend County)

### Best Newsletter

1. Crosby County
  2. Houston County
  3. Smith County
- Honorable Mention. Scurry County

### Best Scrapbook

1. Carson County
2. Crosby County
3. DeWitt County

In addition, 41 county historical survey committees from across the state received recognition for outstanding local preservation programs. Each of these groups was given a Distinguished Service Award for having conducted progressive and well-rounded preservation efforts during the last year.

The winning counties were Anderson, Bowie, Brooks, Burleson, Carson, Coke, Colorado, Crockett, Crosby, DeWitt, Fannin, Fort Bend, Freestone, Galveston, Garza, Gray, Grayson, Grimes, Hale, Harris, Harrison, Hays, Hildalgo, Hill, Houston, Kimble, Kleberg, Jasper, Marion, Midland, Newton, Nueces, Runnels, Scurry, Shackelford, Travis, Walker, Washington, Williamson, Wise, and Young.



co-chairperson of the  
committee.  
are going to need  
strong young people to  
load the timbers on a truck  
and haul them into town," she  
said.  
In the early 1850's the  
land was given to the city by  
a grant from Austin to the  
state as part of the celebration  
for 1976.  
Members of the committee  
went to the site last Satur-  
day to determine how the cabin

**The SUN** Georgetown, Texas  
Sec. 2, Page 12 January 9, 1975



**HISTORICAL LOG CABIN** — Duncan Muckleroy of the Texas  
Historical Commission surveys the Samuel Mather's log cabin  
which will be moved to Georgetown as part of the city's



**'NEED SOME HELP UP HERE'** — Frank Viktorin, an expert in  
moving structures, seems to be asking for volunteers to help  
move the old Samuel Mather log cabin. Volunteers are needed  
this Saturday to move the log cabin from the historical ghost



## WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS

WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE  
Clara Scarbrough, Chairman

NEWSLETTER NUMBER ONE

JANUARY 10, 1975

In 1970 the Texas Historical Commission adopted a set of "Goals for the Seventies". This was a comprehensive program of work in the field of Historical Preservation. The basic policy is to promote these goals by cooperative efforts with other State Agencies and Departments and by guiding and encouraging the County Committees in various ways of carrying out the program. These plans include, among others, the following divisions:

**MARKING:** Advancing historical marking. -- Preserving local history records. -- Accumulating and preserving miscellaneous local records.

**FIELD WORK:** Stimulate the study of Texas History. -- Promote an annual County History Appreciation observation with suitable exhibits.

In 1974 the Williamson County Historical Committee made some important new starts in promoting awareness of historical sites by offering assistance to several towns that originated with the coming of the railroad through the community. Leander and Thrall are in the final stages of obtaining markers.

Over the years many sites and structures have been identified and marked. Now chairmen for the Historical Marker sub-committee are Harold Asher (west) and A. H. Ahlgreen (east).

Some success has been attained in preserving local history records. The efforts of the entire committee are now turned to obtaining cemetery locations with lists of names and dates. The Chairmen of this sub-committee are Laverne Fabian (west) and Thomas McDonald (east). These will be assembled and preserved in libraries and other suitable places. Please bring attached list to meetings.

To the above accumulation old documents and pictures are being sought - if not the original then a photographic copy will suffice. Mrs. Scarbrough has an impressive collection and will assist anyone having a "find".

In Field Work a new sub-committee is working to stimulate the study of Texas History in the High Schools of Williamson County. Members of this committee are Mrs. Caswell, Mrs. Buchanan, Mrs. Ledbetter, Miss Mantor and Mr. Kennedy.

These sub-committee chairmen will welcome any information or suggestion from all members. The names and addresses appear in the list below:

WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS FOR 1975

Clara Scarbrough (Mrs. Don) (Chairman)	1318 E. University Ave., Georgetown 78626	863-2115
Ruth Mantor (Vice Chairman)	1118 W. 7th Street, Taylor 76574	352-2703
Estha Scoggins (Mrs. Harold) (Secretary-Treasurer)	1707 Main, Georgetown 78626	863-3392
A. M. Ahlgreen	708 McClure, Taylor 76574	352-2379
Harold Asher	Route #1, Liberty Hill 78642	778-5091
Mr. & Mrs. Emery Blackman	P. O. Box 111, Hutto 78634	846-2155
Tommy Lee Buchanan (Mrs. F. W.)	Box 376, Jarrell 76537	746-2154
Lynn Burnette (Mrs. Carl)	128 Melanie Drive, Georgetown 78626	863-3210
Edith Caswell (Mrs. Homer)	1607 Elm Street, Georgetown 78626	863-2420
Judge and Mrs. C. L. Chance (Jane)	1610 Pecan, Georgetown 78626	863-5018
Laverne Fabian	712 Myrtle Street, Georgetown 78626	863-2179
Mrs. Joe Hannah Forson	P. O. Box 842, Taylor 76574	352-2234
Dot Goff	P. O. Box 133, Florence 76527	
Zelma Gregg (Mrs. D. B.)	P. O. Box 453, Round Rock 78664	255-3891
Gene Hargett	601 Austin Avenue, Georgetown 78626	863-5598
Juanita Johnson (Mrs. LeRoy)	508 Ridgecrest Drive, Georgetown 78626	863-6200
Ranken Kennedy	1700 Meadow Lane, Taylor 76574	352-5368
Stacy Lebaaj (Mrs. Henry)	Route #1, Granger 76530	859-2702
Bernice Ledbetter (Mrs. J. W.)	212 Main Street, Round Rock 78664	255-3891
Myreta Matthews	Box 127, Liberty Hill 78642	778-5249
Thomas McDonald	2203 Lathan Lane, Taylor 76574	352-5658
Effie McLeod	Route #1, Box 64, Florence 76527	783-2896
Jo Ann Morse (Mrs. Robert)	Oakcrest Drive, Georgetown 78626	863-3117
Sally Pettus	1506 Vine, Georgetown 78626	863-5998
Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Ribbeck	P. O. Box 386, Thrall 76578	898-2130
Fay Richardson (Mrs. M. K.)	P. O. Box 116, Liberty Hill 78642	778-5052
Melba Schwerter (Mrs. Stanley)	P. O. Box 29, Schwertner 76573	(817) 527-3969



Cora Sexton P. O. Box 325, Jarrell 76537  
Judge Sam V. Stone 1404 Elm Street, Georgetown 78626  
Dr. & Mrs. Van Tipton (Ann) 1405 E. 15th, Georgetown 78626

746-2964  
863-3482  
863-3009

Texas State Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station, Austin 78711

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KNOWN WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY CEMETERIES BUT NOT LISTED

TAYLOR Area-Circleville - Coupland

Avery (Rice's Crossing)  
Barker Family  
Deysersville (2)  
Coupland  
Gardner (Circleville)  
Gordon Family (Bullion Farm)  
Kimbrow  
Moore (?)  
Noack (Christ Church)  
Rubarth, Joseph  
St. Mary's (Taylor)  
Stiba Family  
Wilson Springs  
Wuthrich Hill

INLET - JONAH

Hutto City  
Hutto Catholic  
Hutto Mexican  
Sauls Family  
Shiloh  
Swedish Lutheran

WEIR - MANKIE'S CROSSING

Lerry Family (near Mill)  
Buffalo Springs  
On Emil Ischy farm  
On old Lundberg place  
Mankie  
Queen  
Towns-Peace  
Weir City  
Weir (near old school)

ROUND ROCK

Allen-McMurt  
Chapman Family  
City of Round Rock  
Manor  
Smalley

FLORENCE - ANDICE

Andice  
Cobb Springs  
Florence City  
Matsler (Single grave on Aubrey Daniel Pl)  
Old Florence Fairground  
Mahomet (Burnet County Library has it)  
Mullen  
Ratliff  
San Jose  
Salado (Bell County line)  
Darrell Sybert place (1 stone, graves)  
Tomlinson

JARRELL-WALBURG

Berry's Creek  
Corn Hill  
Land  
Salyer-Millard  
Stockton  
Theon (Holy Trinity)  
Walburg (1)  
Walburg (2)

GRANGER - BARTLETT

Bartlett City  
Calvary (west of Granger)  
Cavanaugh  
Donahue Creek  
Jackson Family  
Schwertner Family  
Young Family

GEORGETOWN Area

Adams (Andice Road)  
Barker (On Barker Place, west)  
Bell  
Georgetown I.O.O.F.  
Georgetown Negro  
Georgetown Catholic  
Harper (John Ischy place)  
Morrow

CEMETERIES IN AREAS TO BE FLOODED BY THE BUILDING OF DAMS

LIBERTY HILL Area

Hunt  
Los Tres Marias  
Stubblefield (lost)  
Upchurch-Wells (Wedemeyer Ranch)

NORTH CABRIEL

Bullion, Cedwick, Jenkins  
Keating-Maxwell, Sawyer

CEDAR PARK-LEANDER Area

Bagdad  
Jolly Family  
Negro (near Travis County line)  
Pond Springs  
Rhodes  
Walden

LANEFORT

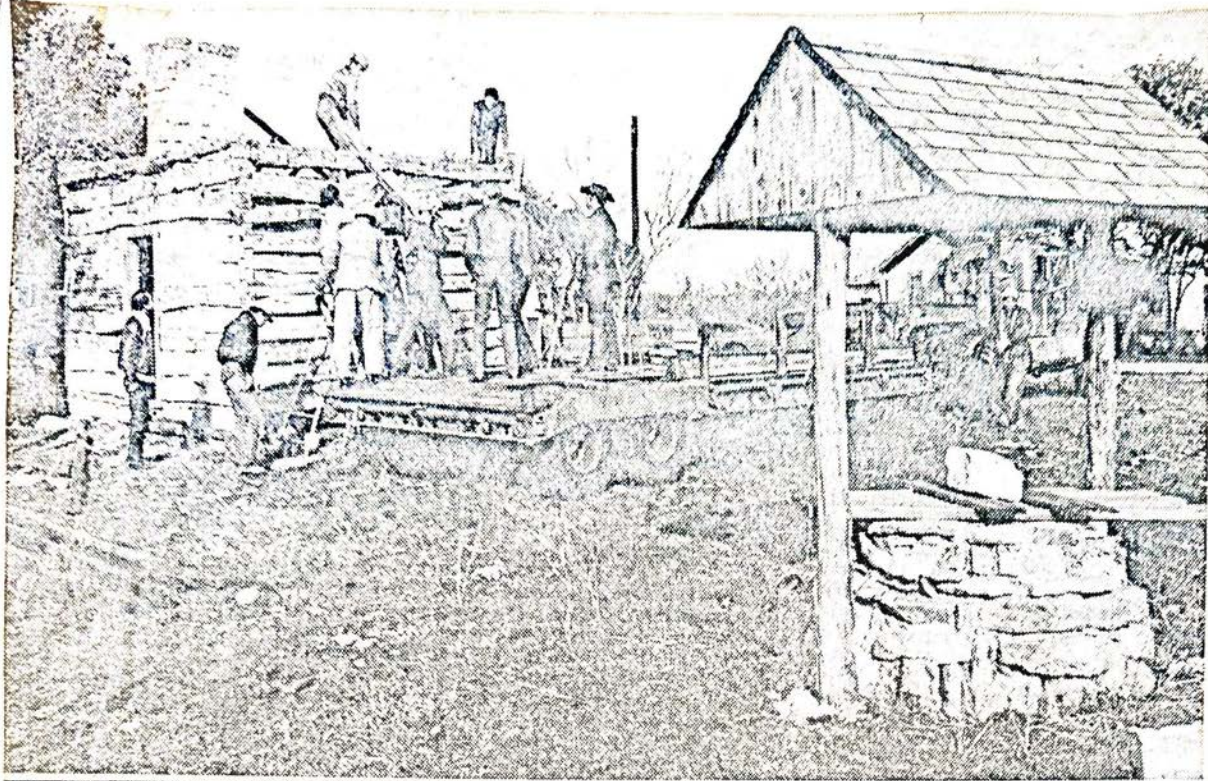
Beard, Friendship, Machu, Lost graves on  
Johnny Martinka place (Wm. Dickson)  
Frank Zrubel place - 3 isolated graves.

THRALL AND EAST END OF COUNTY

Beaukliss (new)  
Guentzel  
Lawhon  
Lawrence Chapel  
Mager  
New Bern  
Ramseur Family  
Sandoval - Zion Church  
Stiles Family

Myreta Matthews  
Committee Reporter





The Austin American-Statesman

Wednesday, January 15, 1975



## Cabin Moving

**READYING FOR TRAVEL** — More volunteers, top left, dismantle the logs and load them onto a truck for their trip to Georgetown. Built in the early 1850's, the cabin was given to the city by Emile Jamail of Austin. The Heri-

tage society will have to obtain donations of such supplies as shingles and flooring and help from more volunteers before the cabin can be restored on its new site at the Lions Club Park on Austin Ave.

**TEARING DOWN COMES FIRST** — Volunteers, left, remove square nails from the interior of the cabin so that it may be taken down. All of the cabin

parts were carefully photographed and labeled so that the building can be reconstructed in Georgetown as part of the city's bicentennial celebration.

**SAVING A LOG CABIN** — Mike Riddle and Clara Scarbrough, right, co-chairpersons of the Heritage Committee of Georgetown's Bicentennial Commission,

label the parts of the historic old Samuel Mather log cabin at Gabriel M preparatory to moving it to Georgetown.

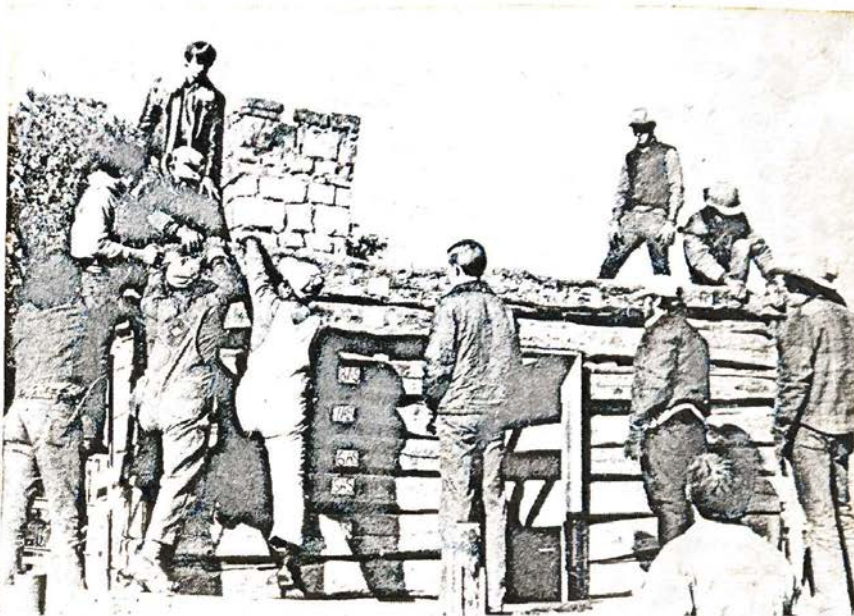
Staff Photos by Ed Malcik



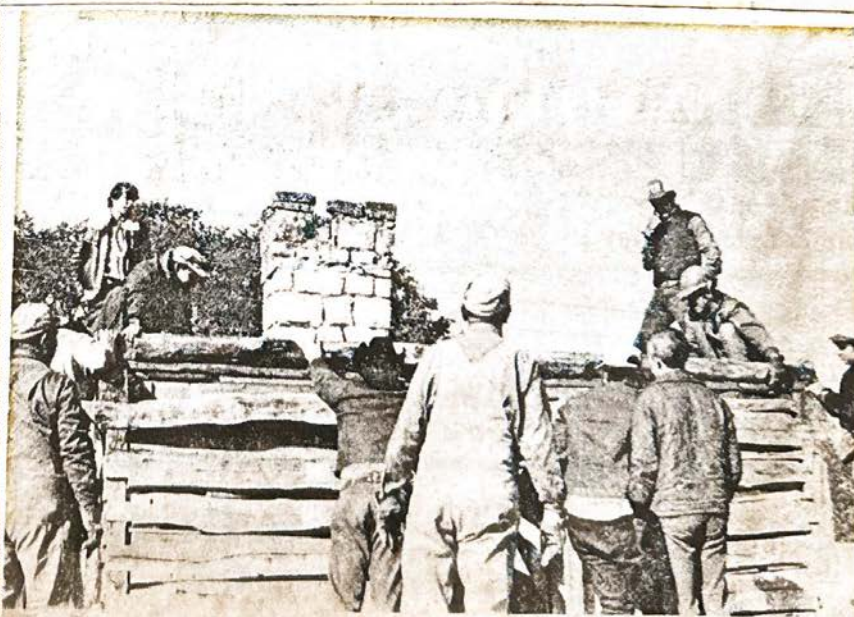
# Historic Log Cabin moved

## for new home in Georgetown

The SUN Georgetown, Texas  
Sec. 1, Page 10 January 16, 1975



OOPS—REACH HIGH! Let's get the top one, boys.



YES, THEY'RE HEAVY. The longer logs weigh about 300 pounds, but there were plenty of willing hands and strong muscles to handle them Saturday.



Samuel Mather's one-room log cabin on the North Gabriel at Gabriel Mills was beginning to tumble down last year when the Georgetown Bicentennial Heritage Committee conceived the idea of moving and restoring such a cabin here in Georgetown. Emile Jamail, the owner of the Mather place, said he did not want to restore the cabin and that he would be glad to donate the cabin to the City of Georgetown for this project.

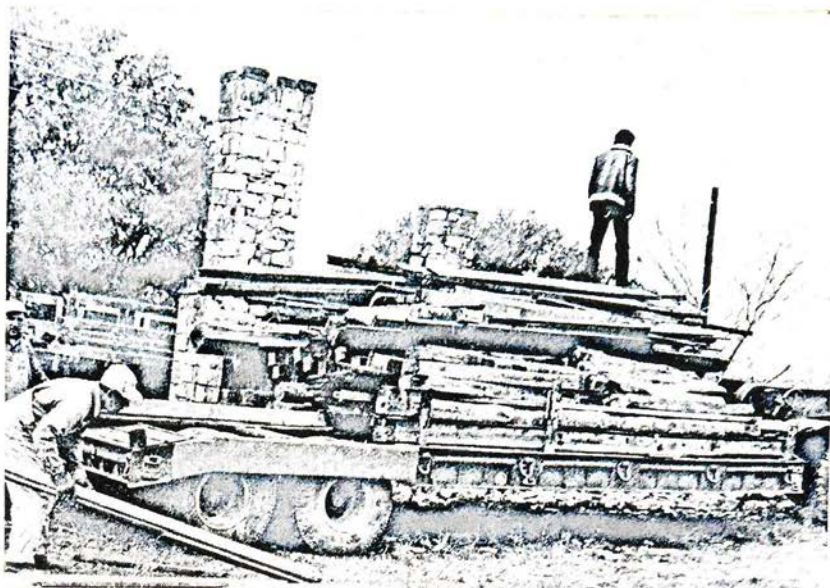
Considerable planning by the Heritage Committee, chaired by Mrs. Clara Scarbrough and Mike Riddle, plus consultations with Mr. and Mrs. Jamail, City of Georgetown officials, the Bicentennial Commission, the Lions Club and the Georgetown Independent School officials, and a number of individuals, led to a big day last Saturday. The little house was moved to Georgetown, all in a matter of several hours!

On Friday afternoon, Mrs. Scarbrough, accompanied by Lee Zavala and John Irwin of the Georgetown High School industrial training class, and their instructor, Arnim Humphreys, went to the cabin site and labeled each log in the building.

The next morning, Mr. Humphreys and members of his high school class, Mike Riddle, Mrs. Scarbrough, Henry Jimenez and Joe Torrez of the City of Georgetown personnel, and Kenny Jones and Mark Wieland of Glenn's Arco Station met at the Mather cabin to begin dismantling it.

The City of Georgetown furnished a truck, and within a surprisingly short time, the huge logs were being carefully loaded for their first trip since about one hundred and twenty-five years ago.

The cabin will be restored in the Austin Avenue Recreational Park operated by the local Lions Club.



THE CITY TRUCK looked huge as work began, but by the time the little cabin was loaded, it appeared to have shrunk. Here, Joe Torres and Henry Jimenez look for a place to load the last few boards.



COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRMAN Clara Scarbrough followed the action with her camera, then persuaded the crew to rest a minute before taking up the floor. No pain at all, they grin. One of the young volunteers commented, "Now I can tell my grandchildren about helping take down a log cabin!" Standing, left to right are John Irwin, John Ziegler, Douglas Gattis and Gilbert Gilmore in black hat behind Douglas; Mike Riddle, Mark Wieland, Arnim Humphreys, Lee Zavala, Joe Torrez and Henry Jimenez. Seated in front are Kenny Jones, Don Jansen and Jerry Lohman.





# Henderson building played big role in early Georgetown business history

(Editor's note: Georgetown may soon have a historical district, an area encircling the Courthouse Square, teeming with buildings of architectural significance and history. This is the first in a series of articles telling the history of some of these places. It is the history of lot 1 in block 38, occupied by Henderson's Appliances.)

One of the handsome old buildings in Georgetown's proposed historical district stands on the site of our community's very first store — the M. B. Lockett two story stone building now owned by Edward Lee Evans and his wife, Eva, and housing Henderson's Appliances, a retail store. It is on the southwest corner of the block north of the Courthouse Square, 119 West 7th Street.

**THE STORY OF THIS SITE** is one of its colorful owners — pioneers, merchants, and civic-minded citizens.

Georgetown's post office is believed to have been housed in some of the early stores at this place, and it is known to have been located a few steps to the east on the same block, in a frame building, in the mid-1880s.

Edward Lee Evans began his career in the mercantile business in 1934 when, as a high school student, he had part-time work clerking at Sam W. Henderson's variety store located in the middle of the block. Ed and his brother, Wallace, formed a partnership with "Mr. Sam" in 1948 and, about ten years later, Wallace withdrew from the company to establish his own insurance business. Ed Evans and Sam Henderson continued their partnership and in 1966 bought the west half of lot 1, block 38, to open an appliance store which they operated in conjunction with their variety store. After Henderson's death in 1969, Ed Evans continued to run both places. In 1971, Edward Lee Evans and his wife, Eva, purchased the entire property from the Henderson heirs.

**INDIANS NO DOUBT** frequented the land now designated lot 1, block 38, for they had a village near the forks of the San Gabriel River in present San Gabriel Park, but the first land record of the site is August 1844 when the Republic of Texas granted one of its colonists, Clement Stubblefield, 1476 acres. Stubblefield did not come here to claim his one-third league, but sold this entire tract on October 10, 1848, to Thomas B. Huling and George Washington Glasscock, partners in land development, for \$150. This was the first monetary transaction involving the Henderson site, which came to a fraction more than 10 cents an acre, less than two cents for one of the city lots (60 by 120 feet), or less than a penny for Ed Evans' 30 by 60 foot lot!

Huling and Glasscock astutely offered Williamson County about 172 acres of their property here if Georgetown were selected as county seat. Officials of the new county accepted the offer, and the land was deeded to the county November 20, 1849.

Lots in Georgetown were sold by the county officials to accumulate funds for operating the county. Before any record of sale for lot 1, block 38, is recorded, one Andrew Jackson Mackay (also variously spelled Mackay, McKay), about twenty years old, put in a little store on the corner. Mackay was listed as a trader in the 1850 census and when another merchant, Josiah Taylor, moved to Georgetown in the fall of 1849,

he found Mackay already in business on the site under discussion.

Taylor had run a little store at Shiloh on Brushy Creek and wanted to continue in that business, so he had made it a point to know that Mackay had about \$250 worth of stock. Young Mackay was firmly enough established, however, to be appointed postmaster of Georgetown October 1, 1849, and served in that position until August 9, 1850. In those years, the post office was usually located in the village store, and it seems likely that the office was in Mackay's store. Not much else is known of Mackay, except that he signed the petition to form Williamson Coun-

ty, and in the 1850 census was living in the home of William Cornelius Dalrymple, a soldier and civic leader.

**JOSIAH TAYLOR** was 36 years old in 1849, and he and his wife, Catherine, had five children then. He negotiated with Mackay for the store, bought out his stock, added to it, and became a merchant in Georgetown.

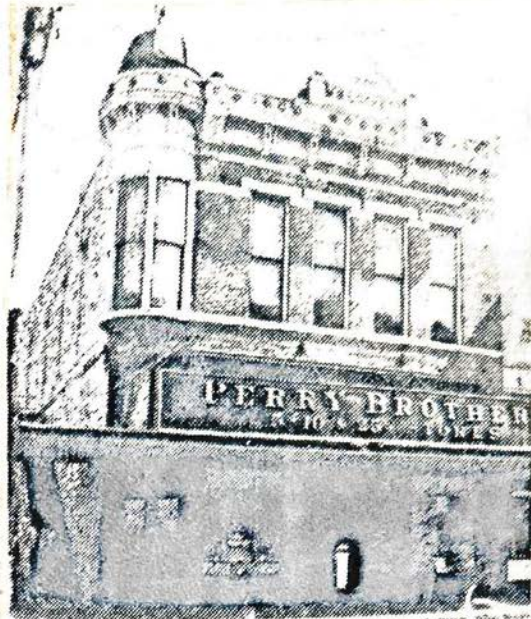
His young son, Emzy Taylor, clerked for him.

Greenleaf Fisk, Chief Justice (County Judge) of Williamson County, acting for the county, sold four lots in Georgetown, including lot 1 of block 38, to Josiah Taylor for \$29.75. The price of the corner lot had advanced to a healthy \$1.86! Taylor was appointed postmaster to succeed Mackay on August 9, 1850. Most likely he continued to run the office in the very modest little building.

Taylor's grandson in later years wrote that Josiah said these pioneer stores had little more than a barrel of whiskey, some sulphur matches, and some axle grease for sale, and the owner often lived in the store. In 1851, Josiah Taylor erected a two story building due west of his little store, on the west side of Brushy Street (now Austin Avenue), where First National Bank stands in 1975, and moved his store there. The Georgetown Independent for October 29 and November 6, 1856, carried advertisements for Josiah Taylor & Co., "the great emporium of fashion."

No further records of the first store site are found until after the Civil War. On January 2, 1868, Josiah Taylor sold the property to Captain Joseph Clay Stiles Morrow and Captain Francis L. Price, who paid \$5,000 for four 60-foot lots facing the Public Square, north of San Gabriel Street (now 7th Street). They are said to have opened one of the largest mercantile stores of the area and, according to one account, did a "laming" (whopping) business. In order to have such an operation, the partners unquestionably had to put up a building. Since a two story stone store and dwelling are

mentioned in an 1870 deed, Morrow and Price undoubtedly were the builders. Some believe that the basic structure dates to this time.



IN THE 1930s the M. B. Lockett Building looked like this. Note the two curved windows beneath the turret, which have since been removed.



EXTERIOR OF HENDERSON'S Appliances building as it looks in 1975.



## MORROW AND PRICE

were extremely active in the life of Georgetown, were young and had served during the Civil War. On August 1, 1866, Morrow married Sam Houston's eldest daughter, Nancy "Nannie" Elizabeth, and the couple immediately set up housekeeping in Georgetown. Francis L. Price married in 1870 and he and his bride built a home immediately to the north of the Morrow & Price store, handy to the business. Both men are credited with helping to bring Southwestern University to Georgetown and Dr. F. A. Mood, its first president, said that both came to the university's rescue during those early difficult years. Price was one of the founders of Grace Episcopal Church and served as alderman of Georgetown. He was postmaster from January 30, 1873 until 1882.

Captain Morrow sold his interest in the store to Captain Price on October 14, 1870, and that same year they put up a saw mill in Georgetown, continuing their partnership in this business. In 1876, the county's first railroad tracks were going down across the southern section of the county, reaching Round Rock late in the summer. Captain Morrow and two of his clerks, Jesse Eugene Cooper and Sam W. Henderson, moved some goods there to set up a business. The same year, on March 13, F. L. Price sold his two 30-foot lots (lot 1, block 38) and his stone store and dwelling which fronted on the Square to a Galveston firm, P. J. Willis and Bro., for \$7,000.

The "stone two story store and dwelling" are mentioned repeatedly in deeds after 1868. Whether these were separate buildings, or whether the second floor of the stone store was used as a dwelling, is not known. Since the upper story was often used as a home during this period, the writer believes this is the likely option.

An item in the Williamson County Sun of January 5, 1882, stated that Captain F. L. Price was retiring because of his health. He died in 1884, leaving a widow, Mrs. Callie E. Price, and three children, Willie, Winfred and Annie. They still lived in the home north of the old Morrow & Price store, the home later occupied by Davis Funeral Home and at present by Capital Land Title Company, 601 Austin Avenue.

P. J. WILLIS CO. held the property about a year, then sold to Captain Emzy Taylor (two 30-foot lots, block 38, lot 1) on November 21, 1877, for \$2500. Emzy was the son of Josiah

Taylor, an earlier owner, and Emzy had clerked in his father's store on the site. About 1880, Emzy Taylor opened a small private bank at that place, later organizing it as Emzy Taylor & Co. Bank. Since he owned the lot across the street to the west (as did Josiah Taylor before him), Emzy Taylor in 1887 built a new bank there (which eventually became First National Bank). He moved Emzy Taylor & Co. Bank to his new building.

Captain Emzy Taylor was extremely active in Georgetown business and civic circles, some of his activities including the promotion and support of Southwestern University, organization of a fire department, organization of the railroad company which built Georgetown's tap line to Round Rock, and organization of the local water works.

After moving his bank across the street, Emzy Taylor sold the west half of lot 1, block 38 and the store upon it to J. L. Rucker and J. A. Montgomery for \$4,000, August 15, 1881. Like the previous owners, these two men ran a store and were occupied with civic interests. Dr. Mood declared that Rucker was one of the men who came to the University's rescue at a critical time. Rucker was an officer in the railroad company which built a tap line to Round Rock, and was in the drug business known as Rucker & Hodges, where the town's first telegraph office was located. He was part owner of Georgetown Water Works, as was his partner, J. A. Montgomery.

**AN OLD PHOTOGRAPH** of a portion of Rucker & Montgomery store seems to indicate that they indeed did occupy the same stone building which still stands in 1975, although, if so, a later owner, M. B. Lockett added considerable ornamentation, including his name and the date 1896 upon the building. This name and date have given most people the impression that Lockett erected the building, which could be the case. However, what appears to be an almost identical and substantial structure stood there between 1881 and 1887. It would have required tearing down before another could be built.

Rucker & Montgomery owned the building and west half of the lot from 1881 until December 29, 1887, when they sold it to W. H. Walton for \$7,000. A year later, January 24, 1889, Walton resold the same property to M. B. Lockett for \$6,750. Lockett opened his dry goods store there, running it for many

years. In 1896, he either removed the old stone building and replaced it, or more likely simply renovated the old one, adding decorative turret and windows, and the triangular pediment with the name, "M. B. Lockett, 1896."

M. B. L. KETT was another substantial citizen of his community. He was a trustee of the First Methodist Church when the present church building was planned, continuing to serve on the board for several decades.

In 1903, Lockett negotiated a "partnership wall" contract with Mrs. E. J. Talbot, wife of another longtime Georgetown merchant, whose property adjoined the Lockett building on the east. The two buildings, each on a 30-foot lot, making up lot 1, block 38, were to share the wall dividing them. They also shared a cistern standing half on each property. At one time an arched passage was opened between the two buildings, probably about 1908 when Will Edwards ran his general mercantile store in Lockett's building, and was a partner with a Mr. Lemons in the grocery business next door.

MARVIN EDWARDS, son of Will Edwards, believes his father ran the store from about 1907 or 1908 until about 1911 or 1912, when Edwards closed out his part of the business. Edwards had traded a farm to Lockett for the business. Among the clerks in Edwards' employ were Edgar Purl, Fred Montgomery and Horace Harrison. R. R. Banner was a silent partner. The archway was opened into the butcher shop and grocery store to the east. Upstairs was a balcony, where there was a millinery shop, with a young lady, "Miss Alga," who married Lonnie Wilson in 1911, as milliner.

No record has been found of the businesses in this corner building after Edwards closed, but Lockett may have resumed running a store there. A paving project in 1922 provided Georgetown's first paved streets, and Lockett was assessed \$638.40 for the paving in front of his store. He leased the building and grounds to Perry Bros., Inc., of Lufkin, a chain, who put in a variety store. The lease ran from

September 1, 1934, until September 1, 1937, and is believed to have been renewed for at least two more years.

M. B. Lockett died June 5, 1936, the property going to his five daughters, since his wife, Annie Johnson Lockett, was no longer living. The heirs were Kate Lockett Vaden (Mrs. W. C.), Pearl Lockett Pegues, Mellie Lockett Love, Elvie Lockett Nichols (Mrs. C. A.), and Gladys Lockett Cody (Mrs. T. H.). Mrs. Mellie Lockett Love bought the sisters' interests on January 13, 1941. The property was later transferred to her daughter, Frances Love, who sold it to Ben Neuman on April 9, 1952, for \$10,500.

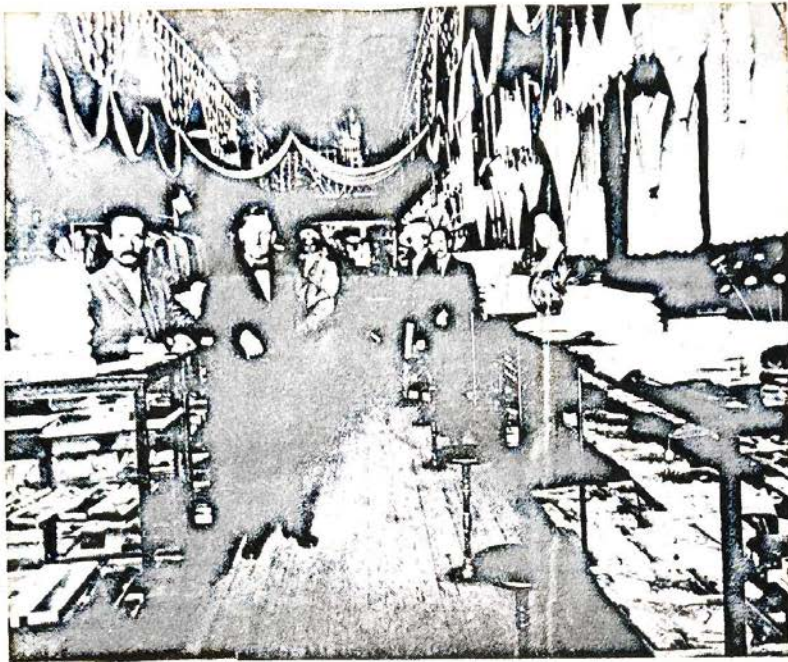
**ABOUT THIS TIME**, an A & P Grocery was in business in the store for several years, and also at another time, a second hand furniture store occupied the place. The building remained vacant for some years, and was somewhat damaged by fire, necessitating the removal of the two large windows from underneath the turret.

BEN NEUMAN and his wife, Celia, sold the west half of the lot to J. T. Atkin on June 23, 1955.

J. T. Atkin and wife, Genevieve, conveyed the stone building and half lot to Sam Henderson and Edward Lee Evans, partners, on December 28, 1966. Sam W. Henderson died about March 9, 1969, leaving his half of the property to his widow, Lillian Burleson Henderson, and his three daughters, Emily Joyce Henderson Perrott, Samanna Louise Henderson Maberry, and Lillian Carol Henderson Griffin. Edward Lee and Eva Evans bought the Henderson interests on January 1, 1971.

Ed Evans follows in the tradition of many civic-minded businessmen who have been at this location during more than a hundred years. Among his special interests are his church and Chamber of Commerce work, has served on the Georgetown city council and as Chairman of the Georgetown Urban Renewal Commission. He is also an avid golfer and on one historic occasion toured the local 72 par course in 66 strokes.





ABOUT 1910: From about 1908 until 1911 or 1912, Will Edwards rented the Lockett Building and ran a mercantile store there. He is shown with his sales force inside the store. The balcony had iron grillwork around it.

## Old town clock ready to strike again in Granger

The Granger town clock has been repaired and the parts are ready and waiting to be set back into the big striking timepiece—just as soon as it is decided where it will make its home. The repair was a project of the Granger Business Women's Club; initiated and financed by the club.

When the First State Bank new building was built, the clock was removed from the old building and moved to a post across the street at the corner of the old Opera House.

The old Opera House is in the process of demolition now and the fate of the old town clock is uncertain.

Some want it to stay where it is and mark the corner of the

First State Bank's new drive-in bank to be located where the Opera House now stands.

Others would like to see it back across the street on the First State Bank, and still others have suggested that it be placed on the Granger City Hall.

The decision will be made by the Granger City Council. The clock belongs to the city.

The SUN Georgetown, Texas  
Sec. 2, Page 2 January 23, 1975



**GRANGER OPERA HOUSE** — once the center of musical activity in that area, is being demolished. Built by A. W. Storrs in 1905, it was the scene of concerts, speakings, lectures, evangelistic meetings, minstrels, plays, opera and other serious programs or entertainments that frequently travelled through the country. The shop space at the extreme left housed the Granger News, and next to it was Floyd's T.V. and Appliances; both are being relocated. The old town clock on the corner post has been repaired and will be restored by the Granger Business Women's Club as soon as the location of the clock is decided by Granger's City Council.



# J. H. McLean family, early Southwestern leaders, reinterred

Descendants of one of Southwestern University's earliest and most prominent leaders gathered here recently to commemorate deceased members of the family, in their final resting place, reinterred from Grove Hill Cemetery in Dallas.

Among those reinterred was the late John Howell McLean, A.M., D.D., a minister for 56 years of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Dr. McLean was assigned by the Conference of that church to Southwestern University from 1880 to 1898 as teacher, administrator and as regent (president). Through his leadership as regent, plans were made to build the Administration Building that stands as a landmark on the Southwestern campus.

In 1895 Dr. McLean purchased a family burial plot in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) Cemetery located beside the Southwestern Campus. He set that lot apart with a neat iron fence and marked it with a granite shaft honoring two members of his family who died in that year: his mother-in-law, Mrs. Margaret Williams McDugald; and a 17-year-old daughter, Mary, a victim of typhoid fever.

The inscription to Mrs. McDugald pays this tribute: "Her life of love beautifully illustrates the 13th chapter of First Corinthians." Of the young daughter it is written: "She never disobeyed us, never told us an untruth, never caused a sorrow. Rest sweetly till we meet again."

It was in this plot, beside this marker, that Dr. McLean was reinterred along with his wife of 58 years, Mrs. Olivia McDugald McLean, his son, John Howell McLean, Jr., and a daughter, Miss Anne Rose McLean.

Another daughter, Mrs. Eunice McLean Brooks, was also reinterred in the family plot of Charles Wesley Brooks located near the McLean plot. It, too, is neatly fenced and has a central monument inscribed to Mr. Brooks, his wife, Elizabeth Burleson Brooks, and a young daughter, Nanny R. Brooks.

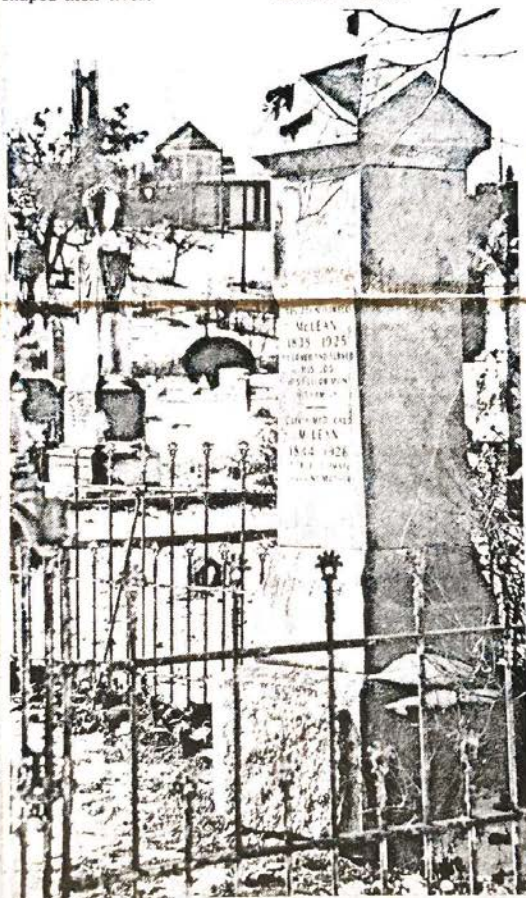
A son, John Lee Brooks, husband of Mrs. Eunice Brooks, also is interred in this plot as is their young child of two and a half years, Mary Olivia Brooks, whose casket was removed from the McLean plot to rest by her mother's side.

The Reverend Tom Graves, pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Georgetown, conducted a service of committal and Dr. Durwood Fleming, President of Southwestern University, spoke of the debt the university owes to the total commitment of those who were its leaders through its early years of development.

President Fleming spoke, too, of his personal satisfaction that those who had been reinterred should lie in the sight of the University "that had so significantly and beneficently shaped their lives."

Family members present for the ceremony included John Lee Brooks, Jr.; Simon W. Freese and Mrs. Freese (Eunice Elizabeth Brooks); Dr. Robb H. Rutledge and Mrs. Rutledge (Eunice Freese Rutledge) and their daughter Susan and son John Lee Rutledge.

Also Dr. John W. Freese and Mrs. Freese (Jane Moorman Coyle) and their daughters Carolyn Lee, Jane Ann, and Elizabeth Moorman Freese and Mrs. Freese (Ann Hardwicke Freese) and daughter Elizabeth McLean Freese.

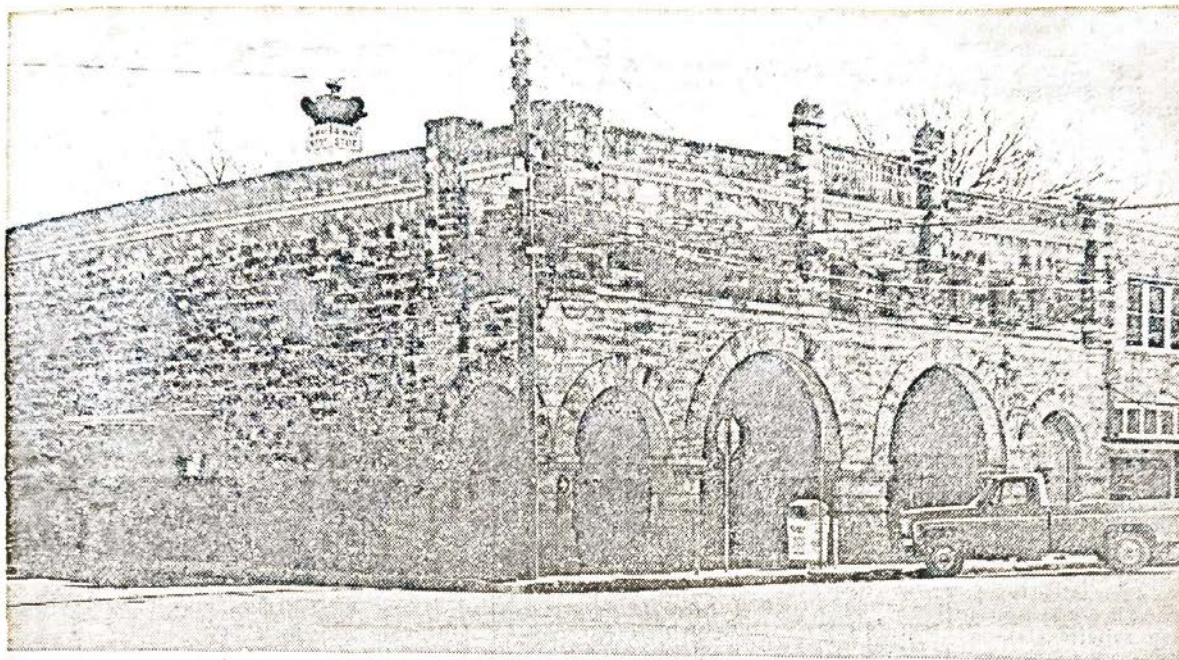


**THIS GRANITE SHAFT** marks the burial plot where the bodies of John Howell McLean, an early leader of Southwestern University; his wife Mrs. Olivia McDugald McLean; his son John Howell McLean, Jr.; and a daughter, Miss Anne Rose McLean were reinterred recently. In the background is the campus of Southwestern University, a school in which Dr. McLean was instrumental in building.

The Sunday SUN  
Page 9

Georgetown, Texas  
January 19, 1975





## Citizens Suggest Project for Georgetown Bicentennial Square Preservation Proposed

By JANEY JOYCE  
Staff Writer

GEORGETOWN — Unwilling to see one of the most attractive courthouse squares in Central Texas lose its 19th Century charm, the Georgetown Bicentennial Commission has proposed the area be designated as a historical district.

If the proposal is accepted by the Georgetown City Council, an ordinance would be approved requiring property owners in the district to obtain a permit before making any external alterations or repairs.

Preservation of the architectural integrity of the exterior of the old buildings without preventing modernizing of the interiors would be the intent of the ordinance.

The owner of a site included in an historical district can apply for recognition in the National Registry of Historical Sites, according to Bicentennial Commission officials and can be eligible for federal grants to remodel or restore a historical structure.

Owners of two of the buildings on the square

have already applied for and been awarded Texas Historical Markers.

One of these, erected as a hotel by P. H. Dimmit and Co. in 1901, was restored and remodeled by the Georgetown Savings and Loan Association in 1960, which preserved the Spanish arches, turrets and columns of native stone.

The other building, a frontier saddlery erected in 1870 of hand cut limestone by John H. Shafer, is now occupied by Longhorn Title Co. The Williamson County Courthouse once occupied the site in a cabin built in 1848.

The M. B. Lockett Building is another building of historical interest which has the date, 1896, emblazoned on the side.

There is some question that Lockett actually built the building or that it was built as late as 1896, since old records indicate an almost identical and substantial structure stood on that site between 1881 and 1887.

Another building is the Masonic Lodge which was constructed about 1900 by San Gabriel Lodge 89, one of the oldest lodges in Texas.

The building, which is still used by the lodge, has a large lodge room, library, several small rooms and a dining room and kitchen upstairs.

The downstairs portion, which was intended to be leased to some business establishment to give the lodge income, is now occupied by S. T. Atkin's Furniture Co.

Atkin also occupies the smaller adjacent building which he understands was built about the same time as the lodge was built and once was used as the county jail.

City Pharmacy occupies a structure built in 1885. According to Gus Steenken, who owns the pharmacy, the building has housed a drug store for the past 50 years.

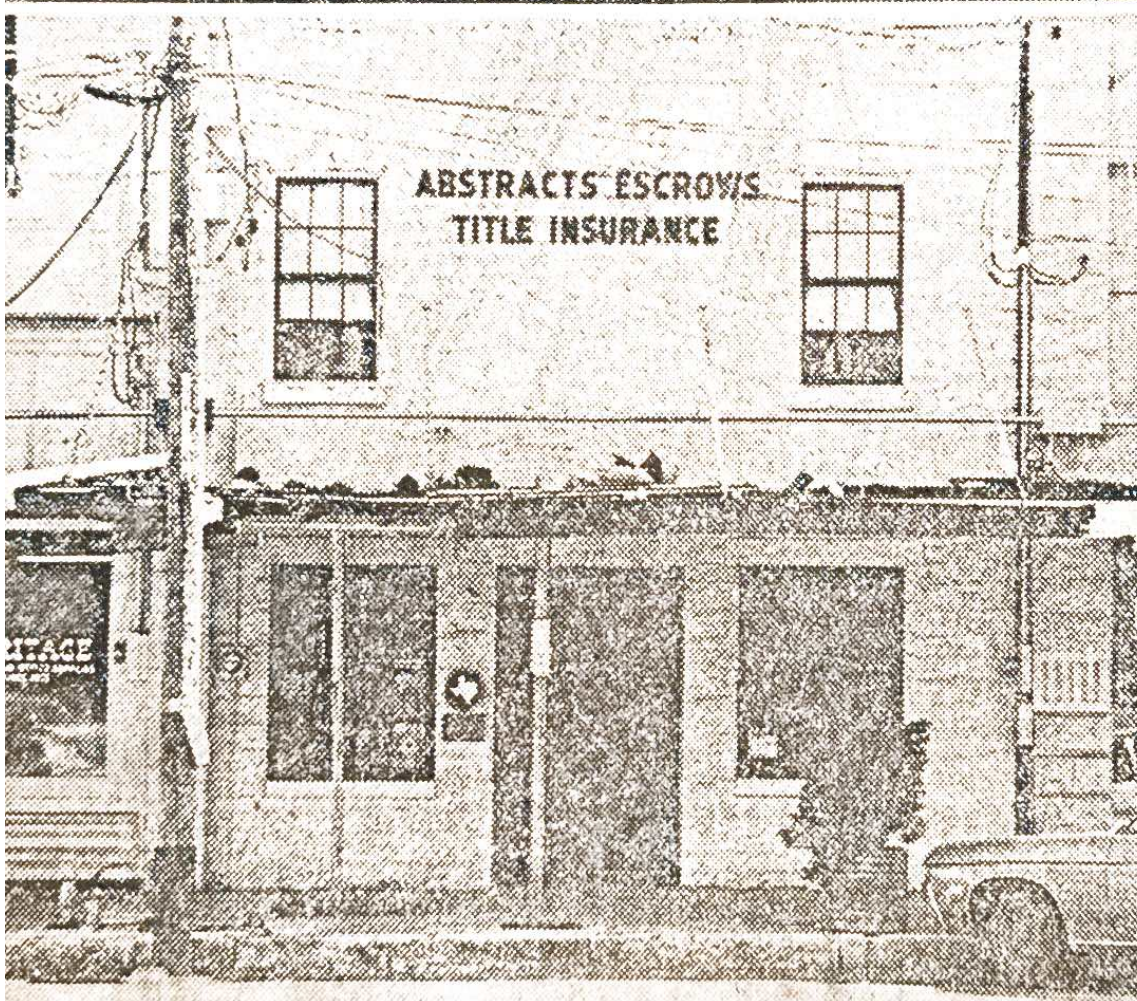
Prior to that time it housed a saloon, he said, but he does not know for what purpose the building was originally constructed.

Although a few of the older buildings on the square have been torn down and replaced by modern buildings, most still remain intact with the old iron hitching rings still imbedded in the curbing along the square.





**GEORGETOWN SQUARE**—The building at right was built originally as a hotel and once housed the city's first movie theater. City Pharmacy, top left, occupies a structure built in 1885 which once served as a saloon. At bottom left is perhaps the oldest building on the square. Now occupied by a title firm, the building's tenants have included lawyers and a newspaper.



*Staff  
Photos  
By  
Janey  
Joyce*



# Historical Committee hears county reports

The Williamson County Historical Survey Committee met on February 6 in the

Georgetown Public Library. Sixteen members were present, representing Bartlett, Coupland, Florence,

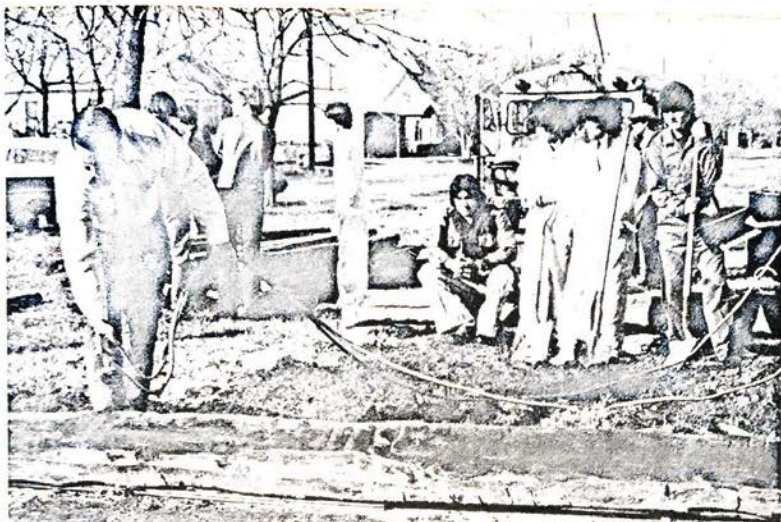
Georgetown, Liberty Hill, Round Rock, Taylor and Thrall. Miss Ruth Mantor of Taylor, vice chairman, presided in the absence of chairman Clara Scarbrough.

Reports of work being done in the county communities included one from A. M. Ahlgren of Taylor who told of the plans for the 100th anniversary of the City of Taylor in 1976. He asked the cooperation from those who have old pictures and other information pertaining to the Taylor Centennial. A townsite marker will be dedicated during that year.

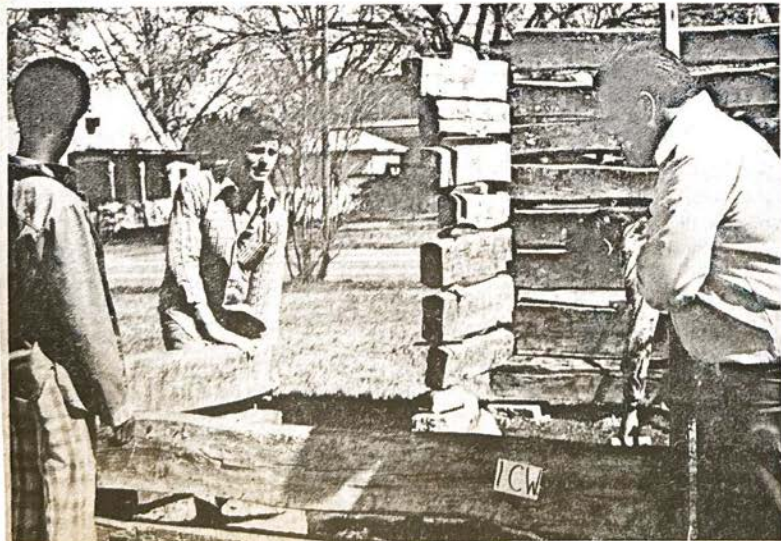
Burney Downing of Coupland reported that the old Coupland depot has been retrieved after being sold. The city bought it back and plans to restore it and use it as a museum. Coupland will have a townsite marker placed there soon, he said.

Eight new lists of cemetery names over the county were reported.

—reporter



**LET'S PRESERVE IT!** — Robert Kleen, a Georgetown High School teacher whose classes are "rebuilding" the historical Samuel Mather log cabin at the Georgetown City Park on Austin Ave. is shown applying a preservative to help the 125 year old logs to last for another hundred years.



**WORKING TOGETHER IS NECESSARY** — Georgetown high school students who are reconstructing Samuel Mather's log cabin learned why earlier settlers had "house-raisin's". The logs are heavy and the students must work together to get the cabin which was donated to the City of Georgetown as part of the 1976 Bicentennial Celebration back together. Students began work on the cabin Wednesday — Abraham Lincoln's birthday.



# Florence is bigger than ever

by RUNELLE BAKER

The City of Florence in northwest Williamson County is enjoying the largest population in its history — over 1000.

Florence serves as a 'bedroom community' for those who work at Fort Hood in Killeen, either army personnel who prefer to live in a small town or the local people who hold civilian jobs at Fort Hood. These make up a least half of the Florence population.

This naturally poses a problem of rental property.

"There are never enough houses or apartments for rent here. We have people come into the city hall every day looking for a place to rent," said the city hall receptionist, Mrs. Lum Clark.

Florence has one 4-apartment complex, several garage apartments and a few houses to rent. Mobile homes have been the answer for some.

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Florence is famous for its senior citizens—two are 100 years old and a dozen or more are in their 90's.

"It's a good place to live in, and we just enjoy staying around," chuckled one of the younger ones (he was only 83).

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Driving through the friendly streets named for the residents, past and present, the visitor can see four churches; the First Baptist, First Methodist, Church of Christ and the Primitive Baptist Church with a historical medallion.

Then there is the Florence Nursing Home, operated by Lou Dell Reavis. It was once a hospital, but was converted into a nursing home a number of years ago.

Three cafes serve Florence—"Mom's", operated by E.F. Briggs and James Everett, is open every day; Gevonne Knippa's "The Steak Emporium" is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday; and Harold Ramm's Barbecue is open Wednesday through Saturday.

There are two garages, operated by Dock Walker and Grant Townsend.

T. R. Futrell runs the Texaco station; Truman Hughes, the Gulf; James Brooking the Mobil, Melvin Daniell, the Enco; Robert Smart, the Arco;

and W. T. Chambers, the Mobil agency.

The newest business in Florence is John Stacy's print shop, The Echo Press.

There's the Union State Bank where B. M. Beck is president; Lynn Browder's gin repair company, Mrs. Oran Gray's flower shop and variety shop, George Caskey's Florence Grain and Storage; John Fox's Fox Grain Service; Grover Young's Hardware; Janice Edwards' frame shop; Ruby Howard's mercantile store, Morris Price's laundromat; Billy Futrell's barber shop; Melvin Davis's TV and Electric Shop and Sam Burkett's real estate office.

There are two beauty shops, operated by Mozelle Priest and Lurlean Berry; the Florence branch of Centex Butane Company; two grocery stores, Bill Isbell's and Mrs. Bill Gore's; Robert Chambers' lumber yard; and two plumbing shops, David Meredith's and Foy and Clytus Caskey's.

Caskey Plumbing is believed

to be the oldest business still in operation in Florence.

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Florence is an incorporated city with a mayor and city council, a volunteer fire department headed by Billy Futrell, and one full time policeman, P. W. Hood. Lum Clark is constable. Clark is also city manager.

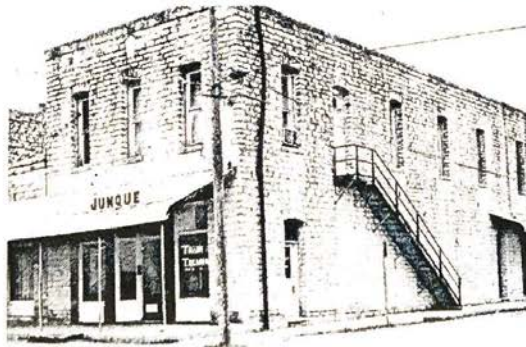
"Yes, rentals are a problem," Chamber of Commerce president T. E. Beck said. "A very real problem is our sewer system, but we're working on it."

"One of our favorite times of year is in July when we have 'Friendship Days'. We started this two years ago and it was so well received that we plan to make it an annual affair. For two or three days we have entertainment, arts and crafts displays, square dancing, food, parades and just a real good time," Beck said.

"Business is good," Beck added, "It has picked up some. A few construction workers are out of work, but that is about



T. E. BECK — president of Florence Chamber of Commerce



FLORENCE'S OLDEST BUILDING is believed to be the Masonic Lodge Hall. It will soon be replaced by a new building now under construction which will be all on the ground floor.



FLORENCE SCHOOLS

The SUN  
Sec. 2, Page 2  
Georgetown, Texas  
February 20, 1975



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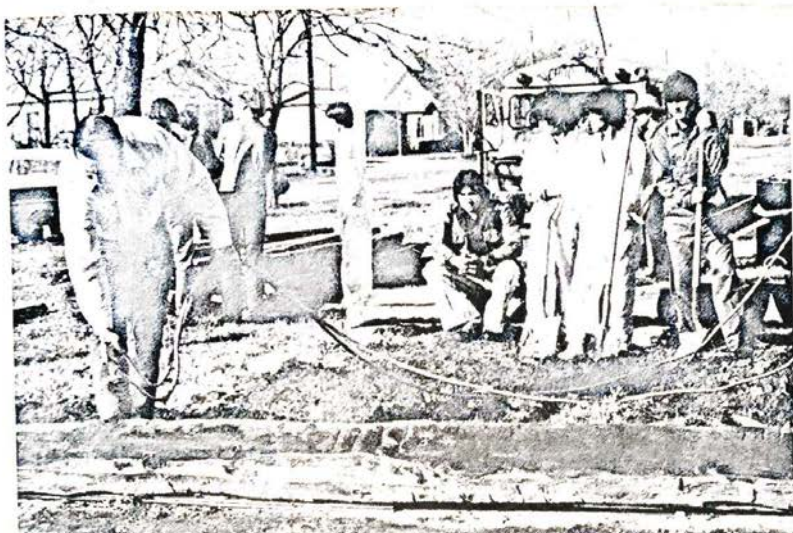
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—reporter

The Sunday SUN Georgetown, Texas  
Page 2 February 16, 1975



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# Jarrell growing to apartment size

The youngest town in Williamson County is Jarrell.

That is slightly misleading, because before 1912 Jarrell was a part of Corn Hill, located a few miles to the southeast. About 100 residents moved from Corn Hill to the present site of Jarrell beside a new railroad called the Bartlett-Florence Railway Company built primarily to haul cotton.

The town was called Jarrell, for one of the real estate promoters, O. D. Jarrell of Temple, who helped plat the town and began selling lots in December of 1909. The site was at the intersection of the old stagecoach road and the new railroad, and with the move of the people there immediately were built a saloon and two

small stores.

The railroad was short lived, but Jarrell continued to grow. Today the population is more than 500, a new high for Jarrell.

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Possibly the most exciting thing going on today in Jarrell is the building of Jarrell's first apartment complex. The first unit of four apartments is nearing completion on the northeast corner of the town, and two more are planned for this year, making a 12 apartment complex.

Under Farmers Home Administration Rural Housing, directed by Walter Scudday, Jim Townsley of Round Rock is building the fieldstone units which Scudday declares "will not look like a motel."

"These are going to be nice," Townsley said, "They will be one bedroom apartments equipped with refrigerator, stove and vent hood. They will be carpeted, except for the vinyl tile on the kitchen and bath. One wall of the living rooms will be of fieldstone with a fireplace. They will be centrally heated and air conditioned. The yards will be landscaped complete with a retaining wall and two bright guard lights."

The native stone for the buildings comes from only ten miles away.

Each apartment will have a patio and privacy fence.

"And they are low-rent," Townsley said, "only \$135."

Miss Cora Sexton has been president of the First State Bank in Jarrell since 1956, but she has worked there since she finished high school at 16.

She said the bank was not the first business building in Jarrell. Danek Hardware Company was, and the bank operated in a corner of the hardware store until a bank building could be constructed. It was Stokes and Foster Hardware Company then.

Jarrell has two churches — a Methodist and a Baptist church; one grocery store; five service stations; one package store, three taverns and a good, active home demonstration club. The Jarrell Volunteer Fire Department is a wide-awake organization and owns the fire department building jointly with the Woodmen of the World.

The Jarrell Community Council takes the place of the usual PTA at the Jarrell School. The school is soon expected to grow, with a new high school now on the drawing board. Another active organization at the school is the Athletic Booster Club. The six man football team, as well as the Future Farmers and Future Homemakers organizations of the school have helped to put Jarrell High School on the map.

The town has no city officers and no police. The men of the town do anything that needs to be done, the SUN reporter was proudly told, Highway Patrol is on call and a deputy sheriff out of Georgetown patrols the city of Jarrell every night. The streets are kept up by the county, under the supervision of Commissioner Robert Rozacky.

Newest business in Jarrell is the K & L Millwork, next door to the bank. There Harry Marburger and Benny Kubacak build custom made cabinets, tables, bookcases — any thing in the wood cabinet line. Benny said he was born and raised in Jarrell, went into the service in 1959, worked in Austin and then came back home and opened his own cabinet shop, in partnership with Harry. They keep busy, and keep six

employees busy.

Another new business is Bud's Western Store which has become the headquarters for cowboys and cowgirls, there at the corner of Spit and Whittle Streets. Bud Stockton said he chose this central location for his store because it is in the middle of a big circle of surrounding farm and ranch communities. With signs on the highway, he gets a lot of travellers' trade from I-35. Famous for his western clothes, his customers can get boots from a baby size 1 to a big 13, plus all the western gear to go with them.

James H. Jones, the Jarrell postmaster, is the president of the Jarrell-Schwertner Water Supply Company which has been in operation for five years.

"This has been a great boost to the people of this farming community. We have good state approved water, good pressure, and all the conveniences of city water for only \$6 per 3000 gallon.

"We are in the process — 90% complete — of adding 95 miles of pipe to the water system. When this is complete the system will be worth over \$1 million. We did this with a Farmers Home Administration loan for town and country," Jones said.

Without exception, the businessmen of Jarrell are optimistic — Jarrell is definitely on the grow.

The SUN Georgetown, Texas  
Sec. 2, Page 2 January 30, 1975



FIRST 4-APARTMENT UNIT OF JARRELL'S NEW APARTMENT COMPLEX — 2 MORE UNITS TO BE BUILT THIS YEAR.



The activities of the little farming community center in the Jonah School building, which since the school consolidated with Georgetown several years ago, no longer rings the school bell. Friendliness rings there now with regular homecomings, reunions and frequent meetings of the 4-H and Home Demonstration Club. Now, the Morman Church is renting the auditorium for services, and that revenue helps to pay for the upkeep of the building — such as gas, electricity, water, new roof and insurance.

Mary Barrington, Jonah's correspondent to the SUN, said she can remember when Jonah

was a busy little town— with a meat market, barber shop, several garages, three blacksmith shops, 5 churches, drug store, doctor's offices, post office and several grocery stores.

She said Jonah was destroyed by the flood of 1921; it was built back, then some years later a big fire destroyed the main part of town. Some of the town was rebuilt, but much was not and little by little the businesses closed, folks moved away, and little is left of the bustling little city — except memories for the older folks and a good, easy-going, friendly and pretty place to live for everybody.

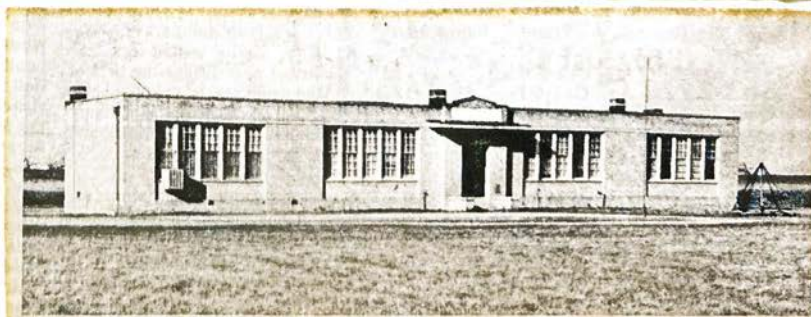
The Sun  
Sec. 2, Page 2  
Georgetown, Texas  
February 27, 1975



**CATFISH FARM** — in the Gene Leggett's backyard is strictly for their own pleasure and enjoyment. From their hobby, they not only enjoy the best fishing but also keep their freezer stocked with the best fish. Behind pond No. 1 is Frances Leggett on her way to fight the battle of the bloodweeds at the edge of the ponds. A recent flooding of the San Gabriel washed out the ponds and a lot of good catfish were lost.



**IN JONAH'S BACKYARD** — not more than three city blocks distant is the beautiful San Gabriel River, photographed here on a windy day from the bridge on the road leading to Hutto.



**HUB OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITY** — is the Jonah School building which is now the community center.





**RESTORING LOG CABIN** — Students from the general construction class of Georgetown High School's Cooperative Vocational Academic Education program have started roofing the historic Gabriel Mills log cabin. Shingles for the roof were

donated by Wicke's Lumber Company. The cabin has been placed in the Lion's Club's Georgetown City Park as a part of the 1976 Bicentennial Celebration.

## GHS students restore historical log cabin

Combining an experience in "history" with practical construction work, students from Georgetown High School began roofing the 120 year-old Gabriel Mills log cabin this week.

Students helped move the historical cabin log by log from near the ghost town of Gabriel Mills in northwestern Williamson County.

Under the direction of their teachers Robert Kleen and Arnim Humphreys, students have begun restoration of the cabin at the Lion's Club Georgetown City Park on Austin Ave. Work began, coincidentally, on Feb. 12—Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

Emile and Nancy Jamail of Austin donated the cabin to the

City of Georgetown as a part of the 1976 Bicentennial celebration.

**BRINGING THE CABIN TO** Georgetown was one of several projects of the Heritage Committee of the city's Bicentennial Commission. Committee chairpersons are Clara Scarbrough and Mike Riddle.

Those who have contributed supplies for the project include Emory Carlson, material for floor; Wicke's Lumber Co., wooden shingles; and City of Georgetown preservative for logs.

Others who have contributed time and labor to the project include Dr. Duncan Muckelroy, consultant on historic preservation, Texas Historical Commis-

sion; Dee Scott, consultation in preparing rock piers for cabin; Frank Viktorin, consultation on moving cabin; Harold Asher, of Gabriel Mills, historical research on cabin; and city of Georgetown personnel in hauling, and unloading logs and in police protection.

Glenn's Arco Station also contributed in the way of labor for moving the cabin.

**STUDENTS** in the construction class of the Coordinated Vocational Academic Education and Industrial Cooperative Education classes are John Ziegler, Douglas Gattis, Jerry Lohman, Gilbert Gilmore Don Jansen, John Irwin, Lee Zavala, Clayton Johns, and Augustine Alvarado.

Ernie Valdez, Steve Haile, John Mills, John Pate, George Kincaid, Jeff Ivicic, Jimmie Smith, Darrell Cain, Julian Barrera, Carroll Cain, Gilbert Kirk, and Norman Martinez also worked on the project.

Others include Lupe Martinez, Corky Johns, Jackie Smith, Sammy Guerrero, Roy Torres, Brian Burson, Arthur Brooks and Robert Sedwick.

Mrs. Scarbrough said the committee still needs funds for moving and restoring the cabin's chimney. Funds are also needed for purchasing a historical marker.

Those interested in contributing time or money may contact Mrs. Scarbrough at 863-2115.





**THE STEAK EMPORIUM** is a 'gay 90s' type restaurant, fairly new to Florence, in a restored old building. Visitors enjoy the red and white decor, the good food and relics of the turn of the century displayed in the lobby, including a player piano.



**PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH**, only building with historical medallion adjoins the Florence City Cemetery.

the extent of unemployment here."

—0—  
Another thing that Florence is proud of is its library. It is a branch library housed in a mobile unit loaned from the Killeen Library and manned by volunteers. The response has been so generous that gift books are bulging at the seams and now the volunteer chairman, Mary Alice Alberts, said they are hoping for a building.

"We need a building now," she said, "our library is being used and this is great, and we want to see it grow. All our help is volunteer, and we need more volunteer help. Anybody interested may call me."

—0—  
The Florence Masonic Lodge is headed by Worshipful Master Al Alberts. The order of Eastern Star is led by Worthy Matron Nettie Cargill and Worthy Patron David Mueller. These are active organizations. The Masons have 17 50-year members and there are two 50-year Eastern Stars. They are all looking forward to the new building for their lodge meetings. This is being made possible by pledges, donations, memorials and hard work. The hard work includes barbecues, garage sales and suppers.

—0—  
Another active organization

is the 24 member "Levis and Lace" Square Dance Club which recently moved into its redecorated building in Florence, formerly the Howell Mercantile Store, all freshly painted and airconditioned. Mr. and Mrs. Dock Walker are presidents of the club which is of mixed ages and is now teaching 19 others how to square dance.

They have dances every second and fourth Saturday nights, called by Slim Herrington. They travel all over Central Texas, visiting other square dance clubs and participating in many events. Their next trip is planned to the Veterans Hospital in Temple to entertain the patients.

—0—  
The Florence Schools are housed in six buildings, the newest one being the high school which was opened last year.

There are 341 students. Five bus routes transport the students from as far away as Andice and Youngsport; the longest route is 45-50 miles.

The school system employs 35 persons.

"We have a good school; still things to be done, but we are proud of it. Yes, we have a dress code, and have had no problems," said superintendent Lee Roy Knauth.

Tuesday, February 11, 1975

The Austin American-Statesman

## Historical Zoning Ordinance Okayed

GEORGETOWN An historical zoning ordinance including the town square historical district was passed on first reading by the Georgetown City Council Monday.

Councilmen, however, were split on the issue and needed Mayor Joe Crawford's vote to break the tie.

The council decided to send copies of the new ordinance, which designates the town square historical district as an "H" or historical zone, to all property owners in the zone and to invite their comments and attendance at the next council meeting.

In other business the council set April 5 as hulfman for

mintz 2? election day. The terms of Mayor Pro-Tem Harry Gold and Councilmen Hubert Brock and William Eanes expire, with only Eanes not seeking re-election. Eanes has served for 11 years on the council.

The council also received but did not accept bids on new hangars for the municipal airport. A special study committee was set up to review six bids ranging from \$82,500 to \$146,634.29 and report back at a special called meeting at 4 p.m. Monday.

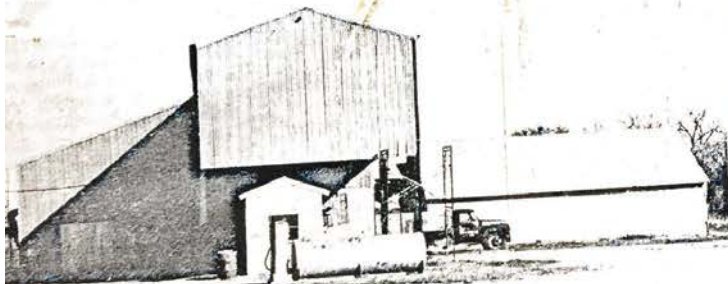
A revised subdivision ordinance received no action by council and was sent back to the planning and zoning commission for further study.



# Jonah is full of beauty spots



**NEW OWNERSHIP** — S. W. Herrington retired February 1, selling his Herrington Spray-pany to G. E. Almquist, left, and his partner, Leland Preiss. Herrington invented and built machines in the shop which turns out all shapes and sizes of styrofoam.



**BIGGEST BUSINESS IN JONAH** —The Jonah Co-Op Gin Association



**AUTIFUL HOMES IN JONAH** — with pasture separating them from the highway and a terrac-lawn separating them from the San Gabriel River. These two belong to Mr. and Mrs. Gene ggett and to Mrs. John McDonald.

by **RUNELLE BAKER**  
The biggest thing going commercially in Jonah is the Jonah Co-Op Gin. It buzzes with activity all year around. When it's not ginning cotton, it is selling chemicals and farm supplies to customers from the Taylor, Hutto, Georgetown and Coupland areas.

Over 50 local stockholders own the co-op. It is run by Thomas Noren, manager, and two other employees, Butch Johnson and Clint Ransom. Then during the ginning season they put on about 30 more employees. Last year 3426 bales of cotton were ginned at Jonah. "We keep pretty busy," Noren said as he surveyed the recently remodeled gin, "I guess it is because we try our best to do them a good job."

Just down the street in an old building which once housed a grocery store and post office, S. W. Herrington moved his Herrington Spray-Bar Company a year or so ago when the old Belford Lumber Company in Georgetown where he first located was torn down.

And it is about to be moved again. Herrington retired on February 1 when he sold the styrofoam manufacturing business to G. E. Almquist and Leland Preiss. They plan to move the shop to their place near Walburg.

Herrington established an enviable reputation of supplying a great variety of shapes in styrofoam, beginning with a big slab of the lightweight stuff and then putting one of his

machines to it. Out will come all sizes of balls, from 1 1/8" diameter to 16", half balls, triangles, cones, slabs, slices. Herrington perfected all the machines in the shop which do this work. "I like to tinker with them," he explained. "And I'll keep tinkering, I imagine."

"With the groundwork that Mr. Herrington has laid for us, we plan to grow and at the same time maintain the same fine service Mr. and Mrs. Herrington have given," Almquist said.

They ship to customers all over Oklahoma, Louisiana and Texas and plan soon to expand into Alabama and Mississippi. They supply the local florists, candle factory and all of the stores in Winn's chain.

Another invention perfected in the Herrington shop was the work of Herrington's son, S. W. Herrington, Jr. This is the Kee-Clamp which holds plastic coated pipe so that it can be worked on without scarring it.

"I'm the only one left," said Clyde Sartor at the Jonah general store. There used to be several grocery stores, but no more. Sartor's is the meeting place for Jonah friends, and Clyde knows them all — come April, he will have been there in the store for 24 years.

The Jonah Water Supply Corporation had its beginning in Jonah as a dream of the late John McDonald and a group of friends who worked hard and made it their business to bring good water with good pressure

into rural homes. It now covers much of the east part of the county.

Jonah may be short on businesses but it has an overabundance of beauty spots. Between Jonah and Mankin's Crossing are two of the most beautiful oak trees found anywhere in Texas. One is at the roadside park, and the other is across the highway and nearer to the crossing. The latter is the larger and its beauty and interesting shape has been the subject of many a artist's brush and photographer's shutter.

The San Gabriel River embraces Jonah on the south, no more than 1/4 mile away, and making a lovely view for the riverfront homes. The fishing is good, too.



# Burleson case: KKK violence

By Jeff South

The courtship of Fannie Campbell was interrupted on Easter Sunday, 1923, when her suitor, a young salesman from Waco, was abducted and tortured by the Ku Klux Klan in a pecan grove near Jonah.

Although the salesman, R. W. Burleson, survived that beating, the Klan itself was not so fortunate.

It was the notorious Burleson flogging case that marked the downfall of the Ku Klux Klan in Texas. Dr. Edmund Heinsohn, retired Georgetown minister recalls.

"The trial of the Burleson case in Georgetown broke the back of the Klan," Heinsohn said. "It was, perhaps, one of the most significant events in the history of Georgetown."

Clara Scarbrough, local historian and author of *Land of Good Water*, recounts the events which led to the trial.

Burleson's career as a salesman frequently brought him to Williamson County in the early 1920s. One of his boarding places was in the Weir home of Mrs. Fannie Campbell, a young widow of that community.

"Early in 1923, Reverend A. A. Davis, 'a Baptist preacher and anti-Catholic lecturer of the county,' delivered a note to Burleson bearing the seal of the Georgetown Ku Klux Klan No. 178 and curtly warning Burleson to cease his relationship with Mrs. Campbell," Mrs. Scarbrough said.

Burleson ignored the warning until the Klan caught up with him on Easter Sunday of that year.

Burleson and Mrs. Campbell and two of their friends spent the day in Jonah. On their return to Weir late that afternoon — just as they approached Mankin's Crossing on the San Gabriel — they saw two automobiles "with curtains up" and one of them blocking the road.

When Burleson stopped his car, eight or ten men garbed in robes and hoods emerged from the parked vehicle, ordered Burleson to get out, then dragged him from his car and hit him with a pistol.

He was shoved into one of the curtained cars.



THE NOTORIOUS BURLESON FLOGGING CASE — Historians Clara Scarbrough and Edmund Heinsohn point to this Ku Klux

Klan incident as one of the most significant events in the history of Georgetown. Drawing by Steve Henderson

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With his feet hanging out the window, the men drove Burleson to a pecan orchard near Jonah. There, his assailants locked a heavy chain around his neck, fastened it to a thorny tree and held it taut so that Burleson's head was tilted back.

As one man threatened Burleson with a pistol, the others stripped him and administered about fifty licks across his naked back with a heavy leather strap.

Questioned and taunted, he was then loaded into a small pickup truck and driven to Taylor City Hall.

The Klansmen chained him to a tree on the lawn, poured tar over his head and body, and then departed.

Burleson managed to unfasten the chain from the tree and, still wearing it around his neck, walked to a nearby building. There, a widow, Mrs. Amanda Jane Harber, assisted him.

The Taylor constable was summoned and Burleson — with his cuts oozing blood and his body covered with tar — was taken to Taylor City Hall. The chain was cut from his neck and, with large quantities of oil, the tar was removed.

Doctors later dressed Burleson's wounds and in the morning he was taken to a local hospital.

Investigation began the following day when a special court of inquiry convened in Georgetown. Five Taylor men were soon arrested on suspicion of being involved in the beating.

On May 9, the grand jury met. District court minutes indicate that the four witnesses questioned about the case refused to divulge any information. The jury indicted the five Taylor men.

At the time, Dr. Heinsohn was a practicing attorney in Temple, where he kept abreast of the happenings in Williamson County.

Heinsohn noted that local Klan chapters collected funds to retain outstanding legal talent for the defense. The defense lawyers included State Senator A. E. Wood and his brother D. B. Wood, and other prominent attorneys.

"Fortunately," Heinsohn said, "there were also talented lawyers in Georgetown who had sense enough to see what was involved in the Klan."

Attorneys for the prosecution were led by the district attorney, Dan Moody, and lawyers Richard Critz, E. H. Lawhon, Harry Graves, Dave W. Wilcox, W. H. Nunn and J. F. Taulbee.

"Dan Moody was the young district attorney," Dr. Heinsohn recalled. "It was his first year in office and he hadn't had much experience, but Dan had lots of wim, vigor and vitality — and character."

"He was backed up by these men of experience — Wilcox, Graves, Nunn, Critz and the others. They were the brains in back of the fight against the Klan."

Historian Mrs. Scarbrough explains that the case against Murray Jackson, charged with assault with prohibited weapons, opened on September 17, 1923, in Williamson County Criminal District Court.

The judge later called it "one of the hardest

fought cases tried in Williamson County in years," Mrs. Scarbrough said.

A week later, at ten o'clock in the evening, the jury returned a guilty verdict and recommended the maximum sentence of five years in the state prison.

Jackson was sentenced as prescribed, but was pardoned two years later by the governor.

"Separate trials in what by then was generally called the 'notorious Burleson flogging case' were held early the next year for Olen Gossett and Dewel Ball, both of whom pleaded guilty to one charge of assault with prohibited weapons," Mrs. Scarbrough said. "Each was sentenced to one year in prison. Charges against one other man were dropped."

Heinsohn called Moody and his battery of lawyers "leaders in the fight against the Klan in Texas." He noted that Moody rode his anti-Klan

reputation all the way to the state attorney general's office.

"The preachers deserve very little credit for ridding Williamson County of the Ku Klux Klan," Heinsohn said.

"Many of them were lively in the Klan themselves."

He noted that the Baptist preacher who delivered the note to Burleson was convicted in 1924 on charges of perjury and sentenced to two years in prison.

"Except for those lawyers I have mentioned," Dr. Heinsohn said, "the prominent people in the community did not come out against the Klan."

Prominent doctors in Georgetown, for example, refused to testify before the investigating grand jury.

"The Klan had power — power in terms of numbers and in terms of the right people," Heinsohn said. "The Klan had enough power to make you afraid not to be a member."

He explained that the Klansmen were mainly middle-class people — "many of them were good church-goers" — and that many ministers were involved.

Heinsohn estimated that when he was in Temple, as many as 75 percent of the businessmen on Main Street were members of the Klan.

"The Klansmen, especially the deeply religious ones, had the cock-eyed notion that the Klan was a quick way to 'bring in the kingdom,'" Heinsohn said.

He explained that the Klan's opposition to minority groups was not an important issue.

"Most of the people of Williamson County had little contact with Catholics and Jews, and few had a bias against the Negro. Basically, minority groups were not important to the thinking of the people of Williamson County."

"But the Klan's opposition to immorality — that was its downfall. Many of the people in the Klan were good, moral people... church people. They saw the Klan as a river-bottom court, where immoral sinners could be punished."

There are no documented cases of Klan violence against blacks in Williamson County. But Heinsohn said that Klansmen managed to oppress minority groups "simply by intimidation. The Klan didn't have to resort to violence. The threat of violence did their work for them."

"If you were a Negro in Williamson County and the Klan told you to get out of town, in all likelihood, you would leave."

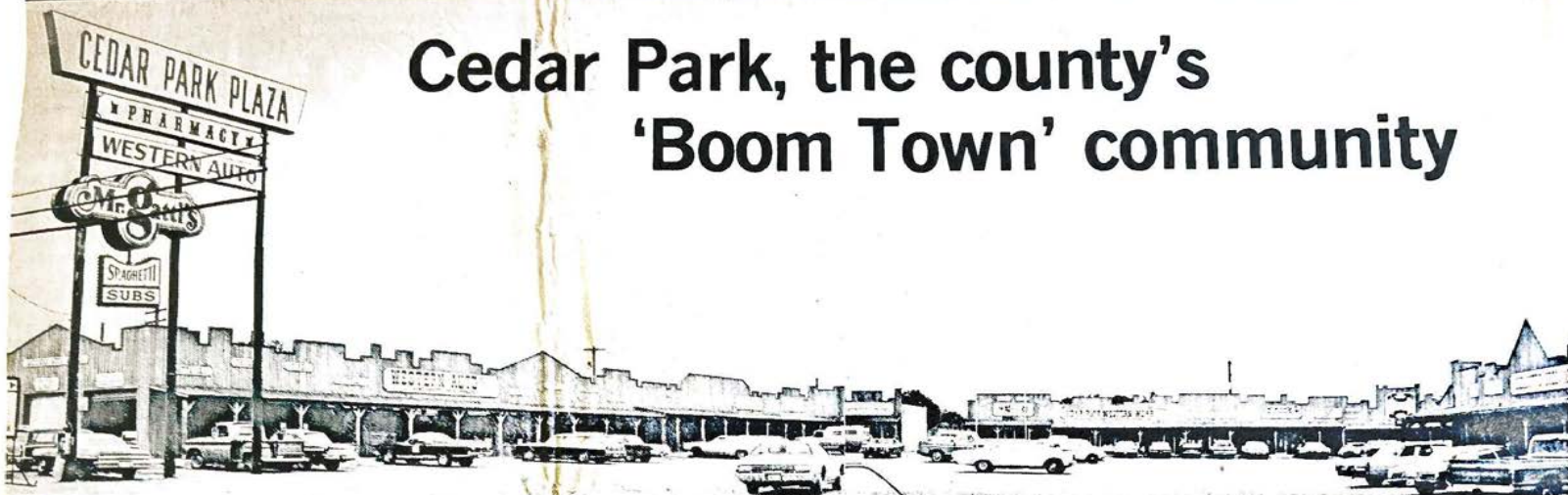
Heinsohn came to Georgetown to serve as minister of the First Methodist Church in 1927. He said that by that year, the Klan had lost its support in Georgetown.

"One of my predecessors in the ministry of the Methodist Church was a Klansman," he said. "At that time, Dave Wilcox was the chairman of the official board of the church."

"He once said to this preacher, 'We're going to keep the Klan issue out of the church. Because if it does get into the church, the same thing will happen that has already happened in the Masonic lodges — we will be split right down the middle.'"



# Cedar Park, the county's 'Boom Town' community



CEDAR PARK PLAZA — looks as western as any prosperous frontier town, but behind those rustic store fronts are modern and well-equipped stores.

by Runelle Baker

Cedar Park has been here for a long time. The first post office was registered on August 25, 1887 and described as 'at or near a spring near Cedar Park'.

It was never much more than the post office, a little grocery store and filling station and a small cafe making a 'wide place in the road' on highway 183 just south of Leander. The population scarcely reached three figures.

Then something happened, about five years ago. People discovered Cedar Park. The growth of Cedar Park in the past five years has been unbelievable.

The population is approximately 3000. Over 800 post office boxes are rented. And the Cedar Park Water Corporation has installed over 1000 meters.

Longtime resident Don Webster has watched the little town grow, rejoiced with it in its progress and suffered with it through growing pains that go with a newly incorporated city. He explained, "The growth is due to the water; being close to the lakes. People who have moved here for the most part work in Austin. They like to go to the lakes. They want to get out of the city to live, and Cedar Park is about halfway between the lakes and Austin."

Living around Cedar Park goes all the way from big fancy ranch homes on several acres

to mobile homes in a mobile home park.

Cedar Park is not blocked off with the town built in a square arrangement, but is long and narrow — strung out, all along highway 183 for a mile or more.

The Cedar Park Spring has been famous for many years.

Back in the wagon travelling days when it took four days to go from Bertram to Austin, Cedar Park was always one of the camping places. Old timers remember there were always at least a dozen wagons camped by Cedar Park Spring.

The Bank of the Hills has

been in Cedar Park for about three years, opened January, '72. Since its opening, the number of employees has doubled. Deposits have shown a rapid increase. The statement of condition at the last day of 1974 showed deposits to total \$3,205 and on March 1 just two

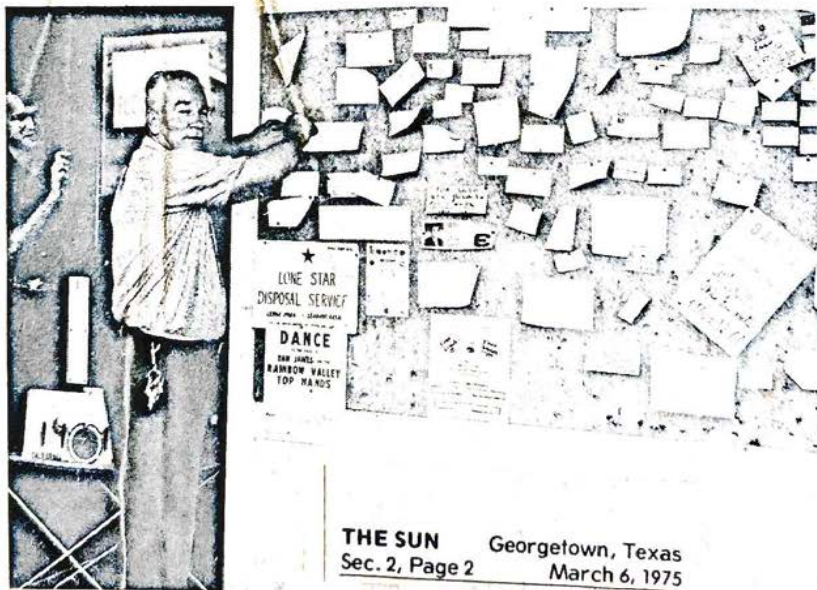
months later they totaled \$4,400.

Cedar Park bankers say many of the accounts are of commuters who live near Cedar Park, like country living, but work in Austin, at Texas Instruments, I B M, Westinghouse, and many other places — moving toward the lakes in an area that is midway to Austin.

Another drawing card for Cedar Park is its water supply, now being expanded to more than 1000 meters. The system was financed through the Farm and Home Administration.

The growth that shows most is in the shopping centers — four of them, Cedar Park Plaza, Whitestone Village, Park Place I and Commercial Parkway.

Found in Cedar Park is an insurance agency, a CPA, two attorneys, a dentist, a doctor, four churches, a veterinary hospital, four grocery stores, five restaurants, five filling stations, Western Auto, western shop, pharmacy, dry cleaners, branch of Georgetown Savings and Loan, infants shop, two ladies wear shops, two men's shops, aquarium, gift shop, book store, a bank, fruit stand, home and garden center, a Mexican import shop, two barber shops, two beauty shops, laundromat, package store, auto parts store and two feed stores — and a lot of friendly folks.



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COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD — in front of Henry's Drive-In at Cedar Park is a service to the town, being attended here by the Drive-In manager, Fred Green, with a bit of unsolicited heckling from his boss, Buz Henry, left. The bulletin board is interesting whether or not the reader wants to buy, sell, give away, go to a dance, baby sit, or have his garden plowed.



# County Historical Committee to host regional meeting

The Williamson County Historical Survey Committee met March 6 in the conference room of the Georgetown Public Library. Mrs. Clara Scarbrough, chairman presided and members present represented the towns and communities of Andice-Gabriel Mills, Florence, Georgetown, Granger, Jonah, Liberty Hill and Taylor.

Roll call reports indicated many members are par-

ticipating in historical programs and are assisting in bicentennial projects in their areas. Several reported cemetery listings completed which will be included in the county wide collection. Cemetery rosters recently submitted are Avery-Kimbrow-Stiba Families, Calvary, Ganzert, Gravis, Green, Holy Cross, Jackson Families (2) Jolly Family, Land, Peace-Towns,

Rhodes, Salyer, Sauls, Schwertner, Smart, Weir and Whiteley.

Members responsible for this new data are A. M. Ahlgreen, Mrs. F. W. Buchanan, Mrs. D. B. Gregg, Mrs. Henry Labaj, Mrs. Joe Hannah Forson, Miss Ruth Mantor Thomas McDonald, Miss Effie McLeod, and Dr. and Mrs. Van C. Tipton. Thanks is due Mrs. C. M. Kauffman for her research on two of

the lists. It is hoped that many interested people will help locate and list abandoned and obscure burial plots in all areas of Williamson County. Each time the committee meets more cemeteries have been brought to light and in some instances are being restored. It is a tremendous task but is considered worthwhile in the preservation of history. Many requests for help in locating

graves of ancestors come to this committee.

An interesting letter was read by Mrs. Scarbrough from a descendant of Joseph Rubarth, whose grave is the object of search. This early settler had large land holdings in the eastern part of Williamson County as well as in Milam and Bell Counties. He fought in the Battle of Waterloo and was a veteran of the Battle of San Jacinto.

The Army Corp of Engineers, working on the North San Gabriel and Laneport dams report cemeteries in the areas to be flooded have been moved or will be in the near future. They are, on North San Gabriel Bullion, Sedwick, Jenkins, Keeting-Maxwell and Sawyer and those at Laneport are Beard, Friendship, Machu and the Young family. Any one knowing of other small isolated plots should contact these men or members of the Historical Committee.

According to word received by Mrs. Scarbrough the Texas Historical Commission plans to hold a Regional Meeting in Georgetown on April 16. It will take place on the campus of Southwestern University. This the first time a Regional has been held in Williamson County in a long time if ever. Between seventy and one hundred out-of-county members are expected to attend.

Mrs. Margaret White of Austin has recently contributed to the funds to erect an Official Texas Historical Marker honoring Judge Greenleaf Fisk. She is a descendant of Judge Fisk who was the first Judge of Williamson County in 1848, at that time called Chief Justice. He played an important part in the organization of this county and in the early history of Texas. He served under General Sam Houston in the Texas Revolution and later held offices in the Republic of Texas and still later in the State of Texas. Although he moved out of the county it seems fitting to honor him as an early worthy official of this county. Contributions may be sent to the Committee Treasurer, Mrs. Estha Scoggins, 1707 Main Street, Georgetown, Texas 78626 or to Judge C. L. Chance, 1610 Pecan Street, Georgetown, Texas 78626.

—Reporter



**GROWING BANK** — is the three year old Bank of the Hills at Cedar Park.

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**NEWEST SHOPPING CENTER** — opened just last month, Park Place I. This makes four shopping centers in Cedar Park for the rapidly growing community.



# It's good to come home to Andice

by Runelle Baker

Andice is a quiet little community at the intersection of two farm-to-market roads 17 miles northwest of Georgetown.

Just a mile to the west, where Andice's "main street" (FM 970) meets highway 183, the citizens of Andice lay claim to the county's only mountain which has been known for many years as Pilot Knob, but called Gabriel Mountain in the Texas Almanac, with a height of 1208 feet.

What was once almost all cultivated farmland is now 90% grassy ranchland supporting fine Angus and Hereford cattle and a few sheep.

The fact that Andice is a good place to live is evidenced by Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Asher who grew up in that community. After living and working all over the state they last year fulfilled their long time dream of coming back home and building their retirement home up on the hill of the Asher property of his father and grandfather. That is where Jimmie played as a boy, on the gnarled and lovely old oak trees which are now in their back yard. Those trees were the determining factor in the choice of their home site. NataLee (Mrs. Asher) grew up at Greene's Corners, the daughter of the Nat Greenses, and that is, "just down the road a piece". Jimmie's mother, Mrs. Jim (Emma) Asher, lives with them and loves everything they



**SERENDIPITY BOUTIQUE HOUSES THE POST OFFICE** — and its owner, Helen Wade takes care of both of them. She paints and sews items for the shop in her spare time, like this old fashioned calico bonnet.

are doing to her old homeplace. For instance, the fireplace in the den and also one living room wall in the new house is made from the brick of the old home's chimney. Jimmie's latest project is the restoration of his father's windmill. It had not been standing for many years. It was completely covered with dirt, and Jimmie literally dug it up. He searched the country for

parts to put it back in working condition, sanded and repainted it, and now the treasured three legged tower (vintage 1895-1900) stands proudly upright, with not a squeak in the fan as it pumps a stream of water into a tank where NataLee's goldfish swim lazily among the honeycomb rock. Jimmie is retired from Education, Youth and Music Ministry in Baptist

churches in Cameron, Austin, Waco and Kilgore.

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The Andice School became the Andice Community Center when it closed its doors in 1965 — after 40 years of students. Now many of those students and their families come back home each year on the third Saturday in October for the biggest homecoming for miles around, taking in the Whitehouse, Seymour and Andice schools. The old school is also a beehive of activity each year for the Arts and Crafts Fair, and all year long it houses the community meetings and family reunions. It is directed by the Andice Cemetery Association whose president is Lester King and board members are Lawrence Dunlop, Grady Howland, Hosea Wade, Edwin Wade, Harold Asher, Luther Pearson and Ralph Dickson Love, Jr.

Businesswise — Andice has three. There is the oldest, Jacob's Store, and the newest, Helen Wade's Serendipity Boutique, and somewhere in the middle is Henry Snow's Arco Station.

Andice has two churches, Baptist and Catholic. The First Baptist Church is soon to get a historical medallion. The Santa Rosa Catholic Church serves a large community area and shares it's priest, Father Charles Davis, with the Georgetown parish.

Jacob's Store is 'Andice' to the many neighbors who have always used it as a meeting place to visit and to get the news. The store was built and operated for many years by the Jacob brothers, Gus and Ben and their wives. They sold it and retired last year. The new owners are Bryan and Peggy Moorehead who are carrying on in the established tradition, even to the name of the store, but more especially with the Jacob's recipe for fresh pork sausage.

Serendipity, according to Helen Wade, means "unexpected delight". And that is exactly what her shop in the new little rustic building is. Helen is also the postoffice clerk in charge of the community post office housed in her shop. She services the 30 post office boxes each day when the Georgetown Route 5 carrier brings the Andice mail. She performs the other post office duties also, such as selling stamps, money orders, and hanging the "Wanted" posters.

In her spare time she sews. Her shop is filled with art, children's clothes, bonnets, hats, crochet pieces, pictures, plaques, gift items and antiques. Many of these hand made pretties are made by Helen; most of the others are local talent.



Following retired grocer Ben Jacob around his ranch, he recollected when Andice had a barber shop, drug store, feed store, gin, theater, cafe, three grocery stores and a high school.

"Not many more people here then, but we had a pretty good little business district. We counted the population here not long ago and came up with a total of 75," Ben said.



**ASHER'S RESURRECTED WINDMILL**

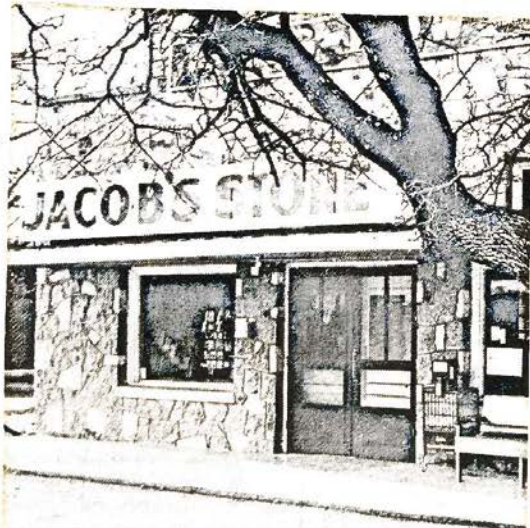
How is a town operated without being organized? "Well now," says Ben, "that's very easy. If we need a lawman, we call the county sheriff in Georgetown. If we have a fire, the fire trucks from Georgetown and Florence come to us. Our streets are Farm-to-Market roads and are serviced by the State Highway Department. City street lights are paid for by the people of town dividing the cost and our water is from the Andice Water Company, operated by stockholders."

Not elected in a bona fide election, but rather by popular appointment, the mayor and city marshal of Andice is Barney Stanley, retired Georgetown automobile salesman. Barney and Pearl

moved to Andice about a year ago. ".....so, we just gave him a job. And he works hard at it," Ben Jacob explained.



**THEY CAME HOME** — and built their retirement home on the old Asher homeplace at Andice. Through their beloved old oak trees, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Asher and Mrs. Jim Asher are entertaining a neighbor, Ralph Dickson Love, Jr., on their backyard patio.



**JACOB'S STORE** — is now owned by Bryan and Peggy Moorehead, but retains its original name. Here is where Andice neighbors meet and swap news.



**WHAT DO RETIRED GROCERS DO?** — Ben Jacob keeps busy with his farming and ranching. His brother, Gus, is just as busy helping his friends with their income tax.

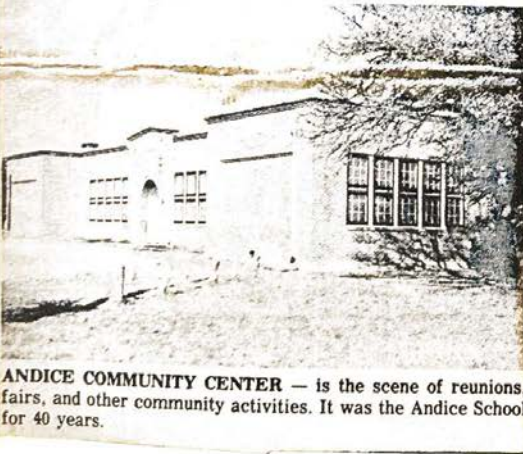




**ANDICE BAPTIST CHURCH** — will be 100 years old in 1976 and plans are working now for a Historical Medallion to be placed on the church.



**SANTA ROSA DE LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH** — in Andice serves a large parish in the northwest part of the county.



**ANDICE COMMUNITY CENTER** — is the scene of reunions, fairs, and other community activities. It was the Andice School for 40 years.



**THE OLD AND THE NEW** — delights customers in the Liberty Hill community. John Chesley remodeled this old building, stocked it with feed and seed and fertilizer and plant food. He added vegetable and flower bedding plants, hanging baskets, trees, shrubs and containers and put his pretty daughter, Debbie Martin, pictured above, in as manager. He gave Debbie a corner for her gift shop which she has gradually expanded to take up the front end of the store.

The SUN Georgetown, Texas  
Sec. 2, Page 11 March 20, 1975

## Florence citizens survey cemetery

By DOT GOFF,  
Special SUN Reporter  
Fair skies and a good turnout of Florence citizens on Sunday resulted in a survey of the Florence Cemetery, with a listing of all graves in the cemetery. A previous date set for the survey was cancelled

due to cold weather. Miss Effie McLeod, member of the Williamson County Historical Commission was most gratified with the turnout of commission members, members of the Florence Cemetery Association and the general public.

With the cemetery divided by

strings into sections, and equipped with note paper and pencils, as well as blue chalk furnished by John Fox, to make easier the reading of weather-beaten inscriptions, seventeen persons completed the listing in something less than three hours.

Working on the survey were Mrs. Mozelle Huling, Mrs. Elizabeth Sawyer, Mrs. Willie Fae Atkinson, Mrs. Zuella Clark, Mrs. Allie Caskey, Mrs. Dot Goff, Mrs. Beulah Brooks, Mrs. Lula Caskey, Mrs. Margueritte Priest, Mrs. Kathryn Haydon, Clude Dannelley, Rev. Frank Ethridge, Alton Mullen, Joe Earl Massey, Tom Atkinson, Foy Caskey and Clytus Caskey and Miss McLeod.

A copy of all the names of persons buried in the cemetery will be given to the Williamson County Historical Committee to be included in the list of other Williamson County burial grounds, according to Miss McLeod.



# Liberty Hill combines the old and the new

By Runelle Baker  
Liberty Hill is still a quiet, friendly country town even though subdivisions are building up all around it. It

boasts a population of about 1,900, one rural route and 228 post office boxes.

Subdivisions to spring up in the past three years include Durham Park, Bear Creek, North Gabriel, Kiowa Creek, Carson's Acres and the San Gabriel River Ranch.

These are primarily bedroom communities for their owners who work in Austin and sur-

rounding industrial plants. Some of these are for mobile homes and others are for permanent homes. The first subdivision was Durham Park where homes are built on a minimum size lot of two acres.

Real Estate and construction man John Chesley said, "Austin is pushing this way and Liberty Hill is the nearest place to Austin where reasonably priced

acreage is still available and where folks still feel that they are living in the country. Liberty Hill is on the way to the lakes, and that is an enticement for some to settle here."

Chesley has restored two old buildings in downtown Liberty Hill, one is the Liberty Hill Feed and Seed Store and the other, across the street, is his office for his real estate, con-

struction and mortgage company. The Chesleys moved here three years ago from Austin.

—0—

Fay Bryson Richardson (Mrs. Marshall Richardson) is a member of one of the first pioneer families and recalled when Liberty Hill was a college town, and much more active than it is now. The Liberty Hill Normal and Business College was a prominent seat of learning, and then there were many more businesses in the town.

Now there are three grocery stores, U-Pak-It, Roy Allmon's and McMahan's; four service stations, Canady's Quick Service Texaco, Williams Arco, Triangle Texaco and Allman's Arco; one cafe, Lane's on the highway; four beauty shops, Pam Foust's Magic Mirror, Mildred Foust's, Dorothy Cook's on the highway and Opal's out in the country.

There is one barber shop, Henry Thompson's which is open three days a week; a washateria, a feed store and four churches, Baptist, Methodist and two Churches of Christ.

—0—  
Mrs. Richardson is a member of the Buchanan Arts and Crafts, Inc. and through that organization which rotates exhibits, she will be the Artist of the Month in April at the First State Bank in Burnet. She will

exhibit about a half dozen of her paintings. She enjoys painting flowers, landscapes of wildflowers and windmills.

A different kind of artist, fairly new to Liberty Hill, is Mel Fowler, the sculptor. Fowler bought Liberty Hill's oldest building and remodeled it into his studio on the first floor and his home on the second floor. Fowler was a painter for 20 years and has converted to sculpture for the past ten years and is reported to be one of only two full time stone sculptors in Texas.

—0—  
"There are many other sculptors, but they do it part time," he said.

He moved to Liberty Hill because he enjoys the quiet country atmosphere and because he wanted to restore a very old house and fill it with antique furniture. He likes to use the available stone, such as the native limestone around Liberty Hill and the marble, serpentine and steatite from the Llano area.

He carved the St. Francis sculpture at St. Helen's Catholic Church in Georgetown which is a memorial to Billy D. Howry, and is being considered to do a native limestone sculpture for Stonehaven in memory of Robert L. Lancaster.

He is assisted by his apprentice, Jim Knapp of Austin, described by Fowler to be "a talented stone sculptor".

—0—  
Near Liberty Hill, and only ten years old, is the Westwood Ranch.

Grady Tumlinson, director of education at the Ranch, said the mistaken conception of the Ranch is that it is a place of punishment.

"That is not true," he said. "We take boys with emotional problems — true some of them have been in trouble but it is because of their emotional problem."

There are 57 boys enrolled at the school — very close to the capacity of 60. They stay from four months to a year. Most of

them are Texas boys. Formerly, some of the boys were bussed to Georgetown schools, but now they are taught at the Ranch by three resident teachers and four special education teachers from Georgetown Independent School District.

The Ranch has received national recognition for its work with boys. Dr. Michael Weiner is the resident psychiatrist and director of the Westwood Ranch program which has 50 employees.

—0—  
The new Liberty Hill High School is nearing completion. Several years ago the old building was turned down by the accreditation department of Texas Education Agency, and the high school students have been bussed to Georgetown. Some attended Leander.

Beginning next year, Liberty Hill will again teach all 12 grades.

—0—  
The biggest industry in Liberty Hill is Texas Quarries. The Liberty Hill plant is a branch of the large operation at Cedar Park. J. C. Baker manages the the Liberty Hill plant.

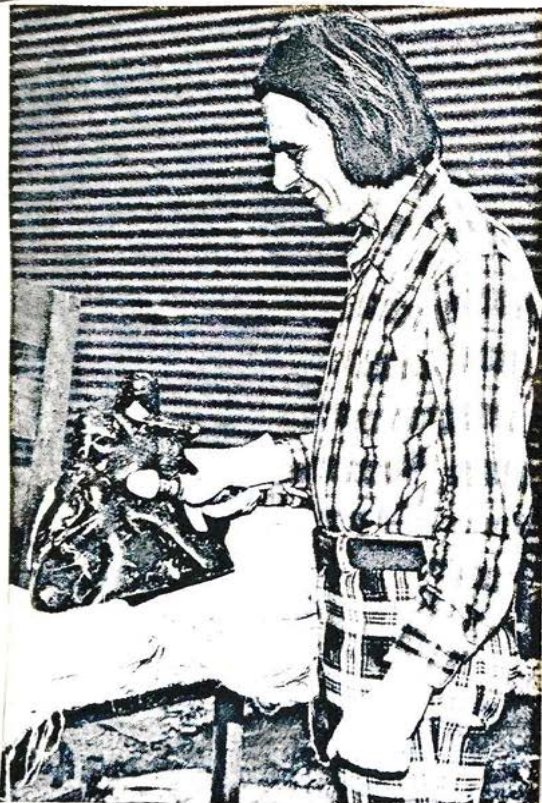
A different kind of limestone is found eleven miles from Liberty Hill. The top part of the stone formation is solid, but down a few feet an interesting shell limestone is cut out. It is only a guess as to how many thousands of years old the formations are, but the perfect shell indentations are from sea life.

The huge chunks of limestone are hauled by truck to the Liberty Hill plant and the big machines cut it in slabs to perfect thicknesses from 1½ inch to 10½ inches. Then the attractive stone with random designs of imbedded shells is shipped all over the United States.

An example of a building faced with Texas Quarrie limestone is the First National Bank of Georgetown.

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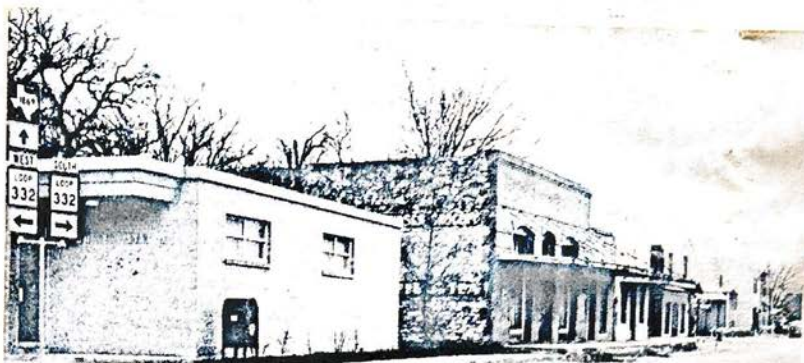


"HOMAGE TO GUSTAV MAHLER II" — is the name given to this piece of Rosa di Levanto Italian marble sculpture being completed by Mel Fowler at his Liberty Hill Studio. Much of his sculpture interprets classical music. One of his best known works in this area is the St. Francis of Assisi sculpture in memory of Billy Howry at St. Helen's Catholic Church in Georgetown.

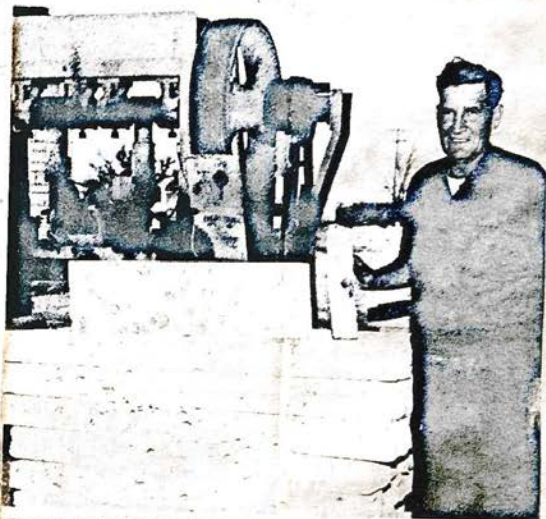




**OLDEST BUILDING IN LIBERTY HILL** — has been restored by Mel Fowler as his home and sculpture studio.



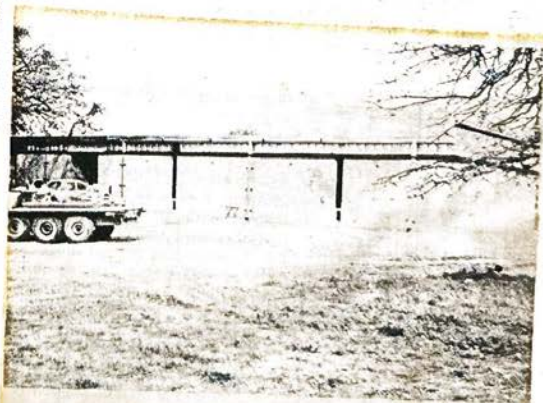
**LIBERTY HILL'S MAIN STREET**



**POPULAR SHELL LIMESTONE FORMATIONS** — are quarried at Liberty Hill and quarry manager J. C. Baker holds an unusual piece which turned up this week with a dark hard formation in it.



**LIMESTONE, LIBERTY HILL'S BIGGEST INDUSTRY** — these huge chunks of native limestone are quarried eleven miles from Liberty Hill and trucked to the Liberty Hill branch of Texas Quarries. They are cut into slabs from 1½ inch to 10½ inch thickness and shipped all over the United States to be used in buildings.



**LIBERTY HILL HIGH SCHOOL**  
NEARS COMPLETION



# Coupland, a prosperous farming community

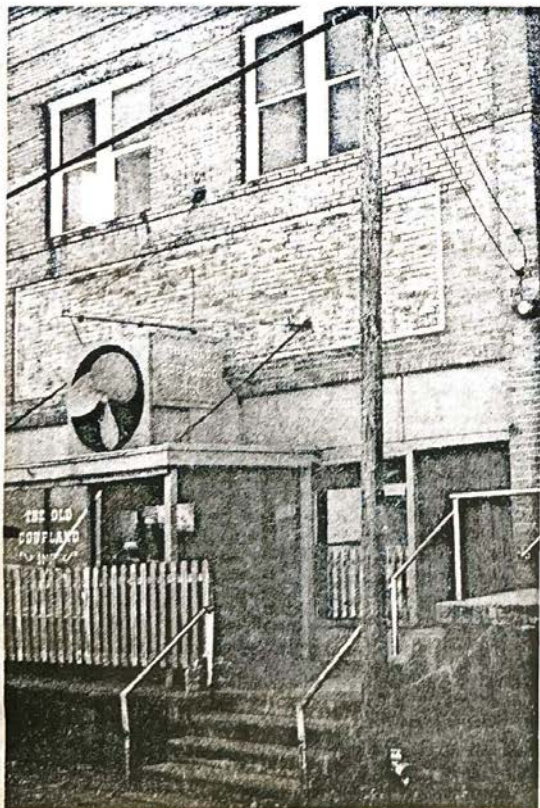
by Runelle Baker

It was quiet in Coupland last Wednesday afternoon — not many pickup trucks in town — and that meant that the farmers were taking advantage of the warm clear weather to do all those things that seem to need doing all at once on the farm this time of year.

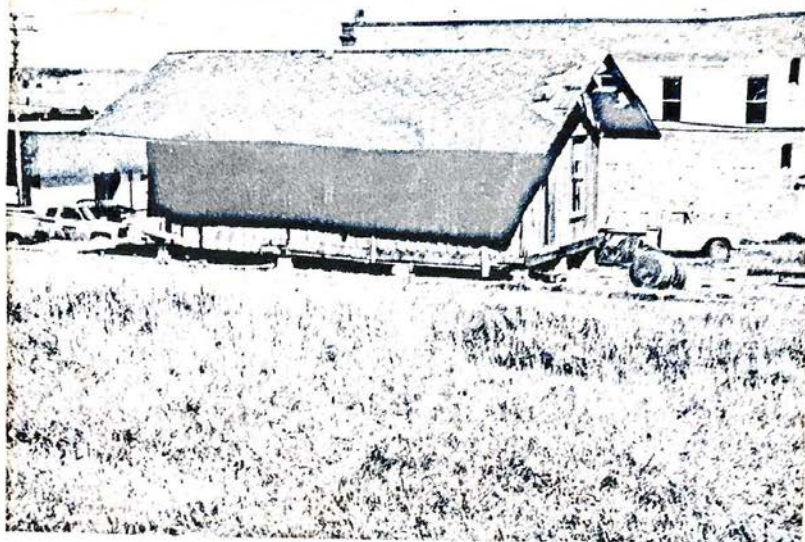
Coupland is a prosperous farming community in the southeast corner of Williamson County.

There is much more to the town than motorists passing along the highway from Taylor to Elgin can see. The highway is on a built up hill and about all a passer-by at 55 mph will notice is the lovely spire of St. Peter United Church of Christ. But, down the hill there is a nice friendly little town that is combining the old and the new in an interesting way.

A bank is a good place to start looking for someone to talk about the town. So when I went in the pretty new Coupland State Bank building and asked the friendly ladies if they could recommend someone to tell me all about Coupland, they unhesitatingly told me I needed to talk to Bill Pfluger. He's the president of the bank.



THE OLD COUPLAND INN  
—popular eating place



DEPOT WILL BE RESTORED  
—for a Coupland museum

"There he goes across the street now, going to get a cup of coffee," they told me.

I hurried out the door and called to him. He came back and we went into his office, postponing that cup of coffee for a good half hour to talk

about Coupland.

Bill is a native of Coupland, this city of about 250 population. He can remember many changes in his home town. One big change has been in the roads. He saw the dirt roads go to gravel roads before they became paved roads. Once his high school Spanish class went to Austin to a basketball tournament — "We got stuck between here and Elgin!"

Agriculture has changed. Where the family farm used to average about 200 acres, now it takes at least 500 acres to make it. And that is with 6 or 8 row equipment instead of 'family power'.

Coupland bank deposits total \$2,400,000. That is off from last fall, the bank president said. The bank's trade territory circles out to a 20 mile radius.

In the horse and buggy days, Pfluger recalls that there were three grocery stores, two dry goods stores, two lumber yards, a hardware store, three gins, a drug store, a doctor, three garages, two blacksmith shops and a three story hotel in Coupland.

The oldest building in Coupland now is the brick building across from the bank. Part of it used to house the drug store and that is now one of the most popular eating places in central Texas — The Old Coupland Inn where on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings barbecue is served up family style in the old fashioned atmosphere of the restored building.

Down the street, where the hardware store once was, there is another popular place, the Coupland Tavern.

Now in Coupland there are two grocery stores: Speckles, and Coupland Cupboard and Bottle Shop and Self Serve Gulf Station; one service station, Ging's; Thompson Manufacturing and Construction Company (from grain elevators to shopping centers all over the state); Willard Pfluger's Grain Elevator; two churches, Pear Valley Baptist and St. Peter United Church of Christ.

Coupland is not an incorporated city. The leaders come from an active Community Club and PTA. The Community Club is a sort of Chamber of Commerce for the city. It recently purchased the old depot which once proudly bore the name of Coupland and served a busy railroad. The old depot was brought back from a nearby farm and the club is restoring it, right there on Main Street, where it will be a Coupland Museum. It is being

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financed through profits from community rummage sales, chili suppers and bake sales.

The Coupland school is the only common school district left in the county. It teaches grades K-8. Most of the high school students are bussed to Taylor. Coupland is about halfway between Taylor and Elgin, and a few students who live much nearer to Elgin are going to school there.

Leaving Coupland and going toward Byersville, I spied a farmer on his tractor and drove down his road to wait for him at the turnrow. It was Albert Walther — and to say he was surprised to find a woman waiting to take his picture would be the understatement of the year!

But he kindly stepped down from his tractor and patiently posed for the picture that would represent the agriculture part



C. W. (BILL) PFLUGER JR.  
—Coupland State Bank President



ALBERT WALTHER  
—Coupland farmer

of Coupland. He has farmed in the Coupland area all his life, and on this particular farm since 1946.

"I'm old enough to retire, but I like to keep on working. I have most of my land rented out. Today I'm planting hay grazer. It's too dry, we need rain — we sure need a good soaking rain. The pastures are dry. Yes, this is good cattle country," he answered.

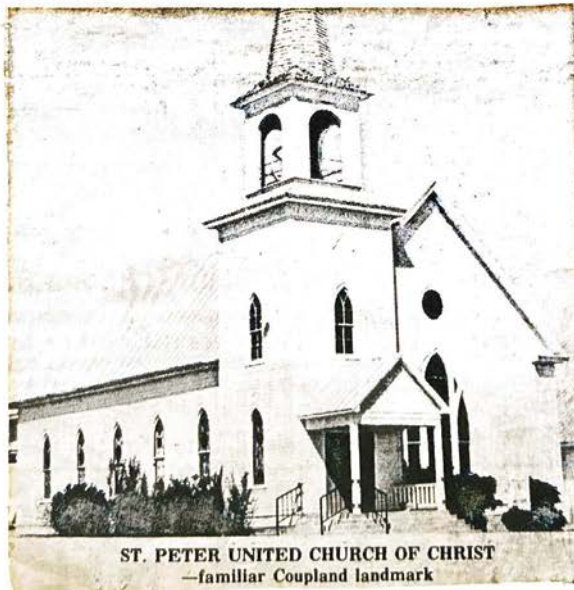
Walther said a few farmers are planting cotton — not as many as last year. They were hurt last year, and there still is not a market for last year's cotton. Some have had to get a loan from the bank to start this year's crop. Walther doesn't

plant cotton but many of his friends do.

"The weather doesn't look good at all. The whirlwinds are out of the west and that is a dry sign," he said, pulling his visor cap down over his forehead after surveying the sky. "we could sure use a good rain."



FAMILIAR MEETING PLACE  
—the well-kept Post Office



ST. PETER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
—familiar Coupland landmark



## Rare cemetery uncovered at Granger Dam project

Rare Indian artifacts, including a prehistoric cemetery with 25 human skeletons, were discovered during a 3-year archeological project in the Granger Dam area on the San Gabriel River in east Williamson County, a recent report shows.

The report was published this month by the Texas Archeological Survey. Elton R. Prewitt, an archeologist with the Balcones Research Center in Austin, conducted the project.

Prewitt uncovered the finds at the Loeve-Fox Site, situated in an alluvial terrace on the left bank of the San Gabriel River.

"The excavations at the Loeve-Fox Site have resulted in the collection of 12,486 artifacts (including 11,918 waste flint flakes), varied faunal remains, portions of 25 human skeletons and other data pertaining to the physical and cultural history of the site," the report on the project states.

The cemetery, at least 1000 years old, is thought to be the most important discovery at the site.

"The area encompassed by the cemetery is essentially circular and is about 10 feet in diameter," the study reads.

"In general terms, the lower or apparently earlier interments are in a semi-flexed position; that is, the knees are drawn up to a 90-degree angle or less from the axis of the spine with the feet near the pelvis, and the hands are usually placed on the pelvis or on the legs.

"The higher interments are in a tightly flexed position; the knees are tightly folded against the chest with the hands under or near the chin."

Nineteen of the 25 individuals represent single interments, the report explains.

A notable point is that, with one exception, the body is always pointed in a north-

northwest to south-southeast direction.

"Another aspect of the cemetery in general is the inclusion of miscellaneous material within the fill. Projectile point fragments, numerous flint flakes, occasional burned rocks and various animal bone are scattered throughout the cemetery," Prewitt reported.

Six of the skeletons were associated with arrow points, in such a manner as to suggest that the penetration of projectiles was the cause of death, the report states.

Prewitt said, "At least one individual within the cemetery is interpreted as being of differential status, possibly a shaman or someone with outstanding or unusual competence in certain aspects of the society's activities.

"This is based on the inclusion of a conch shell pendant in one of the graves. Such raw materials as conch shells are foreign to the region and artifacts made of them most likely were prized possessions and objects or symbols of outstanding competence, wealth or power.

"That such an object should be left with the body of the possessor at the time of interment may reflect the role of that person in the affairs of the society," Prewitt added.

Besides the cemetery, artifacts included arrow heads, pottery, and tools.

An analysis of the skeletons showed that "arthritis was a very common disease among this group of people, particularly among the middle-aged males and females. Overall, 50 percent of the adults show signs of arthritis."

The excavation was funded by a grant through the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Texas Archeological Survey has applied for a similar grant for a project in the North Fork dam area.

## Leander to get Historical Marker

An Official Texas Historical Marker for Leander will be erected soon, it was announced today by Mrs. Clara Scarbrough of Georgetown, chairman of the Williamson County Historical Survey Committee.

The marker will be placed at SH 183 right-of-way, at N end of Leander Cafe, Leander. Dedication plans will be announced in the near future.

Made of cast aluminum with Swedish steel effect, the marker measures 18 by 28 inches and is sponsored by Leander Garden Club. The inscription of the marker reads:

Leander grew from the once thriving town of Bagdad, founded in 1854 (1 mi. w). When the Austin & Northwestern Railroad bypassed Bagdad in 1882, a new town was surveyed and named for railroad official Leander Brown (1817-89). Homes and businesses from the older community quickly moved to the new site along the rail line. The post office was brought here from Bagdad in 1882. The school started here in 1893 has grown into the largest school district in Williamson County. Originally in a rural area, Leander has boomed in recent years due to Highland Lakes development. (1975)

The marking of local historic sites and landmarks is part of the Texas Historical Com-

mission's program of preservation activities. These include archeological investigations, history museum consultation, and administering the National Historic Preservation Act in Texas. As of 1974 the Historical Commission had erected more than 6,800 official markers.

The name and location of the present marker will appear in the next edition of the Guide to Official Texas Historical Markers in order to stimulate tourist travel in this area, to arouse interest in historical tours, and to acquaint the people of this locale with their unique heritage.

The SUN Georgetown, Texas  
Sec. 2, Page 3 March 27, 1975

## National Register director to speak on historic places at Georgetown library April 3

Joe Williams, director of the National Register of Historic Places of the Texas Historical Commission, will talk with members of the Williamson County Historical Survey Committee at their monthly meeting on Thursday, April 3, 2 p.m., at the Georgetown Area

Public Library. Mrs. Clara Scarbrough, county chairman, announced this week.

Each county throughout Texas is being surveyed for possible listings in the National Register, and Mr. Williams will explain how Williamson County can cooperate in this project.

Other committee business to be considered at the meeting includes planning for the Regional Meeting of the Historical Commission, which will be held at Southwestern University on Wednesday, April 16. All county representatives are urged to be present for this important meeting, Mrs. Scarbrough said.

The Sunday SUN Georgetown, Texas  
Page 2 March 30, 1975



*Etta*

18"x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post XM  
Williamson County - 3/13/75 - SH 183 right of way, at  
N end of Leander Cafe, Leander.

LEANDER

LEANDER GREW FROM THE ONCE  
THRIVING TOWN OF BAGDAD, FOUNDED  
IN 1854 (1 MI. W). WHEN THE AUSTIN &  
NORTHWESTERN RAILROAD BYPASSED  
BAGDAD IN 1882, A NEW TOWN WAS  
SURVEYED AND NAMED FOR RAILROAD  
OFFICIAL LEANDER BROWN (1817-89).  
HOMES AND BUSINESSES FROM THE  
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ORIGINALLY IN A RURAL AREA, LEANDER  
HAS BOOMED IN RECENT YEARS DUE  
TO HIGHLAND LAKES DEVELOPMENT. (1975)



July-1974

Williamson County, Texas

WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE  
Clara Scarbrough, Chairman

NEWSLETTER NUMBER TWO

APRIL 1, 1975

The Williamson County Historical Survey Committee continues to meet monthly on the first Thursday. Please mark your calendar. The next meeting, on April 3 in the Georgetown Public Library, promises to be an interesting one. A special guest will be Joe Williams of the Texas Historical Commission. He will speak on rules and requirements for subjects eligible for the National Registry of Historic structures and sites.

\*

The 1975 Regional Meeting of the Texas Historical Commission will be on April 16 at Southwestern University Commons. This is a very important and vital meeting. It is an opportunity to get the best information without travelling a long distance. This County Committee, as host, will plan to make it move efficiently.

\*

Many Bicentennial projects and slogans have come forth in the anticipation of the National 200th Anniversary. Slogans such as - "Make a park" - Plant a tree" - "Beautify a town". The Historical Survey Committee endorses all of these but hopefully adds - "Mark a site" - Plant an idea" - "Restore a building" and "Reconstruct a culture or way of life." Each member of this Committee is enthusiastically striving to do one or many things.

\*

Miss Effie McLeod has listed many cemeteries in the Florence area but the biggest step by far was the compiling of the names and dates in the Florence City Cemetery. She was able to involve some other interested people and the task was accomplished on Sunday afternoon, March 16th. It includes several hundred names.

\*

In connection with cemeteries the Williamson County Committee may have some responsibility or interest in marking the site of a recently discovered pre-historic cemetery in the Granger Dam area. The uncovering of rare Indian artifacts and 25 human skeletons were described in a report this month by the Texas Archeological Survey. Elton R. Pruitt, an Archeologist with the Balcones Research Center in Austin, conducted the project.

\*

Harold Asher has done his share of cemetery listings and other historical work. Now added to his record is the application for a site marker for the community of Gabriel Mills. Papers have been mailed for this long ago thriving little village.

\*

The Coupland Community is involved in restoring the old railroad depot to be used as amuseum. This is much needed in Williamson County. Burney Downing says a community marker is also being planned for Coupland.

\*

Leander will soon have an Official Texas Historical Marker erected on U.S. 183. The Garden Club sponsored townsite marker has been accepted by the Texas Historical Commission and is now at the foundry.

\*

Myreta Matthews, Reporter



July - 1974

### History of Leander

There was never a "Willes" County.

It would be impossible to write the history of Leander without mentioning five important landmarks and incidents from which Leander grew out of. The Pioneers who moved to ~~Willes County, now Williamson County~~ came almost exclusively from the Appalachian area of the United States. Most of their parents had come from Germany and England.

First

The earliest date I could find was the building of Tumlinson's Fort, or Block House, in 1836. This fort was built as a buffer between the settlers and the Indians. Tumlinson's Fort was ~~one of the last~~ very few forts built in Central Texas. The Indians who inhabited this area were the Tankawas, Comanches, Cherokee and Choctow.

Judge Alexander Stuart Walker acquired Tumlinson's Fort property as a law fee after the Civil War. Old Timers tell us that William Jennings Bryan and Mrs. Bryan spent the night at Stuart Walkers home Dec. 17, 1908 before going to Georgetown to make an address at Southwestern University. A Historical Marker now stands on Highway #183 near Tumlinson's Fort.

Webster Massacre occurred in June 1839 a few miles east of Leander. A roving band of Comanche Indians took the lives of fourteen men who were traveling west to a new land development in Burnet County. Mrs. Webster and her two children were taken prisoners by the Indians and were later released. The Webster Massacre victims are buried in Davis Cemetery 3 miles east of Leander on Ranch Road #2243. A marker is located near the cemetery on Highway #183 in Leander.

A third epoc in history has to do with Jenks Branch. All of the land around Leander had good water and good grass so there was possibilities of farming. Most of the settlers came here to farm therefore they brought their slaves with them. Soon after the war between the states, three negro brothers (now freed slaves) Milas, Richard and Nelson Miller bought the property now known as Jenks Branch. These brothers helped other freed slaves to buy small acreages and build homes. For many years this community was known as Miller's Community.

The freed slaves who settled in Jenks Branch had belonged to land owners around Leander, then Bagdad, and many of them took their owners names. Many slaves are buried in the cemetery at Jenks Branch which derives its name from John Jenks, the man who surveyed the territory for the Miller brothers. A Marker is near this community to commemorate its historical significance.



Pleasant Hill was an early settlement between Tumlinson's Fort and Bagdad. John Roy Bowmer was the first settler in Pleasant Hill. He was one of Williamson County's first school teachers. In the late eighteenth century Pleasant Hill was one of the largest schools in Williamson County and it was one of the first schools to consolidate with Leander in 1928.

In 1854 the town of Bagdad was surveyed by Charles Babcock. It was one mile west of Leander. John H. Shaffer was the first merchant and James B. Knight ran the store for Shaffer. Later *John F.* Mr. Heinatz opened a store, blacksmiths shop and ran the Post Office. The first Postmaster, however, was Thomas Huddleston in 1855, then John F. Heinatz 1858, Mrs. Emilie Heinatz 1866, John D. Mason 1867 and John F. Heinatz in 1887. After which <sup>1876</sup> the Post Office was transferred to Leander and the name changed to Leander Oct. 6, 1882.

Bagdad was built as a halfway station between Fort Croghan and Austin. The road was an Indian trail, then a cattle drovers trail and at the time Bagdad was settled in 1854, it was a military road. Charles Babcock kept the "Wayside Inn" where the military spent the night. It is said that Robert E. Lee frequently spent the night at Bagdad while checking on military forts near Austin. Voting was held at Bagdad until ~~1878~~ when the box was moved to Leander, 1882.

Some of the early Pioneers to Bagdad were: Babcock, Huddleston, James Williamson, George Craven, Robert Marley, Eli and Andrew Hamilton, John Faubion, Heinatz, C.C. Mason, W.N. Carothers, John Schooly, E.A. and W.R. Walker, Tom Cashion, James and Nicholas Branch, <sup>married</sup> R.W. Insall moved to Leander in 1873. M.J. Wells 1819 - 1893, <sup>married</sup> Tamania Peyton 1833 - 1883. *Frances Amanda Peyton.* William Johnson born 1804 migrated to Leander in early life. Died 1888.

Many of Leander's citizens of today can trace their ancestors back to these original pioneers who settled in this part of Williamson County and that is why we have to start Leander with Bagdad, Jenks Branch, Tumlinson's Fort, Pleasant Hill and the folklore which preceded Leander.

The townsite of Leander was surveyed in 1882. The merchants of Bagdad, then a thriving town with many businesses, refused to let the railroad come through their town. The railroad company offered the men of Bagdad \$1000 but they turned them down.

*Harmon* The land for Leander was bought by the railroad company and sold to individuals. It consisted of the T. Chambers, the E.D. Herman, and the Tolbert Surveys. The company was known then as the Austin and Northwestern Railroad Co. The



to Burnet <sup>2</sup>  
track was finished in 1884 and at the celebration and barbecue the railroad company requested that the town be called Leander for Leander "Catfish" Brown who worked for the railroad company. Some say he was the first depot agent in Leander.

Tom Evans was the first Bagdad business man to move to Leander. He ran a hotel. Very soon John Heinatz, Speegel, Migell, Emmitt and Coon Wells, Mason, Jesse Humble, John Chapman, Fisk, Upchurch, Walker bought lots and moved to Leander. Dr. Jennings moved his two story drugstore and office to Leander with yolks of oxen and rollers.

The above names are very common around Leander to this day and these people are direct heirs of the early pioneers who settled in this part of Williamson County.

The Methodist Church was moved from Bagdad to Leander in or around 1884 and it is still in use today. The Presbyterians built a new church. Then came many churches and today Leander has the above mentioned plus a Church of Christ, Assembly of God, Church of God, Baptist and a Catholic Church.

Parker  
Lawek  
Stevenson,  
Leander had two lawyers in 1884. A.S. Walker and John W. Parks. The first doctor was Doctor Sam Woolsey. His heirs still own property in this area. We have had many good doctors in Leander. Dr. Woolsey, Jennings, Luck, Hazlewood, Coker, Robinson, Gardner, Alford, Osbern and Doctor Miller.

Today we have no country doctor. We have grown with the times and taken advantage of the hospitals, physicians and professional people in the larger towns which are near.

Masonic  
The Norton Moses Lodge No. 336 was started in 1871 in Bagdad and it was moved to Leander in 1899.

Leander has had three published newspapers. The Leander Times 1897, The Leander Record Nov. 13, 1901 and the Leander Light in 1925. At the present time we do not have a newspaper in Leander, however, one of the ladies of the Garden Club, Miss Leona Williamson, writes a weekly article in the Williamson County Sun.

Leander has several cemeteries near. White Stone, Davis and Bagdad, however the town of Leander has no cemetery by its name but prefer to use the three cemeteries which were already established.

Mr. and Mrs. Mood Wiley and Mr. Fred Henry worked up a beautiful history of Bagdad Cemetery in memory of their two sons



who are buried there. The Wiley family restored the 100 year old well at Bagdad and had a Historical Marker placed there August 27, 1972.

The first person to be buried at Bagdad was Babcock's four year old son. Born 1854 - Died 1858. The Babcocks donated the land for the cemetery.

Davis Cemetery, just three miles east of Leander is over 100 years old and quite a number of important people are buried there. Blackstone Harden Davis, who was a member of the Legislature is buried there - also the fourteen pioneer men who died in the Webster Massacre are buried in the Davis Cemetery on Ranch Road #2243.

The oldest grave around Leander seems to be that of Mary Fisk, wife of Greenleaf Fisk, who died in 1848 at the age of 30. She was the daughter of Tom Cashion Sr. ~~who married Judge Greenleaf Fisk.~~ (Mrs.)

Greenleaf  
mother

Moses R. Mennick was also an early settler and his grave shows 1874 - 1933.

The community of Leander is scattered. There are stores, shops, restaurants, filling stations, beauty parlors in many directions from say main town Leander. In fact, main town Leander is not building. The lumber yard is not being used. The bank burned and was not replaced. The Red & White General Store burned and was not replaced.

December 5, 1893 Leander opened the first free school. The school is now and has always been the one nucleus for Leander. Leander claims the largest school district in Williamson County.

Leander school has grown enormously in the last two decades. When I started teaching in Leander High School in 1948 we had 9 teachers and 300 students. In 1974, twenty six years later, we have 88 teachers and eighteen hundred thirty one students.

Leander has such a big school because all the little schools around consolidated with Leander. Pleasant Hill was first in 1928. Then June 24, 1938 the Leander School burned. We built a new school and Round Mountain and Volente schools consolidated in 1938.

In 1947 Leander built a new elementary school. In 1952 White Stone School consolidated with Leander. As I have stated before Leander school has grown steadily and increased in every



way. Now it is one of Williamson County's most modern high schools with all the modern class rooms, gymnasiums, Ag shops, homemaking department, Cosmetology building, Vocational Ag building, band hall and athletic departments.

The citizens of Leander organized a fire department in 1967. Mr. Bob Hall was the first fire chief. In 1969 E.E. McFarland was elected fire chief and holds that position at this writing in 1974.

When I was young and traveled through Leander I thought of it as a dark place by night and the Windmill Town by day. Every house seemed to have a private windmill, but Rural Electrification about 1936 changed all that. Leander residences installed electric lights and pumps and the town was lighted. In 1949 we got street lights. April 1, 1970, Leander citizens signed up for city water.

Leander has never incorporated. It was a county unit in the beginning and so it remains. The school is the only part of Leander which is independent from Williamson County.

Leander has long been a dry community but in 1973 an election was held to sell beer in Leander. It carried and we have one store that sells beer to go.

Leander is no longer the home of farmers, ranchers and stone workers alone. The territory is inhabited by many professional people as well. We have Doctors, lawyers, business men, realtors and members of the Senate and Legislature. A lot of these people in and around Leander can trace their Grandparents to the early days of Bagdad, Pleasant Hill, Jenks Branch and the communities near Leander.

Most of the people in Leander work in Austin, Round Rock, Georgetown and other towns in Central Texas.

Leander's Garden Club is made up of some seventeen members, most of whom can trace their ~~ancestrage~~ <sup>ancestr</sup> to Bagdad's early days. We are all very proud of the history of Leander and we want this marker on Highway #183 as a constant reminder to all who pass. We feel that we are rich in history because of the wonderful pioneers who endured the hardships of the early days.

We also want to preserve this bit of history for our future generations. We realize this history will become richer and more valuable as the years go by.



Land of Good Water  
by Clara S. Scarbrough

Culture of the Shin Oak Ridge Folk  
by J. Gordon Bryson

Travis County in Stone, Bronze and Aluminum  
by James Mulkey Owens

A History of Central Texas  
by Mary Starr Barkley

A School Composition  
by Curtis Barho

Bagdad Cemetery Article  
by Mr. and Mrs. Mood Wiley and Mr. Fred Henry

History of Texas  
Together with a Biographical History of Milam, Williamson,  
Bastrop, Travis, Lee and Burleson Counties.

Interviews (June 1974)

Roger and Mary Burleson  
Mrs. Eunice Wiley  
Miss Myreta Matthews  
Mrs. Mary ~~McLain~~ *Clain*  
Mrs. ~~Bernese~~ *Bernice* Wiley  
Mrs. Ada Mae Faubion  
Mrs. Irene Mason  
Members of the Garden Club

*Bernice* I wish to acknowledge and express thanks and appreciation to all who helped in any way with collecting material. Thanks to Mrs. ~~Bernese~~ Wiley for her bountiful amount of inspiration and to my daughter-in-law, Virginia Whitfield Naumann, who did the typing.

*Fully* Respective~~ly~~ submitted to the Williamson County Historical Survey Committee, Mrs. Clara Scarbrough, Chairman.

Leander Garden Club  
Written by  
Mrs. Malcolm Naumann  
Secretary of Leander Garden Club  
Leander, Texas



# 'Land of Good Water' selected as 1974's best historical book

The book *Land of Good Water (Takachue Pouetsu)*, A Williamson County, Texas, History, by Clara Stearns Scarbrough has been named the Best Historical Publication on a Regional or Local Level for 1974 by the Texas Historical Commission.

Mrs. Frank M. Covert III, vice-chairman of the commission presented the award to Mrs. Scarbrough at the regular meeting of the Woman's Club of Georgetown, Wednesday.

This comprehensive book vividly recounts the stories of the land, people, and events which culminated in the

Williamson County of the present. From prehistoric Indian groups to Spanish exploration, pioneer settlement to the Civil War, and from the beginnings of the railroad era into the present, *Land of Good Water* reflects the social, economic and political trends which established the county's heritage.

Mrs. Scarbrough, who is currently chairman of the Williamson County Historical Survey Committee, explained that she first got the idea for her book in 1948, when she wrote a series of articles on local communities for the

Williamson County Centennial Celebration.

"I realized that the histories of many of these small towns had never been done before," she said. "From that time on, I had it in my mind that I would like to write a comprehensive history on Williamson County."

As an assistant professor of music at the University of Texas in the 1960s, Mrs. Scarbrough had an opportunity to do part-time research on historical topics.

After collecting information on a steady basis for about five years, she started to write *Land of Good Water* in 1970. The book

was completed in about 2½ years, Mrs. Scarbrough said.

It went to press in late 1973 and was distributed in 1974. There are about 1000 copies in print, she said.

"I loved writing it," Mrs. Scarbrough stated. "The response by the public has been gratifying and surprising. I've had many letters and many words of encouragement."

Mrs. Scarbrough writes news stories and features for newspapers, has published several booklets, and was recently recognized in a national environmental feature writing contest.

The author holds two degrees from the University of Texas at Austin where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and was graduated summa cum laude.

She has been a music supervisor in several public schools and has taught music and journalism on the university level. In addition to teaching and writing, the author pursues numerous civic and artistic activities.

The SUN  
Sec. 1, Page 8  
Georgetown, Texas  
April 10, 1975

## Texas Historical Commission to meet April 16 in G-town

The Regional Meeting of the Texas Historical Commission will be held at Southwestern University Commons April 16. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. and the meeting will be completed by 3:30 p.m.

Reservations for the luncheon must be mailed or telephoned to Clara Scarbrough, chairperson of Williamson County Historical Committee. Deadline for reservations is noon today (April 10). The only cost for the meeting is three dollars for lunch.

"Everyone, whether they are members of the historical committee or not, is welcome to attend any or all of the meetings," Mrs. Scarbrough said.

"Texas Bound", a film on the county records inventory project will be shown.

Other items on the agenda include:

- The Care and Utilization of Museum Collections.
- "Graveyard of the Gulf," a documentary film on an underwater salvage operation of the Antiquities Commission.

- Legal responsibilities of the county committees.
- Developing your historical attractions.
- The role of the Bicentennial Celebration.
- Local History — a tour of Mood Hall exhibit and a visit to the Gabriel Mills log cabin.

The SUN  
Sec. 1, Page 9  
Georgetown, Texas  
April 10, 1975

The Austin American-Statesman

Wednesday, April 9, 1975

### Georgetown

The book "Land of Good Water (Takachue Pouetsu), A Williamson County, Texas, History," by Clara Stearns Scarbrough has been named the best historical publication on a regional or local level for 1974 by the Texas Historical Commission.

Mrs. Frank M. Covert III, vice chairman of the commission, presented the award to Mrs. Scarbrough at the regular meeting of the Woman's Club of Georgetown.

Mrs. Scarbrough is currently chairman of the Williamson County Historical Survey Committee.





**TOUR OF MOOD HALL MUSEUM** — Clara Scarbrough, (left), chairman of the Williamson County Historical Survey Committee conducted a tour of the museum on the Southwestern University campus for those attending the regional meeting of the Texas Historical Commission held Wednesday in Georgetown.

The SUN Georgetown, Texas  
Sec. 2, Page 2 April 10, 1975

**MRS. CLARA SCARBROUGH** receives a certificate from Mrs. Frank M. Covert III, vice chairman of the Texas Historical Commission, recognizing her recent book *Land of Good Water* as the best regional or local level history published in Texas in 1974. The presentation was made Wednesday afternoon at a meeting of the Georgetown Woman's Club, at the Country Club. The club heard Helen Morton of Austin give a delightful reading of "The Apollo of Bellac" by Jean Giraudoux as the featured entertainment.



The Sunday SUN  
Page 7

Georgetown, Texas  
April 13, 1975

# County Historical Survey group to host regional meeting

The Williamson County Historical Survey Committee met Thursday, April 3 in the conference room of the Georgetown Public Library. Mrs. Clara Scarbrough presided and after announcements of future programs of special interest introduced three guests from the Texas Historical Commission in Austin.

Joe Williams, Director of the National Registry of Texas Historical Places, Steve Smith, Field Worker, and Mike Yancey, Photographer are a team of three making a detailed survey of significant historic places in Texas. They requested the aid of this committee.

Mr. Williams urged this committee to get as much information as possible concerning sites and structures in this

county that may have national as well as state importance. So far there are only 259 recorded on the list in Texas with three of these in Williamson County.

Two well known in Texas are the Alamo and the Governor's Mansion. He said it is important to get exact location of buildings, bridges, quarries, mills, mounds and other objective things that are at least 50 years old as well as sites where really historic events took place. Steve Smith explained the accepted way to record the collection of data and Mike Yancey showed some very detailed pictures of old residences. He will do the picture making.

Sub-chairmen from several areas volunteered or were appointed to work on the survey in

Williamson County. They will need the help of people in their communities. These area and chairmen are: Andice-Gabriel Mills, Harold Asher; Bartlett-Schwertner, Mrs. Stanley Schwertner; Coupland, Burney Downing; Florence, Miss Effie McLeod; Georgetown, Mrs. Clara Scarbrough; Granger, Mrs. Stacy Labaj; Liberty Hill-Leander, Mrs. M. K. Richardson and Myreta Matthews; Round Rock, Mrs. John W. Ledbetter and Mrs. D. B. Gregg; Taylor, A. M. Ahlgreen and Rice's Crossing, Mahon Garry.

The Regional Meeting of the Texas Historical Commission will be held at Southwestern University in the Commons Building on Wednesday, April 16 starting at 9 o'clock and

lasting most of the afternoon. The Williamson County Committee will serve as hosts and help register guests. The meeting is open and all interested historians are welcome. There is no admission fee and a lunch ticket may be bought at the registration table for \$3.00.

Completed cemetery listings reported at this meeting were Florence, Land, Barker Family, Pennington Family, Sauls Family, Rice's Crossing and Pond Springs. Members responsible for these records are Miss Effie McLeod, Mrs. F. W. Buchanan, Miss Ruth Mantor, Mrs. Joe Hannah Forson and Mr. and Mrs. Mahon Garry (Taylor area) and Mrs. D. B. Gregg.

Junior Historian Chapters are

on the increase. Leander High School has an active organization. Mrs. Homer Caswell reported having made contact with Superintendent Frost of Georgetown High School and received his support. Miss Ruth Mantor and A. M. Ahlgreen are working with Taylor High School and announced a meeting for April 18 and invited Mrs. Clara Scarbrough to attend and take part.

Burney Downing, a new member, reported that the old Coupland Depot is now set up in place and will be used as a museum. Williamson County needs museums! There are many rare objects in attics, cellars, basements, old barns and storerooms that most people would gladly donate to a museum. There are many old pictures, annuals, record books

and letters in boxes and bundles in old trunks that are visual and recorded history beyond compare just waiting for a proper and secure place to be shared.

This committee is pleased and proud that Clara Scarbrough, the Williamson County Chairman, is the winner of the Texas Historical Commission's 1974 Award for Best Historical Publication on a Regional or Local Level, for her book, *Land of Good Water* (Takachou Pougisu). A Williamson County, Texas, History.

Besides the three guests there were 24 members present representing the community of Andice-Gabriel Mills Bartlett-Schwertner, Coupland Florence, Georgetown Granger, Jonah, Liberty Hill Rice's Crossing, Round Rock and Taylor.

—Report





**CERTIFICATES AWARDED** — State and national certificates commemorating the nation's Bicentennial celebration were awarded to Georgetown Saturday by Texas Bicentennial Commissioner Sam Kinch Sr. at the dedication of the VFW Park on

2nd Street. Accepting the honors were Mrs. Lynn Burnette and Mrs. Jo Ann Morse, Georgetown co-chairmen of the Bicentennial.

The SUN  
 Sec. 1, Page 9  
 Georgetown, Texas  
 April 24, 1975

The Williamson County SUN      Georgetown, Texas  
 Section 2, Page 8                      Thursday, May 1, 1975

# Junior Historian chapter to be chartered at G.H.S.

The Social Studies Department of Georgetown High School has announced the formation of a chapter of JUNIOR HISTORIAN.

The founding of this chapter is one of the ways G.H.S. will be commemorating the nation's Bicentennial. It is especially important because it will provide a means for continued study and research of local history for young people in future years.

The core of JUNIOR HISTORIAN is its research activities for high school students in their own community. A few of these activities are tombstone rubbings and analysis of dates; collections of old recipes, diaries, letters, photographs; recordings of first hand accounts from local residents, and preservation of contemporary history on film.

Some of the G.H.S. Vocational students have already learned, first hand, pioneer skills by working on the Bicentennial log cabin. Other areas of special interest to Vocational students might be researching early farms and farm equipment and early doctors and medicine in Williamson County.

The JUNIOR HISTORIAN serves the school and the com-

munity in helping young people discover and understand history as they find it where they live; history is preserved which otherwise might be lost, and as members of the community work with young people on these projects, all are touched with a greater awareness of our heritage.

There will be a special program at G.H.S. auditorium Tuesday, May 6, 9:30 -10:30 for all students who wish to become charter members.

Ken Ragsdale, Educational Services Director of the Texas State Historical Association, will give a slide presentation of JUNIOR HISTORIAN chapters across the state. Mrs. Clara Scarbrough, Mrs. Homer Caswell and other members of the Williamson County Survey Committee will be guests. Marietta Muford, G.H.S. history teacher, will be chapter sponsor and Mrs. Caswell will be co-sponsor.

All parents and interested members of the community will be most welcome.



# Texas Historical Commission holds regional meeting in Georgetown

County Historical Committee members have a legal responsibility to understand the term "a recorded Texas Historical Landmark." Bob Watson, director of programs for the Texas Historical Commission said Wednesday.

Watson spoke at the regional meeting of the Texas Historical Commission held Wednesday in Georgetown. Eighteen towns and counties were represented.

Watson delineated other legal responsibilities and discussed the role of the county committees in the Bicentennial Celebration.

The Williamson County Historical Survey Committee, chaired by Clara Scarbrough, took the visitors on a tour of the Mood Hall Museum at Southwestern University; Others also visited the Georgetown site of the Gabriel Mills log cabin restoration.

These are examples of what a small community can do with the professional help of the state commission, Mrs. Scarbrough told the history buffs. She said the professional staff members in Austin are available to help on any project with historical value undertaken by a community.

Speaking on "The Care and Utilization of Museum Collections" Cindy Sherrell said keep-



**BOB WATSON**  
—Texas Historical Commission

ing records of artifacts is important. She said that the museum's director should prepare forms with all donors signing legal agreements.

Deolece Parmelee, director of research for the state commission gave suggestions of where to find data in writing histories of landmarks or of people.

"The history of land is in the county clerk's office," Mrs. Parmelee said. "To me and many history buffs — the land records in the office of the county clerk contain enough human interest and romance to entertain a person for a lifetime."

Deeds, deeds of trust, mortgages, and from the probate files of the county clerk, wills help explain history, explained Mrs. Parmelee.

"Love and hate are written into wills," Mrs. Parmelee said.

Other records for historical information are census records. Mrs. Parmelee said that the census records tell "a great deal about the town as well as about its individual citizens."

Tax records and gravestones in cemeteries also are information sources.

Another part of the program was a showing of the film "Graveyard of the Gulf" which is a documentary of a THC project headed by Marine Archeologist Carl Clausen of Georgetown.

Clausen and a team of college students spent a summer diving and recovering artifacts from a Spanish galleon that wrecked in the Gulf of Mexico during the time of the Spanish conquest of the New World.

"Texas Bound," a film on the County Records Inventory Project, was also shown at the meeting.

Mrs. Scarbrough expressed appreciation to Dr. and Mrs. Van Tipton who furnished and

arranged the red, white and blue flowers (blue bonnets) for the occasion.

Laverne Faubian and Marietta Matthews registered guests.

Mrs. Frank M. Covert III, vice-chairman of the board of the state commission attended the meeting.

Host towns were Georgetown, Taylor, Round Rock, Florence, Liberty Hill, Jarrell and Gabriel Mills.

Other cities represented were Austin, Marlin, Bertram, Burnet, Killeen, Temple, Meridian, Melvin, Valley Mills, Clifton, San Antonio, Mertzon, Belton, Lampasas, Cleburne, Caldwell, Burleson and Brown Counties.

The Sunday SUN Georgetown, Texas  
Page 2 April 20, 1975

## PROGRAM

- 9:00 a.m. Registration
- 9:30 a.m. Welcome and Introduction of Counties Present
- 9:45 a.m. Sherlock Hemlock: History and Mystery  
Where do I find the data?  
How do I write up the history?
- 10:30 a.m. Regional Historical Resource Depositories  
"Texas Bound", a film on the County Records Inventory Project
- 11:15 a.m. The Care and Utilization of Museum Collections
- 12 Noon Lunch
- 1:15 p.m. "Graveyard of the Gulf"—a documentary film on the Underwater Salvage operations of the Antiquities Committee
- 2:00 p.m. Several Topics Relating to County Committees  
Legal Responsibilities of County Committees  
The County Committee and Local Historical Societies  
Developing Your Historical Attractions  
The Role of the County Committee in the Bicentennial Celebration
- 3:00 p.m. Local History—A historical paper given by a representative of the host committee.

### Program Faculty:

- Mrs. Deolece Parmelee, Director of Research, THC
- Mrs. Cindy Sherrell, Director of Museum Services, THC
- Bob Watson, Director of Programs, THC

## MEETING SCHEDULE

April 7 \* Quitman  
Arnold Holly Hall (Wood Co. Electric Coop)  
State Highway 37 South  
Reservations: Mr. V. B. Shaw, P.O. Box 337  
Quitman, TX 78783  
Lunch: \$3.00



# G'town students to publish sketches of historical sites

Junior and senior high school students in Georgetown's resource education classes are preparing for publication a sketch book of historical buildings in the city as a part of the 1976 Bicentennial celebration.

When the collection is complete, it will be published by the Educational Service Center in Austin. Copies will be distributed to all students participating in the project and a few copies will be sold during Bicentennial festivities.

For the first step students went to the library to learn what sites should be selected for sketching. After that students on the site selecting committee toured the city to decide which buildings should be sketched.

Clara Scarbrough, chairman of the Williamson County Historical Survey Committee spoke to the students and suggested possible sites.

Students are sketching the Macedonia Baptist Church, Mood Hall at Southwestern University, Grace Episcopal

Church, First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, Williamson County courthouse and jail, old Farmer's State Bank, old Georgetown High School and other buildings.

A committee to set criteria to decide what will be selected for publication was also appointed.

"Not all of the sketches will be used in the book," said Elva Garcia, resource teacher and sponsor of the project.

The editorial committee will write brief paragraphs describing each sketch included in the book. That committee will also be responsible for choosing a title for the book, according to Mrs. Garcia.

The sponsor said that she will encourage each student to have everyone who worked on the project to autograph his or her copy of the book.

"The sketch book will be something for the students to have as a keepsake," said Mrs. Garcia, "plus they are learning a lot about Georgetown while working on the project."

The SUN Georgetown, Texas  
Sec.-2, Page 3 April 24, 1975



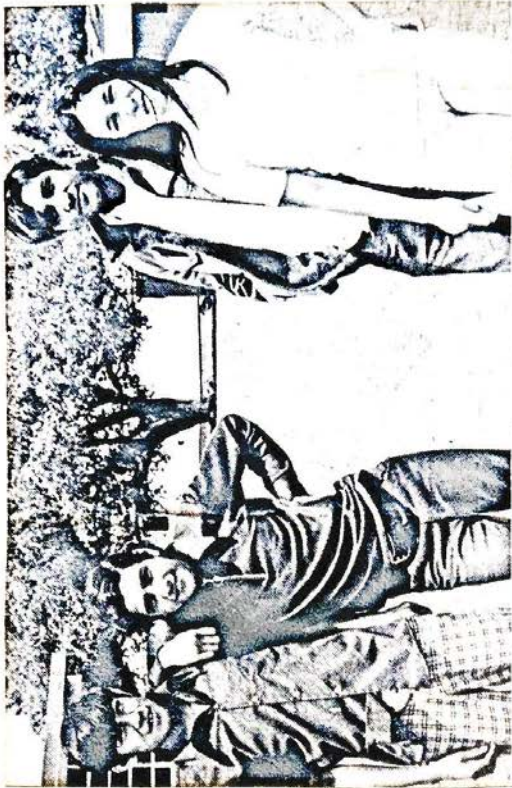
**EDITORIAL COMMITTEE** — (Back row) Janie Maldonado, Juan Floriano, Mike Maldonado, (Front row) Juan Mireles, Sylvia Ybarra, Carolina Ayala, Norma Rodriguez and Cynthia Jones.

**RESEARCH COMMITTEE** — Sponsor and Teacher Elva Garcia, Jesse Perez, Jesus Ayala, Joe Mireles, Charlie Ybarra, Edward Guajardo and Martha Rodriguez.





**SITE SELECTING COMMITTEE** — Jose Floriano, Beatriz Floriano, Carmela Gomez, Juan Rodriguez, Mary Salazar and Julie Esquerre.



**PUBLICATION COMMITTEE** — Danny Ybarra, Mike Salazar, Manuel Ledesma and Lucy Rodriguez.



**SKETCHING COMMITTEE** — Amy Jasso, Ninfa Salazar, Candy Rodriguez, Betty Hinojosa and Irene Mireles.

## Bagdad Cemetery census reveals 1,450 marked graves

On April 20 a group of Leander people met at Bagdad Cemetery and took a census of the names and dates on the grave stones.

A record of this count will be placed in various libraries, approximately 1,450 marked graves.

Those who came to help were Edwin and Anna Ray Borho, Malcolm and Pauline Naumann, Pat and Nellie Mason, Hershell and Billye Wiley, Wanda Fulkes and Bobbie Mckissick, Nancy Crider and Edna Beasley, Frances and Sharon Harrell, Pat and Gladys Ward, Cora Wray and Nora Hyland, Beulah Dooley and Leona Williamson.

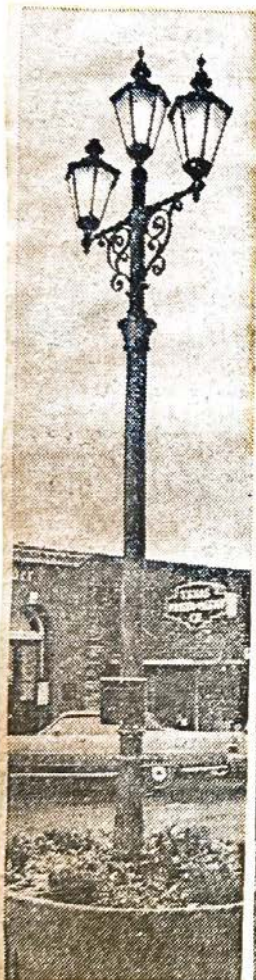
There were a number of visitors who lent their moral support. They were Mrs. Eula Craven, H. H. Powell, Velva Profitt, Mood and Bernece Wiley, Mr. and Mrs. Lois Giddens, Mr. and Mrs. Neal Landry, Fred Henry and others.

The Williamson County SUN  
 Section 2, Page 9  
 Georgetown, Texas  
 Thursday, May 1, 1975

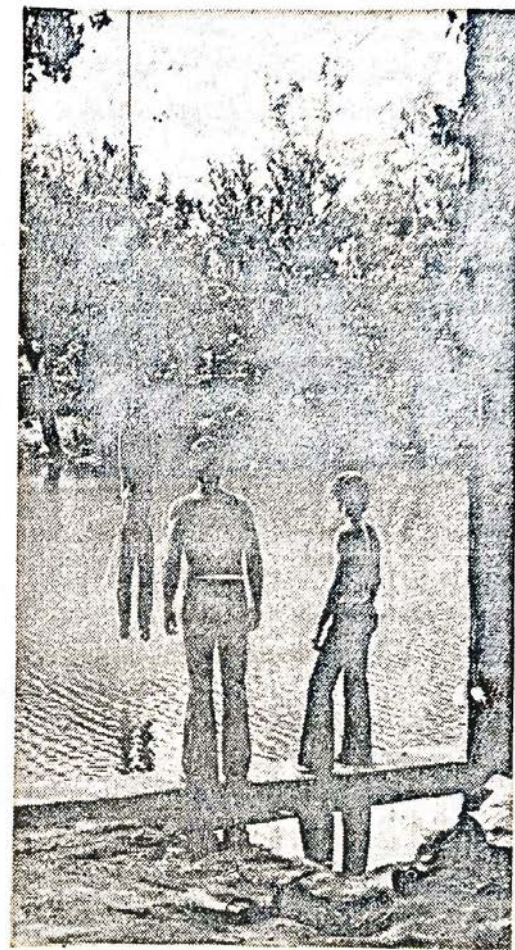


# Round Rock, Georgetown Offer Fun, Look Into Historic Past

The Austin American-Statesman  
Friday, May 2, 1975



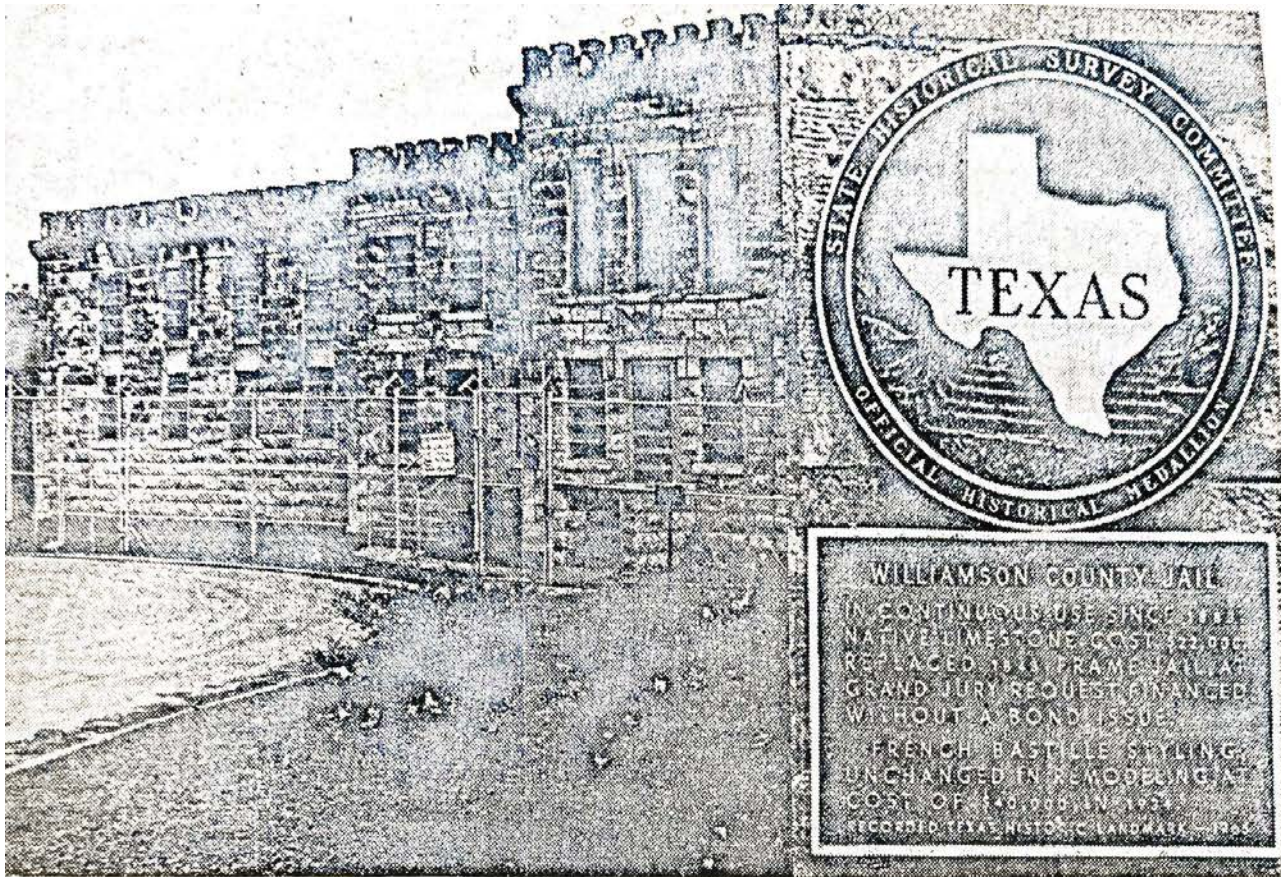
OLD-STYLE — Lamp posts in Round Rock have an early-American flavor which adds to the charm of the Central Texas community. Plaques on the posts honor early community leaders. (Staff photo by Lash Lashbrook)



SAM BASS GRAVE IN OLDTOWN CEMETARY NEAR ROUND ROCK  
19th Century outlaw "cashed in his chips" on 27th birthday

Staff photo by Tom Lanke





**WILLIAMSON COUNTY JAIL**  
 IN CONTINUOUS USE SINCE 1855  
 NATIVE LIMESTONE COST \$22,000  
 REPLACED JULY FRAME JAIL BY  
 GRAND JURY REQUEST CHANGED  
 WITHOUT A BOND ISSUE  
 FRENCH BASTILLE STYLING  
 UNCHANGED IN REMODELING AT  
 COST OF \$46,000 IN 1973  
 RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK 1983

## Bid accepted for moving Cabin chimney

Georgetown Bicentennial Commission accepted a bid for \$1000 from Edward Valdez to move and rebuild exactly as it now stands the chimney on the Gabriel Mills log cabin.

The 125 year-old cabin was contributed to the city of Georgetown by Mr. and Mrs. Emile Jamail of Austin as part of the 1976 Bicentennial celebration. The Bicentennial Commission has raised funds for moving and restoring the historic cabin which was built in the western Williamson County community of Gabriel Mills.

Earlier in the year, the cabin was moved to the Georgetown City Park on Austin Ave. Georgetown High School students have rebuilt the cabin, except for the chimney and other final restoration processes such as the chinking of holes.

L. A. Rutledge, a Georgetown Bicentennial commissioner, reported Tuesday that concrete has been poured in San Gabriel Park to expand the present slab. Eight-hundred dollars was donated for that project and to install lights surrounding the slab by the Williamson County Sheriff's Posse.



**SAMUEL MATHER CABIN WAS DONATED BY AUSTINITE**  
 Cabin renovation is Bicentennial Heritage project

Staff photo by Tom Lankester

Georgetown, Texas  
 Thursday, May 1, 1975

The Williamson County SUN  
 Section 1, Page 9



# Historical Committee helps Junior Historians

The Williamson County Historical Survey Committee met May 1 in the conference room of the Georgetown Public

Library with Mrs. Clara Scarbrough, chairman, presiding.

The regional meeting of the Texas Historical Commission held in Georgetown at Southwestern University Commons on April 16 was reported to have been very interesting and educational. The members of this local committee contributed to its success in several ways including pre-planning for the meal, handling pre-registration cards and the red, white and blue floral decorations. They also conducted guided tours through the Mood Hall Museum on the campus.

It is not surprising that the promotion of the American Bicentennial programs and the Historical Survey Committee goals are almost one and the same — creating an interest in our historic past at the local level. Junior Historian groups are being organized and chartered in Taylor and Georgetown High Schools. An all day program took place in Taylor on April 18. The high school students attended sessions in groups at the Taylor Public Library. They heard speeches by Representative Dan Kubiak and other historians, looked at pictures and slides and listened to descriptions of incidents in the high school life of Taylor residents. The present Taylor High School replaced the first one built in 1882. Committee members taking part in the presentation were A. M. Ahlgren, Miss Ruth Mantor, Mrs. John Cornforth, former county chairman, and possibly others.

Mrs. Clara Scarbrough, county chairman, is also co-chairman of the Heritage committee of the Georgetown Bicentennial Commission. In that capacity she spoke to the students in resource education classes in the junior and senior high school in Georgetown recently. The groups will prepare for publication a sketch book of historical buildings in the area as a part of the Bicentennial Celebration. Mrs. Elna Garcia, resource teacher and sponsor of the project, indicated that the collection will be published by the Educational Service Center in Austin.

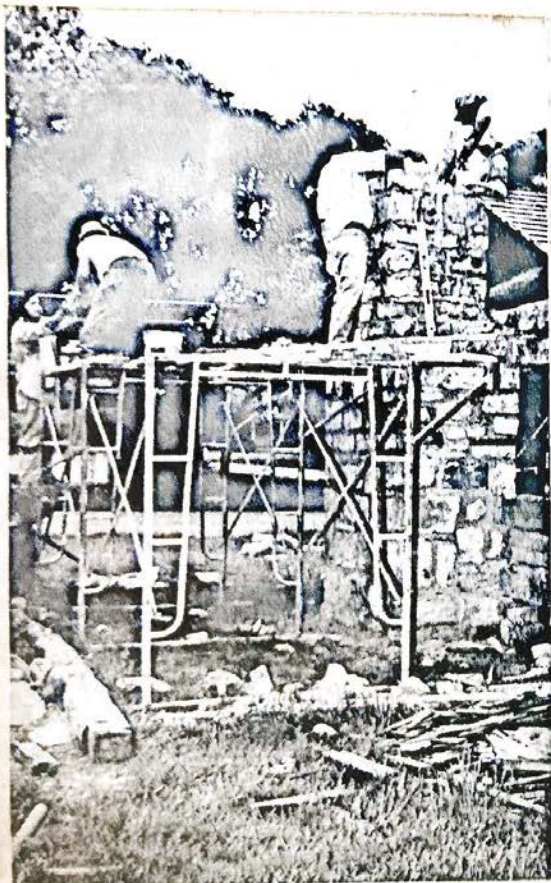
A Junior Historian chapter has been formed in the Social Studies Department of Georgetown High School. At a special program Tuesday May 6, Ken Ragsdale, Educational Service Director of the Texas State Historical Association, will present a slide showing of Junior Historians across the state. Mrs. Scarbrough and Mrs. Homer Caswell have been encouraging this organization. Mrs. Marietta Mugford will be the sponsor and Mrs. Caswell will serve as co-sponsor.

Cemetery listings over the county continue to be reported. The sub-chairman for the eastern part of Williamson County is Thomas McDonald of Taylor. Miss Laverne Faubion of Georgetown is the sub-chairman for western Williamson County. They told of some important points to look for in recording cemeteries. Since these lists are to be made available to the public in various libraries, locations should be identified. Specific directions on how to get there would help researchers who are not familiar with the area. Names and dates of those buried and date of the first burial should be included. If possible the names of land donors and trustees would be historically useful and might furnish old records and deeds. Many cemeteries are known by more than one name so all names need to be listed with some explanation. The location of more than 170 burial grounds have been reported.

Ninety-two of these have been recorded giving names and dates and, in some cases, original trustees and donors of land.

The 21 members present represented Andice-Gabriel Mills, Florence, Georgetown, Granger, Jarrell, Liberty Hill, and the Taylor-Jonah - Rice's Crossing area.

—Reporter



**CHIMNEY IS RESTORED** on the Gabriel Mills log cabin which was contributed to the City of Georgetown by Emile Jamail of Austin as part of the 1976 Bicentennial celebration. Edward Valdez and his employees (shown here) were awarded a \$1000 contract for moving and restoring the chimney on the 125 year-old cabin, which is located in the Georgetown City Park on Austin Avenue.



# Historical marker unveiled in Leander Sunday

A State Historical Marker for the community of Leander was unveiled in a ceremony punctuated by the roar of passing automobiles on highway 183 inside the city limits of Leander, Sunday afternoon.

The plaque, made possible through efforts by the Leander Garden Club in cooperation with the Williamson County Historical Committee, was unveiled by Mrs. Irene Mason and Miss Leona Williamson, daughters of Leander pioneers.

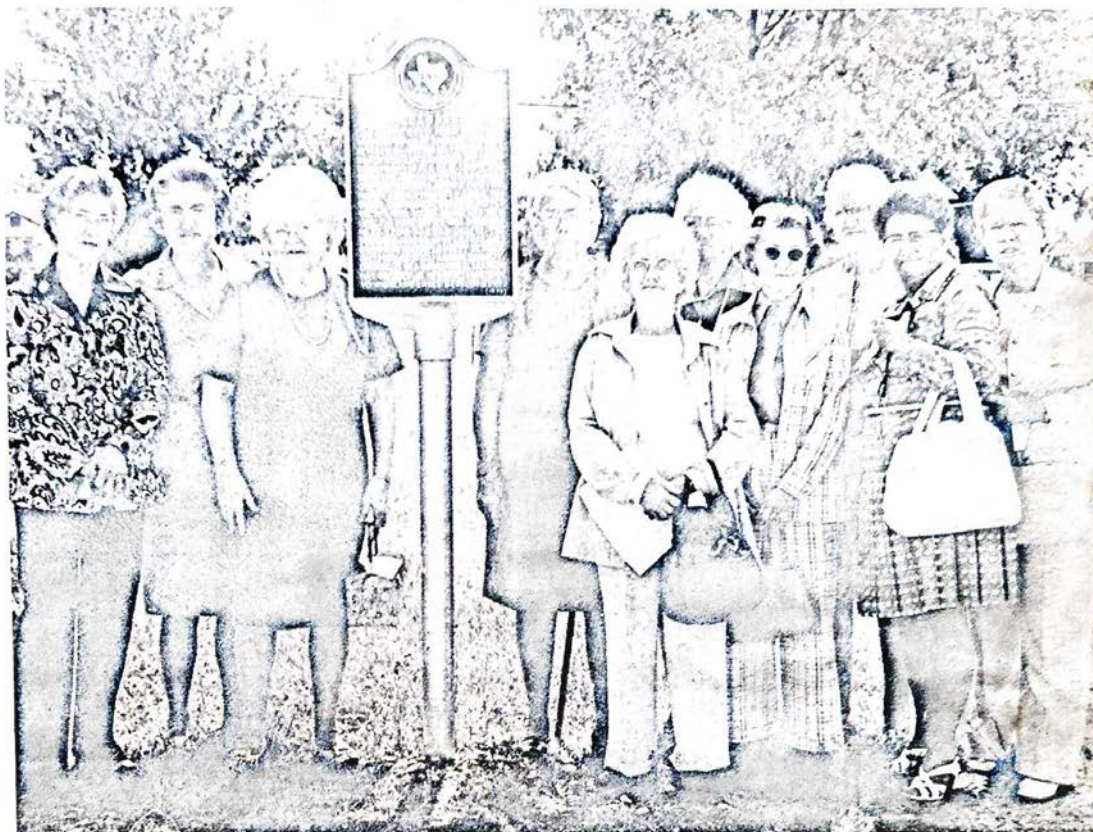
LOIS GIDDENS, another Leander pioneer, was the main speaker. He recounted a history of Leander, telling of early struggles, accomplishments, historic events and personalities, some remembered by those present.

The township of Leander was surveyed in 1882 when merchants of Bagdad, then a thriving town of many businesses located about 1 mile west, refused to let a railroad come through their town, although the railroad offered \$1000 for right-of-way. So, Leander got the railroad and also very quickly the business firms from Bagdad, which quickly became a ghost town.

Leander's first school, Giddens said, opened in 1893. Now Leander has the largest school district and one of the most outstanding school systems in the county.

THE GARDEN CLUB is made up of seventeen members, most of whom can trace their ancestry to Bagdad's early days.

Mrs. Don Scarbrough, Williamson County Historical Committee chairman, read the



LEANDER GARDEN CLUB LADIES raised funds and worked with the Williamson County Historic Committee to provide a State Historic Marker unveiled Sunday afternoon. Left to right: Mrs. Malcolm Naumann, Mrs. Edna Beasley, Mrs. Irene Mason, Miss Leona Williamson, Mrs. Velma Profitt, Mrs. Eula Craven, Mrs. Beulah Dooley, president of the Garden Club,

Mrs. Essie Wiley, Mrs. Roy Carpenter and Mrs. Mamie Morgan. Stone and tablet at left memorialized a terrible event that happened in 1839 near present day Leander when Comanche Indians killed fourteen men in what became known as the Webster Massacre.

plaque to the assembled group. "Come in close," she suggested. "I am an old school

teacher but I still can't talk above the passing automobiles." The plaque, located so that passing motorists can stop and read it, has the following inscription:

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## LEANDER

LEANDER GREW FROM THE ONCE THRIVING TOWN OF BAGDAD, FOUNDED IN 1854 (1 MI. W). WHEN THE AUSTIN & NORTHWESTERN RAILROAD BYPASSED BAGDAD IN 1882, A NEW TOWN WAS SURVEYED AND NAMED FOR RAILROAD OFFICIAL LEANDER BROWN (1817-89). HOMES AND BUSINESSES FROM THE OLDER COMMUNITY QUICKLY MOVED TO THE NEW SITE ALONG THE RAIL LINE. THE POST OFFICE WAS BROUGHT HERE FROM BAGDAD IN 1882. THE SCHOOL, STARTED HERE IN 1893, HAS GROWN INTO THE LARGEST SCHOOL DISTRICT IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY. ORIGINALLY IN A RURAL AREA, LEANDER HAS BOOMED IN RECENT YEARS DUE TO HIGHLAND LAKES DEVELOPMENT.

(1975)



The invocation was given by the Rev. Harry Moore and the concluding prayer by the Rev. Bob Wilson. Mrs. Malcolm Naumann, past president of the Leander Garden Club presided in the ceremony. Mrs. Dooley is the current club president.

LOIS GIDDENS, a resident of Leander for more than 75 years, was the main speaker, telling of the community's early day prosperity (bank, hotel, stores, etc.) and recalling many interesting events to his delighted audience.



WOODMEN OF THE WORLD, 1914 — 'Son' Glass is the owner of this 61 year old picture of the Georgetown Woodmen. Friends have helped him identify some of the handsome lodge members, but interest is high as to who the others are. Possibly some sharp memoried SUN readers can help. Front row No. 1 is Arthur

Walker, No. 3 Mr. McGlamery, No. 4 Claude Hausenfluck, No. 5 Robert Lewis, No. 6 Dee Hausenfluck. Second row, No. 1 John W. Glass, No. 3 Lt. Hugh McGlamery; back row, No. 1 Otto Grumbles, No. 2 Henry Brooks (?), No. 4 Adam Reagan.

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May 22, 1975

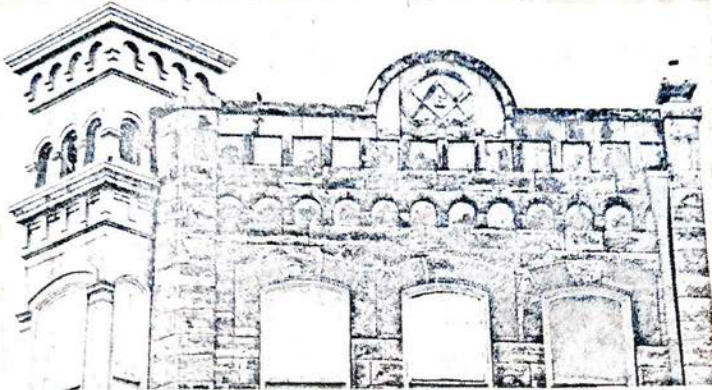


# San Gabriel Masonic Lodge

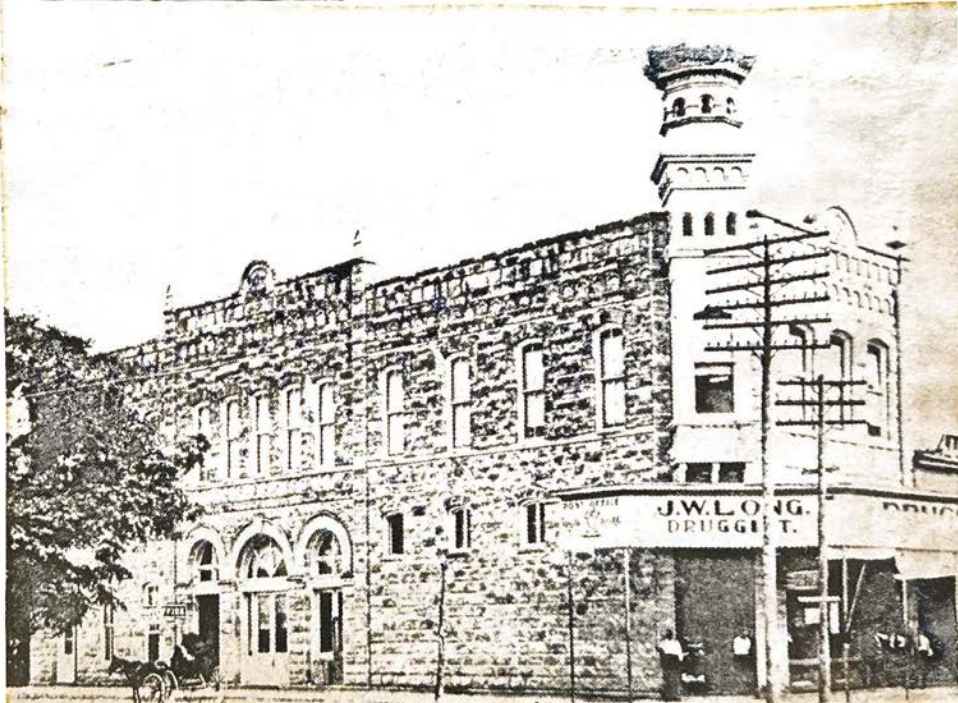
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Georgetown, Texas  
May 22, 1975

## and how it grew!



**THE GRAND MASONIC EMBLEM**, cut in stone, centers the handsome old Masonic Temple, built in 1900, which is one of the prominent buildings of the proposed Historic Square District of Georgetown. The emblem is repeated both on the west and north sides of the structure. Two feathered visitors enjoy the tiny window and ledge of the roof.



**HORSE AND BUGGY DAYS**

**GEORGETOWN AREA MASONS** have met upstairs in this building since 1900. The Georgetown Post Office sign can be seen just behind the horse and buggy, evidently left there while someone went in for his mail. J. W. Long occupied the west end of the building downstairs with his drug business. Note the crown-shaped dome atop the corner cupola. Could be half a dozen drug store cowboys grace the corner of the sidewalk.



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by CLARA SCARBROUGH

The present home of San Gabriel Masonic Lodge is one of the handsome buildings on the Courthouse Square of Georgetown. Built 75 years ago, its four walls were erected by the time the famous Galveston storm hit September 8, 1900, and local citizens were concerned that the terrific hurricane winds would damage or tumble them. They needn't have worried. It was said then, and is still often repeated, that if Belford Lumber Company built it, it was the best. Belford had contracted to put up the two story Masonic structure for \$8100 late in April of 1900. "The four sheer walls of the Temple" stood firm through the storm, no doubt enhancing the solid reputation of the construction firm.

THE MASONIC TEMPLE, as it was called, stands at the corner of Seventh Street and Main Street in the middle of the proposed Historic District of Georgetown. The downstairs is occupied by Atkin Furniture Company, which has been there since 1925, but the upstairs has always been reserved for the Masonic Lodge. The meeting and other rooms are approached by a rather elegant, wide stairway, with handsome light fixtures of the period on each side of the stairs.

Prior to 1900, the Lodge had a two story wooden building on the same lot, used the upper story for meetings, and rented the first floor to the post office. When the Masons decided to erect the new building, they sold the frame one to the Knights of Pythias Lodge who moved the old frame structure to a location south of the present post office on East 8th Street, and the postal business was moved with it while the Masonic building was constructed.

As construction progressed on the fine old building and the hurricane winds of September 1900 reached inland from the Galveston storm, Belford temporarily braced the free standing walls. The cornerstone had been donated by Judge George W. Glasscock (son of the pioneer who gave land to Williamson County in return for selecting Georgetown as the county seat and naming the town in his honor). Masonic ceremonies for laying the cornerstone were held July 6, 1900, and the building was completed December 8, the same year.

THE POST OFFICE was promptly moved into the new building, occupying the smaller section on the northeast end, which had its own separate entrance on the north adjacent to the doors leading up the stairs to the Masonic rooms. The post office remained here until 1912, when it moved to the Robertson Building on the north side of the Square, where Gold's and, until recently, Henderson's, were situated. Later, sometime in the 1920s, the office moved into the Miles Brothers building, then in 1932, into their new Federal Post Office Building, still in use.

The other early occupant of the Temple was a drug store, first owned and operated by George Atkinson, later sold to J. W. Long Druggist, who remained there until in 1925 when S. T. Atkin Furniture acquired the lease for the first floor. J. Thatcher Atkin, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Atkin, recalls that Mr. Long installed a soda fountain in his store, rectangular in shape, in the front (west end) of his store. This was one of the early cold drink fountains in town. A hall or passageway between the drug store and post office space was closed off, but after the post office left the building, the hall was opened and now leads from Mr. Atkin's main showroom to a storage area in the rear.

SAN GABRIEL MASONIC LODGE found sufficient space in the building to rent offices at different times to three doctors. The first of these was Dr. Henschen, who had his office on the balcony of the drug store's upstairs — a balcony still in use by



AFTER

SUN PHOTOGRAPHER DAVID TRUE happened to position his camera at the very same angle as someone else did for the "before picture" above. But the present day cupola has lost its dome, and the building now has automobiles in place of horses and a television aerial.

Mr. Atkin. Dr. Henschen wore a duster and drove an electric runabout around Georgetown. His home was a two story building located where the present Georgetown Medical and Surgical Clinic stands on University Avenue.

Dr. W. M. Schultz occupied office space in the back (east) end of the building, behind the soda fountain. He loved fishing and spent many hours at this hobby, coming to a tragic end when he fell from the bank at Katy Lake one day and drowned.

A doctor of veterinary medicine, named Price, had an office in the Masonic Building sometime after Drs. Henschen and Schultz were there. Dr. Price was an extremely large man (whose wife was quite a small person, comments Mr. Atkin), and one time got into an argument with the town night watchman, Alvin Townsley. Townsley shot the doctor, but the padding of fat deflected the bullet, which might otherwise have killed him, and Dr. Price recovered. (The night watchman later received a prison sentence after another shooting resulting from arguments at a football game in which two men from Giddings, one a state representative, were shot.)

A DOUBLE TRAGEDY occurred at the door of the post office while it was in the Masonic building. A prominent Georgetown man, J. T. Sneed, after collecting his mail in the post office, stepped outside with it and was shot and killed by a man who stood across the street, about where the Georgetown Public Library is now. Sneed's assailant then turned the gun on himself and took his own life.

But many happier events took place in these surroundings. The soda fountain of the store was a popular meeting place for townspeople and for visitors from out of town on business at the Courthouse, or attending one of the "First Monday" events which included an all-day sale on the Courthouse grounds, and picnics on the lawn of the Square, enjoyed by visitors and Georgetownites alike.



S. T. ATKIN, an inventor who patented a special kind of flue and marketed it with considerable success, in 1925 moved his furniture business from the area east of the present Public Library into the Masonic Building first floor. About that time, his only son, J. Thatcher Atkin, received his degree from Southwestern University, and Mr. and Mrs. Atkin and young Thatcher took a trip into west Texas. While at Alpine, Mr. S. T. Atkin suffered a heart attack and died. Mrs. Atkin, who had assisted her husband in the business and was familiar with it, continued to operate it. Thatcher had accepted a teaching position in Elgin for the fall, but after his father's death, he resigned that job and remained in Georgetown to work at the store with his mother. Thatcher was imperturbed by Southwestern University to take a teaching position in freshman mathematics during the mornings, which he accepted, but continued in the furniture business afternoons in the firm with his mother.

#### SAN GABRIEL MASONIC LODGE

San Gabriel Masonic Lodge No. 89 of Georgetown was the first Masonic Lodge to be organized in Williamson County. Eight men presented a petition to the Grand Lodge of Texas in 1851 asking that they be permitted to form a Lodge, and on May 18, 1851, the Grand Master of the State Lodge signed a dispensation granting the request. Those signing the original petition and listed as charter members were men from several parts of the new county: C. C. Arnett, Joseph Rubarth, Samuel Patterson, C. C. Cook, J. A. Chism, J. T. Cook, James Armstrong, and E. F. Story.

The State Grand Master Andrew Neill appointed John T. Cook, First Master; James Armstrong, First Senior Warden,

and Edward F. Story, First Junior Warden. Within a few days, on May 22, 1851, a group of Master Masons met at Georgetown — J. T. Cox, E. F. Story, C. C. Arnett, James Roberts, C. C. Cook, Jos. Rubarth, Sam'l Mather, A. H. Raines/ or Baines (found written both ways in early records), and W. H. Cushney. The Lodge continued under its special dispensation until January 21, 1852, when proceedings began for chartering San Gabriel Lodge. Charter was granted on January 23, 1851.

At chartering, new officers were chosen: John T. Cox, First Worshipful Master, and James Armstrong, E. F. Story, I. K. Branch, N. B. Johnson, Sam Mather, Jos. Rubarth, and I. R. (?) Fleming, other officers.

THE "ROCK HOUSE" of the Lodge was mentioned in 1851, and in the October 18, 1851 minutes, the organization contracted to build a "Lodge Room" on their rock house. Other names appearing in the minutes for that year included N. B. Johnson, Fred R. Hile, Jas. H. Addison, Jas. W. Branch, J. S. Mercer, A. J. McKay, T. D. Allen, Jas. W. Crop, John W. Flemming, N. Beardsley, F. F. Miller and W. H. Fishmell. Those present at the December 1851 meeting were J. T. Cox, D. C. Cowen (sic.), E. F. Story, T. R. Burch, N. B. Johnson, Jos. Rubarth, Samuel Mather, Jno. W. Flemming, James Miller, R. Garves (sic.), J. B. Harrell, Jas. Branch, J. P. Patterson, Jesse Mercer, and C. C. Cook. (Spelling from minutes is adhered to, although some is apparently incorrect: i.e., D. C. Cowan is correct.)

Deed Book III, page 121 of Williamson County Deeds records that on January 29, 1852, Newton B. Johnson, owner of "a certain stone house" located on the corner of Brushy and Oak streets (now Austin Avenue and 8th) in the west corner of the block south of the Square, consented for the San Gabriel Lodge "to have erected on the top of the walls of said stone house. . . a Lodge Room comprising the frame building above the walls of said stone house" for the sole use of the Lodge for a consideration of \$5.

On March 27, 1852, Masters degrees were awarded to W. G. Hubbard, John Miller, Noah McChristian, John Barton, R. L. Matthews, and John H. Mathews (sic.). Minutes of about this time indicate that there was a continuing interest in the gold fever in California. On March 2, 1852, "Bro. A. Beardsley being on his way to California, prayed for a demit which was granted him." In 1853, it was noted that dispensation for lodges had been granted for chapters at Round Rock and Gabriel Mills (Mount Horeb).

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In 1857, the Lodge was still meeting upstairs south of the Square, in the same building mentioned above, and by this time the lower floor was a saloon-ten pin alley "and had all the appearances that go with a frontier resort of this character," according to an undated clipping from the SUN. That same year, Colonel W. C. Dalrymple, a Lodge member, was praised in the minutes for his service in the Texas Rangers, Scouts, the Army of Sam Houston and battles on the frontier. A street had been named Dalrymple in his honor, later changed to Forest Street.

COLONEL DUDLEY H. SNYDER, well-known cattleman, received his Master Mason degree on January 12, 1858, from the Georgetown Lodge. On May 29, 1858, the Lodge purchased a lot from Dr. D. F. Knight on the east side of the Square. They paid \$1,000 for this property and instructed workmen to "take anything necessary from the present Lodge to the new to make repair or to use therein." A note was given to Dr. Knight for the balance on the "building." It is assumed that the Lodge meant to make this their headquarters.

Effects of the Civil War are reflected in minutes of that period. A number of times, special action was asked for and generally taken to allow members to obtain their Master Mason degrees prior to leaving for service in the war, as was the case in late October of 1861 with Ed H. Von Trees (sic.) who wished his degree in order "that he might proceed to Kentucky." Meetings were sprinkled with efforts to rent space or sell the "Old Lodge Room." In December 1861 the Lodge Room was rented as a public school for \$5 a month, and the Old Room showed a deed of sale to a Mr. McKaughen. Members voted to lease the lower floor of their new building for at least \$10 per month (October 21, 1865), or to sell the Lodge building for a practicable amount, and, after negotiating the sale to subscribe for shares in the Georgetown Male & Female Academy with the stipulation that a suitable upper room be provided in the Academy for a Lodge Room (December 16, 1866). A committee later reported that sale of the old building was not practicable, and instead it was rented for \$15.

NOTES OF TRAGEDY entered the minutes of early years. On December 20, 1862, a resolution of sympathy and respect began, "Whereas, we have been informed of the death of Bro. James H. Tankersley, who was killed by the Indians on a date unknown in July, 1862. . . . It was announced that George W. Counts, Steven A. Boyce and C. C. Ake lost their lives in the service of the Confederate Army, and that Confederate General E. H. Von Tress (sic.) was killed by lightning. Memorial services were preached by Bro. J. W. Ledbetter on July 16, 1865.

The Eastern Star, beginning July 16, 1867, was permitted to occupy the Lodge Room. It was also noted in the minutes of that year that the building east of the Hall should provide a secure lot and shed for the horses or horse-drawn vehicles for the use of Lodge members. This spot eventually developed into one of Georgetown's busy livery stables.

Housing continued to be a problem, as April 17 and November 30, 1869, minutes suggest. J. C. S. Morrow, J. R. Peay and J. J. Stubblefield were appointed to "find what could be attained for purpose of erecting a building for a Lodge, School & Church." In May, the same year, Thos. P. Hughes and Sam'l. Mankins were added to the Lodge-hunting committee. On November 30, the members agreed to rent their "store room" to W. J. Montgomery "on the best possible terms."

Masons have long participated in the laying of cornerstones of public buildings, and the erection of Georgetown College in 1870 provided one of those occasions. At their July 4 meeting, the brothers ordered the purchase of special items needed for the affair, and decided to invite Mount Horeb (at Gabriel Mills), Post Oak Island, Salado and Austin lodges to be present. The solemn ceremonies took place July 16, 1870, on the University Avenue site of what, in turn, became Georgetown College — "Texas University" — Southwestern University, then the Preparatory School for Southwestern after its main campus moved to the east on the same street, and finally the site of Georgetown High School (in 1975 to be replaced by a new High School on North Highway 81). Officers of San Gabriel Lodge in charge of the 1870 cornerstone ceremonies were Norton Moses, W. G. Westfall, W. J. Montgomery, J. E. Walker, J. W. Posey, J. M. Denson and J. J. Stubblefield.



**PERHAPS IN CELEBRATION** of its twentieth year as a Lodge, although the reason was not stated, minutes for February 18, 1871, say that at the close of the regular session, the members repaired to the Alamo Hotel for an "elegant repast prepared for the occasion." The following month, a committee was asked to negotiate with E. H. Napier in regard to the Old Lodge, room rents, etc., the old building being the one south of the Square on the northwest corner of the block. Napier had operated a saloon in the building for some time.

From post-Civil War days until almost the end of the century, the local Masons were periodically looking for better meeting quarters, and related matters. For instance, a committee was authorized to rent a suitable Lodge room (December 21, 1872); another was appointed to sell the old building, but not the lot (October 18, 1873); the committee reported that the building had been sold for \$300 to "Bro. Albright" (February 21, 1874),

but the purchaser died soon thereafter; on March 6 and 20, 1875, members discussed building a new Hall, and on June 5, a committee was designated to consult J. C. S. Morrow about renting the second floor of his store (in 1875 Henderson's Appliance Store at Austin Avenue and Seventh Street) and on July 3, upper floor of the building was rented to them for \$10. Minutes do not indicate for how long. By November 6, 1875, a new committee — J. C. S. Morrow, F. L. Price and R. H. Montgomery — were empowered to rent another hall for lodge meetings in conjunction with the Odd Fellows. Negotiations were completed January 1, 1876, with D. Love for this joint rental, and in April, the two lodges worked toward purchasing the cemetery.

**ANOTHER COMMITTEE** was named January 5, 1877, to work with I. O. O. F. and the Southern Presbyterian Church to consider ways and means of building a hall. Early the next year, the Masons sold the "Albright House" to Dr. F. A. Mood for \$364.55, and the following November 2, 1878, contracted for the construction of a Lodge Room. It was begun by meeting time, December 21. The job must have been a hasty one, for by May 9, 1881, minutes report that the building needed repairs, including the installation of columns along the floor which should, in turn, support a beam running the entire length of the building. The next year, the building was insured for \$1,000 and the lower story was rented; the members also authorized the purchase of "spit-boxes" (i. e., spittoons). Whether done in seriousness or not, the members passed a motion in January 1884 prohibiting smoking and chewing while the Lodge was "at labor," but the action was rescinded at a subsequent meeting.

San Gabriel Lodge made plans on February 7, 1885, to participate in laying the cornerstone of the new state Capitol in Austin.

**THREE LOCAL MEN** received their first degree status on April 2, 1887, all three attaining some prominence in local or state history. Robert A. John became assistant Attorney General of Texas, having also been County Attorney for Williamson County and a prominent local lawyer. R. E. Brooks became Judge of the 26th Judicial District, then helped form the Hogg-Swayne Syndicate, a corporation to develop oil properties at Spindletop. This syndicate laid the ground work for the Texas Company. The first meeting of a group planning this company is said to have been held in the rear of what is now Burkhardt's Newsstand. The third man to receive his first degree was W. Y. Penn, a Georgetown jeweler and bookseller, later Mayor of Georgetown, and still later a real estate dealer in San Antonio.

The new Young Ladies' Annex at Southwestern University was the site of another Masonic cornerstone ceremony on September 22, 1887. This Annex was on the site of the present Kuykendall Hall, the earlier Annex having burned. The San Gabriel Lodge also had charge of laying a cornerstone on December 8, 1894, for the City of Georgetown Free School Building, later known as Annie Purl School, in the center of the Citizens State Bank block. This building was designed by architect Bert McDonald; contractor was Francis Fisher, and superintendent of the city schools was F. P. Leverett.

**NEWFANGLED CONVENIENCES** were appearing rapidly in Georgetown at the end of the century, and San Gabriel Lodge was not long in considering them. A committee was appointed to look into the installation of electric lights, the fixtures to cost \$60.50 (June 9, 1894); at the July meeting, the members voted to pay \$28 for installation of the lights, and also contracted for obtaining running water from the local Water Company. On January 12, 1895, the Lodge ordered sewage installed in the Lodge Building.

Between 1895 and 1899, members firmed up their determination to construct a new hall, sell the old building they occupied, and rent another meeting place "more comfortable" than the one they were using until the new structure was finished. They also voted to secure "another house for the post office," which had rented the first floor of their building, with the understanding that the post office would move into the first floor of the new building when it was finished. On February 10, 1900, the old building was sold to the Knights of Pythias, who moved it, and plans were ordered drawn for a two story structure which would reach to the alley on the same site. On April 28, 1900, the contract was let to Belford Lumber Company for \$8,100, with L. B. Walters as superintendent of construction. The stone Temple was to be completed in five months. When the cornerstone was laid, July 6, 1900, the following were officers of San Gabriel Lodge: S. M. Strayhorn, Robert A. John, Dan S. Chessher, G. W. Foster, P. C. Harty, C. I. Harris, W. J. Flanagan, M. C. Dutton and W. J. Wayman. As already detailed, the walls stood hurricane winds in September, and the building was ready for occupancy by the end of the year.

**THE TWENTIETH CENTURY** has seen this Lodge lay cornerstones for the Courthouse on October 6, 1910, and for the Southwestern University Science Building on June 17, 1916. In 1918, the Lodge supported financially the local Kings Daughters Sanitarium, Georgetown's first hospital. That same year last rites were read for D. W. Queen, who died as a result of an explosion on an American ship sunk by a German submarine. As the controversy about the Ku Klux Klan raged over the nation and in this county, the San Gabriel Lodge on October 11, 1921, categorically denied any support of that group by the Lodge. The final note on construction costs of the Temple was paid on April 11, 1924.

The meeting room contains a fine, invaluable collection of large photographic portraits of many of the prominent citizens of this area who were Masons. All are nicely framed and hung on freshly painted walls, where they form an impressive array of men who helped build this county. This writer hopes that excessive light (which fades photographs) can be kept at a minimum on them, and that they sometime can be given more permanent and readable identifications, so that the chance of irrevocable loss will be avoided. The collection is certainly a remarkable one.

**IN ITS 123 YEARS**, the following men have served San Gabriel Lodge as Worshipful Master (the highest local office): J. T. Cox (1852), Sam Mather (1853), also Grand Master of Texas 1862-63; J. B. Harrell (1854); A. J. Strickland (1855), Ed Stephenson (1856), A. S. Walker (1857), R. Sansom (1858), De Witt C. Booth (1859).

Those serving (including re-elected officers) 1860 until 1900 were Wm. E. Bouchelle, D. C. Booth, Sidney Seymour, D. C. Booth, Wm. E. Bouchelle, W. J. Montgomery, T. P. Hughes, G. W. Leseure (sic.), J. W. Posey, B. E. Chreitzberg, J. C. S. Morrow, R. H. Montgomery, Dan S. Chessher, Sr., S. W. Strayhorn, J. R. McCormick, Thomas Irvine, Dan S. Chessher, Sr., G. W. Glasscock, W. M. Key, T. B. Cochran (Grand Master of Texas 1893), George Irvine, S. S. Sansom, A. S. Howren, W. Y. Penn, R. A. John, G. W. Foster, W. T. Starnes, A. L. Sharpe, L. F. Chapman, L. B. Walters, and Dan S. Chessher, Jr.



FROM 1900 UNTIL 1950, Past Masters have been J. M. Daniel, W. L. Mann, W. J. Flanagan, C. I. Harris, D. W. Wilcox, C. S. Griffith, E. H. Eanes, George Keahey, John M. Sharpe, J. A. Glendenning, R. L. Galloway, D. A. Peaslee, Will H. Hanna, A. C. Treutheardt, J. S. Thorp, D. H. Davis, E. E. Henderson, John S. Gillett, John D. Hudson, Dee Thompson, Hobson Martin, W. H. Cowley, Donald Irvine, M. L. Williams, H. S. Sharpe, Jr., W. P. Hoffman, Jr., B. J. Bruton, M. W. McKeithan, T. A. Shell, Donald Barron, M. S. Hewitt, H. W. Cornick, H. L. Patterson, E. O. Grigsby, E. W. Keith, L. R. McLaughlin, D. P. Irvine, W. P. Hoffman, Jr., Felix B. Secrest, L. R. McLaughlin, W. Howard Knox, F. W. Millholin, J. J. Jones, Jr.

From 1950 to the present time, Worshipful Masters have been

Carl Dunh (two terms), Wm. S. Lott, Wm. R. Eanes, Lee Karr, Tom McAferty, Jay Wolf, Ray Hodges, Earl Smith, Roscoe McCann, Harry Gold, Howard N. Landry, Claude Green, Joe Williams, Edgar M. Glasscock, Sr., H. F. Sharpe, W. H. Whitfield, W. B. Kilpatrick, Dr. H. L. Patterson, Macon Jones, Joe McKnight, Wayne Thompson, Lee Fulkes, Kenneth Jones, and Jimmy Landry.

(Author's note: The bulk of this article is based on minutes of the San Gabriel Lodge, provided by Joe Williams, secretary.)

Other material was found in the "History of San Gabriel Masonic Lodge No. 89, A. F. & A. M." by John M. Sharpe, a mimeographed copy written in 1950; files of the Williamson County SUN; Deed Records of Williamson County; personal interviews with Fred Millholin and J. Thatcher Atkin; and articles by Mr. Millholin in the SUN March 5, 1954, and another March 12, 1964. The Grand Masonic Library of Texas, located in Waco, kindly furnished material regarding the founding of the San Gabriel Lodge. Names followed by "sic." quoted from the minutes are possibly more correctly spelled thus: D. C. Cowan, R. Graves or Gravis, and so on.)

# Fred Millholin explains Georgetown's 'Whattizit'

By FRED MILLHOLIN

In May, 1930, W. W. Edwards, local public spirited businessman, deeded to the City of Georgetown four city lots advantageously located for park purposes and dedicated it to the children of the community for their use and pleasure.

This property is located between Seventh and Eighth streets and by a resolution of the City Council on May 12, was named Edwards Park in honor of the generous benefactor.

Located on the southeast corner of the park is an object long familiar to the older citizens of the community which was also given to the City by Mr. Edwards, a large round rock of interesting proportions that was mounted on a foundation by the City and, although it was believed by many to be a meteor, its origin has never been determined.

Some little time ago when what was believed to be a meteor flashing across the sky in a blinding light in this section, the object in the park was brought to the mind of Mrs. Sam Harris, daughter of one of Williamson County and Georgetown's revered peace officers, the late Sheriff and later, City Marshal Charles J. Brady, as well as others.

A news item in the SUN dated May 16, 1930, tells of this interesting specimen which was found at a depth of one hundred feet under rock and dirt and resting upon the top of a vein of coal in one of the mines

in Rockdale, Texas. It resembles cement, is as round as any baseball, stands thirty inches high and weighs approximately 2,500 pounds.

The rock was purchased by Mr. Edwards and brought to Georgetown by truck and taken by Mr. Edwards to the machine shop of L. P. Imhoff at the foot of Jail Hill where he had a hole drilled into it. It proved to be as hard as marble, and while it was being drilled, broke into three pieces.

The inside of the stone is of drak gray color and has a constituency of a very fine cement. A number of people whose opinions were pronounced to be good examined the stone and stated that they believed it was not made by man.

The inside of the stone looks very much like trap rock, a hard limestone impregnated with asphalt to a degree sufficient to color it only.

Some declared that no cement was ever made as hard as this stone, while others said, "How do we know what kind of cement the particular ancients were capable of making who cast this rock?"

The body of the stone, by a small stretch of the imagination, could be an adornment for some architectural undertaking of other ages, as history tells us that King Solomon cast spherical bodies of brass for his temple.

This particular stone re-assembled and

Continued from Page 1

cemented together adorns the Edwards Park serving as a curiosity for those who desire to stop, look and speculate at this "WHATTIZIT."

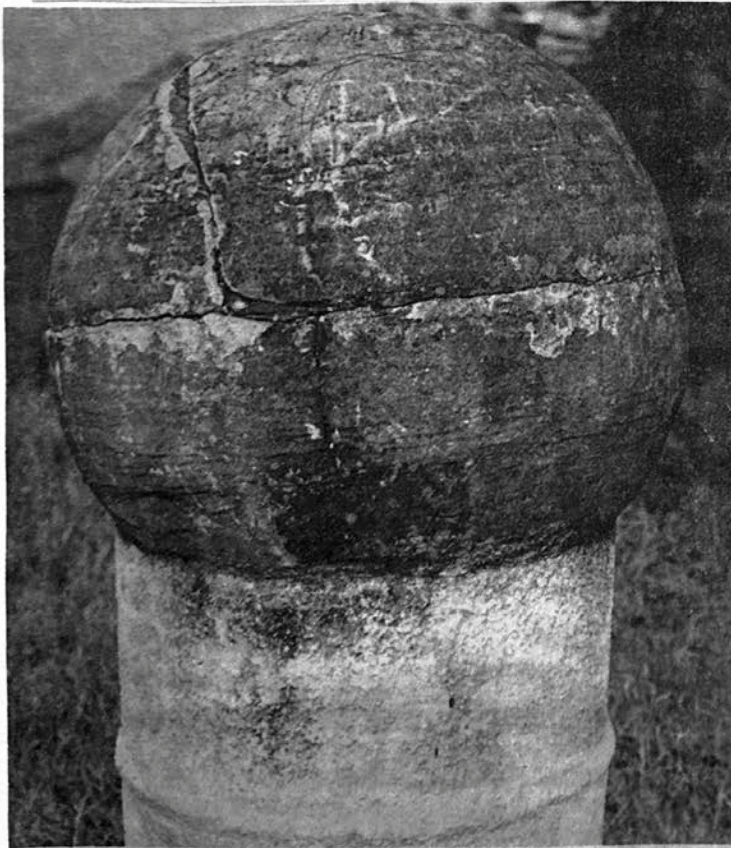
After the story of the mysterious rock appeared in the SUN, Mrs. O. T. Cate of North Georgetown, then in her 74th year, told an interesting story of a large rock found more than fifty years before at her home in Hopewell near

Liberty Hill. While digging a well, the family found this round rock a number of feet below the surface and upon breaking it open found in the center a small LIVE black snake some six inches in length and about the size of a pencil.

Another story was told by a Round Rock man who said he was engaged in putting in a bridge across a stream in Williamson County and while digging in solid rock for footings for the bridge, found a LIVE green frog embedded in the solid rock.

A like story was told by a man who was assisting in erecting a bridge across the San Saba River several years before and found a LIVE frog in a rock from several feet below ground when it was broken open.

Now, folks, how would you like to hear the old, old story of the horned toad found ALIVE in the cornerstone of a building being razed after standing about a zillion years



METEORITE at EDWARDS PARK



## A BIRTHDAY STORY

# The SUN, from the beginning until today

### STORY OF THE SUN

**Editor's Note:** With this issue, the Williamson County Sun enters its 98th year of continuous publication. The following articles are self-explanatory, the first was written by the paper's founder, J. F. Cooper, the second by John M. Sharpe, a strong and distinguished editor who sold his interests to the current owner and editor and retired in 1948.

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### IN RETROSPECT

(By J. E. Cooper)

Published May 19, 1939

THE SUN enters its 62nd year.

IN 1877 THE SUN published its first issue. At that time there was no newspaper being published in the county, altho several efforts had been made to establish going concerns, however all, up to the time had been short lived, although some had been manned by literary giants of their day. When the Sun was established there were no telephones, no electric lights, no automobiles; no barbed-wire fences; no deep wells; no settlements on the prairies; no radios; few hotels; no road houses, but plenty of saloons.

ALL SETTLEMENTS WERE ON STREAMS, near wood and water and as many as possible near at least one never-failing spring. At that time Texas had been a member of the United States thirty-nine years, and the Democrats in charge of the State government only two years following the rigors and hardships of reconstruction, which was under full headway, Richard Coke was governor

with a full cabinet of Democratic state officials.

THE CONSTITUTION OF 1876 was adopted soon after the arrival of Cooper and a new order of things was beginning. The E. J. Davis administration had bequeathed to the Coke and succeeding administrations a very bad condition of state affairs. The Davis administration with its many negro officers, most of whom had been former slaves, had not been able to check the reckless careers of dangerous outlaws who did not fear the negro officers, nor respect the lives and property of the good citizens. The Sun was born in the midst of such conditions, and it followed the lead of courageous citizens who gave their time and influence toward making the county and State a safer and better place in which to live.

The Sun, as of this date, has been published regularly for sixty-two years not missing an issue, save now and then a holiday vacation. It was born on a G. Washington hand press and is now printed on a modern high-speed power press, driven by electricity. In its news columns are recorded some of the stories of some of the greatest scientific discoveries, mechanical inventions, the rise and fall of governments and nations, changes in the financial and economical systems, methods of transportations and communications, and many other things that have been brought into being for the advancement, use and benefit of the human family in the years the Sun has been on the watchtower for the advance-

ment of Central Texas and the world.

IN THE SUN'S FILES may be found literally thousands of interesting items about occurrences in Williamson County, the State and Nation. The names of all county district and State officials, cities and schools as well as their development through the years. Marriages, births, deaths, purchases and sale of property, construction, fires, rains, storms, crops, drouths, freezes, and all manner of development from clap-board houses and oxen-drawn transportation to automobiles, airplanes and other theretofore undreamed of developments and improvements that go to make up the progress that places this county and its people in the front rank of Texas counties and Texas people.

During the 62 years of The Sun's career it has had seven editors: J. E. Cooper, founder; Marvin M. McLain, Capt. F. T. Roche, Dr. John R. Allen, W. W. Jenkins, John M. Sharpe, Robert W. Cooper — three Presbyterians, three Methodists and one Episcopalian. These editors used their intellects and influence through the paper to elevate and advance the interests of Williamson County and the State of Texas and some of them were high in the councils of the Nation.

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Thoughts on the Career of a Great Newspaper

(By John M. Sharpe.)

The story written by the Hon. Jesse Eugene Cooper, founder of The Williamson County Sun,

is interesting to any thoughtful reader, yet, as one close to the story, it left unsaid many things that should have been revealed.

Mr. Cooper gave breath to his dream first registered in his mind in his war-torn East Tennessee home, when he launched The Sun and became its guiding genius in 1875.

I learned to read from the columns of The Sun as a poor West Williamson County boy and followed it from that day the remainder of my life. I became interested in printing and publishing in those far-off days and located in Georgetown in the late 1900th year of the last century, arriving here on the eve of the Galveston hurricane which battered the State Sept. 9, 1900.

I joined The Sun as president and general manager of the holding company and editor in October, 1918 when I purchased the interests of Dr. John R. Allen, who had been head of the Department of Romance Languages and manager of "The Annex" Woman's Dormitory at Southwestern University for many years, remaining with the publication until 1949 when I sold my interests to Don Scarbrough present (1957) owner and publisher. That much as an explanatory foremat.

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MR. COOPER, a devout Presbyterian, retiring in nature, would not mention in his article written on the 39th anniversary of the publication he founded personal matter that is of paramount interest to those interested in factual



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matter. After his arrival in Georgetown he set about building an interpretative newspaper, and bringing relatives from Tennessee to join him. Of these his brother, Robert Theodore Cooper, Cooper Sansom, Dee Sansom, and Italy Watson, the latter three cousins, were the first arrivals. His brother became interested in farming and buying, developing and selling cotton farms in the Blackland Belt from Dallas through Williamson County to the south; the Sansoms studied and entered the practice of law and Watson became a proof-reader and editor in South Texas Daily offices. Mr. Cooper also found time, in addition to publishing the paper, to teach school and study law, being admitted to the bar about 1889. He also served a term in the legislature, headed movements for the betterment of his country, including the prohibition movement, the campaigns of which organizations he headed several times. It is not passing strange to those who knew him that he led every fight that ended in victory in the county save one.

Mr. Cooper was elected president of the First National Bank of Georgetown first in 1896, server until 1906, retired until 1913 when he was again elected and served until 1936.

Mr. Cooper and his family suffered greatly during the Civil War in East Tennessee, being robbed of almost all they owned; he frequently recounted that he had traveled on horseback to carry food to a kinsman for whom the Union forces occupying the region were searching. He delivered the food but was captured by the Yankees before reaching home. They finally turned him loose, taking his horse and saddle, to walk home barefoot in a blizzard. Of course he was an uncompromising democrat.

**ABOUT 1894 Mr. Cooper sold The Sun to Capt. Frank T.**

Roche, a Confederate soldier, who had lost a leg in the cause. He was a Virginian and had been chief clerk in the Texas General Land Office for several years. He was an Episcopalian and positive in his approach to political and personal questions and appalled by the policies of Reconstruction which had faded some but did not disappear until the administration of Pres. Woodrow Wilson who, in so far as he could, removed the last of the inequities from the South — however, he succeeded only partially. Capt. Roche died as the result of a streetcar accident in El Paso in 1916, after a brilliant battle for the right as he interpreted the right based on a rugged honesty.

Shortly before his death Capt. Roche had been named Postmaster of Georgetown and had sold The Sun to a group of printers and publishers headed by Dr. John R. Allen, Methodist minister, world-traveler, head of the Department of Romance Languages at Southwestern University for years and manager for a long period of time of "The Ladies Annex" a Southwestern University Dormitory, later destroyed. He was a member of the last contingents of Methodists who believed the Bible literally and preached the certainty of salvation if Christ was accepted and served, and also a literal burning hell for the damned.

IN 1918 JOHN M. SHARPE, bought Dr. Allen's interest and became executive head of the Sun Publishing Co. and editor of The Sun. He battled for good government, reasonable taxes, denounced the Ku Klux Klan and won their hatred and threats including the threat to burn his home and business, and his family. The Klan was beaten, many convicted and all has been serene since that period. Yet the battle for good government, the majesty of the law and reasonable taxes under just laws was his shibboleth until he had served his town on three separate occasions as Mayor and three terms as Postmaster.

He served as a member of the Executive Committee of Southwestern University during the trying days of the depression, as secretary of the Democratic Committee of Williamson County for more than twenty years, is an Odd Fellow, a Woodman and was a Charter member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Country Club. He early in life recognized the value of irrigation and worked continuously and consistently for the development of the Colorado and Brazos Rivers, aiding in arranging the meeting with Congressman Buchanan at the site of the defaulted effort to dam the Colorado at Buchanan Dam and served on the Brazos Authority until the building of Possum Kingdom Dam.

**by Don Scarbrough, 1948**

It was in 1948 when the late John M. Sharpe came to Taylor and offered to sell me "control" of the Williamson County Sun. At the time I was publishing The Taylor Times and I had recently bought The Elgin Courier, but I was eager to have the SUN and to bring my young family to Georgetown.

"Control" of the SUN meant at least 51 per cent of the stock, for at that time the SUN was a corporation. I received stock owned by Mr. Sharpe, Donald Barron and Lowrey Foster. Later I bought the remaining stock owned by Howard Harrison, who moved to San

Saba to buy a newspaper, and from W. Grogan Lord, who had purchased stock from the Hon. Marsh Smith who had acquired it through his connection with the Cooper family.

I was the first person to own the SUN outright and the first thing I did was liquidate the corporation. The SUN became a privately owned concern at that point. About the time this was happening I sold the Taylor paper to Henry Fox and disposed of the Elgin paper to a fellow named Hunt.

The SUN was a strong paper when I bought it. It had a circulation of 3,000, was democratic to the core and just wild about then Senator Lyndon B. Johnson who had shown his admiration and affection for Editor Sharpe in many ways. That Sharpe would have supported LBJ was a bit strange because in virtually every other aspect the SUN was a conservative newspaper and had been since its origination.

Mrs. Scarbrough and I have now published the SUN for 27 years and we have seen many changes here. Southwestern University, a main-stay of the local cultural and economic structure, has been virtually rebuilt. Of the buildings now standing, only two were there when I returned to Georgetown. Many old business establishments, long patronized and cherished by local folk, have vanished from the scene. Many citizens now would not even recognize the names — Hoffman and Son, Ben Neuman's, Stromberg-Hoffman, Braun Motor Company, Freund Motor Company, Giddings Grocery, Farmer's State Bank, Belford Lumber Company, Lundblad Hardware, Buchholz Variety, Cooper's Corner Drug, The Toggery, the list goes on and on.

But many have endured, such as Atkin Furniture Company, Jones Auto Supply, First National Bank, Citizens State Bank — an outgrowth of Farmers State Bank, Hodges Drug Store, Gold's Dept. Store, Georgetown Hospital and Clinic, Hendersons, Three Way Grain, and others, although the list is growing smaller.

The most notable change in

the SUN under the present ownership came nearly a decade ago when the paper "went offset", a revolutionary process in printing that permits the reproduction of pictures with a clarity not possible under the old "hot type" process. From linotypes the paper went to photostetters, from a slow, 3,000 per hour press limited to 8 pages, to a 16 page press that runs 15,000 per hour. Also, a Sunday paper, The Sunday SUN, was begun 1 year ago and at this date appears firmly established.

Circulation of the Sun is now above 5000. Our present pressrun is 5,350, reflecting Georgetown's continued growth.

Since 1877 the SUN had done "job" printing and during the past fifteen years had purchased considerable expensive printing equipment, establishing a flourishing department operating as a second establishment called Heritage Printers. In 1974 this firm was sold to Mr. and Mrs. John King. King is also managing editor of the SUN and Sunday SUN.

Under the current ownership the paper has won many state and regional awards — for editorials, columns, public service, feature writing, creative advertising, appearance and news writing.



JAN.-FEB./MAR.-APR. 1975

## the passing glance

By Don Scarbrough

Clara and I drove to the east end of the county last week and found a gravesite that the County Historical Committee had searched for for the past 35 or 40 years. Joseph Rubarth (1797-1867) lies in a well-marked grave atop a hill overlooking the beautiful San Gabriel valley just below the monumental Laneport dam. His is an interesting life story.

Rubarth, who, incidentally, is the great grandfather of former Georgetown Chamber of Commerce manager Fred Pool, was born in Germany and at the age of 18 participated in the Battle of Waterloo that sent Napoleon into retirement. Twenty-one years later found him under the command of General Sam Houston in the Battle of San Jacinto, an epic engagement that also ended the dreams of a conquerer, Santa Anna.

FOR HIS PART in the Texas War of Independence, Rubarth was given land around Beaumont, which he sold; he then purchased property on the San Gabriel west of Elm Grove now owned by Roy Bernhardt. It is on this place that he and, presumably, members of his family are buried. Sometime in history, the Masonic Lodge recognized his historic value and erected a stone at his grave, which remains in excellent condition. There is also an iron fence around the 20-by-20 site, also in good condition; but weeds all but obscure everything but the one large stone.

Rubarth came from a wealthy German family and following the battle of Waterloo his father gave him a ship, which he outfitted and sailed to America. He wrecked the thing, however, near Louisiana and wound up a captive of pirate captain La Fitte who first asked him to join up and then, when he refused, turned him loose. This was before he encountered and signed with General Sam.

CLARA AND I VISITED with Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Lange at their store in Hare and then drove to Georgetown, crossing the rickety old Laneport bridge that is an almost twin of the one Georgetown people negotiate to reach Rowe Valley. Just across the bridge we saw fields of verdant sunflowers, planted in a project with the Morton Company which uses an oil extracted from the seed for potato chip cooking. Quite a few Williamson County acres, incidentally, are being planted in sunflowers this year, some by Kenneth Johnson between Hutto and Taylor, another patch close to Noack, I think by Kenneth Seggern. All of the flowers will be processed by the Thorndale Co-op Company and Morton has already contracted for it at presumably a money-making price for the farmers.

Sunflower seed oil withstands terrific and repeated heat without breaking down which means it can be cleaned, recycled and used many times. It is also devoid of cholesterol, which is a good advertising gimmick. As kids, we drove down country roads grabbing at sunflowers from our open cars. We sure never expected that one day we would eat the things!

## the passing glance

By Don Scarbrough

THIS COUNTRY EDITOR slipped his mind by a decade when he wrote of the SUN's more recent history in the Thursday paper. Only 2 of Southwestern University's main buildings that stood when I left the campus in 1938, not 1948, as I said in the article, stand intact today, although several smaller structures remain. That's not counting the Woman's Building, now Kuykendall Hall, which has doubled in size with the addition of Kurth Hall. When I returned to Georgetown in 1948, in addition to Mood and the Ad Building, Cody Memorial Library, West Gymnasium and the McCook-Crane Clinic had been built. But a lot more followed in the next two decades. If you clip historical articles and save them, please make the correction.

## ENDANGERED SPECIES\* \*Historic Buildings



GEORGETOWN. 1914 Macedonia Baptist Church. This intriguing church has been scheduled for demolition after the congregation moves into a new church still under construction. While the church still owns the land, the Urban Renewal Agency owns this old church building and has reported that restoration is not practical. Preservationists disagree. The church is available for relocation.

## Cemetery to get marker

PFLUGERVILLE — A Texas Historical Marker will be dedicated here Friday at Pfluger Cemetery at 10:30 a.m.

The dedication will be a part of the Henry Pfluger family reunion. The cemetery, which is named for the Henry Pfluger family, is situated on land granted to John Leise by the Republic of Texas in 1845.

Leise sold the tract to Pfluger, his brother-in-law. Pfluger, who died in 1867, is buried at the cemetery, which is east of the Colorado River in Travis County about 14 miles east of Austin. The Pflugers founded the town of Pflugerville.

In case of rain, dedication services for the historical marker will be held at Pfluger Grove Park.



# Scarborough Wins Publication Award

The book *Land of Good Water (Takahue Pouetsu), A Williamson County, Texas, History*, by Clara Stearns Scarborough, received the award for Best Historical Publication on a Regional or Local Level for 1974 from the Texas Historical Commission.

Mrs. Frank M. Covert III, Vice Chairman of the Commission made the presentation to Mrs. Scarborough at the Woman's Club of Georgetown, Wednesday, April 9.

Mrs. Scarborough is currently chairman of the Williamson County Historical Survey Committee. She writes news stories and features for newspapers, has published several booklets, and was recently recognized in a national environmental feature writing contest.

Her comprehensive book vividly recounts the stories of the land, people, and events which culminated in the Williamson County of the present. From prehistoric Indian groups to Spanish exploration, pioneer settlement to the Civil War, and from the beginnings of the railroad era into the present, *Land of Good Water* reflects the social, economic and political trends which established the county's heritage.

THE MEDALLION

JAN.-FEB. / MAR.-APR. 1975



NEWLY ELECTED COMMISSION OFFICERS and Executive Director Truett Latimer at the dedication of the Sam Rayburn House Museum April 1. Standing right to left are Truett Latimer, Maxine W. Blankenship (Mrs. Wesley B.), THC Chairman, from Lubbock; Martha W. Covert (Mrs. Frank M., III), THC Vice Chairman, from Austin; and Phillip C. Bowen, THC Secretary, from El Paso.

The Austin American-Statesman  
Friday, June 27, 1975



ADMIRERS—When this life-size bronze bust of the late Williamson County Sheriff Henry Matysek was unveiled Thursday on the courthouse lawn in Georgetown, the widow of the long-time lawman, Lou Matysek, right, was on hand to admire it. The bronze tribute sponsored by the Georgetown Kiwanis

Club was sculpted by H. Clay Dahlberg, left. Also present were the Matyseks' daughter, JoAnn Long, and her son, Joey. The granite pedestal has a plaque bearing names of those who contributed to the memorial. (Staff Photo by Jim Dougherty)



# Historical Survey Committee plans for more medallions

The Williamson County Historical Survey Committee met June 5 in the conference room of the Georgetown Public Library. Mrs. Clara Scarbrough, chairman, presided at this regular monthly session. Communities represented were Bartlett-Schwertner, Coupland, Georgetown, Hutto, Jarrell, Liberty Hill, Round Rock, Taylor and Thrall.

Mrs. Scarbrough announced that two more significant structures in Georgetown are in line to receive Texas Historical Medallions. They are known as the Penn home and the McDougal home.

Also in Georgetown two Southwestern University buildings have been placed on the National Register of Historic Landmarks. These, as of April 23, 1975, are the University Administration Building and Mood Hall.

Burney Downing reported the site marker application for the town of Coupland has been accepted by the Texas Official Historical Commission in Austin.

The Gabriel Mills town site marker is now at the foundry. The delivery date is expected to be in the early fall according to Harold Asher who has sponsored it.

Much individual activity of historic value was reported by members of the committee. These included tours of New Orleans, Winedale, Fredericksburg, Columbus as well as some near by in adjoining counties.

Many inquiries and questionnaires come to the chairman and other members of this committee from all over Texas and some from out of state. One of

the latest is an Historical Engineering Site Inventory Questionnaire from the History of Engineering Program at Texas Tech University at Lubbock. Williamson County has

numerous subjects in this category and it will require much time and effort. At least some of this will be attempted in the next few months.

Plans are being made for the

Williamson County Historical Survey Committee to meet in Taylor and Round Rock later on in the year.

--- reporter

The Williamson County SUN  
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Georgetown, Texas  
June 12, 1975

AUSTIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
News Letter  
June 1975

Seth Breeding, an admitted bibliophile, calls our attention to what he describes as "The best county history which has come to my attention," Land of Good Water: A Williamson County, Texas, History, by Clara Stearns Scarbrough, published by the Williamson County Sun (1973). Mrs. Scarbrough is the wife of the publisher, and books may be purchased from the author. A companion volume is The Ladder of Rivers: The Story of I. P. (Print) Olive, by Harry E. Chrisman, Sage Books, Denver (1965).

Sincerely,

Lelon Winsborough  
News Letter Correspondent



# Cemetery volume records 1822 burial

Historians have long appreciated the value of tombstone markings and the history they reveal.

High infant mortality rates of early years, Indian massacres, and the deaths of soldiers are among the data recorded in cemeteries.

"Williamson County Cemeteries," Volume I, listing burials as early as 1822 will soon be available as a reference book in public libraries in Georgetown, Round Rock and Taylor.

The lists of cemeteries and the names of persons buried in them have been compiled during the past 1½ years by members of the Williamson County Historical Commission. Clara Stearns Scarbrough, commission chairperson, edited the 354 page volume in June.

Mrs. Scarbrough emphasized that this is only the first volume of the listings and that work has already begun on the second volume.

ONE OF THE EARLIEST listings of interments is in 1822, an infant son of E. and

M. Taylor. The infant is buried in the San Gabriel (Old Georgetown) Cemetery on the banks of the South San Gabriel River within the city limits of Georgetown.

Also interred in that cemetery was Kete Taylor in 1826. Seven other burials occurred in the San Gabriel Cemetery before 1860, according to a list compiled by the editor.

Listed are Ezra Cartlidge and William Cartlidge in 1856, Sidney Augustus Clamp in 1858, infant Isaac Talbot in 1855, Littleberry G. Taylor in 1853, Matthias Wilbarger in 1853 and Mathias Wilbarger in 1855.

In Allison-Friendship Cemetery, Mary Taylor was buried in 1850.

Fannie Love was buried in 1857 in Andice Cemetery.

In 1857, a Beard infant was buried in the Beard Cemetery.

BURIED IN BONE HOLLOW Cemetery are Dr. Thomas Kenney, Henry Castleberry and John Courtney who were massacred by Indians in April, 1844.

Fourteen men are buried in a mass grave in Davis Cemetery near the present community of Leander. They were murdered in what is known as the Webster Massacre in June, 1839. Most complete list found to date: John Webster, (leader of the wagon train of immigrants), John Stillwell, Washington Perry Reese, William Parker Reese, Milton Hicks, Nelson Fletcher (or Wilson Flesher), Albert Silsby, Martin Watson, James Martin, Nicholas Baylor, Negro man named Nelson, Mexican man named Antonio and two others.

Also buried in the Davis Cemetery before 1860, was Elizabeth R. Davis in 1852.

Mark A. Fisk was buried in 1848 in the Fisk-Cashion Cemetery.

In 1858, Sarah L. Gilreath was buried in the Gilreath Cemetery.

AMONG THE EARLY burials in the Hopewell Cemetery were Wofford Johnson, his wife and small daughter who were

buried there in 1863 after Comanche Indians massacred them on Aug. 15.

The earliest burial in the Boultinghouse Cemetery was in 1859.

Ten graves in the Bratton Cemetery were before 1860. Included are John Bratton in 1855, Robert Bratton in 1853, George Bratton in 1851, Wm. Bratton in 1853, Wm. Robey in 1859, Thomas L. Robey in 1847, Mary J. Robey in 1847, E. C. Shepperd in 1835 "(could this be 1855?)" , Thomas Milburn in 1855, and Mary Milburn in 1857.

In Comanche Peak-McFadin Cemetery, John E. Hayslip was buried in 1855, Wm. Armstrong, in 1851, and J. L. Low, in 1859.

Mrs. Mary Jane Kenney and Wm. A. Force were buried in 1841 in Kenney/Kenney's Fort Cemetery.



"WEBSTER MASSACRE" — is the title of a tombstone erected in memory of the fourteen men who were killed by Comanche Indians in 1839 near the present community of Leander. The mass grave with the memorial is located in Davis Cemetery, near Leander.



MEMBERS OF THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION often had to traipse through high weeds and grass such as this growing in the San Gabriel (Old Georgetown) Cemetery along the banks of the South San Gabriel River in Georgetown to gather information for the first volume of Williamson County Cemeteries. Two of the earliest graves recorded in the 343 page volume are located in this cemetery. Copies of the volume will be available for reference use in area

The Sunday SUN  
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Georgetown, Texas  
Sunday, July 6, 1975



IN 1852, a mother and infant, Rebecca Gregg Jackson and Minerva were buried in the Liberty Hill Cemetery.

Other early burials in that cemetery included Frances Russell in 1855, infant P. P. Spencer in 1855 and John M. Spencer in 1853.

Jesse D. Cyrus was buried in 1858 in Magee Cemetery.

A young boy travelling on the cattle trail with a drive was buried in the Matsler Cemetery. He was killed by lightning.

In the Oxley Cemetery, early graves include Elizabeth Oxley in 1853; Sarah Oxley, 1853; Sossom Oxley, 1853; Mary E. Wright, 1853; Fines Euing, 1854; and Foster Gracy, 1854.

"Brother" Sloan, child of D. M. and Mary E. Sloan was buried in 1852 in the Sloan-Easley Cemetery. Mary E. Sloan was buried in 1859 and Robert W. Easley in 1857.

Included in the list of burials in the Smalley Cemetery are Freeman Smalley, Jr., in 1849, Moses W. Smalley in 1857, Mary Cox in 1855, Mary Smalley in 1853, and A. W. P. Smalley in 1857.

Mary Ann Smith (1850) was the earliest grave listed in

#### Smith Cemetery.

Luther Stearns, Sr., who had headed a wagon train to Williamson County, according to information gathered by Mrs. Scarbrough, was buried in the Stearns Cemetery in 1859. Other early burials in that cemetery were Olive Stearns in 1850 and John S. Stearns in 1853.

**MEMBERS OF THE** County Historical Committee who assembled the volume from 1973 to 1975 include: Mrs. Scarbrough, Georgetown; Ruth Mantor, (Taylor) vice-chairman; Mrs. Estha Scoggins, (Georgetown) secretary-treasurer; Myreta Matthews, (Liberty Hill) publicity; Mrs. Bob Ford, Mrs. Stanley Schwertner of Bartlett; Effie McLeod and Mrs. Jinx Goff, Florence; Laverne Faubion, Mrs. Leroy Johnson, Mrs. Homer Caswell, Mrs. Robert Morse, Mrs. Carl Burnette, Dr. and Mrs. Van Tipton, Mrs. J. T. Atkin, Donald Irvine, Mrs. Sally Pettus, Judge Sam Stone, Judge and Mrs. Luther Chance, Gene Hargett, all of Georgetown.

Others are Mrs. Henry Labaj, Granger; Mr. and Mrs. Emery Blackman, Hutto; Miss Cora Sexton, Mrs. Fred Buchanan, Jarrell; Mrs. Marshall

Richardson, Harold Asher, Liberty Hill; Mrs. J. W. Ledbetter, Mrs. D. B. Gregg Round Rock; A. M. Ahlgreen, Thomas McDonald, Mrs. Joe Hannah Forson, Ranken Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. Mahon Garry, all of Taylor; Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Ribbeck, Thrall.

Along with the time spent by commission members, expenses incurred during research was also paid by the commission members.

Time involved in typing and reproduction of the materials were also contributed by

members. Mrs. Scarbrough said the only expenses charged to Commission funds (received from the County) were for Xerox copies and for binders for the volumes.

In the introduction to the volume, Mrs. Scarbrough points out that many of the older cemeteries have been called various names through the years. The Commission has attempted to list all alternate names, the earlier one being placed first.

"In all probability there has been some misreading of names or dates, in spite of great care taken by researchers, and a few obvious typographical inaccuracies (such as the exchanging of birth and death dates) appear in this collection. Since these cannot be rechecked immediately, the compiler's listing stands.

The introduction states that corrections which can be substantiated should be reported to the librarian.

## Historical Commission new name for county historical survey group

The Williamson County historical group has a new name. It was officially changed to Historical Commission from Historical Survey Committee.

At the meeting of the Commission, July 3 in the Georgetown Public Library, the eighteen members present represented and reported on activities in the towns and communities of Andice, Coupland, Florence, Georgetown, Hutto, Jarrell, Liberty Hill, Round Rock and Taylor.

Mrs. Clara Scarbrough, chairman, announced that volume number 1 of the cemetery listings is nearing completion and that three copies have been made. These will be placed in Public Libraries in the county. The Texas State Library in Austin is interested in making a copy for the Archives. A second volume will contain later listings.

Due to hot weather and growth of vegetation in isolated burial grounds the cemetery census taking has slowed down, and the commission members plan to work on other projects. They will be researching data for structures and sites worthy of being included in the National Register of Historic Places and scanning the county for the Texas Historical Engineering Site Inventory. Many are already working on Official Texas Historical Marker applications.

Mrs. Scarbrough asked the Commission members to actively cooperate with the Texas Department of Agriculture "Family Land Heritage Program." This is designed to honor families who have owned and operated a farm or ranch for 100 years or more.

The next meeting of the Commission will be August 7 in

Taylor at which time a volume of the cemetery lists will be presented to the Taylor Public Library. The presentation will follow a luncheon meeting. Guests at the luncheon will include Mrs. Wiley Pearson, Librarian, H. L. Farrell, President of the Library Board, Ranken Kennedy, President of Friends of the Library and others.

—reporter

Georgetown, Texas  
Thursday, July 10, 1975

## Taylor library to receive 341 page volume on county cemeteries

The presentation of a 341-page volume on the cemeteries of Williamson County will be made to the Taylor Public Library Thursday, August 7 following the regular meeting of the Williamson County Historical Commission.

Commission members and guests will meet at Rudy's Barbecue Cafeteria on Second Street in Taylor at 11:30 a. m. for lunch and a brief business meeting. The group will then adjourn to the Taylor Public Library, where Mrs. Don Scarbrough, chairman of the County Historical Commission, will present the volume representing about 18 months of research by Commission members. Identical volumes will soon be placed in the Round Rock and Georgetown Public Libraries.

Librarian Mrs. Wiley Pearson and officials of the Taylor Library, including Ranken Kennedy, president of Friends

of the Library and H. L. Farrell, president of the Library board of trustees, will be present for the ceremony.

The Williamson County SUN  
Section 1, Page 9

Georgetown, Texas  
Thursday, August 7, 1975



## Two Williamson County families qualify for 1975 Family Land Heritage program

AUSTIN — Two Williamson County families have qualified for the 1975 Family Land Heritage Program, according to Agriculture Commissioner John C. White.

The John G. Matthews Homestead Farm, owned by Miss Myreta J. Matthews,

Liberty Hill, and the Saul Ranch, owned by John Saul and Jack M. Saul II, Hutto, bring the number of recognized Williamson County farms and ranches to two.

"To qualify for the program, these families had to have a history of at least 100 years of

ownership and productivity," White said. "It is a great tribute to their perseverance and dedication to be recognized."

Registration totals for the '75 program are far behind those of last year when over 500 families

qualified. Only 70 applications had been certified by August 4.

"I encourage people who are interested in the program not to wait until the August 15 deadline," White added. "They should contact their county judge for the proper forms as soon as possible so they can be

sure of being registered in time, or they can write the Texas Department of Agriculture, P. O. Box 12847, Austin, 78711."

The Family Land Heritage Program was instituted by Commissioner White in 1974 to honor and preserve the concept

of the family farm.

Families that qualify for recognition are listed in the Family Land Heritage Registry, receive a Certificate of Honor from the Department and will be honored in special ceremonies later this year.

# Mason farm qualifies for Heritage program

The John D. Mason Farm, owned by John T. Atkins, Georgetown, has qualified for the 1975 Family Land Heritage Program, Agriculture Commissioner John C. White has announced.

The tract has been in the family since 1869 when John D. Mason settled there.

"To qualify for the program, Mr. Atkins' family had to have a history of at least 100 years of ownership and productivity," White said. "It is a great tribute to their perseverance and dedication to be recognized."

Registration totals for the '75 program are far behind those of last year when over 500 families qualified. Only 100 applications had been certified by August 5.

"I encourage people who are interested in the program not to wait until the August 15 deadline," White added. "They should contact their county judge for the proper forms as soon as possible so they can be sure of being registered in time, or they can write the Texas Department of Agriculture, P. O. Box 12847, Austin, 78711."

The Family Land Heritage Program was instituted by Commissioner White in 1974 to honor and preserve the concept

of the family farm.

Families that qualify for recognition are listed in the Family Land Heritage

Registry, receive a Certificate of Honor from the Department and will be honored in special ceremonies later this year.

The Sunday SUN  
Page 8

Georgetown, Texas  
Sunday, August 17, 1975

## Historical Commission presents cemetery listings to library

The Williamson County Historical Commission met in Taylor August 7, at Rudy's Cafeteria for lunch and a business meeting. Members were greeted by the Y Taylor M members. Towns and communities represented were Coupland, Georgetown, Granger, Hutto, Jarrell, Liberty Hill, Round Rock and Taylor.

Mrs. Clara Scarbrough, chairman, announced that plans for the Macedonia Cemetery Historical Marker are nearing completion. The Coupland Cemetery listing is almost finished. Bagdad Cemetery list will be ready in a few days.

The Texas Parent Teacher Association has asked the help of the Historical Commission in a Bicentennial research

program on Education in Williamson County in the 1800's. All school programs, catalogues, teaching certificates, contracts or copies of them, and any other artifacts, will be of great value. For more information, please, contact Mrs. Scarbrough.

Mrs. Margaret Fabion White, a visitor from Austin, made a progress report on the Judge Greenleaf Fisk Marker for the courthouse lawn. This Commission has been working on the project for several years. She and other Fisk descendants want to make it a part of the Bicentennial Celebration. Judge Fisk was the first Judge of Williamson County in 1848. He was called Chief Justice then.

Following lunch and the business meeting, the group went to the Taylor Public Library for the presentation of Volume I of the Williamson County Cemetery Listings. Volume II is still being collected.

Mrs. Scarbrough made the presentation expressing the wish of the Commission that it will be of historical value to the Library for research in years to come.

Mrs. Wiley Pearson, the librarian, graciously accepted the collection and expressed thanks to the Commission for their thoughtfulness and work. H. L. Farrell, president of the library board of trustees, also expressed his appreciation for the book of 341 pages which contains names and dates of many cemeteries in this county.

The next meeting of the Williamson County Historical Commission will be in Round Rock on the first Thursday in September.

Reporter  
(Myreta Matthews)



## Williamson County Historical Commission to present two official historical markers

The Williamson County Historical Commission met September 4th, at Brushy Creek Bar-B-Q, 111 West Main Street in Round Rock. The regular monthly meeting was pre-arranged by Mrs. D. B. Gregg and Mrs. John W. Ledbetter of Round Rock who greeted the other members at the door.

Mrs. Clara Scarbrough, County Chairman, presided over the combination lunch and business session. She reported that Official Historical Markers have

been accepted and approved for the Bartlett United Methodist Church and the Taylor Tenth Street United Methodist Church. The applications and accompanying histories were compiled and submitted by Mrs. Stanley Schwertner of Bartlett and A. M. Ahlgreen of Taylor.

Mr. and Mrs. Emery Blackman have written the Hutto townsite history papers. The Marker application has been approved by the county

chairman and it is on its way to the Texas Historical Commission for final approval. Hutto was founded in 1876.

The collection of old pictures, letters and documents is still being given attention. We are reminded that it is people who make history. The Texas Parent-Teacher Association has asked for old school pictures and documents such as Teacher's Certificates and contracts, especially those dated before 1900. This a Bicentennial project for them.

Mrs. Ruth Monkhouse, a visitor from Austin, exhibited an official photostatic copy of a list of all post offices in Williamson County. All postmasters were listed beginning with the founding of each office. Her authority is the Postmaster General's Office in Washington, D.C.

The meeting adjourned to re-assemble in the Round Rock City Library for the presentation of Williamson County Cemeteries, Volume I. Mrs. Scarbrough, in making the

presentation, expressed the thoughts of the entire County Commission when she said she hoped that this book will benefit many people and will be a source of reference for local historians now and in the future. Mrs. Gus Sager, Librarian accepted the gift in behalf of the Library Board and the Friends of the Library. Mrs. Robert Griffith, Assistant Librarian, also took part in accepting the book.

Williamson County Cemeteries, Volume I contains lists from 87 cemeteries, about 8,000 names and 1,700 family names. This 341 page book is made up of lists that have been collected by all members from all parts of the county. There are many more to be put in other volumes as the search and research goes on.

The nineteen members represent represented Round Rock, Florence, Hutto, Jarrell, Georgetown, Taylor, Rice's Crossing and Liberty Hill.

Myreta Matthews  
(Commission reporter)



GLASSCOCK MANSION — "the perfect old Victorian house."

## Georgetown to lose founder's mansion

A Georgetown landmark for longer than SUN readers can remember will be moved.

The old Victorian Glasscock mansion in the south triangle of the Highway 81 and Andice Road intersection has been purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Sam Taylor of Round Rock and they hope to move it soon to some acreage between Georgetown and Round Rock on FM 1460 and restore it to its original grandeur.

The handsome old house was the home of George Washington Glasscock for whom Georgetown was named when he gave land for the town.

Mrs. Taylor works at the Round Rock Post Of-

fice and her husband works for an engineering firm in Austin. Their five year old son is looking forward to playing on the stately old staircase and its banisters.

The sale was handled by Mickey Forest when the Taylors made the purchase from Bob Stanton.

"The house is in remarkably good shape and movers tell us they will take the top off, lay the roof down, jack up the top story, move the first story to its destination, then go back and get the second story and just set it back on," Mrs. Taylor said. "We have been looking for years for the perfect old Victorian house; this is it."



Daughter of Revolutionary Soldier buried in Old Round Rock Cemetery.

The DAR Patriots Index, published in 1966 by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, has this item on page 192. DICKEY, George, Sgt. South Carolina Militia, born April 16, 1742, died in Madison County, Alabama August 4, 1817, married Mary Scott. His daughter, Jean, born May 15, 1778, died February 25, 1858 in Round Rock, Texas. On February 15, 1798 she married Andrew Blair, born April 24, 1774 in Guilford County, North Carolina, died August 17, 1857 in Round Rock, Texas.

Their children were:

John D.	b. 1-17-1800	m. Clarissa Leach
George D.	b. 8-12-1801	m. Martha McGuire
Ephraim	b. 1-5-1803	m. Caroline Miller
Thomas Ray	b. 7-5-1807	m. Sarah Holmes
Andrew Jr.	b. 1-1-1810	m. Nancy Sellers
		m. Martha Reeves
David D.	b. 1-12-1812	m. Lucy Smith
	d. 10-28-1896	
Robert Donnell	b. 10-15-1815	m. NO

David D. Blair b. 1812 d. 1896, who was in the Confederate Army is buried beside his mother, Jean Dickey Blair, in the Old Round Rock, Texas Cemetery.

One large tombstone has names of Andrew Blair and his wife Jean (Dickey) Blair on one side. On the other side are the names of their son David Blair and his wife Lucy (Smith) Blair.

On the same lot are graves of other Blairs and the tombstone of Mary Ann Miller, the mother of Caroline Miller who married Ephraim Blair. Mary Ann Miller is probably the daughter of a Revolutionary Soldier.

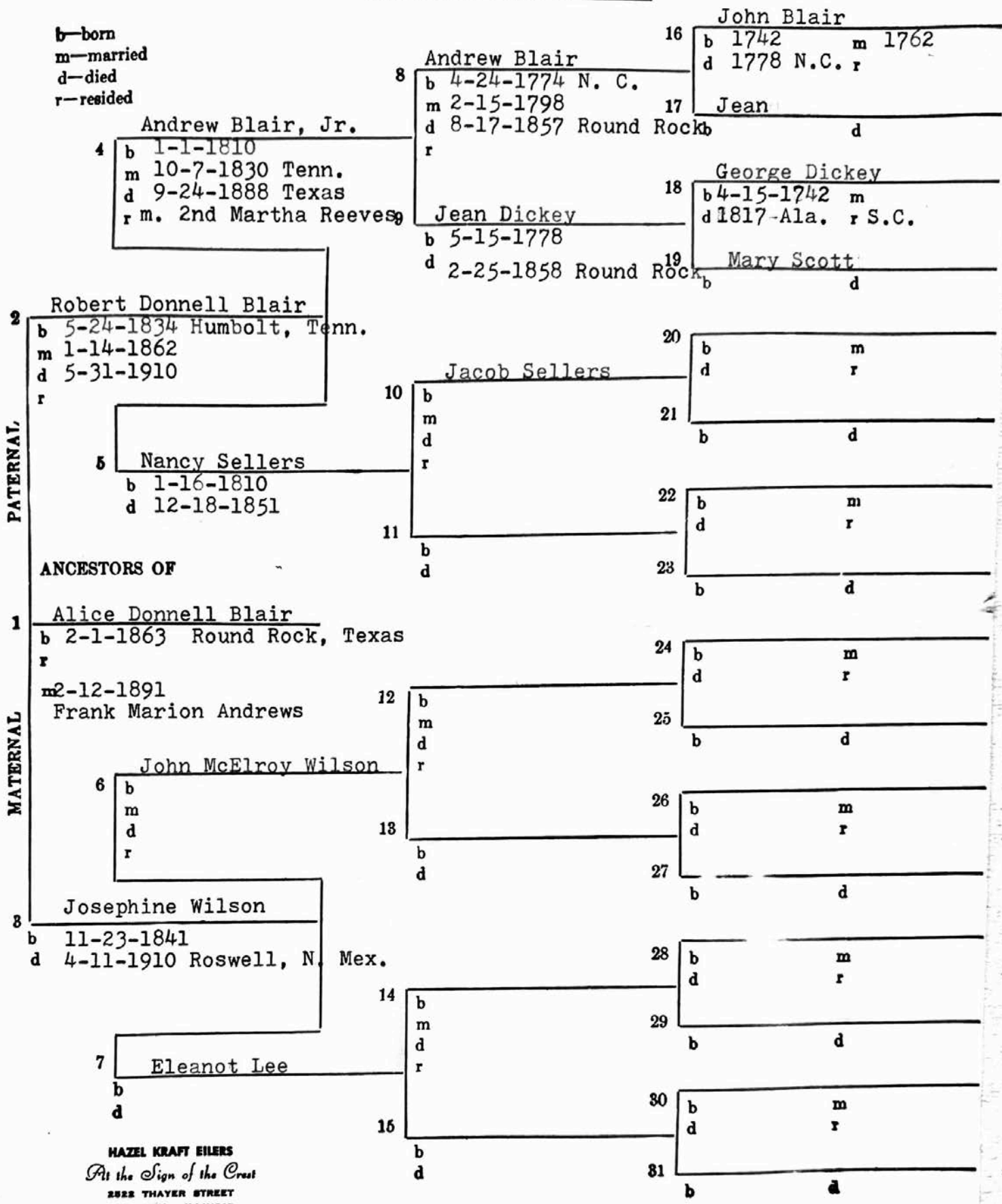
Mrs. John W. Bishop (Donna Blair), 1500 Austin Street, Amarillo, Texas 79102, has a list of George Dickey's children, a copy of his will and his Service Record.

Only eight Revolutionary Soldiers are buried in Texas. They are:

James Wilson Henderson, Alto, Texas  
John Abston, Collin County, Texas  
James Thompson, Morris County, Texas  
Stephen Williams, Jasper County, Texas  
Alexander Hodge, Houston, Texas  
James Chaison, Beaumont, Texas  
John Archer Elmore, New Waverley, Texas  
Mark Manning, Walker County, Texas



b—born  
m—married  
d—died  
r—resided









Her grandfather, ANDREW BLAIR, sr., was b. Apr. 24, 1774, in Guilford County, N. C.; m. Feb. 15, 1798 Jean Dickey, a dau. of George Dickey, a Revolutionary War soldier from S. C., and of Polly his wife; he d. Aug. 17, 1857, at Round Rock, Texas. She was b. May 15, 1778, and d. Feb. 25, 1858 at Round Rock, Texas. Issue seven sons as follows:

JOHN D. BLAIR b. Jan. 17, 1800, m. Clarissa Leach;  
 GEORGE D. BLAIR b. Aug. 12, 1801, m. Martha McGuire;  
 EPHRAIM BLAIR b. Jan. 5, 1803, m. Caroline Mellor;  
 THOMAS RAY BLAIR b. July 5, 1807, m. Sarah Holmes;  
 ANDREW BLAIR, jr., (grandfather of this subject);  
 DAVID D. BLAIR b. Jan. 12, 1812, m. Lucy Smith; d. 10-28-1896  
 ROBERT DONNELL BLAIR b. Oct. 15, 1815, never married.

Her great, great, grandfather, JOHN BLAIR, b. about 1742, m. about 1762, Jean \_\_\_\_\_ and d. near Guilford Court House, North Carolina, Sept. \_\_\_\_\_ 1778. His children were as follows:

THOMAS BLAIR b. \_\_\_\_\_ 1764, m. Sarah Carnahan (or Callahan) and d. \_\_\_\_\_ 1841 at Newton County, Missouri;  
 JOHN BLAIR b. \_\_\_\_\_ 1766, m. Is cousin MARTHA BLAIR Apr. 19, 1790; d. Dec. 18, 1844 in Tennessee;  
 ANDREW BLAIR, sr., (great grandfather of our subject);  
 JONATHAN BLAIR b. \_\_\_\_\_ 1777, m. Sarah Sloss about 1800, d. Jan. 12, 1842 in Texas;  
 MARTHA BLAIR b. \_\_\_\_\_, m. John Billingsley \_\_\_\_\_ 1790, d. in Texas;  
 JEAN BLAIR b. \_\_\_\_\_ m. William Wright and d. Aug. 24, 1842 in Gibson County, Tennessee;  
 NANCY BLAIR b. after Sept. \_\_\_\_\_ 1778, m. George Rankin and d. in Tennessee.

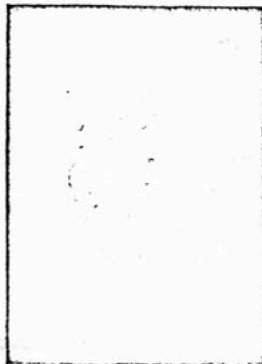
MARTHA BLAIR, mentioned above, is said to have lived to the age of 104, and spun and wove her own burial shroud some years before her death. She was called "The Woman Preacher," and was the first convert of the Great Revival of 1800. The tradition is that we are descended from one of the three BLAIR brothers who came to America about 1700.

JOSEPH FRANK ANDREWS (Life-member No. 51), born Aug. 30, 1893, at Clinton, Missouri. He is the only child of ALICE BLAIR Andrews, Charter Member No. 13, and Frank Marion Andrews her husband. His father was the son of Margarete Harmon, daughter of Major Harmon of Tennessee and Lorenzo Don Andrews of Vermont. The father of our subject was born May 7, 1848, and died April 21, 1906 on "Woodburn Plantation," in Mississippi.

Our subject was a student at the Georgia School of Technology, Atlanta, Ga., graduating June 17, 1917 with the degree of Bachelor of Science and Electrical Engineering, and is a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

He entered the Engineering Officers' Training Camp at Fort McPherson, was later assigned to the Aviation Service School Division, and taught Radio and Signaling at Georgia School of Technology, and Cornell University during the World War. He is a member of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, also of the Institute of Radio Engineers.

Further ancestral data is published in THE BLAIR MAGAZINE Vol. 1, Pages 87-8.



Joseph Frank Andrews

David Blair 1812 - 1896 buried in Round Rock. Civil War Vet. *map hall*



Old Round Rock Cemetery

Miller stones



Williamson County, Texas

WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Mrs. Clara Scarbrough, Chairman

NEWSLETTER NUMBER THREE

AUGUST 31, 1975

The Williamson County Historical Survey Committee was given a new name in July. Now, officially, the Williamson County Historical Commission, the work continues to grow in worthwhile involvements and accomplishments in many fields.

April 3rd, at the regular monthly meeting a team of speakers from the Texas Historical Commission met with the group. Director Joe Williams, head of the National Register of Historic Places in Texas, asked the Commission to survey and report eligible, significant locations in Williamson County.

April 9th, Mrs. Clara Scarbrough officially received a certificate recognizing her recent book, LAND OF GOOD WATER, A Williamson County, Texas, History, as the best regional or local level history published in Texas in 1974. Mrs. Frank M. Covert, III, Vice-Chairman of the Texas Historical Commission made the presentation at a meeting of the Woman's Club in Georgetown.

April 16th, the Regional Meeting of the Texas Historical Commission was held in the Commons Building at Southwestern University in Georgetown, with the County members serving as hosts. The program was outstanding and interesting, the setting perfect, the food was good and the large number of participants were real historians.

April 18th, the Taylor Junior Historian Program was an all day affair. Taylor High School students attended sessions in groups at the Taylor Public Library. They heard speeches by Representative Dan Kubiak and other historians, looked at pictures and slides and listened to incidents in the high school life of Taylor residents in earlier days. Commission members taking part in the presentation were A.M. Ahlgreen, Miss Ruth Mantor, Mrs. John Cornforth and others.

April 19th, Two Historical Commission members, Mrs. Lynn Burnette and Mrs. Jo Ann Morse are co-chairmen of the Bicentennial Celebration in Georgetown. They accepted State and National Certificates for the City of Georgetown from State Commissioner, Sam Kinch, Sr. at the dedication of the new V.F.W. Park on East Second Street.

April 23rd, Southwestern University, the State's oldest chartered University has two significant buildings on the National Registry of Historic Places. According to Director Joe Williams the Old Main Administration Building and Wood Hall were placed there on April 23, 1975.

May 1st, at the regular meeting, Mrs. Scarbrough appointed Miss Laverne Faubion to be sub-chairman for cemetery listings in the western part of the county and Thomas McDonald in charge of the eastern part.

May 6th, A Junior Historian Chapter was organized in the Social Studies Department of Georgetown High School. Dr. Ken Ragsdale, Educational Service Director for the Texas State Historical Association presented the program. Mrs. Scarbrough made the arrangements. Mrs. Homer Caswell will be a co-sponsor with the teacher, Mrs. Marietta Mugford.

May 18th, The Leander townsite marker was dedicated with a program at its location on Hwy 183 in the town. Mrs. Scarbrough, who approved the marker presided. It was sponsored by the Leander Garden Club and Mrs. Malcolm Naumann, past president compiled the history. Perry Moore, Lois Giddens, Miss Leona Williamson and Mrs. Irene Mason took part.

June 5th, Two community markers were announced as accepted at this meeting. Harold Asher submitted Gabriel Mills and Burney Downing did the compiling for Coupland. Also two Georgetown structures are newly accepted landmarks. They are the Penn House and the McDougal House.

Another Newsletter will be forthcoming soon.

Dates to remember:

October 2 - Regular meeting of County Commission.

October 23 - 25 TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION ANNUAL MEETING  
NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

Myreta Matthews, Reporter



# TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING of the TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION and TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

October 24-25, 1975

Nacogdoches, Texas

Headquarters: Sheraton Inn, 200 N. Fredonia St.

## *Room Reservation Information*

The Sheraton Inn will establish a room referral system for our meeting. PLEASE SEND YOUR ROOM RESERVATIONS TO THE SHERATON. When the Sheraton fills up, your room reservation will be referred to one of the other motels listed below. The Sheraton will then confirm your room reservation at one of these motels.

MOTEL	RATES		*CREDIT CARDS
Sheraton Inn	S: \$13-15	D: \$18-20	ABCDE
Holiday Inn	S: \$15	D: \$20.50	ABDE
Continental Inn	S: \$13.65	D: \$16.80	ABDE
Caraban	S: \$9.27	D: \$11.33	BE

\*Key: A—American Express  
B—Bank Americard  
C—Carte Blanche

D—Diners Club  
E—Master Charge





### Historical Document Presented

Mrs. Don Scarbrough, chairman of the Williamson County Historical Commission, (left) Mrs. J. W. Ledbetter, Helen Griffith, library staff member (second from right), and Mrs. D. B. Gregg.

Getting a preview look at the records are (left) Mrs. J. W. Ledbetter, Helen Griffith, library staff member (second from right), and Mrs. D. B. Gregg.



### Looking Over Book

Leafing through Volume I of Williamson County cemetery listings are (seated, from left) Marie Blackman, Dutch Blackman, Genevieve Atkin, Grace Garry, and (standing) Arthur Ahlgreen, Mahon Garry.



### Commission Visits

Williamson County Historical Commission members were on hand for the presentation of Volume I of burial records in the county to the Round Rock Library Thursday. They include (seated, from left) Laverne Faubion, Edith Caswell, Effie McLeod, Ruth Mantor (standing) Estha Scoggins, Ranken Kennedy, Dr. Van C. Tipton, Mrs. Ann E. Tipton, and Myreta Mathews.

## Burial Lists Presented To Library

Information and records of the 86 cemeteries in Williamson County are now available in the Round Rock Public Library, according to Mrs. Estella Sager, head librarian.

Volume I of the burial records in the county was presented to the library by the Williamson County Historical Commission Thursday. Honors were done by Mrs. Don Scarbrough, chairman.

"We have been gathering information for this volume for one and a half years and are now only half complete," Mrs. Scarbrough told Mrs. Sager and commission members as she presented the book.

There are 8,000 names indexed by cemeteries. Included are both public and private burial grounds. Additional volumes will also be listed by family names.

"We hope that this and the future volumes will be of value to those in search of information and will encourage the preservation and restoration of older cemeteries," Mrs. Sager explained.



## Browsing

with Estella Sager, Librarian

Come to your Round Rock Public Library and as you enter take an upward look! Air-conditioning vents have been replaced, new outlets added, and the entire system has been "rejuvenated!" Your staff and library patrons appreciate the comfort this has added.

### ANOTHER NEW!

An attractive efficient carousel displayer has been added which holds 600 vinyl covered quality paperbacks. These paperbacks, fiction and non-fiction, carry the companies' guarantee of 50 circulations or two years, whichever comes first. These are not to be confused with the ordinary paperbacks on store displays. Within a few weeks 100 of these popular sized books will be available.

### HISTORICAL VOLUME PRESENTED

Recognition and thanks are extended to the Williamson County Historical Commission for the presentation of Volume I, a compilation of records of 86 Williamson County cemeteries.

This presentation was made Thursday, Sept. 4, with 20 commission members in attendance, including Mrs. J. W. Ledbetter and Mrs. D. B. Gregg as local members. Mrs. Clara Scarbrough, chairperson of the commission, presented Volume I to the Round Rock Public Library with Estella Sager accepting it. This volume will be on reserve and available for reference only.

THOT: Coming from Labor Day this quotation by Boshch seems appropriate, "Your work is a cemetery on your character, for as you ARE, so you LABOR."

She added that it will put the emphasis in the right direction.

Round Rock commission members Mrs. D. B. Gregg and Mrs. J. W. Ledbetter were on hand for the presentation. Also present from Williamson County were Laverne Faubion, Edith Caswell, Effie McLeod, Ruth Mantor, Estha Scoggins, Ranken Kennedy, Dr. Van C. Tipton, Ann E. Tipton, Myreta Mathews, Marie Blackman, Dutch Blackman, Genevieve Atkin, Gracy Garry, Arthur Ahlgreen, and Mahon Garry.

The Round Rock Leader

September 11, 1975



Williamson County, Texas

WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Mrs. Clara Scarbrough, Chairman

NEWSLETTER NUMBER FOUR

SEPTEMBER 30, 1975

The Williamson County Historical Commission has closed Volume I of Williamson County Cemeteries. There are many more cemeteries to be included in the collection but due to the size of the book it seemed necessary to close the first one and get copies in use in the public libraries. This Volume I of 341 pages contains about 8,000 names, with 1,700 family names from 87 cemeteries.

On August 7, in Taylor, after a combination business and luncheon meeting Cemeteries Volume I was presented to the Taylor Public Library by Mrs. Scarbrough. Mrs. Wiley Pearson, Librarian accepted it with an appreciation speech. H. L. Farrell, President of the Library Board and Ranken Kennedy, President of the Friends of the Library also took part.

In Round Rock at a similar meeting on September 4, Mrs. Scarbrough presented Cemeteries Volume I to the Round Rock Public Library. Mrs. Gus Sager, Librarian and her assistant, Mrs. Robert Griffith graciously accepted the book saying it will be an asset to local historians.

The Judge Greenleaf Fisk application for an Official Historical Marker is in the final stages of completion. Only a few more items are needed to satisfy the requirements. It is being sponsored by Mrs. Margaret Faubion White and J. D. Fisk of Austin and more than twenty other descendants of the first "Chief Justice of Williamson County."

Mrs. Scarbrough announced at the September meeting that two more Markers have been accepted and approved. The Marker application for the Bartlett United Methodist Church was submitted by Mrs. Stanley Schwertner. A. M. Ahlgreen submitted the Taylor Tenth Street United Methodist Church application.

The Hutto townsite application is on its way to the State Commission. Mr. and Mrs. Emery Blackman compiled the history of the town of Hutto, which was founded in 1876.

The Williamson County Commission continues to work on many phases of historically important projects and research such as:  
National Register of Historic Places  
Texas Historic Engineering Site Inventory  
Texas Family Land Heritage Program for the Texas Dept. Agriculture  
Texas Parent-Teacher Association Bicentennial Program on Education in Williamson County prior to 1900.  
Junior Historian Organization encouragement and sponsorship.  
Cemetery listing will be continuing indefinitely.

If you plan to be a member of THE TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION now is the time to do it or to renew your present status. Please join through this County Commission by sending your contribution to the Secretary-treasurer - Mrs. Estha Scoggins, 1707 Main, Georgetown, Tx 78626. If the county quota is reached some special benefits are earned.

**Join other Texans in supporting the Historical Preservation Program of The Texas Historical Foundation**

**Work Programs include:**

Protection of Important Pictograph Sites  
Production of Film & Tape County Histories  
Publication of Texas Museums Directory  
Processing Official Texas Historical Markers  
Regional Museum Seminars  
Winedale Museum Workshop  
Important Archeological Surveys  
Oral History Workshop  
and Many Other Positive Action Projects



**Memberships Available**

Individual  
\$5 to \$24

Sustaining  
\$25 to \$99

Texian  
\$100 or more

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Myreta Matthews



68  
Texas Historical Commission Staff (CW), 1/9/75

18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Williamson County (SF)

Location: Chisholm St., near Brushy Creek, Round Rock

THE ROUND ROCK\*

A GUIDE FOR INDIANS AND EARLY  
SETTLERS, THIS TABLE-SHAPED STONE  
IN THE MIDDLE OF BRUSHY CREEK  
ONCE MARKED AN IMPORTANT LOW-  
WATER WAGON CROSSING. HUNDRED-  
YEAR - OLD WHEEL RUTS ARE STILL  
VISIBLE IN THE CREEK BOTTOM. THE  
ROCKY STREAM BED ALSO PROVIDED  
BUILDING STONE FOR PIONEER HOMES.  
"BRUSHY CREEK" POST OFFICE WAS  
ESTABLISHED IN 1851 TO SERVE THE  
SETTLEMENT THAT GREW UP NEAR  
THIS NATURAL FORD. AT THE URGING  
OF POSTMASTER THOMAS C. OATTS, IT  
WAS RENAMED "ROUND ROCK" IN 1854.  
THIS NAME WAS RETAINED WHEN  
THE TOWN RELOCATED ALONG THE  
RAILROAD (1 MI. E) IN 1877.\*\*

(1975)\*\*\*

Through cooperation  
of State Commission,  
this marker which was  
stolen was replaced,  
with revisions as  
shown at left. There  
were two errors on the  
original, and these  
(a date and "Brushy"  
instead of "Brushy  
Creek Post Office)  
were corrected in this  
version.

\*3/4 inch lettering  
\*\*1/2 inch lettering  
\*\*\*1/4 inch lettering



ROUND ROCK, TEXAS

1839 - 1956

DEDICATED TO

MY FATHER

WILLIAM M. SIMMONS

In memory of my father who loved the little town of Round Rock, I dedicate this thesis. I hope any mistakes that are made will be overlooked.

The information that I have received was furnished by friends and historical notes and some memories of friends of long ago.

Especially do I thank Mrs. J. D. Duncan of Austin, Texas, the Secretary of the Old Settlers Reunion, which meets once a year in Round Rock; also Mr. J. C. Jackson of Round Rock, an old-time friend of my father's and mine, and of things remembered of years gone by. A thesis of historical background must have the help of many sources.

Sabrina Simmons Baker



## "ROUND ROCK"

1838

In ~~1839~~, the pioneers began to come as far West as Round Rock. Although there was no town of that name at that time in Williamson County, the few settlers located on a place east of the present South Round Rock in the southern part of Williamson County. These fifteen men built a Fort for the safety of themselves and their families. The Fort was built of eight foot logs standing on end, with four cabins. This Fort had port holes on exposed sides. It fronted North on the bluff of Brushy Creek (the place was called Brushy Cove), the east side was near the branch. This Fort has long since passed away for other things to take its place.

1838

In ~~1839~~, Dr. Thomas Kenney, Joseph Barnhart, Major Chennyworth, James Rice, Henry Castleberry, Jack Angel, Joseph Wicks and the rest of the fifteen men (unable to obtain all names) came and located here as stated earlier in this writing.

Dr. Kenney and his family, consisting of his wife and three little girls, came from Bastrop to live at the Fort. At the time the Fort was built, the Indians roamed the hills far and wide so that the pioneers' lives were in great danger. The evening after Dr. Kenney's arrival, the men noticed smoke some distance away, indicating Indians were near. The following morning several men went out to investigate. They reached the bluff where later a Mr. Will Stinett settled. They were attacked by the Indians. Dr. Kenney and two others were wounded. Dr. Kenney's horse was shot and had to be abandoned. With difficulty they made their way four miles back to the Fort.

1838

In the same year (~~1839~~), at Webber's Prairie, a Mrs. Coleman and her son were murdered by Indians; Dr. Kenney took her two little girls to the Fort and Mrs. Kenney took care of them. Many others found a welcome and a home at that Fort.

This Fort was noted for many interesting incidents. It was the place of the rendezvous of the ill-fated Santa Fe Expedition and when Public Archives were being moved from Austin to Old Washington, the men with the wagons containing the books and papers camped in the Stockade and the following morning were turned back to Austin. As late as the 60's this



Fort was not lonely nor uninteresting; one with a romantic mind could view the acts of the brave and noble men and women who came and settled here and who defended the settlers as they came into the wilderness.

Not long after the Kenney Fort was built, a Mr. Joseph Barnhart settled north of Chandler's branch. Soon after, Mr. Merrill improved a place half a mile above the Barnhart place on the same side of Chandler branch. These places later became the Palm farms. The Merrills and Barnharts lived on these places as late as 1846, or even later.

After the Civil War, Mr. Merrill<sup>E</sup> bought the Freeman Smalley place two miles east of Round Rock and built a large stone residence with a cupola. People thought he may have used it to spy on the Indians or look over his pastures at his cattle. It was said of Mr. Merrill that he was a brave man, always ready to defend and serve his fellowman.

Hunting buffalo was a great sport with Mr. Merrill. Therefore, he procured a huge gun which served as a hunting gun and also served to fight the Indians. He lived at this place the rest of his life.

In 1841, the Indians were still plentiful. In this or Rodgers' year, a Mr. Rogers, who had lived at the Coleman home, with two other men and a boy, came to live at the Fort. They went out on a hunting expedition. When they reached what was later known as the Calvin Bell farm, the Indians surrounded them and Rogers and the boy were killed. The two men who survived returned to the Fort the following morning. Immediately Mr. Merrill organized a posse of men, went out and recovered the bodies of Rogers and the boy and buried them on the Barnhart place. In the Spring of 1841, this Mr. Rogers had planted corn at the Fort, the first corn crop in this territory, now constituting Williamson County.

During the summer of 1847, James G. Harrell, the uncle of T. M. Harrell who in later years was a medical doctor in Round Rock, Mark Moss, and others settled two miles north of town. They built a log cabin for a school house, the first school in Williamson County, at a place they called Moss Springs, on the old Stage Coach line. Later when the International & Great Northern Railroad was extended through to Georgetown, it could be seen from the cabin. This school was used as late as 1886 or 1887. The first teacher was Mr. Allen.

Many years later the wife of James Harrell, "Aunt Lucy", taught the school and was a real good woman as well as a good



teacher. This property later became the property of a Mr. Merr~~e~~ll, son of Captain Merr~~e~~ll, one of the first settlers.

In the Spring of 1848, Jacob M. Harrell and family moved from Austin and built his cabin and a blacksmith shop on the north side of Brushy Creek in a grove of trees about a block north of the creek crossing. In later years, a Mr. L. M. Mays bought the plot of land and built a nice two-story residence and a stone building on Main Street for a general merchandise store, dry goods in one part, groceries in another and a part for bookkeeping; also a booth for a post office. After the International & Great Northern Railroad came through, the postmaster would take the mail bag out to the train stop and exchange with the baggage master. It was a great event when the railroad was brought through Round Rock and extended to Georgetown, the county seat of Williamson County. Later the post office was moved from "Old Town" to "New Town" or South Round Rock.

Now we will step a few years back. At the time Mrs. Coleman and her son were killed by the Indians at Webber's Prairie, there were other crimes committed by the Indians. Mr. Wilbarger, whose brother lived at Round Rock in later years, was out alone. The Indians caught him and scalped him and left him for dead, but he managed to crawl to a spring and friends found him, took care of him and he lived many years afterward. The writer does not know the date of this incident, but it took place somewhere south of Round Rock or southeast.

When there was so much trouble with the Indians, a party of white men from the Fort went in pursuit of them. They overtook them on Brushy Creek where long years afterward, a Mr. Brown's residence and gin were located. It was called "Battle of Brushy" and then called "Boggy." The Battle of the ~~Boggs~~ Boggs was disastrous for the Indians. The white men lost a few of their number; a Mr. Jacob Burlison, Rev. James ~~Gilland~~ Gilliland, Edward Blakey, and John Walters. Thus Gilliland another crimson chapter has been added to the history of the frontier and another story of privation and terror.

The accounts, deeds, and places of the early pioneers of Williamson County should be perpetuated for the pleasure and delight of the future generations.

Peace gradually came to these parts as the Indians were driven farther west and they quit being so troublesome as they would mostly just steal horses. And what they could not steal they would kill, but many families and homes had been destroyed. The peace was quite a welcome to the early

Boggy



frontiersmen. So ended many trials of the early settlers here, but many were the trials and hardships farther West as the Indians were driven farther West. Many of the brave men and women's courageous deeds were remembered by men in the past.

With the advent of the International & Great Northern Railroad coming through Round Rock, came the building of South Round Rock. This little village "Old Town" was laid somewhat in the shade, but the hale of its historic charm will ever linger, for many interesting traditions of the past are associated with this "Old Town" - North Round Rock. It stands as a monument of pioneer days on Brushy Creek.

After "Old Town" assumed the proportion of a small town, the people used their intelligence and decided to name it and as there was a large Round Rock located midstream just below the crossing, they decided to name it "Round Rock". Also they decided to build a house of worship to worship the God who had brought them out of so many troubles, a building for all denominations, which they used for years and until each denomination built a church for themselves in South town. Of course, a larger school house had to come, so the Masonic Lodge had a large stone building put up about a mile North of town. It was named Greenwood in 1867 and chartered as Round Rock Institute. It was said to have been a wonderful school. All ages attended. This school burned in 1882.

Professor I. N. Stephens, father of Mr. Ike Stephens of Austin, Texas, taught the first school in South Round Rock, Texas. It was known as Academy and later used as a free school for all ages. A child in those days had to be seven or eight years old before he could enter free school. This school was located West of the business part of South Round Rock, near the present school building.

Old Town had only one hotel -- it was located on Main Street about a block North of Brushy Creek. "The St. Charles" was kept in later years by a Mrs. Simmons, then later used as a residence.

In later years quite a lot of small businesses came to North Round Rock, such as grocery stores, dry goods, broom making and meat markets. Dr. C. C. Black built a stone home, had an office and practiced medicine; a Dr. Royston built a nice home and office and practiced also. A midwife, "Aunt Mat Blair" who always rode a large dapple gray horse, was always ready to attend the sick. Some of our people lived out of town from one to five or six miles; several East of our little town, North, West, and some South.



After the "Greenwood" building was burned they had to do something about another building. The Southern Presbyterians had a house of worship on the hill to the left as you go to South Round Rock. They closed their church in 1891 and put up a church building closer to South Round Rock to worship in. The town obtained their old building for a free school as the public school system had become inadequate to the demands of the educational advantages of the citizens. The people obtained it for the free school. The first few years the school was taught by Professor C. H. Dobbs and J. S. Steele took Dobbs' place after Dobbs' health failed. A Professor Stubbs, later Professor Coleman Nevill and J. N. Hale also taught in this school. The charter members of the Institute were John M. Kyle, C. H. Dobbs and A. J. Brooks and was attested by H. A. Christian, a Notary Public. Then in 1914 this building burned. Of course another building had to be erected which was a nice brick one. This was located on land obtained from the Perkins' Estate Northwest of town near the Brushy Creek bluff and near the old site of the I. N. Stephens School.

Some of the first teachers of this new school were Professor York, W. R. Wolsey, and C. O. Britt. Later they put up a new addition to this school and a Mr. Perry has been teaching for several years -- the present date being 1955. Mr. Perry, the Round Rock School Superintendent, has secured ten etchings of some of the greatest Americans -- Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, Patrick Henry, Paul Revere, Abe Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, General Douglas McArthur -- with a notable quotation from each of them. These etchings with their quotations have been hung on the walls of the school library, to have before the students some of the Great Americans and Americanisms of our heritage.

In 1870 the First Lutheran Church was erected at Palm Valley, as many of the Swedish people had settled in Palm Valley, namely, the Palms, Starks, Dyers and Nelsons and many unknown by the writer. Long since a large lovely brick church trimmed in Round Rock Limestone from the quarry owned by W.N. Simmons was built. Mr. Simmons did the limestone work and was very proud that he had a hand in this beautiful structure.

After this a school was built East of South Town for the Lutherans -- later on used as an elderly people's and childrens' home. It is still a Lutheran Home.

Then came the beautiful Baptist Childrens' Home North of Round Rock on the new highway. There are a dozen or more beautiful stone buildings. The land was given by the Louis Hennas of Round Rock and some of the buildings were also donated by them. The writer does not know all about this.



Brother John Robertson, the grandfather of our present merchant, Johnnie Robertson, gave the Baptist Church a beautiful brick building, but in a very short time it burned. Later the Baptists bought the Southern Cumberland Presbyterian building and a few years since, the Louis Hennas improved it and built a lovely parsonage for the church also.

Many changes have taken place, but it is still dear to many people. In time past, South Round Rock boasted four hotels, namely, Herricks, Eshel's, Smith's and one more, the name unknown to the writer. Two banks, several drygoods stores, groceries, cold drinks, and hardware stores were also there.

Mr. J. C. Jackson came to Round Rock in 1897 and put in a furniture and funeral business which he continued up to 1945 when he retired. He was 88 years young in August, 1955. He and my father, Wm. N. Simmons, had their businesses side by side. My father also had a marble shop. Some of the businesses of South Round Rock included a Shoe Shop, S. J. Miles; a Saddle Shop, Mr. Smith; Barber Shop, Mr. Gibbs; meat market, Mr. Merr~~ell~~; Cotton Buyer, Cotton Yard, Trace White; Drug Stores, Dr. Johnson and Dr. Bowden; Medical Doctors, Dr. Holloway, Dr. Forbes and Dr. C. C. Black; some of the early merchants were N. Weise, Cox and Triggs, N. Bernheim and Sheppard and Blair and later The Mercantile Company, Mr. Jarrell; several gas stations and cold drink stands; Lime Kiln, Mr. Walsh (at one time it was said to be the largest in the world). Some of our old stone residences that were going to ruin were bought recently by retired men and renovated and made into beautiful homes (1953 or about that time) but there were many more stone residences in "Old Town".

The Stage Coach Inn or "Stop" was located one block South of Brushy Creek on a hill. It is a stone building and has been used as a residence for those many years since the Stage Coach days are past. A Scientist bought and improved it, lived in it and did his work there.

The Old Grist Mill was located a little West of the Brushy Creek Crossing. The mill race was hewn through solid rock and the mill was located over it. Of course, there was a dam built across the stream for a supply of water. It was water-ground meal instead of bolted meal in those days and a good meal it was and good bread it made. The Mill was owned and operated by a Mr. Adams.

The Cotton Gin was owned and operated by Mr. A. Verse and was located a half block North from the Creek Crossing.



The colored people had two churches -- a Baptist and a Methodist Church.

The white Methodist Church of Round Rock had a beautiful camp meeting ground about two miles West of town. Lots of shade trees, a large tabernacle and a good fresh water spring. They held their meetings for three weeks at a time. People pitched tents, moved enough of "home" to make out while camping. They had many conversions and at that time people shouted for joy. This finally changed and a tabernacle was built on the West edge of South Round Rock and as this one gave way, Dr. T. N. Harrell wanted to give a plot of ground on route to "Old Town" in memory of his son who had passed away. This plot of ground is used for many things. The "Old Settlers Reunion" is held there each year for a week. Each day is set aside for different things. The first Sunday is for "Old School Day". It is for the students of the earlier schools, but has been changed to just "Schools in Round Rock". The first "Old School" reunion was held in July 1931. On Wednesday night it is "Shriner" night. (Frank Humphrey, Vice President and general manager of Old Settlers Association for many years has passed away.)

As we can see from the earliest days, Round Rock was more than a trading post or a beaten cattle trail (to California or other Western cattle ranges) or Stage Coach route.

The early pioneers had brought with them their Christian ideals and training and, therefore, they put them in use by building Churches, educational buildings and improving homes for their families; the continual good work has ever gone on. Of course, there have been many things that aren't complimentary to any town, but there is a brighter side.

The following quotation is very good:

"There are broken threads in the history of Williamson County, but the fragments can yet be knotted together and woven into a true story of lovely colors with beautiful shadings. "For mingled with the dark are the white and rainbow colorings, telling of pure hearts and brave deeds, hopes and perseverance and the final success of the pioneer men and women of Round Rock. May Freedom's flag ever fly over our little town. God Bless us all."

The names of early out-of-town settlers East of town included the Fahnrs, a French family; the Andersons, Merrills, Merrills, Mayfields, Ricks, Dyers, I. N. Stephens, Crosbys and Pearsons.



North of town -- the John Perkins, Col. Gay, the <sup>Oatts</sup> Gatts, Pucketts, Pattersons, Snyders, Halleys, Stinettts, Wolfgins and the James Harrells.

West of town -- the Taylors, the Lewises, Nibblelows, Pates, Christians, and the Ledbetterts.

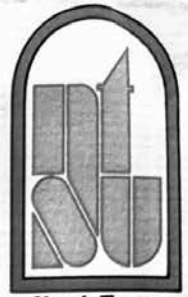
South of town -- the Wilbargers, brother of the Wilbarger whom the Indians scalped, the Henleys, Snodgrasses, Blairs, the Ash family, the Ashers, Grahams, Pearsons, Weavers and Petersons.

Among those who lived in Old Town years ago are these: Dr. Royston, Dr. C. C. Black, Dr. Mat Blair (Midwife), the Reagans, Crimms, Daileys, Sillures, J. N. Blacks, Womacks, the Simmons family, Niles, Vandergriffs, Penningtons (father-in-law of Captain Merrill,) L. N. Mays, Christians, Crutchers, Forehands, the Verse family, Adams and the Harris-es. Also F. M. Rices, R. E. Parkers, W. E. Parkers, Dock Mitchells, the Bradleyts, as well as many others whose names I do not recall at this writing.

Finished March 8, 1956

Mrs. Sabrina Simmons Baker





North Texas  
State  
University

Denton, Texas  
76203

Department  
of  
Geography

February 18, 1974

Mrs. Clara Scarbrough  
1318 University Drive  
Georgetown, Texas 78626

Dear Mrs. Scarbrough:

Many thanks for the two batches of fine reports and photographs from Williamson County for the Texas Log Cabin Register. Please extend my thanks also to Leona Williamson, Mrs. John Ledbetter, Mrs. D. B. Gregg, Mr. Hunt and Mrs. Jack Nitschke. I am well aware of the hours of time required to compile the information on the forms, and I am most grateful.

Rest assured that the forms arrived well ahead of our deadline, June 20. Indeed, we will probably be receiving forms even after mid-summer.

Incidentally, our project has already begun to bear fruit. Some educators here plan to use the Register to compile a "pioneer life module" for Texas school children. It is precisely for such purposes that I began the Register.

Thank you again for your diligent efforts, and I look forward to receiving the remaining forms you mentioned.

Sincerely,

Terry G. Jordan, Ph.D.  
Professor and Chairman

TGJ/clS





North Texas  
State  
University

Denton, Texas  
76203

Department  
of  
Geography

April 23, 1974

Mrs. Clara Scarbrough  
1318 University Avenue  
Georgetown, Texas 78626

Dear Mrs. Scarbrough:

Thank you so much for the last big batch of Williamson County log cabin forms. It seems that your county is singularly rich in these pioneer homes, and I am pleased that I have had some small part to play in increasing awareness concerning them. I would indeed appreciate a clipping of your forthcoming newspaper article on log structures in Williamson County.

I sincerely appreciate your efforts and those of your fellow members of the county historical survey committee. Thanks to your efforts, Williamson is splendidly represented in the register.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terry G. Jordan".

Terry G. Jordan, Ph.D.  
Professor and Chairman

TGJ/cls



OK  
done  
5-23-75



**JOHN WHITTINGTON**  
**COUNTY JUDGE ★ DALLAS COUNTY**  
**RECORDS BUILDING**  
**DALLAS, TEXAS 75202**

April 3, 1975

Honorable C. L. Chance  
Williamson County Judge  
Courthouse  
Georgetown, Texas 78626

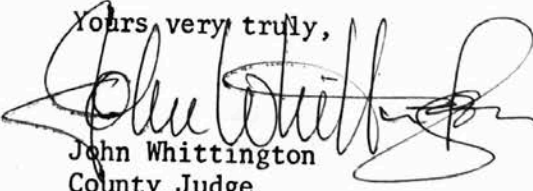
Dear Judge Chance:

In cooperation with the Historic Landmark Preservation Committee of the City of Dallas and with that committee's very able chairwoman, Mrs. Edmund J. Kahn, I am interested in researching the history of Texas courthouses. Of great value to researchers is a compilation of early architects and builders of our courthouses.

The enclosed brief questionnaire asks for information from your court records. Could you please supply this information and return the questionnaire to me?

Particularly important is the column on the far right, "Ref. to Court Records, DATE VOL PAGE." Once this information is compiled further research by historians will be greatly simplified.

Thanking you in advance, I am

Yours very truly,  
  
John Whittington  
County Judge

JW:ms  
Enc.



HISTORICAL SURVEY  
OF  
ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS  
OF  
TEXAS COUNTY COURTHOUSES

(YOUR COPY)

submitted by  
Historical Survey Committee Chairman  
~~XXXXX~~ Clara Stearns Scarbrough  
Georgetown, Texas

COUNTY WILLIAMSON

COUNTY CLERK Dick Cervanka

COUNTY SEAT Georgetown, Texas

COUNTY CLERK Dick Cervanka

NOTE: Please annotate for future reconsideration of the information full reference to the information you supply in the right hand columns.

Ref. to Court Record  
DATE VOL. PAGE

1. First Courthouse: Date of Building late 1848 or early/ First 7 pages of  
1849 (log cabin) minutes missing, Vol. P.  
Name of Architect unknown (1849-59)  
Name of Builder unknown Record regarding this  
cabin apparently in this  
lost section.

Indicate below whether Architect was also builder, which was common in early days, or whether builder did the designs, also common.

"The first Court House was a log cabin about 16 feet square. . . on Main Street" just east of the present Courthouse. 1

2. Second Courthouse: Date of Building 18 ? This small frame building  
Name of Architect occupied by Wm. Patterson, who See Police Ct.  
Name of Builder as Courthouse 1851-1857. Was 14 x 30' Recs. Vol. P for  
and "weatherboarded but not ceiled inside." 2 May 1851.

Indicate below whether Architect was also builder.

Architect & builder not known.

3. Third Courthouse: Date of Building begun 1850, completed 1857 Vol. P  
Name of Architect Commissioners Court planned specifica- Police Court  
Name of Builder to supervise. Many problems encountered in Minutes, pp.  
building, and personnel of supervisors/builders 16-21  
changed several times. 3

Indicate below whether Architect was also builder.

Several different builders. Story too complicated to detail here. See Reference.

4. Fourth Courthouse: Date of Building 1877-78 Vol. V, Police  
Name of Architect Preston & Ruffini/ minutes do not indicate Ct. Minutes, pp.  
Name of Builder John Didelot which of the two famous Ruffini architects this was. 138, 203

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO:  
JOHN WHITTINGTON  
COUNTY JUDGE

FIFTH COURTHOUSE: 1910-11. RECORDS BUILDING Commissioners Minutes Vo.  
Architect: C. H. Page & Bro., Austin, TEXAS 75202 X, pp. 201, 210, 223, 256.  
References footnoted above are cited from LAND OF GOOD WATER, A WILLIAMSON COUNTY  
TEXAS, HISTORY, by Clara Stearns Scarbrough, Georgetown, 1973. I believe your  
public library, and possibly SMU may have a copy.) PP. 125, 152-55





Texas Historical Commission  
Box 12276, Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711  
Truett Latimer  
Executive Director



May 7, 1975

Dr. Durwood Fleming  
President, Southwestern  
University and the Board  
of Trustees, Southwestern  
University  
Georgetown, Texas 78626

Dear Dr. Fleming and the Board of Trustees:

Recently the Texas Historical Commission nominated the Southwestern University Administration building and Mood Hall for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. On April 23, 1975, it was entered in the Register and is now afforded the privilege granted under the Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

As the agency administering the comprehensive survey in Texas, we welcome any inquiries you may have regarding the National Register. Your interest in preservation of sites significant to Texas heritage is commended.

Sincerely,

Truett Latimer  
Executive Director

By:

Joe R. Williams  
Director, National  
Register Programs  
for Texas

TL/JRW/pbs

cc: Mr. Mike Riddle  
Development Office  
Southwestern University  
Georgetown, Tx 78626

Mrs. Clara Scarbrough  
1318 E. University  
Georgetown, Tx 78626





*Durwood Fleming, President*

**May 12, 1975**

**Dr. Joe R. Williams, Director  
National Register Programs for Texas  
Texas Historical Commission  
Post Office Box 12276, Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711**

**Dear Dr. Williams:**

Thank you for your letter of May 7, advising me that the Texas Historical Commission has nominated Southwestern University's Administration Building and Mood Hall for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. I am delighted to know, of course, that your nomination prevailed and that these two marvelous structures are in the National Register of Historic Places.

You will be interested to know that we now have the funds for the remodeling and refurbishing of these two architectural treasures. The work will be done on the inside of the buildings as sensitively and carefully as can be done to protect design and motif. The outside of the buildings will not be altered.

Is there a volume in which Southwestern University buildings are included? If so, we would be pleased to have the opportunity to purchase it.

Thank you for your interest in us and for your administration of this, another important event in the life of Southwestern University.

Cordially yours,

**Durwood Fleming**

DF .dt

cc - Mr. Mike Riddle  
Mrs. Clara Scarbrough ✓  
Mr. Tom Buckner



SHERIFFS OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS

Whitfield Chalk	1848 - 1850
Allen Stroud	1850 - 1851
Joab B. Harrell	1851 - 1855
Levi Asher	1856 - 1857
Elisha Thomason	1858 - 1862
Levi Asher	1862 - 1864
Wm. K. Makemson	1864 - 1866
Wm. H. Warnock	1866 - 1868
LeRoy B. Lord	1868 - 1869
John Champion	1869 -
John L. Peay	1869 - 1874
S. M. Strayhorn	1874 - 1881
J. M. Tucker	1881 - 1884
John T. Olive	1884 - 1888
Sampson Connell	1888 - 1890
John T. Olive	1890 - 1892
W. S. Brookshire	1892 - 1894
H. C. Purl	1894 - 1898
Sampson Connell	1898 - 1912
Lee O. Allen	1912 - 1924
Louis H. Lowe	1925 - 1936
Robert O. Davis	1937 - 1938
B. M. McLaughlin	1939 - 1940
Robert O. Davis	1941 - 1946
S "Red" Allen	1947 - 1954
Henry Matysek	1954 - 1974
August Bosshard	1974 -



74  
18"x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker w/o post FG  
Williamson County - 9/12/74 - University Ave. &  
Ash St., Georgetown.

FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
OF GEORGETOWN

FOUNDED IN 1849 AS GEORGETOWN  
MISSION, ORGANIZED 1874 BUT STILL  
SERVED THEN BY CIRCUIT RIDERS,  
THIS CHURCH ACQUIRED A RESIDENT  
PASTOR IN 1879. ORIGINAL BUILDING  
WAS ERECTED IN 1881-82 ON THE  
SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS.

THE PRESENT CHURCH STRUCTURE  
WAS BUILT IN 1891-93, OF NATIVE  
LIMESTONE, HAND-CUT AT THIS SITE.  
PHYSICS PROFESSOR ROBERT S. HYER  
WAS THE SUPERVISING ARCHITECT.  
THE FLOOR PLAN IS MODELED AFTER  
THE GREEK CROSS. BISHOPS A. FRANK  
SMITH (1889-1962) AND W. ANGIE SMITH (1894-  
1974), BROTHERS, MADE DECISIONS TO  
ENTER THE MINISTRY IN THIS CHURCH.  
RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK - 1974







**HISTORY OF**

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**Georgetown, Williamson County, Texas**

**1974**

by

Clara Stearns Scarborough

with introduction by

J. Thomas Graves



## INTRODUCTION

From a mission in 1849 to First United Methodist Church in 1974 is a story of perseverance and vision. Dates, buildings, and events form the skeleton for the history of First Church, and its flesh and blood are the people who have shared this common ministry for 125 years.

The uniqueness of this church is its diversity. In its pews are ranchers, farmers, townspeople, students, professional people, faculty, staff, and administrators of Southwestern University. In its pulpit have been fifty pastors, challenged to minister to a pluralistic congregation which has always been a rich mixture of the academic community of Southwestern University and the varied cultural heritages of Central Texas.

You will discover in this brief history more than a story of buildings and pastors. Running through the events is a will to be the church of Jesus Christ in this community and in Methodism around the world.

We rejoice in such a rich heritage from the people called "Methodists" whose lives have converged in this place. Their story is that of the influence of a congregation on the life of a town, on generation after generation of college students, and through them the character of a region and a nation.

In this sense the influence of this church has been powerful far beyond the buildings, budget, and membership through the living heritage of her people.

At this writing (1974) we give thanks for the past, we celebrate the present, and we are filled with hope for the future. Our ministry has always been to every person who is in need of any expression of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are alive as a church today because those who came before us were zealous in finding meaningful ways to live out that gospel together.

So may it always be in this place.



The Georgetown First United Methodist Church of 1974 had its beginnings in 1849 when the Georgetown Mission was created by the Texas Conference, Springfield District, Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Springfield District circuit contained two counties in which eighteen communities were visited by the circuit rider. The Georgetown Mission was established just a year after Williamson County was formed in 1848 and the county seat located at Georgetown.

Although in 1849 the new county seat was the tiniest of villages with only a handful of hastily-built log houses, the Texas Conference recognized the rapidly moving frontier of Texas and designated missions where towns were likely to develop. No special place of worship was erected in Georgetown for many years. Like other denominations, the Methodists either joined with other religious groups for union services, met in homes, worshipped in public buildings, or met outdoors.

James W. Lloyd was assigned to Georgetown Mission in 1849 as travelling preacher, and Josiah W. Whipple was presiding elder. The 1850 census for Williamson County lists James W. Lloyd as a native of Tennessee, age 36, a Methodist clergyman, and, at that time, a member of the household of John Gooch, a gunsmith living in Georgetown.

Available histories of the local church do not indicate who was responsible for establishing the Mission. One might speculate that Rev. Lloyd was in town by 1849 and could have had a role in the founding. No doubt the Texas Conference wished to provide a Methodist Church for settlers who inevitably would migrate to the new county seat. According to the 1850 county census, there were then only five ministers in the entire county, Rev. Lloyd being one of three Methodist clergymen; there was one Baptist and one Christian minister.

J. W. Addison was assigned as minister to Georgetown Mission Church in 1850. He was not listed in the 1850 county census, so may have resided in another county and traveled to his Georgetown appointment, or could have arrived in the county after census was taken.

In 1851 the Georgetown Mission was constituted a Circuit, with George W. Tittle as preacher in charge.



As the new village of Georgetown gradually developed, occasional services were no doubt held, and circuit ministers were regularly assigned to the Mission Church by the Texas Conference. It must be remembered, however, that the circuit rider had to care for eighteen churches!

Membership of the Mission Church remained small through the Civil War and Reconstruction years. The first available list showed only thirteen members in 1873.

Events from 1870 to 1873 were to have long-lasting significance for the local Methodist Church and for Methodism throughout Texas. Early in 1870 a group of Georgetown citizens decided that the town should have facilities for higher education and by summer they were constructing Georgetown College on the block just northeast of the present Methodist Church. The two story stone building was completed in 1871. In August of that year, William Monk, circuit minister for Georgetown, attended a Conference meeting in Waco at which the Bishop asked Monk to look for a desirable site in the district for a proposed central Methodist institution of higher learning for Texas. As Rev. Monk rode horseback from Waco toward his home in Round Rock, he passed through Georgetown. There he suggested to Colonel William Cornelius Dalrymple, a leading citizen and supporter of Georgetown College, that the new college building and property be offered to the Methodists as an incentive to locate their proposed college in Georgetown. The Georgetown College stockholders agreed to the plan, and Rev. Monk, Captain J. C. S. Morrow and Dudley H. Snyder formally presented the proposal to the Texas Conference. In August 1873 after a long period of consideration and investigation of various sites over the state, Georgetown was selected. Dr. Francis Asbury Mood, who had been named Regent of the new institution, immediately came to Georgetown and began preparations for opening the new "Texas University," as it was called, on Monday, October 6, 1873. The name of the school was changed to Southwestern University in February 1875 when the State of Texas informed Methodist authorities that it required the other name for a proposed new state university.

When Dr. Mood arrived in Georgetown, he was somewhat troubled to find that only thirteen or fourteen Methodists lived in or near town and that there was no church building for any denomination, although the Presbyterians were constructing



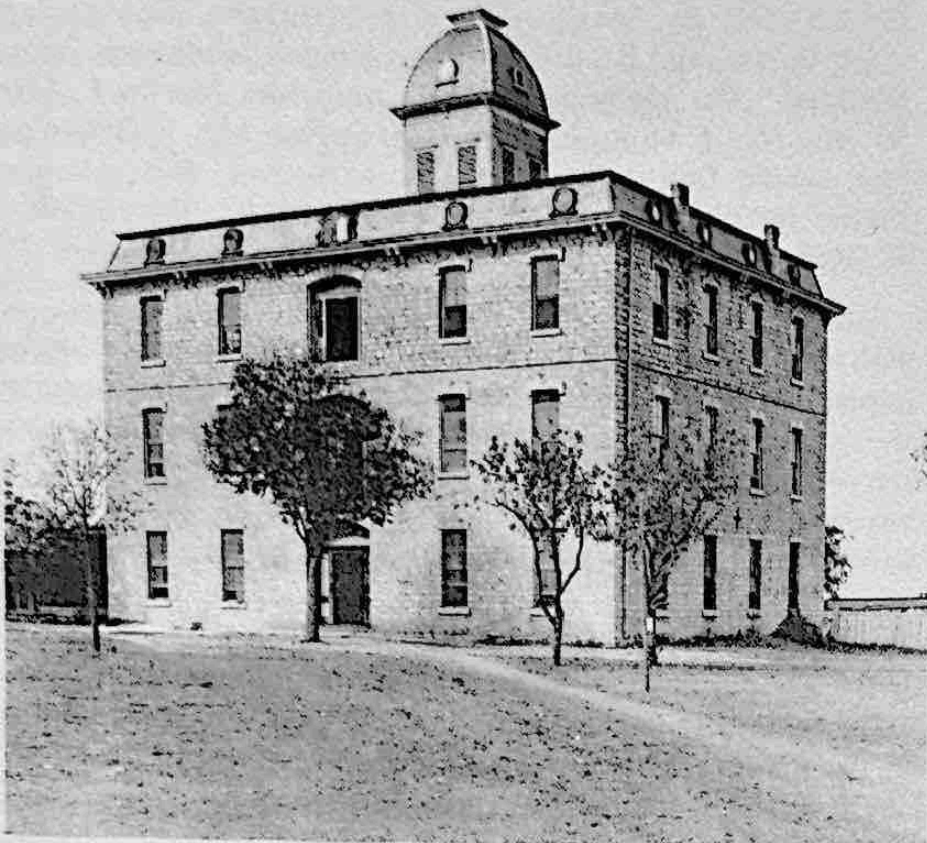
one. Religious services were held either in the Courthouse or in Price's Hall by Methodists, Presbyterians, Cumberland Presbyterians, and Baptists. A union Sunday School was "thinly attended." The Methodists in 1873 were Mrs. Martha F. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Busby, Mrs. E. A. Coffee, Mrs. E. Dalrymple, Miss Jennie Dalrymple, Miss Mattie Hughes, Mrs. Margaret Harper, Mr. W. K. Makemson, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Rucker, Mr. S. A. Scott, Mrs. Sarah Wilbarger and Miss Sarah Wilbarger.

The students and faculty of the new university worshipped with various congregations in town until January 1874. "Having completed their building, the Presbyterians proposed to divide the month among the several churches. To the Methodists they offered the use of the building once a month for thirty dollars a year as rent. At a called meeting [on Sunday, January 11, 1874] to consider this proposal and to organize as a Church, thirty-seven people enrolled their names, and submitted a petition to the Trustees [of Southwestern University] asking for the use of the University chapel as a meeting place until they could erect a building of their own. Promptly the Trustees granted the request; from that time forward church services, prayer meeting, and Sunday School were conducted weekly," according to the *First Annual Record of the Georgetown Station*. Thus the status of the Georgetown Methodist Church changed in 1874 from a mission (1849-1873) to an organized church. For a few years, however, it continued to be served by circuit preachers.

In 1875 the circuit was reduced to twelve communities, all of them in Williamson County. In 1877 the circuit was further reduced, Georgetown and Round Rock being separated from the others and sharing a minister. In 1879 Georgetown was made a station church and James Campbell was appointed pastor. He was one of the four men in the first graduating class of Southwestern University, receiving his B. A. degree in 1876.

Beginning early in 1874, the small Methodist congregation held services in the University's first chapel, a room of the onetime Georgetown College building erected 1870-71 and which, in 1874, was the home of "Texas University." The plain, two story, unplastered stone building measured about 60 by 75 feet, contained six classrooms and the chapel or auditorium which seated about 400, according to Dr. C. C. Cody. Professor S. G. Sanders of the University faculty wrote that he felt he was entering a cave as he went in the front door of the building, so





#### ***FIRST REGULAR SERVICES HELD HERE***

Georgetown First Methodist was formally organized in the chapel room of the Georgetown College-Southwestern University main building, 1874. The third floor was added in 1881.

rough was the appearance of the unplastered rock walls. There was no indoor plumbing, no well nor cistern, and no heating system. The damp condition in the building severely aggravated bronchial ailments suffered by Dr. Mood. He and his family occupied the two south rooms on the first floor during the early years of his Regency. The Mood finances had been depleted during his years with the ailing colleges which were ancestors of Southwestern University and the family lived in the small apartment long enough for several of the Mood children to be born there.

Margaret Mood McKennon, a daughter of Francis Asbury and Susan "Sue" William Ann Richardson Logan Mood, served as librarian at Southwestern University for many years. She further described the college building where the Methodists organized their church and held services for about eight years. It housed the Mood apartment, the classrooms, and the worship area.



"This was a very convenient arrangement for the pioneers of that day who attended church services, because the mothers could bring their babies and put them to bed in Mrs. Mood's bedroom downstairs, and then in peace of mind, they could attend services above. It was not an unusual occurrence during the services for a little cry or wail to reach the ears of the worshippers above. Then the ladies would quietly slip out, and presently all but one would quietly slip back into her place. This did not cause any confusion or amusement, for it was just one of the customs that the pioneers accepted without question. As the Sunday School grew rapidly along with the development of the University, classes were held in the class rooms and even in the Mood Apartments." Small birds nested in the inside crevices of the rock walls and chorused their songs during worship services.

The first parsonage provided by the church was located in the 800 block of Walnut Street during the pastorate of George W. Graves (1876-1878).

The first railroad came to the county in 1876 when International and Great Northern built lines across southern Williamson County from Rockdale to Austin. In 1878 a tap line was opened from Georgetown to Round Rock, where it joined the I. & G.-N. system. The University mentioned this important new facility in its catalogs, and newspapers of that period indicate that people rode the tap line from Round Rock to Georgetown to attend the Methodist services in the chapel. There were problems, however, with train travel. The Williamson County SUN for Feb. 17, 1881, reported that "the train due Monday at 12 did not arrive until after dark. The engine ran short of water at Round Rock and had to wait until it could be supplied." The next month, on March 3, 1881, the same newspaper noted that two clergymen, G. W. Graves and W. F. Gillespie, had to wait several hours in Round Rock for the Georgetown-bound train. They finally despaired and chartered a hack to drive them to the county seat, but were overtaken by the train before they reached Georgetown.

The University's plain, rough building was enlarged and renovated in 1881. A third story and a stylish bell tower were added, and the inside walls were plastered.

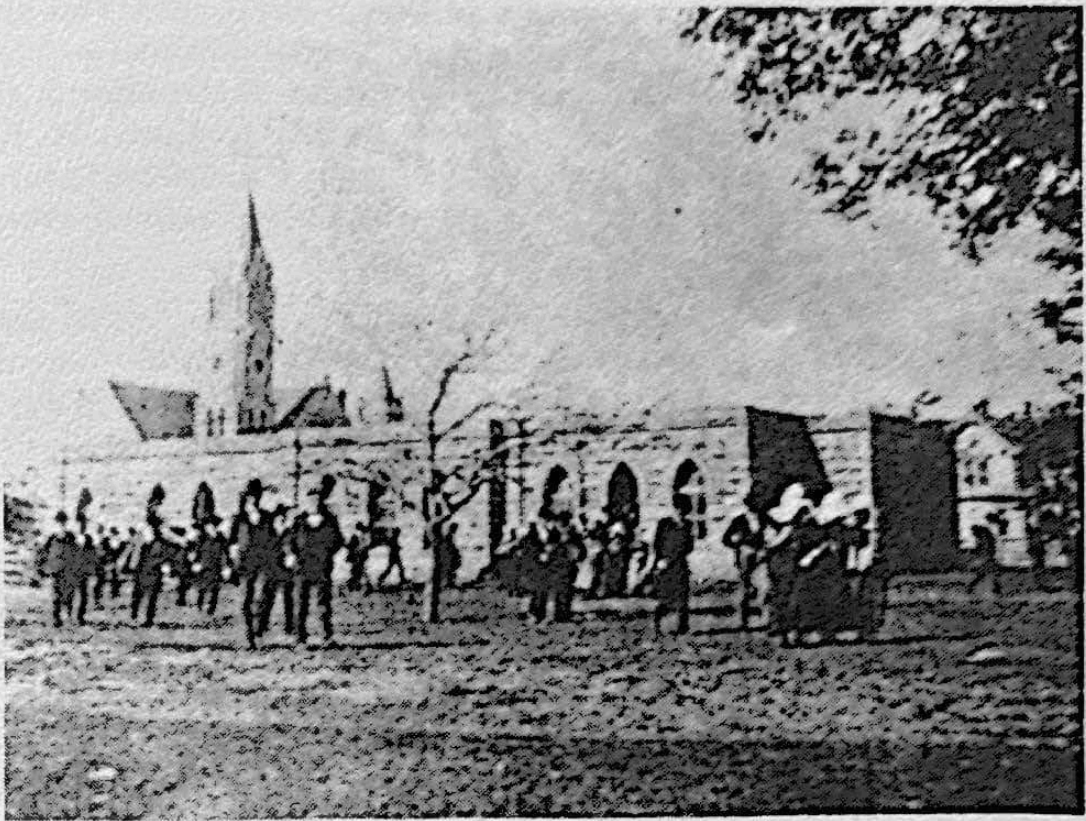
Also in 1881 the Methodists launched plans to build their own church. On April 12, 1881, the Trustees bought one-half block



facing east in the 1000 block of South Church Street (Block 22, Glasscock Addition) from D. H. Snyder for \$1,069.29. The Trustees of the church were then J. L. Rucker, J. W. Hodges, S. G. Sanders, A. S. Howren, J. W. Lane, S. M. Lesesne, and D. H. Snyder. This lot, according to the deed, was "for the use and benefit of the Methodist Episcopal Church South upon which to erect a Church and a Parsonage." D. H. Snyder had acquired the property in 1880 from W. R. and Sarah M. Reagan and the block was generally known as the "Reagan or Chapman block," the Chapmans being earlier owners. The local newspaper for April 28, 1881, stated that the Methodists were "taking active steps to build a church on a part of the Reagan or Chapman block near the Female Institute" at a cost of about \$4,000, with J. N. Preston of Austin as architect. However, no church was ever erected on that site. It is possible that a home or building already stood on the church's new property and that it was used as a parsonage. If not, a home was built, for an early historian of the church definitely located a parsonage there. (The "female institute" mentioned referred to a new department of Southwestern University properly called the Young Ladies' School. Soon after Southwestern opened its doors, several young ladies began requesting admittance as students. The Curators declined to admit them until the summer of 1878 when they heard that another denomination planned a female school in Georgetown. The Curators reversed their previous stand, rented the basement of the new Presbyterian Church, and classes started Sept. 9, 1878. By 1879 the University had completed a frame two story building with dormitory and classrooms for the Young Ladies' School, located at a discreet distance from the men's campus. The building was on the 1100 block between Brushy Street [Austin Avenue] and Main Street, later the site of Annie Purl Public School. This was the place the newspaper story of April 1881 called the "female institute.") Even as late as June 9, 1881, the local paper carried a request for bids on a proposed Methodist Church on Church Street. But between June 1881 and the following spring, the church site was changed.

The new church was to be located on the Southwestern University campus, southwest of the Main Building, and diagonally across the street to the northeast of the Methodist Church of 1974. Ground was broken at this location on April 3, 1882. The new campus structure was generally called the Methodist Chapel. It was never completed. Funds were ex-





#### ***THE NEVER-COMPLETED CHAPEL***

**In 1882, the flat building in the foreground known as the Chapel, was built on the Southwestern University campus by the Methodists. In the background, the sanctuary of the church, built 1891-93, is visible to the southwest.**

hausted after the first floor was finished so the second floor was omitted. Since the first floor was partially below ground level, the building had a flat, dugout-like appearance. Each member furnished his own wooden bench. Ladies of the church "improved the worshipful atmosphere by pasting pastel paper over the windows." An organ, brought from Chappell Hill, was played by Mrs. E. E. Chrietzberg. It was in this chapel, according to church historian Felix B. Secrest, that such men as John M. Barcus, J. Sam Barcus, Frank Onderdonk, John R. Nelson, Bishop H. A. Boaz, Emmitt Hightower, and W. B. McKeown entered the ministry. When Dr. Mood died in 1884, he was buried near the chapel, but his remains were removed to Georgetown I. O. O. F. Cemetery after the turn of the century when the chapel was demolished.

In 1891, plans were under way to build a more substantial Methodist church. The Board of Trustees purchased the east half of Block 2 of the Hughes Addition from Mrs. Susan R. Mood,

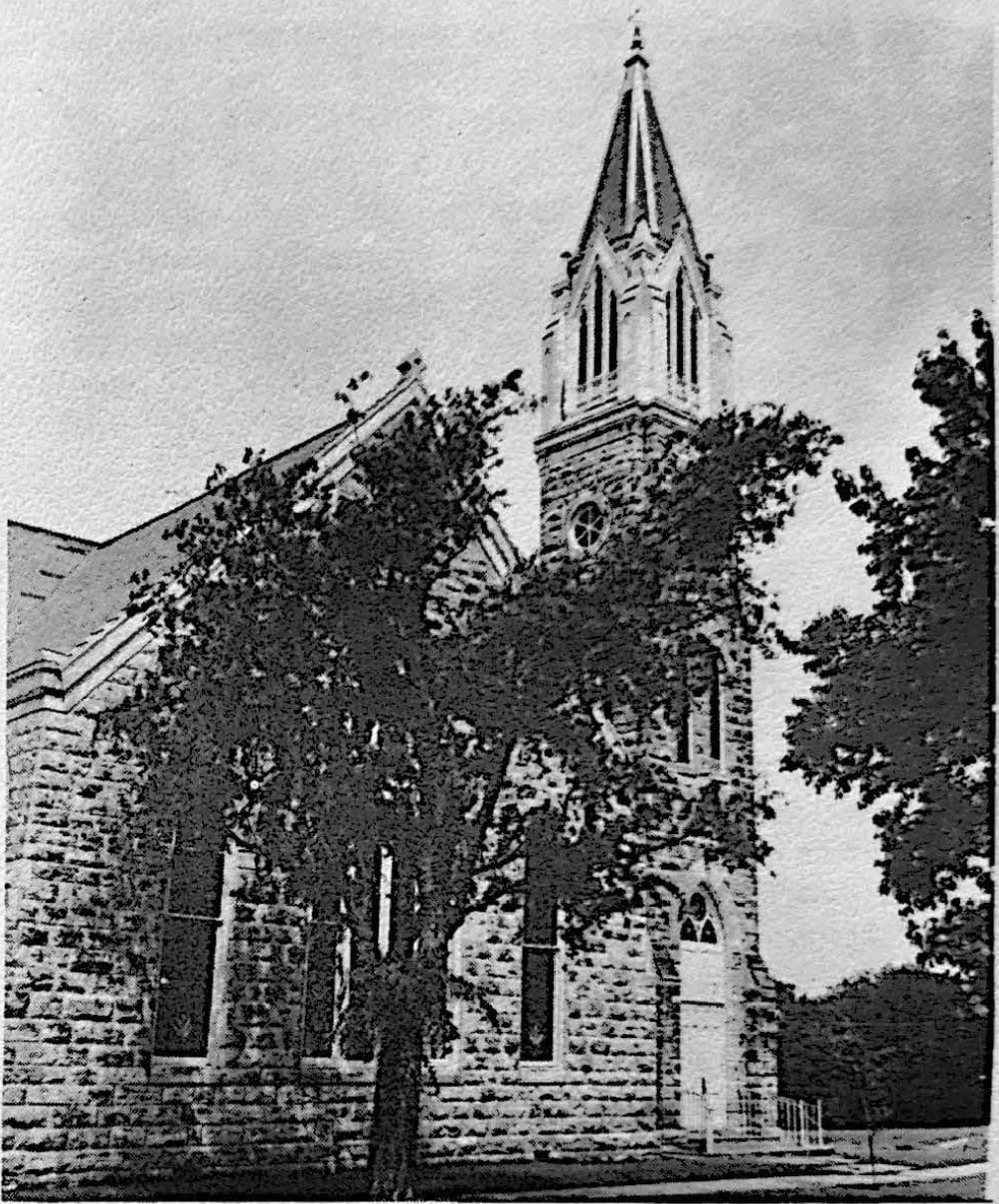


widow of Francis Asbury Mood, for \$1200, on July 3, 1891. This lot was on the same block and to the east of the Mood home, where Mrs. Mood and the children resided. Trustees of the church at that time were D. S. Chessher, G. W. Foster, C. C. Cody, M. B. Lockett, J. W. Hodges, R. S. Hyer, D. H. Snyder, J. A. Fain, and J. T. Sneed. The sanctuary of the present church was started soon after the purchase.

Land on which the present church stands was patented by the Republic of Texas, signed by President Sam Houston on August 19, 1844, to Clement Stubblefield of Jasper Municipality. Stubblefield came to Texas from Tennessee in February 1836 and was due one-third league (1476 acres) "as a collinest or settler by Emigration to this Republic." His headright was located in the then Milam Municipality, now Williamson County. Stubblefield sold 1476 acres to Thomas B. Huling, a prominent land developer, for \$150 on October 10, 1848. Neither Stubblefield nor Huling lived in Georgetown. Huling's partner in real estate, George Washington Glasscock, Sr., with Huling's power of attorney, had bought and sold land in the Georgetown area in 1848. The partnership was dissolved, Huling relinquishing or selling to Glasscock in 1850 and 1851 all the land he owned in Georgetown on the east side of Brushy Street (Austin Avenue). All these transactions included the church property. On February 16, 1857, Thomas Proctor Hughes bought 17 3/4 acres of land "near Georgetown" from G. W. Glasscock for \$221.87, with the stipulation that Hughes reserve 10 varas on the north end of the tract for a street, which became University Avenue. This property was described as the Hughes farm for many years. In 1870 when the city contemplated building the college just north of the Hughes land, the college site was said to be "away out on the prairie" with the only home in sight that of Judge Thomas P. Hughes. On January 19, 1874, Dr. Francis Asbury Mood bought one block of Hughes' land which lay in his "field" for \$250, where Mood later built his family residence. Out of this block, the church made its 1891 purchase of the east half of the lot on which to build its sanctuary.

Dr. Robert Stewart Hyer, member of the Board of Trustees of the church and a teacher of physics at Southwestern University, offered to draw plans for the church. He designed the sanctuary in the shape of a Greek Cross, then built a scale model of wood and tin three feet high with which he could demonstrate his plans to construction workers. Georgetown's Belford Lumber





### ***THE SANCTUARY***

**The handsome sanctuary, built 1891-93 by artisans who erected the State Capitol the previous decade, anticipated the architectural style to be used within a few years when the Southwestern University campus was moved and the S. U. Administration Building was erected.**

Company, which erected substantial buildings in the area for many decades, furnished Swedish carpenters for the job. The Waterston family, stone cutters from the British Isles who had worked on the pink granite State Capitol and who had established their own business in Austin, cut the stone for the Methodist Church by hand. The stone was hauled from quarries west of Georgetown by mule team. Professor Hyer donated his architec-



tural and supervisory services, but the church financed his trips to San Antonio and Austin to select furnishings. Hanging kerosene lamps provided the lights. Miss Mamie Howren, organist, played a foot pump organ; Miss Florence Boyer was the choir director.

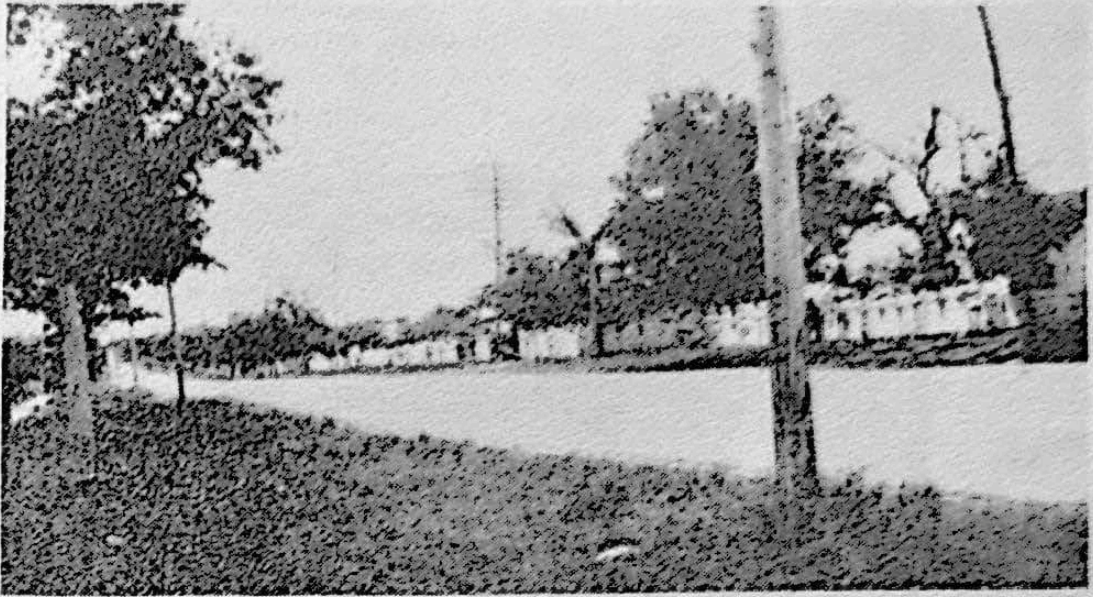
Construction continued through 1892 and 1893, but the building was put into use before it was entirely finished. Dedication of the house of worship was postponed until 1896. At that time the remaining indebtedness was liquidated through a loan of \$1800 to the local church, made by the Board of Extension, Methodist Episcopal Church South of Louisville, Kentucky.

The old chapel building on the then University campus, cater-cornered across the street northeast of the new church, continued to be utilized for Sunday School classes. The chapel also provided a kind of substitute for a public library in Georgetown, according to writer Hamilton Wright: "Well do I remember it. It had a weekly patron—myself. And some of the books I read in my teens remain indelibly in mind . . . Usually in Sunday school classes we wrote down our name and the title of the book we wished to read. Before the class dismissed, a kind of colporteur came with an armful of books and distributed them among those who had ordered. Well do I remember two fine Sunday school teachers who urged us to read good literature. One was Miss Fannie Clower and another a Miss Margaret McLean. The latter was as I recall, the daughter of a pioneer educator and Methodist minister." The same writer recalled another event of his early years concerning a clergyman at First Methodist Church. "How a new minister impresses an 11-year old boy is typical. The Methodist Church had been assigned a new preacher. He was the illustrious minister, the late Rev. J. G. Putman. He introduced himself the first Sunday of his pastorate. 'My name is PutMAN,' he began. 'There's a little town in West Texas named Putnam. That's not the way to spell my name. It is P-U-T-man.' "

The third parsonage, a two story frame home, was erected on Block 2 of the Hughes Addition, just south of the present church, sometime after the sanctuary was built and at least by 1905.

On June 10, 1917, First Methodist Church bought the Mood residence and the west half of Block 2, Hughes Addition, just west of the church. The Mood heirs—J. R. Mood, R. G. Mood, A. M. Mood, W. R. Mood, Margaret Mood McKennon, Amelia





#### **THE YOUNG LADIES**

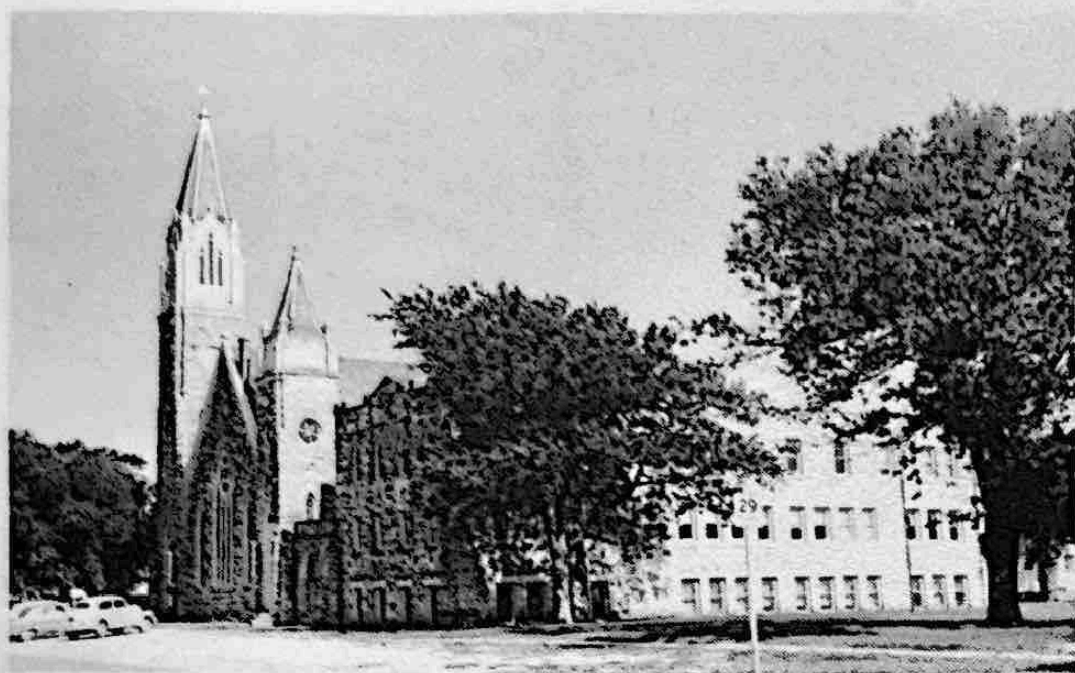
**Around the turn of the century, Dr. John R. Allen, who with his wife directed Southwestern University's Ladies Annex, saw that his charges were dressed in uniform as they marched along University Avenue to Methodist services.**

Mood Cross, and Charles H. Cross—sold the family home after the death of Mrs. Mood. With this purchase the church owned the entire block, bordered by University Avenue on the north, Ash and Elm streets on the east and west, and 13th Street (originally called Palmetto Street) on the south. Sunday School and Epworth League began meeting in the Mood home, and the old chapel across the street northeast of the church was then removed. The Board of Trustees paid \$4500 for the Mood lot and home. They were C. C. Cody, D. H. Snyder, M. B. Lockett, S. A. Hodges, H. E. Pye, J. W. Hodges, G. W. Foster, and C. S. Belford.

During the pastorate of Dr. Edmund Heinsohn, plans were drawn for the addition of an educational wing to the church. The Mood home was torn down and construction on the new building was completed in 1933. Members of the Board of Trustees signed a note held by an insurance company against the building in order to prevent a foreclosure during those difficult depression years. The indebtedness was retired in 1943, at which time the educational annex was dedicated, during the pastorate of Dwight L. McCree.

The church had been called First Methodist Episcopal Church, South, since its founding. Mergers in 1939 gave it a new name, the First Methodist Church.





#### **SANCTUARY AND EDUCATIONAL ANNEX**

**The Educational building was completed in 1933, adjoining the Sanctuary erected forty years earlier.**

Remodeling and redecorating the sanctuary took place during the ministry of James William Morgan and was finished in 1954. While Carroll H. Thompson was pastor, the frame parsonage south of the church was removed and a brick, one story home erected. Open house was held on April 20, 1958. The entire church was air conditioned and the educational building was remodeled during 1964 in the pastorate of Lively Brown.

Additional denominational mergers in 1968 led to the church's present name, the First United Methodist Church. Since 1970, during J. Thomas Graves' ministry, extensive structural repairs have been made, the stained glass windows restored and the parsonage completely redecorated. The church has experienced accelerated membership growth during this period.

Three bishops of the Methodist Church had unusually close ties to Georgetown First United Methodist Church. Two brothers, A. Frank Smith and W. Angie Smith, were members of this church when they received the call, at separate times, to enter the ministry. They were one of only two sets of brothers ever to become bishops in the Methodist Church. During their many years of service as bishops, they made frequent visits back

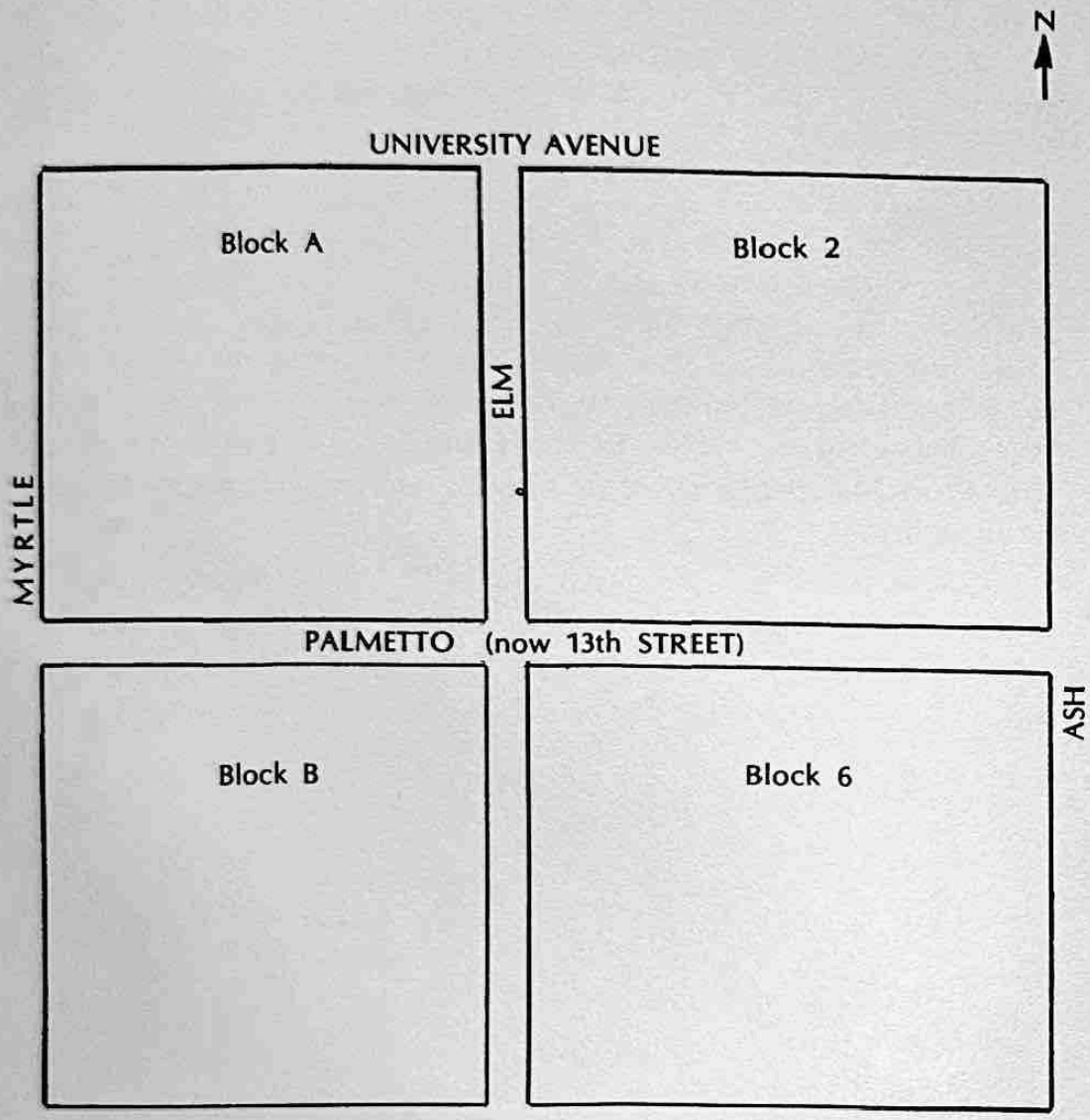


to their alma mater, Southwestern University, and to the church they knew as youths. A. Frank Smith was born November 1, 1889, and died October 5, 1962. W. Angie Smith was born December 21, 1894, and died March 15, 1974.

W. Kenneth Pope who was pastor of First Church from 1933 until 1935, was later made a bishop of the Methodist Church. He also returns to Georgetown, and on the occasion of the church's special anniversary in 1974 is scheduled to take part in the celebration.

In 1974, fifty pastors had served this church. The longest tenure was that of Dr. Edmund Heinsohn, six years. James William Morgan served five years and J. Thomas Graves began his fifth year in the spring of 1974. Thomas Granger and Wallace Chappell served four years, as did James Campbell, the latter not in consecutive pastorates. W. L. Nelms was minister two separate times totalling six years. Richard Smith served three years and nine months, and George W. Graves had two pastorates totalling three years.





**Map showing a section of Thomas P. Hughes Addition, Georgetown, including Block 2, on which the First Methodist Church is located**



The following is a complete list of all pastors of this church:

**(Georgetown Methodist Mission):**

1849 J. W. Lloyd  
1850 J. W. Addison  
1851-52 George W. Tittle  
1853 W. A. Smith  
1854 T. E. Windsor  
1855 R. Y. King  
1856 James M. Rice  
1857 R. G. Rawley  
1858-59 H. M. Burrows  
1860 T. G. Gilmore  
1861 J. B. Wittenberg  
1862-63 J. W. Ledbetter  
1864 T. G. Gilmore (2nd term)  
1865-66 J. W. Ledbetter (2nd term)  
1867 J. Fred Cox  
1868 George W. Graves  
1869 James Peeler  
1870-71 William Monk  
1872-73 James Lane

**(Organized Methodist Church):**

1874 James Lane  
1875 Horace Bishop  
1876-78 George W. Graves (2nd term)

**(Station Church):**

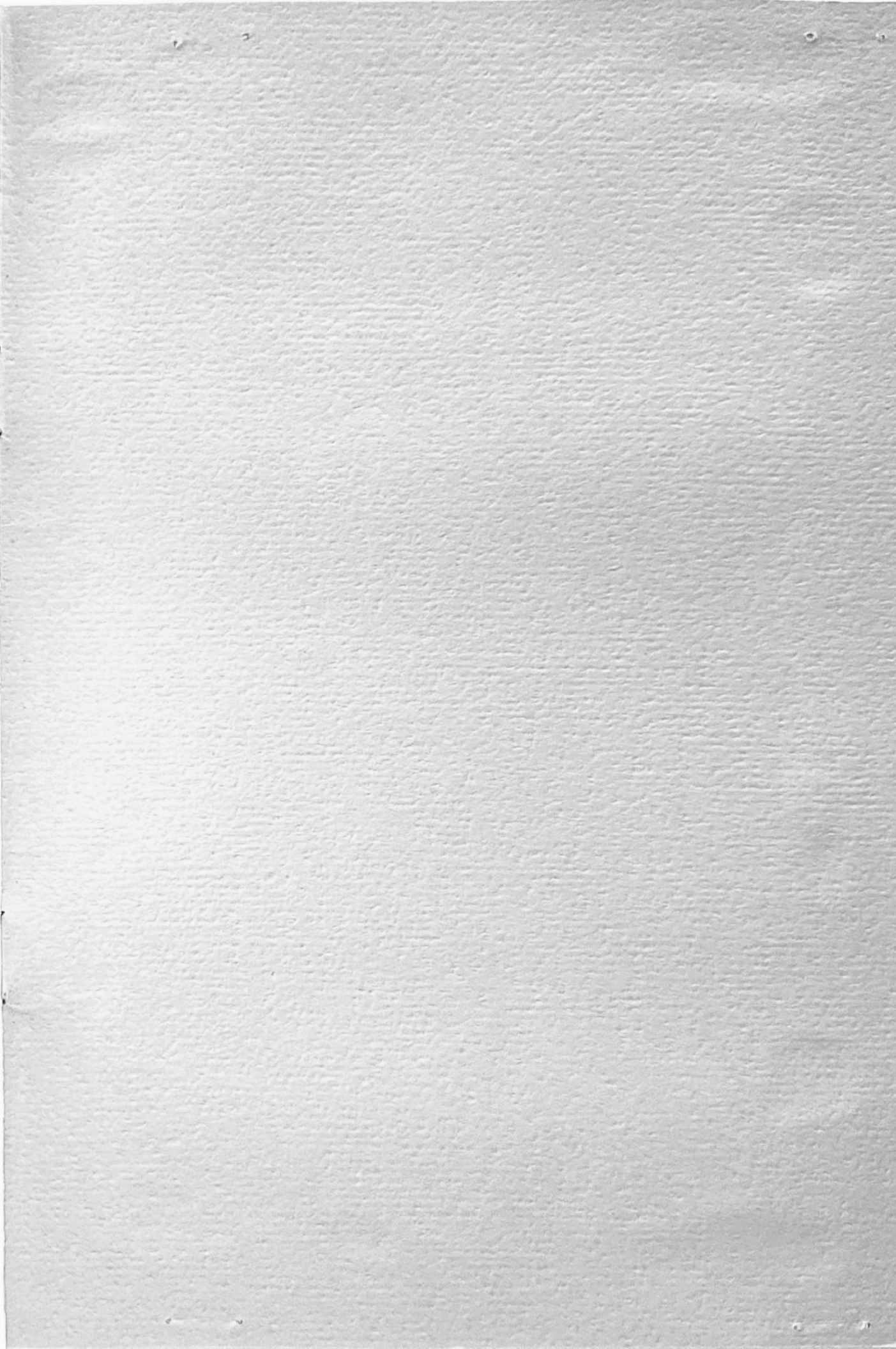
1879-80 James Campbell  
1881-83 A. A. Allison  
1884-85 W. G. Conner  
1886-89 W. H. Vaughan  
1890-91 Sam P. Wright  
1892-95 John R. Nelson  
1896-97 Josiah Green Putman  
1898-99 James Campbell (2nd term)  
1900-01 A. O. Evans  
1902-05 W. L. Nelms  
1906-09 John M. Barcus  
1910-13 W. L. Nelms (2nd term)  
1914-16 C. H. Booth  
1917-18 K. P. Barton  
1919-20 A. W. Hall  
1921-23 E. P. Williams  
1924-26 John N. Rentfro  
1927-33 Edmund Heinsohn  
1933-35 W. Kenneth Pope  
1936-37 W. C. Childress  
1938-39 L. W. Seymour  
1940 Oran Stephens  
1941 W. H. Cole  
1942-43 D. L. McCree  
1944-45 J. C. Oglesby  
1946-51 James W. Morgan  
1951-55 Thomas Granger  
1955-58 Carroll H. Thompson  
1958-62 Richard R. Smith  
1962-64 Lively Brown  
1964-66 Morgan Garrett  
1966-70 Wallace Chappell  
1970- J. Thomas Graves



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Texas Historical Commission Staff (CW), 11/11/74

18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Williamson County (Order #4239)

Location: SH 183 right of way, at N end  
of Leander Cafe, Leander

LEANDER\*

LEANDER GREW FROM THE ONCE  
THRIVING TOWN OF BAGDAD, FOUNDED  
IN 1854 (1 MI. W) WHEN THE AUSTIN &  
NORTHWESTERN RAILROAD BYPASSED  
BAGDAD IN 1882, A NEW TOWN WAS  
SURVEYED AND NAMED FOR RAILROAD  
OFFICIAL LEANDER BROWN (1817-89),  
HOMES AND BUSINESSES FROM THE  
OLDER COMMUNITY QUICKLY MOVED  
TO THE NEW SITE ALONG THE RAIL  
LINE. THE POST OFFICE WAS BROUGHT  
HERE FROM BAGDAD IN 1882. THE  
SCHOOL STARTED HERE IN 1893 HAS  
GROWN INTO THE LARGEST SCHOOL  
DISTRICT IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY,  
ORIGINALLY IN A RURAL AREA, LEANDER  
HAS BOOMED IN RECENT YEARS DUE  
TO HIGHLAND LAKES DEVELOPMENT. \*\*

(1975)\*\*\*

\*3/4 inch lettering

\*\*1/2 inch lettering

\*\*\*1/4 inch lettering



LEANDER  
by Clara Stearns Scarbrough

16

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of  
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The community of Leander was created ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> 1882 by a combination of factors--the coming of a railroad, land speculation, and was settled largely at first by people of nearby communities, already established, who sought the convenience of railroad facilities.

Leander was located quite near several places of historic significance: four miles to the south was Tumlinson Fort/Block House, built by one of the three first Ranger companies in Texas in January 1836; one mile to the west was Bagdad, established in 1854, and a thriving town <sup>long before</sup> ~~when~~ Leander was established, <sup>and</sup> furnishing most of the businesses and residents for Leander. Leander is between and not far from two branches of Brushy Creek. Early trails and roads which ran through Bagdad were, of course, just a mile from the new town of Leander. The Central National Road which ran from Austin northward through Bagdad and on toward Lampasas, was a stage route in the 1850s, bringing mail to Bagdad post office in 1855, and to other places of the area. The Central National Road was popularly called the "mountain road," and, after a string of forts was established along the frontier in 1851, it was also called the "military road," because of the military traffic over it, headed for Fort Croghan (present Burnet). Army units camped under a grove of trees near Bagdad, and Robert E. Lee often rode this route, sometimes staying at a wayside inn at Bagdad. Feeder cattle trails of the western part of the county led through the Bagdad area, headed as a rule for the fabled Chisholm Trail. *The narrow gauge rails located in 1852 were to haul granite through Leander for building the new State Capitol.*

Among the first settlers in the Leander-Bagdad area were:

Thomas M. Hornsby, born 1805, came to the area to become Bagdad in the summer of <sup>1846</sup> 1846 and put up a log cabin, the first known home in that vicinity; Harmon Smilser, born in Tennessee in 1798, who came



(3)  
(2)

sometime between 1846 and 1850; Charles Babcock and his family, who came on Christmas Day, 1851. It was Babcock who surveyed the town of Bagdad in 1854. John H. Shaffer and John F. Heinatz were two of the first merchants in Bagdad, Heinatz also opening a blacksmith shop and succeeding the first postmaster, Thomas Huddleston. Others arriving in the early 1850s were James Williamson, George Craven, Robert Marley, Eli and Andrew Hamilton, John Faubion, Colonel C. C. Mason, William N. Carothers, John Schooley, E. A. Walker, W. R. Walker and Tom Cashion. Arrivals before 1850 in the Leander-Bagdad area included two brothers, James and Nicholas Branch--James born in 1807, and Nicholas in 1813; Greenleaf Fisk (1811-1887); M. J. Wells (1819-1893) and Henderson Upchurch.

The townsite of Leander was platted and recorded by the Austin and Northwestern Railroad Company on June 16, 1882, out of the Elijah D. Harmon League.

Thomas S. Evans and his wife, Lavinia E. Evans, upon agreement with the "Austin and North Western Rail Road company" ~~and~~ completed a deed requiring the railroad to establish and maintain a depot, side tracks and switches in the town of Leander. The railroad was granted a strip of land 300 feet wide, north to south along the railroad tracks, as right of way. Public streets in the newly platted town were donated by the railroad, and were designated as Evans Street, Broad Street, Willis Street, East Street and West Street. These were indicated on the plat of 1882.

Bagdad post office opened May 8, 1855, with Thomas Huddleston, postmaster. The office continued under the name of Bagdad until October 6, 1882, when it was transferred to Leander.



Leander is not incorporated, but operates as a county seat.

Most of the early businesses in Leander moved from nearby Bagdad. Tom S. Evans of Bagdad moved his house to Leander and operated it as a hotel while the new railroad was being completed. John F. Heinatz and John Speegle moved stores from Bagdad to Leander within a short time after the opening of the town. Jesse Humble and L. Chapman erected a large general store. Magill & Evans, Emmett and Coon, and Wells & Mason were other early stores. The Methodist Church was moved from Bagdad and the Presbyterians erected a new church at Leander. Two of the first lawyers were A. S. Walker and John W. Parks. Dr. Sam Woolsey was a practicing physician. The Norton Moses Masonic Lodge No. 336, which was chartered in Bagdad in 1871, was also moved to Leander <sup>after</sup> ~~when~~ the town was founded. The Leander mill and gin was also an early installation in the new town.

The economic base for Bagdad and early Leander was agricultural, with a fair mix of cotton, sheep and cattle. Several quarries are located near Leander, and the harvesting of cedar posts has also brought some economic benefit. The economy remained agricultural until mid-twentieth century, when developments from the lake areas brought additional students to the Leander Independent School District and new residents. In the 1960s and 1970s, the area has undergone considerable development by real estate firms, and population has increased rapidly.

In a rural community such as Leander, it is difficult to name community leaders, for many of the substantial farmers contribute to the community as much as leading businessmen. One businessman-leader served both the early town of Bagdad and its successor, Leander.



Galveston in 1848 and traveled extensively over the country before settling first in Austin, and at Bagdad in June 1853. Heinatz had learned the blacksmith trade in Germany and was a well educated man. At Bagdad, he set up his blacksmith shop and after a short while was also engaged in merchandising. In his general store he installed a small grain mill. As an energetic, informed young man, he was called upon in the community for the role of banker, lawyer, as well as merdhant, miller, postmaster, church trustee (the Methodist Church which he helped to found), and Sunday School superintendent. He married Emilie Krohn of Austin in 1863. Having served as postmaster of Bagdad in 1858-1866, his wife, Emilie, became postmistress in 1866. He returned to that office in 1876 and was still postmaster in 1882 when the name of the office was changed to Leander, the new office being located a short distance east of the Bagdad one. Heinatz continued in that position until his death in 1891, when his son, Charles, became postmaster (1891-1894). John F. Heinatz was also a charter member of the Masonic Lodge, established at Bagdad in 1871, and moved to Leander in 1899.

Alexander Stuart Walker I (1826-1896) was a landowner in the Leander area, and although he never lived there, he kept touch with the community when his many duties as an attorney and judge allowed. His son, Alexander Stuart Walker II, born in Georgetown in 1865, educated at Southwestern University and receiving his law degree in 1886, did eventually live on the family farm and ranch south of Leander. He, too, had a distinguished law career, serving as county judge of Travis County 1896-1900. In 1900 he moved to the Leander ranch to manage it, maintaining active participation in



Walker entertained William Jennings Bryan and Mrs. Bryan. From 1913 to 1920, Walker was Texas Collector of Internal Revenue, practiced law in Dallas 1920-1924. He died near Leander in 1933.

Another man of the Leander area who distinguished himself outside his own home was Judge Greenleaf Fisk (1811-1887) who was County Judge (then called Chief Justice) of three counties in Texas--Bastrop (1841-1846); Williamson (1848); and Brown counties. After serving as Williamson County's first County Judge, he moved to Brown County where he owned property granted him for his service in the Texas Revolution, and there became the patron of the town of Brownwood. He gave land for the cemetery there, named Greenleaf Cemetery for him, and land on which Daniel Baker College was established.

Other important leaders included John Babcock (surveyed Bagdad and donated land for the Masonic building which also served as church and school), Harmon Smilser, Charles Harris, Fielding Dawson, Burkett Bowmer, Wm. M. Davis, Thomas Huddleston, James Williamson, George Craven, Robert Marley, John Faubion, Andrew Hamilton, Eli Hamilton, James and Nicholas Branch, Thomas Hornsby, all of whom arrived in the area in the early 1850s. M. J. Wells and Henderson Upchurch, both veterans of San Jacinto, came in 1855, and Colonel C. C. Mason, Wm. N. Carothers, John Schooley, E. A. Walker, W. R. Walker and Tom Cashion about the same time.

Since Leander's heritage reached back into the history of Bagdad, one of the oldest communities in the county, and since Leander itself was established in 1882, the community wishes to commemorate its founding with a historic marker. Many descendants of early settlers still live in the community and throughout the



6

county. They will take pride in the recognition which rightfully belongs to Leander.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

History of Leander, prepared 1974 by Leander Garden Club and Mrs. Malcolm Naumann, secretary of the Garden Club.

Land of Good Water, a Williamson County, Texas History by Clara Stearns Scarbrough, and additional notes on Bagdad and Leander in the files of the same author.

Shin Oak Ridge by J. Gordon Bryson.

Travis County in Stone, Bronze and Aluminum by James Mulkey Owens.

A History of Central Texas by Mary Starr Barkley

A School Composition by Curtis Barho

Bagdad Cemetery Records

Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Mood Wiley and Fred Henry, Leander, 1974.

U. S. Postal Records.

U. S. Census 1850.

Masonic Lodge Records.

Interviews, June 1974, with Leander residents and residents of that area: Roger and Mary Burleson, Mrs. Eunice Wiley, Miss Myreta Matthews, Mrs. Mary McLain, Mrs. Bernice Wiley, Mrs. Ada Mae Faubion, Mrs. Irene Mason, and members Leander Garden Club.



93  
Official Texas Historical Building Marker for  
attaching to wood surface, Williamson county -  
10/7/74 - near FM 2243, 6 mi W of Georgetown

DS

*and 4 mi. east of  
Leander.*

THE A.M. BROWN CABIN

WHEN ASA M. BROWN CUT CEDAR,  
ELM, AND OAK TREES AND BUILT THIS  
CABIN ON HIS 317-ACRE STATE OF  
TEXAS CLAIM IN 1853, THIS LAND  
WAS ON THE FRONTIER. HIS CHIMNEY  
AND FIREPLACE WERE OF HAND-HEWN  
NATIVE STONE, THE FLOOR OF DIRT.  
WILLIAM WOOD, ONE OF THE MANY  
LATER OWNERS, ENLARGED THE HOME.  
IN 1909-66, L.M., T.L., ANNIE, AND  
CHARLES HUGHES BY TURNS OWNED  
AND OCCUPIED THE PROPERTY. MR.  
AND MRS. JACK GAREY RESTORED THE  
CABIN AFTER THEIR PURCHASE, 1966.  
RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK - 1974



## Asa M. Brown Cabin

### Structure Checklist

#### 1. Ownership list of land where log cabin is located.

State of Texas to Asa M. Brown by Patent #269, Vol. 18 (photostat of patent accompanies this material) Abstract #85, Certificate #5, 3rd class recorded in General Land Office and dated Nov. 17, 1858. The log cabin was located on 317 acres, the land to which Mr. Brown was entitled by virtue of a law passed Jan. 22, 1845 and amended in 1853 giving to settlers pre-emption claims. The original survey was made on June 26, 1854 and certified on Aug. 15, 1854 in the Surveyor's Records Book E, Page 172, Williamson County, Texas (All further records referred to in this ownership list are recorded in Williamson County, Texas.)

Samuel J. Davidson paid \$400.00 for 407 acres, approximately \$1.00 per acre, on October 26, 1859 recorded Vol. 8, Page 555 of the Deed Records. This included the original 317 acres plus a 90 acre tract contiguous to that original tract. Davidson sold to M. A. Robins who paid \$1,300.00 for 407 acres, about \$3.19 per acre, on November 11, 1872 recorded Vol. 14, Page 139, Deed Records. Robins sold to John A. Cloud who paid \$1,500.00 for 283 acres, \$5.30 per acre on March 25, 1876 recorded Vol. 17, Page 259, Deed Records. The log cabin was on the 283 acres sold to Mr. Cloud. The other 124 acres was retained by Mr. Robins.

John A. Cloud died in 1880 intestate and left his 283 acres undivided to his children. He had five children by his deceased first wife. They were J. W. Cloud, J. E. Cloud, G. W. Cloud, M. E. Cloud Abraham and S. A. Cloud Harris. He also had three (3) children by his deceased second wife. They were Mattie Cloud Roach, Pearl Cloud Roach, and Grace Cloud Goggolz.

J. W. Cloud sold his undivided interest in the 283 acres to G. A. Cloud for \$2,000.00, approximately \$7.06 per acre, on November 22, 1888 recorded Vol. 53, Page 292, Deed Records.

M. E. Abraham sold her undivided interest in 283 acres to S. A. Harris, her sister, for \$200.00, about \$4.25 per acre, on July 27, 1889 recorded Vol. 53, Page 288 of the Deed Records.



S. Allie Harris then sold her interest to Wm. Wood on November 18, 1889 for \$400.00 (\$4.25 per acre). \$200.00 paid in cash and a \$200.00 note bearing 10% interest and due on January 1, 1891 recorded Vol. 53, Page 294 Deed Records. The \$200.00 note with interest was paid May 26, 1900.

On November 27, 1889, Wm. Wood redeemed 177 acres of the 283 acres for payment of \$8.63 in back taxes not paid by J. W. Cloud for year 1887 recorded Vol. 53, Page 310 Deed Records.

G. A. Cloud sold his interest in 283 acres to Wm. Wood for \$200.00, \$4.25 per acre, on February 15, 1890 recorded Vol. 53, Page 297, Deed Records.

J. E. Cloud sold his undivided interest in the 283 acres to Wm. Wood on December 2, 1890 for \$200.00, \$4.25 per acre, recorded Vol. 59, Page 543, Deed Records.

G. W. Cloud sold his interest to Wm. Wood on November 30, 1895 for \$200.00, \$4.25 per acre, recorded Vol. 79, Page 434. A xerox copy of the note for \$200.00 given to G. W. Cloud by Wm. Wood accompanies this material.

On July 29, 1899 a Quit Claim Deed was recorded in Vol. 93, Page 567 to Wm. Wood from the survivors of S. J. Davidson for consideration of \$1.00 because in 1872, when Davidson sold to M. A. Robins, there were some irregularities in the deed due to two notes which had long since been paid but not properly released.

On December 14, 1903, Wm. Wood used his interest in 277 acres, including the cabin site, for collateral to borrow \$1,600.00 at 10% interest due on or before five (5) years. He borrowed the money from John W. Hamilton with \$10.00 paid to F. W. Carothers as trustee; recorded Vol. 18, Page 170, Deed of Trust Records. The note and interest were paid in full and the Deed of Trust was released by Carothers to Wood on May 11, 1909 recorded Vol. 133, Page 140, Deed Records. A Xerox copy of this note is attached to this material. The original has been preserved and will be a part of the cabin display.



On October 6, 1905, Mattie Cloud Roach and Grace Cloud Goggolz each sold their undivided interest in the 283 acres to Wm. Wood for \$133.33, about \$2.84 per acre, recorded Vol. 108, Page 241, Deed Records.

The last holdout was Pearl Cloud Roach who on April 24, 1906 sold her interest to Wm. Wood for \$66.65, only \$1.42 per acre, recorded Vol. 117, Page 463, Deed Records. She waited the longest to sell and got the least for her share.

It took Wm. Wood from November 18, 1889 to April 24, 1906 to purchase all rights to the property where the log cabin stands. He paid a total of \$1,209.61, an average of \$4.27 per acre. During the time Mr. Wood owned and occupied the cabin, he added to the original structure, including more rooms and approximately three (3) times as much square feet of living area.

L. M. Hughes bought the 283 acres plus 554 acres contiguous to it for a total of 837 acres from Wm. Wood for \$7,910.00 cash and notes for \$4,550.00 divided into notes 1-10. #1 for \$150.00 due 1-1-1910, #2 - 8 each for \$200.00 due Jan. 1, 1911 and each Jan. 1 through 1917, #9 and 10 each for \$1,500.00 due January 1, 1918 and 1919. Each note bearing interest of eight (8%) percent per annum, Recorded Vol. 131, Page 401, Deed Records.

L. M. Hughes was something of a rolling stone according to his descendant, Charles Hughes of Leander, Texas. He moved to the ranch from Weir, Texas. It wasn't long before the urge to move on overtook him, and he talked his nephew and neice, T. L. and Annie Hughes, into buying the ranch so he could be on his way.

On November 12, 1910, T. L. and his sister, Annie, paid \$7,500.00 for 837 acres, \$8.96 per acre. They paid \$2,586.00 cash and assumed the notes payable to Wm. Wood in the amount of \$4,914. Warranty Deed with Vendor's Lien recorded Book 147, Page 112, Deed Records.

Soon after they purchased the ranch and made their home there, their brother Will E. Hughes and his wife, Mable, and their 4 year old son, Charles, came to live on the ranch. They shared the house which included the log cabin and the additions which



had been made by Wm. Wood. Charles E. Hughes lived on the ranch from 1912 to 1962 in this house. Mr. Hughes was very helpful in relating and confirming much of the cabin history included in this report.

Annie Hughes died July 12, 1950. Charles E. Hughes, her nephew, inherited her undivided 1/2 interest in 526 acres including the land where the cabin stands. The other 311 acres originally purchased by the Hughes had been sold previously.

Probate #4640

T. L. Hughes died Aug. 26, 1957, and left his half of the 526 acres to Charles Hughes, his nephew. The property was valued at \$35.00 per acre for inheritance tax purposes for a total value of \$18,410.00. Probate #5408

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Garey, the present owners of the property, paid \$89,126.00 for 523 acres on September 4, 1966. (3 acres having been donated to the highway dept. for purposes of straightening and widening the road) \$170.41 per acre, recorded Vol. 490, Page 457, Deed Records.

#2 Proof of date the log cabin was erected.

According to the Pre-emption certificate for Asa M. Brown File 1211 Milam 3rd class, Asa M. Brown resided upon and cultivated the 317 acres where the log cabin is located for three consecutive years, and the settlement and improvement was commenced previous to February 13, 1854. According to the last section of the field notes, Asa Brown swore that he settled upon vacant Public Domain February 7, 1853.

The original copy of the Pre-emption certificate and also the field notes are at the General Land Office, but copies of both documents accompany this material. Also included is an affidavit signed by Charles Hughes, previous owner, testifying to facts related to him by his predecessors in title confirming the building of the cabin by Asa M. Brown.

#3 Motivation for Erecting the Log Cabin.

Mr. Asa M. Brown built and occupied the present cabin as



a homesite in order to acquire free land under a homesteaders law passed by the State of Texas in 1845. This land was made available by the State of Texas to settlers to encourage immigration and development of the State. From the size of the cabin and the materials used, it seems safe to assume that Mr. Brown was a pioneer of modest means. The times were predominantly agricultural. The cabin was located near rich river bottom land. Undoubtedly, Mr. Brown hand cleared the best land of native oaks, elm and cedar in order to cultivate it for production of crops of the era.

The cabin provided the shelter necessary to protect Mr. Brown and his family from the elements and hostile indians in the area, and the land provided the means for his livelihood through production of crops.

#4 The builder of the structure and short histories of cabin owners.

The builder of the log cabin was Asa M. Brown. He settled on 317 acres on the S. San Gabriel River and built the log cabin to enable him to homestead the land pursuant to an act passed Jan. 22, 1845 granting to settlers on vacant public domain pre-emption privileges. In the attached affidavit Mr. Brown swore he had lived on this land since February 7, 1853. He sold the land to Samuel J. Davidson on October 6, 1859. He lived on and worked the land for 6 years and 9 months.

The next owner on whom any information could be located was John A. Cloud. He bought the land on March 25, 1876. He outlived two wives and fathered eight children, three boys and two girls by his first wife and three girls by his second wife. He died in 1880 intestate leaving the property on which the cabin stood to his children, but ownership was undivided.

The next owner was William Wood. He had the onerous task of acquiring all of the undivided interests in the property from the Cloud children. It took him seventeen years to do this. According to Charles [redacted], Mr. Wood lived on the land and



# DIAMOND NOTCH

TYPICAL OF VIRGINIA (EASTERN)

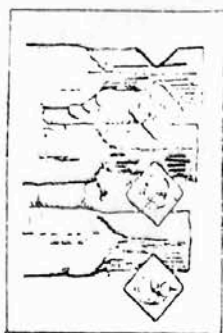
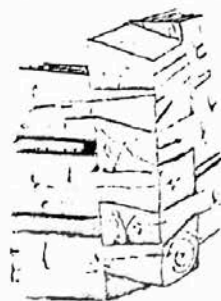


FIG. 21—Diamond notch.



# HALF-DOVETAIL NOTCH

TYPICAL OF UPPER SOUTH, MIDWEST (DOMINANT IN OHIO VALLEY)

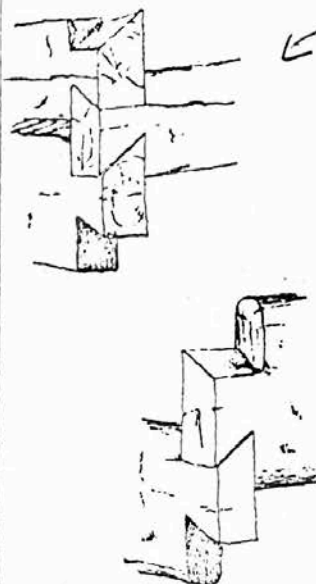
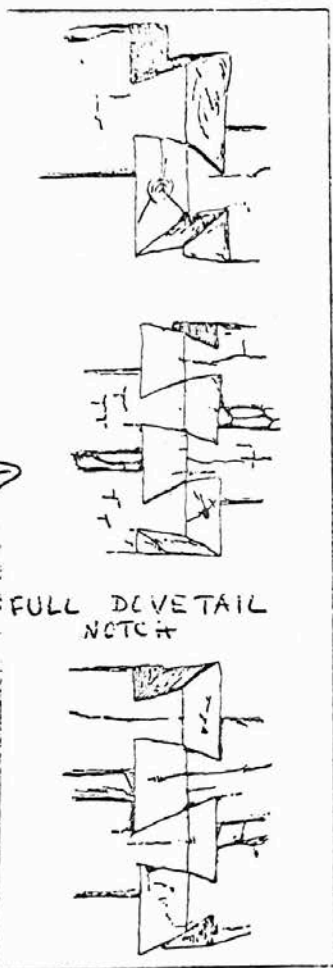


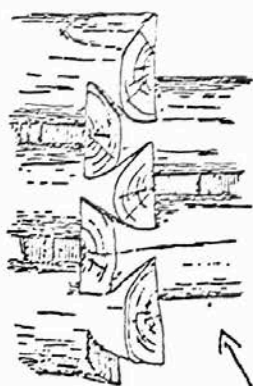
FIG. 23—Half-dovetail notches.



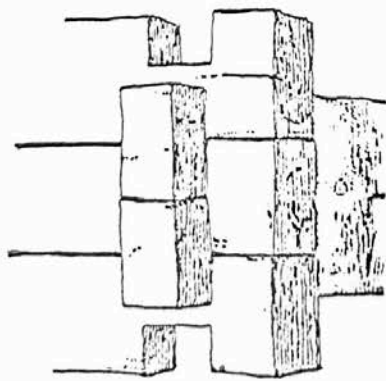
FULL DOVETAIL NOTCH

TYPICAL OF PENNSYLVANIA, SHENANDOAH VALLEY

# FULL DOVETAIL NOTCH

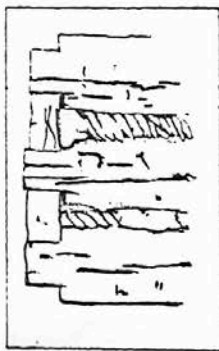


HALF-LOG CONSTRUCTION



DOUBLE NOTCH

SQUARE NOTCH  
TYPICAL OF ENTIRE SOUTH, BUT IS NOWHERE DOMINANT.





added to the log cabin to make a home for his wife, and several children. In addition to being a farmer and rancher, Mr. Wood was reported to be an old Indian fighter according to stories passed down to Mr. Hughes from his Uncle who was well acquainted with Mr. Wood.

Wm. Wood sold to L. M. Hughes on December 10, 1908 two years and nine months after he had acquired complete title to the land. Mr. Hughes came from Weir, Texas and according to present decendants was a rolling stone. He owned the land almost two years, but wanting to move on, he talked his nephew and neice, who also lived at Weir, into buying the ranch.

T. L. and Annie Hughes thus became the next owners. They moved into the house which included the log cabin along with another brother Will Hughes and his wife Mabel and 4 year old son, Charles. They farmed and ranched the land, and Charles went to school in Leander as he was growing up. When Annie and T. L. died, in 1950 and 1957 respectively, Charles inherited each of their half interest in the ranch and the cabin. Charles married and brought his bride to live on the ranch. They lived there with their children and Charles' parents until 1962 when they moved into the town of Leander.

No additional information could be located on the previous owners of the log cabin.

#5 There were no architects or contractors as such.

#6 Description of structure as it was originally built.

The log cabin has only one room which measures 15' x 15'. It is one story and originally had a dirt floor. There were no porches, but cedar staves were inserted high in the outside walls to support canvas covered lean-to structures for added "rooms". The cabin had a hand hewn stone fireplace, two doors and one window. The window was on the same wall as the fireplace. There was a hand dug well located about 30 yds. from the cabin (described in #7).

The materials used on the exterior were oak and elm logs shaped on two sides only with an axe. The spaced between the logs



were filled with small rocks and mortar. A more detailed description follows in #7.

#7. Account of the construction of the log cabin.

The log cabin was built of oak and elm logs. These were used both because they were plentiful in the area and because the timber on the land to be used for fields would be cleared anyway. The logs were flattened on two sides with an axe and half-notched on the ends to facilitate joining them together - see attached drawing. The spaces between the logs were filled with relatively flat rocks placed at a 45° angle in order to better shed rain water to prevent pocketing of water or leakage to the inside of the cabin. The rocks were gathered from natural outcroppings of shale type ~~MX~~ limestone rock on the sides of nearby hills. To hold the rocks in place, they used a mortar consisting of pulverized natural lime from limestone mixed with wood ashes and water. The type of limestone suitable for this purpose was located at shallow depths on nearby hillsides.

The chimney was constructed of native rock using the same mortar described above. The chimney was constructed with a small protrusion of thin rock above the roofline to better shed rain water so it was deflected, preventing it from running into the cabin or causing the roof to leak. At the top of the wall in the Southeast and Northeast corners just under the roof, the logs and mortar were carefully shaped in an oval to leave a hole approximately 6" in diameter, ostensibly for purposes of allowing the occupants to put a rifle barrel through the hole in order to ward off attacking Indians or other marauders with maximum protection to the cabin occupants. These holes, with original logs and mortar, have been carefully preserved and are intact as originally constructed.

Holes approximately 1" in diameter can presently be seen where they were bored into the exterior surface of the logs approximately 6' from ground level. According to information obtained, these holes were used to hold cedar staves or poles to



form a support for canvas tentlike exterior rooms. The holes can still be seen in the logs on three sides of the cabin.

It is interesting to note that the only cedar used in the construction of the cabin were these staves and cedar joists used to support the roof.

A hand dug well is located approximately 30 yds. to the West of the cabin. It is about 30' deep and 4' in diameter and is lined bottom and sides with native rock. Two cedar posts were erected on either side of the well and a pulley was used to hoist water up in wooden buckets. The well provided a pure sweet tasting spring water and remains functional (with occasional cleaning operations) to the present time.

Mr. Leroy Behrens of Round Rock, Texas, a carpenter with many years experience and a descendent of early day settlers, did the actual work of restoring the log cabin. Mr. Behrens did additional research into types of construction used during the period in which the log cabin was built and attempted to simulate these methods as closely as possible.

#8 Influences which caused owner to build this type residence.

The cabin was located in the rich bottom land fields. The cultivated land was approximately 40 acres adjacent to the banks of the South San Gabriel river in a small valley surrounded by timbered upland. The cabin was located a sufficient distance from the river so there was no danger from flooding. It allowed near proximity to fields as well as being in a location where ample drinking water was available. Also, it was in a relatively open area which afforded a greater degree of protection from Indians or other marauders who might try to attack the cabin.

From both the size and the materials used, one would suppose that Mr. Brown hadn't much time or money when he built the cabin. He used materials that were closest at hand and methods of building that were the least time consuming and most economical. Because there was danger from Indians, it was probably important



to get the cabin built as quickly as possible so they would have some protective shelter.

#### #9 Additions and Alterations

The log cabin has never been moved from its original site. It has had some additions, however, through the years.

An early addition was that of flooring. Wide lumber was put in using square headed nails by Wm. Wood shortly after he first started acquiring title to the property. He also built onto the cabin. Using the cabin as the West end of his house, he added several rooms onto the East side. He also added porches on the North and South sides.

Later, when the Hughes family moved in, they covered the outside walls with an imitation brick tarpaper. The roof was of shingles which had started to leak, so it was also covered with tarpaper. Inside, the walls were papered thickly with old newspapers.

When the present owners bought the property in 1966, the log cabin was covered both inside and outside so that it was not identifiable from casual inspection.

A bulldozer had been hired to doze down the old barns, brush, etc., including the old house built around the cabin. During the closing of the sale of the property, the seller, Mr. Hughes, made a chance remark in reference to the existence of the old log cabin located under the tarpaper covering the old house. The bulldozer operator was stopped in the nick of time just as he was about to start dozing down the old house surrounding the log cabin.

#### #10 Current Condition, Upkeep, and Future

The log cabin has been completely restored to as close to its original structure as we could determine that to be. It is weather proof inside, and the outer structure is protected from further weathering by a silicone covering.

The present and future owners of the land will be responsible for its upkeep. The present owners plan to furnish the cabin



with antique furniture of the time, and documents relating to the history and ownership of the cabin will be kept in the cabin. The cabin will be used to preserve an original of a type of housing used by early settlers.

#12 Not applicable.

#13 Role of Cabin in Community

From 1853 until 1967 the cabin has been used as a family dwelling. It provided shelter for families who settled this area and farmed the land to provide food and other agricultural products for the pioneer community.

#14 Reasons to Commemorate Structure

The cabin with its type of construction is an example of homes used by our pioneer agricultural society. The cabin represents one type of shelter used by our forebears and the type of shelter that was prevalent in Texas during the middle 1800's.

Very few log cabins are still in existence, and most of those that exist in this area are in very poor repair. It is the intent of the present owner to have this one restored and commemorated to preserve this era in history.

#15 Bibliography and Oral Interview Sources

Abstract #Wi 154  
Williamson County, Texas

General Land Office  
Stephen F. Austin Bldg.  
17th & Congress  
Austin, Texas

4-19-74

State of Texas Archives Library  
12th & Congress  
Austin, Texas

4-19-74

Leroy Behrens  
1104 E. Liberty  
Round Rock, Texas

Contractor for reconstruction  
of log cabin

Charles E. Hughes  
Leander, Texas

Former owner of property-  
numerous discussions con-  
cerning history of cabin

Mrs. Don Scarbrough  
1318 E. University Ave.  
Georgetown, Texas

Several discussions  
concerning cabin during  
March & April, 1974



92

J. H. Wilson  
Main St.  
Liberty Hill, Texas 4-15-74

Mrs. D. W. White  
2200 W. North Loop  
Austin, Texas 4-15-74

Ewell Simpson  
N. Hwy. 183  
Leander, Texas 4-15-74

Mrs. F. M. Wiley  
Rt. 1  
Leander, Texas 4-15-74

Judge D. B. Wood  
114 W. 8th  
Georgetown, Texas 4-15-74

Mrs. John A. Wilson nee Wood  
Liberty Hill, Texas 4-18-74

Mrs. Leona Williamson  
Leander, Texas 4-18-74

Mrs. Walter Dunagan  
502 Myrtle  
Georgetown, Texas 4-18-74

Mrs. Sam Harris  
1502 Ash  
Georgetown, Texas 4-18-74

Mr. A. C. Weir  
Rt. 3  
Georgetown, Texas 4-20-74

Clark Faubion  
Janice  
Georgetown, Texas 4-20-74

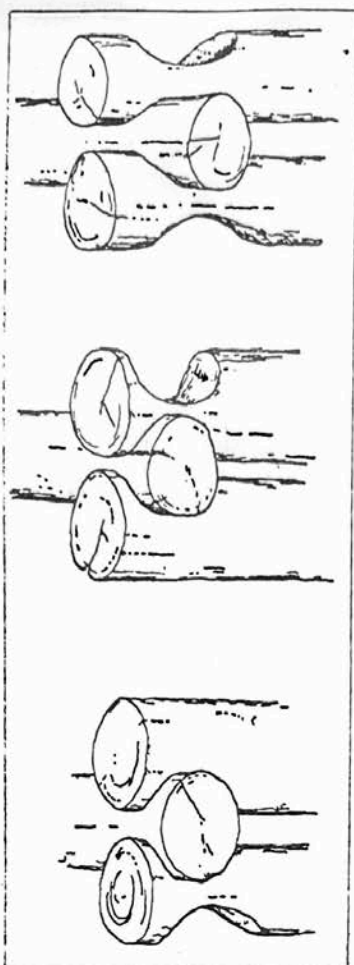
Mrs. L. J. Johns  
Leander, Texas 4-20-74

Mrs. Ernest Mason  
Leander, Texas 4-24-74

Author of this historical narrative

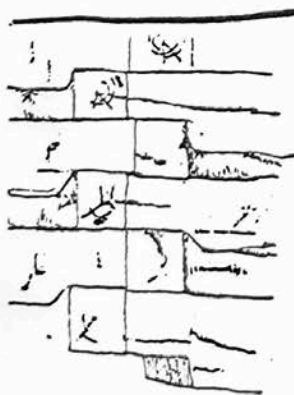
Mrs. Jack Garey  
Rt. 2, Box 22B  
Round Rock, Texas 78664



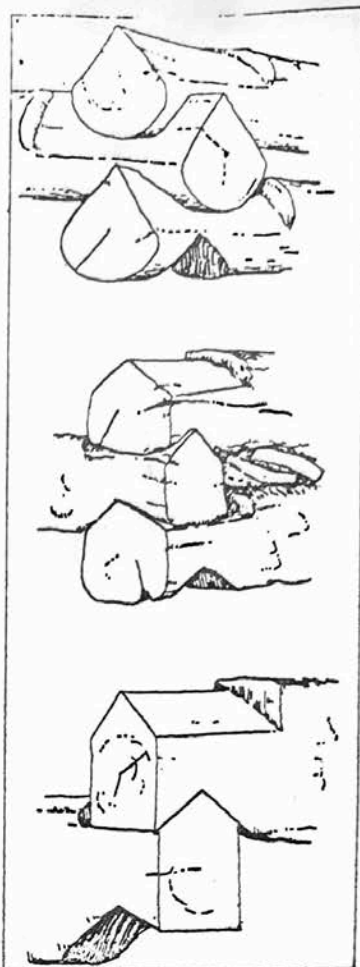
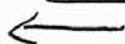


SADDLE NOTCHES

TYPICAL OF  
LOWER  
SOUTH,  
DOMINANT  
THERE



HALF-NOTCH



V NOTCHES

TYPICAL OF  
THE MIDWEST,  
MISSOURI  
(DOMINANT IN  
OHIO, INDIANA,  
ILLINOIS, MISSOURI)  
FOUND ALSO IN  
VIRGINIA,  
PENNSYLVANIA



168 2

SOME HISTORY OF THE  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LIBERTY HILL, TEXAS

1882 - 1947 (1)

In the summer of 1882 the Baptist people of Liberty Hill decided to have a protracted meeting in the village, instead of the annual camp meeting usually held with the Old Liberty Hill Church, which was located in what is now known as the Silent Grove neighborhood four miles west of town.

Rev. John A. Arbuckle of Burnet was secured to do the preaching. A brush arbor was built on the grounds where the present church stands.

After a ten-day revival, a new church was organized; the Rev. John A. Arbuckle was called as pastor, and J.G. Ward was made church clerk and treasurer.

A committee was appointed to secure grounds for the church building. The grounds on which the meeting had been held were donated by Rev. W.O. Spencer. A building committee was appointed and work soon begun. During the construction of the building services were held under the arbor. By late fall or early winter the walls, roof and floor of the new church were in place. Window openings were covered with boards for several weeks, and temporary seats were made of nail kegs and long boards.

A Sunday School was organized with H.D. Boswell acting as superintendent. (Mr. Boswell was the father of Rev. W.D. Boswell of Waco.) J.G. Ward served as secretary-treasurer. The First Baptist Church of Liberty Hill was now functioning, and at the next Austin Association meeting in August it became a member of that Association. This affiliation continued until the Williamson County Association was organized in 1916.

During these sixty-three years the church has been without a pastor for only a few months at different times. It has co-operated with the Baptist denomination at all times, and has stood for the cause for which it was organized — that of glorifying God and sending the Gospel to all nations. The Sunday School has at no time failed to function, even during those times we were without a pastor.

The following are the names of all the charter members which are available:

Rev. W.O. Spencer	1810-1896	Fannie Roach	
Mrs. W.O. Spencer	1826-1913	Charley Roach	
W.A. Spencer	1851-1911	R.E. Allen	1845-1916
H.D. Boswell		Addie Allen	1856-1940
Mrs. H.D. Boswell		(Mrs. R.E.)	
J.G. Ward	1830-1887	Mary Smith	1841-1913
Mrs. J.G. Ward		Mary Jane Potts	1855-1930
C.A. Ward		Geo. I. Potts	1855-1894
C.F. Ward		E.T. Hefner	1858-19126
Anna Ward		Nancy Margaret	
Lila Ward		(Barton) Hefner	1862-1952
Sam Ward		T.C. Barton	1855-1938
.A. Roach		JA. Arbuckle	
Allen Roach	(Mrs. T.A. Roach)		

Miss Lelah Barton, HISTORY of the Liberty Hill Baptist Church  
Liberty Hill, Texas 1947



Under the leadership of these people, with many others who were added to the membership from year to year, the church prospered, though laboring under many difficulties. In 1903 the church building was completely destroyed by a fire which also destroyed the school building. This was indeed a severe blow to a small-town church.

That night, while our heartsick fathers and brothers with many of their womenfolk watched the smoldering fire, they began making plans for rebuilding. While cinders were yet hot the church held a business meeting; committees were appointed for the erection of another building. Before the debris had been removed sufficient money had been raised to begin building.

During the time we were without a church home the good Methodist people invited us most graciously to use their church for services two Sundays in each month, and the Christian people as generously offered the use of their church for our Sunday School. Thus the work did not cease.

In a short time the building was far enough advanced to make it possible to hold services there, although it was not finished for several months. A small debt was paid off a year or so later.

By 1907 the Sunday School had outgrown the building's capacity and it became necessary to provide extra space. Two rooms were added, giving space for a fully graded Sunday School.

In 1933 a Primary department was added. In the life of our church one minister was ordained - our own and dearly beloved Dr. J.H. Pace, now departed. Two missionaries were sent to the foreign field - the late and much-loved Rev. D.L. Hamilton and his wife, Mrs. Jennie Albertson Hamilton, who now resides in Waco. Deacons have been ordained from time to time, as demands arose.

The present board of deacons consists of W.C. Bowman, 1881-1965, chairman, J.T. Spencer, 1875-1963, Will Hunt, 1882-1962, W.E. Creel, 1883-1966, V.C. Spencer, 182-1963, Joe L Myers, 1877-1967, John Shuffield, 1877-1948, Glen Shuffield.

Our pastor and church officers are: (1947)  
George C. Griffith (now deceased), pastor  
J.T. Spencer, secretary-treasurer (1875-1963)  
Mrs. E.L. Chance, clerk (1874-1969)  
Finis Anderson, Sunday School superintendent

The following have served as Sunday School superintendents:

H.T. Pace 1845-1919	H.D. Boswell	
E.A. Pace	C.C. Leatherwood	1835-1898
Otho Hefner 1882-1927	C.E. Leatherwood	1871-1944

W.C. Bowman	1881-1965
Joe Canady	1881-1967
S.R. Adams	Lampasas, Texas
W.H. Parker	
V.D. Wiley	1906-1971
J.L. Perry	
T.A. Bryson	1881-1961
Elisha Price	

F.F. Anderson Liberty Hill, Texas

(1) Barton, Miss Lelah, History of the Liberty Hill Baptist Church.

(2) All dates obtained from gravestones in the Liberty Hill Cemetery by Myreta Matthews, Sectetary for the Cemetery Associatio.



This brief history of the First Baptist Church of Liberty Hill would not be complete without mention of the Woman's Missionary Society, which was organized not later than 1891. Mrs. Reece, the pastor's wife was the first president, Sallie Barton was corresponding secretary and Mrs. Hattie Miller treasurer. The following were some of the charter members: Mrs. W.M. Reece, Mrs. C.C. Leatherwood, Mrs. Hattie Miller, Mrs. Eliza Hall, Mrs. H.D. Boswell, Miss Janie Williams, Miss Sallie Barton and Mrs. W.O. Spencer.

The Liberty Hill W.M.S. was affiliated with the Austin W.M.U. (Woman's Missionary Union) as early as 1894. The minutes of the Austin Association show that we were represented at almost every W.M.U. meeting of that Association until 1916, when we became a member of the Williamson County W.M.U.

The following served as presidents or other leading officers:

Mrs. W.M. Reece		Mrs. C.E. Leatherwood	1868-1945
Miss Janie Williams		Mrs. Hattie Miller	
Mrs. Eliza Miller Hall	1860-1936	Mrs. J.N. Matthews	1875-1947
Miss Cora Bainbridge		Miss Emma Chapman	1878-1938
Mrs. W.C. Bowman	1884-1966	Mrs. T.A. Bryson	1879-1963
Mrs. H.L. Gill	1952	Mrs. S.R. Adams	
Mrs. Hudson Adams		Mrs. W.H. Parker	
Mrs. E.R. Bryan		Mrs. E.M. Mears	
Mrs. Florence Mears	1880-1973	Mrs. J.H. Comer	

Each year an offering is made for state and foreign missions, the Buckner Orphans' HOME, Old Ministers' Relief, Christian Education and hospitals.

We have studied books on missions, stewardship, and personal service, while special emphasis is placed on Bible study.

On May 27, 1945 our pastor and Sunday School superintendent, with a group of faithful teachers, organized a Sunday School at Hopewell, a community some eight miles west of Liberty Hill, with an enrollment of twenty-four. This Sunday School is growing in interest week by week.

A MOUNTAIN-TOP EXPERIENCE

This enjoyed a mountain-top experience when, in the early days of the Buckner Orphans' Home, Dr. R.C. Buckner, the founder of that great institution, visited Liberty Hill in the interest of three small orphan children.

He went immediately to the humble home of these little children. On the following day, Sunday, he spoke to a full house at both morning and evening hours. Other churches of the town canceled their services in order that all might go over to the Baptist Church and hear Dr. Buckner.

On Monday morning he left for Dallas with the three little orphans. Each child carried a parcel in which were clothes and Dr. Buckner carried a well-filled basket of food.

Dr. Buckner had also a love-gift of more than \$100.00. Christians of denominations, as well as non-Christians, had shared in this gift. Thus, the Buckner Orphan's Home became "Our Orphans' Home."

For more than half a century the First Baptist Church of Liberty Hill has stood like a light-house beacon, guiding the destiny of her people over smooth and troubled seas, ever pointing them to a fuller and more abundant life.



The following pastors have served this church:

(1)

1882-1892

J.A. Arbuckle  
W.M. Reece

1892-1904

D.W. White  
J.N. Marshall  
W.E. Holman  
J.E. Bell  
C.C. Young

1904-1912

W.C. Garrett  
C.R. Taylor  
W.J. Durham  
W.R. Hornburg  
R.A. Mobley

1912-1922

W.O. Slaughter  
Rev. Talley  
George Balch  
F.W. Taylor (went as missionary  
to Brazil)  
Neal Greer  
W.A. Barkley

1922-1932

George D. Wells  
G.C. Lewis ( 2 months)  
D.A. Jones  
N.A. Sanders  
J.C. Newman

1932-1945

R.H. Mathison  
E.N. Sullivan  
George W. McGuire  
R.C. McCullough  
W. Joel Ferguson  
Wilson Carwile  
George C. Griffith

(1) Barton, Miss Lelah, History of the Liberty Hill Baptist Church  
Liberty Hill, Texas 1947

p 14



Liberty Hill Baptist Church records since 1947 after the book by Miss Lelah Barton was published.

Continuing with the list of pastors they were:

Earl Myers	May 1948-Nov. 1949
C.C. Larrison	Jan.1950-Dec. 1951
M.A. Treadwell	Feb.1952-Sept.1954
Aubrey Wilinon	Nov.1954-July 1957
S.S. Silveria	Sept.1957-April 1959
Jim Ford	April 1959-Aug.1961
Don Davis	Aug. 1961-Oct.1961
Hugh Magee	Nov. 1961-Dec. 1963
Horace Goodman	Feb. 1964-Jan. 1966
Elton Skinner	April 1966-April 1967
T.P. Patterson	Aug. 1967-Sept. 1972
Jesse Wilson	Oct.1972 (Present Pastor)

Sunday School Superintendents since 1947:

C.T. Perry  
T.C. Lowe  
Burgess Haydon  
L.M. Parker  
W.A. Foster  
W.O. Witcher  
Louis Shuffield  
Glen Shuffield  
Wendel McLeod

Woman's Missionary Union Leaders:

Mrs. W.O. Foster  
Mrs.T.C. lowe  
Mrs.C.C. Larrison  
Mrs. M.A. Treadwell  
Mrs. Hugh Magee  
Mrs. L.M. Parker  
Mrs. Henry McLeod

On March 8,1950 the Church voted in conference to remodel the building by installing a new floor and enclosing the side wings to the auditorium to make classrooms.

In 1957 a celebration was held on the seventy fifth anniversary of the organization of the church here in Liberty Hill.

In 1958 the old annex was sold and a new building started.

The above was researched and copied from the records of the church clerk in 1973 by Myreta Matthews, a member of the Williamson County Historical Survey Committee.



His death occurred in 1865, and the mother now resides with her daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Morris have three sons: Edwin T., born February 12, 1887; Earl L., in 1889; and Jessie H., in 1892. Both Mr. and Mrs. Morris are members of the Baptist Church. The former also affiliates with the A. F. & A. M., Bastrop Lodge, No. 244, and was the youngest member of his lodge for two years.

*~~~~~*

**W**ILLIAM OLIVER SPENCER, a successful farmer of Williamson county, is a son of William and Rachel (Brooks) Spencer. The grandfather of our subject, Moses Spencer, was born and raised in New York, and after marriage located on a farm near Albany. His land was taken from him, however, by Van Rensselaer, who obtained a grant from the British Government, and he lost his entire possessions. With a family consisting of a wife and one child, the father of our subject, he then emigrated to Pendleton District, South Carolina, where he remained until after the Revolutionary war, in which he served as a private soldier during the entire struggle. Late in the last century the family located in Barren county, Kentucky, where William Spencer grew to manhood, having been born in 1771. He was married there to Lorian Snow, and they had three children, all of whom are now deceased. The wife also died. The father then moved to Illinois, locating near the Indiana line, where he married the mother of our subject, a lady of Irish birth. The family continued to reside in Illinois until 1854, when the mother died, and the children having married and left home, the father went to live with a daughter in Iowa. He died there in 1857. Mr. and Mrs. Spencer were the

parents of seven children: Betsy, deceased; William O., our subject; Jane A., John M., James B. and Rachel, deceased; and Thomas C., a resident of Livingston county, Illinois. Mr. Spencer was a farmer by occupation, a Whig in politics, a Baptist in religious faith, and was a prominent man in his community. He served many years as a Justice of the Peace. During the war of 1812 he lived on the Wabash river, and by personal request of General Harrison, then Governor of Indiana, remained at home and took charge of the mills of that section.

William Oliver Spencer, the subject of this sketch, was born in the then Territory of Illinois, in what is now Lawrence county, September 2, 1810. In 1824 he moved with his parents to Fulton county, west of Illinois river, where he grew to manhood, and was there married. From 1838 to 1851 the family resided in Washington county, near Fayette, Arkansas. In 1847 they came on a prospecting tour to Texas, remaining in Bastrop about one year, and in 1849 returned to Arkansas. In 1851 they sold their possessions in that State, and again came to Texas, remaining in Bastrop until after the wife's death. Mr. Spencer then purchased 553 acres of land at his present location, three miles above the present site of Liberty Hill, and was one of the earliest settlers in this part of the county. For several years after locating here, Liberty Hill was without a post office. One day General Rusk, a prominent figure in early Texas history, camped a short distance from Spencer's home, with a body of rangers. He was invited to supper at the latter's house, and after the meal Mr. Spencer stated his desire to have a post office located in this part of the county. As General Rusk was a member of Congress and Chairman of the Post Office Committee, he sat down and be-



gan writing a recommendation that an office be located here, and that our subject should be the Postmaster. Mr. Spencer was asked for a suitable name for the office, and, thinking of the free and easy character of the people, answered, "Call it Liberty Hill, General." Mr. Spencer held the office several years, and then resigned the position in favor of the first merchant that located in this section.

Mr. Spencer was first married July 19, 1829, to Amy Wilcoxon. They had twelve children, only four of whom grew to years of maturity, viz.: Eliza Ann, widow of J. T. Miller, and a resident of Austin; Emily, deceased; J. M., of Belton, Texas; and Ellen, wife of J. W. Owen, also of that county. The wife and mother died in Bastrop, January 12, 1853. In 1854 our subject returned on a visit to Fulton county, Illinois, and was there married to Mrs. Margaret Spencer, who was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, May 4, 1826, a daughter of William B. and Mary (Reagan) Smilie. On the maternal side, the family located in the latter county from Wales before the Revolutionary war. The Smilie family are of Irish descent, the great-grandfather of Mrs. Spencer, John Smilie, having emigrated to America from that country. He was one of the first settlers of Fayette county, Pennsylvania, and while there was prominent in public affairs, having represented Pennsylvania in the United States Senate. The grandfather, Robert P. Smilie, passed his entire life in that county. Mr. and Mrs. William B. Smilie had seven children: Weldon R., of Woodford county, Illinois; Margaret C., wife of our subject; Robert P., of Liverpool, Fulton county, Illinois; Harriet, wife of O. A. Babcock; Norvel, deceased; and Norman and David H., of Stella, Nebraska. Margaret Smilie was first

married in Fulton county, Illinois, where her father had moved his family in 1841, in 1844, to James B. Spencer, a younger brother of her present husband. They had four children: Theodore, of Lovelock, Butte county, California; Ann E., wife of J. M. Spencer, of Belton, Texas; Harriet E., widow of Jeff J. Miller, who lives with her parents; and William A., of Liberty Hill. Mr. and Mrs. William O. Spencer have also had four children: Perry, deceased; Oliver, of Liberty Hill; Lizzie, wife of M. C. Hurley, of Ft. Worth, Texas; and Tacy, now Mrs. J. M. Grant, also of that city.



**J** H. KRENEK, a prominent farmer of Lee county, is a son of Joseph and Rozina (Reek) Krenek, natives of Bohemia. The grandfather of our subject, Joseph Krenek, was a farmer of that country, as was also his maternal grandfather, Hon. John Reek. The father of our subject was born, reared and married in Bohemia, and emigrated from near Frankstadt, Moravia, to America, in 1866, locating in Fayette county, Texas, three miles south of Fayetteville. The father died there June 1, 1887, and the mother September 20, 1892. The parents had nine children, seven now living; Ignatz, of Fayette county; Juhana, now Mrs. Spacek, also of that county; Rozina, now Mrs. Skopik, of Burleson county, Texas; John H., our subject; Mary, now Mrs. Reek, of Fayette county; Anton, of that county; and Rozallia, now Mrs. Frank, also of Fayette county.

J. H. Krenek was born in Moravia, November 24, 1853, and was reared to manhood in Fayette county, Texas. He subsequently located on a farm in Burleson county, where



Forerunners of the Liberty Hill Baptist Church

THE LIBERTY HILL  
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

The old Liberty Hill Baptist Church was organized under the above name and was so called until the First Baptist Church at Liberty Hill was organized in 1882. It then became known as the "Old Liberty Hill Baptist Church." The exact date of its organization is unknown.

The Baptist people of West Williamson County began to have preaching services in 1854, in the home of W.O.Spencer. Later they held their services in a small school house or under a brush arbor.

The original church records were filed away in 1869, and no trace of them can be found. The names of the charter members and of others joining up to that date are all that was transcribed in the next and last records. I am indebted to E.L. Chance, (1873-1946) the last church clerk, for preserving and furnishing us with these records.

The W.O. Spencer home was the community center, the post office, the church house and the lodge for early travelers.

When the Baptist Church was organized, it was called the "Liberty Hill Missionary Baptist Church of Christ".

I am indebted to Mrs. Lizzie Spencer Hurley, daughter of Mr. W.O. Spencer, for the list of the names of pastors serving the church prior to 1869, and other valuable data regarding the early years of this church.

The church and post office were located four miles west of the present site of Liberty Hill, on the Austin-Burnet road, now known as State Highway No. 29.

Following is a list of the membership, just as it is recorded in the constitution of the above-named church:

Male Members		Female Members	
John Russell, Deacon	1808-1892	Nancy Russell	1806-1894
T.P. Poole	1819-1905	M.C. Spencer	1826-1913
B.F. Johnson		Biddie C. Dycus	
T.K. Wood		Elvina Ray	
W.D. Wood		Ann E. Spencer	
J.M. Spencer	1820-1853	W.H. Thornton	
Pleasant Queen		Martha Queen	
D.W. Thornton		Elizabeth Queen	
W.W. Queen		Judith M. Bryson	1790-1881
		Mollie J. Thomas	
		M.E. Chamberlain	
		L. Myrack	
		Elizabeth Johnson	
		Nannie E. Wood	



These people, for the most part, had recently moved to Texas from the Carolinas to establish a new home.

The church building was not constructed until 1870 or 1871. Rev. W.O. Spencer donated the ground for the church.

John Russell, (1808-1892) F.M. Barton (1832-1918), T.P. Poole, (1819-1905) made up the building committee.

The house was built of native rock, quarried by members of the church. The timber used was hauled by ox-teams from Bastrop, a distance of sixty-four miles. All work was donated by members and friends, except that of one stone mason.

The building was also planned to be used for school purposes, and the people of other faiths were liberal with their donations and labor. John Covington Parks (1819-1887), an elder in the Presbyterian Church, and his wife Rebecca (1835-1903) gave freely of their time, labor and devotion.

Pastors serving prior to 1867 were Revs. Talley, Bacon, Grammar, Forbes and H.M. Burroughs. Those serving after 1876 were as follows:

D.D. Roach	T.A. Roach
G.G. Andrews	J.A. Arbuckle
D.D. Foreman (1817-1892)	E. McDaniel
J.E. Hamilton	D.L. Hamilton
W.C. Garrett	J.E. Bell

After 1907 the church did not have the services of a regular pastor. The pulpit was often filled by pastors of the First Baptist Church or by associational missionaries.

The church continued to function until June 12, 1910, when in conference it disbanded. Rev. W.R. Hornburg, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Liberty Hill, moderator, and E.L. Chance, church clerk. The trustees of the church were given power to deed all church property to the First Baptist Church of Liberty Hill which was shortly done. Four years later, the old building was sold to F.E. Parks; the structure was wrecked and the material removed from the site. Two business houses in Liberty Hill were constructed from the rock in the old church. Thus, one of the oldest landmarks of this section of the state ceased to exist.

During the nearly half century that this old church functioned it enrolled more than two hundred members, most of whom it baptized. Deacons were ordained as demands arose. It ordained the following ministers: T.A. Roach, J.A. Arbuckle and W.H. Albertson, all of whom it had also received into the church and baptized. Rev. Roach and Rev. Arbuckle later served as pastors.

#### Items of interest gathered from various sources.

Dr. George W. Truett visited and preached to this church during his early ministry.

The Austin Association met with the Liberty Hill Missionary Baptist Church of Christ as early as 1870 or 1871. Delegates and local members alike brought tents and camped from Thursday until the following Monday morning.

The annual camp meeting was held in August or September. Often there



9

were fifty or sixty tents on the grounds.

Literature for Sunday School consisted of Catechisms for the children and Bible used exclusively for the older members.

Sunday School usually met in the afternoon. It was difficult to keep the Sunday School going, as preaching services were held only once or twice a month.

The minutes recorded many instances of the church disciplining its members for unchristian conduct or neglect of duty.

The minutes from 1876 to 1910 show that the church was strict in business, loyal to Christian duties and faithful to her obligations.

On October 10, 1882 this church granted twenty-eight of her members letters to become members of the First Baptist Church of Liberty Hill (Charter Members. Of that number Mrs. Nancy Margaret (Barton) Hefner, of Georgetown, is the only surviving member. (1862-1952)

Barton, Miss Lelah, History p 23 p 30



Zion Baptist Church in Burnet County

From South Carolina to Texas in 1854. Reminiscences from the pen of Mrs. Martha Poole Chapman of Liberty Hill.

We circled around the town of Sabine three miles up the river, then on to Palestine, Nacogdoches, Crocket, and other little towns, then to old Washington-on-the-Brazos, which was the first capitol of Texas. So, you see, I have seen the first capitol of Texas, and also the second, and, of course, the third. Then on to Washington County and Old Independence. We spent part of Christmas week in the neighborhood of Gay Hill, the Bartons, Russells and Goodlets having relatives there.

My birthday was the 19th of December, and I was twelve years old. After celebrating it there that week we came on to Williamson County where we met the Brysons, who were old friends and Carolinians. We camped near their home until we could find a place to move to. The following April my father and Dr. Barton bought a tract of land in Burnet County. My father, T.P. Poole, sold his home to old Mr. John Russell; it now goes by the name of the James Russell place. While I was living at that place, the Zion Baptist Church was organized in a little log schoolhouse on the south side of Oatmeal Creek. I was then in my fourteenth year. As well as I remember, the church was organized with about eighteen members. Here I will list all the names I can think of: Brother E. McDaniel and wife, Dr. Barton, Colonel Barton and others of the family, the Spencers, Russells, Johnsons, Pooles, and Roundtrees. Brother McDaniel was called as pastor and served the church a long time, becoming well loved by everyone. This church grew to be a strong one, and when the old Liberty Hill church two miles above Liberty Hill was organized, the majority of its members were from the old Zion church. I am writing this for my children and grandchildren on May 26, 1927, in my 85th year. (3)

Mrs. Lucy Allen's Letter

Bertram, Texas  
October 13, 1962

Dear P.S. :

Just read in today's Bertram Enterprise the story of Silent Grove (the second Baptist church in this area.)

I am one grandparent who remembers attending school and church at Silent Grove Schoolhouse.

About 1908 or 1910, I lived with my parents in the Albertson rent house on the brow of the hill just east of Mr. Edd Witcher. My sister and two or three brothers walked to school along with several Withcher kids.

We lane kids attended church regularly at the schoolhouse that year. The preacher was the Elder Bell. There was a summer revival which drew large crowds. Services were held under a brush arbor with patters around the fringes where mothers placed their small children as they fell asleep.

The Silent Grove church disbanded at the time Robert Hornburg was pastor at Liberty Hill, and the members came to the Liberty Hill church.

I am in the process of gathering data for the history of the Bertram Baptist Church and the early religious work in Burnet County. I have mentioned one small church on Oatmeal Creek which



was merged with the Missionary Baptist Church at old Liberty Hill,  
later known as the Silent Grove Church.

You will remember me as Lucy Lane, daughter of John Lane, Grand-  
daughter of Reverend J.K. Lane for whom Lane Bryson was named.

Sincerely,  
(signed) Mrs. Lucy Allen (4)  
1892-1968

(3) Bryson, J. Gordon, Culture of the Shin Oak Ridge Folk 1964  
pp 36,37

(4) Bryson, J. Gordon, Shin Oak Ridge  
pp38-39



# Families noted for heritage

By CLARK BOLT  
Farm Editor

DALLAS — A total of 383 Texas farm families were honored here Tuesday in ceremonies at the State Fair Grounds in conjunction with the Family Land Heritage program.

The program honors families who have continued to produce agricultural goods for 100 years or more on the same land. A certificate is issued for each of these properties. Names are also entered in the Family Land Heritage Registry. A total of 560 families were honored last year.

Governor Dolph Briscoe officially proclaimed Tuesday as Family Land Heritage Day.

Central Texans honored included the following:

**Bastrop County:** Wolfenberger Farm, T.C. Franklin, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Higgins, Yerger Hill, Lentz Ranch, Rother Farm, Old Eskew Ranch, ACT Ranch.

**Bell County:** Stafford Farm, B.E. Whittington, Wofford Farm.

**Bosque County:** Anderson Ranch, Hoel Ranch, Homerstad Farm, S.M. Oswald Farm.

**Brazos County:** Presnal Ranch.

**Caldwell County:** Major Reed Farm, Callin Ranch.

**Comal County:** Henk Farm, Herman Hitzfedler Ranch, Knibbe Ranch, KTV Angus Ranch, Uecker's Farm.

**Coryell County:** Rabb Bertrand, Adrian Foote Ranch, Foster Farm, Gorman Ranch, Hampton Ranch, Patterson Farm, M.V. Dyer Ranch, Russell Ranch, Scott Farm and Ranch.

**Falls County:** W.A.W. Farm and Ranch, Whatley Farm.

**Freestone County:** Carroll and Brown Ranch.

**Coleman Ranch:** Fryer Ranch, Sid Fryer Ranch, John Fryer Ranch, Glazener Ranch, S Bar Ranch, Diamond Bar Ranch.

**Gonzales County:** Brautigam River Bend Farm, Hodges Farm, Jack Osborne Ranch, Glass Ranch, Goodwin Ranch, George Hinton Farm, Russell Ranch, Vernon Ranch, McCaskill Farm, Greenwood Acres, Perkins Ranch, Robinson Ranch, Selman Ranch, Sorell Ranch, Willow Pond Farm.

**Guadalupe County:** Gelven Farm, Baker Farm.

**Hamilton County:** Billingsley Ranch, Rube Segrist Farm.

**Hays County:** Rogers Ranch.

**Hill County:** Graham Farm, LBJ Ranch, Moore Farm.

**Lampasas County:** Bain Ranch, Field's Farm, Hardy Ranch, Walerk Farm.

**Limestone County:** Looking Glass Ranch, Boyd Farm, Jennings Farm, Pippin Farm, Valle Alegre Ranch.

**Milam County:** Nisbett Farm, Graham Looney Farm, Niley J. Smith Farm.

**Navarro County:** Our Acres, Spring Branch Acres, Talley Ranch.

**Robertson County:** Kenner Farm, Morgam Farm, Thompson Farm.

**Travis County:** Emil Bohls Farm, C. Wolf-Goerner Ranch, Henry Pfluger Jr. Farm, Lisso Farm, Willard Pfluger Farm, Robertson Farm, Emmitt and Minnie Fuchs Farm, Smith Ranch.

**Williamson County:** John D. Mason Farm, Lewis Ranch, John G. Matthews, Saul Ranch, John Vernon Stiles Farm and Ranch.

The Williamson County SUN Georgetown, Texas  
Section 1, Page 13 Thursday, October 16, 1975

## Memorial marker set at Macedonia cemetery

Dedication of a memorial marker at the Macedonia Cemetery was held Sunday, October 11, with 78 members and guests present for the ceremony.

Ollie Davidson, president, welcomed the group to the fifth annual meeting and memorial marker dedication.

H.E. "Dick" Lindsey, president-elect, introduced the speaker, O.E. Davidson, Jr. of Lockhart, pastor of Church of Christ, who made the dedication address.

Mr. Davidson introduced some special members, Mrs. Carrie Spiars, Mrs. Dessie Moore, Mrs. Hattie Tegge

Pope, Mrs. Maggie Tegge Stearns, Mrs. Augusta Cavanaugh and Joe Moldenhour.

The speech included a brief history of the once-thriving community of Macedonia and its early settlers. Early settlers in the 1860's had established churches, store, gin, Masonic Lodge, blacksmith shop, Grange and school on the banks of Opossum Creek. The cemetery is the last remaining landmark of Macedonia.

Up until five years ago the cemetery was unkept and markers had crumbled and were lost. Since then the Macedonia Cemetery Association has set to work to restore the cemetery.

The marker, unveiled by Mr. Davidson with the assistance of Stephen and Tommy Lindsey of Buda, was inscribed "This memorial is a tribute to those who lie here in unmarked graves..." with the brief history and erection date.

A basket lunch was served to guests attending from Austin, Houston, Pasadena, Lockhart, Bartlett, Georgetown, Taylor, San Antonio, Temple, Dallas, Texas; Mira Loma, California and Hayneville, Louisiana.



From - - Dade County Advocate, Published  
at Greenfield, Missouri, the  
former home of Col. John T. Coffee.

"John Trousdale Coffee was born in the year of 1816, in Tennessee, in which state he was educated, grew to manhood and married his first wife. She was a Miss Soule, who died without issue. John T. Coffee was a son of Joshua M. Coffee and Jane Trousdale. The father was born in Smith County, Tennessee and died at his home in Warren County, Tennessee in 1842 at the age of 55 years. (date from grave). In the early forties he enlisted a Company for the War between the United States and Mexico but by the time he reached New Orleans on his way to the front the War had ended. He discharged his men and turned his attention to Civil duties.

About 1852 he moved to Dade County, Missouri and was engaged in the practice of law, at Greenfield, for a number of years. During which period he served as District Attorney. He was married to his second wife, a Miss Hunt, of Boliver, Missouri, who died leaving one child, Catherine Jane, who later married John Snyder of Georgetown, Texas. He was married to his third wife, Harriet Weir, of Cooper County, Missouri, who died during the Civil War. Harriet Weir was a daughter of Samuel Weir and his wife Mattie Wilson of Green County, Missouri. Several children were born to this marriage; Charles, Buffington, Maryetta Webb and Lula Bradford.

About 1852 he was elected to the State Senate, served a part of a term and was recommended by both branches of the Legislature, to a Captaincy in the Regular Army. The appointment was made, he accepted and he enlisted a Company and went to Fort Leavenworth. In 1856 he returned to Green - field to practice law.

In 1858 he was elected to the lower house of the Legislature and was made Speaker of the House.

At the outbreak of the Civil War he cast his lot with the South, raised a Regiment for the Confederate Service and took an active part in the War until it ended. He was a Colonel with the 3rd Missouri Cavalry.

After the War he left Missouri and in 1865 settled in Georgetown, Texas, where he engaged in the practice of law and farming. On October 26, 1865 he married his fourth wife, Mrs. Eunice (Allen) Vontress, widow of Judge Edward H. Vontress, of Georgetown.

He lived with his family in Georgetown and engaged in law and politics up the time of his death May 23, 1890.

He left a wife and eleven children. Col. Coffee became a Mason at the



age of twenty-one and was a Charter member of Washington Lodge No. 87 A.F. and A. M., chartered at Greenfield, Missouri in 1847. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

In the Library at Southwestern University, at Georgetown, Texas, there is a book WAR OF THE REBELLION, A Compelation of Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. This was published under the direction of Hon. Elihu Root, Secretary of War. 1901.

Col. John T. Coffee's name is mentioned on ten pages of this Volume.

Mrs. Fannie Vontress Roberts, daughter of Edward Hughes Vontreee and Eunice Allen wrote from Haskell, Texas in 1952 to Mrs. Rector Coffee in Temple, Texas.

"Col. John T. Coffee was born in Smith County, Tennessee. He was appointed to West Point and was graduated from there. He served in the Army with Zachrey Taylor."

He was commissioned a Colonel in the 6th Regt. Missouri Cavalry 9-16-1861.

He signed the oath to the United States in Austin 26 July 1865. His place of residence at that time was Waco, Texas.

Col. Coffee owned a ranch 9 miles west of Georgetown. It was operated by a Mr. Sparling.



1810  
Joshua M. m. Jane  
Coffee Trousdale  
1789 - 1842

John T. Coffee m. Eliza  
1816-1890 Soule  
of Tenn.

Samuel m. Mattie D.  
Weir Wilson  
of Green  
Co. Mo.  
1842

Hunt  
of Mo.

No Issue

Catherine  
Jane m. 1867  
John  
Snyder

1. Dewey  
2. Thelma

1830  
Elisha Roberts m.  
Matilda m. John H.  
Roberts Connell  
-1879 -1834  
1865

Eunice Allen  
m. 1838-1919

1. John T. Jr.
2. Josephine m. Frank Yearwood
3. Tomye m. W. F. Magee  
1871-1963 -1959
4. James m. Beatrice Hall
5. Florence m. Tom Hanna
6. Robert Lee

- Ch. of L. Rector, John B. Leon  
Ch. of 2. Eunice, Boyce, Clifford,  
Frank, Beulah, Florence,  
Richard, Robert, Ruth  
Ch. of 3. Billy, Lois  
Ch. of 4. Eunice, Francis

John Reed m.  
Edward Hughes m. Lettuce Reed  
1769 - 1833 1775 - 1854

1847  
Samuel m. Thomas Samuel m. Maria A.  
T. Allen J. Allen Jacob Hughes  
-1838 -1854 Vontrees  
1859

m. Edward H. Vontrees  
1827-1864

Mary 1859-1864  
Samuel A. 1860-1866  
Fannie 1862-  
m. Jefferson Davis Roberts  
in 1955 at age 93  
she died in Haskell,  
Texas



Entries in the Bible of Joshua M. Coffee. Owned by Charles T. Wilson,  
Manchester, Tennessee, in June 1975.

Abner Coffee, Born Nov. 24, 1769

Dice Coffee, Born Nov. 13, 1770

David Coffee, born Feb. 6, 1775

Tin - ty Coffee, born Feb. 12, 1880

Aimes Coffee, born Nov. 29, 1882

Joshua M. Coffee, born Sept. 29, 1782

J. M. Coffee married Jane Trousdale Jan. 10, 1810

William Coffee, born Dec. 6, 1812

Nancy Coffee, born Nov. 17, 1814

John T. Coffee, born Dec. 14, 1816

Lucinda Coffee, born April 11, 1818

James E. Coffee, born April 11, 1820

Thomas S. Coffee, born June 14, 1822

Mary Jane Coffee, born June 12, 1824. m. Tennison J. Wilson

Franklin B. Coffee, born Oct. 14, 1826

Brown S. Coffee, born Oct. 16, 1829

Frances McAllister Hill, born Oct. 6, 1832



# Falconer Home Is Alive

BY ANN DELANY  
Women's News Editor

Lovely pieces from the Victorian period are at home in today's way of life—so it is at the Dr. Hugh Scott Falconer home, 910 S. 47th St.

The solid brick buff-colored two-story house with an inviting wide porch is the setting in Temple for the lovely rosewood and dark walnut pieces so popular in the mid-19th Century. Dark heavy beams add character to the ceilings of the home just as they did in the period homes.

After Dr. Falconer finished the University of Miami Medical School in 1958 he came with his wife and son to Temple where he was in training four years at Scott and White Memorial Hospital.

Mrs. Falconer had grown up in a home furnished with a collection of antiques acquired in Oklahoma, Louisiana, Texas, Georgia and Florida by her mother, Mrs. R. C. Coffee.

After the death of Mr. Coffee his wife moved to Temple in 1960, but left her furnishings in storage in Florida until she selected a suitable setting.

With his wife a sixth generation Texan, and his father-in-law the great-grandson of Samuel T. Allen and a descendant of the late Col. John T. Coffee of Georgetown, Temple was a perfect place for Dr. Falconer to settle. The love and appreciation of family background in the area was one of the influencing factors.

Samuel T. Allen was the second husband of Matilda F. Connell who gave the 120-acre tract of land for the original town of Belton when the Bell County seat of government was established in 1850.

Temple was to be home, so Mrs. Coffee and her daughter started looking around for a house with ceilings tall enough to accommodate the gilded pier glasses and magnificent chandeliers from an antebellum home out from Tallahassee, Fla. They purchased the home of an early-day Temple merchant, "Papa" George Koch.

One wall was knocked out to make a large master bedroom for the only major structural change. Central heat and air conditioning were added and the plate rail in the dining room and wood boxes on either side of the living room fire-

place were taken down, bathrooms were remodeled and a new paint job completed the renovation.

Remodeling was completed in 1966 and then the antiques were arranged to best advantage on the raspberry carpet selected by Dr. Falconer to complement the light plaster walls and dark wood trim. Flocked wallpaper combining deep red and raspberry adds a dramatic touch to the stairway. The final touch was completed in 1967, without a place for a prize piece, a leather tufted chaise couch. The massive couch was tried in every room, but ended in storage because of its size.

Among the heirlooms treasured by the family are a three-piece loveseat placed in the music room of the home to the left as you enter. Oil paintings throughout the house are works of Mrs. Falconer's great-aunt, Tommye Coffee Magee, the granddaughter of Matilda Connell Allen.

Accessories in the formal living room are typical of the Victorian era complete with red satin glass lamps and hand-painted objects including a globe type lamp.

"Madam Queen" has a place of prominence in front of a fireplace banked with greenery. The bronze statue was named by Mrs. Coffee's sisters.

The Florentine mirror above the fireplace is of interest as it's frame is wood carved.

In the dining room, the handsome rosewood sideboard was acquired in Atlanta, Ga. A relative of Sam Houston was the Coffee children's Sunday school teacher in Georgetown and gave Mr. Coffee's mother a silver tea pot which holds a special place on the sentimental shelf.

When I asked Mrs. Falconer and her mother, if they had the dining room chandelier restored and wired they laughed and confessed they both put a lot of man hours into cleaning it to its present-day brilliance. The smaller chandelier used in the music room was used by Mrs. Coffee in her Florida home, but the dining room fixture was only put into use when the home on 47th Street was remodeled.

The commodes in the music room hold marble tops stamped made in France but show an English influence in the base.

The Victorian feeling is carried upstairs to the



# Cacti draw Bradford to Salinas

## Austin man becomes artist's agent, friend and critic

When Dewey Bradford decided nearly 60 years ago that painting "couldn't be all that hard," he was on his way to a more than 30-year relationship with perhaps the Southwest's greatest landscape painter.

In 1917, the young Bradford was working at an Austin paint and picture-framing store when he decided to try his hand at art. "I figured anyone could paint."

But when his first attempt — a cactus in full bloom — turned out "wretched," he figured it might be a greater challenge than expected.

Then one day as he walked down a street in San Antonio, he spotted a picture in a jewelry store window. It was an entire field of blooming cacti.

"I went in and bought the painting — then it took me the next two years to track him (the artist) down," Bradford said. That artist was Porfirio Salinas.

Bradford later became the agent for the San Antonio artist's bluebonnet and rugged Texas landscapes. A new biography of the artist, by Austinite Ruth Goddard, includes a lengthy chapter on "The Bradford Influence" — Bradford as agent, friend and critic to the painter. Much of the chapter comes from Salinas' own letters, which he willed to Bradford.

Salinas' art arrived at a time when people in the mostly-rural South were turning a closer eye to art, Bradford said.

At the turn of the century, the family lived mostly outside of the home, he said. "They pitched horseshoes, had hayrides

and sat on the porch swing out on the veranda."

"So here was a semi-rural period in the South, when suddenly — wham — in came radio . . . the watermelon suppers, church socials went out the door. People moved back inside the house and the home began to get elegant."

The new eye for art as well as the need for the familiar outdoors to be brought inside accounted for the overwhelming popularity of Salinas' art, Bradford said.

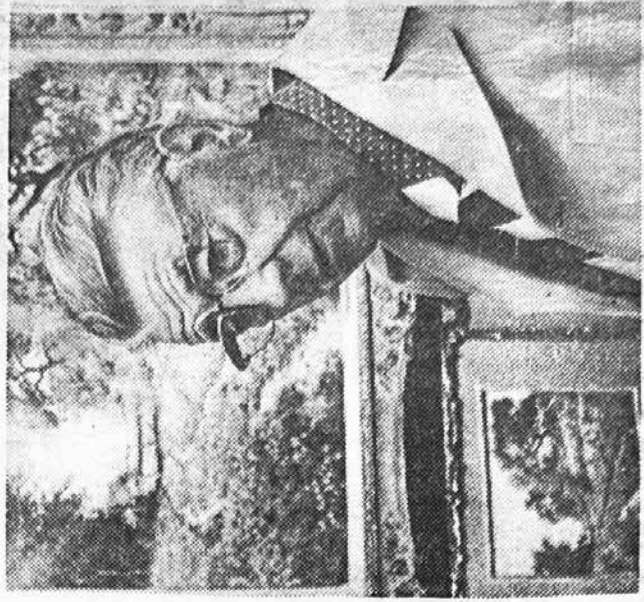
Salinas, who never took an art lesson, "had a natural talent. He had a fresh, open eye to nature. He not only knew what a yucca and huisache were, but he knew how to bring the outdoors inside—in simplistic, beautiful terms."

Bradford said other well-known American artists, who extensively painted the Northwest and Northeast areas of the country, had never been as far south to capture the Texas wilderness.

"It was left for Salinas to be a kind of 'missionary' to paint the arid climate, the sparse, dry hardness, silhouetted against low rugged hills," he added.

Bradford first promoted Salinas' works from the paint and picture-framing store. He later owned the Bradford Paint Co. at 401 Guadalupe and opened a gallery. He is now retired.

No Texas artist before Salinas "had painted exas more in such detail and with such accuracy," said Bradford. "The works were something that people could cherish, could hand down to their grandchildren. He was the Audubon of the wildflower." — KATHY HAWORTH



Staff Photo by Tom Lanke

**DEWEY BRADFORD**  
Former Salinas promoter



From - - Williamson County Records,  
Family Records and obituary  
from the Williamson County  
SUN - 1919.

Mrs. Eunice Amelia Allen Vontrees Coffee was born July 31, 1838 in Galveston, Texas. She was a daughter of Samuel T. Allen who was a native of New York, and who died 1838, and his wife Matilda F. Roberts Connell Allen who died in Georgetown in 1879.

Eunice Amelia Allen was married February 25, 1858 to Edward H. Vontrees who had moved from Kentucky to Georgetown with his cousin Captain Thomas Proctor Hughes, in 1851.

This marriage is recorded in Williamson County, Texas License No. 261, 'Edward H. Vontrees was married Feb. 25, 1858 to Eunice A. Allen by R. M. Overstreet, Presbyterian Minister.'

Judge Vontrees was a son of Samuel Vontrees who in 1818 married Maria S. Hughes, a daughter of Edward Hughes, born in 1769 in Ireland, died 1833 in Kentucky, and his wife, who he married December 17, 1793, Lettuce Reed, born 1775 in Kentucky, died 1854 in Kentucky. She was a daughter of John Reed.

Judge Vontrees was killed in Alexandria, Louisiana while serving in the Confederate Army. They had three children: Mary 1859 - 1864; Samuel H. 1860 - 1868 (both buried in the Old San Gabriel Cemetery in Georgetown); and Fannie born Dec. 6, 1862. She married Jefferson Davis Roberts and in 1955 was 93 years old and living in Haskell, Texas.

In 1865 Eunice A. Vontrees married Col. John T. Coffee, a lawyer who had six children: John T., Jr; Josephine Yearwood; Tomye Magee; James C.; Florence Hanna and Robert Lee who died while young. Mrs. Coffee died in Georgetown, at the home of her daughter Josephine Yearwood, in 1919 and was buried in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery by the side of her husband Col. John T. Coffee.

Edward Hughes Vontrees was born Dec. 20, 1825. He died June 6, 1864 while serving in the Confederate Army at Alexandria, La. A bolt of lightning killed him and his horse.

Mrs. John T. Coffee's mother was Matilda F., a daughter of Elisha Roberts who was a prominent settler in East Texas as early as 1818. Matilda married in 1830 John H. Connell who came to Texas from Pennsylvania in 1826 and was a delegate from the Austin Colony to



the Convention of 1832. John H. Connell died in Falls County, Texas in 1834 leaving two children: John H. Jr., and Josephine.

Following John Connell's death Matilda married Samuel T. Allen, a native of New York. He served as a representative from Milam County in the first Congress of the Republic of Texas 1836-1837.

To Samuel T. Allen and his wife, Matilda, were born two children: Thomas R. Allen and Eunice Amelia Allen.

Samuel T. Allen's name appears on a large monument in Navarro County as one of those killed in an Indian fight there October 8, 1838.

In 1847 Matilda married again, this time to Thomas J. Allen, a brother of her second husband. Thomas J. Allen died in Galveston, Texas in 1854.

HEART OF TEXAS NOTEBOOK

Dayton Kelley.

Waco Tribune-Herald. Nov. 27, 1966

"Every abstract of title issued to land purchased in and around Belton bears the name of one person more than that of any other. The name is that of Matilda F. Connell, a remarkable woman who in 1850 provided a 120 acre tract of land upon which the County Seat of the newly created Bell County was to be situated.

"Mrs. Connell owned a full league of land lying between the Leon and Lampasas Rivers and across Noland Creek upon which County Commissioners in 1850 voted to establish the County Seat. The League had been granted to her by 'letter patent' from the State of Coahuila and Texas on February 3, 1835 and of necessity, all deeds to property which was once a part of that league are traced back to Matilda F. Connell. Matilda F. Connell Allen lived until April 3, 1879 and died at the home of her daughter, Eunice Allen Coffee, in Georgetown, Texas. She is supposed to be buried in the Old San Gabriel River Cemetery. Her grave marker has never been found."



# 1975 ANNUAL MEETING

Texas Historical Commission  
Texas Historical Foundation

Nacogdoches, Texas

Sheraton Inn  
200 N. Fredonia Street

Except where noted, all activities will take place in the Sheraton Inn.

## PROGRAM

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

3-6 p.m. REGISTRATION—Sheraton Inn Lobby

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

9 a.m.-5 p.m. REGISTRATION—Sheraton Inn Lobby

1:00-1:2 noon FILM FESTIVAL—Banita Room

1:00-3:10 p.m. OPENING SESSION—Banita Room

Welcome—*Jimmy Rucker, Pres. Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce; Mrs. Wesley B. Blankenship, Chairman, THC*  
Keynote Address—*Dr. Ralph W. Steen, President, Stephen F. Austin State University*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONCURRENT SESSIONS

3:30-5 p.m.

RESEARCH INTO PUBLIC RECORDS—Nacogdoches County Courthouse  
*Mrs. Deolce Parmelee, Director of Research, THC*  
*Dr. Hilde Faulkner, Chairman, San Jacinto County Historical Commission*  
*Leonard J. McCown, Librarian, Dallas Baptist College*  
*Mrs. Betty Orbeck, Certified Archivist, Odessa*  
*Mrs. Mary N. Speakman, Certified Genealogist, Wichita Falls*

MODERATOR:

PANELISTS:

3:30-5 p.m.

USING MUSEUM ARTIFACTS TO TELL A STORY—Fellowship Hall,  
First Methodist Church (across street, East of Hotel)  
*Mrs. Cindy Sherrell, Director of Museum Services, THC*  
*Dr. James A. Hanton, Director, Panhandle Plains Museum, Canyon*  
*John Wilson, Field Consultant, THC*

MODERATOR:

PANELISTS:

3:30-5 p.m.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION: A GOAL—Banita Room  
*Jerry Rogers, Chief, Grants Division, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, Department of Interior, Washington, D. C.*  
*Craig Johnson, Co-Chairman, Ellis County Historical Commission*  
*Nancy B. Negley, President, San Antonio Conservation Society*  
*David Robertson, Chapter Sponsor, Jefferson Junior Historians*  
*Mary Lou Watkins, Hood County Historical Commission*

MODERATOR:

PANELISTS:

3:30-5 p.m.

PRESERVATION, RESTORATION AND ADAPTIVE USE—Rusk Room  
*Rafford Stripling, Restoration Architect, San Augustine*  
*Peter Brink, Executive Director, Galveston Historical Foundation*  
*Tyrus Cox, Restoration Contractor, Stein Lumber Company, Fredericksburg*  
*Will Robinson, Architect and Acting Director, Ranching Heritage Center, Texas Tech University, Lubbock*  
*Mrs. John H. Woollers, President, George W. and Hallie M. Crook Memorial, Inc., Crockett*

MODERATOR:

PANELISTS:

3:30-5 p.m.

LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSIONS AND HISTORICAL SOCIETIES—Raguet Room  
*Bob Watson, Director of Programs, THC*

7:00 p.m.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD DINNER—Main Ballroom, University Center, Stephen F. Austin State University Campus

### RECOGNITION OF DSA COUNTIES

Annual Report, *Mrs. Wesley B. Blankenship, Chairman, THC*  
Annual Report and Election of Directors, *Floyd Schneider, President, Texas Historical Foundation*  
"Working Places" by *John Karol—Society of Industrial Archeology film on adaptive use of industrial sites*

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

8 a.m.-noon REGISTRATION—Sheraton Inn Lobby

### CONCURRENT SESSIONS

8:30-10 a.m.

LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSIONS AND HISTORICAL SOCIETIES (Repeat)—Banita Room

8:30-10 a.m.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION: A GOAL (Repeat)—Nacogdoches High School Auditorium—Mound St.

8:30-10 a.m.

DISCUSS YOUR HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROBLEMS WITH STATE COMMISSION MEMBERS AND STAFF—Rusk Room

MODERATOR:

PANELISTS:

*Triett Latimer, Executive Director, THC*  
*THC Members and Staff*

8:30-11:30 a.m.

RESEARCH IN A TEXANA COLLECTION—Library, Stephen F. Austin State University Campus

Same moderator and panelists as Friday's session

10:20-11:30 a.m.

USING MUSEUM ARTIFACTS TO TELL A STORY (Repeat)—Fellowship Hall, First Methodist Church

10:20-11:30 a.m.

RECENT ARCHEOLOGICAL TESTING PROGRAM AT LAKE NACOGDOCHES—Raguet Room (This session and the Field Trip to the site is limited to the first 50 persons who sign up at the registration table on Friday morning, Oct. 24.)

MODERATOR:

PANELISTS:

*Curtis Tunnel, State Archeologist, THC*  
*Dr. Dee Ann Story, Director of Anthropological Laboratory, The University of Texas at Austin*  
*Dr. James Corbin, Asst. Professor of Anthropology, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches*  
*Elton Pruitt, Staff Archeologist, Balcones Research Center, The University of Texas at Austin*

10:20-11:0 a.m.

PRESERVATION, RESTORATION AND ADAPTIVE USE—Nacogdoches High School Auditorium (Repeat)—Mound St.

12:15 p.m.

ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON—Banita and Rusk Rooms

2:30 p.m.

GUIDED TOUR OF NACOGDOCHES

2:30 p.m.

OPTIONAL TOUR OF SAN AUGUSTINE (Limited to 46 persons)

6:30 p.m.

INFORMAL PARTY, EAST TEXAS STYLE—North Courtyard, Sheraton Inn—Music by the East Texas String Ensemble



ANNUAL MEETING

**FOUNDATION**  
**MEMBER**

**FOUNDATION**  
**MEMBER**

**CHAIRMAN**

**CHAIRMAN**

**D. S. A.**

**COUNTY COMMITTEE**

**COUNTY COMMITTEE**

**MEMBER**

**MEMBER**

**D. S. A.**

**COUNTY COMMITTEE**

**COUNTY COMMITTEE**



# Top State award to county Historical Commission for best program of work

Mrs. Don Scarborough, chairman for Williamson County Historical Commission, joined several hundred other Texans interested in historic preservation and Texas history for the 1975 Annual meeting of the Texas Historical Commission and the Texas Historical Foundation in Nacogdoches October 24-25. She was accompanied by her daughter, Donna.

**THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY** Commission walked away with three special awards for their work during 1974-75. They were presented a framed plaque for first place as the county group with the Best Program of Work of all counties in the State. They also were awarded third place in the Newsletter category, and the county received a Distinguished Service Award for its all around excellence. Earlier in the year, Mrs. Scarborough was named the Texas Historical Commission's state winner for the best regional or local history published in 1974. Miss Myrela Matthews of Liberty Hill has served as Newsletter Chairman for the county group and wrote the letters that won that award.

The Millard C. Cope Memorial Award for the Best Program of Work won by Williamson County is designed to recognize the commission with the most productive and well-balanced program of work. This included such topics as the organization and activities of the Commission, work in such categories as historical preservation history appreciation, marking of historical places, and other

special activities.

**DURING THE PAST YEAR**, the Williamson County Commission has had seven state historical markers approved, has done research or assisted with research projects for the National Register, on engineering sites for Texas Tech, on history of education for the State PTA, on a history of courthouses in Texas, for the Family Land Heritage Program, listed time and brick kilns in the county, has fur-

nished leadership for nearly every community Bicentennial program in the county, and has presented a Volume of Cemetery Lists for Williamson County to four libraries.

The local Commission also hosted the Regional meeting of Texas Historical Commission, has furnished speakers and programs dealing with history to civic and literary clubs, community groups, history classes in junior and high school grades, university classes,

church organizations, libraries, and others. It has sponsored the organization of Junior Historian clubs in schools, has assisted in operating a museum at Southwestern University, is continuing its survey of county cemeteries, maintains a county scrapbook of historical items, and has assisted in the establishment of archival collections in several county libraries.

Members of the commission who have been active during the past year include: Mrs. Stanley Schwertner, Bartlett-Schwertner; Miss Effie McLeod, Florence; Mrs. Letroy Johnson, Edith Caswell, Robert Morse, Carl Burnette, J. T. Atkin, Harold Scoggins, Scarborough, Miss Lavonne Fenton, Judge Sam Stone, Dr. and Mrs. Van Tipton, and Gene Hargett, all of Georgetown; Mrs. Ella Hill and Henry Labal of Granger; Mr. and Mrs. Emery Blackman of Hutto; Miss Cora Sexton and Mrs. Fred Buchanan, Jarrell; Miss Myrela Matthews, Mrs. Marshall Richardson and Harold Asher, Liberty Hill; Barney Downing of Coupland; Mrs. J. W. Ledbetter and Mrs. D. B. Gregg, Round Rock; A. M. Ahlgreen, Thomas McDonald, Ranken Kennedy, Miss Ruth Mantor, Mrs. Joe Hannah Forson, and Mr. and Mrs. Mahon Garry, all of Taylor; and Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Ribbeck of Thirlall.

## Historical Group Wins Top Awards



**NACOGDOCHES** — The Williamson County Historical Commission carried two of the top awards at the statewide annual meeting of the Texas Historical Commission in Nacogdoches on Oct. 24 and 25. First place for Best Program of Work (Millard C. Cope Award) was awarded to the Williamson County Historical Commission. This award recognizes that county commission which has carried out the best-rounded and most comprehensive slate of activities during the past year.

The next honor for the Williamson County Historical Commission was the winning of third place for Best Newsletter. This award is designed to encourage wider distribution, on the local level, of news of the commission's activities and of general news relating to historical preservation.

**THE TWO-DAY CONVENTION** included speeches, slide shows, and panel discussions on a variety of history-related topics as well as a tour of the historic sites of Nacogdoches or an optional tour of neighboring San Augustine, and an informal evening of county music.

Delegates participated in sessions covering historical research, museum exhibit planning, preservation and restoration, the legal responsibilities of historical groups, and the recent archeological testing program at Lake Nacogdoches. Participants also had an opportunity to discuss local preservation problems with State Historical Commission members and staff.





The Texas Historical Foundation  
awards this  
Quota Buster Certificate  
to  
**Williamson County**

In recognition of the Committee's achievement of their "Fair Share Plus" investment in Historical Recordation, Appreciation, Marking, Preservation and Surveys.

October 24, 1975  
DATE

Floyd Schneider  
PRESIDENT

Mr. Irie Irieon  
SECRETARY



# Texas Historical Foundation



1511 COLORADO ST., • 475-2408  
BOX 12243 CAPITOL STATION  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

## OFFICERS:

FLOYD SCHNEIDER  
PRESIDENT  
SAN ANTONIO  
CECIL E. BURNLEY  
VICE PRESIDENT  
CORPUS CHRISTI  
MRS. RALPH E. RANDEL  
VICE PRESIDENT  
PANHANDLE  
MRS. WILL E. WILSON  
SECRETARY-TREASURER  
BEAUMONT

October 30, 1975

MEMO TO: County Chairman Concerned

## DIRECTORS:

J. J. BALLARD, JR. FROM: Floyd Schneider, President  
FORT WORTH  
THOMAS E. BENTLEY SUBJECT: Quota Buster Certificates  
RICHARDSON  
MRS. WESLEY B. BLANKENSHIP  
LUBBOCK  
MRS. ROBERT E. BLOUNT  
SAN ANTONIO  
HUGH SOREN, JR.  
SNYDER

CONGRATULATIONS!

MRS. CHARLES BYBEE  
HOUSTON  
JOHN CLIFTON CALDWELL  
ALBANY  
ROGER CONGER  
WAACO  
You and your County Commission members are to be commended for the excellent cooperation and support you have given the Texas Historical Foundation this past year.

The enclosed certificate is only a small token of recognition for your fine efforts. The Board of Directors joins me in asking you to accept it with our heartfelt thanks.

We shall look forward to honoring you in the same manner next year.

MRS. P. O'B. MONTGOMERY, JR.  
DALLAS  
MRS. MARY MOODY NORTHEN  
GALVESTON  
MRS. A. M. PATE, JR.  
FORT WORTH  
MRS. R. F. RAU  
COLUMBUS  
JOHN BEN SHEPPERD  
ODESSA  
DR. D. J. SIBLEY JR.  
AUSTIN  
MRS. R. P. SMITH, JR.  
COMFORT  
MRS. BEN B. TURNER, JR.  
HOUSTON  
CHARLES R. WOODBURN  
AMARILLO



1975 Annual Meeting

# Travis, Marion, Williamson Win Top Honors

The 1975 Annual Meeting of the Texas Historical Commission and Texas Historical Foundation attracted 432 people interested in preserving the state's heritage to Nacogdoches, Oct. 24-25.

Activities during the two-day convention included discussion sessions, films, tours and a special DSA banquet and culminated with the annual awards luncheon held Saturday.

Fifteen winners in five areas of competition for county historical commissions were announced along with one unusual award given for the first time this year: the Travis County Historical Commission received recognition for the most Outstanding Project of the Year.



**OUTSTANDING PROJECT OF THE YEAR.** Ina Ray Smith and Mulkey Owens accept the award for Travis County from Mrs. Wesley B. Blankenship, Texas Historical Commission chairman.

The Travis County Commission sponsored a tour of Austin historic sites and an art contest for second graders at the east campus of the Texas School for the Deaf in Austin.

Mrs. Katherine Wise from Marion County received the John Ben Shepperd Award for Outstanding County Commission Chairman. Second place went to Mrs. Reuben Adams, Chairman of the

Dallas County Commission; third place went to Mrs. Hallie Mae Fagan of Refugio County.

Winners of the Millard C. Cope Award for Best Program of Work are, first place, Williamson County Historical Commission; second, Nueces County



**OUTSTANDING COUNTY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN.** Katherine Wise, Marion County, accepts. Clifton Caldwell (left), State Commission member, announced the winners.



**BEST PROGRAM OF WORK.** Williamson County Chairman Clara Scarbrough accepts.

Historical Commission; and third, the Dewitt County Historical Commission.

Mrs. Iris Ragsdale of Gray County was named the Outstanding County Commission Member for 1975. Mrs.

James K. Abney from Harrison County received second place recognition and Dr. Richard Marcum from Nueces County received third.

The Commission named David Robertson with the Marion County Historical Commission, Outstanding Subcommittee Chairman for the year. Houston County's Mrs. Glenda Steed was the second place winner and Mrs. Gilbert Vetter from Nueces County was named third place winner.



**OUTSTANDING COMMISSION MEMBER.** Gray County Chairman Mrs. Fred Thompson accepts for Iris Ragsdale.

The award for the Best Newsletter was given to the Wise County Historical Commission. Second place in this category went to Gillespie County and third place to Williamson County.

The Distinguished Service Awards dinner Friday evening, honored 46 County Historical Commissions for achieving balanced and progressive local preservation programs.

The DSA Counties are Anderson, Bowie, Brazoria, Burleson, Carson, Coke, Colorado, Crockett, Crosby, Dallas, Dewitt, Fannin, Foard, Fort Bend, Freestone, Galveston, Garza, Gray, Grayson, Grimes, Jasper, Hale, Harris,



**OUTSTANDING SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN.** David Robertson, Marion County, accepts.



**BEST NEWSLETTER.** Wise County Chairman Rosalie Gregg accepts the award.

Harrison, Hidalgo, Hill, Houston, Jack, Jackson, Kimble, Marion, Midland, Newton, Nueces, Pecos, Refugio, Robertson, Runnels, Scurry, Shackelford, Travis, Walker, Washington, Williamson, and Wise.

A rousing informal party topped the convention off Saturday night with plenty of food and a lively country and western band and dancing.

The Williamson County Historical Commission has completed Volume 1 of "Williamson County Cemeteries." The book contains 8200 listings in 87 county cemeteries and is available at libraries in Georgetown, Round Rock, and Taylor as well as the Texas State Archives in Austin.



## Gabriel Mills historical marker to be dedicated

An official Texas Historical Marker for Gabriel Mills will be dedicated at 2 p. m. Sunday, it was announced Wednesday by Mrs. Clara Scarbrough, chairman of the Williamson County

Historical Survey Committee. The marker will be placed on County Road 200, 10 miles northeast of Liberty Hill.

Judge C. L. Chance will give a dedication address. Rev. H. C.

Newman, pastor of Bertram and Liberty Hill Methodist churches, will give the invocation. Edward Brizendine of Dallas will present a history of Gabriel Mills. Special music,

"Precious Memory," will be sung by Mrs. Lela Asher and Wade Howland.

The public is invited.

Made of cast aluminum with Swedish steel effect, the

marker measures 18 inches by 28 inches and is sponsored by Harold Asher and Joan Brizendine Davis.

The inscription on the marker reads:

### GABRIEL MILLS

Samuel Mather settled here in 1849, building a grist mill on the north San Gabriel in 1852. John G. Stewart opened a store near the mill. A small log cabin was in use by 1854 for church, school and lodge meetings. A post office was established in 1858, Mather being postmaster. W. L. Brizendine owned the mill by 1865, adding a cotton gin. Known as Mather's Mill, Brizendine Mill, or Gabriel Mills, the village thrived until Austin and Northwestern Railroad bypassed it (1881); then a decline began. The post office closed in 1905, and by the 1920s the town itself had disappeared. (1975)

Marker Sponsors: Harold Asher and Joan B. Davis

The marking of local historic sites and landmarks is part of the Texas Historical Commission's program of preservation activities. These include archeological investigations, history museum consultation, and administering the National Historic Preservation Act in Texas. As of 1974 the Historical Commission had erected more than 6,800 official markers.

The name and location of the present marker will appear in the next edition of the Guide to Official Texas Historical Markers in order to stimulate tourist travel in this area, to arouse interest in historical tours, and to acquaint the people of this locale with their unique heritage.



**SPECIAL PRESENTATION** — Mrs. Don Scarbrough (center) explains the cross reference of Volume I of "Williamson County Cemeteries" to Mrs. Joyce Gadison, secretary-treasurer of the Library Board, and Mrs. Jarvis Philpot, librarian. The book, compiled by Mrs. Scarbrough and other members of the Historical Commission, took one and one half years to complete and contains 8200 listings in 87 county cemeteries. Mrs. Scarbrough presented the book to the Georgetown Public Library at their board meeting Tuesday. Other copies are available at the Round Rock and Taylor libraries and the State Library Archives. Harry Gold, president of the library board, and Jesse Valdez were also present.



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18"x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker XM  
Williamson County - 9/24/75 - on County Road  
200, 10 mi NE OF Liberty Hill.

GABRIEL MILLS

SAMUEL MATHER SETTLED HERE IN  
1849, BUILDING A GRIST MILL ON THE  
NORTH SAN GABRIEL IN 1852. JOHN  
G. STEWART OPENED A STORE NEAR  
THE MILL. A SMALL LOG CABIN WAS  
IN USE BY 1854 FOR CHURCH, SCHOOL  
AND LODGE MEETINGS. A POST OFFICE  
WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1858, MATHER  
BEING POSTMASTER. W.L. BRIZENDINE  
OWNED THE MILL BY 1865, ADDING A  
COTTON GIN. KNOWN AS MATHER'S  
MILL, BRIZENDINE MILL, OR GABRIEL  
MILLS, THE VILLAGE THRIVED UNTIL  
AUSTIN & NORTHWESTERN RAILROAD  
BYPASSED IT (1881); THEN A DECLINE  
BEGAN. THE POST OFFICE CLOSED IN  
1905, AND BY THE 1920s THE TOWN  
ITSELF HAD DISAPPEARED. (1975)

Incise on back: MARKER SPONSORS: HAROLD ASHER AND JOAN B. DAVIS



## GABRIEL MILLS

The early village and community on the North San Gabriel River known as Mather's Mill, Brisendine Mill, or Gabriel Mills, was not only a thriving community, but had several schools, churches and stores in the surrounding countryside.

The early settlers passed over the black land in the eastern part of the county to settle here, where the river offered the necessary water for household use and for livestock, as well as for fishing and swimming. There was plenty of wood for cooking, heating and building, and there were rocks available for fencing, building and for chimneys. Nutritious grass furnished excellent pasture for livestock. Good rich valley land could be bought cheap. Pecans were abundant along the creek bottom.

Samuel Mather, born in Scotland Oct. 8, 1812,<sup>1</sup> came to Gabriel Mills in 1849;<sup>2</sup> bought a league of land in 1850 from Thomas Rowe, who had obtained it from the State of Texas in 1848.<sup>3</sup> In 1852, Mather built one of the first mills in Williamson County, a water-powered mill for grinding corn. In 1854, the mill was destroyed by a disastrous flood and had to be rebuilt.<sup>2</sup> This time, he built the mill to grind wheat also. The mill was converted to steam in 1862.<sup>4</sup> People from far and near brought their corn and wheat to be ground into meal and flour, some of them coming from as far away as Llano.

Samuel was also the first blacksmith in the community. Chief Yellow Wolf brought him pure bars of silver to be beat into ornaments.<sup>5</sup>

By 1863, Samuel Mather had sold his holdings at Gabriel Mills and moved to New Braunfels and put in a paper mill. He was Past Grand Master and a charter member of Mt. Horeb Masonic Lodge at Gabriel Mills, which received its charter in 1854. He was Grand Master of Texas in 1862-63. He died in Mountain City, Texas, May 17, 1878, and is buried at Kyle, Texas. In 1966, ceremonies were held in Kyle at Sam Mather's grave by the Masonic Lodge, at which time a marker was placed beneath the grave stone.<sup>6</sup>



John Gilbert Stewart, born Jan. 17, 1809 in Overton Co., Tenn., with his family and a few other families, came to Gabriel Mills Mar. 5, 1852, and built a three room log cabin, which became the first store at the settlement. Mr. Stewart later built a two story rock store building, about 1855. The lower floor was used a store and postoffice, and the upper floor as a Grange Hall, for game suppers and many social gatherings.<sup>7</sup> John G. Stewart died May 23, 1875, and is buried at Mahomet, about 2½ miles north of Gabriel Mills.<sup>8</sup>

William L. Brizendine, born 1819, came to Texas from Todd Co., Ky. in 1855 and settled at Gabriel Mills in 1865. He had been married in Ky. in 1842 to Catherine M. Smith. He was a cabinet-maker by trade. At Gabriel Mills, he bought the mill and added a gin in 1865. He also purchased the general store which had been operated by John G. Stewart. He voted with the Democratic party; was a Council Mason and member of the Christian Church.<sup>9</sup> He died Aug. 2, 1889, and is buried in Mt. Horeb Cemetery at Gabriel Mills.

John R. Brizendine, son of William L., was born in Ky. in 1843. During the Civil War, he served in Company C, Fourth Texas Cavalry, Green's Brigade. He came with his father to Gabriel Mills in 1865, and was engaged in stock raising, milling and merchandising. He was married in Williamson Co. Nov. 2, 1865 to Texanna Isabella McKenzie. He was affiliated with the Democratic Party. He died Nov. 4, 1921, and is buried in Mt. Horeb Cemetery, Gabriel Mills.<sup>9</sup>

Bryce Miller Smart was born Feb. 8, 1816 in Monroe Co., Ind., and married Feb. 14, 1836 in Springfield, Mo. He was a miller, freighter, tanner and stonemason. He settled near Gabriel Mills in 1851, and ran a freight line to Brenham during the Civil War. He owned and operated a tannery, supplying leather to the Confederate forces. He built a fine rock home in 1855, which now has an official Texas Medallion. He later built and operated a grist mill in Burnet, where he lost his life in a boiler explosion on Jan. 1, 1880. He is buried at Mahomet Cemetery.<sup>10</sup>

Johnathon Bittick, born July 11, 1796, came to the village in 1853, and purchased land along the river. He died Sept. 23, 1869, leaving a wife and sev-



oral children. He is buried in Scheyli Cemetery at Gabriel Mills.<sup>11</sup>

William Scheyli, born May 7, 1834, was a fine German carpenter, gifted with a sense of architectural style. He designed and built the Mt. Horeb Church in an oak grove on a bluff overlooking the river. Scheyli<sup>12</sup> built his own distinctive home on a hill overlooking the village. The house had a basement, large room on the ground floor, an attic, and a steeple on top. There was a well inside the house, with rope and bucket. He died Oct. 31, 1890, and is buried in Mt. Horeb Cemetery.

After Mr. Scheyli died, his wife sold the house and lot to Dr. Calvin Simmons. He practiced medicine in the community, making his calls by horseback or buggy. He moved to Liberty Hill, Texas, in 1900.<sup>13</sup>

Other early settlers at Gabriel Mills were: Edmund Crim, Alex T. Norton, B. H. Stewart, Christopher C. Stewart (son of John G. Stewart), Rudolph Bertram and his brother, Victor Bertram.

There are no records that can be found showing that Gabriel Mills was ever platted or recorded. It was quite a task for the people to make the 25 mile trip to Georgetown, the county seat.

B. K. Stewart and Samuel Mather each gave 25 acres of land to Mt. Horeb Masonic Lodge in 1856. That same year, a lodge hall was built on the land. The lower floor was used as a school and church.<sup>2</sup>

W. L. Brizendine sold one acre of land to the Mt. Horeb Methodist Church for \$10.00 in 1886.<sup>14</sup> However, the church was there before that time.

In 1892, John R. Brizendine deeded six acres to the Mt. Horeb Methodist Church for the cemetery, reserving about one-eighth of an acre for the Brizendine lot. The cemetery joined the church lot on the south.<sup>15</sup>

Samuel Mather gave 37 acres for the Scheyli cemetery on top of the hill east of Gabriel Mills.<sup>16</sup>

Most of the buildings and roads were on land that belonged to Samuel Mather.

The first postoffice opened in 1853 in the rock store, and continued there until it closed in 1905. The postmasters were: Samuel Mather - 1853; Edmund Crim - 1863; A. T. Norton - 1864; John R. Brizendine - 1870 to 1905.<sup>17</sup> After 1905,



it became part of Liberty Hill R.F.D.

There are no records to show that Gabriel Mills was ever incorporated.

The first store was operated in a log cabin by John G. Stewart. He probably handed out the mail, which came by horseback from Georgetown. In 1855, he built the rock store, and he and his family lived on the second floor, and operated the store.<sup>7</sup> Other men that ran the store were: Daniel V. Grant-1858, B. T. Dennis, W. L. and John Brizondine, and A. J. Beckman-1907-1910.<sup>17</sup>

The store sold almost everything: Turning plows, harness, horseshoes, spurs, nails, lumber, tonts, cots, clothing, jewelry, gloves, hats, and, of course, all kinds of food: Vinegar, dried beans, flour, sugar, coffee, tea, lard, candy, gum, etc.

Lawson Brizendine drove the peddle wagon for the Brizendine General Merchandise Store. The pay was \$75.00 a month. There were no paved or graveled roads, just cow trails. There were a lot of headaches in the produce part of the trade. A large portion of the eggs were rotten, the butter rancid, and the chickens sick. There was even an instance where a chicken turned up in the egg case.<sup>9</sup>

The upper floor of the rock store was used as Grange Hall, for social gatherings, game suppers, etc. John R. Brizendine gave a prize to the one who killed the most game in a certain period of time. Each animal or bird counted so many points, and the meat for supper was thus supplied. The meal was fit for a king. Each lady tried to out-do the other with their cakes, pies and home-made bread. After the supper, all kinds of games were played, and there was dancing. Apple cider flowed freely.

Gene Harrison ran a store in a plank building from 1907 to 1913 on the south side of the village near the bridge. He sold groceries and dry goods, and kept his soda pop in a tub filled with ice. He and his family lived in a house back of the store.<sup>18</sup>

William (Will) Asher ran a blacksmith shop near the center of the village from about 1905 to 1911, and his wife operated the telephone exchange in their home.



In 1854, a small log house, 14' x 16', was built about one mile west of Gabriel Mills for the Masonic Lodge (one of the earliest in the county), school and church. The floor was of black dirt. The seats were made of logs; the roof from oak boards, split with free and mallet.<sup>2</sup>

In 1856, a two-story frame building was erected on the north side of the village, the upper story to be used as a lodge hall, the lower for school and church. The building was 20' x 24'. The rafters, sills, joists and studding were felled, hewn and prepared in the post oak forest nearby. The roof was of oak board. The siding and upper floor were of rough pine lumber hauled from Bastrop. For a long time, the lower floor had nothing but a dirt floor.<sup>2</sup>

The school was called Mt. Horeb, or sometimes North Gabriel School. In 1902, District 7 included Seymour, Mt. Horeb, Sycamore and Concord. It was sometimes called the Brizendine School District. Trustees in 1902 were: John Simmons, John R. Brizendine and Neal Milton. Some of the teachers were:

In 1902, Mrs. Dora Watson, with 39 pupils  
Mr. Lair  
Mr. R. A. Renick  
Mr. Earl Fisk<sup>19</sup>

On the night of Dec. 19, 1915, the lodge building was destroyed by fire. Shortly after, the members of the lodge voted to rebuild the lodge hall at Mahomet, two and one-half miles north of Gabriel Mills, where it is still in operation.<sup>2</sup>

The Mt. Horeb Methodist Church was built in an oak grove on a bluff overlooking the river. The exact date it was built is unknown. In the spring, there was a sea of bluebonnets surrounding the church. Behind the building, there were Indian mounds. In the summer, camp meetings were held under the brush arbor. The grounds were crowded with buggies and wagons, and horses were tied to every available tree. At night, the torch lights would be blowing in the wind. The circuit that Mt. Horeb Church was in was composed of Pleasant Grove, Bertram and Mt. Horeb. It was in the Northwest Conference, Llano District; then in the Lampasas District, and later back in the Llano District. Some of the first circuit riders were: Mussett, King,



H. W. Smith, R. A. Galloway, Burton H. Thomas, Levi Collins, J. H. Graves, and M. L. Hallenback. Because this was during Indian times, these circuit riders would preach with their guns beside them.<sup>20</sup>

In later years, the Mt. Horeb congregation began to dwindle away. Old timers passed away, and the younger ones moved to the cities and other places, and about 1923, the church building was moved to Mahomet.<sup>21</sup> There it was the Union Church, with the Christian Church for several years. Then the Methodists sold the building to the Christians, and the Methodist congregation moved to Bertram.

The stately bridge, built in 1893 by the Chicago Bridge Company to span the waters of the North San Gabriel river, served the community for 64 years. The bridge was dedicated with a picnic and barbecue. There were horse races and a baseball game. The great politician and orator, the elderly Cyclone Davis, made the dedicatory speech for the bridge.<sup>22</sup> A disastrous flood in 1957 damaged the bridge beyond repair.

The economic base of the village and community was grazing cattle and horses on open land. Small patches of corn and vegetables were raised for home use. As time went on, more land was put into cultivation. After the civil war, a great number of crops were planted. Cotton began to be planted extensively. Other crops were wheat, barley and maize.

About 1880, barbed wire was introduced, and cultivation and crops were increased. Better breeds of cattle were brought in. A great number of sheep were raised. A high-grade sheep was brought in by the Brizendines in 1885, called the Delaine Merino.<sup>23</sup>

By the 1970s, very little farming was done around the old village. The economic base went strictly to raising cattle.

Some other civic leaders and memorable persons of the community were: Daniel V. Grant (name brought from Scotland) was born in Pittsburgh, Pa. Jan. 17, 1835. He came to Texas in 1853, and to Gabriel Mills in 1858, and was a merchant starting that same year. He moved to Liberty Hill in 1867, and was a leading merchant of that town. He was married to Melvina T. Casbeer in 1855 and had nine children. He was a Democrat; was treasurer of the Masonic Lodge, and was a Steward in the Methodist Church. He died in 1896, and is buried in Liberty Hill Cemetery.<sup>24</sup>



James Elliott was born in the northern part of Ireland Aug. 12, 1824; married Mary A. Sellers in May 1851. He came to Gabriel Mills in 1861. He voted as a Democrat; was a church worker and Assistant Superintendent in Sunday School in the Methodist Church in 1890. He was a Royal Arch Mason. He died in June, 1910, and is buried in Bear Creek Cemetery near Bertram.<sup>24</sup>

Barney T. Dennis was born in McMinn Co., Tenn., Nov. 25, 1855. In 1870, he drove a team for his uncle, and worked as a farm hand at San Saba, Texas. He came to Gabriel Mills in March, 1879 and bought 500 acres of land where Johnathon Wittick had settled, 120 acres being fine bottom land. He married Nellie E. Ottinger Oct. 24, 1880, and had eight children. For a time, he operated the store at Gabriel Mills. He voted the Democratic ticket, and belonged to the Methodist Church. He operated a threshing machine for the public. He became tangled in the belt, and was killed on June 13, 1914. He is buried in Bear Creek Cemetery near Bertram.<sup>24</sup>

Victor Fortran, born in Germany July 15, 1833, left there at the age of 17 and came to Williamson County, where his brother, Adolph, had come earlier. The latter served in the Confederate Army, then came from Louisiana where he served, to Gabriel Mills. He had met one of the Arizonians of the community while in the army, and decided to move there on account of him. Victor Fortran married John Etta Elliott. He died at his home near Gabriel Mills Sept. 30, 1913, and is buried in Mt. Horeb Cemetery.<sup>25</sup>

Andrew Mather, one of Gabriel Mills most well-known citizens, was the son of Samuel Mather, and was born at Gabriel Mills June 11, 1851. He was a buffalo hunter, trail driver and Texas ranger under Capt. Jeff Maltby, Company B. He was with Maltby when they shot and killed Kiowa Chief Big Foot, who committed the Johnson massacre nine years earlier.<sup>26</sup> Andrew Mather was a powerful man, growing to a height of 6'4". He was rarely seen without his spurs on. He wore a large, wide-brimmed hat; his hair usually hung to his shoulders, and wore his trousers tucked in his boots. He bore a striking resemblance to Buffalo Bill, and they were friends. Their last meeting was on the Courthouse lawn in Georgetown.<sup>27</sup>



Andrew Mather died July 23, 1929, and is buried at Mt. Horeb Cemetery.<sup>27</sup>

John Dunlop was born July 9, 1834 in England; came to New York, and on to Gabriel Mills at a very early date. He was a charter member of Mt. Horeb Lodge.<sup>2</sup> At one time, he operated the mill. He fought for the Confederacy during the Civil War. He ran a small store on his place west of Gabriel Mills, from about 1900 to 1912. He died Oct. 27, 1927, and is buried at Mt. Horeb, beside his wife, Eliza A. White Dunlop.<sup>27</sup>

Gabriel Mills remained a thriving village for a decade or more into the 20th century, but the Austin and Northwestern Railroad missed the community and went through Liberty Hill and Bertram; then a fire destroyed the lodge; the school was consolidated, and the rural population began moving away. The entire village disappeared in a few years. Now several sizeable cemeteries are the only landmarks remaining of a Pioneer Village.

Gabriel Mills was located about 10 miles north of Liberty Hill. Take Bear Creek road off Highway 29 traveling north. You come to a "Y" a short distance from Liberty Hill; take a right and continue until you come to a "T". Take another right, and this will take you to the North San Gabriel River, and Gabriel Mills (see map).

You can also locate the site by traveling about 40 miles north from Austin on Hwy. 183; through the Hwys, 183 and 29 intersection; continue north past the Andice road sign, to the first road to the left. Go about three miles (past one cemetery on the left and one on the right) to the crossing of the North San Gabriel River.

I wish to erect a marker to honor those courageous early settlers who left their homes to come to this, one of the oldest settlements in the county. I hope this will give to our young people the remembrance and admiration for these hardy pioneers, and our children will know the same heritage we were handed.



9

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## History of Williamson County's 60 post offices

# Georgetown, called Brushy, had the first

### THE POST OFFICES OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY

by Clara Stearns Scarbrough.

The first Post Office of Williamson County, Texas, was established before there was a Williamson County. It was designated in the large District of Milam Nov. 2, 1847, and named "Brushy." When Williamson County was formed the following year, the name of the office was changed to conform to that of the new town and county seat of the new county, becoming Georgetown Post Office on July 27, 1848.

Richard Tankersley was postmaster at Brushy, and since Georgetown did not exist in 1847, it is assumed that the post office was in Tankersley's home. He had considerable acreage of farm and ranch land, some of it along Smith Branch in the east part of present Georgetown, and the Brushy post office may have been near the branch. Many communities and streams were called "Brushy" in those early days, for the name described many landscapes.

Tenth District Congressman J. J. "Jake" Pickle is compiling a history of all the post offices in his district and, in the process, Clara Scarbrough was asked to do one for Williamson County. The article here is the result of her research which took her to the original ledgers in the National Archives to authenticate dates and other particulars.

Even in 1976, there are stretches along Smith Branch which are still "brushy." Tankersley's land embraced the section which is now the golf course of Southwestern University.

Upon changing the name of this first post office from "Brushy" to Georgetown, the postal officials named Francis M. Nash postmaster, July 27, 1848. Nash had a tiny log store in the newly-designated county seat, which had only a handful of crude, small buildings at that time. Nash's store - post office - stagecoach stop - inn was located adjacent to the "common," which would become the Courthouse Square. There was no courthouse yet erected, and official meetings

and jury were held under a large live oak tree. A log courthouse was built late in 1848 or early 1849, just across the street from the Square and to the east side.

The next several postmasters were also merchants in Georgetown, a pattern followed in small, early Texas communities generally. They were Andrew J. MacKay (1849); Josiah Taylor (1850); Evan Williams (1855); Andrew Marschalk, Jr. (1856), who published the county's first newspaper, the *Georgetown Independent*.

To continue the Georgetown postmasters and years of their appointments: Elias W. Talbot (1857); A. Hart (1861); Moses Steele (1862);

Stephen Strickland (1863); Joseph M. Page (1865); Edward H. Napier (1866); George T. Harris (1868); A. W. Morrow (1871); John B. Napier (1871); William K. Foster (1872); Francis L. Price (1873); Ada Talbot (1882); Ada T. Whittle (1884); Daniel S. Chessher (1886); Belle P. Chrietberg (1888); James Knight (1890); Charles W. Brooks (1894); John L. Brooks (1896); Philemon A. Schaefer (1899); William P. Fleming (1902); F. T. Roche (1914); Lavinia B. Henderson (1916); Josephine W. Roche (1916); Simon J. Enochs (1922); John M. Sharpe (1934); Felix B. Secrest (1944); Lenard R. McLaughlin (1952); Perry Hobson Martin (1954); Charles A. Forbes (1967); J. D. Thomas, Jr. (1967); V. L. Williams (1972).

It should be interpolated here that postmasters serving during the period of the Civil War were appointed in Texas by the Postmaster General of the Confederacy, John H. Reagan. They are listed along with those appointed by the U. S. government in chronological order.

Continued on Page 10



Williamson County's second post office was at Blue Hill (present Rice's Crossing), where James O. Rice became postmaster Nov. 12, 1849. Rice had a prominent role in the history of the Texas Revolution. He was one of the first members of the Texas Ranger force, was one of Tumlinson's Rangers who built Tumlinson Fort (or Block House) south of present Leander, early in 1836 before the outbreak of the Revolution. Rice settled at Blue Hill in 1846, served as postmaster from 1849 until the office was discontinued April 10, 1857.

San Gabriel was named the third post office in the county, Aug. 13, 1850, with Thomas J. Allen, postmaster. John G. Gordon succeeded in 1853, and Andrew Gordon in 1856. At this time, it was discovered that San Gabriel, which was near the county line, was actually in Milam County — not Williamson — so records thereafter were so transferred.

Fourth post office in the county was Brushy Creek, created May 27, 1851, with Thomas C. Oatts, postmaster. Because of confusion with other names, the postal authorities requested that Oatts select another name, and on Aug. 24, 1854, the office was changed to Round Rock. Oatts selected the name, recalling many pleasant hours fishing with his friend, Jacob M. Harrell, on a large, roundish (anvil-shaped) rock in Brushy Creek near the village. Thomas C. Oatts continued his postmastership until 1860. His successors were Robert J. Hill (1860); George W. Davis (1860); Miss Jordena A. Davis (1865); W. Davis (1866); John Rowland (1867); Finas A. Stone (1874); August B. Palm (1876); Holman T. Ham (1877); and August B. Palm (1877).

At this point, "new" Round Rock developed with the coming of the railroad, and a new post office was established there for the new town, Round Rock, the old office being continued until 1891 under the name Old Round Rock. Old Round Rock postmasters were Livingston M. Mays (1879); Dora Aten (1889); Miss Alice Mays (1891). Postmasters at (new) Round Rock were August B. Palm, who moved over from old town (1877); Joseph J. Boone (1880); John T. Haynes (1881); Mrs. Kate F. Martin (1885); Edward E. Diggs (1889); Joseph H. Holt (1893); Robert R. Hyland (1897); John A. Hyland (1911); Steve B.

Wright (1916); Merrell M. Jester (1919); Frank L. Aten (1922); John W. Ledbetter (1932); Robert E. Johnson (1943); Martin E. Parker (1965).

Liberty Hill got a post office Dec. 2, 1853, after U. S. Senator Thomas Jefferson Rusk from Texas, chairman of the Senate Post Office committee, stopped in this tiny community at the home of Rev. Wm. Oliver Spencer for a meal and the night. He was seeking places in Texas which needed post offices, and promised Rev. Spencer one. Asked what it should be called, Rev. Spencer suggested Liberty Hill. He became its first postmaster. Others were George W. Logan (1855); Wm. O. Spencer (1856); George W. Barnes (1860); Squire S. Jackson (1861); Mrs. L. Jackson (1866); Samuel Ellington (1867); Wilson R.

Bratton (1870); Robert N. Renick (1875); James H. Booty (1879); James G. Ward (1880); James K. Lane (1887); G. W. Hewitt (1890); J. M. Pool (1890, declined); Julia Lane (1891); Joseph B. Hutchison (1892); Lulu Grant (1893); James W. Connell (1895); Henry H. Thorpe (1899); John W. Thorpe (1902); Wilson B. Russell (1915); Jim H. McFarlin (1924); Carl A. Shipp (1934); Clyde W. Barrington (1964).

Pond Spring, a village near a spring and pond (and moved since about one mile to the south), had a post office assigned March 16, 1854. Thomas S. Rutledge, postmaster. Others were Elisha Rhodes (1857); Thomas Strode (1857); W. P. Rutledge (1862); Mrs. Ettie C. Rutledge (1866), and the office was discontinued July 29, 1880.

Thomas Huddleston named Bagdad, an early thriving town west of present Leander, for Huddleston's former home in Bagdad, Tennessee. The town was laid out in 1854, and in 1855, Huddleston became its first postmaster. He was followed by John F. Heinatz (1858); Mrs. Emile Heinatz (1866); John D. Mason (1867); John F. Heinatz (1876). The post office was transferred to Leander (a new town created by the coming of a railroad 1881-82, and bypassing Bagdad) on Oct. 6, 1882.

Corn Hill, north of Georgetown, was named for Judge John E. King's fine corn crops. King was the town's first postmaster (1855), and was followed by Hiram Wood (1867); Tilman H. Lea (1871); Andrew L. Pearce (1875); Tilman H.

Lea (1876); William J. Donnell (1876); W. K. Grayson (1877); Otto Felthouse (1878); Montgomery L. Hair (1879); Mrs. Roberta Hair (1882); Montgomery L. Hair (1882); George W. Weatherford (1886); William N. Shaver (1891); Columbus J. Jackson (1892); Johnnie Jackson (1892); Thomas N. Dunn (1894); Rufus C. Brown (1902); William D. Foster (1903); James W. Smith (1904); Thomas B. Thoma (1906), and the office was discontinued and moved to Jarrell (which had a new railroad) March 8, 1912.

Post Oak Island, in Southeastern Williamson County, was named for a grove of post oak trees which grew in an open prairie. It was on a mail route during the days of the Republic of Texas, but the route was changed because of trouble with Indians. Post Oak Island was assigned a post office Aug. 1, 1855, with I. J. Kidd, postmaster. Others in that office were Webb Kidd, Jr. (1859); Samuel Porter (1860); Windsor Fort (1862); A. J. Kidd (1862); Mrs. Mollie W. Gage (1876), and the office was closed Sept. 30, 1880.

The county's tenth post office was at Circleville, with James Eubank the first postmaster March 13, 1857; other appointments were J. B. Eubank (1862); E. J. Brown (1867); Seneca D. Brown (1870); I. A. McFadin (1873); James A. Simons (1874); James W. Wayman (1876); Joseph E. Butts (1884); Edward Vernon Stearns (1888); Harvey Trueman Stearns (1891); William T. Shields (1894); Hiram K. Gilliam (1898); John V. Rowlett (1904); Daniel D. Nowlin (1906); John P. Teburg (1910); John J. Meeks (1911).

and office was discontinued to Taylor, Sept. 4, 1918. Circleville was settled on the San Gabriel River late in 1853 by three Eubank brothers, and their families, and about a mile down the river was the still earlier home of the McFadin family.

Florence post office opened Nov. 25, 1857, with John W. Atkinson as postmaster. The community had earlier been called Brooksville, was settled about 1852, and had received its mail by horseback rider with saddlebags prior to the opening of the post office. Successors named as postmasters, after Atkinson, have been J. C. Smith (1858); John W. Atkinson (1859); P. H. Adams (1864); Smith Brown (1866); Miss Nancy Adams (1868); Ozias

Benedict (1869); Phil Adams (1870); Wesley S. (1871); James P. Moore Robert B. Caskey (1875); Stephen K. P. Jackson (1882); Samuel B. McClain (1885); Madelein Surginer (1890); Mattie A. Surginer (1894); Samuel F. Perry (1895); Joel Preslar (1897); Bessie Cannon (1901); James F. Atkinson (1918); Alton Mullen (1940); W. Henry Taylor (1940); Ernest A. Mullen (1954); James D. Lewis (1966); Oran T. Gray (1967); Cecil Jenkins (1972); Joe Earl Massey (1972).

Post office No. 12 was assigned to Gabriel Mills on June 29, 1858, with Samuel Mather, postmaster. This was a thriving community the last half of the nineteenth century, with stores, Masonic Lodge, school, church, blacksmith shop and telephone exchange, the early water powered grist mill which developed into a flour and saw mill, a gin with wool and carding machines, and several doctors. Samuel Mather was responsible for establishing a number of Masonic lodges in Texas, and was Grand Master of Texas in 1863. His son, Andrew "Andy" Mather gained fame as a Texas Ranger and Indian fighter. Postmasters succeeding Samuel Mather were Edmund Crim (1863); H. T. Norton (1864); John R. Brizendine (1870 to 1905), and the office was closed in 1905.

Cross Roads (which was later called Lawrence Chapel) had a post office assigned Nov. 1, 1858, with Edmond Laurence as postmaster. The office closed Jan. 23, 1867.

Ponton was a post office in the Samuel D. Carothers home near present Seward Junction, assigned Aug. 17, 1860. Miss M. J. Faires, a relative of Carothers, was postmistress from Dec. 3, 1866, until the office was discontinued April 27, 1867.

Another mistake in geography occurred Sept. 29, 1871, when South Gabriel post office was approved, with Thomas Lewiston, postmaster, but the error was apparently soon discovered, and the original ledger notes that South Gabriel belongs in Burnet County.

Rice's Crossing had an earlier post office called Blue Hill. It was reinstated under the new name of Rice's Crossing May 2, 1872, with Christopher Tompkins, postmaster; succeeded by M. W. Izard (1874); William A. Hargis (1874); Madison L. Armfield (1877); Thomas B. Hyde (1879); Joseph B. Hutchison (1883); James S. Patterson (1885); Robert C. Crozier (1903). Mail was transferred to



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Taylor Dec. 14, 1907.

Running Brushy (at other times called Brueggerhoff and at the present time, Cedar Park) had Joel Sutton as first postmaster, Feb. 27, 1874, succeeded by Mrs. Harriet Cluck on Dec. 22, 1874. The office under that name was discontinued in 1880. Harriet Cluck gained some fame when, as a pregnant young mother, she took her small children and went with her husband, George Cluck, on a long cattle drive.

Taylorville (as it was written in most records) or Taylorville (as written in early postal records) opened its post office Aug. 9, 1876, with J. B. Loper, postmaster. This was a new town, created when the International and Great Northern Railroad built across southern Williamson County. The town continued to be called Taylorville in postal records until 1892, when the name was listed as Taylor. Postmasters after Loper were: James B. Simons (1877); J. O. Frink (1880); John H. Hutchison (1890); Edward A. Robertson (1892); John Lloyd (1894); James A. Simons (1895); Carrie E. Hoke (1898); Frank S. Way (1912); John L. Brunner (1915); Alex P. Hicks (1924); Paula Hicks (1930); John L. Brunner (1933); Mrs. Nell H. Brunner (1948); Daniel M. Hannan (1950); J. B. Dabbs (1973).

A village called Stapp, whose name was changed to Berry's Creek when a post office was approved for the community, still later became the town of Andice. Berry's Creek post office opened Oct. 30, 1876, with Andrew "Buck" Jackson as postmaster; he was succeeded by Benjamin W. Stapp (1879); and A. Jackson (Nov. 1879), and the office was discontinued Dec. 1, 1879.

Hutto, like Taylor, created by the coming of the I. & G.-N. Railroad, in 1876, opened its post office the next year. Postmasters were J. E. Hutto (1877), for whom the town was named; John A. Blanton (1879); Thomas M. Metcalfe (1883); William H. McCormick (1890); Victor M. McCormick (1891); Thomas H. Flinn (1893); Joseph B. Ross (1897); J. R. Davis (1909); Lillie Wilson (1911); Willis D. Holman (1916); John C. Ray (1924); Ward O. Miller (1933); Walter L. Bergstrom (1934); Oscar Humphrey (1938); Carl Stern (1952); Hugh S. Davenport (1953).

Thornedale was assigned a post office April 18, 1878 and listed in Williamson County, with Miscipsia A. O. Moore (1878); J. B. James (1879) and James K. Quinn (1879) all appointed before the notation was made in June 1880 that Thornedale was in Milam County.

Conel (predecessor to Allison) on Willis Creek, had a post office approved Dec. 10, 1878, with James F. Allison, postmaster. The office was discontinued in 1880.

Buttercup (also called Doddville), south of present Cedar Park, was approved for a post office Jan. 20, 1880, with Lillie L. Dodd (1880), postmistress; and B. T. Crumley (1881); and Frank S. Clark (1881), postmasters. The office was discontinued briefly in 1882; reinstated Dec. 21, 1883, when B. J. Oliver was postmaster, and closed Jan. 12, 1894. Postmaster Crumley was a medical doctor with some Cherokee Indian ancestry.

Beaukiss, established in 1880 by "Uncle Sammy" Slaughter, an Indian, had the following postmasters: Samuel M. Slaughter (1880); Dan M. Cunningham (1882); Thomas C. Lemaster (1883); Silas A. Abbott (1884); Jesse S. Arnold (1890); Virgil F. Eubank (1890); Edmund H. Guentzel (1894); Silas A. Abbott (1896); Charles K. Ryan (1919); Charles G. Jordan (1931).

Brueggerhoff (later name for Running Brushy), had two postmasters, Lanford I. Crumley (1882) and Wesley C. Isaacs (1884), and the name was changed to Cedar Park post office in 1887.

Hopewell was a very early settlement in southwestern Williamson County first called Bursleson's Springs. The 1863 massacre of the Wofford Johnson family by Indians took place near there. C. C. Black was Hopewell's only postmaster from June 26, to Sept. 11, 1882.

Bartlett, half in Williamson and half in Bell County, was established by railroad activity in 1882. Postmasters have been Thomas McKnight (1882); James Jephtha Talley (1887); John C. Johnston (1889);

Thomas W. Reeves (1890); Charley L. Fowler (1891); Lucas Rowntree (1893); Edward G. Armstrong (1898); Jefferson D. Bell (1905). The office was transferred to Bell County Feb. 8, 1910, and postmasters since that time have been listed in their records.

Leander, another railroad town, and a successor to Bagdad (see), opened its post office Oct. 6, 1882, with John F. Heinatz (lately of Bagdad post office), postmaster. Since then, the following have held that position: Charles F. Heinatz (1891); Charles C. Mason (1894); George A. Cloud (1898, declined); Archibald J. Rowland (1898); Oliver H. Speegle (1902); Archibald J. Rowland (1903); Eunice E. Craven (1911); Robert M. Hazelwood (1922); Newton L. Craven (1927); J. O. McBride (1943); Rex H. Mason (1949); Mrs. Jo Anne Giddens (1949); J. Smith Cluck (1950); Mary N. Bentley (1956); Darrell R. Sherman (1957); Mrs. Emogene M. Kirkpatrick (1960); Arthur W. Faubion (1963).

Jonah is said to have been named when the town applied for a post office, first for "Water Valley," which was turned down, then for "Parks," also ruled out by the postal officials. Community leaders, weary of hunting an acceptable name, said the place had turned into a "Jonah," whereupon someone suggested that name be submitted, which it was, and was accepted. Postmasters have been John E. Walker (1884); G. W. Grammar (1886); Miss Sallie E. Davidson (1886); Abraham M. Bogart (1890); William G. McDonald (1895); John V. Rowlett (1909); William H. Percy (1916); Fine L. Gattis (1951). The office closed September 30, 1971.

Granger, the thirtieth community in Williamson County to be approved for a post office, was created by the railroads. Its postal officials have been Colonel M. Jones (1884); John M. Strayhorn (1886); Malcolm H. Addison (1889); John Brazelton (1889); J. T. Spilman (1890); Wilford W. McDaniel (1890); William C. Erwin (1893); Andrew J. Reeder (1897); J. C. Council (1909); William E. Thies (1914); Joseph C. Council (1923); John C. Duffy (1928); Cullen E. Wayman (1929); Anton C. Mussil (1935); Arnold A. Spacek (1947); Emil J. Bartosh (1949).

Peyton, a village with a general store and post office on the South Salado Creek, was assigned a post office Jan. 13, 1885, with William P. Wells, postmaster. H. D. Newman was appointed in December of that year, and the office was discontinued and the mail sent to Corn Hill July 13, 1886.

Walburg, a German-Wendish community since about 1882, was approved for a post office July 10, 1886, with Henry Doering, one of the founders of the community, as postmaster. He was followed by Adolf C. A. Braun (1900); Selma A. Kuehne (1911); John Kasperik (1912); Albert C. Werner (1914); Walter A. Werner (1924); Isaac G. McGinnis (1930); Carroll C. Wedemeyer (1948); Gilbert C. Kurio (1949).

Rattan, a flag stop on the Austin and Northwestern Railroad in 1882, was assigned a post office Feb. 5, 1887, with Daniel R. Munn as first postmaster. John J. Arnot was appointed March 3, 1887, and Erastus W. Kerr on Jan. 14, 1888; the office discontinued Dec. 7, 1888.

Grove Ranch was the name of the post office for the tiny hamlet of Elm Grove, where Joseph Rubarth settled in 1844. It had once been an Indian village, and later was a part of the large Hoxie Ranch. The Grove Ranch post office opened Aug. 17, 1887, with Marion M. Williams, postmaster. His handlebar moustache, half black and half white, gave the affable gentleman the nickname, "Polecat" Williams.

Cedar Park had earlier post office called Running Brushy, then Brueggerhoff. As Cedar Park, the office has had these postmasters: Wesley C. Isaacs (1887); William B. McKeown (1889); Emmett Cluck (1892); Ora V. Cluck (1929); David A. Cluck (1939); Mrs. Lena Mae Henry (1940); Roscoe H. Faubion (1942); Lena Mae Henry (1944); Roscoe H. Faubion (1945); Ida B. Webster (1957).

Coupland, named for Theodore Van Buren Coupland, was developed in fertile far-



ming country in 1887 when the railroad built from Taylor to Boggy Tank. Postmasters have been John Goetz (1889); William Goetz (1906); Duncan M. Broach (1907); John Goetz, Jr. (1909); Harvey L. Copeland (sic.) (1911); Oscar P. Spiegelhauer (1928); William F. Schwenke (1950).

The early community of Rock House could not get that name approved for a post office, so offered "Draco" to postal authorities, who accepted it. Draco is a Tuacano Indian name for favorite camping place, and was the site of a Tuacano village on the North Gabriel. Draco was assigned a post office April 11, 1890, with Olla O. Perry as postmaster, and the office transferred to Liberty Hill Aug. 25, 1892.

Theon, near New Corn Hill, was a farming settlement of German, Austrian, Moravian, Bohemian and Silesian settlers after about 1880. A post office was assigned Sept. 12, 1890, with Fritz Krauss being appointed as postmaster. The office closed July 5, 1892. It reopened as Leubner (see).

Laneport (named for a family, Lane, and because of its location on the San Gabriel River) opened its post office Jan. 20, 1891, in the local general store, with Walter J. Lane, postmaster. Successors were Jerry C. Hollomon, Jr. (1892); John T. McCarty (1895); George W. Reeder (1898); Walter L. Johnson (1904); Seaborn B. Maddox (1907, declined); James M. Jarrell (1907). The office closed April 30, 1907.

Allison (successor to the Conel post office) settled by the Allison family in 1847. In 1892, the post office opened under the name, Allison, with Calvin G. Allison (1892) and then Charles S. Williamson (1893), postmasters. Mail was changed to Granger in 1894, and the Allison office closed.

Neusser (later called Naizerville), was named for Johann Neusser, settler there in 1881, who Anglicized his name to Naizer for easier spelling and pronunciation. The village had three postmasters: Edward Aschen (Dec. 30, 1892); Joseph Klimicek (1893); August F. Zahn (1894), the office closing May 21, 1894.

Beyersville, settled by Gustav Beyer and so-named by him when he became postmaster at the opening of that office April 15, 1893, is in farming country. Other appointments to the post office were William Rummel (1898, changed to Wilhelm Rummel a month later); Robert Stumhofer (1906), and the office closed Jan. 31, 1909.

Waterloo, near Wuthrich Hill and Circleville, opened its post office May 12, 1893, with Patrick G. Tartar, postmaster. Others holding that position were Patsie J. Gate (1894); Ranza L. Luttrell (1895); Josiah W. Rainwater (1897); John D. R. Cooper (1899); Robert A. Skeen (1899); Josiah W. Rainwater (1901); Gusta Tindel (1903), with office discontinued Sept. 15, 1904.

Gower, north of Hutto, on Cottonwood Creek, had a store-post office, school and gin, with Bennet A. Gower serving as the only postmaster, June 8, 1893 until the office closed Oct. 26, 1896.

Sandoval, village near Turkey Creek in east Williamson County, was first called Carlville or Streichville, for Carl Streich who came there in 1882. The post office could not use either name, but Sandoval was accepted. Postmasters were C. W. Obermiller (1894); Gustav Zeplin (1894); Henry Dabelgott (1896); Paul Streich (1896); August A. Young (1898), and the office closed Feb. 29, 1904.

Small, tiny village on Williamson Creek west of Granger, had a store and gin, and nearby Ake School. The post office in the general store was handled by postmasters James F. "Jim" Irvin (1894); Shadrach D. Irvin (1895); Frank T. Smith (1896), and the office closed Feb. 4, 1898.

Leubner, village north of Georgetown, also known as Theon and Behrville, was called Leubner while William Leubner, an enterprising merchant, lived there. Its post office, successor to Theon office, opened Oct. 27, 1894 and closed April 20, 1898, with Fridrick W. Leubner serving as the postmaster the entire time.

Rutledge, established when the Austin and Northwestern railroad bypassed Pond Spring (the latter also called "old"

Rutledge), in 1882. Rutledge post office opened Jan. 28, 1895; postmasters were Otto Stolley (1895); George F. Wideman (1897); Edward L. Sorelle (1899); Melvin D. Reynolds (1900); Clara Petri (1900). The office closed Sept. 3, 1908, and the mail sent through Round Rock.

Gravis had a general store-post office, blacksmith shop, and school. The post office opened Feb. 7, 1896, with Collin Dennis Wyatt, the local saddle and harness maker, as postmaster. Matthew L. Marrs, his brother-in-law, a blacksmith, was postmaster from 1896 until the office closed Jan. 30, 1904.

Kellehor, named for Joe Kellehor, a rancher, was also called Kellehorville, Keeler, Keelar, and Kellarville. The village post office opened May 4, 1895, and closed Dec. 23, 1897, with Freidrich Zahn as the only postmaster.

Townsville, the official post office name, was generally called Towns Mill for Excelsior Mill built there by James Francis Towns and his family, just west of Weir. The post office opened May 6, 1895, with James F. Towns, postmaster, and after a railroad was projected a short distance away, the office was changed to the newly created town of Weir in 1900.

Audice, named for the first postmaster's newly born son. The name on the application to the Postal Department was misread, and what the applicant, Rev. William Isaac Newton, meant for the name was "Audice." Young Audice Newton remained Audice, but since "Audice" was accepted in Washington, the community accepted that name. Rev. Wm.

I. Newton became Audice's first postmaster Nov. 28, 1899. (The community had an earlier post office, called Berry's Creek.) Other postmasters at Audice have been Evans Atwood (1901); John M. Rutledge (1904); Willie D. Davidson (1924); Mrs. Maude Davidson (1929); Mrs. Mary E. Dollahon (1943).

Hoxie, named for wealthy railroad officials connected with International and Great Northern, located in the large section known as Hoxie Ranch, had a post office only briefly, with Mortimer R. Hoxie, postmaster from Jan. 2, 1900 to Feb. 15, 1905.

Gano, another village in southeastern Williamson County, had stores, school, church, gin, blacksmith shop. Postmasters were James C. Watson (1891); Charles S. Watson (1894); John R. Wilder

(1895); David A. Watson (1896); Andrew A. Wilder (1900); John R. Wilder (1905). The office closed April 30, 1907.

When a community near the San Gabriel and Pecan Creek applied for a post office, the name Prairie Lea was requested, but was refused. Hare was judged acceptable. Postmasters were Charles W. McKinney (1900); Noah Sears (1901); and Dr. Franklin H. White (1903), under whom the office was closed Feb. 29, 1904.

Behrville, named for pioneer H. T. Behrens, had a post office from March 9, 1901 to April 9, 1906, with Gottlieb Kalmbach as postmaster. This community had earlier post offices by the names of Theon and Leubner.

Thrall, centered in farming country, was established as Stiles Switch in 1876 when the I. & G.-N. railroad was built

there. In 1899, a general store was built there, and two years later, the post office was established, at which time the town was named Thrall, for Rev. Homer S. Thrall, prominent Texas minister-historian. Postmasters have been Raleigh M. Riley (1901); James C. Douglass (1908); Martha B. Waters (1915); Martha Waters Howard (1921); Mrs. Burna H. Cain (1922); Millard Arrington (1934); John Krieg (1935); William G. Fuchs (1938); Mrs. Burna H. Cain (1956); Mrs. Doris June Johnson (1970).

John Ernest Noack was the first and only postmaster at the community of Noack, from July 12, 1902 to April 29, 1905. Noack is a Wendish settlement east of Taylor in fertile farmland.

Jarrell post office was a successor to Corn Hill's very early one. When the Bartlett Western Railroad was built through present Jarrell, bypassing Corn Hill, the latter town moved near the railroad. Jarrell post office opened March 8, 1912, with Thomas B. Thoma, postmaster. His successors have included William E. Votaw (1914); Maynard C. Watkins (1950); and James H. Jones (1962).

The sixtieth post office in Williamson County opened Aug. 30, 1912, in Schwertner, which was settled in 1877 by Bernard Schwertner and family. Postmasters have been Gustav A. Matejowsky (1912); Earl R. Wallace (1914); Mary L. Duncan (1916); Judson M. Roebuck (1919); William O. Matejowsky (1920); Joseph Tomecek (1926); Mildred I. Tomecek (1957).



# Historical Commission receives many awards

The Williamson County Historical Commission met November 6 in the conference room of the Georgetown Public Library with Mrs. Don Scarbrough presiding and calling for reports of activities from members representing

different areas of the county. Harold Asher reported that the site marker for the once thriving village of Gabriel Mills had been delivered. The dedication ceremony will be at 2 p. m. Sunday, November 16, near the Mount Horeb Cemetery on

County Road 200. Asher also reported that the cemetery is being beautified and a new fence has been installed. This is one of the oldest and most historic cemeteries in the county.

According to Burney Downing, the Township Marker for Coupland has been received and the history of the town is being enlarged upon. The dedication

is planned for a later time to coincide with a significant anniversary celebration for the community.

The McDougal House on Elm Street in Georgetown has been awarded an official Texas Historical Medallion.

Miss Laverne Faubion, sub-chairman of the Cemetery Census, reported six more

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cemetery lists have been submitted since the last commission meeting. They are the John Berry family, Goodeville, Coupland-St. Peter's, Weir family, Dixon or Hooper (near Florence), Bagdad and Old Round Rock.

Mrs. Scarbrough and Miss Donna Scarbrough attended the annual meeting of the Texas Historical Commission and the Texas Historical Foundation in Nacogdoches October 24-25.

Every county in Texas is involved in the program of historic preservation. Awards are presented in several phases of work and the Williamson County Commission received special recognition.

Williamson County won the Best County Program of Work and received a framed cast aluminum medallion and plaque.

Mrs. Scarbrough's book, *Land of Good Water, A Williamson County, Texas History*, was chosen by the Texas Historical Commission as

the best regional or local history published in 1974.

The county again received the Distinguished Service Award, which has been achieved many years in the past by the group of local historians or their predecessors.

The Newsletter of the Williamson County Commission was awarded third place in the state contest. Williamson County was also designated as a Quota Buster County for having contributed the required amount of donations to the Texas Historical Foundation.

Communities represented at the November meeting were Andice, Gabriel Mills, Coupland, Florence, Georgetown, Hutto, Liberty Hill, Round Rock, Rice's Crossing and Taylor.

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Georgetown, Texas  
Sunday, December 14, 1975

# County Historical Commission meets

The Williamson County Historical Commission met Thursday, December 4, in the Conference Room of the Georgetown Public Library with Mrs. Clara Scarbrough, chairman presiding.

Report were made by representatives of the following areas: Andice-Gabriel Mills, Georgetown, Jarrell, Jonah, Liberty Hill and Taylor.

Harold Asher told of the dedication program for the long ago village of Gabriel Mills. The affair was attended by a crowd of almost 200 people. Some came from far away cities in north Texas and from the Rio Grande Valley in South Texas. It was very gratifying to older historians that many young people and children were there.

Mrs. Scarbrough announced that the marker for the Penn House in Georgetown has been received. No date has been set for the dedication.

The application for the subject marker for Judge Greenleaf Fisk has been approved by the State Historical Commission. The wording of the inscription on the plaque has not been written.

Historic Engineering Sites in Williamson County are numerous and Mrs. Scarbrough has made a report on 49 of these for the History of Engineering Program at Texas Tech University.

Cemetery listings are still being collected with Miss Laverne Faubion as sub-chairman in charge of duplicating the

copies. She states that the location and directions for reaching each cemetery is of great importance, especially those in isolated places. Now that the county roads are numbered this task should be less complicated.

This Historical Commission has always been interested in supporting History Clubs in the county high schools. It was

decided to offer an award to a student in each Junior Historian Club who submits the best article of original research on local history. It was pointed out that the contestants must be members of an organized Historian Club in a high school. The word Junior Historian for grades nine, ten, eleven and twelve merely indicates that it is below college level.



## TEXAS LOG CABIN REGISTER

A Texas Log Cabin Register was started in 1975 under the supervision of Prof. Terry G. Jordan, North Texas State University, Denton, Texas.

The following Log Cabins were found in Williamson County and were reported to Prof. Jordan.

1. Built in 1855 1/8 mi S. Matsler Cemetery s. Andice E. of Hwy. 183 by George Matsler . It was built for a school but in 1865 was converted into a barn. Dove-tail corner notch. Two rooms. Wooden pegs used for nails.  
Mrs. Evangeline Daniel  
Georgetown, Texas
2. Built 1852 on Gabriel Mills Road 2 mi W. of Hwy. 183 by Sam Mather. Half Notch was the corner notch. Walnut logs hewn-squared. Stone Chimney. One room and lean-to.  
Emile Jamail  
Austin, Texas
3. Built 1853 at Hunt Crossing north Gabriel Road W. of Georgetown by Hayden Hunt of Tennessee. Half Notch for corner notch. Post Oak logs hewn-squared. Stone Chimney. One room and shed.  
W. L. Hunt  
Georgetown, Texas
4. Built 1840s at Lawrence Chapel by Adam Lawrence of Kentucky. The corner notch was a Square notch. Post Oak logs hewn-squared. ~~Two~~ rooms, one and one half stories.  
Clara Scarbrough  
Georgetown, Texas
5. Built 1851 4.3 mi W. of Circleville bridge 2.3 mi E. of Jonah bridge on Hwy. 29, by Luther Stearns of Vermont. Logs are hewn, chimney is stone. One and one half story with lean-to providing six rooms.  
Clara Scarbrough  
Georgetown, Texas
6. Built in 1850s 5 mi. W. of Georgetown on Hwy. 29, by T. S. Whiteley. Corner notch is a half dove tail. Ash logs hewn-squared. One room now incorporated in a larger house.  
Mrs. Jack Nitschke  
Georgetown, Texas
7. Built 1850 6 1/2 mi. N. of Georgetown between Hwy. 35 and Lampasas Highway, by J. Montgomery. Oak or walnut logs hewn-squared. ~~Two~~ rooms two story with chimney and stairway. Now incorporated in home of the Irvine family.  
Mrs. D. P. Irvine  
Georgetown, Texas
8. Built 1856 2 mi. S. of Bagdad on old Bagdad road SW of Leander, by Henry Edwards. Oak logs hewn-squared. Stone chimney. ~~Two~~ rooms now incorporated in a larger house owned by Mrs. Cora Wray.  
Clara Scarbrough  
Georgetown, Texas



9. Built before the Civil War 5 mi. west of Ranch Road 2244 by Sid Evans of Missouri or Tennessee. Hewn-squared logs and stone chimney. One room. Owned by Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Holloway of Leander.

Leona Williamson  
Leander, Texas

10. Built before the Civil War  $4\frac{1}{2}$  mi West of Leander on Ranch Road 2244 by Andrew Hamilton of Missouri. Corner Notch - saddle. Hewn-squared logs, stone chimney. One room. Now owned by Don Lyda of Austin.

Leona Williamson  
Leander, Texas

11. Built 1854 off FM Road 2243 4 mi. east of Leander on Charles Hughes place, by A. M. Brown. Half Notch was the corner notch. Hewn-squared logs, stone chimney. One room, now owned by Jack Garey.

Mrs. Jack Garey  
Round Rock, Texas

12. Built 1850 half way between Andice and Liberty Hill, off Hwy 183, by Bill Williams of Tennessee. Corner Notch was dove-tail and half notch. Oak hewn-squared logs and two stone chimneys. Two story, six rooms. Owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Collins.

Clara Scarbrough  
Georgetown, Texas

13. Built 1851 in North West part of County and now in Old Settler's Park, Round Rock, Texas. Corner Notch is Half-round. Cedar logs half round, stone chimney. One room.

Mrs. J. W. Ledbetter  
Mrs. D. B. Gregg  
Round Rock, Texas





14. Built 1924 on McNeil Road NW 2 mi. from Round Rock City limits. by Ike McConica for Pat Walsh. Corner Notch - half round. Cedar half round logs. Stone Chimney. Three rooms.



Mrs. J. W. Ledbetter  
Mrs. D. B. Gregg  
Round Rock, Texas

15. Built after the Civil War 6½ mi. W. Round Rock on FM Road 620 by William Chapman. Corner Notch - dove-tail. Post Oak logs hewn & squared. Stone Chimney. Two story 4 room house owned by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Kemp.

Mrs. D. B. Gregg  
Round Rock, Texas

