

TOWNS & COMMUNITIES
OF
DENTON COUNTY, TEXAS

Compiled by

EMILY FOWLER
&
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PREFACE

This compilation, started by Mrs. Fowler in the 1930s, has been augmented and additions made by members of the Home Demonstration Clubs of Denton County, the Parent-Teacher organizations of the county and by the editors, Mrs. Fowler and Mrs. Chambers.

Credits are given with each sketch. [ALC]

**Adventist Community of
Northwest Denton County and Southwest Cooke County**

By
Mrs. Henry Schmidt, Jr.

This community with its church and school is still active and an important part of northwest Denton County.

August Schmidt, a blacksmith for the Hamburg Lines, crossed the Atlantic several times in the 1800s. In about 1885, he left the company and his home in Hamburg, Germany, and came to Texas, settling first at Hutto, Texas. His son, Henry Schmidt, Sr., who is author of these memoirs, was about 14 years old when they lived at Hutto. He helped his father on the land he had bought (100 acres).

A few years later, Henry Schmidt married Hulda Krueger, who had emigrated with her family from Prussia, earlier.

These people were Lutherans in religion, but in 1898 under the preaching of Pastor Lorenz Henry, Henry and Hulda Schmidt became 7th Day Adventists. He says, "He threw away his tobacco, killed his last hog and ceased hard drinking."

In the early 1900s, seeking expansion for their occupation of farming, Henry and Hulda Schmidt with their family of 8 children rented a railway car, loaded all their earthly belongings and headed for Cooke County, Texas. They bought 357 acres of land from Tom Shirley at \$35.00 per acre. His brother-in-law, Albert Belz, and his family of 8 children came with the Schmidts and other relatives followed. Henry Schmidt established this community of thrifty farmers, which is practically owned entirely by their children and grandchildren today. He with Albert Belz was leader of the community.

Other relatives, who also came by rail from central Texas, were Henry Hassenpflug with 14 children, William Hassenpflug with 6, Julius Krueger, William Krueger, Martin Sultzter with their families and a few other families also made the move at the suggestion of the leader, Henry Schmidt. All bought large acreage in this same community.

These people, following the example of their relatives of early Texas and by their own nature, set about building a church and school as the first necessity for their community. This school and church was built in 1903 at a cost of \$2,000.00.

In 1907, the church and school was demolished by a cyclone but was rebuilt the same year. It has remained in operation every year since and is financed by the parents and the organized church. The curriculum meets that of all public schools for the grades taught with the addition of Bible study.

This community is still active and the land is still in the hands of descendants of the original settlers. The school has produced teachers,

preachers and missionaries with the added college work of the Adventist Church at Keene, Texas, a unique and well-known college and town, all inhabitants of which are of the Adventist faith.

These settlers in this community were all farmers and tillers of the soil. Many of their offspring follow the same course and are the best farmers in the county, others have chosen other vocations. They, as a rule, live off the soil, kill and cure their own meat, make their clothes, make lye soap, as they did in the days of the horse and buggy. Their doctors came in the same way in the early days. They were mostly Dr. Rice and Dr. Lain of Sanger, Texas.

Aubrey

History of Aubrey, Texas

As told by W. R. Coffey

When I came to Denton County in the winter of 1877 - 78 I lived about 2 1/2 miles southeast of where Aubrey now is. The only school in the community was a one-room box house about a mile and 1/2 southwest of the present town of Aubrey. I attended this school for two or three years. Pupils from 2 1/2 or 3 miles in every direction attended this school, which was known as the Key schoolhouse. My first teacher was Miss Linnie Wilcox and then Prof. J. D. Borun taught for several years. In 1881, the T&P Railroad was built through Denton County by way of Pilot Point and Denton to Fort Worth.

A depot and section house was built about seven miles south of Pilot Point. Soon several stores, a gin, a blacksmith's shop and doctor's office were built. Among the early merchants were J. G. Powledge, who also built and operated a gin, B. F. Sizemore who owned a drug store and W. R. Caddel, who operated a dry-goods store. As it was desirable to establish a post office at this place, it became necessary to give the village a name. A committee of three was appointed to select a name. If my memory serves me right, J. D. Borun, J. A. Rhoads and Dr. S. D. Howser were the committeemen. The first name selected was rejected because there was another village in Texas by the same name. Then Aubrey was selected and approved by the government.

Among the early settlers and during the early existence of Aubrey were the following: On the east and adjoining the town was the farm owned by Bob Benge; followed by Uncle Jimmy Woods, later by J. P. Tidmore; next was Sonny Dirickson, followed by W. E. Kelly. Next came the Andy Looper place, succeeded by Henry Davis; adjoining the Davis place on the east was the Ike Jones place, which is still in the Jones family. Others on the east were John Haren, John Morgan, Claud Barqdoll, Jim Henderson and Al Montgomery. On the north and northeast were Riley and Louis Caddel, Louis Caddel, Sr., father of Riley and Louis Caddel, Poly Tisdell, Bill Apperson, the Cougars, Frank Tobin, Neal Coppage, Babe Davis, Jim Harmon, and a Mr. Beatty. West and northwest were L. N. Edwards, the Whittakers, the Fullers, Mack Wilson, Frank Wilson, a Mr. Hayden, Ben Cagle, the Wilcox family, Jim Catlett and Manuel Treadwell. South and southwest were Perman, Henderson, Sam Lovelace, Ben Moss, Cy Billingsly and the Mohons, consisting of Uncle Jim who moved to Rock Hill community in 1878. He was the father of J. T. Mohon, who was a blacksmith and served as Justice of the Peace in Aubrey for 32 years. Dallas Mohon, another son is the one living in vicinity of Rock Hill now. Nearer and south of Aubrey was W. H. Hodges, Ed Hodges, John Parker, George Parker, Tommy Wilson, a deaf mute, Pleas Wilson, the Horton family and others I cannot recall. Southeast was a farm settled by W. H. Bates and sold to More Davis and later to Little Frank Caddel; George Fore and his mother-in-law, Mrs. Moore; Joe Davis below them on Running Branch. A. Coffee lived east of the Fore's and moved to Spring Hill community about 1883. He was my father and had the distinction of building and operating the only government still in the vicinity of Aubrey, although there have been many small wildcat stills in the vicinity of Aubrey, but none that I know of now. Others who lived southeast were Harris Ray, Dave Rea, John Radar, J. B. Nelson and a Mr. Powers. Along in the early 1880s, Henry Coppage settled a farm southeast of Aubrey known as the D. H. Luster place

now owned by a Mr. Buckhannon.

The first stores were built along the old Dallas road east of the railroad near where the present water tower now stands. The land on the west side of the road was owned by L. N. Edwards and on the east side by Uncle Jimmy Woods. There was rivalry between these two landowners in the sale of town lots. The town built up until there were two saloons, two grocery stores, one dry-goods store, two drug stores and three or more doctors, including Dr. S. D. Howser, Dr. Cox and Dr. Ober, Dr. R. L Clayton for a short time. In the middle of the 80s about 1885 or 1886, fire destroyed most of the town. As the land was rather flat and low where the town was, when they burnt out, the merchants and others began to build back on higher ground on the west side of the railroad where the town is now located. The town grew and prospered as the surrounding country settled until at one time there were two banks, four dry-goods stores, four or more grocery stores, three drug stores, three gins, two livery stables, two saloons, besides barber shops, chili joints and other minor business establishments. With the coming of automobiles and good roads and with the help of three or four fires, Aubrey has been reduced to its present condition without banks, depot, cotton gin, drug store or doctor. I should have added that depletion of the soil had much to do with Aubrey's shrinkage.

Among the physicians who practiced medicine in Aubrey, in the order of their sequence were Drs. Rhoades and Howser who moved to Aubrey from the adjoining community of "Sand Town" or Liberty. Then came Drs. Cox, Ober, Crawford and Clayton. Dr Ober moved to southern Oklahoma in the region north of Bonham and was later killed by a jealous husband. Dr. R. L. Clayton moved to Mustang and later to Celina where he died. I do not know what became of Dr. Cox and Dr. Crawford. Then came Dr. Bates and Dr. J. E. Copenhaver who moved from Parvin to Aubrey. Soon after came Dr. Burke. During World War I, Dr. Amos, an Aubrey boy, after graduating from medical college and practicing for a short time in Oklahoma, came back to Aubrey and formed a partnership with Dr. J. E. Copenhaver. After several years they dissolved partnership and Dr. Amos moved to Denton and founded the Elm Street Hospital. Dr Copenhaver moved to Pilot Point where after a few years' practice, he died. Soon after the close of World War I, Dr. Jones came and practiced a few years and retired to a ranch owned by his mother in northwest Texas. Then came Dr. Hawk and Dr. Robinson who retired and moved after a few years practice, about twelve or thirteen years ago. Dr. Louise Pierce came to Aubrey in 1933 or 1934 and left in the late forties and is now practicing in Tarrant County at Azle. Since then Aubrey has been without a doctor and has been served by the physicians of Denton and Pilot Point.

The public school in the Aubrey community changed along with other things. About 1889 or 1890, an addition was made to the original box house. This new building was about 60 ft. by 30 ft., with walls about 8 ft. and a steep high roof with no ceiling overhead. This building was the idea of Dr. Crawford who came to Aubrey a short time before this time. This building was afterwards improved by being ceiled and partitioned into rooms. About 1906, the Baptist church was moved from the site where the present school building now stands to its present location on Main Street, north of Highway 10, and the two-story brick building consisted of six classrooms and two small rooms for music. The building was pronounced unsafe in the middle 1930s and the present building was erected. In 1948, the adjoining school districts of Spring Hill, Liberty, New Hope and Rock Hill were consolidated with the Aubrey School District under the provisions of the

Rural High School Law. At present Aubrey has only ten grades; all it can qualify for.

About 1882, a one-room box schoolhouse was built about 400 yards from the depot southeast on land donated by L. N. Edwards and Louis Caddel, Sr. Among the teachers who served the Aubrey school was J. D. Borun who was teaching at Key schoolhouse when the Aubrey schoolhouse was built. It was transferred to Aubrey and he was the first teacher; He was followed by J. F. Edwards a local young man, who became sick and was unable to finish the term. Col. C. C. Slaughter, an elderly man from Pilot Point, finished out the term. Then Mr. Babe Davis and his wife taught for a term or two. Then a Prof. Morrison taught two or three terms, studied law and practiced in Denton for several years. Then Prof. Robinson taught for two terms. The writer of this story, W. R. Coffey, came on the scene in 1892 and taught two terms, spent a year in school and taught again in the fall and winter of 1895-96. W. N. Masters taught the year that I was away at school and then taught at Pilot Point. Then Prof. Thompson taught for a period and went to a denominational Baptist school at Rusk in east Texas. He was followed by Prof. Walker who taught for two or three terms. He was followed A. Q. Mustain, who taught for several years, studied law and practiced in Denton and Denton County. Then Prof. John Roark taught for two or three terms ending in 1910. I left Aubrey in 1908 and came back in 1916. During this period of absence, I cannot give the names of those who taught and I have not been able to find anyone else who could. Later on, a Mr. Allison taught and Mr. Lee Hunter and his wife, Jennie Bowers Hunter, taught for several terms. This writer taught one term 1919-1920. Others who have taught since then are Profs. O'Hare, Percy, Tribble, Joe House, Rogers and E. L. Mackintosh.

In the early 1890s Aubrey had its first newspaper established and edited by a Mr. Barrymore. Following him was Will C. Geers. Then the Rev. A. J. Harris for several years, Charley Burch, a Mr. McClurkan, Mr. Spencer and perhaps others that I do not recall, were editors at different times. It was first called the Aubrey Herald and changed to Aubrey Argus, later on and was suspended in the 1920s. No one man printed it very long before turning it to his successor. If I had not had some newspaper experience myself, I might have thought they all got rich and retired.

About 1902, Aubrey had its first bank. B. B. Samuels of Fort Worth, with the assistance of H. G. Musgraves, established and operated a private bank for eight or ten years. Along about 1910, the Phillips brothers, Lee and Joe; J. A. Rhoads, T. E. Ratchford and others organized the First National Bank of Aubrey. B. B. Samuels went back to Fort Worth and organized with the help of others The Texas National Bank of Fort Worth. When Samuels left Aubrey, W. P. Ratchford, J. G. Powledge, J. E. Bonar, J. H. Lanford, A. Coffey and others organized and operated the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Aubrey. This bank existed for several years and finally was united with the First National Bank of Aubrey under a state charter, known as The First State Bank of Aubrey. This bank was operated by T. L. Phillips of the First National and J. E. Bonar of the Farmers and Merchants as its active officials and employees. The First State Bank of Aubrey made the Texas National Bank of Fort Worth its correspondent city bank. The Aubrey Bank carried some \$30,000 on deposit with the Texas National. Through speculation on the stock market, by the president of the Texas National, B. B. Samuels, lost heavily and his bank was closed bringing the Aubrey bank down with it. This happened in the 1930s and Aubrey has not had a bank since.

In 1899, J. G. Powledge, B. C. Caddel, A. Coffey and others built and operated a flourmill at Aubrey for a few years. It stood idle for a while and was operated again during World War I by J. A. Rhoads and F.(P.?) J. Henderson. Like most small mills over the country, it was not very successful financially. The mill machinery was sold to other parties. The building and lot and power plant were sold to the Farmers Co-op Gin Co. in 1925.

BELEW

(Home Demonstration Club Collection)

The first family in this community were named Belew. They gave the land for the cemetery, though Mr. Belew is buried at Pilot Point. There is a large cemetery at Belew, though some of the graves were moved to Aubrey. One grave has a sand marker 1823. There may be older graves, as there are many unmarked.

The first church here was a Baptist church, which was moved to Aubrey. There is no church in the community, now, but for many years church services have been held in the Belew schoolhouse, which is now used as a club and community house .

There was a bad storm here in 1918, which blew down many homes and another in 1950.

A pioneer who passed away about three years ago at the age of 91 was Mrs. Rachel Harmon. Her son can likely tell a great many interesting things about the community. His address is Arthur Harmon, Aubrey, Texas.

{Written by Mrs. Billie Walling, Pilot Point, Texas, R#2}

BLUE MOUND

(Home Demonstration Club Collection)

In the year 1885, several old settlers of this community decided to organize a school. The first schoolhouse was built just south of a mound or hill that is located in the southwestern part of the Blue Mound School District and the name of the community was selected because this mound was covered with blue flowers (bluebonnets?) and it was a beautiful sight even from a distance.

James Bryant, Simon Grabbe and Herman Barthold were the first trustees of this school. Other old settlers at that time were Batis, Brown and Ganzer.

In the year 1894 settlers came and settled on the land that had been cattle ranges. Houses and other buildings were built and barbed wire fences put up so that roads had to be made. The schoolhouse was then moved northeast about a mile, and located on the corner of the John Lindenschmidt place, which is now on highway 77. (35-E)

This schoolhouse was a very humble, small building which housed as many as 60 pupils without even desks to use. The pupils sat on homemade benches, holding their slates in one hand as they wrote or figured with the other hand. Mr. L. G. Lindenschmidt, one of the pioneers of 1894, taught in that school for four years, trying to keep up his farm work and teaching at the same time, because teachers were so scarce and the school term only six or seven months.

It was during the teaching days of Mr. Lindenschmidt that he made a trip to Gainesville one Saturday and purchased desks for the school. He also attended to such chores as buying the coal for heating the school building. He asked for donations from the parents but only a few dimes and nickels were received.

In 1900, a few religious-minded citizens organized a Sunday school to meet in the schoolhouse, which later turned into the organization of a Methodist Church. The trustees of this organization were J. A. and L. G. Lindenschmidt, A. F. Schertz, Fred Hopkins Sr., Franz and Jacob Trietsch. These trustees purchased 10 acres of land from J. A. Lindenschmidt in 1901, on which the church and parsonage were built and a cemetery laid off.

Since the location of the church was more centrally located, the schoolhouse was moved to just south of the church. The buildings were erected by members with very little outside labor used. In 1917 the wooden schoolhouse was enlarged and a two-teacher school established. In 1931 the wooden schoolhouse burned and a brick veneer schoolhouse replaced it. This school continued until 1941 when it was impossible to continue the school due to so few scholastics. The schoolhouse is now being used for a community center, the majority of our recreation is held there.

The church has continued through the years with the children and grandchildren taking the place of the pioneers and others joining us. There are only two charter members remaining: Mrs. L. G. Lindenschmidt and Frank Trietsch. Services are held every Sunday and we have a resident pastor.

(Mrs. Walter Trietsch, Rte 2, Sanger, Texas)

Bolivar - Knox Cemetery

This cemetery is located off the road north of Bolivar, about 1 1/2 miles from the town. It is in poor condition and is no longer used.

The pictures were made by George Saltsman and the inscriptions were copied by Mrs. Billy Long.

(Arranged alphabetically and copied by Alma Lain Chambers)

Stephen J. Cash

b. Sept. 22, 1836; d. Apr. 27, 1892

Lucinda J., wife of S. J. Cash, b. Jan. 2, 1840; d. June 29, 1879

G. Z. Cash b. Nov. 20, 1810; d. July 13, 1890

J. M., wife of G. Z. Cash, b. Aug. 31, 1807; d. July 13, 1890

Josephine Chisum, died March 2, 1875

Thomas Cook, Negro

b. Dec. 26, 1826; d. Jan. 5, 1898

GIBSON

Amanda, wife of S. K. Gibson, b. March 1, 1851; d. Dec., 18, 1900

Sam K. Gibson, b. Sept. 5, 1847; d. Oct. 25, 1892

Robert G. Johnson, b. Feb. 9, 1833; d. Mar. 10, 1917

Eliza Johnson, b. Feb. 15, 1857; d. Mar 16, 1889

James Luther Johnson, b. Jan. 4, 1878; d. Dec. 8, 1915

Mary B. Johnson, b. Sept. 21, 1855; d. Mar. 21, 1873

Sarah, wife of Jesse Sartin, b. Jan. 1, 1818; d. May 7, 1870

Strahan, born 1778; died 1860; 82 years old.

There are several unidentified graves and some stones that are too worn to decipher. (George Saltsman)

CHINN'S CHAPEL

Reunion at Chinn's Chapel, May 12, 1933

Pioneer Woman to be honor guest at Meeting near Chinn's Chapel Sunday.
(Newspaper account)

With the only living member of the Methodist class formed in 1972 present, Alvin G. Ousley of Denton, a past president of the Old Settlers' Association, will give the main address, Sunday, at Chinn's Chapel Cemetery. Mrs. Orlean Jarnigan, 87 years old, will be the guest of honor at the meeting, which will be held in the shadow of Chinn's Chapel Church, built 75 years ago.

Rev. J. R. Atchley, modern day circuit rider, who preached at the chapel 30 years ago, will be the minister for the occasion.

Mrs. Jarnigan, mother of W. L. Jarnigan of the Waketon Community, six miles west of Lewisville, came to Texas in 1970 and is one of the oldest settlers of Denton County.

The church situated within the cemetery grounds is one of the oldest in Denton County. It was built in 1858, after four of the leading pioneer women of the community suggested the idea. The location is 30 yards north of one of the famous springs of early days, the Lockhart Spring, from which many settlers hauled their water. The four women, Mrs. Mary Chinn, Mrs. Elizabeth Pinckley, Mrs. Jane Wakefield and Mrs. Abraham Loving set a day in 1858 to build the church. Neighbors were assigned to fell trees and hew certain logs so that when the time came for the "church-raising" everything was ready. The logs were hewn, from giant post oak trees and today are as solid and durable as when placed in position. The church was weather-boarded about 30 years ago but one can see and feel the great logs forming the framework of the building from inside. The fireplace was removed many years ago.

When the chapel was built, all denominations worshipped there although the Christians pre-dominated and called the church Antioch. When the Methodists organized in 1872, the name was changed to Chinn's Chapel. The building served also as a School and rooming house. It was the only schoolhouse for many years. It was also a haven for new arrivals who would live in the building for several weeks until a home was built. Henry A. Porter who came to Denton County in 1876, and has lived within a mile of the chapel since, says that he stayed in the chapel with his family for 2 weeks. They would move out on Sundays so services could be held.

A new building larger than the Chapel was erected in 1876, a little south and east of Lockhart Spring. Camp meetings were held in a grove of great oak trees near by.

The cemetery is one of the oldest in the county and contains the final resting place of the earthly remains of hundreds of pioneers. Both Elisha Chinn and his wife, Mary, are buried there. Chinn moved to Denton County in 1853 and died in 1876. His wife died in 1871. A faithful Negro slave was buried in a grave adjoining Chinn's on the west, the only person of his race who was interred in the cemetery.

The pioneer, S. B. Wakefield and his wife, Jane, were among the earliest buried there whose headstones are still legible. They were the parents of Frank Wakefield for whom the town of Waketown was named. Frank Wakefield died in Mineral Wells, Texas. Four of his children, Charles, Ray, Mrs. George Owens and Mrs. Dan Robison live at Ponder, Texas.

S. B. Wakefield died July 24, 1861 and his wife passed away June 23rd of the same year.

COOPER CREEK

The Cooper Creek community located 3 1/2 miles northeast of Denton, on the old Mingo road and 1/2 mile north of highway 24, derived its name from the creek where the first schoolhouse was located. This is just across the creek from the site of the W. J. Pilgrim home.

There was a spring that supplied water for the school when it was built. It was a small one-room building and all denominations also worshipped in it. In this one-room school house the first Methodist church was organized in 1878 by Rev. Lovejoy and Rev. James Farris, Rev. Lovejoy being the first pastor.

Rev. Farris settled on the place now owned by Ollen Morgan before the Civil War. Charlie Farris, a grandson, still lives in the neighborhood. Thomas Skaggs first settled on the place now owned by Grady Brow. Before the Civil War, T. J. Skaggs purchased 150 acres from Thomas Skaggs in 1878. This land is now owned by Miss Josephine Skaggs, a daughter. She was born and reared on this place. A sister, Mrs. Maud May, owns and lives on a place joining her sister. She was also born and reared there. Mrs. May and Miss Skaggs acquired all of their education at the Cooper Creek Schoolhouse. Hard Carter gave the land where the present schoolhouse stands and also land for the cemetery. According to Mr. Charlie Price, the first grave in the cemetery was that of a bachelor by the name of Cole.

Charlie Price, Mrs. Maud May, Miss Skaggs and Charlie Farris are among the few old settlers living in Cooper Creek community now, having lived there all of their lives. Other old settlers were Uncle Dan Meredith, Mrs. Josie Carter, Mrs. Mary Argo, J. R. Templeton, Uncle Bill Evans, Taylor Lanham, Mrs. Winston and Tom Collins, father of Bill Collins, whose family now owns and lives on the Collins place.

Mrs. Henrietta Price, mother of Charlie Price, was also an early settler. The Price family settled on the Collins place in 1861, where Charlie Price was born in 1877 and where he spent his early days. He now lives near the old Trinity Church having moved only once during his lifetime. Mrs. Henrietta Price was a charter member of the Baptist church in the community. Other charter members were Mrs. W. L. Cagle, Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Collins.

Taylor Lanham and Dunk Harris secured the money by subscription that purchased a lot in 1901 where the Methodist Church now stands. It was built in 1946-47 and was dedicated in 1947, with Rev. Walter Sullens as pastor. Some of the early pastors were Rev. Clifton, Rev. Shuffler, Rev. Fincher and Rev. Webb. In 1902, Rev. Webb enrolled 100 members.

The Baptist denomination worshipped in the old church building taking alternate Sundays with the Methodist, until they built their present building in 1916 on the lot given by Mr. Tom Collins. This lot was given to the church with the understanding that it belonged to the church as long as there was a church there, but if the church were ever disbanded, the land would go back to the Collins heirs. Some of the early pastors of the Baptist church were Rev. Barrow, Rev. Sauls, Rev. Burton, Rev. B. F. Sizemore and Rev. Joe Amos, father of Mrs. Harvey Chapman, who still lives in the neighborhood.

The first record of conference held at Cooper Creek Baptist Church was in 1902, but the church was organized in 1887 in a small building in Elm bottom, now covered by the waters of Lake Dallas. Mr. M. L. Barr was the first Sunday School Superintendent and Mr. Ira Cox, choir director. Brother Fitzgerald of Denton was pastor at the time when the church enrollment was 100.

Mrs. W. A. Beeman.

Note by Alma Lain Chambers (Mrs. W. B.) The records of the Cooper Creek Methodist Church may be found in the files of the First Methodist Church, Sanger, Texas. It was in the Denton Circuit, later the Bolivar Circuit and finally the Sanger Circuit. The books were brought from Bolivar when the churches were consolidated in early 1950s.

DENTON

History of Denton

As told by - Will Williams

Denton is the fourth location for a county seat. The first was Pinckneyville located about 1 1/4 miles east of Denton, the second choice was Alton, located about five miles southeast of Denton, the third choice was also called Alton, about two miles south of the first Alton, and was moved to get water from Hickory Creek and Murphy Spring.

The fourth choice for a county seat was Denton, by popular vote, in the summer of 1856. After surveys etc. had been made and town lots sold, a courthouse was built on the north side of our square, and County Court met at Alton and moved all records to the new Court House in April 22, 1857.

Two hotels were moved to Denton from Alton when the seat was moved. The most prominent of the two was "The Lacy House", a very modern building for the time. It burned in the early eighties. The other hotel owned and run by Henderson Murphy, well known and prominent in those days. This was the "Transcontinental Hotel".

The Oatman House was built by George Oatman, a lumberyard owner, and was the most prominent hotel of its day. He started building in the early eighties and the hotel ran into 1920.

About the time Denton was made the county seat there was a lot of talk about a transcontinental railway being built from coast to coast. Mr. Murphy wanted to be ahead of the times, so he called his hotel "The Transcontinental Hotel". He moved his hotel up from Alton, it was made of logs, and he made a kitchen and dining room out of log parts, and built a narrow two-story frame for the main part of the hotel. When he got his sign up "Transcontinental Hotel", it stuck out on each side of his building.

"The Lacy House" was the east end of the north side of the square.

"The Transcontinental Hotel" was the east end of the south side of the square.

A Grandson of Col. Lacy, owner of the Lacy House, is a prominent citizen of Waco now.

DENTON COUNTY

From --The American Sketch Book, An Historical and Home Magazine.
at, The Texas State Archives, Austin, Texas
pages 201 through 213.

SKETCH OF DENTON COUNTY, TEXAS
(copied by Polly Harmonson)

Compiled by Laura Irvine
1880 Texas Archives

Nowhere, perhaps, have the charms of nature been more prodigally lavished than in the Lone Star State; her mountains, with their bright aerial tints; her valleys teeming with fertility; her boundless plains, waving with spontaneous verdure, her rivers and creeks rolling in solemn silence; her trackless forests where vegetation puts forth all its magnificence; her skies kindling with magic of summer clouds, and glorious sunshine-- no never need a Texan go beyond his own glorious country for natural and beautiful scenery. And in no county in the state, would you be more struck with the contribution of nature, and her scenery than in many parts of Denton County. This county forms one of the many counties in which consisted that great portion of country during the time that Texas was struggling for her independence. The first settlements in what is now known as Denton County, was on Hickory and Prairie Creeks, in 1842 up to 1845, by the Wagners, Prices, Clarys, Kings, and others. In June, 1845, there were in all seventeen families. In the later part of 1845, came Murphy, the Harmonsons, Halfords, Weldons, Frenches, and others; and in the early part of 1846, the Carters, S. A. Venters, and the Yochonis settled on Clear Creek, and the Sricklins, on Ile D. Bois.

Denton County and Denton Creek were named in honor of Capt. John B. Denton, as was also the town of Denton. He was a native of Arkansas, where he was reared in a blacksmith's shop, without any of the polish of education. He could not even read until he was a grown man and married a gem of the female world, who taught him his letters and inspired him with a desire to make of himself a man. Possessed by nature of a giant intellect, and a driving will, he soon made considerable progress in his books. Immigrating to Texas in 1839, he became a noted minister of the Gospel of the Methodist order among the settlers was, afterwards chosen chaplain of a regiment of Texas soldiers, and left his mark as a pulpit orator, though he seldom spoke in a pulpit. Old Texans say that on one occasion, when they were camped at the mouth of what is now called Denton Creek, at Hackberry Fort, and were gathered in the grove to listen to Denton's sermon, as he was rising to begin, Gen. Thomas J. Rusk walked into the crowd and took a seat. It was one of Denton's happy efforts. He chained his hearers, and immortalized the woods around with some of the grandest natural eloquence that ever rolled from human tongue. Gen. Rusk was charmed. He had never seen the preacher, and asked the writer of this, "what little thunder bolt" that could be; said that he had heard the renowned diction of Clay, of Prentis, and of Webster, but that such a deluge of rounded period, never met his ears before.

Denton became a lawyer, and stood at the top or the bar. He was afterward chosen captain of a company of Indian fighters, where ended his curious and

eventful career in 1840 or '41. He had been a candidate for the district representative against Potter, but was beaten by four votes. The race was hard to win, Potter himself declaring he had never before seen a man so hard to defeat. His military life was brief; a brave man, one very unconcerned about his own safety, he was soon lost to his company and the state. On village creek, in Tarrant county, precisely where the road running from Fort Worth to Fort Johnson crosses the creek, on the east side, near a large tree still standing, is the spot where the brave hero fell, pierced through the heart by a shot from concealed Indians. His remains were placed on a horse, and his comrades started to carry him home, but were so pressed by the Indians that they buried him on Oliver creek, a tributary of Denton Creek, where he was left until about the year 1860, when the remains were carried by John Chism to his ranch on Cedar Creek, and buried in his yard, where the bones now rest. But the day is not far distant when they will be removed to the courthouse yard, in Denton, and a handsome monument erected to his memory.

Denton County was organized in July 1846, and Joe Tunner was elected chief justice; W. G. Gavin, sheriff; M. Ramsower, district clerk; W. King, county clerk. The first county seat was Pinkneyville one half mile east of the present city of Denton and there the first court was held under a tree in the fall of 1846, by John T. Mills, district judge, and W.C. Young, prosecuting attorney. In the fall of 1846, a company of rangers under Capt. A. Stapp, was stationed at Britten Spring, west of Big Elm and had an engagement with a party of thieving Indians on Denton Creek; three Indians were killed, one in a hand to hand fight, by Capt. Pres Witt.

Denton County was a frontier until 1854. Indians were much worse at stealing than at killing during that time. The county seat was moved from Pinkneyville to Alton, six miles south, and was moved from there to another place called Alton, two miles west, and from Alton to the present city of Denton, in May, 1857.

It was at one of the courts held at Alton (Judge Todd presiding, and Col. McCoy, or Dallas, district attorney), that a citizen of Collin County was tried for stealing some old irons, Col. McCoy defending. Testimony proved nothing on the question at issue; but investigators found him guilty on general principles; not having a good name, the jury decided that he must be guilty, and that the punishment he would receive would be nine lashes "well laid on". A motion was made by the defendant's counsel for a new trial, but while motion was being argued, the sheriff took out defendant, and inflicted the penalty, nine lashes, after which defendant told McCoy he need not argue for a new trial any farther, for he had realized the verdict. Then Col. McCoy asked jurors if they found defendant guilty of stealing the iron. They said no, but they knew him once, in Collin County, to steal a pot or apple dumpling from a widow woman.

By this time, the eight Spanish gourds of whiskey the court had ordered from Bonham (the nearest trade post), gave out and the judge ordered the sheriff to adjourn his court to the next civilized county.

One of the old pioneers of Denton County was Col. J. L. Lovejoy, who figured conspicuously with Capt. J. B. Denton, and who still lives in Denton County, and has many friends. Among the first settlers of 1855, were W. J. McNeil, C. A. Williams, Josiah Young, R. H. Hopkins, J. S. Chism and many others we did not get the names of.

In the year 1857, the first town lots were sold. The town of Denton was surveyed and laid off by Judge J. A. Carroll, (the present judge of the district court), assisted by Col. S. P. Bebee, and Welch. In 1861, Denton County polled eight hundred or a thousand votes. During the war, the frontier partially gave way, but in 1868 was raided by murderous and thieving Comanches and Apaches, by whom several persons west of Elm were killed.

A. G. King, and three sisters of the first settlers, reside in Denton County. Among the early settlers that still live in the county, are O. M. French, H. Murphy, John Carter, Perry Harmonson, S A. Venters and others. Elizabeth, Henrietta, Harriet and Oliver Creeks were named after daughters and a son of Henry Hedgecox. He and John C. McCoy were agents of Peters' Colony.

The county of Denton is situated in the heart of the rich grain-growing region of north Texas. It joins Collin on the east, Wise lies to the west, and Grayson and Cook form its northern boundary, and Tarrant and Dallas its' southern. The soil is all of excellent quality, and is highly productive. The county of Denton has five towns, all of very good size. Pilot Point is very near as large as the town of Denton; Lewisville is the next in size, then Bolivar, Elizabethtown, Little Elm, all situated in magnificent farming localities.

No portion of Texas presents greater inducements to the honest, industrious immigrant, whether farmer, merchant, mechanic, or professional man, than Denton County. It has perhaps the most lasting streams of water, the widest prairie, and finest grass range in the state. Denton County stands unrivaled for its large droves of fat cattle, which never fail to keep the county supplied with money; and for rich farming and gardening, the soil is as good as any that can be found.

I have visited many parts of the state, and the crops and gardens of Denton and Denton County are up with those of any other county. The soil here is as rich and productive of corn, wheat and cotton, as any land in the state.

I have been through Denton County, and I must say that I have never seen better prospects for crops than I find in the county at present. The corn is splendid, the cotton was never better. The farmers, who are the bone and sinew of the state, have fired up with the spirit of enterprise; the spirit of improvement is plainly to be seen. You see new houses, barns, etc., under way of construction all through the county.

A stranger coming into Denton county, and seeing the farmers working and improving, would be led to the conclusion that these people were contented and had come not for a season only but intending to remain permanently. It seems that all are united in making themselves lasting homes. The same spirit is manifested among the merchants, the mechanics, and the traders. This certainly is to be an era in the history of improvement in this part of the country.

The population of Denton County is seventeen thousand, six hundred and seventy-two.

To any one who wishes to see the surrounding country of Denton and Denton County, a drive of six miles from the town would take them to where Dame

Nature has constructed a huge pile of brown sand stone, called Pilot Knob, and which rises grandly up, to a giddy altitude.

A sweeping survey of the entire surroundings from the top of the knob, presents, at one and the same time, one of the grandest sights in nature. In rapid succession, we survey the rich prairies, points of timber, creeks, mounds, peaks and farm houses innumerable, and from this grand stand in the center of the county, plainly visible to the naked eye for thirty miles around, the red men of Texas in the older times, were in the habit of making their observation for both friendly and unfriendly purposes. On this knob, not very long since, was the rendezvous of Sam Bass (the great train robber of much notoriety) and his party. It was at this place that they fought the citizens of Denton. About two months since, the last one of the notorious gang was caught and imprisoned. And Pilot Knob has now become a delightful resort for the people of Denton.

North Texas, agriculturally speaking, may be said now to be on a boom. Such crops, particularly corn and cotton, have perhaps never been seen before by the oldest inhabitants.

By the rapid building of railroads, it is opening a territory of great agricultural richness heretofore almost unknown. The State of Texas is fast becoming a commonwealth of vast resources and value. Ten years hence the state will have railroads connecting with every point in the country, and carrying her vast agricultural products to the markets of the world. At the present time railroads are the go. Work is being rapidly pushed forward on the Dallas and Wichita R. R., which is soon to reach the town of Denton. From Whitesboro, in Grayson County, the Texas and Pacific Company are extending the transcontinental branch of their road, which will also run through Denton and on to Fort Worth.

The town of Denton is situated on a beautiful ridge between the cross-timbers and Elm Creek, rendering it quite convenient to wood and water. The soil is rich, fertile, and well adapted to the growth of vegetables, fruits, etc. The people are industrious, intelligent and enterprising, and will ere long have a town that will compete with any of its sister towns for the business of that section of the state. It is the county seat of Denton County. Denton is a place where one's eye will dwell with delight, on the neat cottages, with their shrubberies and green grass plots. The climate is salubrious, healthy and delightful. There is not anywhere around any local cause for malarial disease. Its high altitude, its comparatively dry atmosphere, always in summer rendered cool and refreshing by prevailing south winds, must be favorable to health.

A few hours drive into the country one evening gave me the opportunity to see some of the beauties and advantages of Denton. Far away in one direction lay the broad expanse or prairie, wondrous in its sublime extension, while at our right, along the skirts of timber, lay the most beautiful farms, decorated with their abundant crops of cotton and corn.

In December 1875, the courthouse was burned, and all the books were entirely lost; and in 1877 it was rebuilt at the cost of forty thousand dollars. It is a very handsome building and is certainly a great ornament to the town.

The population of the town of Denton is twelve hundred and five. It has the following church buildings and church organizations: M. E. Church S. has a

neat frame church building, and parsonage, J. W. Clark, pastor; Cumberland Presbyterian, D. R. Grafton, pastor; Christian Church, I. J. Lampton, Pastor; Union Baptist Church of Denton, S. A. Beauchamp, pastor. All have good churches. The M. E. Church N. and the Old School Presbyterians have church organizations but no church buildings. The colored people have two church organizations, the Colored Baptist and the African Methodist.

Masonic Order, Standfield Lodge No. 217, chartered June 1858, has a Masonic Hall, a two-story frame building. I.O.O.F. Lodge was chartered February 1859, and Knights of Honor, Lee Lodge, chartered Jan. 1879.

There are four good schools, as follows: E. B. Kyte, seventy-five scholars; J. S. Chapman, sixty scholars; Miss Gollieher, forty; Mrs. Hunt, forty. A colored school, thirty scholars. Scholastic population enrolled: two hundred and twenty white and forty Negroes. The board of trustees of the town have purchased seven acres, a half mile south of Public Square, upon which they are very soon to erect a ten thousand dollar house for a female school.

R. R. Mayo & T. B. Wheeler own a steam saw and grist mill, with a capacity of grinding two hundred and fifty bushels of grain per day, and cutting three thousand feet of oak timber.

Davenport has a merchant flouring mill capable of grinding five thousand bushels of grain per day.

There are several steam cotton gins in the town, at which were put up two thousand bales of cotton last fall. The trade of the town during 1879, amounted to three hundred thousand dollars.

It is estimated that the cotton crop of Denton County will reach between twenty and twenty-five thousand bales this year. Lands are cheap, and the citizens invite immigration to come and aid in developing the resources of their community.

There are two weekly papers published in the town of Denton, both of which are ably conducted. The Denton County Record was established in 1879, by W. P. Withers, its present editor and proprietor. It is a four page (seven column) paper, democratic in politics, though devoted more specially to the interest of the town and county. It is a spicy and interesting paper. The Monitor was started in 1868, by Thos. R. Burnet, now editor of The Christian Messenger, at Bonham, and Chas. W. Geers. After about six months, Burnett sold its interest to Geers, who continued publishing the paper alone, until February, 1879, when he sold out half of the paper to G. H. Crouston. After a year, Geers again took full control until the 18th of June 1880, when he retired from the business, and the publication has since been continued by the present able editor, D. N. Dodson.

The Monitor, was the first paper printed in the county, and has lived to see the death of numerous journalistic ventures. It is a large paper for the size of the town, has a large circulation, and wields considerable influence. In the winter of 1876, Geers was awakened by the cry of fire. He arrived on the square just in time to see the roof of his printing office fall in. He turned, and walked across the square, and bought out the other paper, and The Monitor came out the next week, the same as usual. To its kind and courteous editor, the assistant editor of the SKETCH BOOK would

return thanks for his many acts of kindness, and hopes that he will continue be a success in the editorial fraternity.

Mrs. Lacy has charge of the Lacy House. She is an old Texan, and one that has great experience in this particular line of business. The table is all that a good market, good cooks and cleanliness can render it - that is to say, she keeps the best house in the city.

In 1868, a party of Indians, supposed to be about twenty strong made a raid into Wise and Denton counties. Crossing Denton Creek, near the Overland Road, and meeting no opposition, the redskin marauders, at twelve o'clock one night, dashed into the town of Denton, unperceived, and drove out about thirty horses. The next morning, horses were missed from lots and pastures. Indian trails were discovered in the fields, and every circumstance attested that their very doors had been visited by savages. Scouts were sent out, in several directions, when it was discovered that the Indians had gone out by the Gainesville Road, to the crossing on Clear Creek, gathering all the horses on the route. No attempt had been made by them to kill, scalp, or capture any of the citizens whose houses they had passed. When crossing Clear Creek, they attempted to capture two of Mr. Rol's little boys that happened to be some distance from the house. Their main object seemed to be to steal as many horses as possible. They gathered all the horses on their way, until the drove amounted to some fifty or sixty, then left the settlements beyond Clear Creek, and started out in the direction of Cook County. Capt. R. H. Hopkins, Stephenson Curley, and three other men whose ranches on Clear Creek were swept of a good deal of valuable stock, mounted fleet horses and went out in pursuit. Another force of ten men, also, joined in the chase, farther in the rear not being able to keep pace with the Indians all of whom were now remounted upon fresh horses. The chase continued for many miles over the prairie, the party keeping in sight of the Indians all the time, until Hopkins' squad made a flank movement for the purpose of getting reinforcements from some ranches on the right. This move so confused the Indians, who thought this was some stratagem that they turned into the brakes and briars on Clear Creek, where they were charged upon by Hopkins and his men, and nearly all the stolen horses re-captured. The Indians escaped with the horses they were riding, and went off in the direction of Montague County.

Soon after this raid, a runner hastened to town, and reported Indians in force, between the residence of Thos. Eagan and that of George McCormick, five miles from the town of Denton, gathering horses. Some twenty-five of the citizens immediately armed themselves as best they could, mounted horses and started in pursuit. About ten miles from town, the scouts observed a couple of Indians on Hickory Creek, driving some fifteen horses to the main head, when they raised the yell and charged, recapturing the horses. Mr. Tarleton Bull was in the lead, and fired first at close range; the ball taking effect near the spine, when the Indian turned and fired upon Mr. Bull, but missed his aim. He then raised his bow, but was pierced with three more balls before he could use it. Mr. Bull secured his pony, and Mr. E. Allen returned with his gun, bow and quiver. The other Indian escaped. The scouts then, pushed on closely after the main body of savages up North Hickory, but did not come up with them until they halted at Chism Ranch. Here, at the sound of their bugle, the Indians formed in line of battle. A dog belonging to one of the scouting party, hearing the sound of the bugle, ran over to the Indians and was instantly killed. The force of the scouting party, by this time, had increased to forty-three men; the number of savages was estimated at one hundred and fifty. Firing commenced

on both sides, when the Indians seeing the comparative smallness of the squad, raised the war whoop and charged. The men retreated in disorder, and formed on the bank of a little prairie creek. In the retreat, Mr. Severe Fortenberry was killed, scalped; stripped of his clothes, and disfigured in too barbarous a manner to relate. Mr. William Eaves received a slight wound, and Mr. George McCormick's horse was shot and killed under him, but he succeeded in making his escape across the creek. The Indians were successful in the fight and succeeded in getting away with two or three hundred heads of horses.

The following are the principal business houses of Denton.

Berry H. Deavenport, staple and fancy dry goods, etc.

Inge & Elliott, druggists, south side square.

Griffeth & Dawson, hardware, iron, farm implements, etc.

J. J. Garman, general groceries and saddlery.

D. Kowskey, choice, fresh groceries, east side of the square.

Lipscomb & Burton, druggists and pharmacists.

Lacy House, Mrs. E. Lacy, Proprietor.

Piner & Austin, attorneys at law and land agents.

R. J. Rich's Star Store, dry goods, clothing, hats, etc.

A. W. Robertson, attorney at law.

J. M. McNiel & Co., groceries, dry goods, clothing, hats, etc.

W. A. Smith & Co., staple and fancy groceries, queensware, glassware, woodenware, etc.

Emory C. Smith, attorney at law.

R. C. Scripture, staple and fancy groceries.

J. B. Watkins, drug store, drugs, patent medicines, etc.

Williams & Greenlee, general merchandise.

J. A. Withers, staple and fancy groceries, provisions.

Pilot Point is a town of eleven hundred inhabitants, covering an area of two square miles, situated on an eminence.

On the 25th of December 1853, on this eminence there was a town site surveyed by George W. Newcome, the then county surveyor of Grayson County, and James Pearson, an old Texan, and owner of the land; which they named Pilot Point, out of respect to the brave rangers, who had driven the red men farther west, to find more benial (sic) hunting grounds. A portion of the town lots were sold in the year 1854, at which time Dr. K. W. Eddleman bought several, upon which he, in summer of the same year, erected the first dwelling house ever built in Pilot Point. His son, L. Z. Eddleman, was born in this house, and was the first person born in the town. In the same year, there were several log storehouses built on the public square. The first frame storehouse was put up by Maj. J. D. Walcott, in the year 1858, which stands still on the square. Dr. Eddleman and Major Walcott were the real founders of the town, because they gave the first impetus and directed the first efforts to develop the town. Dr. Eddleman is still surviving, and is an honest and highly respected citizen in our midst, while Major Walcott, after leading a long and useful life, was gathered to his fathers on the 16th day of February 1880.

The town is situated in the north east part of Denton County, right on the eastern edge of the lower cross timber, but a mile or two from the south boundary line of Cook and Grayson Counties, and about seven miles west of the west boundary line of Collin County. The main body of the town is located upon quite a prominent point of land, overlooking a vast expanse of beautiful undulating prairie county, lying to the east, northeast, and

southeast of town. While the cross timbers partially obstruct the views lying to the northwest, west and southwest, almost the entire surrounding country is cleared and fenced into beautiful farms, with nice orchards, verdant pastures, expansive fields, commodious barns, cheerful and tastefully arranged cottages.

So that this town is actually nestled within the bosom of a beautiful and very productive agricultural region, filled with thrifty, well-to-do farmers, and a very intelligent class of citizens. The town has a public square, which is built upon all around, with different kinds of business houses. The town itself impresses the stranger, by presenting in its later improvements such solid and substantial brick buildings as are built by Capt. N. Wilson, Ross & Brother, and others, men whose enterprise and business vim build towns and push other moves to successful ends. It is to them and other such men as Col. John Collier and Dr. Eddleman and Messrs Jones & Moffett, editors of the Pilot Point Post, a most able and valuable paper, that Pilot Point owes largely for its past, and looks for its future prosperity.

There are two good high schools in the town; one at the Pilot Point Institute, under the charge and management of Prof. Franklin, and the other at the Brooks Academy, under the management of Prof. Stronglean.

The Pilot Point Institute is situated in the eastern edge of the town, and has a capacity sufficient to accommodate four hundred pupils, while the Brooks Academy is situated nearer the center, with a capacity sufficient to accommodate one hundred and twenty-five pupils. Both of these institutions are now on rising ground, and bid fair to be permanent.

The church facilities of the town are excellent. The Christians, Baptist and Cumberland Presbyterians not only have large and flourishing congregations, but each has a neat church building of its own. The Old School Presbyterians have an organization, but no house as yet.

No railroad, as yet, has reached the town, but the Trans-continental branch of the Texas Pacific is soon to be completed to that place. The citizens have donated to the railroad company one hundred acres of land within the corporate limits of the town, for depot and other purposes, as well the right of way through the town.

It will undoubtedly amply remunerate the company to extend its line on through that town, so easily situated within the heart of so flourishing a farming region.

There are numerous and tastefully erected private residences, with handsome gardens and yards adorned with flowers, shrubbery and shade trees, situated here and there throughout the town. The atmosphere is pure and good, being almost entirely free from malaria at all seasons of the year. There is no creek very near the town, but yet there is an abundant supply of good well water. The wells are from sixteen to forty feet deep and afford generally a pure, soft, freestone water, though there is a good deal of hard water throughout the country.

There are creeks affording an abundance of water, lying in all directions, not very distant from town. Pecan Creek is the nearest, which is two miles east and southeast. Buck Creek is four miles to the northeast; Isle D. Boise is three miles to the northwest and west, and Big Elm Creek is six

miles to the southwest. The cross-timbers and bottom lands of those creeks are heavily wooded, making the fuel supply inexhaustible for years to come. The soil of this section is rich, black sandy soil, and exceedingly productive. It is well adapted to the culture of corn, oats, cotton, vegetables, grapes and fruit. It is easily cultivated, and yields, when the seasons are favorable, immense crops. The average cotton crop is two-thirds of a bale per acre.

The soil and climate seems better suited to the culture of cotton, vegetables, fruit and grapes than anything else. There are a goodly number of excellent orchards throughout the county, in which the peach, plum, cherry, apple and pear are grown very successfully. There is a great deal of wine made of cultivated grape. Raspberries, blackberries, and other berries, do well with proper cultivation.

The citizens are generally a moral, intelligent, thrifty, well-to-do people, and all seem anxious to see their country develop into a first class country, which it is rapidly doing.

The principal businessmen are:

R. M. Baird & Co., dry goods, notions, hats, caps, etc.

John Collier, lawyer, land agent, and notary public.

N. W. Parker, agent for Dodd, Brown & Co., wholesale dry goods, St. Louis.

E. E. Dismuke, druggist.

M. A. Dale, stoves and tin ware.

Davidson & Co., general merchandise.

Pilot Point Seminary, M. B. Franklin, principal.

Edwards House, M. B. Edwards, proprietor.

Ross & Bros., general merchandise.

Sharp & Doran, groceries, provisions, furniture, etc.

W. E. Shegog, groceries, etc.

N. Wilson & Co., general merchandise.

D. A. Welborn, Postmaster.

Thos. N. Wylie, physician and surgeon.

W. R. Phillips, dry goods, groceries, etc.

W. S. McShan, general merchandise.

M. M. Slaughter, general merchandise.

Lewisville is a beautiful prairie village of two hundred and eighty-five inhabitants, situated in the southern part of Denton County, five miles north of the Dallas County line, and three miles west of the grand verdant banked Elm Fork of Trinity River, commanding a view of the heaven-favored tendrils that border the sunny banks, and spot the high enticing waters of Deity's creation. Lewisville has seventeen business houses, two hotels, one church, two schools, two halls, Masonic and Odd Fellow, the former being one of the oldest and largest lodges in the state, the latter being five years old, with a flourishing and growing membership. The adaptability of Lewisville as a point for large trade is notable for many reasons, prominent among which is its being surrounded on all sides by the most desirable rich farming lands, productive of most everything that grows. It is twenty-five miles from Dallas by the Dallas and Wichita R. R., and it is fifteen miles from Denton, immediately between. Lewisville has excellent flourishing mills and cotton gins, is adjacent to fine timber for most purposes, has excellent well water, and an abundance of it, at the depth of twenty-two feet. The Methodists have a church. The Baptists and Presbyterians are well organized. Schools are large and well regulated. Lands improved and unimproved to be bought on easy terms. Lewisville is

located on Halford Prairie, a high grand outlook upon the unparalleled beauties presented in the distance by prairie, river and wood.

Lewisville was named for Lewis, to whom one of the first land grants was made.

The citizens of the town already enjoy the railroad facilities. The Dallas & Wichita R. R. will run by the place to Denton, and is, at the present time, within two miles of the town of Lewisville.

The compiler is indebted to L. A. Venters, Mr. Williams, Col. Collier, A. W. Robertson, Squire Elever, for historical data; and to Judge Carrel and lady, Capt. Wilson, Mr. Williams, Judge Hogg and Dr. Taddleman, for many courtesies extended, to all of whom she tenders her sincere thanks.

The principal business houses are:

J. W Hatcher & Bros., dry goods, groceries, boots, shoes, etc.

Smith & Donald, drugs, patent medicines, etc.

James Hayes, hardware, stoves, nails, plows, etc.

W. D. McMilliken, dry goods and groceries.

Robert Wilson, staple and fancy groceries.

Ervine House, best hotel in the town; G. W. Ervine, proprietor.

James & Alcorn, groceries, confectionery, and all kinds of country produce.

DROP

(Home Demonstration Clubs collection)

The little town of Drop is located in the extreme southwestern part of Denton County in the forks of Denton and Oliver Creeks. In the early part of the 18th century there were no bridges in this part of the county and but few people lived here, and they were scattered over a large section of the county. It was very difficult for people to go places or attend church services especially in rainy weather. These facts largely account for the irregular and disconnected early history.

A Baptist church was organized about 1880 and Rev. S. G. Crystal was pastor for some time with a membership of 23. Some of the charter members were J. B. Cope and wife, M. Nix and wife, J. A. Stark and wife, J. G. McNew and wife and possibly others. Members who joined later were Mrs. Bettie Vaughn, W. P. Garrett and wife, J. T. Meneca and wife, C. D. Camp, wife and three children, Grace, Bertie and Walter; Mrs. Bud Williams, G. W. Hodges and wife, J. P. Sitz and wife, L. G. and A. C. Sitz; J. N. Rayzor, wife and two sons, Arthur C. and J. Fred. The membership in 1886 was 61, when the church joined the Denton County Association.

After the coming of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad in 1887, Justin and Ponder became attractive towns and settlers naturally drifted to these railroad towns. Drop is about 6 miles west of Justin and 6 miles southwest of Ponder.

A post office was established at Drop January 6, 1886 and John Haynes was appointed postmaster followed by Daniel M. Devasher, January 5, 1895. Then Hiram Purnell became postmaster November 23, 1898 followed by T. J. Hodges, August 1899, and George W. Hodges and D. S. Malone were postmasters until the post office was discontinued September 10, 1904. Rural Route No. 1 was then established and March 16, 1907, R. R. No. 2 was established, both routes originating at Justin.

A school system was organized early, now called District 36. There was a one-teacher school for a number of years. Then the enrollment increased and necessitated two teachers and a new building was erected. Some of the early teachers were Miss Kate Karnes of Justin, Will Nichols of Denton, Miss Mattie Karnes, Miss Lenora Jones (now Mrs. A. B. Minnerly of Drop), Miss Alice Hinson, Ella Mahon, Jennie Egan, Charlie Orr and others. Now the school has been consolidated with the Justin District. The school building is used as a community center.

The Methodist and Baptist Churches have been torn down and the majority of the people worship at Justin.

Pioneer doctors were Dr. W. H. Pennington, Dr. J. H. Miller, Drs. Elmore and Emmett Hayes. Dr. Lindly Hayes of Denton is the son of the late Dr. Elmore Hayes.

A. A. Bumgarner now operates an up-to-date commodity store and filling station. A "Farm to market road " will soon be under construction from Highway 24 to Drop, which will be helpful, especially to the farming and dairying industries.

Mrs. A. B. Minnerly
Rt. 1, Justin, Texas.

GOOD HOPE

(Home Demonstration Club Collection)

Good Hope, on Douglas (Doe) Branch two miles from the Collin County line, was settled in 1954 by Jacob Rue and three sons, his brother, Lewis Rue, Ben Armstrong and family, Rev. W. P. (P.F.) Rennison and others. These families came from Pettis County, Missouri and filed on land. Each man more than 21 was allowed 160 acres. Log houses and dugouts were their first homes. One log house still stands and is used as a barn. Other early settlers were J. C. and Bryce Jackson.

Ben Rue gave land for a school. A building was erected which was used for school and church. Mr. Rue also gave the land for a church and cemetery. A Presbyterian Church was organized which met in the school building. The school building was blown down and a new school was built. The Presbyterian Church was moved to Parvin and built a church there which burned just a few years ago and was not rebuilt. Members joined churches at Prosper and other places.

A Baptist Church was organized in 1879 by Carroll Jackson, father of Judge Brent Jackson of Denton. Members were Carroll Jackson and wife, Marion Jackson and wife, R. T. Borum and wife, R. N. Wheeler, W. M. Holmes, wife and son, Doc Witt and family and D. H. Luster. The Jackson family came from Missouri.

Carroll Jackson donated more land for the school and cemetery. The school was in operation until 1949, when school law on consolidation was put in effect.

The cemetery is maintained by donations of interested people and is well-kept. The Good Hope Baptist Church has a nice church building and services are held regularly.

Several heirs of the pioneer families live in the community and feel proud of the heritage left to them.

GREEN VALLEY

(Home Demonstration Club Collection)

In the north central part of Texas, lies a beautiful valley, eight or ten miles in length and four to five miles in width. This valley is located in the County of Denton about nine miles northeast of the city of Denton, the county seat. Down through the center of this valley flows a small stream known as Culp Creek.

In 1870, there were only two towns of any size in the county, Pilot Point and Denton. A few families settled on the east bank of Culp Creek where wood and water were plentiful. A small village sprang up here and took the name Toll Town. Who named the place or why it was so named is unknown.

In the spring of 1878, a young man by the name of Henry Clay Wilmoth came to Toll Town and taught a subscription school. At the insistence of the people of the community, he made application to the government at Washington, D. C., to establish a post office at Toll Town. The authorities insisted that another name be selected for such proposed post office. Mr. Wilmoth suggested the name of Green Valley and the name was accepted by the government. So the name Green Valley was given to the post office and to the community. When school district No.20 was organized in 1884, it was also called Green Valley School.

The Green Valley community was slow in developing for several reasons. There were no established roads; no bridges across any of the streams and no railroad nearer than Sherman which was fifty miles away.

Finally families began to move into this beautiful valley and today it has developed into a fertile, thriving farming community. It has beautiful well-established homes, a nice country church, a well-kept cemetery, graveled roads and electricity. Green Valley is now one of the outstanding communities of Denton County because of family life behind it. Since the consolidation of schools in the county, the schoolhouse has been taken over as a community center. The WSCS of the Methodist Church uses it for quilting bees and suppers. One night each week all families are invited to come to the community house to join in the fun of playing dominoes and canasta.

Another outstanding thing that this community does is to entertain the ex-students of the Green Valley School. Folks come from far and near to this reunion, which is held every two years, this being the year (1952).

Mrs. M. U. Duncan
Aubrey, Texas.

KRUM

LAND GRANTS IN DENTON COUNTY, TEXAS

KRUM, DENTON COUNTY, TEXAS

On March 13, 1857. Bounty Warrant # 782 was issued by F. P. Brewister, acting Attorney General, granting for the State of Texas, 1,920 acres to the heirs of Charles Despallier. This grant was made to these heirs of Despallier for his services in the Battle of the Alamo. Charles Despallier was killed defending the Alamo in the year 1836. A part of this 1,920 acre plot later became the town of Krum, Texas.

Despallier, Charles, Private, 24, (aide to Travis). On Feb. 25. 1836, Travis cited him for bravery; and John W. Smith and Albert Martin were sent out with him as messengers.

His younger brother, Blaz Philip Despallier, participated in the storming of Bexar, December 1835. He was Captain in York's company.

Their home was Rapides Parrish, La. Charles had also another younger brother who came to Texas in February 1836, Their mother was Madame Candida Despallier who died in 1837 of cholera with her other son, Victor before they received their bounty.

Texas Archives, Austin. Texas.

Preface

Mrs. Billie Barry.

This history of Krum has been compiled mostly from personal interviews with various members of the older families of Krum. I would like to express my appreciation for the excellent work of Mrs. Oma Lee Hood and Mrs. Bonnie Cole in assisting me with these personal interviews. We enjoyed each visit into the homes of those interviewed and regret that there was not time to visit with more. We would like to thank each person again for their cooperation in making this history available.

We hope that you, the reader, will enjoy this history of Krum, as we enjoyed preparing it.

EARLY DAY HISTORY OF KRUM

On March 13th, 1857, Bounty Warrant #782 was issued by F. P. Brewister, acting Attorney General, granting for the State of Texas 1,920 acres to the heirs of Charles Despallier. This land grant was made to these heirs of Despallier for his services in the battle of the Alamo. Charles Despallier was killed defending the Alamo in the year 1836. A part of this 1,920-acre land grant was later to become the town of Krum. After the land grant, Justin Castino was appointed administrator of the estate of Charles Despallier in order to sell the 1,920 acres at public auction. The land was sold to the highest bidder for a total sum of \$40.00.

In 1884 the town site of Krum (although not established as a town site at the time) was bought by L. T. Finley for \$10.00 an acre. Finley sold a part of this land to the Santa Fe for construction of the railroad. The town did not originate until 1886, when the railroad was built through the tract. In obtaining land for construction of the railroad, many suits were filed in County Court as to true ownership of the land. In many instances, it cost more to clear the title of the land than the land was actually thought to be worth at the time. As was the case in pioneer days, the coming of the railroad made the town, and Krum, named after the vice president of the railroad, A. R. Krum, began to grow and prosper. Business houses began to spring up; L. T. Finley built the first general merchandising store. The section house and the depot were built, and are still standing. The first depot agent was Mr. L. B. Seaman.

In the early 1900s Krum boasted a general store, blacksmith shop and a gigantic steam operated flour mill. Krum's reputation as a wheat market was state wide, and was once considered one of the world's greatest inland wheat shipping centers. The older citizens can recall that one million bushels of wheat was shipped on the G.C. & S.F. Railway in 1900. The wheat raised in the community was so superior in quality, compared to other portions of the state, that it was excluded from grain contests at the Dallas Fair. Grain raised in the rich farming belt was brought to Krum by wagons and bought by the local flourmill and numerous independent buyers for shipment all over the world. Some of the older members of the community remember seeing the many wagons that would crowd the streets at harvest time. They tell of seeing wagons parked side by side in the street for a distance of a half-mile. Most wagons would hold about 3,000 pounds of grain. This amounted to about 50 bushels of wheat, and it usually required two or three men to hold the mules and horses and dump the wheat. Many times the men could not get the wagons unloaded and make the trip home in a day, so they would have to stay overnight and sleep in their wagons.

The flour mill milled an excellent quality of flour, and it taxed the capacity of the mill to produce enough flour to meet the demand. Some of the name brands of flour milled in early 1900 were Rainbow Flour, Big K and White Lily. These products won numerous medals at the fair for their fine quality. The mill was destroyed by fire sometime between 1913 and 1915.

Soon after the turn of the century, B. F. Wilson opened an addition in the south part of town and a building boom was experienced. By this time many other business places had been built and Krum was a thriving town. In 1905 the Town Platt of Krum was prepared by Thomas King, engineer, and was certified by the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway.

Dr. Gose had moved to Krum in 1898, and had his office and a drug store combined on the lot just west of the old bank building. June Benton had a livery stable, Chadwell's had built a large frame hotel on the lot where the Lamm grocery now stands. The drummers would come into town by train, unload huge suitcases and trunks loaded with merchandise for the various stores. They would rent a room in the hotel, and the merchants would call on them there to select the merchandise for their stores.

In 1905, a branch of the Continental Bank and Trust Co. was established here with banking quarters in a part of the R. L. Cole warehouse. Later the bank built the community's first brick building. In 1909, Dr. A. H. Knox organized the First State Bank, which later was consolidated with the Continental and named the Farmers and Merchants State Bank, which still exists today.

STORIES OF A FEW OF THE OLDER FAMILIES OF KRUM

Doctor J. C. Gose

This old settler of Krum was born in Sullivan County, Missouri on April 30th, 1858. When he was one year old his family moved to Denton County, stayed two years and then moved to Wise County and lived near Decatur all through his boyhood. He was educated in the Decatur school.

The lad's father was a blacksmith in Decatur for ten years, and the boy blew the bellows and used the sledge hammer when he was twelve and thirteen years old. At that time the Indians were very bad at Decatur, and the twelve-year-old carried a pistol to fight with in event of Indian attack. He said "I was afraid to stick my head out at night for fear an Indian might get me." He recalled that on two occasions the Indians stole his father's horses that were not more than 20 feet from the house.

After he finished high school in Decatur, he taught school in Wise County for four or five years. At that time there were first, second and third grade teaching certificates, and he was one of the first three in the county to hold a first grade certificate. In 1884, while he was still teaching school, he married a Decatur girl. They had one son born to them, S. P. Gose, now of Krum.

After teaching school for years at the salary of \$30.00 per month, he saved up enough money to go to medical school at St. Louis, Missouri. While he was attending school there, his wife gave art lessons in St. Louis. Mrs. Dr. Gose painted many pictures. Some of these pictures are in her son's home in Krum at present.

Dr. and Mrs. Gose came to Krum on April 27th, 1898, where he put up a drug store and office, and he worked in that capacity for twenty years. Later he was postmaster under the term of President Wilson.

Dr. Gose began practicing medicine first at Electra, in Wichita County, Texas. He practiced medicine actively for a little over fifty years.

The following poem was written by Lometa McBee, daughter of Major and Mabel McBee of Krum, about the beloved doctor.

OUR DOCTOR

There's a grand old gentleman
That's aged and worn,
With a soul full of sympathy
For hearts that are torn.

His hands are all shaky
From years of hard toil,
And his body is bended
With work that won't spoil.

He cranks his old Ford ,
And drives down the road,
Like an angel descending
To lighten one's load.

God up in Heaven
On that great Judgment day,
Will care for the Doctor
In the same gentle way.

The old Ford mentioned in the poem was one of the first cars to be owned in Krum, and most everyone can remember the doctor and his Ford.

Dr. Gose was the last doctor that Krum had, and he passed away on April 10, 1945 near the age of seventy-seven. He was a great citizen, and he and Mrs. Gose were noted for the kindness bestowed on the children of the town. It is also remembered that when Denton observed their 75th anniversary, Dr. and Mrs. Gose participated in the parade. They rode in a buggy around the square in the parade. A sign on the buggy read: Dr. Sawbones and his nurse!

Herman Barthold

Mr. Herman Barthold came to Dallas by train from Springfield, Illinois in 1877 with his parents. They stayed in Dallas for one year. In 1878 the family left Dallas and came across the prairie, cutting their way through briar and underbrush to reach Hickory Creek. A total of five days was spent on the trip from Dallas to their new home on the 280-acre strip east of Krum.

Mr. Barthold recalls the train service in Krum around 1887 was very good. He said that they had about four trains a day. Old 44 was the biggest engine and it went north. It couldn't pull more than 15 to 17 cars, none of them loaded. It made about 20 miles per hour.

Mr. Barthold still lives on his farm east of Krum, and is probably one of the oldest citizens of the community.

John Henry Koiner

Mr. John Henry Koiner came to McKinney, then on to Denton from Illinois at the age of nine, in 1866. In 1844 (sic), he bought the land north of Krum, which is now the home of his son H. P. Koiner. In 1895 and 1896, John Henry Koiner helped haul rocks by wagon from the Ganzer place to be used in the construction of the new Denton County Courthouse. Mr. Koiner also gave the ground for the Hawkeye School to use as long as it was situated there. Mr. Koiner was an old resident of the community and passed away in 1911.

Mr. C. A. Davis

Another of the old timers of the community was Mr. C. A. Davis. He settled here with his parents in 1881, about 2 1/2 miles northeast of Krum on a three-corner strip of land. Mr. Davis was once a bookkeeper at the steam operated flourmill in Krum. He also helped in hauling the rock for the Denton County Courthouse.

Mrs. C. R. Fowler

Although not so old, Mrs. C. R. Fowler has lived east of Krum since she was three years old. She was born near Denton, near where the Sockwell filling station now is. Mr. Fowler came to Krum in 1913 from Denton. Their son F. W. Fowler is the present Mayor of Krum.

Mr. Ralph Cole

Mr. Ralph Cole came to Denton County as a boy with his parents in 1882. There was no such place as Krum at that time. The country was thinly populated and covered with long horn cattle. Each person had his own brand of cattle and the rights of others were respected.

As a boy Mr. Cole lived with his parents on the farm south across from the Riley's farm. A part of the house was of log construction .

In 1905, Mr. Cole opened his business house, which was located on the lot where the first business house in Krum had stood. The Cole Grain Company milled flour for some years, and during World War I shipped flour all over the world. The grain company also prepared their own brand feed. During the grain harvest time the company bought millions of bushels of grain. Mr. Cole was admired by almost all of the farmers in the community. After his death, the mill was operated by his son Weldon Cole for the Cole Estate. The company operated a coal market up until a few years ago.

KRUM DOCTORS

Throughout the years Krum has had some very fine doctors. Dr. S. R. Carlton was one of the older physicians of Krum. He graduated from the medical department of Vanderbilt University in 1884, and continued as an active practitioner of his profession until his death on August 8, 1924, the day the community building was opened.

Other doctors to serve Krum were Dr. W. C. Kimbrough, Dr. W. G. Kimbrough, Dr. Hayes and Dr. Gose.

V. E. Gibbins

B. L. Gibbins, father of C. C. Gibbins, and grandfather of Virgil Gibbins built two brick buildings in Krum in approximately 1904, where Joe Bishop's cow barn now is. He ran a grocery store in one building and a furniture store in the other. C. C. Gibbins came to Krum with his family in 1906 from Poolville. C. C. Gibbins worked in the store with his father. C. C. later went into the grocery business with H. F. Lamm, father of Homer and Ed Lamm in the building where the washateria is now located. C. C. Gibbins and H. F. Lamm went together in 1912 and built the building where the Lamm grocery is at present. Gibbins sold out to Lamm and went to the farm. Virgil, who still lives in Krum can remember that it took four mules to the wagon to pull the load of furniture over the mud roads in making the move to the farm.

C. C. Cofer

The C. C. Cofer family is one of the older families of Krum. Mr. C. C. Cofer was a minister of The Church of Christ, and traveled over the country in a buggy. He was the first Krum postmaster, and a very learned person. He wrote several books in his lifetime.

Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Nail

Mrs. Nail was one of the daughters of J. W. Black, and came to Krum in 1886. They settled ½ mile west of Krum on the farm where McFarlins now live. Mrs. Nail remembers that people hauled water from the creek on their place, as there were no deep wells at this time. Mr. Nail came to Krum in the year 1891. He and Mrs. Nail still live in the city today.

Some other of the older citizens who have lived in Krum for many years are Mrs. Maude Black Evans, Mrs. Molly Batis Rucker, Mrs. Emma Evans McGee, Mrs. Bessie Wilson Park and Mrs. Eleanor Williard Bruce.

SCHOOLS

In 1901 the first school building was built which was a one-room frame structure. The first board of trustees was set up at once. Two long remembered trustees were June Benton and George Evans, father of Mrs. J. A. Stone. In a few years, the school was enlarged to three rooms. In 1910, the brick school building that now houses the elementary school was built. The high school building was built in the middle thirties. It originally housed the gymnasium, which also served as an auditorium for the school.

In 1955 the citizens voted a bond issue for construction of a new gymnasium and to remodel the old elementary building. The old gymnasium was converted to a beautiful auditorium, and two modern classrooms were built. The school has the following departments; English, Science, Vocational Agriculture, Vocational Homemaking, Mathematics, Physical Education and History and Government. We have a complete library, school lunchroom and Student Council.

The Krum Parent-Teachers Association was organized October 6th, 1944. Attendance has grown from 20 to 150 or more. The association became a member of the State organization in January 1948. They also belong to the National Association. during the years the P.T.A. has done many useful things for the school. Some of the projects have been to help pay for school buses, purchase of audio-visual equipment, modern classroom furniture for the first four grades, improvement of vocational shop, new kitchen equipment and draperies for the homemaking room, curtains for the stage, addition of literary and reference books to the library, basketball suits for the girls and Venetian blinds for the new auditorium and many other smaller projects. Funds for these projects have been raised by sponsoring the Halloween Carnival, ice cream suppers, chili suppers, ball games, Christmas and Thanksgiving banquets and style shows.

Mrs. B. F. Copp is now serving as president of the P.T.A. Mrs. Henry Ross served as the first president, serving the years 1944-1945. Other presidents and the years served are: Mrs. W. J. Medlin 1945-1947, Mrs. August Schluter 1947-1949, Mrs. Jack Parkey 1949-1952, Mrs. A. J. McClure 1952-1954 and Mrs. August Schluter 1954-1956.

Sports in which the school participates are basketball, baseball, track and tennis. In the earlier days, baseball seemed to be the favorite sport and it is still played. However, in the past few years, basketball has held more interest in the community, and Krum has produced some very fine basketball teams.

Krum now has one of the most modern school plants in Denton County and is one that the citizens of the town and community can point to with pride.

Plainview School

Although no longer in operation, the Plainview Community, west of Krum once had a very nice school. In 1921 the following item pertaining to the school was published: It is planned to begin the erection of a new brick school building in the Plainview District in early June. The building is to be built at a cost of approximately \$8,000.00. This building was built, and school taught there for many years. Later it consolidated with the Krum School, and the building was torn down.

Hawkeye School

The Hawkeye District was located approximately five miles north of Krum. According to some of the citizens of the community, the Hawkeye School was built in the year 1887. Charter members of the board of trustees were H. P. Koiner and J. M. Lindley. Mr. John Henry Koiner loaned the land for the school for as long as needed. Thomas Angleman from Illinois was the first teacher at the school. This school was eventually consolidated with the Krum school.

CHURCHES

The Church of Christ

History submitted from letter written to Mrs. Oma Lee Hood by Mrs. Eunice McGee Barnett, and some information obtained from Mrs. Vessie Gose, Krum.

The Church of Christ at Krum is an offspring of the Church at Bolivar. John Jones was an elder at the Bolivar Church, and had been there since he came to Texas in 1876. When the schoolhouse was built in Krum, the elder from Bolivar decided it would be best and more convenient for him to take all the members that lived south of Clear Creek and form a congregation at Krum. This was done in 1893. Some of the families that Mrs. McGee Barnett remembers as first members of the church were: Elder and Mrs. John Jones, Jack Jones, Rance Jones, Reuben and Jennie McGee and family, Oscar and Sydda Chism, C. C. and Bessie Cofer, Minter Hutchinson, Will and Emma Koiner, John and Nettie Koiner, John and Belle Finley, Mr. and Mrs. Southern, Mrs. Cole, mother of R. L. Cole, later the Andrew McClisters and Silas Koiner. Silas Koiner served as an elder in the twenties.

We first met at three o'clock in the one room school house. The Methodist Church met at ten and we alternated Sundays having preaching. Among the early day preachers were; Bros. C. C. Cofer, D. S. Legion, Alsup, Savage, C. R. Nichols, Reynolds, Billy Wolfrum, W. H. Moore and Roy Lanier. The Church house was built in the summer of 1900. I think the reason they built it on the hill was because the town was expected to grow to the north, but grew to the south instead. It was several years later that the oak pews were put in. The school used the building for two years as a primary school and Miss Judith Shifflett taught the class. Will Koiner always looked after the church yards, and one August the grass fire got away from him and the high winds carried it to the church. It was a most peculiar fire, for all the outside burned off before the roof fell in. Before the fire was out, men began putting money in the hands of the elders and deacons, and after the house was rebuilt there was more money in the bank than before, and not one person was ask to contribute a thing.

Katie Chism Dodges was the last person to be buried from the old church. Twice I set out trees along the side walks, and most of what is there and at the school house, I put out. I began teaching the card class in the church when I was fifteen, and taught for forty nine years. As my children grew, I advanced.

The Church of Christ today has a very nice Church building with an annex for Sunday School rooms. The approximate active membership is 73. Their present pastor is Brother Joe Ratcliff.

Krum Baptist Church

The Krum Baptist Church, once called North Hickory Creek Baptist Church, was organized in the winter of 1882. The first pastor was R. L. Borum followed by J. A. Moore and J. T. Jenkins. In 1886 the church was moved some three miles southeast down Hickory Creek into a new church house, and remained there until 1891. The Church was finally moved to Krum and was first situated on the southeast corner of the school ground. (A lumber yard was then on the present site of the Baptist Church, and was run by Tom Lamonica). Later the church was moved across the street to its present location. The W.M.U. was organized in 1911, and is still active. The B.Y.T.U. was organized in 1922 and is also still active. The church added a brick educational building in 1952, at a cost of approximately \$10,000.00, and the indebtedness assumed when this building was built was paid in full in early 1955. The church also has a very nice modern parsonage for their pastor. The Reverend Billy Baggett is the pastor at the present.

Methodist Church

The Methodist Church first held their church sessions in the one room school house and shared it with The Church of Christ. Later the first Church building was built on the corner across from the school grounds, where Mr. & Mrs. Boaz now live. Then they built the basement on the corner where the church now stands. For several years they used the basement for services, later building the second story. The church has been redecorated recently, and is very modern and beautiful inside. They have the M.Y.F. and Woman's Society of Christian Service. The Church has a very fine choir under the direction of Mrs. M. F. Thrift. Mrs. Dorothy McClister presented the church with the organ in memory of her husband Walter W. McClister. Mr. and Mrs. Earnest P. Radecke and daughter Ernestine gave the piano in memory of their son and brother Marion Wallace Radecke, who was killed in the Korean conflict.

The church has membership of approximately 200, and the preacher at present is Brother Milton Jochetz, who, with his family, lives in the parsonage provided by the church.

Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church of Krum was organized on the 29th day of June, 1901. There were eighteen members as follows: J. B. Benton and wife, W. G. Kimbrough and wife, Henry Lowe and wife, F. L. Nichols and wife, W. C. Rutledge, J. F. Boyd, V. A. Cruse, John Miller and John Miller, Jr. F. L. Nichols was Deacon.

On or about 1910 a new brick church building was erected on the lot just west of the Morris Motor Co., and the church was conducted there until about 1935, when the building was sold. The building was later torn down, and has not been rebuilt in Krum. Before the church was built, services were held in the Methodist Church. At one time the church had over 100 members, and was a vital force in our community, and was a successful and prosperous church.

Plainview Church

The Plainview Baptist Church was organized in April 1894, in a one room school house. The Rev. S. G. Christal was the first pastor. The first W.M.U. was organized in 1914, and the Young People in 1927. In 1898 Plainview Cemetery land of two acres was purchased from J. K. Walker, and Mr. J. K. Walker was the first to be buried there. Six acres of land were donated by Mrs. G. H. Fletcher in 1907 for the parsonage to be built on. The church is a very nice community church today, and they have a modern parsonage for their pastor, Clifford Alford.

POST OFFICE

The first post office in Krum was housed in Grandpa Finley's Store. The store housed almost everything else as well, and must have been typical of the ones seen in western movies of today. The first postmaster was Mr. C. C. Cofer. Some of the others were Mr. N. C. Nail, who served as postmaster for a total of 23 years, although not in succession. Morris Ferrell, the present postmaster has held the position for several years.

Mr. W. F. Clevenger was one of the rural carriers back in 1907, and the following account tells of some of his experiences. This article was taken from one of the Krum papers, and was written by Mr. Clevenger himself.

Thursday November 15, 1917 we will have been doing business together as patron and carrier for ten years. During that time many changes have passed before us. Many have moved away, and a number of births and marriages have taken place, some few of us have died, and a number of new faces have come amongst us, but a few of the old ones are still here. This carrier has traveled during these ten years about 83,650 miles, more than three times around the world. He has used thirteen horses, four buggies, one mail hack and five automobiles. He started at a salary of \$42.00 per month and now gets \$100.00. The first month he handled 1265 pieces of mail, and during October 1917, 9091. This gives you some idea of the business we have done together and we hope and trust that our business and relations may continue to grow in the next ten years as it has in the past.

The following and families have been with us since the establishment of the route: John Miller, Mr. C. R. Fowler, D. W. Koiner, J. L. Monschke (Monsche), G. A. Monschke (Monsche), W. M. Grabbe, Fred Barthold, T. E. Redman, C. Wolf, G. E. Evans, W. D. Smith, J. W. Hunt, J. M. Barnett, John H. Miller, P.R. Rue, H. Dugan, A. O. Hudgins, H. Blankenmyer, C. P. Couser and H. R. Park.

Krum today has only one carrier on the route, Mr. V. E. Gibbins of Krum, and he has had this route for several years.

UTILITIES

The first water system of Krum, apart from the cistern, was rolling barrels. The water was obtained from a well that is located under the Farmers and Merchants State Bank. The well had a windmill and overhead tank. The barrels were filled with water and taken to each house.

The system was somewhat improved by a man named Stallings. He installed the first system with pipes. These pipes just went partially from house to house, but were an improvement over the rolling barrel system. He pumped the water from the well with a mill run by a gasoline engine pump.

Stallings sold the system to Baker, and Baker did some improving. He soon sold to K. Sprouse. Sprouse put in the first light plant in connection with the water works. He later sold the water system to Sam McFall, and the light system to Texas Power and Light Company. Sam McFall improved on the system some before selling to Sun Utility Co. Gose and Ridenour bought the system in 1950. In 1954 they improved the system considerably by digging a well to the Trinity, the first of its kind in Krum, and installing new pumps and equipment. This system is serving the town with water at present, with the exception of the east side of town, which is serviced by the well owned by Joe Bishop.

Texas Power and Light Company still serves the town with electricity. Butane gas is used in most of the homes and businesses for heating purposes.

KRUM BRASS BAND

Krum once had a brass band under the direction of W. F. Clevenger. The band traveled to many places to entertain, as well as playing for the local affairs. The bandstand was erected in the middle of the street between Lamm grocery and the Muncy building. Concerts were held each Tuesday night. Some of the band members were: A. F. (Rusty) Lindley, and Tom Lindley, drummers, O. J. Chism, bass, Clevenger, baritone, S. P. Gose, lead coronet, Jimmy Wright, Dee Baker, John Dean, Oran Taylor and others.

NEWSPAPERS

During the years when Krum was the central trading center for the community the town had its own newspaper. In 1905 The Enterprise was edited and published by W. F. Clevenger. In 1921 The Optimist was published by W. G. Huey, and in 1925 The Krum Sentinel was published by Wardo Fouts. Two other papers were published here; The Harbinger, edited by Miss Johnnie Cofer, and The Krum Banner, published by Bailey Publishing Company in 1921. The following items were taken from some of the old papers.

In 1903, one hundred and sixty pupils were enrolled in the three-room schoolhouse.

In 1921 Krum Banner advertised haircuts for \$.25, and shave for \$.15. In 1914 the General Merchandising store advertised 6 pounds of coffee for \$1.00, 10 pound bucket of Arm & Hammer soda for \$.45, overalls for \$.85 a pair, and pin stripe pants for \$.75.

Land that a few years ago sold for \$20.00 an acre is now going for \$50.00, and going fast.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

From the scrapbook of J. O. McClister, Sr., we found a newspaper account of what seems to have been the largest crowd ever assembled at Krum.

More than 2,500 people gathered in Krum on Saturday to help the citizens celebrate their opening of their community auditorium, which has just been completed. The town was decorated with flags and streamers. Various entertainment features, from airplane stunts to a baseball game were staged.

The auditorium occupies the entire second story of a \$10,000.00 brick building on the main street of the town, which was built by O. C. Muncy. (This is now known as the McClister building). The lower story is to be used as a garage. Because the people had no place to meet, the Commerce Club of which R. L. Cole is president, and Clarence Fowler secretary, leased the upper story of the building for five years. The rental price for the five years is said to be \$3,500.00.

The crowds began gathering at 9 AM and wagons, buggies, and cars continued to arrive until late afternoon. All the streets were jammed with parked automobiles and the sidewalks full of people. At 10:30 AM an airplane flew over and dropped \$50.00 in checks made payable to the "bearer". There was a mad scramble for the money. At noon a chicken dinner with all the trimmings was served in the garage section of the building. Music was furnished by

the Municipal Band of Denton and the Krum String Band gave several concerts. After the dinner, Judge John Speer made an address in the new auditorium. His subject was "The Community Spirit". Following Speers address, several horse races were staged in the street. The first races were made up of boy riders and the five entries were Wayne Hare, Ross Carter, Allen Bridges, Ralph Couser, and Roy Barnett. Wayne Hare took first place. A race for Shetland ponies ridden by small girls, with three entries Rachel Thomas, Joe Morris and Emma Barthold was won by Rachel Thomas. Only two men, Bill Barnett and Elton Elliott entered the cowboy race, won by Barnett.

The final feature of entertainment was a baseball game between the teams of Slidell and Krum. The game was won by the home team by a score of 8 to 4.

It had been announced that Barry Miller would speak at Krum at 3 PM in the interest of his campaign for Lieutenant Governor, and that J. W. Sullivan would speak in behalf of W. C. Edward's candidacy for the same office. Miller did not arrive however, and Sullivan decided after reaching Krum that he would not speak as the larger part of the crowd had left the auditorium to attend the ball game. Obviously there were many ball fans present.

BANK ROBBERY

Many years ago, Krum had a rather daring bank robbery. It seems that two bandits wearing vivid green hoods and brandishing a pair of six shooters entered the bank and covered the officials and looted the institution of \$3,100.00 in cash and \$1,550.00 in negotiable bonds at 3:50 P.M. on a Tuesday afternoon. A number of people were on the streets, when ten minutes before closing time a dust covered Cadillac touring car drove in from the north and stopped beside the bank. Citizens watched in amazement as the hooded bandits with pistols drawn entered the bank. The robbers got the loot, and hastily fled the bank, entered the car, turned around and left town going north. Fred Barnett, seeing the robbers enter bank, ran from his filling station across the street to his home a short distance away, secured his pistol just as the robbers were making their getaway. He opened fire on them, but to no avail.

It was later proved that Yancey Story and his gang had staged the robbery, and most of the money and securities were recovered.

DISASTROUS FIRES

Krum has had many disastrous fires in the years. The loss of the steam-operated mill in the period of from 1912 to 1915, was probably the greatest loss. However, at different times the entire north and south side of the business section has been destroyed by fire. Most of the original frame business structures were destroyed by fire, except for four or five. One two-room frame store building that was left in the town is now a part of the house where Dean Banks lives. The last destructive fire, and the greatest loss to the town in some time, was in September, 1956, when the R. L. Cole Grain Co. building burned .

The following story is one taken from a newspaper clipping found in the scrapbook of J. O. McClister, Sr., written by Mr. McClister after the fire

in Krum in 1907 that burned the entire north side of the street, including Mr. McClister's general store.

I have been in business in Krum for about 30 years, and have had many experiences, I came here and told the bunch that I wanted to go into business. They offered to sell me a business, but it took more money than I had so I bought a lot and started to build me a building. It was a structure 20 x 40. Joe Koonce and William Ginn and a bunch of other boys were buying wheat and playing dominoes. Koonce came down one morning and looked at my foundation and said, "Huh, I told you fellers that that feller wouldn't build any house, and now you see that he is not building anything." However, I built the shack and added on to it. Then I added some more until I had a lot of building all over the lot.

On Christmas Eve in 1907 a bunch of folks had been to a Christmas tree and came back by my store. I was something of a fiddler. They persuaded me to play "Arkansas Traveler" for them. I was playing away when somebody said there was a fire. I laid down that fiddle and went out to look, and the building next door to my place was afire and flames were lapping up the side of my place. I ran back into the store and told the gang that the place was on fire. Floyd Curtsinger was about the oldest man in the place and he took charge. "Now don't you fellows get excited, but get busy and carry out these goods. Carry them carefully and you can save all the goods in this house." As he talked he was taking shoes out of the shelves and placing them on the counter. When the counter was loaded, they took it up and carried it out. They carried out all of my merchandise, and even carried off the front doors. W. H. Knight is using the front doors of that store in an outbuilding right now. They covered the street and all the back lot with my stock and that of other merchants. When the fire was over, most of the town had burned, we had to unscramble our merchandise. Some rather funny things happened. I had a new barrel of syrup in a side room. The bunch concluded to save it and took out the pump that was in the barrel, then they started to roll it out when somehow it gave a lurch, and it covered Joe Oates all over with molasses on his new Christmas clothes.

Nero fiddled while Rome burned, according to history, but I stopped fiddling when my store burned and have never fiddled since."

Mr. J. O. McClister, Sr.

Mr. J. O. McClister, Sr., was one of the early day merchants. He ran a dry goods and grocery store combined. He later sold out the grocery stock to H. F. Lamm. He retained the dry goods store, and ran it until his death, when it was taken over by his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Wilkins. Mr. McClister was the father of the late Walter McClister, who along with his wife Dorothy ran the McClister Motor Company in the building formerly known as the Muncy Building. Walter was a good citizen, and his death was a great loss to the town.

BITS OF HUMOR FROM THE PAST

The little branch that runs east of the Santa Fe tracks got its name "The River of Jordon" in an unusual way. A gentleman of unsteady gait and his companion were wending their way home in the east part of town. At the bank of the little stream he stopped and said, "I think I'll baptize myself in the River of Jordon." He jumped into the stream, and they pulled him out

perhaps a little more sober and wise. That's the way the "River of Jordon" got its name.

O. A. Graham, a former resident of Krum owned a sports car that was equipped with horns that played off of the exhaust, and had the sound of an organ. The horns played two tunes, "Home Sweet Home", and "Nearer My God to Thee". The citizens would hear the familiar tunes as the car came into town, and would say that O. A. had made it home safely again.

Cold Weather

While this is not a humorous story, It is one of interest. The coldest weather remembered here was on Feb. 11, 12 and 13, 1899. Temperatures ranged throughout North Texas from 6 to 18 degrees below zero. A number of surface wells froze over. Where the bank now stands was a general store, owned and operated by R. C. Scripture. Mrs. Brandenberger, mother of Ed Brandenberger. drove into town in a cart from her home in the Plain-View Community to get some groceries. She was so cold when she got to town that she couldn't get out of the cart. The men had to carry her from the cart into the store. After she had warmed a while, she collected her groceries, got into the cart and returned to her home.

Baseball Happy

The school used to play a lot of baseball, and the teams would go to Sanger by wagon, and to Ponder by train to play. Virgil Gibbins told of going to Ponder one day and after the game was over they were all waiting for the train to come. In front of the hotel where they waited was a deep bar ditch, and a plank across it to go to the street. The train whistle blew, and Virgil and some other boys made the run to catch the train, and in crossing the plank fell into the bar ditch. They caught the train all right, and came on to Krum with their spirits as well as their clothing dampened.

KRUM YOUNG CITIZENS CLUB

The K.Y.C.C. had their first meeting July 4, 1954, with about fifteen boys present. This meeting grew from a group of boys sitting up town one night, when someone came up with the idea that we needed some sort of recreation center to help keep the teenagers off the streets at night. We decided to combine our efforts and see if we could not come up with an answer to this problem. At the first meeting we elected officers and talked over what could be done about getting this recreation center built. Officers for the first year were: President - Ralph L.(Buddy) Cole, Vice President - Bill Cofer, Secretary-Loman Park and Treasurer-Bennie Ennis.

Money for the material for the K.Y.C.C. building was donated by merchants and people of the town and community. We also raised some money by sponsoring a barbecue and by the sale of the community birthday calendars. Money for the roof alone was donated by the Women's Progressive Club. Some of the money for the floor was donated by the Hawkeye Home Demonstration Club.

Our building is not complete yet, as we still need about half of the flooring, and a few other items. The land for the building was donated to the K.Y.C.C. by Joe Kimbrough of Denton and Hazen Armstrong of the Bolivar

Community. Our building is on the three acre tract, located on the east edge of Krum. The building is a concrete structure.

In the period of from July 1955 to July 1956 the following were the elected officers. President - Bill Cofer, Vice-President - Bennie Ennis, Secretary Don Odneal and Treasurer - Bobby Boaz.

For the year July 1956 to July 1957 we have the present officers: President - Bill Cofer, Vice-President - Bennie Ennis, Secretary - Larry Ennis and Treasurer - Ronald Chism. At the present there are 22 active members and 14 inactive members.

Editors note - The above story was submitted by Milton Cofer for the Krum Young Citizen's Club.

THE KRUM LION'S CLUB

The Krum Lion's Club was organized in August 1953. Charter night was held October 2, 1953 with 33 charter members. The following officers were elected for the first year: R. C. Cole, President, John Morris, 1st Vice President, M. E. Holley, 2nd. Vice President, Jack Parkey, 3rd Vice President, Paul Muncy, Secretary Treasurer, A. F. Lindley, Lion Tamer, Jack Buckley, Tail Twister, W. W. Cole, F. W. Fowler, W. R. Ginnings and George Piott, directors.

In November 1953 the Lion's Club purchased and installed a new water valve at the Krum Water Work's, whereby two fire trucks could be filled with water at the same time, and in less time than it originally took to fill one truck. This greatly increased the effectiveness of our fire Department.

In March 1954 the Lion's Club arranged for 24 streetlights to be installed in the business district and residential area, especially around the school and the three churches of Krum.

In November 1954 the Club held a broom and mop sale. These products being made by the blind. The club turned out in full strength and netted for the club about \$120.00.

Also in November 1954, the Club changes its meeting place and time to noon at the Krum school house, where arrangements had been made to have the Home-Economics girls to prepare and serve lunch.

In January 1955 the Club installed an outdoor basketball court in the school yard in order that more practice could be had by those who wished on days when the gym was not open.

In February 1955 the Club voted to work with the Krum school in sight conservation, and to furnish aid to any child who was unable to purchase glasses. In March, 1955 the Club voted to sponsor a local Boy Scout Troop. In October 1955 the Club voted to sponsor a 5-year crop improvement plan for the FFA Club. In May 1956, the club appointed a committee of five to look into the forming of a LITTLE LEAGUE baseball players. In October, 1956, the Club acted as co-sponsor with Mrs. August Schluter in the United Fund Drive .

In December 1956, the Club acted to assist three deserving families in the Krum area with food and clothing as a Christmas present.

In February 1957, the Club sponsored a basketball game between the ARKANSAS TRAVELERS, a team of girl players, and the Denton County Boys League. This netted the club around \$200.00, which will be used in various activities, which will benefit the people who live in and around Krum.

Besides the activities mentioned, the Krum Lion's Club is a member of the "Texas Lion's League for Crippled Children" at Kerrville, Texas. Last year they sent two children from the Krum area to this camp at Kerrville for two weeks, and they expect to do the same each year.

Editors Note - The above story on the Krum Lions Club was submitted by Mr. B. T. Brown.

INCORPORATION

Krum became an incorporated city after an election on November 16th, 1954, when citizens voted 75 to 13 in favor of incorporation.

On Tuesday, January 4th, 1955, the city elected F. W. Fowler Mayor, and five Aldermen - Mrs. R. L. Cole, Raymond H. Ericson, D. F. Jackson, C. C. Wilkins and T. C. Barry. John Gray was elected City Marshall, and V. E. Gibbins was appointed to serve as Secretary-treasurer.

Mrs. Dorothy McClister was very instrumental in getting the movement for incorporation started.

Since the incorporation, many things have been accomplished. The City took over the street lights, paying for the electricity from the tax money. They have added additional street lights. A city dump was purchased, and we now have garbage collection service twice monthly, thereby eliminating the menace of trash dumped on the roadsides and in the farmer's fields. The council members along with the Mayor worked toward securing the right of way within the city limits for the construction of farm road 1173 East, thereby securing paved roads into the town from each direction.

The next major improvement to be made is the paving of the streets around the school and all three churches. This work has been started, and is to be completed as soon as weather permits. This will do much to add to the attractiveness of the town, and be of great benefit to all citizens.

The City Council holds open meeting on the first Tuesday of each month.

LEWISVILLE

History of Lewisville

Sponsored by Parent-Teacher Assn.

According to the few records on hand the first settlers at Lewisville were J. M. and A. G. King who settled 23 miles north of Dallas and 13 miles south of Denton on a head right. (see 'Peters Colony list) The next property owner was Thomas Kealy, brother of J. N. Kealy, postmaster for many years.

In 1862, Rawlins, Kealy and Herod organized and built a grist mill on South Mill St, east of Farmers and Merchants gin. It was in this grist mill that every family in the vicinity took refuge from Indians after Indians were reported as seen between Big Elm and Little Elm. The report was false as the "Indians" turned out to be cattlemen wearing blankets for protection against the cold.

In 1865, E. K. Rawllins brought in a little stock of dry goods, which he kept at his residence, a double log cabin just back of the T. M. Clayton residence.

Around 1867, Uncle Joe Minor who had operated a trading post at his home about 1 1/2 miles west of Lewisville opened a saloon on the corner where Crawford's Grocery now stands. The same year, Woodrum and Davis built a little house on the lot occupied by the J. M. Hatcher Brick building, which they used for a general merchandise store.

Cotton gins played a great part in the early history of Lewisville. From 1867 and later gins were operated by Mark and Ed Bradley, Donald Beavers, Cowan Beavers, John Buster, Henry Hill and one built by T. M. Claytor and George Craft was on the lot where Joe C. Cobb now lives. This place was known as the Uncle Billy Cowan Place. It is recorded that 50 cents was paid for a pound of nails to build this gin. The Claytor and Craft Gin ginned 100 bales of cotton the first year and all but 17 bales were used by the women for quilting.

In connection with this gin was a carding machine, which was later moved by Kealy and Rawlins to the site where Farmers and Merchants Gin was located. It burned shortly afterwards and is thought to be Lewisville's first fire. Gins continued to do a big business and in the early 1900s. C. Y. Milliken recalls that fourteen thousand bales of cotton were ginned.

Milliken still operates the dry goods business, W. D. Milliken and Sons, which was established by his father in 1878. It is the oldest continuous business in the county. The first brick building was built by W. D. Milliken around 1883-4. It burned in 1918. The present building was then built. Milliken also recalled the time when as youngsters he and Urban Moore, Lewisville druggist since 1911, had the exciting duties of ringing the church bells for the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches, respectively.

Lewisville's school system had its beginning in the old Masonic Hall which stood where Old Hall Cemetery is now located. This hall erected by the Masons about 1861-2, was of logs and Captain Sam Lusk is reported to have said that it was probably the first two-story building in this part of the

county. This building was used as a refuge from Indians and was constructed with port holes through which the settlers could defend themselves from the Indians. The Lewisville Masonic Lodge 201 AF and AM which will celebrate its 100th anniversary Jan 23, 1957, held its meetings in the upstairs of the building and the lower floor was used for the first public school in this area. Religious services were also held here for all denominations. In the old Masonic records it is stated that the only requirements for the use of the hall were that there would be no religious debates, no one could make a remark that would cast any reflections on another person's religious beliefs, the hall must be swept clean after the service and the people must furnish their own candles. The Masonic Lodge continued to operate the school which was later moved to the lot now occupied by the residence of Mrs. Flora Merritt until about 1890 when the state took over the school. In 1891, a building was erected on the present elementary school site. When this brick and frame structure burned in 1909 school was held in the churches until the new building was finished. In 1921 the red brick three-story school that now houses the elementary school was built. The first graduates of Lewisville Public School received their diplomas in 1903 when P. D. Kennemer was Superintendent. Graduates were Mable Addington, Ethel Hayes, Louise Milliken, Clo Crawford and Spurgeon Stover. Other Supts. of the school were J. E. Templeton, J. E. Coffee, W. H. Smith, D. B. Allen, H. C. Lyon, W. W. Shields, Alex Core, W. M. Mitchell, J. L. German, Emmett Whitehead, B. F. Tunnell, H. G. Vick and the present Supt., J. K. DeLay.

Some of the early day business and professional men were J. W. Boatner, Wm. R. Carlisle, E. G. Bradley, John W. Kennedy and J. M. Gilbert, physicians, M. L. Bradley & Co., Kerr and White, J. S. Skillern and Son, Young and Hardy, G. W. Cassidy and Co., J. W. Lyles, J. E. Chambers, Druggists; R. E. Bradley, G. W. Elbert Go., E. F. Stover, General Merchandise; J. G. Brannon & Co., J. M. Hayes, M. Jacobsen, Hardware; John Cobb, H. Hill, W. D. Milliken, Fortman Bros., C. L. Thomas, J. A. Hatcher, Dry Goods; D. S. Donald, Stockman, G. E. Griffin, Contractor, J. D. Gullledge, W. W. Smith, R. E. Bradley, Groceries; W. T. Hyder, A. D. Miller, T. W. Degan, Livery; T. H. Jenkins, Depot Agent, J. M. Hendrix, Furniture and Undertaking, J. N. Kealy, Gin & Mill; Kealy and Kealy, Flour Mill; Kealy and Buster Gin; R. H. Powell, F. Stover, Barbers; Cowan Reynolds and Co., Implements, W. C. Smith & Son, printers and publishers; A. G. Terry, Justice of Peace, E. D. Wells, Saloon; Miss Mattie Howard and Miss Lizzie Lokey, Millinery; J. A. Pickens, Hood Cunningham, Y. S. Ready, J. W. Degan, Cotton buyers J. R. Bourland, Lumber.

Disasters in Lewisville's early history: In 1908, people were marooned in trees by a flood and had to wait for rescue by boats. Half the north side of the business district has been burned twice. The Hatchers lost the building that they had been in only four days. Hendrix and Savage Furniture Store, which was established in 1887, and is still operated by members of the same families, has been destroyed by fire three times.

The history of Lewisville was slow to change until 1881 when the MK&T Railroad reached here. The town and surrounding community began growing rapidly since.

There is nothing definite as to how the town got its name. Some say the Indians named it. In the writings of Dr. Kirkpatrick, early doctor and pioneer who has preserved more of the early history than anyone says that it seems it was named for a man named Lewis who lived here but a short time.

One of the oldest churches in the county, Stewart's Greek Baptist was moved to Lewisville four years ago. It was located in the Garza-Little Elm Reservoir District.

In 1881, 37 members of the Holford Prairie Baptist Church met and organized the Lewisville Baptist Church. The first building was erected in 1905 and was replaced last year (1957) with a modern church plant.

In 1868-69, the Methodists built the first church in Lewisville. This frame building was used until 1911 when the present brick structure was erected.

The First Presbyterian Church was organized Nov. 1, 1879, with Rev. H. F. Bone as the first pastor. Originally it was the Cumberland Presbyterian Church later designated as First Presbyterian USA. The present building was erected in 1917.

The Church of Christ was organized with eight charter members in the home of the late J. M. and Carrie Jasper Hendrix in 1886 under the leadership of Elder Terrill Jasper, a pioneer minister of the Church of Christ in Denton County. In 1894 a large frame building was erected in the north-east part of town. In June 1917, a brick church was erected on West Main.

Churches organized in the last few years are Assembly of God, Central Baptist Church, and Lewisville Bible Church.

The Lewisville Enterprise has served the community since 1872. Publishers have been F. N. Oliver, who established the paper, Worth S. Ray, Hardin Smith, J. L. Harper, O. S. Hamilton, Lee Vaughn and Jack Lewis. Present owner is W. S. Thurman.

Lewisville is the only town in Texas to have had two former residents become Speaker of the House of Representatives at Austin: G. G. Thomas, deceased, and Fred Minor.

HISTORY OF LEWISVILLE

(Second Version)

Lewisville is about 23 miles from Dallas, and 13 miles from Denton on U. S. Highway 77, and on the M. K. & T. Railroad. It is on the J.W. and A.C. King head right, who settled in this section in about 1844. Steve Hyatt was the next property owner here who sold his property, to Tho. Kealy, brother of J. N. Kealy who was local postmaster a number of years. In 1862 Rawlins, Kealy and Herod organized and built a grist mill on South Mill Street and east of the Farmer's and Merchant's Gin.

In 1865 E. K. Rawlins brought in a little stock of dry goods and kept them at his residence, which was a double-roomed log house just back of the T. M. Claytor residence that is owned by Conrad Duwe now. Mr. Claytor and A. G. Klng were among the oldest settlers of Lewisville. In 1861 Uncle Joe Minor owned a small house on the corner, where the Crawford Grocery now stands, in which he opened a small saloon. About the same year Woodrum and Davis built a little house on the lot occupied by the J. M. Hatcher brick building, which they used for a general merchandise store.

In 1866 D. J. Rawlins built a frame storeroom on the lot owned and occupied by R. E. Bradley, which was used as a general store.

About this time the Indians were committing depredations such as stealing and trying to kill the settlers. The people of Lewisville and surrounding country received a severe scare. It was reported that the Indians were coming, burning and killing as they came. Every family on this and McCurley Prairie left their homes and sought protection in the Rawlins, Kealy and Herod gristmill. The report, however, proved false, the alarm was sounded by some school children between Big Elm and Little Elm. They mistook some cowmen who were wearing red blankets for the Indians.

In 1867 the first cotton gin erected in this county was built in Lewisville on the lot where Joe C. Cobb now lives, better known as the Uncle Billy Cowan place. It was built by T. M. Claytor and George Craft. When building this gin they Paid \$.50 per pound for the nails used. This gin did the work for Denton, Wise, and Tarrant Counties. They put up 17 bales the first season. They ginned probably a hundred bales but it was carried away by the women for quilting, all except the 17 bales. The gin had in connection a carding machine, which was afterwards moved by Kealy and Rawlins to the site where the Farmer's and Merchant's Gin was located. It burned shortly afterward, this being Lewisville's first fire. Slowly the town grew. School was conducted in the "Old Hall", a building which was located where the Old Hall Cemetery is. The building was also used as a church. All denominations had services there.

There are several traditions as how Lewisville secured its name. One is that it was given this name by the Indians. Little Santa Anna and Big Tree, two Indian Chiefs, were captured by the Americans in the upper end of Wise and Montague County and were carried and put in jail at Huntsville. They were redeemed by trading or bought and the Americans were carrying them back and camped on the high hill on the Riley farm 7 miles east of here. The next morning, the Indians looked toward Lewisville and said, "Yonder is Lewisville." Another and probably more reliable tradition is that it derived it's name from Old Man Lewis, who owned the head right known as the W. A. Purnell, Sr. place.

The history of Lewisville was slow in changing until the M. K. & T. R. R. reached here in 1881. When both town and community began to grow and develop rapidly, until today, it is one of the most densely, settled sections of the state and Lewisville is one of the most popular towns in north Texas as is verified by its splendid markets and hustling farmers that come to it and the amount of produce shipped in and out of town.

In the past four years, four sub-divisions have been added to the city limits, McCurley, Prairie Heights, Degan and Culpepper Additions. Modern new homes have been erected in each addition. Lewisville has two water wells to serve its 2,500 population. The city owns its water and sewage system.

Lewisville has a well-equipped fire department for a town of its size, even though the membership is entirely on a volunteer basis. Two banks, the Lewisville State and the First National, serve Lewisville and it's trade territory. Since the city was incorporated in 1925, Lewisville has had six mayors, M.D. Fagg, deceased; Jack Lewis, deceased, A. Hayes, deceased; H. H. Milliken, deceased; Conrad Duwe and F. C. Connor. It now has a property valuation of \$1,380,231 and a traffic light at the most important intersections. It is the only town in Texas to have two former residents become speakers of the House of Representatives at Austin. They are A. G. Thomas, deceased and Fred Minor, Denton attorney.

Some of the early day business and professional men were J.W. Boatner, physician, Wm. R. Carlisle, physician; E. G. Bradley, physician, Dr. John W. Kennedy, physician, J. M. Gilbert, physician; M. L. Bradley and Co., Kerr and White, J. A. Skillern and Son, Young and Hardy, G. W. Cassady and Co., J. W. Lyles, J. E. Chambers, druggists; R. E. Bradley, G. W. Elbert and Co., E. F. Stover, general merchandise; J.C. Brannon and Co., J. M. Hayes, M. Jacobson, hardware; John Cobb, H. Hill, W. D. Milliken, Portman Bros., C. I. Thomas, J. A. Hatcher, dry goods; D. S. Donald, stockman; G. E. Griffin, contractor, J. D. Gulledege, W. W. Smith, R. E. Bradley, groceries; W. T. Hyder, A. D. Miller, T. N. Degan, livery; T. H. Jenkins, depot agent; J.M. Hendrix, furniture and undertaking; J. N. Kealy, gin and mill; Kealy and Kealy, flour mill; Kealy and Hayes, gin; Kealy and Buster, gin; R. H. Powell, F. Stover, barbers; Cowan Reynolds and Co., implements; W. C. Smith and son, printers and publishers; A. G. Terry, Justice of Peace; E. D. Wells, saloon; Mrs. Mattie Howard, Miss Lizzie Lokey, millinery; J. A. Pickens, Hood Cunningham, Y. S. Read, J. W. Degan, cotton buyer; J.R. Bourland, lumber

Several disasters mar Lewisville's history. A flood in 1908 marooned people in trees until boats could reach them.

Several disastrous fires looked as though the entire town would be wiped out. One half of the north side of town has burned twice. The Hatchers losing a new building they had been in only four days. The Hendrix and Savage furniture store being destroyed by fire three times. Another time the school burned, children were taught in the churches until a new school could be built.

Lewisville is well supplied with schools and churches. The Lewisville Public School is second to none in Denton County as an educational institute. The buildings also reflect credit on the little city in which they are located. The present 16-teacher high school and 18-teacher

elementary school are great improvements over the three teacher school held in the lower floor of the Masonic Hall.

The first schoolhouse was built in the west part of town about a block from the present school site. In 1891 another building was constructed on the present school site. When this brick and frame structure burned in 1909 school was taught in the churches until the new buildings were finished. In 1921 the red three-story structure now in use for the elementary grades was built. A modern high school now in use for Lewisville was built in 1949. A junior high wing was completed in 1954. Total enrollment is currently more than 700 students.

The first graduates of the Lewisville Public School were in 1903. They were Mable Addington, Ethel Haues, Louise Milliken, Clo Crawford and Spurgeon Stover. P. D. Kennamer was superintendent and ruled with an iron hand. Other superintendents of the school were J. E. Templeton, J. E. Coffee, W. H. Smith, D. B. Allen, H. C. Lyon, W. W. Shields, Alex Core, W. M. Mitchell, J. L. German, Emmett Whitehead, B. F. Tunnell, H. G. Vick and J. K. DeLay.

Seven churches contribute to Lewisville's spiritual life: First Baptist, Methodist, Church of Christ, Presbyterian, Central Baptist, and Stewart's Creek Baptist.

In 1881 thirty-seven members of the Halford Prairie Baptist Church met and organized the Lewisville Baptist Church. The present brick church building was erected in 1905. A large three story educational building was completed in 1951.

In 1868-69 the Methodist built the first church in Lewisville. This frame building was used until 1911 when the present brick was built. Sunday School rooms and the Milliken Chapel were added to the church in 1952. Only one charter member of the church still lives in Lewisville. She is Mrs. Amelia Jacobsen.

The First Presbyterian Church was organized Nov. 1, 1879 with the Rev. H. F. Bone as the first pastor. Originally it was the Cumberland Presbyterian Church but later became First Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. The present building was erected in 1917.

The Church of Christ was organized with 8 charter members in the home of the late J. M. and Carrie Jasper Hendrix in 1886, under the leadership of Elder Terrill Jasper, a pioneer minister of the Church of Christ in Denton Co. In 1894 a large frame church building was erected in the N.E. part of town. In June 1917 a brick church was built on west Main St. In 1948 the auditorium was enlarged and redecorated, five classrooms, two rest rooms and a dressing room added. Two classrooms were added in 1953.

The Stewart Creek's Baptist Church is one of the oldest churches in the county, which was located in the Garza Little Elm Reservoir district was moved to Lewisville two years ago. The building has been made large and redecorated.

The Central Baptist Church organized about two years ago is located in the Dick Addition.

The Assembly of God Church organized about 12 years ago, was located in the N.E. part of town until 1952 when a modern church was built in the Dick Addition to Lewisville.

Lewisville has a Chamber of Commerce and Lion's Club. Organizations which are needed to bring the people closer together.

The Lewisville Study Club celebrated its 40th anniversary on April 7. The Club was organized in the home of Mrs. F. L. Jacobson on April 14, 1914 with 11 charter members. A Business and Professional Women's Club was organized in 1953. Other clubs include the Modern Housewives and "42" Club.

The Enterprise, Lewisville's weekly newspaper, has been reporting church activities, weddings and funerals for 62 years. W. C. Thurman is the owner-publisher. Others who have published the Enterprise are F. N. Oliver, who established the newspaper here in 1872, W. S. Ray, Hardin Smlth, J. L. Harper, O. L. Hamilton, Lee Vaugh and Jack Lewis.

Two current gigantic construction projects, both of which may be completed by late fall, will vitally affect the future of Lewisville. Work is progressing rapidly on both jobs. The Garza-Little Elm Dam and Reservoir Project and the Highway 77 project.

HISTORY OF LEWISVILLE

Third Edition

Lewisville, "the best part of the greatest county in Texas", to quote the late Dr. D. F. Kirkpatrick, pioneer Lewisville physician, probably had its beginning in much the same manner as many other early settlements.

According to the few records on hand, people seeking to better their conditions found their way to this spot, now located about twenty-three miles north of Dallas and thirteen miles south of Denton on U.S. Highway 77 as early as the year 1844 when J.W. and A. G. King settled here on a head right. The next property owner, Steve Hyatt, sold his property to Thomas Kealy, brother of J. N. Kealy who was local post-master a number of years.

In 1862 Rawlins, Kealy and Herod organized and built a grist mill on South Mill Street and east of the Farmer's and Merchant's Gin. It was in this grist mill that every family in the vicinity, including McCurley Prairie, took refuge from the Indians after some school children reported seeing Indians between Big Elm and Little Elm. Since Indians were doing a great deal of stealing and trying to kill the settlers at this time, no chances were taken. The report was false, however, and the "Indians" turned out to be cattlemen, wearing blankets for protection from the cold.

In 1865 E. K. Rawlins brought in a little stock of dry goods, which he kept at his residence, a double-roomed log house just back of the T. M. Claytor residence, which is now owned by Conrad Duwe.

Around 1867 Uncle Joe Minor, who had operated a trading post at his home about one and one-half miles west of Lewisville, opened a saloon in a small house on the corner where Crawford's Grocery and Market now stands. About the same year Woodrum and Davis built a little house on the lot occupied by the J. M. Hatcher brick building, which they used for a general merchandise store.

Cotton Gins played a great part in the early history of this city. From 1867 to about 1870 gins were operated by Mark and Ed Bradley, Donald Beavers, Cowan Beavers, John Buster, Henry Hill and one built by T. M. Claytor and George Craft which was on the lot where Joe C. Cobb now lives. This place was then known as the Uncle Billy Cowan place. It is recorded that fifty cents was paid for a pound of nails when the latter gin was being built. The Claytor and Craft Gin ginned about one hundred bales the first season, but all but seventeen bales were used by the women for quilting. In connection with the gin was a carding machine, which was later moved by Kealy and Rawlins to the site where Farmers and Merchants Gins was located. It burned shortly afterwards and this is thought to be Lewisville's first fire. Gins continued to do a big business and in the early 1900's C. Y. Milliken recalls that fourteen thousand bales of cotton were ginned.

Milliken still operates the dry goods business, W. D. Milliken and Sons, which was established by his father in 1879. It is the oldest continuous business in the county. In recalling the days of the cotton gin Milliken told how the gins operated twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week during cotton season and stated that in the fall of the year it was hard to walk down Main Street because of cotton wagons. Today there are no gins in Lewisville.

The first brick building was built by W. D. Milliken around 1883-1884, which burned in 1918. The present building was then built. Milliken also recalled the time when as youngsters he and Urban Moore, Lewisville druggist since 1911, had the exciting duties of ringing the church bells for the Methodist and Presbyterian churches, respectively.

Lewisville's school system had its beginning in the old Masonic Hall which stood where Old Hall Cemetery is now located. This hall, erected by the Masons around 1860-1861, was of logs and Captain Sam Lusk is reported to have said it was probably the first two-story building in this part of the country. This building was often used as a refuge from Indians and was constructed with "port holes" through which the settlers would shoot at the Indians. The Lewisville Masonic Lodge Number 201 AF and AM, which will celebrate its one hundredth anniversary January 23, 1957, held its meetings in the upstairs of the building and the lower floor was used for the first public school in this area. Religious services were also conducted here by all denominations. In the old Masonic records it is stated that the only requirements for the use of the hall were that there would be no religious debates, no one could make remarks that would cast any reflections on another person's religious beliefs, the hall had to be swept clean after the service and the people had to furnish their own candles. The Masonic Lodge continued to operate the school, which later moved to the lot now occupied by the residence of Mrs. Flora Merritt, until about 1890 when the state took over the school.

In 1891 a building was erected on the present elementary school site. When this brick and frame structure burned in 1909, school was held in the churches until the new building was finished. In 1921 the red brick three-story school was built which now houses the elementary grades. The first graduates of the Lewisville public school received their diplomas in 1903, when P. D. Kennemer was Superintendent. Graduates were Mable Addington, Ethel Hayes, Louise Milliken, Clo Crawford and Spurgeon Stover. Other Superintendents of the school were J. E. Templeton, J. E. Coffee, W. H. Smith, D. B. Allen, H. C. Lyon, W. W. Shields, Alex Core, W. M. Mitchell, J. L. German, Emmett Whitehead, B. F. Tunnell, H. G. Vick and the present superintendent, J. K. DeLay.

Today Lewisville's school system is second to none in Denton County. High School and Junior High School students enjoy the advantages of a new and completely modern building. The construction of another building, to take the place of the elementary building, which was built in 1921, is under way with hopes for its completion by next fall's school term.

Lewisville has a very active fire department even though the membership is on a voluntary basis. The first volunteer fire department near Lewisville was probably the "grass committee" of the Masonic Lodge whose duties included the burning of the tall prairie grass around the hall on the first calm day. This action was taken for two reasons. First of all it was protection from the big grass fires that very often swept the country in those days and too, the Indians were not able to hide so close to the hall after the grass was burned away.

Some of the early day business and professional men were J. W. Boatner, Wm. R. Carlisle, E. G. Bradley, John W. Kennedy and J. M. Gilbert, physicians; M. L. Bradley and Co., Kerr and White, J. A. Skillern and Son, Young and Hardy, G. W. Cassady and Co., J. W. Lyles, J. E. Chambers, Druggists; R. E.

Bradley, G. W. Elbert and Co., E. F. Stover, general merchandise; J. C. Brannon and Co., J. M. Hayes, M. Jacobson, hardware; John Cobb, H. Hill, W. D. Milliken, Portman Bros., C. I. Thomas, J. A. Hatcher, dry goods; D. S. Donald, stockman; G. E. Griffin, contractor; J. D. Gullledge, W. W. Smith, R. E. Bradley, groceries; W. T. Hyder, A. D. Miller, T. N. Degan, livery; T. H. Jenkins, depot agent; J. M. Hendrix, furniture and undertaking; J. N. Kealy, gin and mill; Kealy and Kealy, flour mill; Kealy and Hayes, gin; Kealy and Buster, gin; R. H. Powell, F. Stover, barbers; Cowan Reynolds and Co., implements; W. C. Smith and Son, printers and publishers; A. G. Terry, Justice of Peace; E. D. Wells, saloon; Mrs. Mattie Howard and Miss Lizzie Lokey, millinery; J. A. Pickens, Hood Cunningham, Y. S. Ready, J. W. Degan, cotton buyers; J. R. Bourland, lumber.

Several disasters mar Lewisville's early history. In 1908 people were marooned in trees by a flood and had to remain there until boats could reach them. Several times it seemed the entire town would be wiped out by fire. Half of the north side of the business district has burned twice. One time the Hatchers lost a building they had only been in four days. Hendrix and Savage furniture store, which was established in 1887 and is still operated by members of this same family, has been destroyed by fire three times.

The history of Lewisville was slow to change until in 1881 when the M. K. and T. Railroad reached here. The town and surrounding territory began growing until today it is a city of approximately 3,150 population.

There is nothing definite about how the town got its name. Some say the Indians named it, but according to the writings of Dr. Kirkpatrick and the memories of others it seems to have been named for a Mr. Lewis who lived here only a short time. Little is known of him or where he went.

Since the town was incorporated in 1925, Lewisville has had six mayors. They were M. D. Fagg, Jack Lewis, A. Hayes, M. H. Millican, all deceased, Conrad Duwe, F. C. Connor, and the present Mayor, Tom Beasley. It now has a property evaluation of \$2,001,713.00.

Several churches contribute to Lewisville's spiritual life. The oldest churches are the First Baptist, Methodist, Church of Christ, Presbyterian and Stewart's Creek Baptist. The latter is one of the oldest churches in the county. It was organized and located in the Garza-Little Elm Reservoir district and was moved to Lewisville about four years ago and has been enlarged and redecorated.

In 1881 thirty-seven members of the Holford Prairie Baptist Church met and organized the Lewisville Baptist Church. The present brick building, which was dedicated last year, replaced a building, which was erected in 1905. An educational building completed in 1951 completes the church plant. This congregation is now building a new parsonage in the James F. Degan addition.

In 1868-69 the Methodist built the first church in Lewisville. This frame building was used until 1911 when the present brick structure was erected. Sunday school rooms and the Milliken Chapel were added to the church in 1952.

The First Presbyterian Church was organized November 1, 1879 with the Rev. H. F. Bone as the first pastor. Originally, it was the Cumberland

Presbyterian Church but later became the First Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. The present building was erected in 1917.

The Church of Christ was organized with eight charter members in the home of the late J. M. and Carrie Jasper Hendrix in 1886 under the leadership of Elder Terrill Jasper, a pioneer minister of the Church of Christ in Denton County. In 1894 a large frame church building was erected in the northeast part of town. In June 1917 a brick church was built on West Main. In 1948 the auditorium was enlarged and redecorated, five classrooms, two rest rooms and a dressing room added. Two more classrooms were added in 1953.

The Assembly of God Church organized about fourteen years ago, was located in the north part of town until 1952 when a modern church was built in the Dick addition to Lewisville.

The newest churches are the Central Baptist Church, which was organized about four years ago and has new and modern buildings in the Dick Addition, and the Lewisville Bible Church. The Bible Church was organized May 13, 1955 in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Reveau Stewart with twenty-eight charter members. The congregation met in this home until a new and modern church was erected near the high school. This new building was dedicated May 13, 1956.

Lewisville citizens take part in a variety of worthwhile activities through the various lodges, clubs and civic organizations which include the Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, the Junior Chamber of Commerce, Business and Professional Women's Club, Resume Club and the Study Club which was organized April 14, 1914 in the home of Mrs. P. L. Jacobson. Other organizations include the Modern Housewives and the Lewisville Parent-Teacher Association.

The Lewisville Enterprise has served this community since 1872. Publishers have been F. N. Oliver, who established the paper, W. S. Ray, Hardin Smith, J. L. Harper, O. S. Hamilton, Lee Vaughn, and Jack Lewis. W. S. Thurman is the present owner-publisher.

Lewisville is the only town in Texas to have had two former residents become Speaker of the House of Representatives at Austin. They are C. G. Thomas, deceased, and Fred Minor, Denton Attorney.

Today, the "Gateway to the Industrial Southwest", as Lewisville is known, is developing rapidly. Several residential additions have been opened and only last year building permits for forty-eight homes were issued totaling \$310,550.00.

The city is furnished water from three wells and where in past history the businesses could easily be named, today the Chamber of Commerce has listed approximately ninety-five businesses in Lewisville.

The newest business is Tanks, Inc., which has started construction on Highway 121 in the east part of town. Bids will be open February 11th for a new post office and city hall, which will be built on the present city lot. Recently completed projects include the Garza-Little Elm Dam and Reservoir, Highway 77, and the direct line of the Santa Fe Railroad from Chicago to Dallas, which is in the north part of the city.

Surely the brave, industrious pioneers Dr. Kirkpatrick wrote about have left their mark on Lewisville as it continues to grow and keep abreast of the needs of it's citizens.

MUSTANG

HISTORY OF MUSTANG

As told by - Mrs. H. D. Tisdell

My father, A. F. Caddell and mother, Emma Caddell, made their first move to Texas from Gadsden, Alabama in the early part of 1885 when my youngest brother was a very small baby. To their misfortune in about four months after arriving here, Mother was stricken with typhoid fever in a very bad form. She was down in bed four months. They thought most of the time they would lose her and the baby, too. When she began to recover, she had to have help to learn to walk again. She, like all young mothers, became so blue and dissatisfied with Texas she wanted to go back to Alabama where she would be close to her parents and other relatives and to die, so she thought. This country didn't have deep wells of water at that time, everybody drank cistern water caught when it rained or hauled from some surface well of water and emptied into cisterns. Mother thought there was no chance to ever be well and drink that kind of water. She begged so hard to go back to Alabama that in less than two years they broke up housekeeping and moved back. Father worked at different jobs and in different places, having lots of hard luck and disappointments, having had a bad spell of illness himself which prevented him from working. They had sold their home and possessions to make this long move and didn't seem to be able to get settled down at anything any more. He was so anxious to get something established in the way of a home for his family; he was afraid the money he had to make his payment would get away from him, so they began to discuss with each other about another move, which wasn't easy, but mother decided if he could make their living easier some other place, she was willing to do whatever he thought best. My Daddy lost his father when he was just seven years of age and he was of a large family of children, five girls and three boys; he being next to the youngest and was the youngest boy. He had lots of responsibilities in his young life trying to help his mother and manage for himself. He always made mention to us of how much he had missed the council and advice of a father. Daddy's oldest brother had moved to Texas several years prior to this time with his family and settled in Grayson County, so in the early fall of 1892 my father and mother decided to make another move back to Texas which was the final one. He and two other men, friends of his that were wanting to move to Texas too, chartered a car to move their house furnishings. We landed in Aubrey, Texas as Daddy had some relatives there. The car sat on the tracks for several days. He rented a farm from an uncle who was taking lots of interest in helping him to get settled two and one-half miles northeast of Aubrey. The house still stands in which we lived; it's being used as a hay barn. We made one crop there. The sand was awfully deep and he decided to rent a place in the Navo Community on the prairie from Mr. Jim Byron, an old settler here at that time. We lived there two years but they didn't want to sell any of their land and my father was trying to locate something for a home for his family. He wanted to be in what he termed a good community to raise his children, close to school and church and not too far from town, so in the fall of 1895 we moved into the Mustang Community on a big ranch owned then by Mr. Jim Flippin of Dallas, a part of what is now Mr. Dee Moberely's farm; there was just four houses on the ranch, two east of Little Elm Creek and two on this side. They were preparing to build houses all around over the ranch and had lumber hauled from carloads of lumber from Dallas, McKinney, and Sherman and unloaded it all around our place. My father was selected to oversee this lumber and that was quite

some job with so many houses being started and different men involved with it.

My parents and older sisters joined the Mustang Baptist Church at this time and in the fall of 1897 we moved closer to the Mustang store and church in a house that stood in front of I. L. Moore's home which was owned then by Mr. Henry Auatln and wife, Dollle, (well known to this community at that time). That was just too close for neighbors to have garden and chickens and there, we too, had to haul water, which they didn't enjoy very much. At that time there was gin, a grocery store, blacksmith shop, post office and a doctor's office with the church at Mustang.

We then moved three miles southeast of Pilot Point on what was then the Hundley place, now owned by Mike Amen. We were in the extreme north edge of Friendship School District and had to walk back to Friendship which was a long way, so at the first of the year of 1900 my father bought our home back in the Mustang Community, which ended our moving. He had found what he was looking for and was happy there.

At one time every member of the family was a member of Mustang Baptist Church.

In October 1918 we lost my youngest brother, James Albert, better known as Jack, and in March 1926 my father passed away, and the following May, mother was called to meet him. In 1938, my oldest sister, Luther, passed away. In 1943 my husband Hubert D. Tisdell and myself bought the other heir's part of the home and in December 1945 he passed away and in 1946, eldest brother W. M. (Bud) passed away, leaving three of us girls out of our family living with me, Bessie Tisdell. My son and wife own the old home which we have had 51 years.

Mrs. N. E. Snyder, 805 Oakland Ave., Denton, Texas, Mrs. J. A. McGee, 1504 Pierce St., Amarillo, Texas, Mrs. H. D. Tisdell, Pilot Point, Texas.

HISTORY OF MUSTANG

As told by Mrs. I. L. Moore

G. Ed Moore and I. L. (Curg) Moore of Frost, Navarro County, Texas are first double cousins who married sisters, Tennie, and Leota Bills. They first turned their thoughts toward North Texas in the summer of 1912. Their first trip into this county and the Mustang neighborhood was made with a real estate dealer from Corsicana, Texas. They came by automobile and were looking for locations for farm homes. Both of them were optimistic over this particular community and its surroundings. Ed bought the farm that year, then owned and occupied by a practicing physician, the late Dr. T. M. Harris. Ed moved here the following Jan. 1st, 1913, with his wife and three children, Luna, now Mrs. L. A. Grimes, Vernon E., and Alice, now Mrs. Fred Sharp. Two other sons were born since moving to Mustang. They are Gary A. and Randell L. Moore. In 1947 Ed moved to Pilot Point but still owns this farm.

Curg Moore waited until three years later, 1915, when he made another trip to this community and bought the H. T. Austin farm, but did not move to it until October 1, 1917 with his wife and one small daughter, Ruby Fae, now Mrs. Carl L. Perkins.

Both families came here by railroad. Each family having chartered a car and moving all their possessions "that not being too great amount", but it did consist of teams, tools, chickens, household effects and "what have you".

HISTORY OF MUSTANG

As told by Mrs. Tommie Anderson

My grandfather, John W. Brown came to Mustang in 1879 from Missouri with his wife and three children, Minnie, Alton, and Ada. His wife, Marth J. Brown, lived only a few years after their move. Minnie married G. F. Smith in July 1890, Alton married Lizzie Steen October 1890, who lived only three years after marriage. Ada married Frank Schoemaker in December 1894. They moved to Oklahoma four years later. The Browns bought their farm from a Mr. Peyton.

In 1885, a Dr. Clayton practiced medicine in Mustang; also a Dr. Mitchell from Blue Ridge, Texas. They were succeeded in 1896 by a Dr. Biggerstaff.

Mr. Mitchell Cunningham is credited with having the first deep well dug at his gin in 1910.

The general store in 1885 was operated by Mr. Rayzor and Mr. Wright. In 1890, Mr. W. E. Bowner ran it, Mr. Austin in 1905, Barns and Francis from 1910 on and Mr. Ford in 1930. In 1951, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Perkins maintained a store, filling station, and icehouse. All original buildings having been razed except the one used by Dr. T. M. Harriss for his first office, which has been incorporated into a barn and is being used by Mr. Potter. The boiler of the gin used by Mr. Mitchell Cunningham lies half submerged in a creek bed near the original site of Mustang, which is west of the present site.

In 1885, a small one-room school was taught by Mr. Jim Rayzor.

In 1933, a three-room frame building burned while Mr. & Mrs. Rutledge were teaching there. A two room brick was built which saw service as a school house only two years, Mr. & Mrs. Pendergraft teaching.

Mr. Henry Austin, an orphan, reared by Mr. Cashion, his uncle, married Miss Dollie Smith at Mustang in 1890; their only child, a son, passed away at Wichita Falls in 1944. Mrs. Austin died in 1912. The family left Mustang in 1916.

The Mobberly family bought a farm near the present Mustang schoolhouse in 1910. A son, Mr. E. D. Mobberly resides on it.(1951).

The Hollingsworth family came from Alabama by rail in 1890 and purchased a farm which has been in the family ever since and is in 1951 occupied by a son Roland, who married Miss May Jones. Other children were Villa, Mrs. W. H. Lundly, of Denton, Alvin, who married Bell Caddell, Ethel, who died in 1907 and Emma, Mrs. Henry Bouns, who died in 1946. Alvin served his precinct as road commissioner.

The A. J. Smith family arrived by wagon in from with three children, Finis, Jennie, now Mrs. Mace Carpenter, who resides in Tioga and Dollie who became Mrs. Henry Austin. Finis died in 1948, Dollie in 1912.

MUSTANG

As told by E. D. Mobberly

My father bought this farm in 1910. I think they built the Methodist Church in 1913. They first had preaching in the old schoolhouse in 1912, and the pastor was a Mr. Brown. Next year Mr. Comkins had them to build the old church where the new one now stands. Brother Rankin of Dallas dedicated it in the fall of 1913.

I think Mr. Joe Wright, Mr. Mace Carpenter, and Mr. Jackson were the first stewards.

As told by M. T. Austin

Some facts as I remember them, as far back as 1885. At that time there was a small schoolhouse, a gin, store and blacksmith shop. A man by the name of Jim Razor taught the school. Mr. Wright was a partner with Mr. Razor in the store. At that time all denominations used the schoolhouse for any kind of service. In 1890, there was a small brick schoolhouse built. The same year there was a Baptist Church built about one and one half miles west of old Mustang. There was a gin built and E. Bonner built a store. A blacksmith shop was also built. Later two other stores were built and a few houses. At that time nearly all of the water was bad and we had a lot of typhoid fever. Mitchell Cunningham was running the gin and he had a deep well dug and at ninety feet they got flowing soft water. Most everyone in a short time had deep wells dug and we did not have any more fever.

As to my family, I was raised an orphan near Celina by an uncle, by the name of Dewit Cashion. I had one sister who died here four years ago, no brothers raised. I had one son who passed away in 1944 at Wichita Falls. December 7, 1890, I married Dollie Smith at Mustang. In 1890, I bought a farm at Mustang and lived there until the fall of 1916. My wife died July 26, 1912. The years I lived in Mustang were happy years. There are very few that I know there now. Will name some of the old timers that lived there then: A. J. Smith, my wife's father, who raised three children, Ferris Smith, who died at Tioga about three years ago; my wife; and Mrs. Jennie Carpenter who lives at Tioga now. Will name a number of people that lived near Mustang at that time: the Julians, the Shearers, two families of Sebastians, Warren boys, Taylors, Jim Lassiters, George Tisdell, Holmsworths, Sitz Evans, Coffees, Bonners, Harris, Nowell, Flippin, Browns, E. D. Jones, Mitchell Cunninghams. There aren't many of the old timers living around Mustang now.

About 1885, Dr. Claton, a young man then located at Mustang; later Dr. Mitchell from Blue Ridge joined him in his practice about 1896. They both moved to Celina. Then a Dr. Bigerstaff located there for two or three years and he left. Then a Dr. Burks was there a while about the year 1900. Dr. Harris located in Mustang and he was the last doctor to live in Mustang.

In 1912 some Navarro people, the Ed Moores and a cousin, I. L. (Curg) Moore became interested in north Texas. They accompanied a real estate dealer to Mustang by automobile from Corsicana, Texas. Ed bought a farm from the

late Dr. T. M. Harris. Soon he, his wife and three children, Luna, now Mrs. L. A. Grimes, Vernon E. and Alice, now Mrs. Fred Sharp. Two other sons were born later, Gary and Randell. The farm in 1951 was still owned by Mr. Moore. Lary residing on it.

Three years later Curg returned to Mustang and bought the H. J. Austin farm, moving on it two years later. His wife, Leota Bills, was a sister to Ed's wife. They have one child, Ruby Fae, now Mrs. Carl L. Perkins. These families each chartered a freight car and brought their entire remainder of farming essentials with them.

In 1910 the Meinen family arrived from west Texas. Of the eight children two reside in Mustang community in 1951. Will who married Martha Hessel and Herman who married Dora Phipps. A son of Hermans, Ray, also resides in the community.

In 1879 the John W. Brown family from Missouri purchased a farm in the Mustang community. The A. J. Smith family also lived there at that time. Springs were the chief source of water and families settled near creeks and wooded lands first to be near them. The original site of Mustang was west of the present site, located on the banks of the creek. In 1885 the store was run by Mr. Rayzor and Mr. Wright. Mr. Jim Rayzor taught school in a one room building in which both Baptist and Methodist churches held services. Dr. Clayton and Dr. Mitchel were early doctors who practiced medicine there.

The Caddell family from Alabama arrived then but being unused to that type of drinking water Mrs. Caddell became ill with fever; when she recovered they returned to Alabama, but as Texas held greater promises they later returned to make it their permanent home. While residing on the Flippin Ranch they saw the erection of twelve houses in which new and old families took up residence. They later bought a farm near where a daughter, Mrs. Bessie Tisdell, now lives; also her son Loren, who is serving his second term as commissioner for that precinct.

New arrivals in 1890 included Mr. & Mrs. Henry Austin, a bride and groom, who resided there until 1916. The Hollingsworths from Alabama arrived by rail; they purchased a farm on which a son, Roland, still resides. Another son, Alvin, served his precinct as road commissioner two terms. Mr. W. Bowner ran the store and Dr. Biggerstaff attended the sick.

Pilot Point

Home Demonstration Collection

Pilot Point is located in northeastern Denton County on the Texas and Pacific Railroad and Highway 10. The first settlers came to Pilot Point as early as 1844, two years before Denton County was organized. They found rich, rolling black land prairies to the east and wooded sandy land on the west. Pilot Point is situated on the edge of the "Cross Timbers" section of the state.

The center of the square in Pilot Point was and is the highest point in the surrounding country. The Indians and later the Rangers, scouts and travelers used this high point as a guide across the trackless expanse. The name Pilot's Point was descriptive of the terrain in the vicinity. The name was later changed to Pilot Point.

On Christmas Day 1853, the new town was plotted by the surveyor, Mr. George W. Newcomb, grandfather of D. W. and G. E. Light. It consisted of eighteen blocks.

About the same time, ranchers began running cattle on the ranges east of Pilot Point. The most prominent of these ranchers was D. W. Light, Sr. with his brand 53, others were Emberson brothers, Elijah and John.

During the 50s and 60s, cornmeal and flour were ground at an ox-tread mill situated on the south side of the square, and operated by J. C. Thomas and Jim Graham. All other supplies were brought overland from Shreveport, La., or Jefferson, Texas in wagon trains drawn by six or eight oxen. It took two or three weeks to make the round trip.

In 1856 or '57, Maj. Walcott decided to build a store for the settlement had grown large enough to support a general merchandise establishment. The Masonic Lodge, A. F. & A. M. is one of the oldest in the state, having been organized here June 16, 1862. The first brick building in Denton County was erected by John Merchant in 1872, on the northwest corner of the square where Dr. Eddleman's first home stood. Mr. John Hundley, father of Mrs. Sam South burned the brick and built the store. Other merchants followed his example and before many years all wooden buildings had vanished from the business section.

Mr. Henry Selz built a cotton gin in the east part of town in the '70s. It burned a few years later and Mr. Selz and Mr. J. P. Cooper built a new gin. In 1882, a few blocks north of the square which, at that time, was the largest gin in the world. The Massey gin now occupies this site.

Dr. R. W. Eddleman was the first physician to practice in Pilot Point and surrounding territory. His home was located on the northwest corner of the square. L. Z. Eddleman, his child, was the first white child born in Pilot Point. The family well remains to this day and is considered as one of the landmarks.

Experiences such as Indian raids were common in all frontier locations in the '50s. During one of these raids, a child of David Monasco's was captured west of town and was never recovered.

The first school in Pilot Point was opened in the summer months of 1856 by a Mr. Knight. It was a subscription school and continued as such until public schools opened in 1894. Early public school teachers were Mr. Brantly, Miss Mattie Bonds, Professor Bonds and wife, J. C. Newberry, Mr. Green and others.

The first post office was established in 1873 and M. A. Dale was postmaster in his store, a small wooden building on the southeast corner of the square. Large crowds would gather as the stagecoach arrived with the mail and the Postmaster, standing in the door of his store, called out the names of those fortunate enough to receive letters.

Pilot Point was connected by telegraph with the rest of the world in 1877 when the United States Government ran a line through the town and on west to the Government post at Jacksboro, Texas. The telegraph line followed the government road to the western forts and soon the people began to call it the "wire road" a name that still clings to the Pilot Point - Sanger highway. Mr. Ed Reaves, whose wife was a daughter of Governor Throckmorton, was the first telegraph operator. He later became chief telegrapher at the White House, Washington, D. C.

Tracks were laid for the Texas and Pacific Railway through Pilot Point in 1874 - 5 with Mr. J. E. Hayden, father of F. W. Hayden, in charge of construction. The first train reached Pilot Point in the fall of 1880. The MKT Line wanting an outlet to Fort Worth, leased the T & P tracks from Whitesboro to Fort Worth and so Pilot Point had two railroads but only one track.

The first newspaper, owned by D. J. Moffitt, later Jones and Moffitt, was The Pilot Point Post. First copy came off the press August 31, 1878. The Post absorbed its later rival The Mirror and became The Post-Mirror. A later rival, The Signal was also absorbed and the name finally became The Pilot Point Post-Signal.

On October 8, 1866, the town was incorporated by an act of the State Legislature. In 1878, corporation was voted out and the town was not re-incorporated until 1906, with Mr. R. T. Evers serving as the first mayor.

The first bank was opened January 1, 1884 with A. H. Gee as Cashier and Manager. The news of this prospering community spread far and wide and attracted many new settlers from neighboring states. Pilot Point became the trade center for all neighboring communities. This brought about the need for a bank that could more adequately serve, and the present Pilot Point National Bank was chartered in 1892. Among the new settlers were many German Catholics who established their homes on the black prairie land east of Pilot Point. They established the St. Thomas Church in 1891.

The early settlers were evidently religiously inclined for at least two congregations were organized in 1856. The First Baptist Church was organized that year by Rev. J. R. Masters. They worshipped in a log cabin just south of the Wilson-Elmore Grist Mill. The Methodist Church erected a building around 1862 (now owned by the Masonic Lodge) and the Baptists worshipped there until 1874 when they built their own church. The congregation still uses this same building. Rev. E. B. Hardie was pastor of this church for a number of years.

The Methodist congregation was organized in 1856 by Rev. William E. Bates, the circuit rider for the Gainesville Mission. This denomination also worshipped in a log cabin they erected the large wooden building named above. Here all denominations worshipped for a number of years for none had a full-time pastorate. They joined together for a union Sunday school each Sunday. The Methodist church was made a full station in 1883 and the wooden building was sold and moved north to the middle of the block and a handsome brick church, Gothic style took its place. It, in turn, was supplanted by the present church in 1910.

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church was organized and the building in which they still worship was erected. The Southern Presbyterian Church was organized March 1, 1875. Charter members were Dr. and Mrs. T. N. H. Wylie, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Newberry, Miss Fannie Davis, G. W. Davidson, Mrs. R. C. Brooks and Miss Maria Edwards. The first pastor was Rev. Sherrill and his salary was \$30.00 per year.

The St. Thomas Catholic Church was founded in 1891. First mass was celebrated November 4, 1891 with Rev. John Convey of Dallas reading it in a building on the square. In March 1892 the new church of the congregation was dedicated by Bishop Brennan and Father Hugo Bardenhever was appointed pastor. Some of the charter members were Emil Flusche, H. Boener, William Lanape, Conrod Geis, William Ryan, W. M. Grulick, Fabian Heitzman. The St. Thomas Parish, with Rev. Paul Churcut as pastor, has recently completed a beautiful \$125,000 church and brick building; a modern parochial school was opened this fall term, 1950, costing \$55,000.

The First Christian Church was organized in the early 60s by Dr. B. H. Hall of Kentucky. The present church was built in 1875 with the lumber hauled in an ox wagon from Shreveport, La. Families were S. A. Ramey, John Wellborn, Joe Mist, G. Flake and A. W. Cooke.

The Central Christian Church was organized in 1901 with Rev. J. P. Adcock as pastor. Some charter members were Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Cooper, Mrs. Joe Burks, Mr. and Mrs. Matt Williams, Mrs. W. C. Dowdell. The present church was built in 1902.

The Calvary Baptist Church was organized in 1907 with Rev. James Truett as pastor. The present church was built in 1912. Some of the charter members were Mrs. D. J. Moffitt, Dr. and Mrs. T. M. Harris, Mrs. And Mrs. W. D. Burks and Mr. and Mrs. Riley Jones.

The Holiness Church purchased the property of Franklin College in 1901 and established there an orphanage and church.

In 1903, a nearby home was purchased and Rest Cottage was established therein with Rev. J. P. Roberts in charge. In the years since that date over 2500 girls and almost as many babies have been cared for by this institution. At a National Convention held in Pilot Point in 1908, the Holiness Church and the Church of the Nazarene were united and since then the name has been Church of the Nazarene.

There are three cemeteries in Pilot Point. The Skinner Cemetery is the oldest. Others are the Masonic Cemetery and St. Thomas Cemetery.

The Pilot Point Horticulture Society was organized in 1885. It was very active for a number of years and J. C. Newberry and Mr. Austin were

prominent members. Mr. Austin originated in his nursery here, the dewberry, which bears his name and is still one of the most popular varieties of fruit in cultivation.

During the Civil War, a group of 101 men formed a company and joined the Confederate forces. Their departure left the community an easy prey to cattle and horse thieves. The situation became so desperate that a civic leader organized "The Regulators" who took the law and order into their own hands, in order to protect the community from marauders. While the "Regulators" were in force, six cattle rustlers were hanged at one time on a large oak tree east of town. Another outlaw punished by them was "Spoon" Butler, who was hanged from the large post oak tree that stood, until the turn of the century, near the southwest corner of the square. This man who claimed to be a federal soldier earned his nickname "Spoon" because of the fact that he and his band of outlaws wandered over the country until they found a home with unprotected women and children. They would rob the home of valuables, their specialty being jewelry and silver spoons.

Mrs. Ray Harden
Pilot Point, Texas

PLAINVIEW

(Home Demonstration Club Collection)

The beginning of Plainview Community was in the "Eighties". Some of the early settlers were C. E. Bishop, J. T. Bratcher, Henry Riek, W. Y. Barnett, J. B. Baxter, Mr. Irby, P. Collier and E. E. Dean. These men saw the necessity for a school. A one-room school building was erected which was first known as Bernard School # 2. Miss Egan was the first teacher and her salary was \$25.00 per month, \$5.00 of which she paid to the Riek family for board.

After the schoolhouse was built, a Baptist Sunday School was organized. A church followed and S. G. Christal of Decatur was the first pastor. A discussion came up as to what name to give this church and community. Rev. Christal suggested the name Plainview mentioning how the settlement could be seen from a long distance. As new people continued to move into this community, the need of a church building arose. C. R. Moreman and wife of Denton, parents of Mrs. W. Y. Barnett, donated land for said church a short distance from the school building. A church building was erected in the early nineties and has been known ever since as Plainview Baptist Church.

A plot of ground adjoining the church property was purchased from W. L. Walker in 1898 to be used as a cemetery. This Mr. Walker was the first person to be buried in the cemetery. His death occurred a few months after the purchase.

Two criminals moved into the community from Indian Territory about 1896. They were known as Bill Stanton and Bill Coin. They seemed to be hard-working farmers thereby gaining their neighbors' confidence. A short time after their arrival people began missing things from their homes along with feed and harness. This went on for a year or two before the culprits were discovered.

In order to capture the men who had escaped, the wife of Stanton, a beautiful woman, was held a prisoner at Henry Riek's home in hopes of capturing Stanton. He and his partner made several bold attempts to get the woman. All the men of the community took turns guarding the Riek home and searching the country for these desperados. Finally after several weeks, they grew bolder, with the result of Coin's being killed and Stanton wounded. In later years, Stanton wrote a letter from Indian Territory to a neighbor in Plainview community, saying that he lost a leg from the shot that he received in the fight.

Plainview has grown to be one of Denton County's prosperous Communities. Walter Bishop, son of C. E. Bishop; George Riek, son of Henry Riek; Joe Barnett and Mrs. J. H. Miller, children of W. Y. Barnett are survivors living today in the same community as their pioneer fathers.

Mrs. Ava B. Miller
Krum, Texas.

PONDER

By Seventh and Eighth Grades
April 24, 1957

FARMS AND RANCHES OF YESTERYEAR

In 1838, a small stone was dropped on the northeast Texas Prairie to start a new settlement. The land was blocked off and was given to Nathaniel Rudder by the Texas Land Board. This land was transferred to several other men down through the years. They were Ayers, Pissberey, Tucky, and then to Hernage.

In 1853, the State relinquished its claim to the land. In 1886, the Santa Fe Railroad bought land from W. S. Herndon for the railroad right-of-way, and people began settling in what is now Ponder because of the opportunities afforded by the railroad.

Originally called Gerald, the town's name was changed to Ponder in 1898 when citizens applied for a post office and were notified by officials in Washington that there already was one post office in Texas by the name of Gerald. The town then was named for W. A. Ponder of Denton who had land interests on the west side of the town site.

In the days when the town was called Gerald, all of the land was pasture land and cattle roamed at will.

Wakefield, who had purchased all the land north and west of the town site, was the first person to raise wheat, corn, oats, and cotton in this section of the county. Wakefield built a number of small rent houses in Gerald; then he purchased land on the east side of the railroad for his home site, which is called "Wakefield Hill".

Wakefield came to Denton county in 1852 when he was seven years old.

He inherited the old home of about forty acres. After he was married the ranch enlarged till it covered region around where Ponder now stands.

His first purchase was 1700 acres. He married Miss Alice Cowan. She died in 1897.

Jerry Burnet was one of the few ranchers in the Ponder section long ago. He owned land on both sides of Denton Creek. On the east side of Denton there were seven different farms after the land was cut up.

The seven farms on the east side are John Freeman, Charlie Bishop, Marvin Swafford, W. M. Thomason, Charlie Bryson, Fred Mize, and Joe Seaborn. The farms on the west side are Roy Thomas, Brent Jackson, Chester January, and C. H. Owens.

Ponder's first settlers were Charley Wakefield, Em. Brown, J. A. Baker, S. D. Law, George Harshaw, C. N. Skaggs, M. L. Simmons, George Owens, J. L. Gamndell, and G. U. Gann.

J. Helton's place south of Ponder was the old A. J. Snider place. Snider came to this community in about 1880. Ray Swafford's home was the Tom Drumman place. He came here before the railroads in about 1885. Drumman sold his land to the Seaborn boys. They sold to Mr. Marror in 1912 and T. W. Swafford got it in about 1916.

About sixty years ago Bub Williams came to the Ponder community. His son, J. N. Williams now lives on his father's place west of Ponder. Frank Crowby owned a ranch that Chester January owned part of now west of Ponder. About sixty-five years ago Tom Swafford and his brother drilled water wells around this county.

Mr. Bob Cope came to Ponder in about 1898. He paid 3 dollars an acre for the Geenter place. It sold recently for two hundred dollars an acre.

Indians played a part in Ponder's early history. The story of the east said in these parts is a well-known story. Some Indians came off the reservation in Oklahoma and came down to Denton Creek. They killed two girls at the Corton's old home place. Then came across the creek and stole some horses from W. P. Green better known as "Uncle Billy Green". Billy Green and other men chased them into a cemetery in Slidell where the Indians were captured.

BUSINESSES OF PONDER

The first business in early Ponder was a gin moved from Stony in about 1885. Mr. C. N. Skaggs built the first store in 1893. The 14 ft. by 20 ft. structure built of planks served as post office as well as general store. The second place of business was a blacksmith shop owned and operated by O. H. Sheppard. Dr. Robinson bought the general store from Skaggs and made it into a drug store. Jim Lee had the first workshop in Ponder and J. B. Wilson had the first lumber yard. Skaggs operated the first post office in Ponder in 1893. The post office was moved several times before the present building was built in 1932. Lonnie Riggs is the present postmaster.

The Bank building and Jackson's Grocery were built in 1910 and Skaggs owned them. The building that is now Knox's Grocery was built in 1912. The building that is now the well-known "Ranchman's Café" was built in Stony in 1905 and moved to Ponder later.

ROADS AND RAILROADS

The railroad came to Ponder in about 1886-87. The Santa Fe Railroad bought land from W. S. Herndon in 1886 for the railroad right of way.

Mr. J. R. Schoolfield came here working for the section crew and a young lady came cooking for the section crew. The young couple married and settled down here. The farm is still in the family today and Mrs. Ruth Schoolfield, a daughter-in-law lives there today.

Before 1921 or 1922, citizens of Ponder couldn't go anywhere in wet weather, especially in the spring and winter. The black prairie roads became impassable. Wagon wheels would bury up to the axle and the horses would walk belly deep in the muddy road around the general store. In 1921 and 1922, Scott Tobby and son contracted Farm Road 156 when it was first graveled. In 1941 and 1942, Snoby Allen contracted Farm Road 156 when it

was first paved, and it helped the people even more. It has been blacktopped several times since then. Snoby Allen also built all the concrete bridges in Ponder. Between the 1920's and 1940's all county roads were graveled. In 1955, all the roads in the town were blacktopped.

SCHOOLS

In 1897, Ponder's first school was established. A land grant from Wakefield's Ranch paved the way. The school was located three miles south of Ponder. It was a one room building called the Shady Grove School. Charles Vodwin was the first school master and he was paid the salary of \$35 a month. Later, another room was added to the building and it was also used by the denominations for church services. Some years later, the people of Ponder built a school in town, but the school was struck by lightning and burned the same year. Some of the early teachers were Mr. Profer, Mrs. Maxie, Mr. House, Mrs. Twimalt, Mr. Drigger, and Mr. Barns.

In 1942, the W. P. A. built the ten room school building with a gymnasium and a lunch room that Ponder has now. The superintendent at that time was James Cox and the members of the school board were A. L. Williams, Jesse Earles, Ray Swafford, Emmett Riney, Cecil McSpadden, Hoke Smith, C. P. Owens, and Charles Ashcraft, This building was dedicated in 1943.

After superintendent James Cox left, Mr. Raymond Banks became superintendent. He was superintendent for several years. Then Ben D. Smith became superintendent for three years. Ponder's present superintendent is A. E. Greer and he came to Ponder in 1955. Other teachers of Ponder High School are Mrs. Crosby, Business, Mrs. Houston, English, Mr. Hall, Math, History, and P. E. Grade school teachers are Mrs. Betty Foster, seventh and eighth grade - Mrs. Verda Koiner, fifth and sixth grade - Mrs. Charles Stewart, third and fourth grade - and Mrs. Dorris Witherspoon, first and second grade. Ponder's present enrollment of pupils is 139.

The members of the school board are Jim Vaughan, Troy Webster, Pres., Woodrow Jones, Whit Cullum. J. D. Roberts, Secretary, Otis Yarbrough, Vice President, and Oscar Schluter.

CHURCHES

Baptist Church

The Baptist Church was the first church built in Ponder. It was built in 1901; until 1901 the people held services in the Shady Grove schoolhouse. The Baptist Church was the only church in Denton County to have a parsonage. The Baptist Church has a woman's organization under different names since 1915, and a young people's organization, without a break since 1922, the beginning of the county-wide organization.

Some charter members are T. F. Cole and wife, T. D. Stallings and wife, Mrs. Kit High, David McWharter and wife, John Willis and wife. So far as we know, there are only seven charter members alive. Some people going to the Baptist Church are Mr. and Mrs. Jim Vaughn, Mrs. Troy Webster, Mrs. Bill Coulter, Mrs. and Mrs. Horton Louis, Mr. and Mrs. Owens, and Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Page.

Methodist Church

In 1937, the second church was built in Ponder. It was the Methodist. Rev. White was the first preacher. A parsonage was built, but later burned and never was rebuilt.

Some of the charter members are Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Cox, Mr. and Mrs. George Owens, and Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Wakefield.

The preacher today is Dr. Ashburn and the church has 76 members. Some of the members today are, Mr. and Mrs. Elmo Anderson, Mrs. Hugh Swafford, Mrs. Charlie Bryson, Mr. and Mrs. John Swafford, Mrs. Pearl Law, Mrs. Maggie Cope and Mr. and Mrs. Stanford.

The church helps sponsor the Golden Cross, Methodist Home in Waco, Church School Day, and World Mission.

The church has started a woman's W. S. C. S.

Church of Christ

In 1923, the third church in Ponder was built. It was the Church of Christ.

The first preacher was Billy Wulfrum. The church started with 13 members.

The Church of Christ held its first services in the upstairs of Jackson's store.

The charter members are Marvin Yarbrough, Oscar Yarbrough, Mark Knox, and Bill Robertson.

The preacher today is W. T. Hall, Jr. The song leader is Otis Yarbrough. The church has 67 members.

The church today helps the following organizations: Boles Orphan's Home, Tipton's Orphan's Home, the Home for the Aged at Gunter, and the Herald of Truth, a television program.

THE EAKIN CEMETERY

The exact date of the origin of the Eakin Cemetery is unknown, but from information received from various ones, it has been estimated that it was about one hundred years ago. The first grave that was put there did not have a date marker.

The first person to be interred there was Mrs. Katie Angelina Rayburn. That was in pioneer days and Indians roamed the prairies. As we know from history, the ladies all wore long dresses; and cook stoves were unknown, which necessitated cooking on fireplaces.

On that fateful day Mrs. Rayburn had arisen early to get her husband off to work; and after he had left the house she went about preparing breakfast for her small son. In the process her skirt and her entire body was soon inflamed. In her excitement she ran from the house screaming. Some men heard her screams, and started to her aid; but when they came in sight of the house they saw her with her clothes completely burned off, and her body so blackened by the flames, they thought she was an Indian and were afraid to go to her. She was blinded from the burns and couldn't see them but she

began to hear their voices and called to them to come to her. She only lived a few hours after being burned.

Mrs. Rayburn was buried on a rolling sandy knoll, at the edge of post oak grove, about three hundred yards from the site of her home. The spot became a family burial plot; and later the surrounding ground was donated for a cemetery by her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Thomason, who named it Eakin Cemetery, in honor of the sisters' father, Mr. William F. Eakin, who lived in Kentucky and never came to Texas. Since that time, Mr. and Mrs. Thomason, with four of their children, and several grand children have been laid to rest there.

As the grave had no marker, it has had to be pointed out to different parties by a colored man, Lue McCarty, who lived in and around the community through a long lifetime. In fact he owned a farm just a few miles away. He helped dig many graves in the cemetery and was often known to remark on the completion of a new grave. "Well, I helped dig the first one and have helped dig the last one." He and his family have been laid to rest in a section of the cemetery set apart for the burial of colored people.

In later years the cemetery grew up in weeds and Johnson grass and was over run by briars. In 1921, the citizens of Ponder and surrounding communities met and cleaned and worked the ground. Also the ladies contributed their part by preparing lunch and spreading it picnic style during the working period.

At that time an organization was formed known as the Eakin Cemetery Association. The officers elected were: President, S. Bishop, Vice President, C. H. Scaggs, Secretary, T. A. Gale, Assistant Secretary, H. P. Simmons and Manager, Bob Cope. Since that time, Mr. Scaggs, Mr. Cope, and Mr. Simmons have passed on to their reward; and the two first mentioned are peacefully resting where they so faithfully worked in memory of their departed loved ones and friends. Chester January was elected as Vice President to succeed Mr. Scaggs; and M. L. Swafford as Manager to succeed Mr. Cope.

Prior to the time the organization was formed, Mr. J. F. Yarbrough, long since deceased, took the sole responsibility of keeping a record of the lots and helping those who wanted a lot to select one.

Since the time of organization there is a memorial service held annually to honor our loved dead and to place flowers on their graves; also to hold a business session, the main purpose of which is to elect new officers. Up until 1955 there has always been a motion made and carried to retain the old officers. At that time Chester January was elected President and Homer Cope, Vice President. The regular day set aside for this occasion is the second Sunday in May.

A few years after the Association was organized, there was a committee appointed to raise funds to build a tabernacle to hold services under; Mrs. Maud Blair, now of Vernon, Texas, being chairman of that committee. At that time there was a number of graveside services held, but in later years almost all of the services were held in churches or funeral chapels. Also the funeral directors always furnished a tent for those services. Therefore, it was decided to use the money that had been raised for the tabernacle to buy more land for the cemetery, as almost all of the land of the original plot had been taken.

The lots are free to anyone who wants to put their loved ones there. The upkeep of the cemetery is strictly donations. However, in the past, there have been ice cream suppers held to raise funds, the ladies making the ice cream and baking the cakes.

About four years ago there was a marker placed at the grave of Mrs. Rayburn by the Cemetery Association.

The inscription reads:
Mrs. Katie Angelina Rayburn
No Dates

Since that first lone grave was put there, there are some 345 known graves, not counting the colored section.

Down through the century this spot has become hollowed ground, as the babes in arms, the toddlers, the adolescents, the budding youths, the middle aged, and the hoary heads have all been brought to this plot for their last long resting place.

Written by

Katie Bishop
May 13, 1956

RODEO

A history of Ponder is not complete without something about the Ponder Rodeo. The first Rodeo that Ponder had was in 1940. It was located southeast of the Railroad. The share owners were Mr. Ira Harrison, Chester January, Boone Riney, and Dr. M.L. Holland. The rodeo had to be closed down during the war, but it was resumed two years after the war ended. Then the owners sold out.

After about two or three years the Ponder citizens built a new rodeo where Mr. Cleber Wilkerson lives now. The share owners of this rodeo were Charles Duessen, Boone Riney, Emmett Riney, Chester January, and Dr. M. L. Holland. The rodeo helped the school very much. The P. T. A. had the concession stand and the money from it helped to pay an extra teacher.

SETTLERS

Ponder's oldest citizen today is Mr. C. S. Bishop, who is 89 years old. He moved to Ponder in 1907 from Ellis County and lives with his daughter Miss Katy Bishop.

Another pioneer of Ponder is Mrs. G. G. Thomason, who is 86 years old. Mrs. Thomason was Ona Gann and came to Ponder when she was fifteen years old. She remembers seeing Sam Bass ride past her home. She lives with her brother O. M. Gann and Mrs. Thomason does her cooking and housework.

Ponder's oldest citizen until his recent death was Henry A. Williams, who was 16 years at the close of the Civil War. He remembered being sold twice

as a slave but progressed from a slave to the owner of over 200 acres of land north of Ponder.

Mr. George Owens who passed away in March 1957 had spent more years in Ponder than any other person. He came to Ponder in 1894 working as a hired man on the Wakefield Ranch. Later he married Mrs. Nannie Wakefield.

Ponder today still consists of large ranches and fertile farms. The population is about 150. The town boasts the popular Ranchman's Cafe, two grocery stores, a gin and elevator, two filling stations, a trucking business, and one of the few blacksmith shops that still shoes horses.

Prominent ranches in Ponder today are Chester January, Alexander Duessen, Bert McKamey, and Hobson Dunn.

Ponder today is some larger and many new citizens have moved in, but a deep community spirit remains and Ponder is proud of its community.

SANGER

History of Sanger and of Bolivar from which it originated
By Alma Lain Chambers

There was no Sanger until the Santa Fe began stringing its rails. The coming of the railroad made towns and unmade towns. It created Sanger and doomed Bolivar to a village for the rest of its days. But the story of Sanger rightfully begins with Bolivar and other nearby settlements since practically all of the first Sanger inhabitants came from them.

To gather all the threads of history into a whole cloth called history requites the combined and untiring efforts of many who are willing to contribute their help as a labor of love for such work pays no royalty except in the joy it gives us to preserve for our children the shadows of their forefathers in word pictures of the past. We can do a little reminiscing with thanks to those who "remembered when" and to those parents and grandparents who "wrote things down".

The time has surely come when the people of Texas should take more care in preserving the evidences of their own history. Every day old landmarks are destroyed, every day valuable papers are lost which record the deeds and the manner of living of early Texana. So much is already irretrievably lost; we should bestir ourselves while there is time and memory left for these things. Very few are left who can say that their parents came to Texas in wagon trains; that their Grandfathers fought at San Jacinto, built log cabins and blazed roads through the forests.

It was in 1849 after gold was discovered in California, that the great migration began. One imaginative artist shows an emigrant train in 1850 wagon to wagon clear across the continent. The southern route across came through North Texas. It is said that the first trains followed the buffalo trails. Many stopped along the way and others returned to the rich lands that they remembered crossing when the gold diggings failed in California as it did for so many. Trading posts were set up along the routes where there was wood and water and some protection from the hostile Indians who became more and more hostile as they were pushed farther and farther west.

The trading post begat a tavern, the tavern begat a smithy, the smithy begat a wagon yard and soon a bustling little village of 50 or 60 permanent residents arose. Then, when the red man spread his war paint and smeared blood on the wagon trails, the government built a fort. This was how Bolivar was born in 1852, one of six government forts in Denton County.

The Bolivar settlement ran in a shoe-string like formation up Clear Creek, above and below the fort. The first store was built by Dr. Daily, doctor, preacher and carpenter. When he soon became too busy to run the store, Sam McAdams took over. He had come from Collin County with relatives the Gambills, Simpsons, Coopers and Curtsingers. People traveled in groups of relatives and neighbors for company and for protection from the Indians. The Gobers settled north of Bolivar and J. H. Gober was captain of the Indian fighters in that direction while Bob and Crow Wright had the south settlement covered.

After the War between the States, the wagons started again. They were slowed by the carpetbaggers, but eventually the stream began to flow more

rapidly than ever. Bolivar flourished and at one time had 2 hotels, 2 stage lines, a flourmill, the first in Denton County, a sawmill and a cotton gin. Farmers took up land in all directions. In 1867, the government established a telegraph line from Sherman to Fort Belknap in Young County. A road paralleled the line called the "Wire Road". There was a stagecoach that made regular runs on this road for 15 years. There was already the stage line from Gainesville to Denton. The stop in Bolivar was at the Sartin Hotel, a two-story long rambling house in the shape of an ell. Half-way station for this line was at the Cash place on Duck Creek about three miles north of Bolivar and an older settlement. Here the horses were changed. The stagecoach carried the passengers, the mail and sometimes the money for which the stage was "Held Up" by such as Sam Bass.

Settlers coming in this period were Samuel R. Lain from Delta County, whose land ran down to the town on the north. He gave the land for the school when it began to expand in 1884. His neighbor to the west was J. M. Gary, county commissioner for many years, and further to the northwest the Waide settlement of 5 brothers and the Nances led by "Squire Nance", one of the founders of the first bank in Denton and the first county commissioner which place he held for 18 years, followed by J. M. Gary. Others were Ben Bentley, the Garrisons, Arnold and John, who got their land for service in the Mexican War. Farther up Clear Creek the Foresters, Lock and Turner had been established as long as the Bolivar settlement.

Another settlement that contributed many citizens to Sanger was to the east of the town. The Pilot Point settlement was older than Bolivar and between the two was the Sullivan clan. They came in the early 1850s and the settlement was named for them because there were so many of them from the eight sons of Charles Sullivan, the pioneer. Really the Stricklands and Reasoner Jones were first. These families intermarried and many moved to Sanger when it was first formed. A lady from Bolivar said that there was a saying in the early days that Sanger was made up of Sullivans, Readys, and ragweeds. Incidentally, this lady married a Sullivan and moved to Sanger from Bolivar. This brings up the Readys, the only family living on the site that later became Sanger when the railroad was completed in 1887. This was the F. M. Ready who accidentally settled here when confronted by a Texas Norther on their way west. The Readys were from a large group of Kentuckians who took up land in Peters Colony. Many early settlers in Denton were from this group, many of them stopping first in the Gribble Springs community as the McReynolds, Spratts, Duncans, Sprockmans, Peters and Goodes. Others of Kentucky origin came by way of Missouri as the Wilsons, who established the first lumber yard in Denton and in Sanger and the only continuous business in Sanger in 1960.

After the railroad came, the settlers began to come in by train especially from Tennessee. H. D. Greene became an early postmaster and his relatives and friends followed as the Greens, Marions, LeGears, Vaughns, Odoms, and Brownlow Holt, who wrote their deeds, letters back to Tennessee, bringing more settlers and a bookkeeper for the first gin.

The history of most towns is the history of groups of people from the same state or vicinity. There is a group that made up a great number of the farmers of the community when the Metz Ranch from the original Huling land was broken up just before World War I. When Germany became a highly militarized nation, many peace-loving Germans came to America. One group of these settled north of Sanger in the Schmidt community and another south of

town in the Blue Mound community, these thrifty and industrious people have added much to the development of the farming community of Sanger.

Groups are named, the Bolivar residents, the Sullivans, the Kentuckians, the Tennessee group and the Germans. These will continue in this history as individual families at more length.

A valuable source of history of Denton County towns is found in the files of the old newspapers of the town and county. The first reference to Sanger is found in the Denton County News in 1892 (5 years after the town was formed). To quote: "A pen pusher of the News was in Sanger Saturday and found that place a considerable town. Many improvements have lately been made, the chief of which is the new brick store of Wheeler & Son. Dr. J. C. Rice has just completed a store house and opened a nice stock of drugs. J. E. Henderson is in his new house. Ready, the barber, has moved into a new house, Midler has completed his livery stable, John Johnson will shortly build a hardware store. We were informed that an election will be held Saturday to determine whether the citizens want the town incorporated. Thanks of the News to D. C. Atkins, Dr. Rice, F. M. Ready, John Johnson and Wilson Bros.

J. S. J. Gober was the regular correspondent for the Denton County News. The result of the election for city officers in January 1893 shows the following to be elected: Mayor, W. E. Partlow, Marshal, E. Howard, Aldermen; George Mays, J. H. Stephens, J. R. Phelps, Dr. E. Howard and J. E. Henderson.

Much is written about the artesian wells which were dug in 1893. The first one in the City Park, which was a flowing well, was celebrated by bringing anvils from the blacksmith shop and firing them. By 1895 there were 7 wells in town. Building went on rapidly, for a note is made saying how busy Henry Peters and Andy Wilson were unloading 25 cars of lumber for Wilson Bros. Lumber Co. Two saloons were opened after the town was incorporated. All the business houses faced the railroad. It was a favorite pastime for the cowboys from the Metz Ranch, bolstered no doubt by a refresher from the saloon, to gather in front and lay wagers on every freight train that appeared in view as to whether it would make the grade from the north into Sanger, or would back up and start over. The odds were about even.

In 1895, a fire virtually wiped out Sanger but undaunted, the citizens started over. In 1898, the first bank was opened and in 1900 a two-story 8 room school was finished. The town grew rapidly to 1917, slowed for World War I, again gained in the 20s only to recede in the depression of the early 30s. Ebb and flow is the history of all towns, and Sanger is no exception.

Sanger seems to have been more law-abiding than some of the early towns of Denton County. Petty thievery is reported by Mr. J. W. Koons who was the reporter in the early 1900s. He says, "some sneak thief has been stealing our coal and stove wood". However, three of the Dalton gang held up the Santa Fe station and got away in a phaeton and a pair of matched greys stolen from Mr. Cooper of northeast of Sanger. They were apprehended in the Choctaw Nation and returned to Denton. This was said to be the breaking up of the Dalton gang. One item says that businessmen had to sleep in their stores to prevent them from being broken into. On the other hand, an ideal picture of the early days is given by Charles Grafton, editor of the Legal Tender, the first newspaper that has been preserved. The Sanger Sentinel

was the first paper that only survived a few copies. In 1898, when the Legal Tender issued its first edition, Mr. Grafton says: "The people are happy and industrious and have all the good things to eat that a rich soil can produce. There are no loafers, no dudes and no wallflowers. No one parts his hair in the middle, and wears beau-catchers, curlicues and pompadours. The main street is crowded almost every day with wagons and the merchants are doing a thriving business, giving more for the dollar than you can get in Gainesville, Fort Worth or Dallas. They can do this because they are not keeping up a system of codfish aristocracy. They are not putting on airs with a lot of dude clerks, buggies, and bicycles, pianos and organs. They have organs in the churches and they do most of their singing there. There is one saloon in Sanger and it opens and closes with the stores and we have never seen it open after 9 o'clock at night. The Mayor, marshal and aldermen have resigned for lack of business and the constable is working on the railroad. (He must have been there when the station was robbed)."

Social life consisted of singings at the homes, picnics, and especially the literary societies. A very popular one was the one organized in 1896 when J. T. Chambers came to teach in Sanger. The favorite recreation, however was going to the station to see the train come through. On Sunday evenings, the entire population turned out. Courting was done here and between trains by walking to Ranger Creek east of town or "walking up the railroad".

Churches were organized as early as 1890, three years after the railroad was finished. The Methodist congregation built the first church building in 1896, which was used by all denominations. The Baptist Church was built in 1898 and the Presbyterian in 1904. History of each church has been written and will be added to this file.

Sanger during her 75 years has seen additions, subtractions and divisions, days of sorrow and days of celebration, with famous sons and some not so famous. She has survived Indian raids, three wars and a depression. She is standing firmly planted in the deep rich soil that surrounds her with her head held high in the knowledge and pride of a united citizenship who love her. (Shades of Charles Grafton!)

Given at Wednesday Study Club dinner honoring husbands, Nov. 1955}

Alma Lain Chambers

HOW SANGER GOT ITS NAME

[Dr. W. W. Sanger of Oklahoma City, Okla. came through Sanger recently and wrote me about the name.]

The town was called Huling at first. There was another town of the name in Texas so it was changed to New Bolivar, but the P. O. Dept. thought this confusing and it was rejected. By the time this had taken place the railroad was ready to put a name to the town site so they named it Sanger for Sanger Bros. at Dallas without further consulting the "natives". This is thought to be the reason for their selection of the name. In 1881, Sanger Bros. were the best known merchants in the state.

Sanger Bros. were established in Texas soon after the Civil War and as the Houston and Texas Central Railroad was built they followed it from one terminus to another, Houston to Waco to Calvert to Dallas. The Santa Fe were anxious for a good town in the north part of Denton County since the county seat of Denton had not made a bid for the railroad and since they owned much Denton County land as was the custom for railroads as they built through a county. The Santa Fe in competition with the H&TC might have been making a bid to Sanger Bros. to come further north in the state. A letter from a civic club to Sanger Bros. when the club was beautifying the park resulted in a gift of \$20.00 which is the only recognition so far as can be learned of the namesake of Sanger Bros.

Then he cites a warranty deed dated Feb. 20. 1840 Republic of Texas, County of Jasper, whereby on the consideration of \$700.00 cash in hand, Reuben Bebee transfers with all legal wording his right to "my head right in land granted to me as a colonist or the various colonies by right of my emigration to Texas in 1828".

After the death of Thomas Huling, his wife as heir has correct deeds made to her of the community property of her husband and herself. Mr. Koons: Community Property, Abstract No. 29, Head right, Reuben Bebee, 4805 Acres, Value \$450.00

(Mr. Koons note follows: There is a long list of land certificates, head right certificates in various counties in the state of Texas, ...none of which affects this title and of course is not wanted in this abstract.

Then the suit follows in detail with the accusation that the following lot holders did not have a clear title to their lots.

Mrs. E. Huling	W. A. Garrison
M. B. Huling	B. S. Gay
J. W. Jagoe	J. W. Hall
J. R. Sullivan	B. W. Hampton
J. W. Sullivan	S. G. Holcomb
R. A. Stephens	E. E. Howard
Mrs. M. M. Carroll	B. D. Jones
Jacob Elsasser	P. F. Saltsman
O. A. Hern	J. H. Hughes
Ed Wilson	Jess Murphey
Mrs. Lorena McDermitt & husband	J. A. Johnson
P. F. McDermitt	N. P. Kirkland
R. B. Alfree	J. D. McCracken
J. A. Brownlee	Geo. Mayes
W. D. Brockman	N. W. Mayes
J. F. Campbell	B. W. McReynolds
Mrs. S. A. DeWitt	A. J. Nance
M. F. DeWitt	J. W. Nicholson
A. H. Goff	S. B. Peter
W. B. Sartin	J. W. Peter
J. H. Sullivan	W. E. Partlow
G. W. Sullivan	R. S. Seal
J. C. Rice	Pleasant Seal
J. D. Ready	C. E. Brown
W. Wheeler	Mrs. America Sullivan
J. B. Wilson	J. C. Rice Adm. B. O. Sullivan, ded.
F. T. Wilson	Knox and Alexander

O. M. White
William McGee

Mrs. Almonta Abney and her husband
Dr. J. A. Abney
J. T. Chambers

The greatest asset of the Republic and State of Texas was its vast public domain. Immediately after the establishment of the state, the General Land Office was opened for the management of the land holdings of Texas. Grants were authorized to those who fought at San Jacinto and at Bexar, and to the heirs of the Alamo and Goliad. These were called bounties and donations. Then the head rights of those who came as colonists or to whom land was granted. These grants were called 1st, 2nd and 3rd class head rights.

Reuben Beebee had a head right. He lived in Louisiana and perhaps never came to Texas at all. His land was perhaps located by the "stone dropping" process or was located by Thomas Huling who purchased it from the Beebee heirs.

Thomas Huling was a veteran of the Texas Revolution. During the Revolution, he transported ammunition and provisions for the army, using his own keelboat in making the trip to and from New Orleans for that purpose. After the Revolution, he served in the Fifth Congress of the Republic of Texas, 1840-41, representing the Jasper District where he then lived. Thomas Huling was granted land for his service and because he "believed in Texas and its future" he purchased many acres from grantees or their heirs who were ready to sell the "land overrun by Indians". In the book on first patents, Thomas Huling's name appears in many counties with the larger portion in Jasper County and Lampasas County where his grants of "leagues and labors" were centered.

How and when the Beebee heirs sold to Thomas Huling is not known but that they did and the plot included the present town of Sanger is a matter of record. That Huling was an accurate and capable business man is shown by the fact that in 1896, the Beebee heirs that "Texas wasn't so bad after all and they wanted their land back. Mr. J. W. Koons, lawyer at Sanger. says the suit was merely a formality since Mrs. Elizabeth Huling, heir of her late husband, Thomas B. Huling, had all property deeds and records in order. This "unnecessary trial", according to Mr. Koons, is very valuable to us now as historians for the suit names every lot holder in Sanger in 1896. The First National Bank is to be congratulated for preserving these documents and historical segments of it will be published in this series.

Mr. Huling died November 2, 1865 at the Lampasas home where he and his wife, Elizabeth, had moved in 1855. They lived on the Sulphur Fork of the Lampasas River and their home was a haven from the Indian depredations that were prevalent in those days. These were no harder than the Reconstruction days when Elizabeth Huling, along with many Texans lost much property under the carpetbag rule. Elizabeth Huling developed a financial acumen and mental grasp similar to that of her deceased husband and established her estate in various parts of Texas including Denton County.

When the Santa Fe Railroad came through the Huling land and it was to be designated as a town site, Mrs. Huling's son-in-law, Mr. Bartlett, who was a surveyor came to Sanger town site and with the aid of the County Surveyor, Elijah Biggerstaff, they laid off the lots. Mrs. Huling had leased the north end of the town to Jack Sullivan, a rancher and cattleman of east of the town site. She deeded to him a plot of several acres to compensate him for his cattle lease and requested him to build a two-story

house on it to stimulate lot owners. This house to be a replica of the beautiful home he lived in on the Pilot Point road. He did this and the deeds to this section say "Sullivan Addition".

A large plot in the south part of Sanger was sold to Malachi Hampton and called the Hampton Addition to Sanger. Malachi Hampton came to Sanger in the early 1890s from Van Alstyne, Texas where his father was a druggist. He was the son of a pioneer who came to Texas before it was a state and settled in Fannin County. His son, Malachi, a pioneer of the westward movement followed in his father's footsteps. Deeds may say OP, which is Original Plot Reuben Bebee Survey, or Sullivan Addition or Hampton Addition until we have Easley and other later additions to Sanger.

As we noted in the beginning, we will connect the history with individuals who made Sanger. We perhaps have never given Elizabeth Huling her dues in being the first to encourage the development of Sanger. She donated to the town early church lots, the original plot of the cemetery and the city park. Just now when historical groups all over the state are marking places of note and dedicating them to pioneers who gave them, we in Sanger should surely mark our "Elizabeth Huling City Park" and give it the dignity that it deserves.

Elizabeth Huling was born in Bourbon County, Kentucky in 1820. She was six years old when her mother died and was reared by her uncles and aunts among whom were Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Moppin of Paris, Kentucky, who were going to Texas in 1833 and asked her to come along. They settled near San Augustine, where she attended Mrs. Milton's boarding school. When her uncle died and her aunt returned to Kentucky, Elizabeth Huling chose to remain in Texas with her friends the Carters and the family of X. B. Mudd, then holding the office of sheriff under the Alcalde Almonte. She was an eyewitness of the "Runaway Scrape" and tells of her experiences in an interview given to her by Texas State Historical Assn. in 1892 when she was a member of the first annual meeting of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas in Lampasas, Texas.

Elizabeth and Thomas Huling had eleven children and at the time at the interview there were those, all living in Texas. Mrs. Rebecca Huling Hill of Lampasas; Mrs. Almonta Huling Abney or Brownwood; W. M. Huling and Proctor H. Huling of Lampasas; and M. B. Huling of Toyah.

Of this family, Almonta Huling, whose first husband was Mr. Bartlett, the early surveyor of Sanger, and whose second husband was Dr. A. A. Abney, lived in Denton County for a while. Dr. Abney is listed on the list of lot holders in 1896. Mrs. Harry Granaghan of Sanger is a granddaughter of Elizabeth Huling and lives on the original Huling land.

LAWYER J. W. KOONS PROVES TITLES TO LAND

When Sanger was being plotted and lots sold, there was a young school teacher at Green Valley who was a college graduate, a rather unusual accomplishment at that early day, who had also quite a natural inclination and knowledge of law. J. W. Koons was called on more and more to make deeds, appraise the land, provide abstracts, etc. for the new town of Sanger. Early in the 1890s he moved to Sanger, first as a schoolteacher but soon as a full-time lawyer. His accuracy and painstaking ability was

most valuable to the county officers and surveyors and he represented most of Sanger citizens when necessary in the county courts.

In 1896, when as he have said the heirs of Reuben Bebee decided to see if they could find a flaw in the land sold to Thomas Huling, Mr. Koons was the attorney for the case. These are some of the most interesting facts about the land of Sanger as Mr. Koons prepared them for his case and then put them for safe keeping in the vault of the bank where they are now kept. How farsighted of this pioneer lawyer of note!

The field notes made by Charles C. Lacy, District Surveyor, John H. Dunham and Hardin Carter, Chain Carriers, dated May 2, 1858, recorded in Book A, p. 128 Surveyor Records of Denton County gives the location and description of the land Surveyor No.29, Head right certificate No. 543, showing one League and Labor for 4605 acres of land patented to the heirs of Reuben Bebee, patent No. 168, Abstract No. 29, Vol. No. 19, Cert. No. 3/43, all given in the description of the Reuben Bebee Survey by J. W. Koons, Abstracter.

Mr. Koons note at close of extensive papers:

Pretended adverse title to which no one pays any attention and loan companies lend money on land in the Reuben Bebee Survey without regard to this pretended title suit.
J. W. Koons Abstractor.

This is a part of the land grant study in Denton County by the Historical Survey Committee. This one might be interesting to our Krum neighbors.

On March 13, 1857, Bounty Warrant #782 was issued by F. P. Brewster, acting Attorney General, granting for the State of Texas, 1920 acres to the heirs of Charles Despallier. This grant was made to the heirs of Despallier for his services in the Battle of the Alamo. Charles Despallier was killed defending the Alamo in the year 1836. He was a private, an aid to Travis, who cited him for bravery. His younger brother, Blaz Philip Despallier participated in the storming of Bexar, Dec. 1835. He was a captain in York's Co. Their home was Rapides Parish, La. Their mother Madame Candida Despallier died of cholera with her other son, Victor, before they received their bounty.

A part of this 1920 acre plot became the town of Krum, Texas. A long drawn out suit for the land here is recorded.
Texas Archives, Austin, Texas.

The editor of the Sanger Courier is a young man who looks to the future but he also likes to look back and recount the way that we have come. He is more than commonly interested in the life of our city in the 77 years of its existence and asks that we have a column in the Sanger paper recounting this history.

To gather all the threads of history of a community and weave them into a whole cloth requires the combined and untiring efforts of many who are willing to contribute their help as a labor of love. Such work pays no

royalty except in the joy it gives to preserve for our children the shadows of their forefathers in word pictures of the past.

With thanks to those who remembered and to those whose parents and grandparents "wrote things down", we will have from time to time the results of the gathering of the history of Sanger, Texas.

Many items have been extracted from old newspapers from the libraries in Denton as Mr. J. W. Koons and Mr. J. S. J. Gober were quite prolific in their "news items" of Sanger in the 1890s. Mr. Easley has a paper in the bank giving the lot holders in Sanger in 1896; which he has said we might publish.

There was no Sanger until the Santa Fe started stringing its rails. The Legislature in 1873 passed an act incorporating the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe Railroad, granting to it sixteen sections per mile of completed road, the road having 32.9 miles in Denton County for which it received 526 sections equal to three-fifths of the amount of land in Denton County. The railroad followed the Chisholm and other trails through Oklahoma and Texas since it was the growing cattle industry that attracted them to the states.

January, 1887, saw the first trains come through Sanger. One family lived here at the time. The family of G. M. Ready who had moved up from Green Valley, heard the railroad was coming and decided to stay. Ready had the first store where the post office was set up for Sanger and Bolivar. The three first business houses fronted the railroad, Ready's Store, Hickey's Hotel and Campbell's Blacksmith Shop.

With dreams of a metropolis in mind, the town was incorporated with Mr. Partlow, the first mayor, though he did more marrying than Mayoring, since he was a justice of the peace, also.

Taxes proved too much for the new town. Borrowing to expand a private business is progress, but in a public business it is considered poor management and waste. Disputes over city planning are as old as the proverbial Rome that wasn't built in a day. Romulus wanted seven hills, perhaps Remus wanted only five, seven would cost too much, so Romulus killed Remus and went on with his seven hills. So the City of Sanger was killed not with a spear but with votes almost before it started. But it continued to grow despite the fact that it could only be called settlement and not a city.

In the County Library is a directory of Texas towns in 1890.
Sanger, 1890-91:

On Clear Creek, on the GC & SF Railroad in Denton County, 12 miles nw of Denton, the judicial seat and banking point, contains 3 churches and a school, a steam grist mill and gin. Pop. 100

Express: Wells Fargo & Co. Telegraph: Western Union.

Businesses:

F. M. Ready, Postmaster
W. B. Brockman, Drugs and Groceries
E. Howard, Physician
J. Howard, Dentist
J. Parvin, Blacksmith

Peters Bros., Grist Mill & Gin
J. W. Peters, General Store
F. M. Ready, Hotel
EWH Shelburne, Physician
Wilson Bros. and Partlow, General Store and Lumber

Compared to Bolivar in same record:

Bolivar, population 150.

4 churches, a district school, a steam grist mill, cotton gin, flour mill, mail daily from Sanger, nearest shipping point.

Business at Bolivar:

George Harper, Postmaster
Wm. Chadwell. Carpenter
Chadwell & Gambill, Groceries and Drugs
T. Cook, Blacksmith
Lock Forester, General Store
J. P. Knox, Physician
Knox and Alexander, Druggists
John Mercer, Millwright
Jesse Sartin, Hotel (2 stage lines up to the time the railroad came)
T. Wheeler, Cotton Gin

Land owners registered at Sanger, W. E. Boswell and B. D. Jones while Bolivar had more than 30 listed with land acreage:
These included J. F. Curtsinger, L. S. Forester, W. S. Doyle, Fortenberrys, Gibsons, Mrs. Jane Howard, the Wades, Wrights, Gobers, Garrisons, Murphy, Pollard, A. J. Nance, Gustave Ranch, J. P. Knox, Jarvis, Hubbard, Hall, Holcomb and others.

The pioneer is a generality. He embraces a class of individuals having some fundamentals in common, differing widely in others.

Reliable accounts eulogize him. Equally reliable accounts contain little or no praise. Some make him a John Knox in religion, a Franklin in thrift, and a Jefferson in education. Others describe him as having no religion, as being shiftless, ignorant and quarrelsome. Both accounts contain truth. Both accounts contain inaccuracy. These pioneers were individuals. Truth demands that caution is necessary. The best person to tell about him is a descendant. For that reason, Editor Kite and I think that you, the reader, should tell of early events as they directly affected your own family and of their part in such events as the last Indian fight in Denton and Cooke Counties.

The record says that when the Indians made the raid and killed A. H. Fortenberry, they were followed by a group of settlers and driven back to Fort Sill, where they were placed by the Federal Government about 1860.

P. A. Lughinbyhl tells of his father's part in this Indian fight. "The Indian raiders were sighted early in the morning. Demesey Jackson gave the alarm. Chris Lughinbyhl was building the Keep and Terry Mill, a well-known early landmark on the Mill Branch, tributary to Clear Creek. The mill was established by the firm of Keep & Terry and the first grist mill to be established in this part of Denton County. In Oct. 1868 when Chris

Lughinbyhl was working on the mill and heard the sound of Indians. He quickly hid in the shavings and lumber piles until they passed. In a few minutes, the posse came by which was following the Indians. Lughinbyhl immediately got his horse, which luckily was overlooked by the Indians in the haste, and rode with the men, about 100 (30) in number, who followed the Indians who rode as far south as the Denton-Decatur Road when they turned and headed back for Indian Territory." The Record Chronicle gives a list on men on this ride in special edition, 1958, but many are not named and among these is Chris Lughinbyhl. He came to Denton County in its early days and died May 28, 1910 at 1 PM according to the ledger of the late Dr. G. D. Lain.

A settler who was riding hard to join the posse was not so lucky, for A. H. Fortenberry was killed on the prairie north of White's Creek just before he joined the posse.

Mr. Fortenberry served in the War Between the States as a Confederate soldier, came to Texas from Arkansas and in his civil life was a farmer and stockman. When he lost his life, he was one of a company of thirty men who were following 300 Indians in the northwest part of Denton County. (Fort Worth and the Texas Northwest, Vol. 4, p. 454). In Souvenir of Texas, p. 420, the daughter of A. J. Fortenberry, (then Mrs. Jane Howard) says the number of Indians was 600! She also says that the savages piled grass on him, scalped him and burned him to death!

Another pioneer who joined this posse was the grandfather of Mrs. Margie Brantley, Mr. Bentley, who hid in a creek bed until the Indians passed and then joined the posse. This reminds us of the stories which the late Mr. Ben Bentley told about early days in Bolivar which will follow in this series.

Town of Sanger, Texas

Origin of land.

In an abstract of title prepared for J. R. Sullivan by J. W. Koons, attorney, November 23, 1907, there is a complete history of land acquisition for the town of Sanger, "formerly called Huling". (This abstract is on file in First National Bank, Sanger, Texas.)

In the district court of Lampasas County, Texas, Dec. 20, 1874, a decree dated Feb. 20, 1874, filed Dec. 14, 1878, recorded Book L Page deed records of Denton, County, Texas contains the following data. This was a petition from Elizabeth Huling, widow of Thomas B. Huling who died Nov. 5, 1865, asking that she be appointed administrator of her husband's estate consisting of "lands, land certificates, headrights in various counties in Texas and also a long list of personal property none of which affects this title (J. W. Koons), except the following:

Property described is as follows:

Abstract No.29, Head right: Reuben Bebee, 4605 Acres.

Certificate of acknowledgment:

The Republic of Texas

County of Jasper

Feb. 20, 1840

Know all men by these presents that I, Reuben Bebee of the County and Republic aforesaid did for the consideration of \$700.00 to me paid in hand by Thomas B. Huling, of the County and Republic aforesaid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do by these presents grant, bargain, sell, alien and convey and confirm unto the said Thomas B. Huling, his heirs and assigns all of my right title and estate of me and my heirs in and to my Headright in land Granted to me under the Colonist Laws, as a colonist of the various colonies by Emigration to Texas in the year of 1828 and am entitled to one league and labor of land and I do hereby convey the same to the said Huling.....

First lot sales recorded in the abstract.

Mrs. Elizabeth Huling to C. Metz and brother, Cooke County.

" to J. W. French and J. W. Wilson

" to J. R. Sullivan

" to W. E. Partlow, J. B. Wilson, A. M. Wilson

" to Almonta B. Abney, Lampasas County, wife
of Dr. J. A. Abney

Note: Almonta B. Abney was daughter of Elizabeth Huling. ALC

Mr. Koons includes in this abstract all papers relating to what he calls "a pretended adverse title which no one pays any attention to". In this suit filed by the heirs of Reuben Bebee in 1896 is a list of lot holders in Sanger of whom the heirs mentioned are complaining:

Mrs. E. Huling, M. B. Huling, J. W. Jagoe, J. R. Sullivan, J. W. Sullivan, R. A. Stephens, Mrs. M. M. Carroll, Jacob Elsasser, O. A. Hern, Ed Wilson, Mrs. Lorena McDermit and her husband, P. P. McDermit, R. B. Alfree, J. A. Brownlee, W. D. Brockman, J. F. Campbell, S. A. Dewitt (Mrs.), M. F. Dewitt, A. H. Goff, W. A. Garrison, B. S. Gay, J. W. Hall, B. W. Hampton,

S. G. Holcomb, E. Howard, B. D. Jones, P. F. Saltsman, J. H. Hughes, Jess Murphy, J. A. Johnson, N. P. Kirkland, J. D. McCracken, George Mays, N. W. Mays, B. W. McReynolds, A. J. Nance, J. W. Nicholson, S. B. Peter, J. W. Peter, W. E. Partlow, R. S. Seal, Pleasant Seale, W. B. Sartin, B. H. Sullivan, G. W. Sullivan, Dr. J. C. Rice, J. D. Ready, W. Wheeler, J. B. Wilson, F. T. Wilson, O. M. White, C. E. Brown, Mrs. America Sullivan, Knox and Alexander, a firm composed of J. P. Knox and William Alexander, Mrs. Almonta Abney and her husband, Dr. J. A. Abney, William McGee and J. T. Chambers.

{The suits were nullified. The list names the first inhabitants of Sanger and vicinity in 1896. ALC}

Mrs. Elizabeth Huling gave lots for all church buildings in Sanger, Texas, the city park and the original plot of the cemetery. ALC

Full description of this land and all abstracts is in the Texas Archives, Austin, Texas.

SPRING HILL

Home Demonstration Club Collection

Would the people of the Spring Hill Community like to say with the poet: "backward, turn backward O! Time in your flight, Take us back to 1840, Just for tonight"?

The Spring Hill Community is located about 4 miles east of Aubrey on Farm to Market Road 428.

The first three settlements in Denton County were the Bridges Settlement in the southeast part of the county in 1843, Prairie Holford and Pilot Point in 1844. Denton County was organized in 1846.

Peters' Colony had their land office in the Bridges Settlement and soon some of these settlers were locating in this community of Spring Hill. The Company lured immigrants to this section with an offer of 640 acres to married men and 160 acres to single men if they would live on the land three years. Boundary lines were not always clearly defined thus giving cause for dispute and trouble among the settlers.

It is almost impossible for the person of today, 1951, to visualize the country as it was in 1840s. It sounded good to the weary travelers from Kentucky, Tennessee or Virginia to get 640 acres free. These states were a long way off in those days. The pioneer settlers set out from these states with all their earthly possessions consisting of a gun, which was always near at hand, bedding, axe, coffee pot, skillet and lid and the food that was gathered on the way. They invariably settled on streams.

It took a strong and courageous spirit to bear the toils and hardships that faced those early settlers. Just think...No houses, no schools, no churches, no doctors, nothing but timber in this part of the country, as it is part of the East Cross Timber Belt that extends from Red River about 200 miles or more southward. Of course, now and then, there was a soul without the fortitude to face these odds so he, in time, wended his way back home.

Then, too, there was the constant menace of Indians, who might at any time raid and scalp a white settlement. There were Indian trails, also Ranger trails crossing this country east and west. One trail is the Fish Trap Crossing road and another is the old road crossing Elm Creek at what we now call the old McKinney Bridge. There was also the fear of wild animals. The loneliness at night was often broken by the unearthly scream of panthers or wolves, often so close that it would make your hair rise.

A story is told of a family with a sick child. The father went to get medicine for the child and the mother sat up all night caring for the child, which lay in a homemade cradle. The only light was that of a homemade candle. Hungry panthers prowled around the cabin all night, even going under it. The green lumber had left cracks in the floor as it had dried. Could this woman believe her eyes? Yes, it was true! There was the paw of that horrible old panther reaching up through the crack in the floor toward the cradle of her baby.

This brave pioneer woman grabbed the old muzzle-loading shotgun and fired two shots into the crack. Her husband came home about sunup and found two dead panthers close to the front door.

The first marriage in Denton County was in this community in 1884, when Shelton Luttrell and Bettie Dierce were married by a Baptist preacher, Rev. Hammons. They were married without a license and four years later were married again with two children in their arms. This was on or near the place known as the Dr. Gilbert place in 1884.

Agricultural implements were quite crude. At first the settlers used a wooden plow with wooden mould board. Next came the "Cary Plow", which had an iron mould board. Wheat was ground on a steel hand-mill bolted to a tree. Corn was dropped by hand. As time went on, bigger fields were cleared of stumps and put into cultivation. Four or six heavy horses or mules were the pride of every progressive farmer.

Now the farming is mechanized and a good tractor sits in every man's shed. Today it looks quite odd to see a team of horses to a plow or wagon. The lovely goober has come into its own in these parts, often producing over \$100.00 per acre, and in many instances supplanting cotton, which is so easily infected with insects. To make an ordinary crop of cotton now, dusting as soon as it is up and continuing until it matures is necessary. This sandy land produces good corn, hay, fruit and garden stuff. Farmers have found that diversification pays. There are good milch cows on nearly every farm, a flock of chickens and a few hogs. A milk truck comes by each morning to haul milk to market from Grade A Dairy barns such as those of N. H. Hardin, Chester Thomas and Harvey Carter.

Back to the earlier days.. The Preston Road was built from Dallas Courthouse to Red River and the people hauled their supplies in wagons from Sherman, the nearest town, a distance of 50 miles or more. What a thrill it was to haul a wagon load of cotton to Sherman and see the father bring back the year's supply of domestic, calico, shoes, sugar, coffee, soda, salt and a few other articles they could not produce at home. Young girls worked late at night getting that new calico ruffled for next Sunday's Meetin'.

This country abounded with wild meat. Great herds of buffalo grazed on the prairie grass, which was often high and glittering in the sunlight like rolling waves of the sea. Timber on the creeks almost groaned at night with the weight of wild turkeys and wild chickens which often flew in droves a mile long. Deer were plentiful and the streams were full of fish. Little did these early settlers realize that some day all this wild game would be killed. The Indians killed a lot of it. All wasted it wholesale. The Indians would take the choice cuts of buffalo or deer leaving the rest to wild animals. There was plenty of wild honey in the bee trees. Many kind of grapes were found all up and down the creeks to be had for the picking. People came from west of Denton, many miles to pick grapes. When they found the vines growing high up in the trees, they cut the trees down. This became such a common occurrence that the owners of the land finally put a stop to it. Persimmon orchards furnished persimmon bread and persimmon wine.. Just north of the present town of Frisco, there was a plum orchard of 100 acres. Man, fowl and animal alike procured food from this orchard. There were also red and black haws, acorns, pecans, and hickory nuts and walnuts.

The Indians called this country their "Happy Hunting Ground", and fought to maintain it. The settlers considered it their promised land, flowing with milk and honey, promised to them by the Peters Colony in blocks of 640 acres to the family. So, with undaunted courage the settlers shouldered their axes and guns and went to work in earnest to build better homes for a better world.

The people brought their religion with them to this new settlement. They built brush arbors and during the big meetin' they camped for several days. Old "Red" and "Jerry" ate their food out of the feed box at the end of the wagon while the family met another family who lived five miles away on the other side of the creek. Many a romance rooted and blossomed under the old brush arbor. Often these meetings were broken up with the advent of wild Indians whooping to stampede the horses. Men never went to church without their guns. They grabbed them and followed in hot pursuit. What a sickening sight it was when a man returned to his home to find his family all killed in cold-blooded murder.

Rangers were organized for protection of Denton County when the county was about 16 years old. At the Secession Convention, which met in Austin in 1861, Denton County sent 1000 brave, hardy men to the Confederate Army. They were poorly armed. A man would carry a home-made butcher knife, a Choctaw pony, home-made saddle, an old cast-barrel shotgun and an old style seven-shooter pistol, whose only defense was in its name. Some of these sturdy pioneer soldiers never returned, others did return crippled and maimed for life, a constant reminder of the price that must be paid for freedom.

This little community felt not only the sting of the Civil War, but also World Wars I and II and the Korean War of today. Some of our neighbor boys are home on furlough, to return to the troubled zones and others are too disabled to return. The first wounded soldier from Korea is J. D. Grissett, who spent the weekend here with his parents but returns to a San Antonio Hospital. Junior Boswell visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bailey Boswell.

Names of the early days still familiar today are the Johnsons, Davises, Smiths, Jones and Coffeys by the dozens.

Goose Ranch, located about 3 miles southwest of Spring Hill store, acquired its name in an odd way. Mr. Stewart bought this piece of land and moved to it from his former home in the black land. His friends wondered why and one remarked that he would as soon have a "goose ranch". This name stuck and became so well known that when a person asked for directions in the neighborhood, he was directed from this place. The Stewarts improved the land and owned it for many years. A daughter, Mrs. Howard Googer still resides in the community.

The Holmes family settled on the place now owned by Bailey Boswell and operated a nursery. Rays settled on what is now known as McNatt Lake and owned by Claude Miller. Spring Hill's first electricity was furnished here by a Delco System. Two bath houses were built. The lake was converted into a swimming pool, and it became the recreation center for miles around. Swimming lessons are taught here by the craft school of Aubrey..1951. The McNatts had the first talking machine in the country and it drew as big and enthusiastic crowds as did television, today.

The Montgomery family settled what is known as the Waldron place today. As there were no early cemeteries, two or three graves may be seen on this place. Another family, the Beckers, hadn't been here long, coming from Germany. The children went to school and learned a little English. The Red Cross sent out garments to the different schools for the children to take to their mothers to be made. The little Becker children took a big bundle home and told their mother in German what to do with them. Long before the appointed time, the Beckers returned their garments nicely made. When the teacher asked how the mother got the sewing done so soon, the little boy said that his mother sat up all night she was so glad to do something to show their appreciation of this country.

Another landmark in the community is the "Big, Old Oak Tree" in the middle of the crossing roads north of Spring Hill Store. The present mail-carrier, Gene Whitley, serves several boxes here with mail from Pilot Point Post office. He has his daily sandwich and cup of coffee under this tree. The southern part of the area is served by Homer Coffey out of Aubrey Post office. He serves 3 farm boxes owned by members of the original Coffey families.

The Tisdells, Richeys, Looneys, Kellys, Hollingsworth, Phillips, Nixons, Harts, Russells and many others played a prominent part in the development of this community.

Barbed wire fences had much influence and it was a gala day when the first Texas and Pacific train lumbered down the track in 1874, giving new hopes and energy to a tired neighborhood that had felt the crime wave that existed all over the South during Reconstruction Days after the Civil War.

The Mustang Creek divided the Ed Jones place from the A. Coffey place. About 1908, an oil derrick was erected and when the oil driller was about to give up in despair after many days, he returned to his derrick one morning to find oil oozing around all over the place. It was a prank of a couple of oil-minded but fun-loving citizens.

In 1944, a group of ex-students and former citizens of Spring Hill gathered for an all-day visit. Out of this meeting came the annual Spring Hill Homecoming. Miss Ruby Coffee was elected president and Mrs. Kyle Harper, Secretary. Each year the homecoming crowd increases. In 1951 the president is George Bell of Aubrey and the secretary is Mrs. Roland Hollingsworth.

In 1870, the neighbors built a little log school house on the J. A. Williams place, and a little later one was built on the Boner place. The Williams, Jones, Boners, Smith, Stewarts and others decided to consolidate their schools. This may not have been the first consolidation in the county but it was an early one. In deciding on a name for the school, there was noted at the foot of the hill a cool sparkling spring. People came for miles around to get drinking water and to do their washing. They called the school "Spring Hill". Three acres of land was acquired from the Hulen and Boner land and a two-room house was built.

In 1908, a tax was voted and another room transformed the old building into a modern three-room school. These three teachers have done much to build and uplift the community and the schoolhouse became the recreation center. Such teachers were Will Coffey, Mrs. Bess Stewart Goodger, Eleanor Key, the first two are still living in the community.

In 1932, the Antioch Baptist Church was moved to the south end of the lot. In 1938 the Spring Hill Store was built with living accommodations in the rear. In 1915, the first Demonstration Agent came to Denton County. July 4, 1916, Mrs. Edna Trigg came to a picnic at McNatt's Lake and organized a group of twelve women into the first demonstration club in the county. They bought the first pressure canner and soldering iron and Mrs. Trigg showed them how to use it. They still have this old canner, which is outdated but still intact.

In 1946, the Spring Hill School was consolidated with Aubrey and the building was moved to Aubrey. The land was deeded to the Home Demonstration Club as a community center. On April 24, 1951 the Spring Hill celebrated its 35th year of existence. The following charter members were present: Mesdames Will McNatt, Virtie Kerby, H. D. Tisdell, Belle Hollingsworth, Bess Goodger, Frank Yarbrough, Minnie Romack and Miss Minnie Lybass. The club has never missed a regular meeting except in case of death or funeral. The annual picnic is held and Mrs. Frank Yarbrough brings rolls made from everlasting yeast, which has been in her family for 36 years. The first president was Mrs. Kage McNatt. There have been 16 presidents since.

Automobiles, radio and television have all played an interesting part in developing this community. We, the people of Spring Hill, feel that we should be numbered on the roll call of Denton County Communities.

Mrs. A. G. Hardin, Pres. 1951

STONY

(Home Demonstration Club Collection)

Stony is in the western part of Denton County about a mile from Denton Creek. Old settlers settled there to have water for cattle and themselves. It was several years before deep wells were used there. The land is black and sandy loam and very rich land. Stony got its name from the almost solid rock that the town is built upon. About 1/4 mile from Stony there is a rock quarry from which the rock was taken to build the underpass between Stony and Denton on the old Highway 24. On the place where this rock quarry was located there is a rock fireplace, rock cellar and one room still stands and is in use though built almost a century ago. A house of six rooms and bath has been added to the original room.

The Methodist Church at Stony was built in 1888 and was located west of Bob Stewart's place. The site was sold to the church for \$1.00. The site where the church now stands in Stony was bought for \$5.00. The Baptist Church was built in 1889. The Church of Christ, for which the land was donated was built in 1910.

The first school was built in 1884, having only one room. Early teachers were Henrietta Austin, Mr. Carl and Alvin Ousley. Other buildings in the early days of Stony were grocery stores owned by Newt James and John Smith. Stony also had a hotel and post office.

Note: G. D. Lain taught 6 mos. in Stony in the winter of 1885-6 to make money for medical school.

Cemeteries near Stony include one on the Green place, named for the Greens who owned the land. One cemetery is still in use, another one, an Indian cemetery, has 32 graves in it. Old settlers remember the Indian roaming through this community. One white boy was killed by Indians and is buried near Stony.

The Old Chisholm Trail crossed the creek in about a mile of Stony. Aaron Schoolfield walked the trail two different times to drive cattle to market. John Schoolfield bought his half-section of land for \$.50 per acre. He built his home there and the land has been handed down to his sons.

C. H. Gray, who now makes his home in Dallas, came to Stony in 1884. He tells of the wild animals such as panthers and bear that roamed the woods of Denton Creek. N. J. Woofter was one of the earliest settlers. He hauled the lumber by oxen from Fort Worth to build his first home. G. R. Foster, an early settler who came to Stony in 1880, still lives here.

Now Stony is very modern with churches, community center, good highways, school busses to take the children to better schools. There is good farm land, many Grade A dairies.

There are nice homes with modern conveniences such as deep wells, electricity, home freezers and T. V. sets.

Pauline Schluter.

The Sullivan Settlement in Denton County

The Sullivans settled in Denton County in 1850. Their settlement was on Big Elm near the north county line extending down Elm to the mouth of Clear Creek. Their extensive lands were between Elm and Isle du Bois Creek. This creek was called Zilleboy.

Charles L. Sullivan was the father of the Denton County Sullivans. He and his wife, Elisabeth Hammonds, were the parents of 12 children most of whom came to Texas between 1850 and 1856.

Charles L. Sullivan was the son of Rev. Clement Sullivan, Methodist minister of McMinnville, Tenn. Elizabeth Hammonds was the daughter of Lt. Col. Leroy Hammonds of the war of 1812. He was the son of John Hammonds who fought in Captain Cox's Co. in Virginia Militia in 1777. Col. Leroy Hammonds, of S.C. Revolutionary fame, was a brother of John Hammonds, for whom Lt. Col. Leroy above was named.

Charles L. Sullivan and Elizabeth Hammonds were natives of Tennessee. They had three children born in Tennessee, eight born in Missouri and one, George W., born in Texas.

This couple lived in Cooper County, Missouri for a number of years before moving to Texas. Charles Sullivan was a class leader of the Methodist Church and held several offices of public trust, including Captain of a County Militia company.

MISS ELLEN BUSTER - PIONEER TEACHER

by

Alma Lain Chambers

There was a hard freeze in the night. After the rain of the day before, the ground was covered with a thick layer of ice. Few people were out on the streets of Celina, Texas that morning. A little, old lady came stepping gingerly up the street. She was bundled in wraps from head to foot. A scarf was wrapped completely around her head and only her keen, black eyes could be seen. Carefully, she put her seven-buckle arctics down on the ice. She couldn't risk a broken hip. She reached a street crossing that was treacherous. She knew the place well. Down she went on her hands and knees and crawled over. This was Miss Ellen Buster. She was on her way to school.

Miss Ellen had been on her way to school each school morning for over forty years, then. In log school houses, red school houses, private college with larger class rooms, public school houses, this indomitable, energetic, little woman had taught boys and girls of all ages with beginners her first and last love.

Ellen Buster came to Texas from her native Kentucky at the age of nine years. There were thirty relatives and friends in the group with her widowed mother, brothers and sisters who settled in Collin County in 1857. With nostalgia for their old Kentucky home, they called their settlement Kentuckytown. Life was interrupted for them in a short time when the War Between the States broke out. A company was mustered in Kentuckytown. It was an occasion when all the community came together to tell the boys goodbye. In the community talk as to who should make the address and present the colors, the unanimous choice fell on an eleven-year-old girl, Ellen Buster. She graced the occasion with dignity and poise beyond her years. As she presented the colors, her mother, Martha Lair Buster, modestly restrained her pride in this daughter whom she had taught. Her mind went back to her ancestral home, The Cedars, in Kentucky, and to the library there with its precious books brought by horseback from Virginia. Books were as necessary as food to this Lair family. And then she thought of how history was being repeated in this another war. It was from the barn of wood and stone on her old home premises that the soldiers were mustered out for the War of 1812 and the battle of Rudolph's Fort of the Revolutionary War was fought on the same grounds.

Ellen Buster had received her early love of the classics, literature from her mother who saw to it that her children were taught in science and mathematics as well. Her mother was her first and best teacher. She likely attended Savoy College with her brother, John, and later in life she took special courses at the North Texas Normal College at Denton. A group around this small, black-eyed, vivacious, young girl of seventeen in her own home is the first picture of her teaching. The group grew and a log schoolhouse was built in Kentuckytown, now named Old Pilot Grove. Ellen was the teacher.

War brought changes as wars always do. After the war was over, Ellen Buster was a teacher in Denton County, Texas. Her mother built a home, which she called Lake Home on her fertile acres east of the town of Lewisville. Again, Ellen taught the neighborhood school. She also taught in neighboring communities, Flower Mound, Waketon and Bethel.

It is 1890. Across the square in Pilot Point, Texas comes a trotting white horse drawing a buggy with a little woman holding the reins. A bell rings out over the city. Slapping the reins on the horse's back a voice says, "Go on, Gulliver. We'll be late this morning." It is Miss Ellen Buster on her way to school, which is now Franklin College. There she is greeted by her partner, Miss Mitchie O'Neal, who says, "Please, go to the office and straighten out our accounts." Miss Ellen, her work as secretary done, then goes to her classroom. It is a science class. Painstakingly and enthusiastically, she teaches and directs the laboratory experiments. Miss Ellen is older and wider now. Her keen, black eyes are as bright as on the day she told the soldiers goodbye. Her hair is black too, only a few gray ones. There are a few wrinkles around her eyes from smiling and emphasis on words has given her lips more firmness than ever. Her neat figure is well corseted in the style of the nineties and her dress is dark and modestly long. She is greeted with affection by her pupils, for Miss Ellen is a favorite teacher. Her solemn dignity and aggressive, bass voice fail to frighten her pupils. One look into her eyes and the pact of understanding is established.

Franklin College prospered under the joint ownership of Miss O'Neal and Miss Buster as to curriculum and scholarship. It was advanced to rank of college and affiliated with the University of Texas. The degrees of B. A. and B. S. were conferred. The buildings were enlarged and at one time there were four hundred pupils, many of them boarding students. The college taught primary, intermediate, academic and collegiate divisions with much time given to piano, organ, voice culture, elocution and art. Miss Buster was versatile. She was interested in every department. She was quite an accomplished musician and was always ready to make a speech. Her "exhibitions" were worth driving miles to see.

For eight years Ellen Buster taught at Franklin College. Her opinions and ideas of teaching were sought by those of her profession. A copy of the Denton Monitor for October 3, 1896, gives the program for the first Denton County Teacher's Institute, which was held on Saturday, October 31, 1896. Miss Ellen Buster of Franklin College was on this program to discuss Aesthetical Culture. Her name was on County institute programs for twenty-five years following this first appearance.

Public schools development caused such one-time flourishing private schools as Franklin College to close their doors. With a willingness to accept change and to take her place of service where she found it, Ellen Buster taught in public schools for twenty years after 1898. She taught at Sanger, Breckenridge, Wichita Falls, Celina and perhaps another place or so. A pupil of these days remembers her with a ruler in her hand. He says "She used it for three purposes as a measure, as a pointer and as a means of disciplining the hands."

It is 1915. A young boy and an old lady are standing in the yard of a ranch home looking out over acres of grass, cattle and cactus. The old lady turns to the lad and says, "Come on, Georgie, lets study your lessons." It is Miss Ellen Buster and she is still on her way to school. School now is the tutelage of a boy far removed from school privilege in town whose wise father brought school to him in the person of Miss Ellen.

Miss Ellen Buster never married. She never seemed to find time. When her doctor brother's wife died leaving an infant daughter, she took this baby

and was a mother to her. Anna of her went with her wherever she taught as long as she was of school age. Hand in hand they went to school together. She became Anna's mother and was Anna's children's grandmother as long as she lived.

Teachers like Miss Ellen Buster teach on when life is done. They do not write in stone which goes back to the mountain from whence it came; nor in books which become curiosities in libraries; they do not write in ink which fades regardless of what the salesman said; they write on the plastic minds of youth and writing enlarges a thousand fold. Words take new meaning and become a heritage for generations to come. The writing of Miss Ellen Buster lives though she has passed away. She died June 30, 1925. Her epitaph is fitting:

"She openeth her mouth with wisdom;
And in her tongue is the law of kindness."

Acknowledgment is made to relatives of Miss Buster who so kindly furnished material for this sketch especially Mrs. Pearl Burke Wells of Amarillo, Texas and Mrs. Anna Shumate of Paul's Valley, Ok.