

A History Of Waller County, Texas



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South. Families were kept together, the ill slaves received the same medical attention and care as their white owners. Because of this "good" treatment at the hands of their owners and because also, of the dangerous wilderness which surrounded the plantations very few slaves chose to "run away". Some even accompanied their owners to battle.

Some forefathers of noble birth came to Waller County and settled on plantations and in towns or even on acreage they bought on their arrival here. One such couple was to leave a lasting mark on Waller County. Edmund Duncan Montgomery born in Edenburg, Scotland accompanied by his wife Elisabeth Ney, born of a mother who was a descendant of Polish exiles and of a father who claimed lineage from the same family as Napoleon. Miss Ney was born in Münster, Westphalia, Germany.²⁵ Miss Ney not only selected the grounds for the State Capitol, she sculptured several important men of Texas including Sam Houston, Stephen F. Austin and several governors to name a few. Her studio stands in Austin as a Texas shrine. Both Mr. Montgomery and Miss Ney are buried at Lander.

The Civil War

Though Sam Houston, that great Texas patriot, opposed secession he was out-talked and out-voted and over ruled so that on March second, 1861, Texas voted to secede. On March fourth, 1861, Texas approved secession, ratified and accepted the provisional government of the Confederate States of America. Texas was among the first seven states to secede.

A Word About the Camps in Waller County

Hempstead with its rail facilities was an important point in concentrating troops from central Texas. The first 35 men to leave Hempstead went to Fort Brown on the Rio Grande. With the capture of Indianola by the Federal Troops in April 1861 came another expedition from Austin County but arrived too late - Indianola had been recaptured in May 1861. Following the return of the Company from Indianola the Jackson Guards held a three day encampment near Colonel Jared E. Kirby's residence, now Prairie View, this cavalry had one hundred and twenty five men.

By November 6, 1861 Austin County (Waller County) had three camps at or near Hempstead. Camp Carter, Camp Groce, and Camp Heibert. Camp Groce and Camp Heibert were said to have been east of Clear Creek opposite each other. Camp Carter can not be located. Camp Groce is noted primarily as one of the two camps where Federal prisoners were confined. 29 officers, 17 soldiers and 85 sailors were taken at the fall of Galveston.

Texas played a part in the war of which this and all future generations to follow may be justly proud. Its people gave their full measure of devotion and courage to the cause. The Common-wealth which, in the short span of forty years, had developed from a small group of three hundred families - forty families located in Waller County - to a mighty group who sent more than seventy thousand men to the defence of the "Bonnie Blue Flag" of the Confederacy. Of the following list of officers to serve from Texas many were residents who had gone to enlist in Louisiana, Arkansas and other southern states though many can be traced who actually enlisted right here in Hempstead, Waller County, Texas. One hundred and thirty five officers above the rank of Lieutenant Colonel were from Texas. One full general Albert Sidney Johnston fell at Shilo. There were three Major Generals, Samuel B. Maxey, John A. Wharton, and Tom Green. There were thirty two Brigadier Generals and ninety seven Colonels. Of the thirty eight generals of the above grades thirty three were promoted from lower ranks because of their valor on the battle field. A tribute indeed to the mass of soldiers from Texas. It has often been said that had General Johnston lived the war might have turned out differently.

In Texas there was "tradition and tradition". One such tradition was Patriotism. Young men should join the colors in any and all emergencies. It was IN then. They were eager for the fray. Two men stand out as having hurried to Montgomery, Alabama to get permission to raise troops for the Confederate service. In this instance the South showed her contempt for Texas by refusing! "Sufficient troops could be raised in the vicinity where the war might be expected to begin", they were told. Nothing daunted, as early as September 30, 1861, there were ten regiments of Texas soldiers or troops as they were called scattered out among the Southern States. In early 1862 Governor Lubbock received a call for fifteen regiments of infantry and these he states, were made up of all volunteers. Captain James Bell Stephenson, in the month of March, 1862, volunteered for a company to be raised in Grimes County under the reputation of the President. On the twenty sixth of that same month fifteen hundred men joined his company. They were called the Grimes County Greys. In a few months time the Governor thought he had about twenty thousand men in military service before the conscription laws went into effect.²⁶

Conscription men from 18 years old to 35 years old, in 1862. It was quickly followed by another law which required men from 17

to 50, though 16 year olds were often taken. However the lax exemption policy and the provision permitting a man to have a substitute to fight for him had a bad effect on the morale of the men fighting behind the lines. (A man could pay three hundred dollars for such a substitute both in the South and in the North.) According to the Texas census of 1860 white men between the ages of 18 to 45 numbered about 92,145 and at least two thirds of that number must have seen military service. Of this sixty thousand men probably two thirds served west of the Mississippi while the rest were in the Army of Mississippi and the Army of northern Virginia.

Texans fought on every battle front and a host of witnesses vouch for their valor, nobility and heroic daring. The name of B.F. Frank Terry's *Terry's Rangers* stands out as being unsurpassed in bravery and daring. Ross' Texas Brigade fought well on both sides of the Mississippi, and Hood's Brigade broke the Federal lines at Gaines' Mill, Virginia, and became the first division of Longstreet's famous corps. Valiant men and boys from Waller County figured in one and all of these encounters.

The war exacted a cruel toll of Texas' brave men. Among those who did not return were Ben McCulloch who fell at Pea Ridge, Albert Sidney Johnston killed at Shilo and two thirds of Terry's Rangers whose graves might be found in half a dozen states.

A confederate recruiting station was located at Liendo. As was also a "Prisoner of War Camp". Hempstead is mentioned in Wm. Psych Zuber's "My Eighty Years in Texas" as (Mr. Zuber's) having passed through it on his way home on sick leave. During the war, according to Zuber, Texas was divided into Militia Captains Districts called "beats". Their number according to the population of each county. Each "beat" was entitled to two justices of the Peace and one constable. Zuber mentions also, that Colonel Carter's Lancers enlisted at Prairie Plains and their captain was instructed to meet with the company at Hempstead on April first, 1862 where they would be formally organized.

The company itself made the selection of all their officers and Captain John B. Alston remained their Captain. First Lieutenant was Augustus D. Edwards, Second Lieutenant John Cross Jones, Third Lieutenant John B. Ashford. They went into camp at Clear Creek three miles south west of Hempstead. Since Groce's Plantation is in this area it is possible that they made camp at Camp Groce or at Camp Herberl in the same area. Zuber mentions that "new" camps were bountifully supplied with: "tin plates,

pans and cups, also knives and forks, iron ovens, Kettles, and frying pans. Each company had a baggage wagon and six mules to pull it." "Lowell" cloth made by Texas women was used to build tents. The wealthy soldiers brought along their own black servants who were sent out to buy suchainties as the Army did not provide.

NOTE: (George Groce's papers M.S. Archives collection. University of Texas Library records that during the reconstruction period four thousand Federal troops camped at Liendo Plantation.)

At most of the towns and Hempstead was no exception, posts were established by officers for the collection of "citties" of farm produce for use in the Army. Wagons under private control also ran from Texas to Arkansas to Louisiana loaded with hats, clothing, and shoes contributed by families of relatives in the Army. Another interesting fact during the war was that the penitentiary in Huntsville, Texas, under the control of the government, manufactured cotton and woolen cloth each year and made over a million and a half yards of cloth per year. This was distributed first to the soldiers and then to the families of those actually serving.²⁷

Except for the drain on man power, Waller County along with the rest of Texas was relatively prosperous during the Civil War. Since sixteen year olds were conscripted near the close of the conflict farm work was left to the women, and women in those days didn't shirk work. Federal troops were never able to completely cut off or even seriously hamper trade across the Rio Grande, and Texas furnished needed goods and money to the Confederate forces. Families of soldiers suffered the most and there was, even in Waller County privation among some of those families. The State tried to furnish aid to some seventy four thousand persons during this period but even this did little to relieve the privation.

Secession found three kinds of Union sympathizers in Texas. (1) those who accepted the decision and heartily sustained the efforts of the Confederacy, though it was against their beliefs, (2) those who tried to remain neutral, (3) and a few who left the state or tried to do so. Those too outspoken were arrested. One such case was Dr. Richard R. Peebles of near Hempstead and four other prominent citizens who were arrested in October 1863, charged with plotting treason against the Confederate government.²⁸ After imprisonment in San Antonio and then in Anderson, Peebles and two associates were exiled to Mexico. A handful of others hid out

and some were even slain after attempting to leave the state.

Political Activities

Political activities during the Civil War period were practically at a stand still. Governors Clark and Lubbock and Murrah spent most of their time in raising arms and supplies for the Confederate Army. Most of the citizenry, both men and women (if any of the men were left at home) spent their time and energy on the war effort. Local as well as state affairs were neglected and the state government became weaker to the extent that it began to lose control of its powers. The debt increased rapidly, frontier defenses were neglected and the Indians became more daring. Criminals became bolder and they actually looted the state treasury. An attempt was made to rob the state penitentiary, even.

With Lee's surrender Governor Murrah and most of the state officials fled to Mexico to avoid Federal arrest, and from May until July there was NO state government functioning in Texas. Because of the collapse of the state government "Vigilante Committees" and "Home Guards" were organized to protect homes and property.

Dissenters

Many of the immigrant families settling in Waller County came from foreign lands and one of the greatest motivations was to escape the compulsory military service imposed on their sons in their native land. It would seem natural then, one supposes, that they would oppose this Civil War, and some did.

Of the European element to remain neutral the largest group consisted of Germans many of whom resided in Waller County. It is NOT recorded that these Germans were actively engaged in taking part in the organization called *Union Loyal League* of 1861, which had to be put down by General Magruder. Many Germans living in Waller County volunteered for service and became "superb soldiers". Though the Germans in other areas of the state caused some trouble, another element made up of "draft dodgers" organized into a "Peace Party" in 1862. Their prime purpose was to overthrow the Confederate government to pave the way for a Federal invasion. Spies soon reported its activities to the military forces. Civilians and military forces joined in a campaign to destroy the movement in its infancy. Scores of men were arrested and tried by a "Peoples Court" which was neither military nor constitutional. By February 1863 desertion had become such a problem, it was estimated that a thousand deserters were in Henry E. McCulloch's submilitary district alone.²⁹ By offering special inducements he was able to enlist three hundred of these

men but found that "these bush soldiers had a weakness to return to the brush"! Sterner measures brought improvement in 1864.

War Commerce Centers

In Waller County, Hempstead was the only town of any size during the Civil War. It was, therefore, the one center of commerce in this area. Not too far away was Huntsville and its penitentiary. Galveston with its port was more distantly removed. Cotton must be transported to the Rio Grande and it is said by one observer that "chapparal would be almost white in places from lint detached from passing bales". Cotton if shipped to the north sold for thirty cents per pound. Sometimes it brought one dollar per pound. If the wagons got through they returned with a load of sugar, coffee, cloth, nails, and often medicine and military supplies. The arrival of supplies often caused crowded conditions at the stores where ladies stood in line "wedged up and swaying about" for hours. One woman paid \$180.00 for a dozen candles, one pair of shoes, and one bolt of domestic cloth. The merchant's stock of \$60,000 worth of merchandise would be gone in about a week.

Industries in Waller County

At this stage of growth in Waller County industry was born of necessity rather than progress alone. Farming was the most important industry with cotton as "king". Cotton was the money maker with cattle, swine and mustangs running next.

By 1859 Hempstead, the county seat of Waller County, had a fabric mill which was called Concordia Mills and was under the supervision of one Colonel J.C. Rome. It turned out fine fabrics and number 11 thread. A pottery was opened by a Mr. Knox who had discovered an enormous bed of pure white clay suitable for making crockery. It was said to take a very fine glaze. Mr. Barzsch owned a saddle factory, there was a Wilding boot and shoe factory, and the Amslers ran a cotton gin. Three hotels - Captain Snell's Hotel, Fulton and Lester owned the Planter's Exchange, and Mrs. Crawford the Texas House. There was a book store, Tannery, iron foundry, various blacksmith shops, Ahrensbeck's wagon factory. A public market was being built, there were factories for manufacturing soap, brooms, plows, and chairs. There was also a cotton seed oil mill. A round house was built in Hempstead in 1871 but removed to Giddings in 1920.

A devastating fire in 1872 destroyed the Callahan Oil Works, the soap factory, a cotton gin and a grist mill. The damage was said to be about \$80,000.

Farm Activities

Since farming was the industry which occupied most of the inhabitants of Waller County it is interesting to learn how it was carried out. In early statehood and the time of a great influx of immigrants, farms sprung up all over, and even in the heavily wooded areas where trees had to be felled to provide ground for farming. Oxen provided the necessary power for pulling plows but they were slow. However, those oxen could pull a plow around stumps in record time. Plows were usually hand made at home but plow shares made of iron could be purchased for a price. Blacksmiths made good money mending broken and bent plow shares that had met with a tough stump, a large root or even a big rock. Harrows were hand made and were nothing more than sharpened sticks hacked from saplings (good sized branches cut from trees) and fastened to a wooden base on which the farmer or a good sized son stood to keep it in the ground as the oxen pulled it along. Corn and cotton were both planted by hand, the seeds being dropped one by one into a furrow made by a hoe, at first, later the ground was opened with a sweep. The seed thus dropped was presently covered with a hoe, later with a sweep also. Cultivation was done by hoe until farmers learned to use the sweep, and later a cultivator; all this took a decade or more. All harvesting of corn and cotton was done by hand, as well.

In winter, with the coming of the first cold snap, hogs were butchered and the meat made into sausage, hams and bacon sides, with the bones, ribs and such pieces being salted down for future use. Pork was seldom if ever jerked but it was the Germans who taught the settlers how to make liver sausage and head cheese. As time went on farmers learned to prepare for winter for their live stock by topping corn and pulling *fodder*, fodder was the green leaves of corn which was then dried for storing. Hay making came later as cattle were left to graze on the lush prairie grass. Both kinds of potatoes were stored in earthen banks for safe keeping. The women dried fruit for winter use, some even tried to dry berries which grew so plentifully in Waller County. Wood was cut by the cord for use in the fireplace and later on in crude wood stoves. No country home looked right without a big pile of wood out near the kitchen. And no country home looked right without a "slop barrel" close enough to the kitchen so dish water and other liquids could be stored here for the hogs. Sometimes a careless boy fell into the greasy mess and what a sorry sight she presented for days on end. Pity the poor daughter who had to fish the hog out! The man of the house or a sturdy son sawed the logs

into stovewood lengths on a saw horse which stood ready all the time. A huge black iron wash pot was always in evidence, and always near what ever source of water there was to be had.

Winter was the time for mending harness, saddles and such things as a man needed for farming. He was busy mending and soling shoes, or repairing some pot or pan for his wife. The lady of the home busied herself with quilting, weaving and knitting. Her hands were never idle. Sewing took up a large part of her time. Even nursing the baby was not a completely idle moment. As the baby nursed the mother churned or taught her children or read from the Bible to her family.

When illness of a serious nature struck a home the neighbors were immediately informed and always there was one woman who excelled in caring for the sick in each community. No matter what time of the day or night she was summoned she went. Often, like as not, she walked several miles to her destination.

One major problem for the farmer was the matter of fencing. Rails had to be split from felled trees. This was a ways done in the Spring of the year while the "sap was up" as green trees were easier to split than were the dry ones. The rails were stacked for future use. Shingles had to be split also, in like manner, but the trees must be bigger around and the blocks were sawed with cross-cut saws into blocks about two feet high. These shingles were called "boards" which in fact they really were, as they were sometimes two inches thick or so and about two feet long. All land was fenced with rails so the fence had to be built in a zigzag fashion. This zigzag manner of construction held the rails in place pretty well, though often the fence was reinforced with a post or so for strength.

- Arner, Daniel
Arner, Thomas
Bailey, Bryan Whitfield
Blanchard, Harmon
Blumberg, August
Boomer, James Malvern
Boulet, Adrain
Briets, Henry
Brown, Captain W. W.
Burch, Michael B.
Bush, William W.
Cathcart, A. W.
Chapman, W. W. (Spanish Am.)
Cheaney, William
Clapp, Peter Lewis
Clegg, Thomas W. (Colonel)
Cole, George W.
Cooke, Hugh
Day, J. W.
DeCham, Francis
DeWitt, A. G.
Dinkins, James N.
Doran, W. F. (Sims)
Ebel, William
Ferguson, W. W.
Frederick, William Zadew
Gable, Thomas Bryan
Gobel
Garnett, James Robert
Garrett, Silas A.
Goodrum, Rubin
Greer, David
Greer, Orrin (Orin)
Greer, Edward Bryon
Greer, J. C.
Greer, John
Greene, Jured Ellison
Hargrave, Captain R. W.
Hegar, Otto
Herna, Joseph (Fed)
Holik, Joseph
Hoorer, Merritt (Black)
Hutchinson, William
Jenkins, Vance Fitzpatrick
Kelly, Professor?
Lav, William Brent
Lawrence, George Williamson
Lemon, J. P. (Fed)
Leverkahn, Heinrich Konrad Karl
Loggins, William Endy
Malony, Peter (Fed.)
Marshall, M. C.
Mathews, Philip C.
Mathews, Robert C.
McConnell, J. J.
McCown, J. R.
McElvey, Daniel K.
McDade, Captain (Billie) W. A.
McDade, Jim Alex. died at Gettysburg
McDade, P. R.
McFarlin, Sidney B.
Meador, Robert Allen
Milam, W. H.
Moore, L. M.
Morgan, Ivy
Ogg, John Senior
Page, Jack
Page, James Jackson
Page, William (Bill)
Pattison, John Tarrant
Pattison, William Robert
Pattison, John T.
Pattison, Wm. Robert
Paddyford, Nathan T. (Fed)
Phillips, Joseph W.
Pinckney, Thomas W.
Pinckney, John M.
Pinckney, R. N. W.
Quinn, William M.
Rafford, D.
Ray, Thomas W.
Reed, James
Reid, Thomas
Rice, John Robert
Riemer, Louis Gustaf Junior
Robertson, James V.
Robertson, James H.
Roebun, James C.
Rushing, Horace H.
Sanders, W. H.
Sapp, Perry W.
Scarborough, Sidney Thomas
Schaffner, Jacob
Schulz, William
Seber, J. S.
Shelfield, John Paul
Shelton, J. M.
Smith, Thomas Jefferson
Springer, A. E.
Stokeley, Jack
Stephenson, James Bell
Surrant, W. H.
Taylor, Thomas Saifon
Wallingford, Thomas G.
Weiting, Emil
Winfree, John Booker
Windham, Elias C.
Wipita, John
Zadew, Frederick William
- 1 Spindler, Frank McDonald. *A History of Saint Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Hempstead, Walker County, Texas*. M. A. thesis, The University of Houston, June 1955.
2 Rupert N. Richardson, *TEXAS: The Lone Star State*, 2nd. ed., (C) 1958, p. 165. Reprinted by permission of Prentice Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N. J.
3 Louis J. Wortham LLD, *A History of Texas: From Wilderness to Commonwealth*. (C) 1924, p. 209. Volume 4. Published in Fort Worth by WORTHAM-MOLYNEUX COMPANY. Permission granted by descendants, Mr. and Mrs. Chester T. Vann.
4 *Ibid.*, p. 256-257.
5 Doncker-Sleen, *Our Texas*: Steck Vaughn Company, Austin. Reprint permission granted. P. 254.
6 *Ibid.*, p. 230.
7 *Ibid.*, Vol. 4, p. 235.
8 Texas State Historical Association, Austin. *Texas Handbook* (C) 1952. Volume I-Z p. 346. Permission Granted.
9 *Ibid.*, p. 348.
10 *Ibid.*, Vol. A-K, p. 594.
11 Mrs. Edna Dinkins Nichols, as related to Mrs. L. H. Kobs.
12 Louis J. Wortham LLD, *A History of Texas: From Wilderness to Commonwealth*. (C) 1924, p. 209. Volume 4. Published in Fort Worth by WORTHAM-MOLYNEUX COMPANY. Permission granted by descendants, Mr. and Mrs. Chester T. Vann.
13 Mrs. Edna Dinkins Nichols, as related to Mrs. L. H. Kobs.
14 Lewis W. Newton and Herbert P. Gambrell, *Social and Political History of Texas* revised ed. (C) 1935. Reprint permission granted, Turner and Company, Dallas, Texas, p. 262.
15 Doncker-Sleen, *Our Texas*: Steck Vaughn Company, Austin. Reprint permission granted. P. 254.
16 Lewis W. Newton and Herbert P. Gambrell, *Social and Political History of Texas* revised ed. (C) 1935. Reprint permission granted, Turner and Company, Dallas, Texas, p. 262.
17 *Ibid.*, p. 125, 181, Vol. IV.
18 *Ibid.*, p. 181.
19 As narrated by "Old Timers".
20 *Ibid.*, p. 215.
21 *Ibid.*, p. 215.
22 *Ibid.*, p. 122.
23 *Ibid.*, p. 122.
24 Rupert N. Richardson, *TEXAS: The Lone Star State*, 2nd. ed., (C) 1958, p. 165. Reprinted by permission of Prentice Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N. J.
25 Captain James Bell Stephenson, Biography of, Permission granted by Descendant Mrs. Georgia Lee Stephenson Whitley.
26 *Ibid.*, p. 253.
27 *Ibid.*, p. 201-202.
28 Rupert N. Richardson, *TEXAS: The Lone Star State*, 2nd. ed., (C) 1958, p. 165. Reprinted by permission of Prentice Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N. J.

The new Waller County Courthouse and Jail were completed in 1955.

A change in the boundary between Waller and Harris Counties was approved by the voters of both counties in 1967. Waller County acquired forty-five acres of land on the east side of the city of Waller through this legislation.

In 1972, the last of four new bridges was finished across the once treacherous Navas River.

In 1961, Jess Grathouse, then Commissioner of Precinct One, at the request of Judge John C. Winfree started the collection and framing of the portraits of the County Judges of Waller County since its formation. After some three years Judge Grathouse finished this arduous task with one exception. A picture of Judge W.S. Wright, the first County Judge of Waller County has not been found.

When viewing the array of pictures in the County Courtroom, one cannot escape the feeling of progress from the pioneering days of the six-shooters to the present day of law and order.

County Officials

Over the years the Court has made many decisions, some of great importance, some of lesser significance. A list of the men who have made up that Court follows. For the most part the year listed before the name is the year in which the official was elected.¹⁵⁸ If appointed, the year and exact date of appointment, bond approval, or effective date of employment are shown. The officials were elected for two-year terms until around 1954 when the four-year term went into effect.

County Judge

1876 - W. S. Wright
1879 - H. C. Tompkins
1886 - W. E. Howell
1888 - H. C. Tompkins
1890 - A. C. Lipscomb
1892 - H. C. Tompkins
1894 - A. G. Lipscomb
1896 - R. E. Hancey
1900 - J. M. Finckley
1902 - J. B. Harvey (appointed 11-25-00)¹⁵⁹
1912 - Allen B. Harvey (appointed 8-10-13)¹⁶⁰
1917 - A. G. Lipscomb (appointed 11-26-17)¹⁶¹

County Commissioner Precinct One

1876 - Marks Cohen
1878 - Martin Scott
1880 - J. C. Ralston
1882 - G. W. Fuller
1886 - Phil Gadsden
1888 - Nero Boyd
1890 - J. Fields
1894 - E. Montgomery
1898 - Peter Carl
1900 - A. Guilmette
1904 - O. E. Wood
1920 - L. A. Clemens

County Commissioner Precinct Two

1876 - I. N. Jones
1878 - S. P. Norwood
1880 - A. J. Bradbury
1882 - W. W. Moore
1884 - J. J. McConnell (appointed 7-26-84)¹⁶⁵
1884 - A. G. Dawees
1886 - J. W. Page
1888 - Sam Parquhar
1890 - J. W. Brown
1892 - E. Bloomberg
1894 - J. G. Henson
1896 - P. W. Sapp
1898 - G. W. Heard
1900 - W. A. Sosby

County Commissioner Precinct Three

1876 - David Harris
1878 - Homer Laag
1879 - D. S. Cury (appointed 11-15-79)¹⁶⁷
1880 - Willis Jackson
1882 - C. R. Dixon, Jr.
1882 - G. B. Dixon, Jr.
1886 - E. G. Sterling (appointed 11-27-82)¹⁶⁸
1888 - J. E. Mills
1892 - W. H. Rhane
1894 - John Steffen
1896 - William Carrato
1898 - H. Bing

On November 7, 1972 at a General Election held in Justice's Precinct Four, there was to have been elected one county commissioner for Commissioner's Precinct Three. Late at night following the day of election the ballot box and

Sloan; and Charles.

5. V. V. (Vincent) Urban, Hempstead Postmaster for several years, who married Katherine Schmitt.

6. Idell died as a baby.

7. A. A. (Alonzo) Urban, Banking and Loans, who first married Mary Theresa Moore. Their children were: Mary Elizabeth who married J. M. Kosh; A. A. Urban, Jr., a dentist, who married Leonora Budnik; Louise who died at the age of twenty; and William Urban, a pharmacist, who married Tonie Stokes.

A. A. Urban's second marriage was to Mrs. Marie Carson.

Contributed by Mary Elizabeth Urban Kush

J. R. Off

Vaughns

In the 1800's in a migration from Virginia to Texas was the family of Wash Vaughns, consisting of himself, his wife and three children, Henry, David and Betie. The family settled in Washington County when freedom was declared. The son David recalled that he was born in 1861, and that the family probably came to Texas around that time. He married Miss Elizabeth Richards, and to the couple were born twelve children. One of these children, Mrs. Syphronia J. Matthews is still living, her residence being in Wichita Falls.

David bought a farm east of the Brazos in the Cooper League and built his home and developed a farm on it. His farm prospered and he was able to build tenant house, a commissary and a blacksmith shop. The Brazos floods proved so destructive that he bought land for a home nearer Brookshire. Among his descendants are teachers, ministers, carpenters, army officers, supervisors, and even light weight boxers. All have been hard working and respected.

Contributed by members of the family

J.R.O.

Wade

William Henry Wade (1870-1927) of Freestone County married Emy Jane McAlpine (1878-1921) of Grimes County in 1894. They purchased farm land, lived, and reared their family in the Fields Store Community where both are buried.

Twelve children were born of the union: 1. Clara Adell, wife of E. C. Dorson - 4 children: James, Eva, Lois, Mabel; 2. James Fred, married to Gladys Southerland; 3. Luther Edward, husband of Addie Dinkins - 2 children: Maurine and Ouida; 4. Salie Lee, married to O. D. Hargrave, (see Hargrave); 5. Letta Alene, wife of S. M. Lawson - 6 children: Samuel, Juanita, Carl, William, Billie,

Jack; 7. Flossie Anna married A. J. Gyger; 8. J. D. whose wife was Cleo Clarkson - 3 children: Kathryn, Helen, Mary Ellen; 9. Opal Iona, wife of O. G. Harris - 2 children: George and Bobbie; 10. Lillian Mae, married to Jack E. Taylor; 11. Henry Edmund married Violet Erwin - 1 child, Henry, Jr.; 12. Mary Sue was deceased as an infant.

Contributed by Mrs. A. J. Gyger and Mrs. Otto Hargrave M.W.A.

Wallingford

Thomas Ginn Wallingford moved from Kentucky after his first marriage to Evaline Bedell. His children are as follows: Mattie Wallingford married Bob Day; Jimmy Wallingford died young; Eliza Owens Wallingford born in 1860 married Lewis Melvin Moore; Tom Wallingford, born 1862, married Jennie Dewees; Anne Wallingford married Reuben Boulware; and Evaline Wallingford, born in 1870, died young.

Mr. Thomas Ginn Wallingford served in the Confederate Army four years and remembered well the first Battle of the Wilderness. After the War he remained in contact with surviving comrades, and went regularly to the Reunions of the John B. Hood Brigade in the area around his home.

His wife, Evaline died in 1870. Jimmy died of yellow fever. Mr. Wallingford's son Tom and his daughter Eliza both had the fever, but survived. While their fever was high they were placed in tubs of cold water to bring their temperatures down. It may be that this is what saved them.

Some ten years after his first wife died Thomas Ginn Wallingford married Annie Tucker. To this second marriage were born Alvin Wallingford who married Susie Heflin; John Pinckney Wallingford who married Edna Hagar; and Minnie Wallingford who married Harry Noe. Mr. Wallingford died in his home at Fields Store, and is buried in the Cemetery there.

Contributed by A. T. Moore

J.R.O.

Ward

The first recorded Ward to immigrate to Waller County, was John R. Ward who with his sister and brother (three orphans) came from Ireland.

John married a widow Mrs. Mary Ann Williams Kemper and settled in Abbeville, Louisiana.

John and Mary Ann moved to Hempstead, Texas in 1881. He was from here that he enlisted in the Confederate Army. He worked as a gunsmith at Anderson, Texas during the war.

she served as secretary in the Registrar's office. Two children were born of this union; Jean, an English teacher at N. Carolina University in Durham, and Ernest M. Jr., production manager of *Forward Times*, a Houston newspaper.

In 1929 Dr. Norris joined the Prairie View A & M staff as professor of Soils and Crops, took leave to earn the Ph. D. Degree from Cornell in 1937, then returned to Prairie View as head of the Department of Agriculture, a position which he held until retirement in 1958.

Purchasing coverage south of the College along Highway 290, he built his home, built Club Gables, opened a bus station, organized Prairie Gables Subdivision, and with partners, opened the Humble Service Station. Active in his community, Dr. Norris has served as mayor and city councilman, and has provided leadership for the organization of Prairie View Memorial Park and the Prairie View Water District.

Contributed by Mrs. E.M. Norris

M.W.A.

Norwood

Peter Norwood is the earliest known ancestor of the Norwood family of Waller County. He was born in 1819 in North Carolina, and married Anne Elizabeth Adelia Hine in Limestone County Alabama September 28, 1843. She was the daughter of Wildman and Sarah (Love) Hine, and a direct descendant of Thomas Hine who immigrated from England to Milford, Connecticut before 1646. Peter and Adelia (Hine) Norwood had six children, the first three born in Ascension Parish Louisiana and the last three in Harris County Texas: Stafford Putman, Augusta M., Jones, Ventress, Weachins, and Colman Thomas. Of these six four are known to have left descendants.

Stafford Putman (June 27, 1844-January 13, 1920) married Lucy Ann Farquhar in Austin County July 29, 1869. She was born May 26, 1852 and died June 2, 1932; the daughter of Alfred and Sarah Ann (Jackson) Farquhar, and the granddaughter of Elisha Davis and Anna (Harbour) Jackson of Washington County Texas. Stafford and Lucy Norwood had five children: Adelle (b. 1872 and died young), Florence Edna (1875-1955), Lela Augusta (1876-1960), Julia Ella (b. 1879), and Joe Norwood.

Stafford Norwood served in the Confederate Army from 1861 to 1865. Companies A and H, 26th Texas Cavalry.

Ventress Norwood (1852-1920) married Mary Ella Wilson. They had eight children: Peter W. (1879-1946), James M. (1880-1954), Wessie (1882-1966), Eddie A. (1883-1940), Stout

Vent (1889-1955), Addie Adella (1891-1893), Jessie (1897-1932), and Annie Laura (b. 1894). Westina Norwood (1855-1941) married Arthur Clark Tompkins (1853-1904). They had six children: Elliott Nelson, Clara, Adelaide, Arthur Garfield, Ida Mahan, and Martha Julia. Arthur Clark Tompkins was the son of Henry Clay and Martha (Gladish) Tompkins.

Cotman Thomas Norwood (1857-1940) married Nora Gertrude Shiver of LaGrange, Texas. They had three children: Stella who died young, Gussie Eulee, and Arthur Joseph Norwood.

Peter and Anne (Hine) Norwood both died in Harris County Texas about 1858.

Contributed by the Reverend James Ramsey

uneciled

✓Ogg

To Henry Warren Ogg, Sr. and his wife Emmalyne Anderson Ogg were born eleven children as follows: Thomas who died at the age of three months; Minnie who married W. B. Holder; James Wesley who married Estella Phlyng; John Edward who married first Emmie Roberts, second Alice Alford; Henry Warren who married Bessie Campbell; Clara Isella who married Arthur Williams; Joseph Fulcher who married Ollie Freeman; Marye Edna who married John Andrew Hafer; Jesse Peachman who married Myrtle May Williams; Callie Lee who married Charley Digler; and Maggie Lou who died at the age of eleven years.

Descendants of Henry Warren Ogg, Sr. and his wife who still live in Waller County are: Mrs. Edna Ogg Hafer, her daughter Mrs. Opal Schild, and John Theodore, Schild Dwight Patrick Schild and Cadaco Schild Smith (Cadace is adopted) and her daughter, Charon Smith; and Mrs. Juanita Massey and Mrs. Irene Crowhurst, granddaughters of Minnie Ogg Holder, and Mrs. Glenda Crowhurst Moseley, great granddaughter of Minnie Ogg Holder.

✓Ogg

Thomas Ogg moved to Yarbrough Lake in what was then Montgomery, Texas, from Georgia in about the year 1842. Here the family resided for several years before buying land near Walnut Creek in an area that is now in Waller County. There Thomas built his home and reared his children to adulthood. He had in all nine children as follows: John, a son by his first marriage to a Miss Suggs; -who married Susan T. Howell; James, who married Eliza Heflin; Henry, who married Emma Anderson; Elizabeth, who first married Edward Howell, and then married Alex Ryals; Martha (spouse's name not available); Salbe, who married Press Izard;

Carrie, who married Ed Wise; Pat, who married George Randle, and Thomas, Jr., who was killed in the Battle of Mansfield.

Thomas, Sr., and his second wife Martha who was the mother of his last eight children are buried in the Magnolia Cemetery. When they were buried their graves were marked by cedar slabs, hand carved by an Indian in the area.

Contributed by Granddaughters.

Cassie Horn Mahan and Edna Ogg Hafer

J.R.O.

✓ Ogg

John Ogg, Sr., was born in Georgia April 29, 1832, the only child of Thomas Ogg and his first wife. His mother died when he was two and within months old and thereafter he lived for several years in the home of his maternal grandparents, General and Mrs. Suggs - John's mother was the only child of the Suggs. After a few years Thomas remained, and in about 1842 he moved with his family to Yachborough in Montgomery County Texas. (In 1846 this area became part of the newly organized Grimes County.) Later Thomas bought land on Walnut Creek and established his home there. Here John grew to manhood.

As little married Sue Howell, the second daughter of Colonel Alfred E. Howell. Family tradition is that Thomas Ogg gave each of his children 150 acres of land. John and Sue built their home near that of Thomas and bought some adjoining land. There their five children, Alfred, Edward, John, Jr., Mollie and Cassie were born. John, Sr. had had some musical education and played the violin, and had a great deal of native talent. He celebrated the birth of his first daughter by composing the music and writing the words for a song he titled "Mollie Ogg".

When the War between the States began John, Sr., volunteered for service in the Confederate Army and was mustered in at Hackley. He served throughout War. Of the several battles in which he participated he spoke most often of the one in Galveston when the Confederates captured the ship Harriet Lane.

After the War John returned to his home on Walnut Creek, hoping to take up his farming activities on his land again. Sue had attended a school for girls in Huntsville, Alabama. There being no public school in the Walnut Creek area John and Sue built a room in their yard for one and employed a Mr. McNeill to teach their children because they could not tolerate the idea of their growing up without an education. Mr. McNeill lived in the family home, accepting room and board as part of his salary. Several friends also

sent their children to the school, those living near enough going from their homes, and those from too far away living in the Ogg home. Perhaps this schooling that John and Sue provided for their children in spite of the hardships of Reconstruction and its aftermath may account, in part, for the fact that one of their sons, ten of their grandchildren, and three great grandchildren became teachers.

When the movement for the creation of what would become Waller County was in progress John signed the petitions asking for the formation of the new county.

In the late 1870's John and Sue sold their land in Waller County and moved to Nelsenville in Austin County where they lived on the Bethany Plantation. A few years later they moved to the Fields Store Community in Waller County where they lived until John's death. Sue moved to Hempstead and lived in the home of her daughter, Mollie Bethany, where she died one year later. They are buried in the Fields Store Cemetery in the Ogg Family Plot.

Contributed by Members of the Ogg Family

J.R.O.

✓ Ogg

Henry Warren Ogg was born in Grimes County, Texas in 1879. There he married Emmalyne Anderson. The Oggs moved to the Walnut Creek area where he bought a farm, and there their eleven children were born. He died at home there when he was forty-eight years old and is buried in a family plot in the Magnolia Cemetery. Emmalyne remained on the farm and reared the children. When the five sons grew to manhood they went to Houston, and there all five began working in woodshops and became cabinet makers.

Henry and Emmalyne's children were Thomas who died in infancy; Minnie who married William Holder; James Wesley who married Estelle Phyling; John Edward who married first Emmie Roberts, and second Alice Alford; Henry Warren who married Beatie Campbell; Clara Isella who married Arthur Williams; Joseph Fulshear who married Ollie Freeman; Marye Edna who married John Andrew Hafer; Jesse Peachman who married Myrtle May Williams; Callie Lee who married Charley Bigler; and Maggie Louise who died at the age of eleven.

Ogg

John Ogg, Jr., son of John Ogg, Sr. and his wife Sue Howell Ogg, was born July 26, 1856, in his parents' home on Walnut

Osborne

George Smedly Osborne and his brother Harry were brought to Galveston in 1883 by their father who thought the boys would have a better chance in the United States than in England.

They separated — George at fifteen, made his way to San Antonio where he got a job with the Wells Fargo Express Company. While in San Antonio George had the good fortune to meet a man who was to become a life long friend. This man, Mr. Andrew Cathcart, a native of Scotland, sought out and befriended all immigrants from the British Isles.

Mr. Cathcart persuaded George to move to Hempstead and get a job with Wells Fargo there. This George did and worked his way into becoming the Agent in Hempstead.

George Osborne boarded with Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Witt.

At age 23 George married Mary Emily Allen, daughter of Doctor and Mrs. Nathaniel Allen and lived out their days in the old Allen home. (descendants listed under Allen).

Submitted by Mrs. Louise Shindler

L.L.K.

Page (J.J.)

James Jackson "Uncle Billy" Page (1839-1912) was born in North Carolina the son of Sampson and Alla Jane Page. In 1865 he married Elizabeth Eliza in Florida. They came to Texas in 1871 and in 1881 purchased 75 acres of farm land in the Ellington Survey near what was later to be the post office of Harvester.

Nine children were born to the couple: Emma Elizabeth, wife of J.M. Windham (See Windham); Fannie Alice, wife of O.G. Hegar (See Hegar); Clara Jackson who married J.F. Jones; Minnie Catherine; Mary Hall who married A.B. Etheredge (See Etheredge); Lee Hampton; James J. Jr., and 2 who died in infancy.

In 1875 "Uncle Dan" McIlvey, a horticulturist and a friend who served in the Confederate Army with Mr. Page, came to the Page farm where he developed an extensive fruit orchard. James J. Jr. (1838-1968) lived on and farmed the old homestead, during which time he served as trustee of Smith School, deputy sheriff, and constable before moving to Houston where he became a police officer.

Contributed by Miss Alice Etheredge

M.W.A.

Creek in what was then Grimes County, but is now in Waller County.

He seems to have inherited his father's natural talent for music and as a very small boy he would slip his father's violin to try to play the tunes of the times that were always running through his mind. His father was probably proud of the lad's talent, but violin strings cost money and in the days following the War between the States money was scarce, so reluctantly he forbade his son to use the violin unless he was with him so he himself could do the tuning. John, Jr. managed to earn some money, and when the next wagon load of cotton was sent to Houston he went along on it to buy himself a violin. He found a dust covered one in a pawnshop window, with the price tag showing \$2.50 through the dust. He bought it without quibbling over the price and thereafter he could saw on his own violin to suit himself.

In 1882 the Ogg family moved to the Fields Store Community in Waller County, and here John, Jr. bought a tract of land on Spring Creek and began farming. In 1886 he married Lee Lawrence. They built their home on the land, and there their six children were born, three little boys who died as babies, and three daughters: Nettie Lee Ogg, who married Galdish Nelson Tompkins; Willie Ogg, who married Junius Clay Tompkins; and Jimmie Rene Ogg.

One of the high lights of John Ogg, Jr.'s service to his neighbors was that he and his brother-in-law Elijah Hargraves were the ones who found little Minnie Free after she had been lost two days and nights in the woods in freezing December weather.

Ogg was successful farmer and stock raiser, and was able to pay for his land and make the necessary improvements on it in spite of droughts in summers, frequent floods in winter and spring that overflowed Spring Creek and swept away crops and fences. Even though he worked long days on the farm and with his livestock, he was able to supplement his income by moonlighting with his violin, playing for dances for which he frequently received payment; he also was in demand to play for school and church entertainments and picnics and barbecues which he was glad to do because he liked to give others pleasure, but for these events he took no pay. The Ogg family were active in their community. The three daughters were sent to school regularly and all three became teachers.

Lee Lawrence Ogg died in 1921, John in 1942, Nettie Ogg Tompkins in 1948, and Willie Ogg Tompkins in 1968. All are buried near the three little boys in the family plot in the Fields

THE PERIOD OF STATEHOOD FROM 1845 TO THE BEGINNING OF THE CIVIL WAR

By L.H. Leverkuhn Kobs

Preface

From the wilderness in 1519 to statehood in 1845 spans a period of growth to civilization that staggers the imagination. Yet, if ever a state stands out because of its unusual history of taming the wilderness and battling for freedom that state is Texas.

In order to appreciate the history of Waller County one must know what went before. To increase our hope for the future is to increase our knowledge of our wonderful past.

From the time the first white man set foot on Texas soil to our glorious present our history has been one of intense drama, romance, adventure, loyalty, and dogged determination in the struggle for freedom, and to this the color of the unusual and you have Texas.

Where but in Texas would a governor be granted an extended leave in order for him to go to war? Where but in Texas would the capitol be changed thirteen times? Where but in Texas would a woman Sculptor influence a governor to change drastically from limestone to red granite in the construction of the State Capitol? Where but in Texas have the people lived under the jurisdiction of six separate nations? This includes the Republic of Texas also. Where but in Texas has a monument five hundred seventy feet tall been erected honoring all of the heroes taking part in a decisive battle? What other state has ever maintained a separate and sovereign existence sending and receiving Ambassadors from foreign nations?

Texas the twenty eighth state to enter the Union, was officially recognized on October the twenty ninth, 1845, by a joint resolution of Congress. Texas was admitted as a slave state rather than as a territory, and was first considered. Texas was to keep all its public lands and was to pay its own debts. Congress also specified that because of the large size of Texas "it might be divided into as many as five states if both the United States and Texas were willing."²

The Lone Star Flag of Texas, so dearly loved by all, was ceremoniously lowered on February 19, 1846 by President Anson Jones, and replaced by the Star Spangled Banner of the United States of America. This flag became the fifth flag to wave over Texas soil.

crop was sold on the Houston market. Other producers on a large scale are: A. W. Schildt of Waller who is a producer and buyer, J. D. Wood, the Boettcher family, Eristus Sams, Charlie Flukinger and others.

The control of weeds, insects as well as the amount of rainfall influence the yield of peanuts. Through government acreage allotment, the yield is on the increase because of scientific advancement and discoveries and the advantages of farm machinery used in the cultivation and threshing of peanuts.

There are locally owned facilities in Waller County for receiving, drying, storing and buying peanuts.

Grain Sorghum. Grain sorghum was grown on more acres and produced more total income than any other crop in Texas in 1969. According to the report of the County Program Building Committee, the average production in Waller County for the past five years has been 2,700 pounds per acre on 3,000 acres valued at \$200,000. The trend is toward fewer farms with more acres per farm and better yields per acre because of better management and improved technology.

Watermelons. During the '20's and '30's, Waller County was one of the important watermelon production centers in the United States. During the watermelon season, Hempstead was besieged with watermelon buyers from all over the country, and long strings of boxcars were on the railroad sidings at Hempstead, Prairie View and Howth stations to be used in transporting watermelons to all sections of the country.

One disease that did serious damage to the crops was a condition known as "watermelon blight", a fungus disease which wrought serious consequences. It was eradicated through the research done by Dr. J. J. Tumberhaus, plant pathologist in the Experimental Station at A. and M. College, and E. T. Williams, Agriculturist at Prairie View, who did research work on the farm at Prairie View A. and M. College.

Some producers who grew melons on a large scale were the families of Wallingford, Hill, Dilorio, Hinton, Archie, Chatham, Gabriel and others.

Mr. Gabriel was usually one of the first growers of the season to get his melons on the market, and he always displayed them in the Citizen State Bank of Hempstead. He has been known to raise melons weighing as much as 120 pounds each.

At one time, Bob Chatham was known as the "Watermelon King" of Waller County.

Several Waller County farmers cultivated large acreages of

watermelons in Austin County at one time.

Watermelon production has gradually subsided to the point where it contributes approximately \$100,000 to the agricultural economy of the county.

Pecans. There are several thousand acres of unimproved pecan trees in Waller County, according to the report of the Waller County Program Building Committee. Mr. Wilmer Vandrugh, a dealer in pecans, operates the Brazos Valley Pecan House in Brookshire, Texas.

Vegetables. There are many vegetables produced in Waller County on a commercial basis. These include cantaloupes, beans, okra, cabbage, tomatoes and several others.

Several greenhouses are in operation growing tomatoes including the one operated by Mr. J. D. Keesee on Highway 359 near Hempstead. His greenhouse is one of the larger operations.

The Schindler family produced beans on a commercial basis for a number of years.

SOME CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN WALLER COUNTY DURING THE PAST SIXTY YEARS

1. The horse and buggy has been replaced by the automobile.
2. Farm machinery has replaced horse, mule and ox power.
3. Passenger train service has disappeared and has been replaced by automobile and air transportation.
4. Farm-to-market roads form a network of hard-surface roads over the entire county.
5. Rural electrification has furnished a network over the entire county.
6. Electricity has replaced the kerosene lamp.
7. Longhorn cattle have been replaced by standard breeds of cattle.
8. Texas fever in cattle and the fever tick have been eliminated from Waller County and the South.
9. Loan disease of cattle has been eliminated from the county.
10. Bang's disease made its appearance and has been almost eliminated.
11. Screwworm infestation in animals has been almost eliminated.
12. Pullagra in man has almost been eliminated.
13. Polio in man has been eliminated.
14. Measles and tuberculosis have come into Waller County.
15. Lice and peanuts as farm cash income has exceeded that of cotton during recent years.
16. Soil building and erosion prevention practices have been instituted and pastures have been improved. Water tanks, dams, and terraces have been constructed over the entire county.
17. Cotton farming has given way to cattle raising.
18. Several bridges have replaced the old ferry across the Brazos River. Two of these bridges are on the Brenham and Bellville Highways, respectively.
19. The public school system has been consolidated, and the quantity and quality of service has been improved.
20. Small farms have been gradually disappearing.

time seeking a charter from the White colonial Masons. Failing here, they were granted a charter by the British Grand Lodge, and African Lodge Number 459 was formally organized in 1787. In 1791 the Grand Lodge was established with Prince Hall as Grand Master.

Lone Star Lodge Number 85 at Hempstead was chartered in 1893. With a membership of 67, it meets twice monthly on first and third Monday nights. Meeting place is the Lone Star Lodge Hall at Hempstead. A new charter was issued to the Hempstead group by Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Fort Worth, Texas, in June 24, 1935. Current officers are:

Worshipful Master	J.M. Tompkins
Senior Warden	Osborne Clark
Junior Warden	Nathan Davis
Senior Deacon	Richmond Thompson
Junior Deacon	Maurice Owens

Pleasant Hill Lodge Number 380

Dispensation for Pleasant Hill Lodge Number 380 was dated September 27, 1872.

It was signed at Paris, Texas by William Bramlette, the Grand Master at the time. In the Dispensation William Wilson was appointed as first Master, W.T. Cole as Senior Warden, and Elias E. Wilson as Junior Warden. Charter dues entered in the proceedings was June 7, 1872. The Lodge was originally named Patrick, but was changed on the charter date to Pleasant Hill since the original name had been for a living man and this was against the laws of the Grand Lodge. Early meetings were scheduled for the third Saturday of each month at Fields Store in Grimes County, this community being a part of Grimes County as Waller County was not yet created.

Master Masons petitioning for the Lodge were W.T. Cole, G.N. Hargrave, J.J. McConnell, Jas. W. Renfro, John Renfro, George W. Lawrence, W.J. Wilson, E.E. Wilson, and J.J. Wilson. 27 First officers serving the Lodge Under Dispensation were:

Worshipful Master	W.J. Wilson
Senior Warden	W.T. Cole
Junior Warden	E.E. Wilson
Treasurer	J. Renfro
Secretary	J.J. McConnell
Senior Deacon	J.J. Wilson
Junior Deacon	G.W. Lawrence
Tiler	G.N. Hargrave

An interesting incident concerning the carrying of the charter yet lives.²⁹ It was the common practice in the early days to transport the charter to each meeting, rather than leave it permanently at the place of meeting. The tiler at the particular time was on his way to a meeting; riding horseback, he carried the charter secured to his saddle horn inside a slender metal tube about 12-14 inches long. On the way he met a couple in a wagon and stopped for a moment's chat. The lady, being of the curious type, spied the metal tube affixed to the saddle horn and asked, "What is that you are carrying there?"

The tiler stuttered only momentarily and replied, "Oh, that's my snuff box, Ma'm."

"Well," exclaimed the curious lady, "that's the longest snuff box I ever saw."

In 1905 Pleasant Hill Lodge, located on the John Rees one-third league, purchased from the New Hope Church a portion of the land previously deeded by J.W. Day to the church. The present Lodge building, erected about 1911, is believed to be on this parcel of ground. The old building, a two story affair used for a church downstairs and a lodge room above, was wrecked and a portion of its timbers salvaged for the present building.

Earlier an Eastern Star chapter existed along with the Lodge. It has since demised, part of the members affiliating with the Hempstead chapter and part with Waller.

Pleasant Hill presently has three 50-year members: T.W. Garrett, Albe Lee Hosmer, and Frank Pace. The Lodge also has somewhat of a record in that the present secretary, T.W. Garrett, has served in the office continuously since 1927. Officers of 1972-73 were:

Worshipful Master	J.E. Riley
Senior Warden	Roy Cook
Junior Warden	E. Scott Howell
Treasurer	Albe Lee Hosmer
Secretary	T.W. Garrett
Senior Deacon	Archie Lee Hosmer
Junior Deacon	Ben F. Pope
Senior Steward	C.F. Pace
Junior Steward	W.A. Brennan
Chaplain	C.A. Petty
Tiler	Lester Turpin

Waller Lodge Number 1009

Organizational Information indicated a charter date of December 7, 1897. Twenty-one charter members were listed: E.A.

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received the deed to one acre of land in the Southwest corner of a forty-acre tract of land from John McCown and wife, Vinie. This land had been purchased by John McCown and from J. F. Muske and was situated about thirty feet South of the H. W. N. R. R.

Reid's Prairie Baptist Church

On August 24, 1890 Brothers J. J. McConnell, J. T. Danford, M. Shelton, A. W. McAlpine, A. M. Campbell, J. M. Milam, J. W. Robertson, A. J. Andrews, and Sisters M. E. McConnell, Susan Danford, Sallie Shelton, Sallie McAlpine, M. E. Campbell, L. C. Milam, Elizabeth Robertson, W. E. Andrews, Cynthia Ray, T. A. Sanders, and Susan McAlpine met at the schoolhouse on the north side of Reid's Prairie for the purpose of organizing a Baptist Church. They chose to call it Reid's Prairie Baptist Church. The reverend J. N. Clayton, a missionary of the Evergreen Association, served as moderator and preached the sermon for this meeting. He continued to serve as pastor for three years.

The first deacon was J. J. McConnell. Mr. McConnell and Mr. Danford were elected to carry the petitionary letter to the Evergreen Association. The church was received by the Evergreen Association on October 25, 1890, and the first meeting was held at this time.

A building program was begun July 8, 1894. D. A. McAlpine donated a lot next to the school and facing on the Navasota Stage Road. Sunday School was organized in April, 1896. By March, 1899 the church was free of debt.

Much later the road was blacktopped, it was changed to run back of the Church (present front). The doors and windows of the church were so changed as to cause the Church to face the new black top road. In 1947 the building was wired and electricity began to be used. New floors were laid in 1962 and windows were replaced. More recently a fellowship hall with facilities of water, bath, and a kitchen have been added.

Since its beginning, the Church has had about 22 pastors, it serves over 100 members, and the Sunday School has grown from 3 to 56. Worship services are held twice each Sunday, Reverend Robert Doss is the present pastor.

Information furnished by Mrs. E. F. Christopher and written by Dr. Mildred Absahier, Granddaughter of Rev. J. N. Clayton.

Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Brookshire

December 23, 1890, 5/7 acres of land was sold to the colored people of the Mt. Zion Community near Lessie in Waller County,

After the second storm, Rev. T. S. Willford wrote a sermonette: "Godliness is profitable unto all things, having the promise of this life and that which is to come"; and placed it in the pillars of the rebuilt church. Four classrooms were added to this building in 1928.

In 1950, Rev. and Mrs. G. Z. Saddler had the vision of a new church and made a large donation toward a new structure. Rev. Larry Stokes was pastor when the sanctuary was consecrated on November 22, 1953, and the First Methodist Church, officially named, was dedicated October 21, 1962. In July, 1963, the educational wing was finished and consecrated on the 7th.

Today as papers, documents and records rest in the cornerstone of the First United Methodist Church, Brookshire, Texas, the members may look to future generations who may find this message "As you look back on the work of the congregation of 1953, it is our fervent prayer that those who read this may look upon our work and give thanks to Almighty God for the faith, foresight, and foundations of Christian Faith which we hope to provide for you."

Information unless otherwise noted is from "First United Methodist Church, Brookshire, 1970."

New Hope United Methodist Church, Field's Store

The New Hope members have been working together many years and, like the Macedonia United Methodist Church, were in the Montgomery Circuit during the beginning of Methodism in Texas. Records of the Montgomery Circuit would likely reveal an earlier date, however, these were not consulted in the length of time available for the history so we rely on the first date of March 25th A.D. 1845, as recorded in "A History of Methodism in Texas", M. Phelan, 1924 (page 274) where Methodist "discipline" was shown in connection with a member having "shot a Beef Belonging to Mortimer Dunnebrew three or four times Leaving it un Killed" and "having shot a yearling Bull a stray and skinning it and Leaving the carcass in the woods". The committee hearing the charges "unanimously agree that James Davis is Guilty of the Charges alleged against him which Charges we Believe to be Sufficient to Exclude a Person from the Kingdom of Grace and Glory". This was signed by E. D. Johnson, James Bell, and D. G. White. The report further states the case was appealed to the quarterly conference and the minutes show that the action of the committee in expelling the accused was affirmed.

During the year of 1871, J. W. Dwy conveyed one acre of land, with a boundary beginning at a stake on D. H. Fields line and running fifty-four varas, to trustees I. N. Jones and Jesse Goodwin and their successors. It was stated the deed was "for and in consideration of the love and affection I have for the Methodist Episcopal Church South." The land was to be used for Public Worship, school and permanent burying ground.³¹

Other conveyances to the church, all in the John Reese 1/3 League, were made by C. F. Fields in 1884, two and one-half acres for a church yard and general burying ground; C. H. Harris and wife Clara H. Harris in 1905 and 1913, one acre "about 10 miles North 70° E from Hempstead" for the place of divine worship, and one acre for cemetery purposes; and E. C. Schneider and wife Lena Sorsby Schneider in 1929, 79/100 acre to trustees W. W. Bunting, J. A. Smith and W. A. Sorsby.³²

In 1875 trustees I. N. Jones and William J. Wilson, with the approval of the Quarterly Conference, gave written permission to a Masonic Fraternity for use of the upper story "so long as the church building shall stand; in 1905 trustees of the Quarterly Conference Dr. Frank Jahn, W. A. Sorsby and J. J. Wilson deeded one-half acre to the Lodge.³³ The latter deed included the building which still stands on the original site.

The members met for services in the Masonic Hall until around 1906 during which time the congregation had plays, ice cream suppers, and donations to raise sufficient funds for a new one-room sanctuary with a steeple. A report noted in the Quarterly Conference meeting held at Pine Grove, May 11, 1894, when Weems Wooten was the Presiding Elder and the Preacher in Charge was Rev. M. F. Daniel, shows "Have lumber to rebuild the house at New Hope and will soon be in that place."³⁴ Services were held regularly every fourth Sunday at eleven o'clock at that time, and a revival meeting was held each summer after the crops were laid by.

Since its beginning the members have kept the church alive and active for one hundred two years; consistently having representatives at Quarterly Conferences of the church which has been in the Spring Creek Mission Charge, Huntsville, Chappell Hill, and Hockley Districts at various times.³⁵

Information was furnished by Mr. Cornie Jones and daughter, Gaynell Skrivarek, descendants of I. N. Jones.

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Since this is essentially the history of Waller County, it is well to note here that "counties" as such, came into being with the recognition of the Republic of Texas by the United States, by the official signing of the document of recognition by President Andrew Jackson. Following this recognition the old Municipalities were called counties. There were twenty three such municipalities in 1836 and out of them was carved the present Waller County, though this came much later. Actually, Waller County is carved out of the original Municipality which became Montgomery Creation.

With annexation all problems of foreign relations were assumed by the United States government. Texas no longer had a "Navy", no longer had an Army, and no longer had ambassadors to foreign countries.

A completely new government had to be formed and ordinances adopted as set forth by the United States government. A convention was called for July 4, 1845 at Old Washington. Without delay the delegates assembled, adopted an ordinance providing for annexation, then set to work drafting a new constitution. It took two months to draft the document but it was completed on August 23, 1845, and submitted to the public for adoption on the third Monday in December. The constitution was adopted and the state election was held. J. Pinckney Henderson was elected governor, Albert C. Horton was chosen lieutenant governor, and a legislature was elected.

Governor Henderson and the legislature immediately set about organizing the Texas State government. David G. Burnett was appointed secretary of state, John Hemphill was chosen Chief Justice of the supreme court, Abner S. Lipscomb and Royal T. Wheeler, associate justices of the supreme court, John W. Harris was chosen attorney general. The legislature also named James B. Shaw and James H. Raymond to fill the office of comptroller and treasurer respectively. District Judges for the whole state were appointed by the governor and the legislature. The legislature elected the district attorneys. Provision was made for an election to name two members to United States Congress. Sam Houston and Thomas J. Rusk were elected the first United Senators from Texas, and so the Texas government was organized.³

Public Lands

The state of Texas was in debt! No doubt about that, terribly in debt! Something had to be done, and done immediately. Immigration was thought to be part of the answer. Subsequently, some land grants were made to immigrants in order to attract

settlers, and others were made to those already living in Waller County in 1836. However the land grants made to those already living here in 1836 were called "headrights and boundaries" not grants.⁴

Following the War between the States more than 42,000 acres of land was set aside for public schools. Another 2,329,168 acres was given to the University of Texas and its branches. — It might be noted here that oil was discovered on this land from which the University of Texas has become wealthy.⁵

Some land was used to reward veterans of Texas wars. Those who fought at San Jacinto or in other campaigns received 640 acres of land each. The heirs of those who gave their lives at the Alamo received the same amount. The state gave over a million acres to those who served in the Texas Revolution. At the end of the Civil War Texas gave 1280 acres to each wounded soldier, over three million acres in all. Texas sold three million acres to help pay the public debt. And in 1879 Texas set aside three million acres to build the present state capital.⁶

Mexico gave up all claims to Texas in 1848 and the United States government paid the Mexican government fifteen million dollars for the conquered territory. Texas still disputed the boundary line which included Santa Fe, however. The United States offered to pay for the disputed territory and the Texas legislature accepted the ten million dollars. Now Texas could pay off her indebtedness and have money left over.

Great progress and rapid growth in population and wealth followed annexation for fifteen years in the settled sections of the state. Between 1846 and 1860 the white population grew from 102,960 to 421,411 and the slave population grew from 38,753 to 180,682, much of this in Waller County. Taxable property values increased from thirty four million dollars to two hundred and ninety million dollars. From 1853 to 1862 four hundred and fifty miles of railroads were built and there was corresponding development in other lines. Texas cotton increased from 39,744 bales in 1846 to 421,463 bales in 1860 and the number of cattle increased from 382,793 head in 1846 to 3,786,443 head in 1860. All staple crops showed similar growth. All this was true of Waller County also as many plantations furnished here.

It was during this period of growth that educational systems were given impetus. Prior to 1854 some state aid was provided for education but tuition was charged in all schools thus aided. At the beginning of 1864 the established school fund was \$129,658, to this in the same year was added two million dollars of the funds

received from the United States in exchange for the northwest territory. It is thought that the first school to be built south of the H&TC railroad was built on the Brown land, Waller County somewhat later. With all this progress it is no wonder that the "Lone Star" which was added to the American flag seemed to become the brightest star in the constellation.⁷

Grants to Railroads

From 1852 and for the next twenty years over thirty two million acres of Texas land was given to the railroad companies for laying tracks in Texas. Another compensation to the railroads was that they would survey equal amounts of acreage for the state free of charge in return for acreage to them. Many land owners now residing in Waller County bought land either from the railroad companies or in their surveys. The H.&T.C. is most often recorded in deeds. Waller County had one railroad built through its middle. The Houston and Texas Central it was called and is still in existence today.

Real progress in railroad building actually began in 1850. The Civil War stopped railroad building but the H & T C had begun to build at Houston in 1866 and got as far as Millican in the Brazos Valley. Texas, though considered barbaric, ignorant, and uncivilized by the inhabitants of the northern states, showed a commendable spirit of progress in the early efforts by the efforts of the legislature to give land grants to the railroads in order to stimulate railroad construction. Even though Texas had given land grants to the railroads the legislature subsequently granted large sums in the way of loans to help finance railroad building.

A short narrow gauge railroad called "The Texas Western Narrow Gauge Railroad" was built from Houston to Pattison in south eastern Waller County in 1877.⁸ The Missouri, Kansas and Texas was built southward through Indian Territory to Texas and on into Houston crossing Waller County at the southern end.⁹

The town of Falzer in north east Waller County was named for an employee of the International and Great Northern railroad which was built through the town.¹⁰

The first railroad of interest to Waller County was the Houston and Texas Central which was begun in 1853 in Houston and its construction ran to Cypress, then to Courtney, then to Hempstead, then to Navasota and by 1860 to Millican. This Railroad was joined at Hempstead by the Washington County railroad which ran from Beersham, a distance of twenty one miles. Hempstead was to become a center of trade because of the railroad built through there in 1857. Actually at first, the only

inhabitants of Hempstead were the people connected with the railroad.

Indians

That there were Indians in present Waller County is attested to by artifacts found here. There was a small nomadic tribe — name unknown — which crossed Waller County twice yearly. Once in the fall on their way south and again in the spring going north. They stopped at any and all homes and settlements asking for hand-outs. Anything not fastened down they simply helped themselves to. Pepper bushes were their special coveted prize. All homes grew at least one hot pepper plant for peppercorns which they doused copiously over their greens for flavor. Fall found the plants covered with rich ripe red fruit and the Indians would squat down beside a bush and eat until the fruit was gone. They seemed to enjoy it very much and *ate it like candy*. Nobody asked them to what tribe they belonged or cared for that matter. Folks both feared and detested these nomadic Indians.¹¹

Two tribes of Indians gave Waller County settlers trouble. The Tonkawas gave trouble first and as Austin had promised his colonists protection from Indians they were dealt with forthwith. Five Indians had stolen a number of horses and Austin confronted the Chief with it. They were punished in a manner agreed upon by Austin and the Chief. Each brave was to receive fifty lashes and have one side of his head shaved, branding him as a thief. One was said to have been too ill for punishment but, as agreed, the Chief himself administered twenty five lashes and Austin the other twenty five.¹² The Chief's performance was more or less perfunctory and the braves feigned swooning under his light blows. But when Austin's representative, Abner Knykenfall, began to lay on the whip the Indians came to life in a hurry and let out such yells as left no doubt about the severity of the whipping. This method was effective with the Tonkawas, but the Karankawas required different treatment.

On July 1824 Austin organized an expedition of forty or fifty men to search for them. They let out so successfully that not one was found. Not to be outwitted Austin called for help and Colonel Jared B. Groce joined Austin well armed and mounted. His army consisted of thirty soldiers led by the Colonel himself. So frightened were the Karankawas that they hurriedly retreated clear back to La Bahia where they begged protection of the Mexican Civil ecclesiastical authorities who pleaded their word that the Indians would stay west of the San Antonio River.¹³

Trouble with the Indian tribes caused the Federal Government

The way of life in early Texas and in Waller County may be divided into three classes, farmers, plantation owners (with twenty or more slaves), and the people of the towns, with the farmers in the majority. However it was the plantation owners and the towns people who contributed most to the culture at that time.

Vice and Crime

Early Texas society as in our own day, presented to observers many facets. It was clean and wholesome or it was base and immoral, or it was at some level in between depending upon the person describing it.

Gambling led by far, but duels, fistfights, lynchings, whippings, tar and featherings, and a few homicides were prevalent but most settled their differences with a shoot-out or with a branding.

Though Texas and Waller County had begun with high standards set by Stephen F. Austin the many renegades who drifted into Texas gave it a bad reputation. Drinking became so wide spread and drunkenness so common that an organization came into being called "The Sons of Temperance" which was a national organization that required its members to "take the pledge" and in a little over a year had claimed three thousand members.

Texas' first penitentiary was built during this period in 1849,¹⁵ but transporting criminals from Waller County jails was hazardous. Jails were small and often law breakers were housed in cellars, back rooms and even storerooms until trial could be held. Judges had to be imported from other areas so trials were widely spaced. Criminals were often "sprung" by their friends. Law enforcement was lax which explains the advent of "The Vigilantes".¹⁶

Homes on the Farm

The earliest homes of the Anglo Texans were hurriedly and crudely built of logs, usually a one room affair with one glassless window, one door opening claiming no hung door for protection. They were cold in winter and water poured in when it rained, which was often, they said. Other homes had two rooms with a dog-broth running between. The latter houses were by far the most popular as the "brot" could be used for many purposes. Many times it was used for a spare bedroom weather permitting. It provided storage room for saddles, harness and the like. It was a wonderful place on which to relax during the heat of the day. The lady of the house often used the space when she ground corn, prepared food for cooking such as shelling peas or snapping beans or peeling potatoes. She might even move her spinning wheel out there in good weather. It was a wonderful place for putting the

to remove most of the tribes to what was called "Indian Territory". All of the Alabamas and Coushatta tribes who had roamed over Waller County were carted off to East Texas and placed on a reservation there. After many years of hardships and suffering on this reservation it has finally emerged as a tourist attraction of some note. It is now self governing but still remains under United States supervision.

Early Waller County Settlers

Since Waller County was not established until 1873 we must go back to early statehood for information on its inhabitants. Even farther back, sometimes, where the plantations are concerned.

Most of the settlers in what was to become Waller County had come either from some southern state or from a foreign country. Arkansas furnished the greater bulk with Tennessees running second. 1840 saw the newest immigration to Texas. The men and women, for the most part, who settled and built in Waller County were honest, generous, hospitable, sincere, and hard working individuals. Many were of "good families" with splendid educations. Some were quite wealthy. There were many tradesmen and quite a few professional people. There was some lawlessness, recklessness, and even gun play, but it was in the minority, at first.

Texas and Waller County was said to be a "young peoples country" since the young rather than the old were disposed to migrate. Approximately eighty nine percent of the male population were under forty years of age, and approximately eighty six percent of the female population were under forty years of age.

Frederick Cimstead gave his version of the appearance of folks traveling to Texas by wagon train:

One such train was made up of three large wagons loaded with furniture, barrels, and invalids, two of the wagons, much lighter than the first large wagons, followed with twenty or so able bodied field hands. They traveled ten or fifteen miles a day, stopping when ever night overtook them. The masters are plainly dressed, often in homespun, keeping their eyes about them, noticing the soil, sometimes making a remark on the crops by the roadside; but generally doped, early, and silent. The women were silent too, frequently waiting to relieve the teams, and weary, haggard, and mud bespattered, forlorn, and disconsolate, yet hopeful and careful. The negroes, mud encrusted, wrapped in old blankets or gunny sacks, suffered from the cold, but plodded on, aimlessly, hopelessly, thoughtlessly, and more indifferent than the oxen to all about them.¹⁴

children down for their naps also. Then too there was still another use for the "dog-trot". As most of the families kept dogs for protection, the dogs made themselves at home on the "trot" and stayed too, if not chased off because they attracted gnats which bothered the people sitting there. Lean-tos were built to serve as kitchens and storerooms for many families. As the families grew larger kitchens were built separate from the main house and now the men began to construct smoke houses and barns, chicken houses even. The advent of the "privies" came as communities grew more populated. Water was carried by buckets from "branches" from springs in creeks, from streams and even from cisterns or hand dug wells. Candles or tallow burning lamps furnished light after night fall.

Olinstead stopped once at a comparatively comfortable home but wrote that he could "look out as usual, at the stars between the logs". Rufusford B. Hays describes a home he saw in Texas where "you could throw a cat through the cracks at random". The German immigrants built better homes than the other Anglos did using native materials such as stone and also made brick from the clay near their own homes. Many a home boasted its own brick yard. With the advent of saw mills, houses became flimsy and box-like affairs, some of them, and were not nearly as sturdy as the log cabins and did not offer the protection the cabins offered.

The Women

Before Waller County was organized the pioneer woman of this area stood out. She was no cringing helpless creature, indeed she was just the opposite. She was stalwart, strong of physique, fearless of necessity, a fitting help-mate for her pioneer husband. She lighted her fires with flint and steel or with punk and tinder until 1846 when the phosphorus tipped friction match was invented and introduced into Texas by one Alexander Wm. Doniphan. She cooked her game on a spit or in deep iron kettles. That same kettle was used for many things — cooking food, making lye soap, heating water for baths, boiling clothes on "wash day", even for scalding the slaughtered hogs when the first cold snap came along. Its uses were multitudinous! A pot of stew cooked in one of those huge kettles was most delicious when seasoned with herbs she found in the woods or meadows. Her medicine was ordinarily made from roots of sarsaparilla, dock, black snakeroot, or bark of dogwood. She also used wild cherry with a few beads of black pine gum. This mixture when boiled together was called "bitters". It would be mixed with a draught of

whiskey and fed to children and grown-ups alike when indicated. It was foul tasting and much detested.

It was said that on the frontier a young man married a girl "so's to have a wife to make his clothes". When the wife was not cooking or spinning or caring for the baby she was weaving, sewing, mending or teaching her children. They learned their abc's, how to read, cipher and who the Lord Jesus was. They also learned where their grandparents lived and who they were. They learned what America was and how to make a living. She also taught them what dangers lay near by, wolves, snakes, big cats, and small black bear. She made it clear that not all Indians were to be feared though you certainly could not trust them. And that they had queer outlandish notions with all that nakedness!

Way she even found time to surprise her offspring with home made dolls and toys. The dolls she fashioned out of corn husks, sometimes with large yellow ripe cucumbers, then she dressed them from her scrap-bag making lovely dresses, bonnets and even aprons. The faces she painted on with juices she found in plants, berries or trees. Sometimes she made rag dolls for her daughters and that was indeed a wonderful surprise. For her "very young" sons she made spool horses, cucumber horses, even acorn horses. These she finished with twigs for tails, legs and mane. But her real work of art, however, was when she made a ball. She pounded buck skin, pulled and stretched it until it was pliable and soft as doe skin. Then she worked and worked at it until the seams were just right to create a perfect sphere then she stuffed it with cotton, light, tight, and what a prize this ball was!

Mothers kept their girls late and lost their sons early. The boys hardly had a "cubhood" but went from boy to man as soon as he could do a man's work and carry a gun. He was never forced to stay at home but was welcomed to do so if he desired. He could take a rifle from the family armory, pack a bundle with his belongings and go out on his own. He went with trading trains, trapping parties, rivermen, joined the Army or went with exploring expeditions. Some simply went adventuring and were never heard of again. These young fellows didn't scorn work — everyone worked, didn't he? — even the President worked for pay.

Food

Game was plentiful and the men and boys furnished fresh meat on demand. Foxes were easily located and robbed of their honey. One item of interest, was that though the white settlers robbed bee trees they always alerted their Indian neighbors to the

bees and left honey for them to find. Corn was an easy crop to grow so at first the only bread was corn bread, often baked on stones outside. There was no fruit except wild berries, May haws, black haws and wild plums which were so tart they could be used for jelly or jam only. The berries could be dried for storing as could the wild grapes, called mustang grapes, they also found huckle berries and elder berries. Nuts abounded here, pecans grew in abundance in the Brazos bottoms and hickory and black walnuts could be found almost in any oak forest. Acorns too, were abundant but though the Indians used them for meal the white settlers seldom used them except for coffee during the Civil War when they were parched and ground.

The women learned to scour the forests and prairies for greens such as dandelions and poke greens. They used other roots as well. But they looked forward to when they could *put in* their gardens for other vegetables such as peas, beans, beets and the like. Fish could be taken at all times as they were multitudinous in all streams. One could almost catch them by hand they were so plentiful. The women learned to "jerk" meat as their Indian neighbors did and jerked meat often went to school in the kid's lunch pail or bucket. Sweet potatoes came into their own during this period of Waller County history and were many times the only food in the storeroom. Kids took baked sweet potatoes to school as naturally as kids now take apples. Another item in the lunch pail was a small bottle of either wild honey or sorghum syrup which could be poured on the cold corn pone to make it more tasty or even make it go down easier. Corn pone was known to be dry when cold.

When times were hard the corn had to be saved for seed to be planted the following spring. Then there was no bread for the table. To prepare bread, corn must first be grated into meal. But the man soon learned to fashion mortars in which the women could pound the corn into meal for bread. One traveler was amused to hear a woman sing out to her son, "Run to the field and bring two or three ears of corn. I want to make some bread for the gentleman's supper." So they all waited during the whole process of first gathering the ears then the grinding or grating, the kneading and finally the baking before anyone could eat. The traveler figured that this was really "living from hand to mouth!" Even at the homes where the traveler saw milk cows he was served "neither milk nor butter nor cheese". Folks later on lived almost wholly on salt pork, salt beef, jerky, corn bread, syrup or honey.¹³

These pioneers were resourceful and thrifty however, to provide lye for soap, ash hoppers were built and ashes from fireplaces and wash pots were carefully stored here. A daily ritual was to pour small amounts of water over these ashes, and eventually the water permeated the ashes and dripped through as pure lye. These lye hoppers were placed at a safe distance from the house for the protection of toddlers. Actually they were not as crude as one would expect as they were wooden barrels with a bung cut low at the bottom. Into this hole was fitted a good sized twig which had a trench cut into one side to allow the lye to trickle down into a receptacle like an earthen ware bowl or jar. Men had very few tools for such work so they used their most prized possession, their pocket knives. The lye thus saved was mixed with water and bacon fat and boiled to make lye soap. This soap had many uses -- it was used to wash dishes, shampoo hair, it was used in the laundry and was used for baths to say nothing of its use in scrubbing floors and such. It didn't smell pretty but it DID smell clean!

Cotton and wool were carded and spun into thread and finally woven into cloth called homespun. A man recorded in his diary that he "made a wheel, a coffin, a reel, a churn, a cradle, a bucket, a pump auger, an ox yoke and a pair of shoes!" In addition to that he worked at the loom, made a saddle, made candles and a baby cradle." So the men wove cloth also, on occasion.

Home Furnishings

After the shell of a house had been erected a fireplace was built. Sometimes it was located at the end of the room or at other times along the center of the cabin at which ever location it served both as a cooking stove and as a heater for the whole cabin, and was considered the first piece of furniture for the home. The settlers from the United States brought some of their favorite pieces of furniture and silver and china with them along with bedding and linens and cooking utensils. The wealthy ones brought elaborate furnishings even to pianos. These are the "antiques" of today.

Many times the larger pieces of furniture such as beds, chests, and huge trunks had to be discarded to lighten the wagons. This happened only when travel became impossible and many tears were shed by women who owned pieces much prized because their parents had owned them before them. One story is told of such lightening which left the wife only one lone wall mirror to take into her new home. It is said also, that as immigration flowed into Texas at a faster rate wagon trains following in the tracks of

wagon trains ahead saw all these articles of furniture strewn all along the route attesting to the heartbreak and difficulty of such trips.

It was the second generation however, which suffered the greater privation. When they married and set up housekeeping in Waller County all their furniture had to be made by hand. Lucky the couple who knew a cabinet maker. A bed was built along the wall, most likely in one corner so that only two legs were required. Split logs were laid across to form a frame and raw hide was laced to this frame for a foundation on which to lay a mattress or feather bed. Those not so lucky as to own a feather mattress used ticking stuffed with hay, shucks or even pine needles. Sheets were scarce but every girl had home made quilts either made by herself as a hope chest or given to her by her mother. When guests arrived hay or straw was heaped on the floor and covered with a quilt. Guests and children alike slept on this improvised bed and covered with other quilts. No one complained. It was considered quite comfortable.

Blocks of wood were rolled in for chairs, a table was fashioned by laying split logs across blocks of wood and because of the weight of those logs the table always remained in the same location, usually in the exact middle of the room. Other furniture consisted of a homemade cradle or crib, a spinning wheel, a quilting frame, and maybe a shelf was built to hold the few dishes, cutlery, and glasses were she might own. Pegs were drive into the wall to hang hats and clothes on. There was a special rack for the guns since so many were needed. Clothes were either kept in trunks or hung from pegs on the wall. Every inch of space had to be utilized.

Amusements

As most of the settlers were young folks they craved amusement and excitement. This they provided for themselves. Athletic contests in which teams participated were unknown. — Though Indians were known to engage in contests of skill. — For these settlers there were house raisings, log rollings, shooting matches, bear hunts, wolf hunts, wild horse tiding, fishing if you wanted quiet amusement, and bee tree cuttings. "Fun fist fights" were common as was wrestling. These men played as hard as they worked. One "oldtimer" remarked that they had organized a base ball team which they divided into two teams. As he tells it, one of the pitchers was a profuse perspirer and the holder he got the better was his pitching. There was once drawback however, the more he "sweated the more he stunk." Family fun consisted in

getting together for candy pullings, husking bees, quilting parties, and ofcourse dancing. By far the most popular of these activities was the quilting party because it afforded both quilting AND dancing.

At quilting parties or "bees" as they were called the men sat on the floor ready to roll the quilts as needed and to pass the thread or scissors, meanwhile they entertained the ladies and themselves by telling jokes or tall tales some of which were so hilarious that a few of the men rolled on the floor in laughter much to the amusement of the ladies and kids. Meals were prepared for everybody there by those ladies not occupied at the quilting frames, and after the quilting was finished there would be a feast to be enjoyed, and how those young people did enjoy the food. Every lady there outdid herself by bringing as many items of food as she could and as much bake goods as was in her power to provide. After the feast those who cared to, danced all night to music provided by a single "fiddle", an accordion or simply a harmonica which was called a *mouth organ*. Harmonicas were popular in those days and just about any man could play or blow one though the results of some were painful to the ears. One funny aspect of these dances was the fact that not all of the men wore "hard soled" shoes. Many wore moccasins. So they had a plan whereby one man would dance a while and then lend his hard soled shoes to a neighbor for a dance or two. How the "splinters flew" they said. What a lark it was! Ladies and gentlemen alike rode 20 or 30 miles horseback to these get-togethers.

Witticisms and Drillery

While Anson Jones was in Washington D.C. attempting to get recognition for Texas he met with indifference and insults. However, since the United States was disturbed by the offer of both England and Mexico to recognize Texas as a separate Republic but was still reluctant to do anything, Jones wrote back to Texas: "I will give them another scare. One dose or two of English Calomel and French quinine will have to be administered, and the case will be pretty well out of danger!" "B Strango as it may seem the modern "hippie" mode of word perversion was not their invention alone. To their horror they will learn that such practices were prevalent one hundred years ago right here in Waller County. In early Waller County wit was droll rather than just plain humorous, and this was displayed in their practical jokes and punks. These included that very also had a way of adding "extra syllables for elegance or for comic surprise." For instance — to scare a person half to death was to *commence* her, big or huge was

very "monstrous", a person of good character was "angeliferous", a lecturer was "teetotalous", to run away was to "scout" or "skedaddle", or he simply "absquatulated", a job completed was "bedeckously" done, to defeat was to "ramsquadle", to erase was to "obliterate", a strong man was a "screamer" or a "spoorer", an important man was a "ripstaver" and to undress was to "shuck" oneself, women had the "vapors" or the "puddocks" if they were of a nervous nature. A pot of stew was "burton", cheating was referred to as "honeyfoggling" even if it was a business deceit. Eating was "gomadizing", aimless priddling around or hasty preparations were both referred to as "jobbering around", and a cowardly man was referred to as a "yellow belly" or a "pukeyaninous hound".³⁰

Religion

There were no churches in early Waller County in the farming areas until about 1860. One had to go to a community or to a town to be able to worship in a church building. Where no ministers were available weddings and christenings or baptizings had to wait until the circuit rider appeared. Couples who could not wait had the ceremony performed by the Justice of the Peace. One particularly strong minded couple could not agree on which county to be married in so they compromised by being married right in the middle of a creek which divided the two counties. What matter if they stood in about two inches of water. The churches of early Texas had a far greater influence on morality than any other force. By 1860 the Methodist church was greatly in the lead in membership but like other denominations was slow in building a church house. In 1860 the Presbyterians had 72 churches built in Texas, the Episcopalians had 19 church buildings and the Catholic church 33.

In the society of Early Texas and Waller County the churches were the greatest civilizing agency. Here the people came together clean and in their Sunday best. Men exchanged greetings, and discussed subjects ranging from weather to crops to political issues. The wives and daughters, tired of drudgery and starved for companionship chatted endlessly. The church moreover, set the moral standards for the people. The majority of the preachers had little or no schooling, but there were some who were educated and represented the highest culture of their day. (Other chapters deal more in detail with churches and schools.)

Burials

Every plantation and every farm home had its own burial ground. Infant mortality was so prevalent in that day that it

became a necessity rather than choice as to where a burying took place. It is said that the women expected to lose many babies before they could raise one to adulthood. "It was a fact of life". Only with the advent of church structure did church sponsored cemeteries come into being. Often, like as not, the father had to dig the grave, build the coffin, (if materials could be had to build one) and do the burying himself. The author's maternal grandfather not only did this he also delivered the babies. If there was time to notify a neighbor and the distance was not too great, kind neighbors did help out in this sad time. Many bodies were carefully wrapped in blankets or buckskins because of the lack of materials with which to construct a casket. There are several locations here in Waller County where men have been buried where they fell in a gun fight. Some actually right beside the road.

Around 1900 burials became a center for socializing. Families began the custom of bringing food to the families of the bereaved. This custom prevails today in the 1970's even in some areas.

Word was sent out that a grave needed to be dug and the cemetery was designated. Men from around the area began to arrive -- a grave was dug but in that day in time a grave digging was an art, a real work of art. True the length and depth and width were standard but in many cases something unusual was added. Some eighteen inches to two feet from the bottom of the excavation a shelf of earth was cut out and on this shelf was placed a floor of boards on which the coffin rested. The object of the shelf boards had the very practical purpose of keeping the coffin above water that might seep in.

The coffin (casket) was lowered by four men -- more if the person was heavier than usual -- gently lowered, very slowly, by ropes which crossed under the coffin. This slow "kindness" was actually "torture" to the bereaved who watched their loved ones slowly disappear into the earth. From this moment on and until the excavation was fully filled in and rounded out the suffering of the mourners was apparent from the loud weeping and often some faint dead away. It was an ordeal to be borne, it was thought. One wife was known to break away from those supporting her and to rush to the mound only to throw herself bodily onto the grave to claw at the dirt and to crawl back and forth across the grave before she could be restrained. Hysteria was the custom in those hard days.

From the instant the coffin was lowered onto the platform below men took turns shoveling in the loose dirt until finally the space was neatly mounded and smoothed over.

The last act was the laying on of flowers brought from the different homes. If no blossoms were available then greenery was used. Even beautiful vases were placed on some graves. In isolated cases some graves were covered with colored bits of broken glass and china or pretty small stones.

Roads Travel and Communication

"No one walks in Texas if the distance is more than a mile!" said Dr. Ferdinand Roemer who visited Texas in 1846.²¹ They rode horse back, in ox drawn wagons and in stage coaches. Men who owned and drove ox teams took great pride in showing off their skill in controlling oxen with only the spoken word and the loud crack of a "bull whip" which was popped well above the backs of the oxen, yet not hitting them. Stage coaches radiated from each terminal town. Sawyer and Risner's four horse drawn coaches left Hempstead at 10:00 o'clock each morning and arrived in Austin at 12:00 o'clock at night the following day. This line was later joined by the C. K. Hall line. Washington on the Brazos and Waco both had stage coach connection with Hempstead. Some old rules made by stage coaches are still visible in north east Waller County,²² and Mr. Lawrence Marshall reports that one can be seen on his land, also some other markings near the river crossing.

There were no improved highways in Texas before 1861. A number of roads were "marked out" in Colonial times and in Republican Texas, but most of them would at best be called "trails". They were rough and dusty in dry weather and almost impossible in wet weather. Though early maps showed a number of roads as well as towns, travelers found the marked roads were often "made" trackless courses laid through the prairie by compass.²³ In the wooded areas roads were indicated by marked trees. Small wonder then, that as late as 1835 no pleasure carriages had been introduced into Waller County, Texas.

The most famous roads in Texas were: (1) The King's Highway, (2) La Bahia Road, (3) Atascocita Road. The King's Highway was often referred to as the Camino Real a name given to it by the Spanish. An interesting bit of information on wagon roads in Texas reads thus:

The road was chartered as the Central National Road of the Republic of Texas and was paid for by a donation of public lands, not in excess one hundred acres per mile. It was to be thirty feet wide, bridges fifteen feet wide, stumps not more than twelve inches high.²⁴

Until the time of the Civil War, wagons and stage coaches provided the only means of carrying the mail to Texas and Waller County. Before that time those who lived in the wilderness area had to depend on travelers to bring them letters or news by word of mouth. Many early settlers gave New Orleans or Galveston as their address and hoped to pick up mail on some future trip to those towns. Mail wagons were drawn by four mules each and were guarded by men with Sharp's rifles and Colt's revolvers. Streams had to be "forded".

Plantations and Slavery

Of the twenty two plantations said to have existed in Texas only eleven or so have been authenticated as having been here. Many were located in both Grimes and Fort Bend counties while in Waller County there seem to have been a good many. Bernardo and Liendo plantations were owned by Jared E. Groce and both were located quite near Hempstead. (A history of the Groce family has been written and is in the library in Hempstead.) Mr. Groce, a very wealthy man, also owned a plantation called "Groce's Retreat". Other plantations named in Waller County were: Perrice; Isaac Best; Brackshire; Sterling; Cooper; Rainwater; James Kirby; Cliett; Pattison; and some "old timers" recall the McDade and Thompson plantations. A man by the name of Donoho and a Mr. Wallach are said to have owned plantations here. Many seem to have left no trace, what ever, as to their existence in Waller County or of their activities here.

Hempstead with its rail facilities was an important point in disposing of cotton. By the time Texas entered the Union in 1845 there were plantations owned by about 200 individuals, it is said. These 200 men owned over one thousand slaves.

The factual number of slaves brought to Waller County remains uncertain however. But Mr. Groce brought in an undetermined number. One historian records eighty to one hundred slaves accompanied the Groce entourage, along with many cattle, horses, mules and other possessions. It was a startling sight to see and people in the villages in Alabama and Mississippi stood "open mouthed" in astonishment at the procession.

Within a year after the foundation of Hempstead, plantations in the area thereabout, were being bought at cash prices ranging from \$30,000 to \$50,000.

More than half of the slave owners in Waller County had less than five slaves. This was because less than five percent of all farmers here operated on a scale large enough to require slave labor. Slaves fared better in Waller County than they did in the old