History of Washington County

CHAPTER I

BACKGROUND OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

Beginning of Anglo-American Culture

Although the background of Texas, and with it that of Washington County, reaches back to the days of the first quarter of the sixteenth century, when adventurous men of Spain, like Cabeza de Vaca and others, touched on the territory that later was named Texas; and although Spain made settlements in this territory at such points as San Antonio, Nacogdoches and a few other places, nevertheless the fact remains that the territory as a whole was largely in the possession of the Indians as late as the early part of the nineteenth century.

The culture, government and life as we know it in Texas today had its beginning with the coming of the Anglo-American people who moved into Texas, especially with the coming of the Austins, who arrived here in 1821. Some of the first Anglo-Americans who touched the territory now within the bounds of Washington County were some so-called filibusters under the leadership of Dr. James Long, who tried to get Texas back into the possession of the United States after this country had relinquished all claims to Texas when Florida was purchased from Spain in 1819. In the spring of 1819 he set out with seventy-five men. His force grew to three

hundred. He took Nacogdoches, where he was joined by many refugees. On June 23, 1819, his men declared Texas free. On this expedition into Texas, which failed soon, he had stationed a Captain Walker, with twenty-three men, at a point a mile below the present town of Washington.

Had these Anglo-American people not come in such large numbers at that critical period the history of Texas today would undoubtedly read quite differently. Spain was stirred up enough by this time and would begin to take measures to occupy that territory for herself. The fact is she allowed the Anglo-Americans to come for no other purpose than to develop the country as a part of her empire. But the immigration of people from the United States was so strong that, in the course of a few years, Spanish as well as Mexican influence was overshadowed, so that today Anglo-American culture instead of Latin-American culture prevails.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN. People make history, and great migrations have time and again changed the future developments of sections of this globe. No one man has had greater influence upon the westward movement and the great migratory movement to Texas and the Southwest than Stephen F. Austin. Among the great American colonizers, he stands preeminent. He was born in Wythe County, Virginia, on November 3, 1793. He had the good fortune to be born and reared in a cultured home, for his father and mother, Moses and Maria Austin, were people of high intelligence and character.

At the age of seven he was sent to Bacon Academy in Connecticut. His father had hoped to send him finally to Yale University, but lack of funds made him decide in favor of Transylvania University. After two and a half years there, he left in order that his sister and brother might go to school.

Upon leaving school, he went into the mining business with his father. While thus engaged, he made trips to St. Louis and New Orleans, there marketing the products.

At the age of twenty-one he was elected to the territorial legislature of Missouri. He was also engaged in the law business almost at every place where he located during his young manhood days. At Long Prairie, Arkansas, he engaged in farming, and also became territorial district judge. He later moved to New Orleans, where he read some more law

and was employed to assist in editing the *Louisiana Advertiser*.

It was at New Orleans that his work was interrupted by the death of his father, who had just returned to Missouri from Texas, where he had made petition for a large grant of land on which to colonize three hundred families. Having been advised that it was his father's dying wish that he should prosecute his enterprise, Stephen F. Austin went from New Orleans by river steamboat to Natchitoches, where he arrived June 26, 1821. He and his party crossed the Sabine River on July 15, stopped a few days at Nacogdoches, and from there journeyed along the Old San Antonio Road, arriving at San Antonio August 12. Here he received authorization from Governor Martínez to explore the country and to make arrangements for his colony. He spent three months inspecting the territory and in laying plans for a great colonization enterprise. Roughly taken, the territory that Austin might colonize lay between the Brazos and Colorado rivers, and south of the Old San Antonio Road, though large areas also lay on the east side of the Brazos.

In 1822 Austin had to go to Mexico City to get his grant reaffirmed by the new government that had been set up after the revolution against the Spanish Government. This kept him there about a year. He returned, however, to Texas with extraordinary powers to govern his colony. He was the supreme judge in all except capital cases, in which his decisions had to be submitted to the commandant.

Austin was a man with a keen sense of duty. He could have become immensely rich and could have lived in one of the populous centers of the country; instead, he chose to live in San Felipe with his people and to share with them the hardships of frontier life and sacrifice much of his personal income for the good of all. He spent his life there guiding and directing his colony in their undertakings.

In the spring of 1833 he was again sent to Mexico City, this time to present a petition for separate statehood. This mission kept him in Mexico for two years, the greater part of which he spent in prison.

Soon after his return home, he was chosen to lead the army that was to lay siege to San Antonio and drive out the Mexican army. Before that city was taken, he was sent as one of the commissioners to the United States to get aid from

there for the Texas cause. When the Texas Revolution was over and the election under the newly adopted constitution was held to elect a president, Austin was one of the candidates; but Sam Houston, the hero of San Jacinto, was elected. President Houston appointed Austin secretary of state in October. Austin's health and strength having been greatly undermined by the hardships he suffered in prison and during the strenuous days of the Revolution, he died of pneumonia, December 27, 1836. A great man had passed away. The "Father of Texas" was no more!

The Original County

A large area of the northern part of Austin's grant was marked off and named Washington. Then, soon after he had announced to the world that his petition for a grant of land had been approved by the Mexican authorities, people began to move into his grant. The latter part of November, 1821, four families encamped on the west bank of the Brazos River. They were the families of Andrew Robinson, and Abner, Joseph and Robert Kuykendall. The place of this first encampment in the newly opened territory was near the site of the present Washington-on-the-Brazos. A few months later — January, 1822 — two men, Abner Kuykendall and Thomas Boatright, with their families, moved some miles south and put up camp on what is now New Year's Creek, close to the present site of Brenham. Families continued to come into Austin's colony. Andrew Robinson and John Hallam are said to have built the ferry at the junction of the Brazos and Navasota rivers. This ferry is said to have been in operation until 1880. In 1822, Martin Vernor and Moses Shipman cultivated the first land near the present site of Independence.

Austin's grants of territory for the settlement of colonies grew as time went on. Under the law of March, 1825, passed by the Congress of Mexico, the legislature and the governor of Texas and Coahuila promulgated a state colonization law, under which Austin was awarded a contract for the settlement of an additional five hundred families within certain boundaries, plus his former grant. But for the first time these boundaries were clearly defined on March 7, 1827, as follows:

Beginning on the west bank of the San Jacinto River (ten leagues in direct line from the Gulf of Mexico); thence up the west bank to the source of that stream; thence due north to the road leading from Nacogdoches to San Antonio de Bexar; thence following that road (westerly) to a point due north of the source of the Lavaca River; thence south to and down the Lavaca River to within ten leagues of the Gulf of Mexico; thence easterly, parallel to and ten leagues from the coast, to the beginning.

No Isolated Movement

The colonization of Washington County, as well as that of all of Texas, was no isolated movement. It was rather a part of the great westward movement of the Anglo-American people, who had settled along the Atlantic seaboard during the seventeenth century and during the early part of the eighteenth century, and who were now in the process of moving into the great West, Northwest and Southwest. It was also a part of the westward migration of the European peoples after the revolutions of 1830 and 1848, which had largely miscarried for people of liberal views of government.

This westward movement was, of course, in the spirit of the time. These were the adventurous type of immigrants, who always long for something beyond the seas and the mountains. But there were other reasons for this great wave of people going west. The old Eastern states were rapidly becoming crowded with population. Then there were still many restrictions on suffrage and other citizenship rights. Often taxes were too high to suit some of the taxpayers. On the other hand, Mexico held out alluring offers in fertile and cheap lands to immigrants from the United States. Thus Texas, and the great Southwest especially, became the object of new locations for thousands of families.

Thus, practically for a century and a half, the American people were colonizing new territory. They began to cross the Appalachian Mountains and to push the frontier farther west, north, and south, until they had taken in a territory covering over three million square miles, from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, and from the Atlantic Coast to the Pacific Coast.

In the colonizing of part of this territory in Texas, Steph-

en F. Austin had a very considerable share. After his first grant, he received several additional grants. The first grant called for three hundred families, as stated before, and these are known in history as the "Old Three Hundred." Many of the settlers of the original Washington belong to these three hundred families. In all, Austin settled approximately twelve hundred families in Texas.

Texas changed hands of ownership or sovereignty quite a number of times. Not counting the existence of Texas under the Indians, who never adopted a flag, this state was actually under six flags for as long as it is known to civilized man. Spain held sovereignty from 1519 till 1685; France, 1685-1690; Spain, 1690-1821; Mexico, 1821-1836; the Republic of Texas, 1836-1845; the United States, 1845-1861; the Confederate States, 1861-1865; the United States again, 1865 to the present time.

It is perhaps of some interest here to know how Texas got her name. Explorers had applied several names to part of the territory, none of which seemed to cling to the territory as a whole or register in the minds of the people. In 1689 an expedition was sent into Texas for the purpose of finding and destroying Fort St. Louis, which La Salle on his ill-fated expedition to the mouth of the Mississippi had built on the shores of Matagorda Bay. In this search the Spanish expedition was led as far as past the present Nacogdoches. Here the expedition, which had some missionaries among them, erected the first mission in this part of the great territory. They named it San Francisco de los Tejas, after the name given to an Indian confederation they found there among the Caddoan tribes. This name signified "friend" or "allies." In the course of time it was applied to all the territory that was claimed by Spain north of the Rio Grande, with more indefinite border lines on the east and the west. Eventually we have from this "Tejas" our present Texas.

CHAPTER II

THE COUNTY

Its Organizations

As part of Mexico, Texas, in 1831, was divided into three departments: Bexar, Brazos and Nacogdoches. The population of the Brazos Department, which included Austin's colony, was estimated at 8,000, of which 1,000 were Negro slaves. The municipality of San Felipe de Austin, the capital of the colony, had about 2,500 inhabitants.

Not long after organizing Texas into three departments, the people along the northern part of Austin's colony submitted a petition to the political chief at San Felipe that a "municipality be organized at Washington." The petition was addressed to James B. Miller, the political chief of San Felipe. The petition was granted, and an election was ordered for July 16, 1835, when the following men were chosen for office: Joshua Hadley, *alcalde*; Jesse Grimes and Asa Mitchell, *regidores*; A. C. Reynolds, *síndico procurador*; and John W. Hall, sheriff. Washington Municipality was represented in the Consultation of October, 1835, by Mitchell, Grimes, E. Collard, Asa Hoxey, and Philip Coe. Grimes and Benjamin B. Goodridge, from east of the Brazos, and James G. Swisher and George W. Barrett were later among the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

The Municipality of Washington finally became Washington County, at which time its boundary was fixed by the Congress of the Republic, December 14, 1837, as follows:

> Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Texas, in Congress assembled, That all the districts of the country within the following described boundary be, and compose the county of Washington, (to wit:) beginning at the mouth of Caney creek on the west bank of the Brazos river, then up the said creek to its northwestern source, thence in a western direction, to the southeast corner of the league of land granted to Harmon

Hensley on Mill creek; thence west to the ridge dividing the waters of Cummings creek, of the Colorado, and the waters of New Year's and Yegua creeks of the Brazos; thence north along said ridge with the eastern boundary of the counties of Fayette and Mina (later called Bastrop) to the Old San Antonio Road; thence east with said road to the Navasota river; thence down said river to its mouth; thence down the river Brazos to the place of beginning.[1]

At that time the county included a vast territory on both sides of the Brazos River below the Old San Antonio Road. The first chief justice of the county was John P. Cole. In course of time, however, the area of the county was greatly reduced. Out of the original territory that comprised the Municipality of Washington, and later Washington County, were carved the counties of Burleson, Brazos, Lee, Montgomery, Grimes, Madison, Walker, and San Jacinto. In 1841, the Congress of the Republic created Navasota County (now called Brazos County) and fixed the Brazos River as the eastern boundary of Washington County.[2] The last county that took part of the original territory of old Washington County was Lee County, which was created in 1874. Although greatly reduced in area, fortunately there are still within the boundaries of Washington County most of the early settlements and points of historic interest of Austin's colony.

Today Washington County, the western part of which consists of rolling blackland prairies, with forests in parts of the south and northeast, as well as along the Brazos River and Yegua and other creeks, is bounded by the counties of Lee, Burleson, Brazos, Grimes, Waller, Fayette and Austin. The natural boundaries are, of course, the Brazos River on the east and the Yegua Creek on the north.

Life Among the Early Settlers

Life among the people of Austin's colony and later during the time of the Republic, as well as during early statehood, was much the same everywhere. The predominant occupations were farming and stock raising. Cotton and corn

1 Gammel's *Laws of Texas*, Vol. II, p. 748.

2 Fulmore, *History and Geography of Texas*, p. 288.

were the staple crops, and cattle raising was almost as profitable, though prices of cattle were low. But it cost little to raise livestock in those days. The country was wide open, and a man's pasture was as large as his cattle cared to travel. The ranchman's greatest difficulty was marketing his cattle, the nearest market being Kansas City, which he reached largely by trail and some by railway.

Seventy-five to a hundred years ago the entire economic setup was on a much lower scale than it is today, even when allowing for fluctuation in prices and wages that people have experienced the last twenty-five years. Fluctuation of prices took place at that time, too, because the great economic law of supply and demand is at work all the time. It was an ordinary affair in those days, before, and right after, the turn of the century, for a farmhand to receive ten dollars a month, plus his board and lodging; or for the head of a family to work for a dollar and a half a day, which consisted of at least ten hours' work; and for rural school teachers with families to receive thirty-five dollars a month, while usually teaching school only seven or eight months. However, room and board were correspondingly low. It was nothing unusual for rural teachers to get room and board for ten dollars a month.

Here are some of the food prices that were quoted in some trade centers of Texas in 1848: fresh beef, 3 to 4c a pound; fresh fish, 5c a pound; butter, 25 to 30c a pound; lard, 6c a pound; eggs, 25 to 30c a dozen; coffee, 7 to 8c a pound; bacon and hams, 15 to 20c a pound; chickens, 15 to 20c apiece; turkeys, $1.00 to $1.50 apiece; flour (196-200 lbs.) per bbl., $12.00 to $14.00.

Cattle were cheap. There are records which show that young cows with calves were sold for $12.50, and there is one record which reports a whole carload of cows sold for $9.00 a head. It was a common occurrence to buy a fat mutton for $2.00 to $3.00. Hogs were correspondingly cheap.

In Washington County cotton and corn were the staple crops from the beginning of its organization, and cattle raising was about as important. In the old records we read of such garden vegetables as cabbage, radishes, turnips, onions, asparagus, lentils, pease, lettuce, cucumbers, melons, and eggplants. Of fruits there were figs, pears, peaches, plums, strawberries, grapes, dewberries, mulberries and persimmons. People paid quite a bit of attention to ornamental plants, and

they beautified their homes with flowers and shrubbery.

Washington County had a number of large plantations along the Brazos, on which life differed somewhat from that of the smaller inland farms. On these plantations life was well organized as a rule. Each home had work assigned to each slave. One Negress was responsible for the cooking, another for the sewing, another for making up the beds in the "big house." The slave children were assigned work. One little girl might have to shoo the flies out of the house, as no one had window screens in those days. In the yard a Negro man did the milking, another fed the livestock, another tended to the plowing, or perhaps several had that task to perform. When the first "norther" blew up, there was hog-killing time, which was usually a great day for the slaves. Among the eatables on the plantation was a dish called "pot liquor," which consisted of bacon and greens cooked together. Another common dish was "cush," made with corn meal and brought to a liquor with salt pork. A great deal of hominy was made with ash lye. The latter was made of ashes soaked with water in a v-shaped hopper. With this ash lye people made homemade soap by boiling it with pork drippings, then coagulating it by cooling. People also made their own cloth on hand looms. They stored their potatoes, Irish and sweet, in mounds and covered them with cornstalks.

The health conditions in Austin's colony, as well as in later years, till the turn of the century, were normal, as conditions of health in those days usually were. Most centers had a physician, but families living in remote places had far to go to get medical aid. One thing in favor of most of those people was the out-of-door life they lived. There were few "softies" among them. On the other hand, medical science had not discovered many of the ordinary causes of diseases, and consequently knew not how to combat them effectively. People still believed that "green water" or a climate that produced moss on the trees caused malaria fever. Yellow fever, which was often brought inland from port towns, swept whole communities, taking many victims. Later typhoid became rather common in the older neighborhoods, where drinking water had become contaminated. People used many home remedies, as medicines were rare.

During the early days of Texas, people resorted much to bartering, as cash money was scarce. The Mexican and Span-

ish coins were common in all the Southern states, and especially in Texas. During the time of the Republic, and soon after Texas became a state of the Union, United States coins of all denominations were in circulation, except the copper coin.

Spanish and English measures were used as now. When one spoke of a mile, he meant an English mile, of which five make a geographical or German mile – about two hours' walk. The Mexican usually reckoned in leagues, one of which makes three English miles. The English yard and foot were common measures, but the Mexican *vara* was used in measuring land.

The houses of those days would look crude today, but they were substantial and comfortable. They were usually built of logs, filled in between with rock and mortar, and when finished, they were whitewashed. The roofs were either of clapboard or of thatch. Later on when men of more wealth moved in, or when more wealth had been accumulated, better homes were built, like that of Dr. Anson Jones, which today stands in Washington Park.

There were years of drought in Austin's colony, which came periodically all along. With these came crop failures and often much suffering among the people. We read of reports where families during such times went without bread for days and weeks. One man from Washington County rode horseback to the mouth of the Brazos River to purchase flour, where he paid twenty-five dollars for a barrel and carried it home on pack horses.

School closing was a community affair during the greater part of the past century. Everybody was looking forward to that occasion. People spoke of it as "school examination," and all the kinsfolk and friends of the school children went out to see and hear what the children in the elementary schools or the students in the college had learned. At noon lunch was served on the school grounds, and in the afternoon the "examination" continued. If it happened to be the closing of a college term, the day was usually followed by a grand concert, for colleges emphasized music, especially piano and voice.

The people of Austin's colony were men and women of an unusually high type of character. Austin took great care as to what kind of settlers he brought into Texas. Said he in

one of his writings: "My ambition has been to succeed in redeeming Texas from its state of wilderness by means of the plow alone, in spreading over it a North American population, enterprise and intelligence." He insisted that "no frontiersman who has no other occupation than that of a hunter will be received — no drunkard, no gambler, no profane swearer, no idler, nor any man against whom there is even probable ground of suspicion that he is a bad man."

Washington Municipality in the Revolution

The Municipality of Washington was, in many respects, the very center of revolutionary activities. The first and second consultations were held at San Felipe, which was at that time the immediate political head of Washington. Dr. J. B. Miller was the political chief. Then on March 1, 1836, the convention met at Washington-on-the-Brazos, where decisive steps were taken to create an independent republic. Here Sam Houston was chosen commander-in-chief of the Texas forces, and from here men enlisted, as they did from other places, to fight for the independence of Texas from Mexico.

The Alamo fell while the Constitutional Convention was in session at Washington. Bad news came from Goliad about the fate of Fannin and his men. It took strong hearts and much self-control to face such situations. But Texas was not wanting in brave and patriotic men and women, who were ready to do sacrificial duties in order to establish that form of government and that way of life under which they could achieve the highest ideals in government and the happiest kind of life.

Many a man in Old Washington, Department of Brazos, shouldered his rifle and was on his way to fight side by side with his comrades. Such a patriot undoubtedly was Asa Walker, who had come to Texas from Tennessee and who hurried to the Alamo, where he paid the "supreme sacrifice" for the liberty of Texans. We give here his interesting letter to a friend at Old Washington:

MR. GANT — I take the responsibility of taking your overcoat and gun — Your gun they would have had anyhow

and I might as well have it as anyone else – If I live to return, I will satisfy you for all – If I die, I leave my clothes to do the best you can with – You can sell them for something. If you overtake me, you can take your rifle and I will trust to chance – The hurry of the moment and my want of means to do better are all the excuse – Forgive the presumption and remember your friend.

– A. WALKER

Asa Walker's friend, Mr. Gant, evidently helped him out with funds to come to Texas, as the following notation shows:

$35.87½

Due William W. Gant – thirty-five dollars, eighty-seven cents; the amount of my expense from Columbia, Tennessee to this place. Given under my hand and seal, this Nov. 28th, 1835, at Washington, Department of Brazos, Texas.

– ASA WALKER (seal)

Then there is record made of the disposition of the belongings of Asa Walker by William W. Gant, as follows:

Republic of Texas, Washington County
To the Honorable J. P. Cole

Judge of Probate

Your petition, William W. Gant, doth most respectfully petition for letters of administration as of the vacant estate of Asa Walker deceased, who was massacred at the fall of the Alamo at Bexar on the 6th of March, 1836. And who, to the best of your petition's knowledge, and belief, hath not left a will nor hath within the limits of the Republic any relatives either by consanguinity or affinity.

Your petition asks for letters of administration on the ground; that the said Walker immigrated to this country with me, that he was my personal intimate friend, and is indebted to me both by note and account, as the papers herewith transmitted for your inspection will show.

In confirmation of the above statements I herewith affix my hand and seal, this the 20th day of February, 1837.

– WILLIAM W. GANT (seal)

Republic of Texas :
County of Washington : The application of the above William W. Gant having been made at
Probate Court : the regular February term of said Court, and no opposition offered, it is hereby ordered that on said petition furnishing bond and security according to law, the prayer of the petition be granted and letters of administration issued in conformity and Stephen R. Roberts and Jos. B. Chance appointed appraisers of said estate.

Washington 28th of February, 1837

JNO. P. COLE
Judge of Probate.[3]

The outstanding hero of the Revolution was Colonel William B. Travis, the hero of the Alamo. Among others of his patriotic notes and letters, the following breathes the same heroic spirit as any of the rest of them. It was addressed to a friend at Montville, Washington County, now one of the extinct towns here. He had left his wife and little daughter in Alabama, and brought a young son, Charles E., to Texas in the care of Mrs. David Ayers, whom he writes from the Alamo thus:

> Take good care of my little boy. If the country should be saved, I may make him a splendid fortune; but, if the country should be lost and I perish, he will have nothing but the proud recollection that he is the son of a man who died for his country.

General Houston, who had been reappointed commander of all Texas troops at the Constitutional Convention at Washington, now hastened to Gonzales, where a few hundred troops had gathered. There were many cries for an immediate attack on the approaching Mexican forces. Gonzales was aroused to fever heat, for some thirty of her men had hurried to the aid of the defenders of the Alamo, only to be slaughtered there with the rest of the defenders.

But General Houston let not emotions rule the situation. Instead of fighting at that time and place, he ordered a re-

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[3] By courtesy of Mayor Reese B. Lockett, of Brenham. A photostatic copy of this letter and a court transaction is in the Blinn Museum.

treat, which has become famous and which he continued as far eastward as Groce's Plantation near Hempstead, where he halted for days to recruit and drill his army. From there he moved south, keeping close watch, by means of scouts, on every move that Santa Anna made. The first tactical error that this presumptuous commander would make should be the signal for Houston to attack. That error was made when Santa Anna chose the place on the San Jacinto River to reconnoiter and probably get ready for a battle. The twenty-first of April, 1836, decided the issue of the independence of Texas and made Houston one of the greatest commanders of his day. He had won a decisive battle.

During the Republic

Hundreds of people had fled from Washington County toward the Sabine, which they would cross should the cruel Mexican army defeat Houston's army. But after the battle of San Jacinto, after which the Mexican army once more crossed the Rio Grande, the people of Texas returned from their flight eastward and courageously began to rebuild their homes and to work their crops. But the danger was not over. There were the hostile Indians to be watched on all sides, and Mexico never recognized the treaty Santa Anna had made with President David G. Burnet, nor did it ever recognize the independence of the Republic of Texas during its entire existence. The fact of the matter is that Mexican armies invaded the Republic several times after the battle of San Jacinto.

The Austin colonies did not come into direct touch with the Caddoan or eastern Texas Indians so much, but the Gulf Coast Indians or Karankawas, a small but fierce tribe, had to be watched carefully. The colonists of Washington had to contend with the Tonkawas, as they occupied much of the northern part of Austin's territory, and they engaged much in stealing the colonists' horses and supplies. The common way of punishment was severe whipping of the perpetrators. Also the Waco tribes were close enough to do harm to the colonies if the savages were so inclined.

The colonies soon organized local militia companies, which were frequently united for campaigns against the

Indians. However, Austin's wise treatment of the savages did as much and perhaps more to keep them relatively peaceful than any other means that were used to prevent depredations by these natives.

According to the constitution adopted at Washington in March, 1836, an election was held that fall, and Houston and Mirabeau B. Lamar were elected president and vice president respectively. Austin, the "Father of Texas," had been a candidate, but the hero of San Jacinto had overshadowed him. The election held on the first Monday in September, 1836, gave Sam Houston 5,119 votes, Henry Smith 743, Stephen F. Austin 587, and Mirabeau B. Lamar for the vice presidency a majority of 2,699 votes. Houston appointed Austin secretary of state.

During his first term Houston tried to conciliate the Texas Indians by establishing trading posts along the frontier and by other friendly acts. He also worked for annexation to the United States. However, all that was accomplished with regard to Texas entering the Union was recognition by President Jackson of the independence of the Texas Republic in 1837.

Not being eligible under the constitution to succeed himself, Houston retired for the time being. Mirabeau B. Lamar was elected to the highest office, and David G. Burnet became vice president. In 1839, France officially recognized the independence of Texas, and in 1840, England, Holland, and Belgium welcomed the Republic of Texas into the family of nations. Lamar, during his administration, laid the foundation for education in Texas by seeing to it that large grants of land were set aside for educational purposes and by giving to this state and the world one of the loftiest definitions of the purpose of education among a free people. He paid no attention to annexation, but planned for independence and expansion, for which purpose he equipped several expeditions, all of which increased the public debt considerably. His Indian policy was just the reverse of that pursued by Houston. It was severe and unfriendly.

Upon termination of Lamar's term of office, Houston was again chosen to lead the young Republic. He again took up the question of annexation and strict economy. Annexation, however, had to wait till the administration of President Anson Jones, who had the task of terminating the Texas

Republic after it had existed for about ten years, to become a state in the great Union of the North.

SAM HOUSTON spent a number of years as a citizen of Washington County. He was born, almost significantly, on March 2, 1793, at Timber Ridge Church, about seven miles east of Lexington in Rockbridge County, Virginia. After the death of his father, he moved with his mother to Blount County, at a point eight miles east of the Tennessee River. He had only a few months of schooling in the "Old Field School." Most of his meager education he acquired through reading all the books that came into his possession.

He entered the War of 1812, joining the Thirty-ninth Regiment of the Tennessee Volunteers, who did service under the command of General Andrew Jackson, especially against the Creek Indians in Alabama.

After leaving the army, Houston entered the law office of the Honorable James Trimble, in Nashville, to study law. After six months of study he was admitted to the bar. In 1816, he was appointed Adjutant-General of the state, with the rank of colonel. In 1823, he was elected a representative to Congress from Tennessee. He was married in January, 1829, to Miss Eliza Allen. After three months of marriage his wife left him. This caused him to leave civilized life and live among the Cherokee Indians for several years.

In December, 1832, he crossed the Red River into Texas. He first went to Nacogdoches and then to San Felipe. He arrived just about the time the Mexican troops had been driven across the Rio Grande that year, and at the time when things began to shape up for the main revolution. From that time on till his death he took part in all important events in Texas.

He was appointed commander-in-chief by the consultation at San Felipe on November 3, 1835. However, he never got into his command until after March 2, 1836, when he was reappointed to that command by the convention that met at Washington. He came to the convention at Washington as a delegate from Refugio and took active part in the drafting of the constitution. He acted as a stabilizer of emotions at the convention when the news of one disaster after another came, and members were ready to leave the convention and rush to the front to stop the Mexican army. His greatest claim to fame is his victory at San Jacinto, April 21,

1836, although his other services to his state and country entitle him to rank with the great of the nation.

Besides being president of the Texas Republic for two terms, he served as United States Senator from 1846 till 1859, and on the eve of secession he was governor of Texas. Refusing to take the oath of allegiance to the Confederate government, he was deposed as governor. He lived in Washington, Texas, during the greater part of his second term as president of the Republic. After that he made his home at Independence, Texas, for several years, and it was here that he was baptized by Dr. Rufus C. Burleson in 1854 and that he joined the church.

Houston was a unique character, necessarily a product of the time and the surroundings in which he lived, which fact accounted for a good deal of the rough-and-tumble in his make-up; yet underneath the rough surface was a really tender heart. He was a man of strong intellect and great courage, as he demonstrated many a time during his public career. For years he was given to excessive drinking, but once he joined the church, it was face about for him, and be it said to his credit, he broke completely with this evil habit. He made bold to proclaim on the Senate floor his determination to adhere, from there on, to the ideals of temperance. He has gone down in history as one of the great characters of this country.

War with Mexico

When the Congress of the United States, upon the advice of President James K. Polk, declared war on Mexico in May, 1846, Texas was asked to furnish two regiments of infantry and two of cavalry. Governor J. Pinkney Henderson, who was given leave of absence from his duties as governor by the Legislature of Texas, took command of the Texas troops. He so distinguished himself in the battle of Monterrey that Congress voted him a sword. A number of troops volunteered from Washington County and a total of 8,000 from Texas.

The effect of the war on Texas was manifested in several ways. It set at rest any further fear of an invasion of Texas by Mexican forces, it fixed for Texas the Rio Grande as the permanent boundary on the southwest, and, finally, peace being assured, it enhanced the rapid increase of the popula-

tion of the state. The United States came into possession of the vast territory of the southwest, and as this area was carved into territories, some of them laid claim to a great part of the Texas Panhandle, which extended north to about the forty-second parallel. Under the Compromise of 1850, or the Omnibus Bill, Texas relinquished much of this territory to the Federal Government for a consideration of $10,000,000.

Washington County Till 1860

Texas grew rapidly as a state of the great North American Union. From 1846 till 1860, the population of the state increased from 102,961 to 421,411, and the number of slaves from 38,752 to 180,682. The population in Washington County in 1847 was 2,205 whites, and the total population of whites and colored was 3,949, while by 1860 the total inhabitants of the county had increased to over 15,000.

Railroads were built at a rapid rate. Even Washington County citizens did not lack vision and courage to undertake great enterprises. On February 2, 1856, the county chartered a railroad to be built from Hempstead to Brenham. Work on this railroad was begun at Hempstead in 1857, and eleven miles of it were ready for use by 1858. It was completed to Brenham, twenty-three miles west, by 1860. Brenham remained the terminus till after the war. The road eventually became part of the Houston and Texas Central, later the Southern Pacific.

With Baylor University and Baylor Female College at Independence, and Soule University and the Chappell Hill Female College at Chappell Hill, as well as the Live Oak Seminary at Gay Hill, Washington County certainly was the center of education of Texas at that time, and hundreds of the best young people from all parts of the state came to this county for their education prior to secession and even after the war.

With the rapid increase in population came economic prosperity. The people as a whole were contented and lived happily at peace, with perhaps an Indian raid to disturb them now and then. But on the eve of secession there were afloat rumors of Negro uprisings and incendiary fires. Fires actually broke out in a number of centers, the most destructive being in Dallas, where some expelled abolitionists were

accused of having brought on the fire. Other places where fires seemed to have been of an incendiary nature were at Pilot Point, Belknap, Gainesville, Black Jack Grove, Waxahachie, Kaufman, and Navarro.

Much agitation about secession was among the people. Soon after the election of Lincoln, Governor Houston received a letter signed by fifty-five citizens of Huntsville, asking his advice as to what course was to be pursued. They expressed themselves against hasty action, but feared that delay in expressing their opinion would be harmful. Houston's answer was calm and dignified, but firm. He counseled patience, admitting his distrust of Lincoln and the North, but affirmed his abiding faith in the Constitution and the Union. He closed with these words: "So long as the Constitution is maintained by the Federal authorities and Texas is not made the victim of Federal wrong, I am for the Union as it is." This loyalty to the Union finally cost him the office of governor. The chances are, however, judging him by later acts, that if Texas had moved slower in her secession program, Houston finally might have gone with the people; but the secession convention would not wait, and consequently it had to go without him, or in spite of him.

Washington County in the Civil War

In these times the United States depended largely on volunteers to recruit her armies. The word "volunteer" had a kind of charm for the people, it seems, and the citizens of Washington County were no exception. Of course history records that later on in the conflict both the North and the South had to take recourse to draft to get soldiers.

Whether men were drafted or enlisted as volunteers, Washington County was well represented in the Confederate armies. A number of men from this county were enlisted in Green's Brigade and in the Fifth Texas Cavalry. Some of the military organizations were almost entirely made up of men from this county, as, for instance, Company E of Brenham, with Captain Hugh McPhail in command. Company F was commanded by Captain George W. Campbell of Long Point. In Hood's Brigade were the "Dixie Blues," of which Captain John D. Rodgers had command. Captain J. B. Robinson, of Independence, commanded Company I of the Fifth Texas

Infantry. On New Year's Creek was organized T. N. Waul's Legion Company. T. N. Waul was one of the delegates who had been elected by the secession convention to represent Texas at the Montgomery convention that organized the Confederate government. The Giddings family was represented, among others, by Captain D. C. Giddings, who went to Arkansas with the Twenty-first Texas Cavalry, and another company was taken to Galveston by Captain Claudius Buster. Other men of the county were in the famous Terry's Texas Rangers.[4]

With the rest of Texas and with the people of the entire South, Washington County suffered a good many hardships as the struggle went on. Besides the loss of loved ones in the conflict and the many wounded that were among their people at the front, there was also the lack or shortage of some of the necessities of life. Among these were such articles of food as salt, sugar, coffee, and flour, which ran short in supply soon after the blockade of the South became effective. Clothing was very difficult to replace, as the South had not been industrialized to any considerable extent by the time the war broke out. Old clothes had to be mended and patched up over and over again to make them last. Another item that was much needed but hard to get was medicine. Most of the medicines in Texas and the South had either been imported from Europe or from the Eastern centers, all of which stopped with the blockade.

A good deal of the freight was hauled per ox-wagon from Mexico. The late Ferdinand Niebuhr of Brenham, who was then a young man of about seventeen, made a number of trips with these ox-wagon teamsters to the Rio Grande, taking cotton to that country and bringing back supplies that were needed here. But as much as this helped out, it was not sufficient to supply the needs of the people.

Once the blockade was lifted, things began to be somewhat better. However, it must be remembered that most of the people of the South were bankrupt when the war ended, and there was no "Marshall Plan" to help out; nor was there a "New Deal" to create jobs and distribute pensions. Yet with money worthless, her slave labor gone, and rude mismanage-

[4] Information from Mrs. R. E. Pennington's *History of Brenham and Washington County*, p. 27.

ment by the "carpetbaggers," these Southern people, in the years to come, worked their way back to economic stability.

Later Settlers of Washington County

Most of the early settlers of Washington County came from the States and were of Anglo-American stock. The tax assessor's records show that in 1847 the county had a population of 3,949 and 545 voters. Post offices listed then were Brenham, Cedar Creek, Independence, Montville, and Washington. In 1850, the census shows the population of the county to be 5,983, and in 1860 it was 15,215.

Although many Germans came into the county after the Civil War, some came at the beginning of the statehood of Texas. The earliest German settler in this county was Henry Eichholt, whose descendants still live here. He came from Brocken, Germany, and arrived in Washington County in 1846. In 1847 he married Louise Roehling, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Roehling, who arrived from Germany that year. Those people had to know how to help themselves in every way. The home of the Eichholts was a two-room log cabin with dirt floor. A large trunk that Mrs. Eichholt had brought from the old country served as a table. Mr. Eichholt made his own wagon of hickory wood. For the first years the people depended on wild prairie chickens, turkeys and wild hogs for their meat.

Other Germans who came before the war were the Pieper, Richter, Spreen, Winkelmann, Tesch, Emshoff, Loesch, Schmidt, Meyer, Bockelmann, Haegemeyer, Schultz, Wehmeyer, Zeiss, Khrane, Dannhaus, Plueckhorn, Schawe, Wedemeyer, Wiede, Rahm, Ehlert, Lehmann, Kramer, Klanke, Wiese, Ceckler, Fahrenfurt, Riebe, Grabe, Mernitz, Harms, Giesenschlag, Dierke, Knittel, Franck, Seidel, Hering, Hohlt and Broesche families.

Valentine Hoffmann and his wife, the former Maria Katherina, came from Hesse, Germany, in 1846, and landed in Galveston, where they lived for a short while. They then moved to Austin County, and in 1848 moved to Berlin, Washington County, where they bought a farm in 1852. They reared six children there, and in 1854 assisted the Reverend Ebinger in the organization of Eben Ezer Church, the first Lutheran church in Washington County. R. Hoffmann,

their third son, established a mercantile business in Brenham in 1867.

Soon after the war more Germans moved into Washington County in large numbers. Some came directly from Germany, while others came from German settlements in other states. It seems that these people came here just in time to buy some of the smaller farms into which the large plantations had been divided after the war, and which the old Confederate population, impoverished by the war, were unable to hold any longer.

During the latter part of the fifties of the past century the Czech people settled in the southwestern part of Washington County that borders on Fayette County, where large groups of these people settled. We shall say more about this settlement when we speak of the community of Wesley.

The latter part of the past century the Polish people also began to rent and purchase land in the eastern part of the county, especially around Chappell Hill. Here they built a large Catholic church and a parochial school in connection with the church.

Development of the Farm Industry

Washington County has some of the richest and most productive farm land in the country. Only in recent years, however, have farmers been taught the importance of soil conservation and improvement of the land through the use of fertilizers, coverage crops, and terracing. The rainfall is usually sufficient to insure good crops, the average rainfall being about forty inches annually.

Cotton has always been the chief crop for almost a century. It still is one of the most important crops today, although much more diversification of crops is now being practiced. In 1890, for instance, there were 158,000 acres in cultivation in the county, of which 102,381 acres were in cotton, producing 41,358 bales. But in course of time the farmers learned, with the aid of county demonstration agents, the value of diversification. The greatest pioneer in farm improvement, such as soil conservation through terracing, fertilizing and diversification, was the county demonstration agent, Caesar (Dutch) Hohn, who laid the foundation of much that is succeeding better today. Farmers under his di-

rection began to raise more feed crops and cotton, and emphasized the production of poultry, cattle, and dairy products. In 1890 the county had 18,411 head of cattle; in 1910 it had 29,441; in 1935 there were 33,436 head, and in 1945 over 45,000 head. What was more, these later herds had been greatly improved in value through scientific breeding and feeding. The same increase and improvement was true of hogs and sheep, of which the county in 1945 had 14,178, mostly high-bred hogs and 3,210 sheep.

In recent years dairying and poultry-raising have increased remarkably because of the Houston market. Milk produced in 1945 amounted to 2,102,248 gallons. Grade A dairies increased from two in 1945 to 49 in 1946, and to 75 in 1948. Besides this, the county sold 80,576 pounds of butter in 1948, and about as much cream. Eggs produced in one year recently amounted to 3,684,085 dozens, and turkeys raised in 1945 were 41,907. In that year the county owned 3,578 horses, and 6,076 mules, in the latter of which it ranks second in the state. Honey is being shipped out of the county in considerable quantities. The corn crop of a recent year was estimated at 563,692 bushels.[5]

Although, as stated before, cotton is still an important crop in the county, quite a decline is noticeable from year to year in the production of this once only accepted cash crop in the county. A few figures will illustrate. In 1926 there were ginned here 36,807 bales, which was already about 5,000 fewer than in 1890. In 1944 the county ginned a total of 14,884 bales, and in 1946 only 9,801 bales. Weather conditions must be taken into consideration, of course, but all along there is a very decided decline in the production of this once so important crop.

Fruits and vegetables are being raised much for home use, yet large quantities of these crops find their way into markets. Of the Irish potato, this county produced 34,280 bushels in 1945, and of sweet potatoes, 8,242 bushels. Pears, figs, persimmons, and grapes are produced in considerable quantities.

Much of the progress made in farming as well as in better housekeeping in the county has been brought about – both among the white and the colored people – by such organiza-

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5 *Texas Almanac*, 1947-1948, p. 530.

tions as the 4-H Clubs, the Future Farmers of America, as well as through Vocational Agriculture as taught in the public schools. The young people, and through them many of the older people, have learned from the county demonstration agents and the home demonstration agents, as well as in school, from scientific principles that can be applied in a practical way to farming and housekeeping. It would be difficult to even estimate the great benefit to the people from just this phase of such activities.

Washington County Fair

The first full-fledged fair of Washington County was held about 1912, as information from old catalogues seems to show. There is said to exist a catalogue of the fair of that year, although it could not be located. Previous to the first regular fair, stock and poultry exhibitions were held for years along with the Maifest each year. We quote here from a catalogue issued by the Brenham Fire Department in 1902, as follows:

> In presenting a catalogue and premium list of its twenty-first Annual Maifest, Stock Show and Poultry Exhibition, the Brenham Fire Department offers no apology, but craves your indulgence for a few words of explanation. It does not hide itself behind its plans, and imperfections of this work, and beg you to withhold your criticism, but simply wishes to remind you that the Department is not and does not claim to be a fullfledged fair association. The Stock and Poultry Exhibition is a feature of the Annual Fest introduced years ago, and was such a marked success and received such unqualified approval that its continuance is encouraged.

Washington County as one of the oldest and, considering it from every point of view, one of the best counties in the state, would have something to place on exhibition by which others could profit. The county has an area of 603 square miles, a general elevation of 300 to 350 feet above sea level, a mean temperature of 68.30, and an annual rainfall of about 40 inches. Its soil is fertile, ranging from the black waxy and rich loam to light sandy soil. On these different kinds of soil grow great crops of cotton, corn, hay, grasses, fruits and

vegetables. Especially the grain, hay and grass crops make it possible for this county to produce very high grades of livestock.

The leaders of the county early realized the educational value of fairs, and have held them as often as circumstances permitted. One of the earliest catalogues of the regular fair we could find was that of 1914, although we are assured that a catalogue was printed in 1912. The 1914 fair was held on October 6, 7, 8, and 9, in Firemen's Park. The officers of that fair were J. J. Marek, president; W. M. Morriss, vice-president; and Frank Eberle, secretary. The fair was divided into the following departments: Agricultural, Horticultural and Floral, Apiarian, Culinary, Ladies Textile, and Fine Arts. The executive committee on exhibits consisted of F. C. Winkelmann, chairman; L. G. Summerall, A. W. Watson, Sterling Smith, W. L. Booker, B. G. Sayles, A. Wangemann, Branch Watson, O. E. Tefs, and W. A. Yates.

During World War I and some years following, no fairs were held, but in 1929 the fair association was reorganized, and continued to hold annual fairs till 1941, when the United States entered World War II. In 1947 the county purchased a forty-five and a half acre tract for permanent fair grounds. This place is located on the old Gay Hill road, one and a half miles north of the city. On it a number of buildings were erected in 1949, and the first fair was held here that year. Practically all former fairs were held in Firemen's Park.

The present officials of the fair association are: R. A. Fuchs, president; Sam Winkelmann, vice-president; and Lorenz Seidel, secretary. The board of directors are: James Picone, chairman, Louis Lehrmann, F. C. Winkelmann, Charles H. Winkelmann, Richard Spinn, R. D. Barnes, J. W. Stufflebeam, A. W. Hartstack, Dayle Moore, Wesley Sherill, Herbert Boeker, Frank Buffington, Mrs. Robert Lange, and Miss Jewell Ballew.

Minerals

Although the greatest natural resource of the county is its fertile soils, it also has mineral wealth that needs to be mentioned here. The county has two producing oil fields, which, in 1946, according to the *Texas Almanac*, produced a total of 207,713 barrels.

The WESLEY OIL FIELD is in the southwestern part of Washington County. In 1912 a Negro was digging a water well, and when he reached water level, he found the water covered with oil, so much so that he could not use the water for drinking purposes. But this experience by the colored man led to some exploratory efforts by the Brenham Oil and Gas Company. They resulted, however, in 1915, in nothing more than dry wells. The interests of this company were purchased by the Conklin Oil Company, which brought in the first producing well on the Boecker place on Thanksgiving Day in 1924. This well is still producing. Other wells were brought in during the years, so that today there are about twenty-five producing wells, which average about twenty-five barrels a day. The average depth of these wells is about a thousand feet.

There is considerable gas produced along with the oil, which is used for heating purposes in homes around the field. There is also an enormous salt dome in the center of the field, the top of which is about 500 feet beneath the surface of the earth and which, by instrument measurement, is estimated at twelve miles in depth.

The oil field today belongs to the Camey Oil Company of Dallas. In March, 1949, the latest well was brought in, starting out with 125 barrels.

The SUN OIL FIELD is located in the northwestern part of Washington County. Exploratory work was begun in 1925, but the first producing well was brought in October, 1928, the Grote No. 1. This well is still producing. Today there are about fifty producing wells, with a capacity of 500 barrels a day. The wells are shallow, too, averaging about 1200 feet. However, some very deep tests have been made, though with no satisfactory results.

There are large storage tanks on the field, and the oil is being piped to Gay Hill, where the Santa Fe railroad picks it up for transportation to the market. Considerable gas is being produced, which is used on and about the field for heating purposes. The oil is of about 25 gravity and lends itself well to all kinds of by-products.

Mr. H. Harrison has been connected with the office of the Sun Oil Field since January, 1929.

OTHER MINERALS are found in the county. First of all, there is brick clay. A good deal of brick was produced in

the county the latter part of the past century. There are also deposits of fuller's earth and lignite.

Bluebonnets

If weather conditions are favorable, the hills of Washington County each spring are literally covered with bluebonnets. In places these bluebonnet beds are set off by streaks of red Indian blankets, which add additional beauty to the scene. Many visitors are being attracted from Houston and other centers to this county during the bluebonnet season. Occasionally the aesthetic nature of some people is stirred sufficiently at such overwhelming beauty to express itself in painting, poetry or music. The bluebonnet was adopted as the Texas State Flower by the Forty-third Legislature in 1901, at the request of the Society of Colonial Dames of America in Texas.

Other State Symbols and Mottoes

Besides the bluebonnet, Texas has adopted other symbols, and also mottoes, that have their significance for the people. The pecan tree is a popular native tree, but when former Governor James S. Hogg requested that a pecan tree be planted at his grave, it stirred up enough sentiment to adopt the pecan tree as the State Tree of Texas, which was done by the Thirty-sixth Legislature. In 1927 the Fortieth Legislature adopted the mockingbird as the State Bird, at the request of the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs. The Forty-first Legislature, in 1930, adopted the motto "Friendship" for the state, based on the origin of the name Texas, which was derived from the Indian name, "Tejas," meaning friend. Although many thousands of Texans think of "The Eyes of Texas" as the State Song, it was never officially adopted by the state, but is the Alma Mater song of the University of Texas. The Forty-first Legislature, however, adopted "Texas, Our Texas," by William J. Marsh, of Fort Worth, and the words by Mr. Marsh and Gladys Yokum, also of Fort Worth.

Rural Schools of Washington County

The public schools of Washington County had their beginning with a law passed by the Legislature of Texas in 1854. This law made it possible to establish public schools under certain restrictions. The provisions made by that law for the financial support of these "free" schools were then still inadequate. Therefore a good deal of the maintenance for these schools had to come from private tuitions and fees. In 1854 there were recorded 1,310 scholastics in the county. In 1862 there were recorded only 1,128. With the interruption of the war, records of scholastics finally ceased entirely. From 1874 on, records were again made.

Only in September, 1870, did Washington County resume its functions in educational affairs. It was then that the County Court ordered that each of the five precincts of the county be divided into two school districts; also, that three trustees be appointed for each precinct.

In May, 1874, the County Court levied on all real and personal property in Washington County a school tax of twenty-five cents on each one hundred dollars of assessed property value.

Few records of the rural schools of the county from 1875-1907 are available; but from 1907 on, they are about complete. It was in that year that the first county superintendent was appointed in the person of Christian Klaerner, who served till 1914.

The rural schools were operated for years under the "school community" system, which was instituted under a law passed by the Legislature in 1876 and continued till 1909. In the latter year the entire county was surveyed for the purpose of organizing it into school districts. In 1911 the first County School Board of Education was appointed, consisting of A. A. Wangemann, W. D. Crockett, Thomas Watson, T. C. Kruger, and W. L. Booker.[6]

In 1917 the county began agitating for rural high schools. After several vain attempts to establish such schools at other points in the county, a rural high school was finally organized at Brown's Prairie in 1921. W. F. A. Boemer served as

[6] Grusendorf, *A Century of Education In Washington County*, p. 237.

superintendent at that time, 1914 to 1921, succeeding Christian Klaerner. Miss Frederick Turner succeeded Mr. Boemer and served till 1925.

M. H. Ehlert was elected county superintendent in 1925 and held this office till 1947. Under his administration the County Board of Education, in 1927, adopted a plan to bring more uniformity in the achievements of the pupils of the rural schools. To accomplish this, certificates of standardization were awarded to all rural schools in the county whenever conditions of qualification had been met. Uniform examinations for rural schools of the common districts were worked out and distributed, and certificates of graduation were awarded to all pupils under the jurisdiction of the board.

With the decrease of rural population, due to various causes, and the improvement of rural roads, which made transportation more feasible, consolidation of rural schools was undertaken, and by this time it seems that the one-teacher school is rapidly disappearing. The consolidation movement was begun under the Ehlert administration, the most outstanding accomplishment being the establishment of a consolidated rural high school at Burton, which is also fully accredited for college entrance in its work. This movement is continuing under his successor, Superintendent W. C. Dannhaus, under whom Union Grove District has been joined to the old Washington District, and Longpoint to Harrisburg.

Before consolidation can be carried to its full fruition in Washington County, considerable improvement must be made on the lateral roads so as to make all communities accessible to the main highways under all kinds of weather conditions.

Drifting Toward a World Catastrophe

During the latter part of the nineteenth century and the early part of the twentieth century the people of our country were stirred, and with them the citizens of this county, by several movements which were intended to adjust undesirable economic conditions, especially among the farmers. Beginning with the seventies, there was the Grange, which emphasized cheaper money and more money, and finally

organized the Greenback Party, thereby going into politics. Then followed the Farmers Alliance. These organizations were more or less short-lived. In 1890 and 1892 the People's Party was called into being as the successor of the Alliance. Finally, in 1896, the Democratic Party adopted a platform that drew most of these discontents into its ranks. It adopted as one of its planks the advocating of free and unlimited coinage of silver in the ratio of sixteen to one, and nominated William Jennings Bryan as its standard bearer.

Close to the turn of the century the Spanish-American War was fought, as a result of which the United States moved into world importance. The Panama Canal was built immediately after the war. At the same time the world was rapidly drifting, unconsciously in the main, toward a great catastrophe, World War I.

The European nations were divided into two great military camps, the Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy) and the Triple Entente (Great Britain, France and Russia). Any provocation might bring on a "shooting war" at that time. That overt act came with the assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria by a Serbian, in 1914. In the course of the struggle that ensued, the United States, declared neutral at first, was drawn closer and closer to the vortex of that awful conflict through the German submarine campaign.

Washington County in World War I

When on April 6, 1917, the Congress of the United States declared war on the Central Powers of Europe, Washington County, with the rest of the country, assumed its responsibilities. The county had for many years maintained a rather active military organization, known as Company L, Second Texas Infantry. This organization was sent to the Rio Grande during the preceding winter under the captaincy of Eugene Eversberg to serve under General John J. Pershing against the Mexican bandits who were molesting people along the border. But when war was declared against Germany, these troops were called back to Brenham and organized into Company I of the 141st Regiment, with Captain Eugene Eversberg and Lieutenants Becker and Ernest Mueller as commanding officers. They were the first troops to

leave Brenham, from where they went to Camp Bowie for further training before they sailed from New York overseas. Most of the men from Washington County saw service in the units of the 36th Division, and in the 90th Division.

Company A 111, Military Police, another Washington County organization, was made ready for service under the leadership of Captain J. S. Jones, of Bastrop, and Lieutenant Clint Giddings, of Brenham, and went into service in a body.[7]

As volunteers, and under the Selective Service Act, passed by Congress on May 8, 1917, eleven hundred men from Washington County were enlisted. Many of them went overseas and saw service at the battle front. Others served here in the camps, where they went through severe training, waiting their turn to go to the front. Thirty gold-star heroes are recorded among those who went from homes in Washington County, twenty-three white boys and seven colored. The first of these fine lads to fall mortally wounded was Adolph Krug (Buddy) Wright, whose memory his buddies later honored when they named Legion Post No. 48 in memory of him.

The fallen heroes are: Captain P. D. Barnhill, Medical Corps; Lieutenant Graham D. Luhn, Company D, 141st Infantry; William Edmund Booker, Company E, 141st Infantry; Martin E. Jaster, Company K, 360th Infantry, 90th Division; Sergeant A. K. Wright, Company I, 141st Infantry, 36th Division; David W. Lasch, Company I, 141st Infantry, 36th Division; Henry Schaer, Jr., Battery E, 133rd Field Artillery, 36th Division; Mike Andy Brosch, Company B, 26th Engineers; Hugo W. Meyer, Company I, 141st Infantry, 36th Division; Corp. Edward F. Sander, Company F, 360th Infantry, 90th Division; Henry Kramer, Company G, 359th Infantry, 90th Division; Henry Tockhorn, Company B, 345th Machine Gun Battalion; Edwin Guthmann, Company H, 64th Infantry, 7th Division; August R. Schweiss, Company G, 360th Infantry, 90th Division; Henry Meyer, Company 26, 7th Battalion, 165th Depot Brigade; Fred Mueller, Company G, 360th Infantry, 90th Division; William August Rosenbaum, Company I, 156th Regiment, 39th Division; Ignac Jankowski; Alfred Wilson, Chief Quartermaster, U. S. S. *Paducah;* Robert E. Maas; Steve Baranowski, Camp Travis

[7] Information by courtesy of Major M. H. Ehlert, of Brenham.

Training Camp; Lee Murski, Camp Travis Training Camp; Louis W. Prenzler, Supply Company 331, Quartermaster Corps; Frederick W. Weiss, Company D, 154th Infantry; Joseph Jalonick Harris, Sixth Regiment, U. S. Marines; Sigmund Gutowski, Company I, 142nd Regiment, 36th Division; Sgt. Sam Levison Harris, 132nd Field Artillery; Adolph J. Wagner, Medical Corps; Henry Fieserler, 332nd Field Remount Squadron.

The colored gold-star men are the following: Hillard Murray, Company 36, 370th Infantry; Cornelius Jones, Camp Travis Training Camp; Emmanuel Taylor, 332nd Labor Company; Joseph J. Cain, Company 10, 165th Depot Brigade, 18th Battalion; Sam Green, Jr., Company L, 597th Engineers; Millary Dupree, Camp Bowie; and Lonnie Shepard, Supply Company, 809th Regiment.[8]

This county was well organized during the war, and there was liberal response to all the demands for the Red Cross, War-Savings Certificates and Liberty Bonds. The citizens cooperated well in using substitutes for flour, especially, and in "meatless, wheatless and gasless days." Many "war gardens" were cultivated and flower beds planted with vegetables, for the slogan was "Food Will Win the War."

In spite of all the cooperation by the people, there developed a good deal of war hysteria. There were those who assumed the place of judging their fellow citizens as to the degree of patriotism an American should show. A good deal of real persecution was carried out by these self-styled "hundred per cent Americans." This hysteria finally deteriorated into the Ku Klux Klan flare-up, which lasted till 1924, when the Fergusons won the election for Governor of Texas against the Klan issue. Washington County in the election that fall defeated several members of the Klan who had been in the courthouse for several years. These disturbers gone, the people were at ease once more.

From War Back to Normal Life

Once the war was over, the people of the county settled down to normal life again. How glad the people were to be again free to go about their private affairs! The Washington

[8] Information by courtesy of The American Legion, Buddy Wright Post No. 48.

County farmers were fortunate by that time in having competent farm demonstration and home demonstration agents to lead them in the development of farm and home industries. More and more farmers began to see the importance of terracing, and much of that kind of work was done to hold the soil. Scientific feeding of livestock became a common practice. The housewives learned from the home demonstration agents the art of better housekeeping. With the coming of electricity, and with it the frigidaire into the rural homes, wonderful improvements in conserving all kinds of foods by the frigidaire process, as well as by canning, were made.

The year 1925, however, gave the farmers and the business houses a considerable set-back, because of the extended drought that set in early in spring and lasted till midsummer. Corn and forage crops were almost a complete failure, and much feedstuff had to be imported that year. The cotton crop was very light. In 1948 Washington County, together with other large sections of Texas, was again drought-stricken. This time, however, the drought set in later in the growing season, so that a fair crop could be harvested; but the drought lasted from midsummer till after Christmas, the precipitation being over fourteen inches below normal.

The years following 1925 were better again, and prosperity returned. Business was on an upgrade during the Coolidge administration. In 1928 the Democratic Convention convened at Houston, where the party nominated Al Smith of New York for the Presidency, with Senator Joseph T. Robinson of Arkansas as his running mate. The Republican Convention met at Kansas City and nominated Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover, with Senator Charles Curtis of Kansas, for President and Vice-President, respectively.

One historian says that "prosperity, prohibition, and prejudice" won the election that year. At any rate, Herbert Hoover swept the country, breaking into the "Solid South," and capturing forty out of the forty-eight states.

But prosperity was, to a great extent, artificial and unevenly distributed, and Hoover was not to enjoy his popularity long. Unemployment had increased from 1922 till 1927, because of the introduction of labor-saving machines. The building boom had ceased late in 1928, and automobile and steel production began to slacken. Economic commer-

cialism had expressed itself in high tariff walls, which were raised around the United States, and which caused foreign countries, in self-defense, to pass high tariff laws.

The whole economic set-up began to tumble with the Wall Street crash, which came in October, 1929. Matters went from bad to worse in spite of anything the Government might do.

Washington County experienced many difficulties during that depression. The county was overrun with unemployed people. Every day many had to be taken care of in one way or another. Prices were down, and drastic cuts were made in salaries. Young people who graduated from high school or college could not get employment. "Does it pay anymore to get an education?" was the question that many asked.

When Franklin D. Roosevelt became President of the United States, the first thing to be done was to get something to do for these many young people who were roaming the roads and streets in search of work. Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and National Youth Administration (NYA) centers were created in various parts of the country, where thousands of these youth were given training in some kind of vocation and were also given part-time work. Brenham and Washington County had such centers. A Civilian Conservation Corps camp was established at Brenham, where it operated for awhile and was then moved elsewhere. But Brenham had a National Youth Administration center at Blinn College, where hundreds of young girls were given training in commerical courses and in radio transmission work. There was also a welding shop in Brenham under the same administration, where many young men received training in that kind of work.

However, these projects were all discontinued after Pearl Harbor, when millions were needed in war training camps and in the many workshops that the War Department had established. The young people who had received training in these youth centers were prepared to go to work when the United States entered the war, December, 1941.

Washington County in the Second World War

Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, this country was shocked by the terrible news that a Japanese air fleet had

made a raid on Pearl Harbor, and that much damage had been done, both in lives and property. This act, then, plunged the United States into the most destructive war of all history.

Recruiting under the draft law that had already been passed went on vigorously. A very capable Selective Service Board, in whom the people of the county had great confidence, was created, and it sent 2,303 men and fifteen young women from the county into the service, nearly double the number that World War I took.

Food, gasoline, tires and even cars were placed under strict rationing, for which a board had also been created. These boards served patriotically and well during the entire war, although their praises are little sung. Hundreds of people served. The farmers and businessmen were unanimous in their support of all war efforts. Great drives were made for the sale of War Bonds, of which the quota for the county was $400,000 for the year 1943 alone, but in all drives the quota was always oversubscribed. Collections of money for the Red Cross were made from year to year, totaling for the war over $35,000 for the county, and this, too, was overpaid.

As in former conflicts, reports of casualties soon began to come in, many of them fatal. Thus again many homes were saddened. The first fine lad from here to fall in this conflict was James F. Dillon of Brenham. Yes, the blood of our young men made crimson the soil of Europe, Asia, Africa and the islands of the seas.

In my efforts to get a complete list of our fallen heroes, I was unable to get any further classification than the rank of each. Such data as regiment, company and the like I was unable to get. Perhaps there has not as yet been enough time to classify them thus. I sincerely hope that none was omitted. The total that was given me is fifty, forty-three in the Army and seven in the Navy, as follows:

ARMY: Lad Bednar, First Sergeant; Steve Bilski, Corporal; R. T. Buck, Staff Sergeant; Elmond E. Cordes, Private; Reinhard A. Dannhaus, Staff Sergeant; James Edmond, Private First Class; Raymond Eickenhorst, Staff Sergeant; Ernest Flentge, Staff Sergeant; Wallace B. Gasek, Private; September Harris, Jr., Private; Arthur C. Hartman, Lieutenant; Edwin H. Hoefelmeyer, Private First Class; Harold C.

Hohlt, Private First Class; James Inglehart, Lieutenant; Henry W. Jensen, Technician Fifth Grade; Kenneth Krug, Lieutenant; Albin Krotofil, Private First Class; Little C. Lewis, Private; Steve Matelske, Corporal; Erich H. Mertins, Staff Sergeant; Carl H. Mueller, Colonel; Harry J. Naumann, Private First Class; Louis C. Niemeyer, Private First Class; Theodore Nowak, Private; Max Pawlowski, Private First Class; J. D. Grady Pike, Private First Class; Ernest N. Reichardt, First Lieutenant; Lee Roy F. Rosenbaum, Technical Sergeant; Joe Routt, Captain; Victor H. Runge, Private First Class; Alfred W. Sander, Private First Class; Elwood C. Schaefer, Corporal; Otto H. J. Schlottmann, Sergeant; Phares P. Smith, Private First Class; Herbert F. Spreen, Corporal; Clifford M. Tomlinson, Sergeant; William DeWare Tonn, Private First Class; William H. Turner, Aviation Cadet; Dellie O. Ullrich, First Lieutenant; Clarence Wisrodt, Sergeant Pilot (R.C.A.F.); Esque Washington, First Lieutenant; Chestor S. Wesolek, Sergeant; Felder Wilson, Private; Frank T. Zientek, Private.

NAVY: Those fallen in the Navy are: Edmund Ashorn, Jr., Seaman 2; William C. Atheiee, Steward's Mate I, USNR; James F. Dillon, Staff Sergeant, USMC; Tommie Harris, Mess Attendant 2c, USN; L. G. Lauderdale, Steward's Mate Ic; USNR; Ralph Waldo Niebuhr, Ensign, USNR; Nathon Vernon Lonnie Siebel, Aviation Radioman 2c, USNR.[9]

Finally victory came once more to our brave men and women at the front and to those who remained at home to keep the war machine going at full speed. People were once more thankful that this awful struggle was at an end, and that peace had come to our country. The anxious question this time was: "Can we keep the peace?"

Legislators From Washington County

Washington County for over a century has been furnishing men to represent the people in the Legislature of Texas and in the Congress of the United States.

Towns in the county that no longer exist, as well as those that are now mere villages, in the days past sent men to our legislative bodies. In some cases in the list of representatives

[9] Information by courtesy of Veterans Affairs Commission, Austin.

given below, the representative hails from a town not in Washington County. In such a case the district was made up of two or more counties. It is also of interest to observe that for a period of fourteen years this county was represented seven times by a colored representative. The following list of state representatives I obtained through the courtesy of the State Librarian at Austin:

LEGISLATURE	YEAR	REPRESENTATIVE	DISTRICT	CITY
1	1845	Dupree, L. G.	(City and district not given)	
		Irion, Van R.		
		Willie, James		
2	1847	Irion, Van R.		
		Robertson, J. R.		
		Willie, James		
3	1849	Tarver, B. E. (resigned)	35	
		Sheppard, James G.	35	
4	1851	McDade, James W.	38	
		Tarver, B. E.	39	
5	1853	Crawford, G. W.	49	Washington
		Swearingen, R. J.	49	Chappell Hill
6	1855	Sayles, John	49	
		Tarver, B. E.	49	
7	1857	Haynes, A. G.	49	Independence
		Upshaw, A. M. M.	49	Chappell Hill
8	1859	Flewellen, R. T.	49	Washington
		Hubert, Frank (resigned)	49	
		Upshaw, A. M. M.	49	Chappell Hill
9	1861	Flewellen, R. T.	52	Washington
		Rippetoe, A. H.	51	Brenham
10	1863	Baker, M. W.	52	Chappell Hill
		McGuire, F. W.	51	Yegua
11	1866	Giddings, J. D.	51	Brenham
		Thomas, N.	52	Winchester (Fayette)
12	1870	Schlottmann, Wm.	16	Brenham
		Stockbridge, C. J.	16	Brenham
13	1873	Diller, Peter (deceased)	16	Brenham
		Stockbridge, C. J.	16	Brenham
		Wilder, Allen (col.)	16	Chappell Hill
14	1874	Mitchel, John (col.)	17	
		Scott, G. R.	16	Caldwell (Burleson)
		Von Bieberstein, H. R.	16	
15	1876	Wilder, Allen (col.)		
		(Election contested)	39	
		Von Bieberstein, H. R.		
		(succeeded)	39	Burton
		Thompson, Wm.	39	Brenham
16	1879	Guy, B. A. (col.)	39	William Penn
		Sledge, A. L. (col.)	40	Chappell Hill
17	1881	Gray, James E.	39	Brenham
		Haynes, Harry	40	Independence
18	1883	Coffman, W. H.	72	Lexington (Lee)
		Moore, R. J. (col.)	71	Brenham

LEGISLATURE	YEAR	REPRESENTATIVE	DISTRICT	CITY
19	1885	Haynes, Harry	72	Independence
		Moore, R. J. (col.)	71	Brenham
20	1887	Hunt, M. T.	72	Caldwell (Burleson)
		Moore, R. J. (col.)	71	Washington
21	1889	Felder, M. M.	71	Chappell Hill
		Fields, Jacob Alex	72	Giddings (Lee)
22	1891	Felder, M. M.	71	Chappell Hill
		King, Henry	72	Caldwell (Burleson)
		Ragsdale, S. C.	72	Caldwell (Burleson)
23	1893	Dever, N. E.	47	Brenham
		Murray, A. G.	48	Caldwell
24	1895	Giddings, D. C.	47	Brenham
		Rogers, B. S.	48	Brenham
25	1897	Porter, J. W.	48	Hix (Lee County)
		Rogers, B. S.	47	Brenham
26	1899	Goodlett, S. H.	48	Brenham
		Rogers, B. S.	47	Brenham
27	1901	Goodlett, S. H.	47	Brenham
		Heslep, J. R.	48	Caldwell
28	1903	Johnson, J. M.	47	Giddings
		Low, T. A.	46	Brenham
29	1905	Crockett, W. D.	47	Chappell Hill
		Low, T. A.	46	Brenham
30	1907	Crockett, W. D.	46	Chappell Hill
		Schlosshan, H. F.	47	Lexington
31	1909	Buchanan, J. P.	47	Brenham
		Crockett, W. D.	46	Chappell Hill
32	1911	Buchanan, J. P.	47	Brenham
		Sahannon, T. H.	46	Independence
33	1913	Buchanan, J. P. (resigned)	69	Brenham
		Low, Sam D. W.	69	Brenham
34	1915	Low, Sam D. W.	69	Brenham
35	1917	Low, Sam D. W. (resigned)	69	Brenham
		Mathis, John M., Sr.	69	Brenham
36	1919	Seward, Oscar A.	69	Independence
37	1921	Low, Sam D. W.	69	Burton
		Neinast, J. H.	69	Burton
38	1923	Lusk, William	24	Brenham
39	1925	Low, Sam D. W.	24	Brenham
40-48	1927-45	Fuchs, R. A.	24	Brenham
49-50	1945-	Luedemann, J. A.	24	Brenham

IN THE TEXAS SENATE

LEGISLATURE	YEAR	SENATOR	DISTRICT	CITY
5 and 6	1853-55	McDade, James W.	20	Chappell Hill
7 and 8	1857-59	Sheppard, C. B.	20	Long Point
9 and 10	1861-63	Sheppard, C. B.	23	Brenham
12 and 13	1870-73	Gaines, Matthew (col.)	16	Brenham
14 and 15	1874-76	Shepard, Seth	16	Brenham
19 and 20	1885-89	Knittel, Herman	12	Burton
22	1891-93	Searcy, W. W.	12	Brenham
25 and 26	1897-01	Stone, Heber	19	Brenham
43-46	1933-41	Stone, Albert	14	Brenham

IN THE CONGRESS

CONGRESS	YEAR	REPRESENTATIVE	DISTRICT	CITY
42	1871	Giddings, D. C.	10 (Tex.)	Brenham
63-75	1912-37	Buchanan, J. P.	10	Brenham

IN THE SENATE

CONGRESS	YEAR	SENATOR	STATE	CITY
29-40	1846-58	Houston, Sam	Texas	Independence

Washington State Park

By the close of the nineteenth century Old Washington-on-the-Brazos had shrunk to a mere village. Some of the old historic landmarks had been obliterated, and it was high time to identify them while those who knew the spots of these historic places and structures were still living. Under the leadership, therefore, of Superintendent E. W. Tarrant of the Brenham Public Schools, the children of Brenham were led to make up the money for a monument to be erected on the site where the old blacksmith shop had stood in which the Texas Declaration of Independence was signed on March 2, 1836. The collection of funds went on with great enthusiasm, and on July 4, 1899, the monument was unveiled with appropriate ceremonies.

But this was only the beginning of a movement to preserve historic places and perpetuate them in the memories of posterity. On April 14, 1914, the Young Men's Business Association of Brenham passed a resolution asking the Legislature of Texas to establish and maintain a park at Old Washington. The Representative at Austin from Washington County was the Honorable Sam D. W. Low, who at once introduced a bill thereupon providing for appropriations and a park commission to carry out this purpose. The bill, however, did not pass during that regular session because of lack of time. It was passed during the called session that followed immediately after the regular session, and was signed by Governor James E. Ferguson in the spring of 1915.

This beautiful park, which was established by the Legislature that year, is located on the banks of the Brazos River, just east of the town. It is provided with driveways lined with

shrubbery, and there are hundreds of pecan trees planted along the river bank. Here is the monument commemorating the signing of the *Declaration of Texas Independence.* In this park is also a replica of the old blacksmith shop that served as the convention hall for that occasion. The home of President Anson Jones has been moved into the park, and a large auditorium and amphitheatre have been constructed here. In a prominent place in the park stands a monument of red granite in memory of George Campbell Childress, the author of the *Declaration of Independence,* and here is a stone and bronze monument to the memory of the signers of the *Declaration of Independence* and the delegates to the convention. Sixty names are inscribed on this monument.

At this park was celebrated in appropriate manner, under the sponsorship of the American Legion, Buddy Wright Post No. 48, the Centennial of Texas Independence in March, 1936. That celebration was given cognizance by the churches of Washington County on the Sunday preceding the main celebration. Thousands of visitors from all over Texas and from other states attended. A number of distinguished guests came on the Sunday preceding the main celebration. Among these guests were Governor and Mrs. James V. Allred and Governor Philip LaFollette of Wisconsin. While in Brenham, they were the guests of Dr. and Mrs. W. F. Hasskarl. On their entrance into the city, they were met by Mayor Reese B. Lockett and the Reception Committee, of which Mrs. E. P. Anderson was the chairman. These distinguished guests were given a special escort to their host's residence by the local cavalry troops.

After a tour of sightseeing of historic places in the county that day, "this group visited Blinn College, where President C. F. Schmidt made a short talk about the college, whereupon Mrs. Anderson introduced Governor Allred, who in turn introduced Governor LaFollette, who delivered a short address."[10]

On March 2, 1936, a grand parade was staged in Brenham, after which the paraders went out in a body to Washington Park, where thousands of visitors had already gathered. Here Governor Allred, with appropriate words, pre-

[10] Brenham *Banner-Press,* March 2, 1936.

sented the American Legion with flags of Spain, France and Mexico.

Other distinguished guests who came to the celebration were former Governor Pat M. Neff and the Honorable Cullen F. Thomas of Dallas, United States Commissioner-General for the Texas Centennial Commission. These gentlemen were the guests of State Senator and Mrs. Albert Stone of Brenham.

A number of local, state and national representatives to the Centennial spoke at the park that day. The Brenham Concert Band and a number of visiting bands furnished music for the large crowds. Great publicity was given this celebration by the newspapers over the state, and by the newsreel men who were present. The *Brenham Banner-Press* published a special issue on that occasion.

Pioneer Graves in Washington County

There are always those who are interested in the burial places of our pioneer people. A number of graves of pioneers of Texas are in the one or the other cemetery of this county. The following list does not contain all of the graves, but as many as we could locate. Not all of these graves given here are those of people of the Texas Revolution or prior to that time; nevertheless, we think that they are entitled to be mentioned in this connection.

"Thomas and Anna Affleck," so reads the inscription on the modest grave marker in a small hackberry grove about eight miles north of Brenham and a bit west of the Santa Fe Railway track. There is no date of birth or death on the tombstone.

According to information received from T. D. Affleck of Galveston, a grandson, Thomas Affleck moved to Washington County from Mississippi about 1858 and established a rather large plantation in the northern part of the county, known at that time as "Glenblythe." Anna Affleck was the aunt of Mrs. Jane Long, historically known as the "Mother of Texas."

OAKLAWN CEMETERY

(About three miles east of Gay Hill)

"Reverend J. W. Miller; Born November 25, 1815; Died

April 29, 1888." Reverend Miller founded Live Oak Female College in 1851 at Gay Hill, and operated it till it was closed in 1875.

"Elizabeth Scott Stewart, wife of Reverend J. W. Miller; Born November 10, 1825; Died August 20, 1908."

IN PRAIRIE LEE CEMETERY AT BRENHAM

George Washington Petty. — "A San Jacinto veteran. Born in Tennessee, April 7, 1812. Died July 27, 1901."

Rev. Robert Alexander. — "Born in Murry County, Tenn., August 7, 1811. Joined the Tennessee Conference in 1830, and was transferred to Texas, then a mission field, in 1837; was a member of the Texas Conference M.E.C.S. from its organization till he died April 26, 1882, in Chappell Hill, Texas."

Buried with him on the same lot are: Eliza P. Alexander, his wife, March 26, 1821 to August 30, 1878. Fannie A. Lide Campbell, daughter, November 11, 1846 to November 11, 1940. Annie Ayers Lide, April 7, 1875 to January 19, 1938, author of *Robert Alexander and the Early Methodist Church in Texas.*

Reverend Carl Urbantke. — "Born in Germany, December 3, 1831. Died July 12, 1912." Founder of Blinn College and pioneer Texas minister of the Methodist Church.

Reverend William Pfaeffle. — "Born September 10, 1831, in Baden, Germany. Died in a storm at St. Paul, Minnesota, July 13, 1890." First financial agent of Blinn College and pioneer Texas minister of the Methodist Church.

IN INDEPENDENCE CEMETERY

Lewis Kraatz. — "A San Jacinto veteran. Born in Germany. Died in 1857."

General James Willie. — "Born in Georgia, January 5, 1822. Died in Houston, Texas, 1863. Attorney-General in Texas, 1856-1857; member of the first Legislature in the House of Representatives, 1845; officer in the Confederate Army"

Margaret Lea. — "Wife of Sam Houston. Born April 11, 1819. Died December 3, 1867." In the cemetery close to the old Baptist Church.

Nancy Lea. — "Wife of Temple Lea. May 1, 1780 to February 7, 1864." She is the mother of Mrs. Sam Houston. Buried close to the old Baptist Church.

IN WASHINGTON CEMETERY

John William Smith. — "Soldier in the Army of the Republic. Member of Congress. First Mayor of San Antonio. Born in Virginia, 1792. Died in Washington, Texas, January 13, 1845."

Asa Brigham. — "Alcalde of Brazoria Municipality, 1835; Signer of Texas Declaration of Independence, 1836; Auditor of the Republic 1836-1840 and 1841-1844. Born in Massachusetts 1790. Died in Washington, Texas, July 2, 1844."

IN GRABALL CEMETERY

Amos Gates. — "A member of Austin's First Colony. Born January 11, 1799. Died May 26, 1883."

The County Administration

The affairs of the county are in the hands of the Commissioners Court. The condition in which the county roads, bridges and public buildings are depends much on this body of county officials, who are the administrators of county affairs. They are really not a court. The term court is a misnomer in this case.

Washington County has made a reputation for its frugal and business-like administration of public funds, in consequence of which there has been a comparatively low rate of county tax. All along, the Commissioners Court of Washington County has consisted of honest and hard-working citizens, who have tried to use the people's tax money carefully and to the best advantage.

It is perhaps a result of this frugality on the part of their administrators that the people of this county are rather tax-conscious, and that such interests as good roads and education had to wait long in some cases for financial support. Much as has been done, there is still much to be done in this county in the improvement of its lateral roads and in bringing its educational interests to their deserving place.

The annual tax rate of the county is here given for the last three decades.

1919	.50	1934	1.20
1920	.50	1935	1.06
1921	1.10	1936	1.04
1922	1.35	1937	.90
1923	1.71	1938	.80
1924	1.70	1939	.80
1925	1.68	1940	.77
1926	1.50	1941	.77
1927	1.50	1942	.77
1928	1.50	1943	.77
1929	1.50	1944	.77
1930	1.50	1945	.77
1931	1.50	1946	.77
1932	.96	1947	.77
1933	1.50	1948	.77

In 1921 Washington County completed the first concrete highway built from county line to county line in the state. It was a sixteen-foot wide highway constructed under the direction of Engineer Gus Bracher. To finance the construction of this highway, a $500,000 bond was voted in June, 1921. In the late thirties this thoroughfare was widened and retopped. It is now a part of Highway No. 290, and crosses the county from east to west. In 1929, Highway No. 36 was completed. It crosses the county from north to south. Early in the thirties a third concrete highway was built to Washington Park. It is known as Highway No. 90. To build these new roads and repair the old ones, additional bond issues were voted in 1922 and 1923 in the total amount of one million dollars. In just recent years some farm-to-market road building has been done in the county. However, as stated elsewhere, it is the lateral roads in the county that will need to be given attention in the near future to give our farmers ready access to markets in any kind of weather condition.

The people of Washington County have always taken a good deal of interest in their courthouse at Brenham. The first structure of this kind was erected in 1844, when Brenham became the county seat. In 1852, however, this public building was replaced by a better courthouse, and in turn this one gave place to a more modern building in 1883. This beautiful building served the county for over a half-century, but finally it no longer answered the need. In 1938, therefore, measures were taken by the Commissioners Court of

Washington County, with Sam D. W. Low as county judge, to wreck and remove the old structure and to replace it with a beautiful fireproof building, with simple lines and built of steel frame filled in with concrete and veneered with white limestone rock. The building, together with furniture and equipment, cost approximately $135,000. The county officials moved into the new building in March, 1940.

Judge Low, however, whose dream the new courthouse largely was, did not live to see it completed; neither did Sheriff Hoffmann Reese, who passed away the year before. During the construction of the new courthouse, the Schurenberg building served as a temporary courthouse.

At the death of Judge Low, the Commissioners Court appointed County Attorney Richard Spinn to the highest office in the county, and he has been re-elected every term without opposition.

Once an official is elected in Washington County, and if he "makes good," he usually holds his office for a long time. Of the former members of the County Commissioners Court, Mr. Jack Routt of Chappell Hill has perhaps the longest record of service in that body, having been elected for the first time in 1902 and refusing to stand for re-election in 1940, thus having served thirty-eight years.

Other county officials who have made a record of longevity of service can be mentioned here. The late R. V. Hoffmann started work as a deputy county tax collector in 1891, which position he held till 1908, when he was elected county tax collector, and continued in that office till 1933, a total of forty-two years in office.

Mr. A. J. Wendt started his career in the courthouse in 1908, when he was appointed deputy county clerk to O. A. Seward, and continued in that office under County Clerk Green Morgan till 1920, when he was elected district clerk, which office he held till 1933. He is again serving as deputy county clerk under Travis Philips since 1935, thus having served, thus far, forty-one years in the courthouse in various capacities.

Others who have had long terms of service in the county are Robert Schawe, who was elected tax assessor in 1933 and who is still serving as assessor-collector. The late William Wendt served as treasurer and assessor a total of thirty-two

years. M. H. Ehlert served as county superintendent from 1925 till 1947.

The present Commissioners Court consists of the following members: Precinct No. 1, Joe Bailey; Precinct No. 2, J. W. Whiddon; Precinct No. 3, Louis Lehrmann; Precinct No. 4, H. G. Weber.

Other county officials and other officials who have not been mentioned are: Tieman Dippel, Sheriff; Travis Philips, County Clerk; Odis Tomachevsky, County Attorney; Rosalee Fuchs, County Treasurer; Paul Klingsporn, District Clerk; Leslie Williams, District Attorney; J. W. Stufflebeme, County Demonstration Agent; Miss Jewell Ballew, Home Demonstration Agent; H. A. Becker; Justice of the Peace; E. T. Zwernemann, Texas Liquor Board; Dr. W. F. Hasskarl, County Health Officer.

Attorneys practicing law in Brenham are A. W. Hodde, R. E. Pennington, Albert Stone, Senior and Junior of the Stone Abstract Company, and Henry T. Lohrmann.

Politics

During the colonial period there was no sign of parties among the people of Texas, except such as favored cooperation with the almost intolerable Mexican Government, as against those who were ready to assert their rights. These two groups for awhile became pronounced, but after a few consultations had been held, the Texans of Anglo-American stock were practically unanimous in their opposition to the Mexican regime.

During the Republic the voters and the people of Texas as a whole were either followers of Houston, who was an annexationist and a strict economist, or — and this was a small majority — they were followers of Mirabeau B. Lamar, who disregarded annexation and emphasized expansion and the independence of Texas.

The rise of political parties in Texas begins with the early fifties, when people began to take sides with or against Governor E. M. Pease, who advocated state ownership of railroads; also the Kansas-Nebraska Bill played its part, against which Senator Sam Houston had voted and whose vote was approved by Governor Pease.

It was during Governor Pease's administration that Texas

began to nominate candidates by conventions. Up till then nominations had been made rather informally by small groups. Both Whigs and Democrats began to hold conventions. The influence of Houston was so great in those days that in both parties voters aligned themselves either for or against him. The final act of this political alignment was the ousting of Governor Houston of Texas from office, when he refused to take the oath of allegiance to the Southern Confederacy on the eve of the secession of Texas from the American Union.

During the time of the war there was practically but one party, the Democratic Party. But during the reconstruction years the American way of life was relegated to the background in the South. All of the leading citizens were disfranchised, and the so-called "carpetbag" and Negro government was instituted, a regime which came near bringing total ruin to the South. It was during these years that Washington County was represented seven times by a colored representative in the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Texas and one time in the Senate, even up till 1887. These "carpetbaggers" and Negroes were then the representatives of the Republican Party, which had come into existence just on the eve of the Civil War, and it was in those years that the so-called "Solid South" was given to the country, a political situation which has not always been conducive to the best interests of the South.

Once the people of the Southern states had regained their normal status in the nation and could hold their elections unhindered by the Federal Government, the Democratic Party soon had full sway and began to enact the so-called "Jim Crow" laws, make payment of poll tax conditional to voting, and eventually passed measures to regulate its "lily white" primary elections for the nominations of candidates, which, in Texas, always means election. Most of these measures, it seems, have by this time served their purpose and had their day, although the South is not yet ready to give up all of them.

After the Civil War, Washington County politics took on a rather conservative trend. On the whole, this has always been a normal Southern county. The great majority of its people have always voted the Democratic ticket. There is, however, a decided leaning toward the Republican Party, as

was demonstrated in the latest election of November, 1948. Within the Democratic Party itself in this county the voters sided on several occasions with that wing that did its own thinking on political issues and voting. For instance, this county was always a strong Ferguson center, and W. Lee O'Daniel always carried Washington County, and it supported the "Texas Regulars" in 1944.

A Few More Prominent Citizens of Washington County in the Years That Have Passed

A volume could be written if only a brief life sketch were given of the many citizens of Washington County who have "made good" in life. In some families nearly everyone made a record either in business, in politics, in social life or in religious activities. Once one begins to write biographies of local citizens, there is no end to that — who deserves to be given detailed mention and who does not?

But there are a few in each community who stand head and shoulders above the rest in achievements, and everybody is agreed that they should have special mention. Besides Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston, who were given special recognition in connection with their great work, I shall here give a brief life's sketch of a few more illustrious sons of Washington County.

COLONEL D. C. GIDDINGS was born in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, July 18, 1827, the son of James and Lucy Demming Giddings. He was educated in that state, and before his twentieth year had taught school. When he was twenty years of age, he was employed as civil engineer of a railroad company in that state. Three years later he was reading law in the office of Earl Wheeler.

In 1852 he came to Brenham, Texas, where several of his brothers had come before him, and here he became a law partner of his brother, J. D. Giddings.

When in 1861 Texas seceded with the other Southern states, D. C. Giddings opposed secession, as he believed that the Southern states could better get their rights in the Union than out of it. However, when Texas had joined the Southern Confederacy, he at once joined the 21st Texas Cavalry as a private. Because of his efficiency as a soldier and his

commanding personality, he was soon advanced to the rank of captain, and when the war closed, he had reached the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Whether in the military service of his country or in civilian service at home, he was always the leader among people. Therefore, when, during the so-called Reconstruction Period, the Brenham Volunteer Fire Department was organized, seemingly to fight fire but really more to protect the citizens against oppressive carpetbag rule, he was made the first chief of the department. In 1866 the Giddings and Giddings Bank was organized, in the organization and administration of which he played an important role. The town of Giddings was named in his honor.

His leadership was just as strong in the political affairs of his state and country. After having served a term in the legislature of Texas, he, on November 8, 1872, was elected Representative to the United States Congress against the carpetbag candidate W. T. Clark, who, however, had been certified by the Governor of Texas, in spite of the fact that Giddings had received 3,000 majority. Giddings was not to be outdone, but contested the election of Clark before Congress and was seated with but one dissenting vote. He was reelected November 4, 1874. In Texas politics he opposed the reelection of Governor James S. Hogg and supported Judge George Clark, who was running on a platform of the free unlimited coinage of silver in the ratio of sixteen to one. Clark was defeated. Giddings was the first to advocate the establishment of a public free school in Brenham under a law that had been passed by the Texas Legislature in 1875, under which such free schools could be established.

He lived to a ripe old age, dying in his home in Brenham, August 19, 1903. His remains were interred in the Prairie Lee Cemetery at this city.

Much could be said here about J. D. Giddings, banker, legislator, and great churchman, in whose honor the Giddings Memorial Methodist Church, South, of Brenham, was named. The same thing is true of the late Colonel D. C. Giddings, who was a leading citizen of Brenham and Washington County for many years. But space will not permit.

WILLIAM WATSON, horticulturist, lived near Brenham the latter part of the nineteenth century. He conducted a nursery about a mile east of the city, and shipped young

fruit trees over a large area of Texas. The writer, who was reared in Gillespie County, remembers distinctly that hundreds of fruit trees were shipped to that county every winter, and some of the fine orchards up in that county had their beginning with Watson Nursery trees.

Mr. Watson published the *Texas Horticultural Almanac,* of which, unfortunately, there seem to be no copies extant anymore. His nursery was known around here as Rosedale Nursery, and here is where he produced one of the most popular landscape plants, the Rosedale Arborvitae.

The place now owned by Edwin Schmid still has the old mansion standing majestically among a grove of trees on the place where once thousands of fruit trees and ornamental shrubbery were produced and shipped to all parts of Texas. For reasons unknown to us, the business was closed the early part of the present century.

HONORABLE JAMES PAUL BUCHANAN was born in Midway, Orangeburg County, South Carolina, April 30, 1867. He moved to Texas with his parents, who settled near Chappell Hill, in Washington County, in 1867. He attended the district schools. As a young man, he entered the department of law of the University of Texas, from which he was graduated in 1889. Shortly after his graduation, he was admitted to the bar and practiced law in Brenham. He was elected justice of the peace of Washington County from 1889 till 1892. After that he was prosecuting attorney till 1899, when he was elected district attorney of the twenty-first Judicial district of Texas, and he served in this capacity till 1906. In that year he was elected to the House of Representatives of the Texas Legislature, where he served till 1913. That year he was elected to Congress to succeed the Honorable Albert Sidney Burleson, who had resigned.

Congressman Buchanan was a popular leader and well liked in this county and district, because of his democratic spirit and because of the interest he took in his people as their representative. He was elected eleven times to the same position in Congress. In the House of Representatives, however, he did not hold the same rank all those years. For a number of years he was chairman of a subcommittee on agriculture, and during the latter part of his membership in the House, he held the chairmanship of the powerful House Appropriations Committee. He sponsored the bill through

Congress under which the Buchanan Dam was finally constructed in the Colorado River in Burnet County, the dam having been named in his honor. He died February 22, 1937, and was buried in Prairie Lee Cemetery.

"Firsts" in the County

The people of Washington County have taken pride in being first in several events or movements in the state. We cannot vouch exactly for all of these as being historically correct, but as much as we can find out, they are.

In Washington County, and at Independence, was located Baylor University, which was the first university chartered in Texas, namely in 1845.

With that university was also established the Baylor Female College, which almost from the beginning became a separate institution, making it the first female college in Texas.

The railroad chartered by the county in 1854 seems to be the first venture in railroading by a county. This railroad, as stated elsewhere, was built by this county from Hempstead to Brenham.

In 1875 the citizens of Brenham created the first public school district under a law passed by the Legislature that year. The district is still number one.

The citizens of Greenvine lay claim to two firsts. The first gas well in Texas was brought in near that village, and the first nickel store was operated in that village, according to old settlers there.

In 1921, Washington County completed the first concrete highway in the state from county line to county line. Other counties had built a few miles of such highways. This one was over thirty miles long.

In 1937 this county created the first county-wide junior college district in the state.

CHAPTER III

TOWNS AND COMMUNITIES

Extinct Towns

There are records of towns that once existed and flourished in Washington County, but for reasons not known in every case, they have disappeared, some completely, others with some ruins to mark the spot of their former activities.

MONTVILLE, the site of which is not known for certain, had a boarding school which was conducted by Miss Lydia Ann McHenry. The school was opened in January, 1836. Later that year the school was interrupted by the Texas Revolution. In 1837 another girls' school was opened by Miss McHenry, but it was again closed the following year because of the ill health of Miss McHenry. No traces of this early town remain.[1]

MOUNT VERNON was located on the road between Long Point and Brenham. It was the second county seat of Washington County from 1841 till 1844, when Brenham was selected by popular vote as the permanent seat of the county government. Early writers speak of Mount Vernon as having a courthouse, a jail, schools and churches, as well as many happy homes.

MUSTANG is mentioned as one of the early towns of the county. No particular records have been found by which details could be reported here concerning this center of early activity.

TIGERTOWN is mentioned among the early centers of population. It seems to have been the seat of wealthy plantation owners. It was located on one of the many hills of Washington County six miles west of Brenham.

ROCKISLAND, located on the west bank of the Brazos River about fifteen miles south of Washington, had an academy that had a statewide reputation. Rockisland was the

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1 Grusendorf, *A Century of Education in Washington County*, p. 66.

home of wealthy planters and, because of the academy, was inhabited by cultured citizens. In 1856 the town was listed as one of the post offices in the county.

TURKEY CREEK, important enough to be a candidate in 1844 for the county seat, is one of the towns that once flourished but that exists no more. It was centrally located in the county. We know this because of the instructions to the committee to locate the new county seat. No competitor for this honor could be more than two miles from the center of the county.

UNION HILL is said to have been a border town on the Yegua, about two miles northwest of the present town of Burton. It had a high school, chartered on February 1, 1858. Its corporate name was "Union Hill High School." The town began to go down in business and population when the Houston and Texas Central was extended west from Brenham to Burton and Austin about 1870 to 1872. It was listed as one of the post offices in the county.

WARREN, a small village, is said to have flourished for some years at the mouth of New Year's Creek.

Present-Day Towns and Communities

WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS, laid out as a town in the spring of 1835 and made a municipality in July of the same year, has a unique history, long and honorable. When the Revolutionary Convention met there on March 1, 1836, Washington was just a frontier village of about one hundred inhabitants. A modern convention would very likely despair if it had to meet under such conditions as were found in that small village. There were no hotels, no library facilities that are really necessary for a constitutional convention, not even a good hall in which the delegates could meet and work. But these pioneer statesmen were not frightened by inconveniences. Most of them very likely had brought with them a blanket or two to keep themselves comfortable for the nights. How they were fed in that small village was a problem which these hardy men knew how to solve. The convention was held in a blacksmith shop owned by Noah T. Byars. This building is said to have been unfurnished, and there were no doors nor windows in the openings.

The convention had to work fast for several reasons.

Something had to be done to crystallize sentiment, and a definite objective for which all patriots could fight had to be set. Richard Ellis was chosen chairman of the convention and H. S. Kimball secretary. Upon motion by George C. Childress a committee of five was appointed by chairman Ellis to draft a declaration of independence. The members of the committee were James Gaines, Bailey Hardeman, Edward Conrad and Collin McKinney, with Childress as chairman. It is generally agreed that Childress wrote the declaration of independence.

The convention which met at this new frontier place predicted in a way the importance this town should play during the existence of the Texas Republic. Being located at the junction of the Brazos and Navasota rivers, Washington soon became the center of a rather extensive river traffic. A number of steamboats loaded and unloaded freight at its wharves. During the best of its years, Washington published several newspapers. It was here, also, that the General Consultation had met on October 15, 1835. This town became the first county seat of Washington County and was one of the capitals of the Republic, when President Houston, by proclamation, during his second term, moved the departments of the government from Austin to Washington for fear of a Mexican invasion. This was done in September, 1842, and he convened Congress here by proclamation. At Washington, Houston delivered his valedictory, and here President Anson Jones was inaugurated and here he carried on the functions of the government till the annexation convention was called to meet at Austin, July 4, 1845.

When President Houston had made his call for Congress to convene at Washington, the question as to a building in which it could meet was a serious one. The largest and best building in that little town was Hatfield's grocery, or saloon. The building was much in use and almost too important to give up for any other purpose than it was serving, but it was finally rented to the House of Representatives. The saloon itself was not surrendered, but there was a large hall on the second floor, which was rented to Congress. To make it less convenient to get to the saloon, the stairway was removed to the outside of the building.

In this hall, which had been worked over somewhat for the meetings of Congress, was held the inaugural ball for

President Anson Jones in 1845, said to have been the only ball of this kind ever held during the existence of the Republic of Texas.[2]

In 1837, Bishop Hedding of the New York Conference appointed Dr. Martin Ruter, Reverend Robert Alexander, and Reverend Littleton Fowler missionaries to Texas. Dr. Ruter organized three circuits in Texas, one of them being the Washington circuit, to which the Reverend Alexander was appointed. When he arrived in Washington, he was received by a small band of Methodists. As there was no church in that place, he found it necessary to preach in the so-called Hatfield's Hall, which, at the time, was a gamblers' den. They were defying the law and the people were afraid of them. Then along came the young Methodist preacher and engaged the hall above the saloon and announced that he would preach there the following Sunday. The gamblers sent him word that the hall had been rented for other purposes and that he could not preach there. Mr. Alexander, being a man of gigantic size, and having courage in proportion, repeated his announcement and was there on time that Sunday morning. He pretended not to see the cards on the table, but that the men were there to hear him. He walked to the front and placed the open Bible on a billiard table, and then announced that if anyone did not care to hear him, he might leave the hall. None left. He then preached an old time brimstone and fire sermon, after which practically everyone came to the front to shake his hand.

It was at Washington in 1838 that Dr. Martin Ruter joined in marriage the Reverend Robert Alexander and Miss Eliza Perkins Ayers. Miss Ayers, soon after her arrival in Washington, had organized a Sunday school, in which she was active for years.

Dr. J. W. Lockhart, who moved to Washington in 1839, lived in the county sixty years. He wrote an interesting description of a spring scene in the county, a part of which description we quote here:

> During the months of April, May and June it was one vast bed of flowers. Nature seemed to have one handful of

[2] J. K. Holland, "Reminiscences of Old Washington," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Vol. I, pp. 92-95.

mixed flower seed, and have scattered them broadcast over the hills and valleys of the rich country.

The groundwork of the vast flower bed was a beautiful blue, interspersed with all colors, shades and varieties of flowers. In some places were to be seen great beds thrown up as if a gardener had exerted all his skill in their formation, and to add still more perfection to the scene, pretty groves of post oaks stood here and there, as if designed purposely. To ascend one of these hills and view the surrounding country one could not but exclaim, "The hand of the Great Master is to be seen in these beautiful surroundings."[3]

Dr. Ruter and Reverend Alexander would have frequent meetings in Washington, where they would discuss plans for the extension of the mission work in Texas. In this place Dr. Ruter wrote his last report to his conference in the spring of 1838, for on May 16 of the same year he died at Washington, where he was buried. His remains were later taken east for their permanent resting place.

Those were the days of camp meetings. The first one held on the Washington circuit was in July, near Independence, on Cedar Creek. It is said that there were a hundred conversions. People in large numbers moved out to the camp ground to attend the meetings. Among those camping on the grounds were such prominent citizens as Captain Horatid Chriesman, J. G. Swisher, Dr. Asa Hoxey and other leading citizens of Washington County.[4]

It is generally agreed by all Baptist historians that the first church of their denomination was organized at Washington-on-the-Brazos in 1837. The earliest Baptist minister known to have come to Texas was a Reverend Bays, who seems, however, never to have organized a church. Another Baptist minister who came here prior to the independence of Texas was the Reverend Thomas Hanks, who came here from Tennessee in 1829. He is said to have preached in the home of Moses Shipman, and under his preaching the wife of James Allcorn, a deacon, was converted.

The Reverend Z. N. Morrell, a Tennesseean, came to Texas in December, 1835. He had served as pastor in his

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[3] Anne Ayers Lide, *Robert Alexander and the Early Methodist Church in Texas* 1811-1882, p. 38.

[4] *Ibid.*, p. 49.

native state for fourteen years. He preached his first sermon in Texas to a group of Tennesseeans who had settled on the Brazos. In 1837 he moved his family to Washington. Here he found a number of Baptists, among them H. R. Cartmell, A. Buffington, N. T. Ryars, Richard Ellis and J. R. Jenkins. Morrell proceeded to establish a church at Washington with eight members. This congregation is said to have been the first Missionary Baptist Church organized in Texas. It did not continue to operate long, as Morrell moved away, but this congregation had made an appeal to their mission board for aid. The response will be discussed in connection with the Baptists' activities at Independence.

It was at Washington, also, that the people of the county met in mass meeting to endorse the annexation after the Congress of the United States had passed a joint resolution offering terms of annexation to the Republic of Texas. The resolution that the people of Washington County passed at the mass meeting approved annexation "without reference to the wishes or concurrence of any foreign or European power," and they urged President Jones to convene Congress immediately to take action on the matter.

It seems almost significant that Washington should be the place where independence was declared and a new nation was born, and that it should also be the place where the Republic was ended, to become a state of the United States.

It is interesting to note how Congress voted on the annexation question. President Tyler had tried once before to annex Texas by treaty, but at that time failed to get enough votes in the Senate to get the treaty ratified. When James K. Polk had been elected in 1844 on the issue of annexation, President Tyler tried once more while still in office after the election, and this time he called Congress into joint session to consider the matter, in this case only a simple majority being necessary to carry the measure.

The political parties represented in Congress at that time were the Democrats and Whigs, with one or two independents. It seems that these party members were pretty well distributed over all the states. But wherever the Whigs were found, they voted overwhelmingly against annexation, and the Democrats voted solidly for it. After the discussion and debates on the question, it was found that the Senate had given the annexation of Texas a majority of two votes and

the House a majority of seventeen votes. Three Whigs in the Senate voted for the measure, and these votes came from the Senators from Louisiana, Mississippi and Missouri. In other words, had President Tyler tried the treaty method again, he could not have carried the treaty through the Senate.

The educational center of Washington County, as well as of the Republic, was Independence, only about ten miles west of Washington. Yet we find that Washington took considerable interest in education within its geographical limits. Mention is made in old records that a Mrs. Jack Hall taught school there in 1837. Washington College was chartered in the same year. It was probably never operated above academy rank. In 1839, L. P. Rucker opened a school a short distance south of Washington. This school assumed the name of "Academy." It was primarily designed for boys.

In 1834, there was in operation a girls' academy, conducted by two Misses Sims, who had come there from South Carolina. The date of the closing of the school is not recorded, but it seems that by 1850 the school was no longer operating.[5]

That Old Washington was important as a shipping center for a number of years seems evident from the following writing, which we quote:

> In August [1839], a Washington Editor called a public meeting "with the view of concerting measures for the introduction of a steam boat into our river, to ply between this place and the mouth." He was of the opinion that boats drawing six to eight feet of water could navigate the river, in its unimproved condition, eight months in the year, and those with a draft from two to three feet the entire year around. By enlisting the capital of the river folk and investors in the United States, promoters could transform the river into a waterway as far as Washington. A public meeting in Washington, on September 10, appointed a committee "to solicit subscriptions for the purpose of paying the expenses of the first boat that shall make our landing."[6]

There was little done to clear up the river, it seems, but

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5 Grusendorf, *A Century of Education In Washington County*, p. 92.

6 Andrew F. Muir, "The Destiny of Buffalo Bayou," p. 103, *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Vol. XLVII, July, 1943.

the newspapers kept up the campaign. It is reported that early in the forties the steamboat *Mustang* plowed up the river, apparently in order to collect the subscriptions, for it had little freight on board. Leaving Washington, the boat is said to have continued up the river to Fort Sullivan, which was due west of the present town of Hearne.

Later two more craft were constructed at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for regular service of the river. They were named *Brazos* and *Washington*, and each made but two trips, after which they had to be sold to meet the heavy debt on them.

In 1849, reports state that as many as three boats were tied to the wharves of Washington at one time. Among these was the *S. M. Williams*, said to have been a very large steamboat. Rutherford B. Hayes, later President of the United States, was passenger on the *S. M. Williams* on the Brazos River in December, 1848. The next month in a speech he spoke of the new boat on the Brazos River. In 1853, the steamboat *Magnolia*, loaded with cotton from Warren's Ferry, made a run from Washington to Velasco.

Several events in the history of Washington-on-the-Brazos, however, resulted in checking her growth and development, and finally in bringing on her deterioration. After the creation of Washington County and the loss of the territory east of the Brazos River — by the creation of Montgomery County in 1837 and Brazos County in 1841 — the Congress of the Republic, while in session at Washington, moved the county seat to Mount Vernon, and ordered a commission, appointed for that purpose, to find a centrally located place for the county government. Brenham and several other towns were candidates for that honor, Brenham winning, in 1844. This change at once began to take away from the importance of Washington. Then, in 1848, her citizens refused to make up a bonus of $11,000 to get the Houston and Texas Central Railroad to build to their city. After the railroad was built to Navasota and Hempstead, and had begun to divert business from Washington to other centers, her citizens built a wagon bridge across the Brazos, for $30,000, to connect their town with the railroad at Navasota. But they failed to take advantage of the one opportunity of getting direct railroad connection to their town, and indirect ways of doing this later helped little.

After these events, this historic town began to decrease in population. Many of her citizens now moved to Brenham, the new county seat, and to other more conveniently located centers. Today Washinton has shrunk to a mere village. The only importance still attached to it is its historic importance, and because Washington State Park is located here.

INDEPENDENCE, up to the time of the *Declaration of Independence* known as Cole's Settlement in honor of Judge J. P. Cole, was one of the earliest towns of the county. It was the home of many distinguished citizens, among whom were Dr. Asa Hoxey, James L. Dallas, the president and faculty members of Baylor University and others. Sam Houston lived there for a number of years, and it was there that he was baptized by Dr. Rufus C. Burleson when he joined the church in 1854. Mrs. Nancy Lea, mother of Mrs. Houston, lived and died there. She gave the bell, still existing, to the Baptist Church there.

Independence became the "Athens of Texas" in its early history. The first school of which we have any records there was a girls' boarding school, established in 1835 by a Miss Frances Trask, of Gloucester, Massachusetts. It seems that this school was succeeded by the Independence Academy, chartered on June 5, 1837.

There were a few scattered Baptists among the early colonists in Texas. As early as August 31, 1839, a small group of this denomination established a church at Independence. We find such names among the first members as John, Ivy, Mary and Janette McNeese, J. J. and Biddy Davis, Thomas and Mary Tremier, O. H. P. Garrett, J. L. Garret and wife, and later, J. E. Allcorn.

The first pastor was the Reverend Thomas Spraggins, 1839. Among the later list of pastors, Dr. Rufus C. Burleson served that congregation from 1854 until 1856.

In response to an appeal to the Baptist Board of Foreign Missions in the United States by a small congregation organized at Washington, 1837, this board sent the Reverend Jas. Huckins to Texas. He arrived at Galveston January 25, 1840, and established a church there, and then went into the interior of the Republic of Texas. With him the Baptist Church really had its official beginning in Texas. Under him the Union Baptist Association was formed, October 8, 1840, at Travis, Austin County. To this assembly the churches of

Independence, in Washington County, LaGrange, in Fayette County, and Travis, in Austin County, sent delegates. For five years the Reverend Huckins was business manager of Baylor University, after that institution was established at Independence.

The old Baptist Church at Independence, organized in 1839, is still functioning after having done so for over a century. It has become a religious shrine, to which Baptists from all over Texas make a pilgrimage to worship there at least once a year.

Independence grew in importance when the Baptist Church built Baylor University there in both of its branches, the Main University and the Female College. This institution was chartered on August 1, 1845, by the Congress of Texas. Instruction was begun on May 18, 1846, with H. F. Gillett as the only teacher. In the fall of that year the board of control authorized the employment of an assistant. Henry L. Graves was elected the first president of the institution, to begin his duties in February, 1847. A total of seventy pupils were reported enrolled for the first session.

The control of Baylor University was originally vested in the Texas Baptist Education Society. In 1848, however, the control was transferred to the Texas Baptist Convention.

The University expanded its activities right along up to the Civil War. In its early activities, H. F. Gillett was a prominent leader, first as an instructor and then as a director of the Preparatory Department. He resigned in 1848. Efforts were made in 1849 to establish a Department of Law. However, there are no records to show that this department was operated at that time; it was actually established in 1857. Room and board for those years are quoted at seven to eight dollars a month.

On June 17, 1851, the Reverend Rufus C. Burleson was elected president of Baylor University. The day following, however, Elder Horace Clark was elected principal of the Female College. It seems that it was not clear in the minds of many Baptists as to whether they had two distinct institutions of higher learning at Independence, or whether both were under the same administration. That uncertainty soon brought on a controversy between the heads of these two schools that did not subside until these institutions were moved to different centers.

It seems that the emphasis in those days was placed on moral conduct and character for admission to the University rather than on scholarship. No student was admitted until he had subscribed to a code of morals. In this the early church schools were eminently correct, for character-building should be the goal of all education. The institution that develops only the intellect and not character, turns out on the world a dangerous human being.

Like all other institutions of learning, Baylor University suffered during the years of the Civil War. In 1866, however, each of the two institutions was placed under a separate board. Dr. Burleson had resigned in 1861, to take charge of Waco University, and Elder G. W. Baines was elected president of the institution at Independence. He resigned August 16, 1863, and Dr. William Carey Crane was chosen head of Baylor. Dr. Crane held this office till the institution was finally moved to Waco, in 1886, and the Female College to Belton, Texas, the same year.

It was at Independence that the teacher of art in old Baylor University, J. A. McArdle, painted the now famous picture, "The Battle of San Jacinto," which hangs in the State Capitol at Austin. Independence lent itself well at that time to the painting of this masterpiece, as there gathered there from time to time the most prominent survivors of the revolutionary period, through whom the artist could gather the data later needed to produce the painting.

Of the many old homes in or near Independence, nearly all of which have disappeared, there is one still standing and used, and that is the home of John Hoblett Seward (1822-1892) and Laura Jane Roberts Seward (1838-1920). It is about one mile east of the town. Erected in 1855, it is built of hand-cut cedar.

CHAPPELL HILL, so named after Robert Chappell, was known as early as 1849 as a trading point. Among its early inhabitants were Robert Alexander, one of the founders of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Texas; H. S. Thrall, author of *History of Methodism in Texas;* O. Fisher; B. T. Kavanaugh; F. C. Wilkes; George W. Carter; William Halsey; C. C. Gillespie and others. The town was incorporated April 7, 1856, with John D. Wallis as mayor.

Methodism found its way into Texas during the colonial period, when all denominations except the Catholics were

unwelcome. With the coming of Methodism, the problem of establishing institutions of learning developed also, for wherever Methodists went, they taught and preached. To answer this challenge, the Church sent Dr. Martin Ruter to Texas in October, 1837.

Dr. Ruter was born at Clinton, Massachusetts, April 3, 1785. He entered the New York Conference in 1801 at the age of sixteen, and served as missionary to Montreal, Canada, in 1804. Leaving Canada, he served important pastorates in the New England Conference till 1820. That year he was given charge of the newly established Methodist Book Concern in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1828, he was elected president of Augusta College, Augusta, Kentucky, where he served till 1834. In that year he accepted the presidency of Alleghany College at Meadville, Pennsylvania. Here he served till his appointment by the General Conference to the work in Texas. Dr. Ruter went to work with much zeal. He surveyed the whole situation in Texas and made his report to the next Conference as to what he had found. But his work was cut short by his sudden death, as has been stated before. Posterity has recognized his good work, in that the town of Rutersville was named in his memory, as was the institution of learning that stood there for a number of years.

A private academy had been established at Chappell Hill by W. P. Wilson and J. W. Dunn. The school was opened in 1852, with separate buildings for boys and girls. In 1854, the school was transferred to the Methodist Church. It reported an enrollment of about eighty students in 1855.

In 1856, Soule University was established at Chappell Hill, with a board of trustees consisting of Thomas B. White, J. D. Giddings, T. H. Davidson, J. W. Whipple, Richard Crawford, Jas. McLeod, Robert Day, H. S. Thrall, L. D. Bragg, Wm. Chappell, J. C. Wilson and William G. Webb. The institution was under the jurisdiction of the Texas Conference.

When Soule University had been established, the Chappell Hill College, which, as stated above, had been transferred to the Methodist Church, was now changed into a female college in 1856. This school continued to function at Chappell Hill till 1912, and was for many years conducted by Mrs. Helen Marr Kirby, who later was connected with the University of Texas.

Soule University went forward with plans of adding departments of science and medicine, all of which effort was interrupted by the war. The institution suffered severely during the war, as the building was placed at the disposal of the Confederate army to be used as a convalescent hospital.

After the war, instructions were resumed, but under great handicaps. Laboratory and library facilities had been almost completely destroyed. The president of the institution was Dr. F. A. Mood, who struggled along till 1872 to rebuild the school. He resigned that year. Three years later, 1875, the doors of Soule University were closed and the school was merged with Southwestern University at Georgetown, Texas.

The primitive conditions that existed in those days, mixed with culture in a few places, is vividly described in the following paragraphs, which we quote verbatim:

> Chappell Hill was but a short distance down the Brazos from Washington. It was the aristocratic and cultural center of the Austin Colony. Here were located Chappell Hill Female College and Soule University. The former was founded in 1852 and for many years reigned like a Queen! Weather-beaten by age, the old building is now used as a public school. Across the highway, not a vestige remaining of its one-time glory, the old Soule University campus is now a cotton field. From the halls of these ancient institutions went forth men who framed deathless constitutions and women who bore sons who fashioned empires!

From another scene by the same author, we quote again:

> Being a doctor meant something in those days. It meant long hard rides on horse-back, with perhaps all the medicine in that part of the country stowed in one's saddle bags. It meant treatment of people who knew little about care of themselves or of sanitary matters. It meant homespun nursing, the care of the unlettered whites and of superstitious blacks. It meant little pay and long waits for that pay. Often Dr. Lockhart would be called on to follow a black man into the black night – perhaps fifteen miles, often twenty. One night, when he could scarce see his hand before his face, he followed for fifteen miles through river bottoms the elusive lead of a white horse.[7]

[7] Mrs. Johnie Lockhart Wallis, *Sixty Years on the Brazos*, p. 56.

Chappell Hill is today a small town. As in so many other cases, economic and other conditions eventually went against it, and in course of time set-backs came, which caused the population to decrease. It still enjoys a rather extensive rural trade. It is surrounded by some of the richest farm land in the State of Texas. Some of the large plantations that were being operated in the early history of Texas are still intact. There are farmers near Chappell Hill who raise several hundred bales of cotton annually.

The town still has several modern stores, a cotton gin, blacksmith shops, and a gristmill. On March 28, 1907, the Chappell Hill State Bank was organized with a capital stock of $10,000. This capital stock today is $12,500 and the bank has an annual deposit of about $300,000. Its first president was T. T. Shaver, who served till 1913. Other presidents were T. S. Smith, 1913-1927; Henry Schaer, 1928-1930; W. Reinstein, 1931-1933. The present president is Robert Schaer, who has served since 1933. The board of directors of the bank consists of the president of the bank, plus L. N. Winfield, vice president and cashier; W. E. Schaer, second vice president; T. C. Thornhill, third vice president; O. A. Schatz and Thusnelda L. Mueller.[8]

Chappell Hill has an accredited high school in the only independent school district in the county besides the Brenham Independent School District. The high school offers two years of work, after which the pupils generally transfer to the Brenham High School to complete their work. The Methodist Church, established there in pioneer days and given a great impetus by Soule University, also a Methodist institution, is still functioning, although with a smaller membership. The church has no resident pastor.

The Providence Baptist Church was organized on May 28, 1842, on Judge Hall's place, near Cedar Creek. W. M. Tryon was the first pastor and T. J. Jackson and B. H. Stribling were the first deacons. The first meeting house was erected two miles northwest of town, but years later it was destroyed by a storm. The second church edifice was erected in 1873. The congregation had some glorious ingatherings of souls during its long existence, but today it has no resident pastor.[9]

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8 Information by courtesy of Robert Schaer, Chappell Hill.

9 Peveto, Rev. D. R., *Baptist Centennial, 1840-1940.*

There is a large Catholic Church, with a parish school, in Chappell Hill, built by the Polish immigrants the latter part of the past century.

LONG POINT, located in the northern part of the county, was a considerable center of business activity in the past. Here lived one of the state's great scientists, a botanist, Dr. Gideon Lincecum. Excerpts of his discussions of soil conservation and diversification of crops, in which he also discusses the Texas grasses, are quoted here:

> Any farmer who desires may have a first rate meadow with but little labor in two or three years. . . . Men whose minds and souls are not engrossed with the all-absorbing "cotton, cotton, first bale of cotton," are beginning to speak of the waning seeds wherewith to stock our surplus lands with good grass before the prairies shall all be plowed up. . . . It is all nonsense to talk of bringing here the grasses of the northern latitudes. The grasses best suited for Texas are already here. . . . It is not likely that nature . . . committed the blunder of growing any of them in the wrong latitude. . . . The mistake lies in our aptitude to think more of articles of foreign origin than of our own. . . . For all foreign grasses the soil must be carefully prepared. Do as much for our own indigenous species and the difference in favor of the native will be very conspicuous. . . .

Dr. Lincecum died at Long Point, November 28, 1873. Long Point being too near larger trading centers, it was soon reduced to a very small village.

BURTON, so named after John M. Burton, came more into prominence when the Houston and Texas Central Railroad was extended westward from Brenham after the Civil War. Burton is today one of the small but prosperous towns in this section of the state. It has a considerable number of modern business houses and an extensive country trade. Among its fine business firms, it has a state bank, organized in 1906 with a capital stock of $10,000, but today that stock is $25,000. A statement by this bank made on April 12, 1948, shows a demand and time deposit of $813,091.20. Its first president was W. C. Hohmeyer, who served in that office till 1919, when Thomas Watson was elected president and served till 1939. The present president is William Dallmeyer, who succeeded Mr. Watson. G. W. Weeren has served as cashier

since 1918. Burton also has a chamber of commerce, which has been active, more or less, since its organization in the early twenties.

Burton is quite a church town for its size. The largest and most active congregation there is the St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church, which has a membership of over four hundred. The present church building and parsonage were erected in 1884. The present pastor, the Reverend N. H. Schwengel, says that a new church building is badly needed.

Other active congregations in that town are the Christian Church and the Baptist Church. Neither, however, has a resident pastor serving it, but pastors from other charges conduct services in these churches regularly.

In late years Burton has established a fully accredited consolidated rural high school. The children in the elementary and grammar grades are housed in a modern building, which is located in the heart of the town, while the high school grades meet in a new building of native stone on the edge of Burton. Almuth Matthies is the superintendent of schools and Lary Kieke is the high school principal.

The town has a small yet modern hospital, owned and operated by Dr. C. E. Southern. The population of Burton is about 1,000.

GREENVINE was settled by German farmers and stockmen soon after the Civil War. In the early history of that settlement there was considerable trouble with professional horse thieves, who would gather the horses in the neighborhood and drive them to near-by towns to sell. Only through united efforts and a number of arrests was this evil finally stopped.

Greenvine eventually grew into a prosperous little country town with four stores, two blacksmith shops, a cotton gin, and a post office. In 1879, a German Baptist Church was organized, with the Reverend Sidow as pastor. A few years later a Lutheran Church was organized. The present pastor of that church is the Reverend E. C. Poehlmann.

The place has the distinction of bringing in the first gas well in Texas and of operating the first nickel store in this section of the state. As better roads were constructed and the automobile came into use so that people could get to the larger centers to trade, Greenvine experienced the same re-

sults with other small towns, loss in trade. Today there is left one store, no blacksmith shop and the cotton gin.

WESLEY is located right on the border line between Washington and Austin counties. Among its earlier settlers was a large Czech colony that came to Washington County in the fifties of the past century. One of the oldest families whose descendants are still living there is the Joseph W. Jecek family that came there about 1858.

These Czechs belong to the church of the Moravian Brethren, which first took shape in 1467, when the followers of Peter of Chelczicky, a contemporary of John Huss, formed themselves into a community. They held that Christians should lay aside all distinctions of social rank and should abstain from military service and the use of oaths.

The Moravian Church at Wesley was organized in 1864, and the present building was erected in 1866. All its sills and rafters are hand-cut, only one side being somewhat smoothed, the other sides still having the bark on them. The interior of the church was hand-painted beautifully by a former pastor, the Reverend Bohuslav Laciak. The first pastor of the congregation was the Reverend Joseph Opocensky (1814-1899). In 1939, the congregation celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary.

In the course of the years there have been built in the village of Wesley two stores, a cotton gin, and a gristmill. At present the community has a two-teacher school.

THE SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH is located in the beautiful Salem community. It was organized in 1856, several miles farther west than its present location. Later it was moved to its present site, where a stately structure now stands which was erected in 1912, under the pastorate of the Reverend Johannes Mgebroff. This beautiful church has art windows, a spire with a sweet-toned bell, and comfortable pews. There is a rather modern educational building on the grounds, which was donated to the congregation by the Luther League. Farther on the western side of the large grounds stands the parsonage.

The congregation has outgrown most of its facilities, so reports the pastor, the Reverend W. C. Poehlmann, as the congregation counts a membership of over four hundred, and the Sunday school enrollment is 237. The congregation plans to add an eighty-foot annex to the sanctuary in the near fu-

ture. Surroundings and the church property are kept in good condition, as are the farms and homes surrounding the church.

The EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN EBENEZER CHURCH is located in the Berlin community, about three miles west of Brenham. It was organized on July 1, 1855, and is the oldest Lutheran church in the county. The Reverend J. Ebinger was its first pastor. The first church board consisted of F. Ehlert, W. Bohne, Frank Spreen, and W. Kiel. Louis Lehmann, Sr., donated eleven acres for a church site and cemetery. The first church was a log building, erected at a cost of $300, and it served as a parsonage, church and school. Under Pastor Weidli the present frame building was erected. In 1930 the congregation celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary. During the first seventy-five years of its existence there were 1,457 children and adults baptized, 657 confirmed, 410 couples married, and 363 persons buried. The congregation has no resident pastor at present, but is being served by a pastor out of Bellville.

PRAIRIE HILL community consists of substantial farmers and stockmen, who settled there in the early seventies of the past century. An annual social event that was instituted long ago is the Kinderfest (children's festival), which is usually held in April. This community also has a sharpshooters club, that observes this sport by an annual contest among its members, or by inviting an outside club for a contest.

One of the strong binding and uplifting forces in that community, as in so many other communities of the county, is the church. The St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, which was organized in 1876, is a very active congregation. It was organized under the leadership of Pastor C. C. Rudi. A church and parsonage were built, both of which were destroyed by fire in 1912, and the present buildings were erected the same year. The congregation consists of 280 families. It has 96 enrolled in Sunday school, 44 in the Luther League, and has a strong Ladies Aid and Brotherhood. The Reverend P. Gogolin has served as pastor for twenty-five years.

ZIONSVILLE is a community in the northwestern part of the county, on Rural Route No. 3. Farming, stock raising, and dairying are the chief occupations of the people. It, too, has a strong church, known as Zionsville Lutheran Church. It was established in 1870 under the leadership of the Rev-

erend Wm. Pfennig, who served as pastor till 1875. The present edifice was dedicated in 1901. It is a large frame building, with an annex even larger than the church. The church has art windows, and a spire with a sweet-toned bell. Besides the church edifice, there is a modern parsonage, as well as a large educational building, on the grounds. The congregation consists of 465 communicants, and a Sunday school of 138 members. The Reverend Richard J. Weber is the pastor.

GAY HILL, about ten miles north of Brenham, is a small town on the Santa Fe Railroad. It was once the home of Live Oak Female College, established by Dr. J. W. Miller in 1851. The school was in operation under his leadership till 1875. Gay Hill was the home of such well-known citizens as Barry Gillespie, A. S. Lipscomb, B. E. Tarver, R. E. B. Baylor, Robert Armstead, Thomas Affleck, and John Sayles. In past years the town was listed as a post office. Today it has several stores, a cotton gin, and a number of happy homes.

About one mile east of Gay Hill, on the Somerville highway, is the FRIEDENS EVANGELICAL CHURCH, which was organized on November 4, 1900, with Pastor George H. Sieveking, of Birch, and Pastor Theodore Schlundt, of Washington, present for the organization. For a while the congregation worshipped in the Baptist Church of Gay Hill. In 1901, a building committee was appointed which purchased three acres of land for a site. This committee consisted of the following members: Henry Meyer, Max Witlief, and Herman Noernberg. The congregation first built a parsonage, so as to get the pastor on the grounds. In the spring of 1902, a new building committee was appointed and plans were laid to erect a church edifice. This committee, consisting of L. Lindermann, Wm. Petrich, F. Breitkreutz, H. Boeker, H. Noerenberg and August Petrich, engaged a contractor, and construction was begun. On October 5 of that year the new church was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies. A bell was placed in the spire and an organ installed in the church in 1904. The pastor lived in the parsonage till 1909, when matters were reversed, and the Friedens congregation, from that time on, was served by a non-resident pastor, the church having become a part of the Gay Hill-Lyons-Mound Prairie parish.

The REHBURG SETTLEMENT dates back to 1847 for its beginning, when German immigrants came there

from the old country. It was formerly known as Union Hill and had within its midst a chartered high school. Being only a few miles from Burton, it began to decrease in population when the Houston and Texas Central railroad was extended westward to Burton from Brenham after the Civil War.

In the community is ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, which was organized in 1870 under Pastor F. Ernest. The present building was erected in 1892. In 1920, the congregation celebrated its golden, and in 1945 its diamond, anniversary. At present the congregation has 350 members. There is a spacious parish hall on the grounds, and the pastor's family lives in a good modern parsonage. The Reverend A. R. Wolber is the pastor.

WILLIAM PENN is a rich black land farm community, located between Independence and Washington in the Northern part of the county. It was settled before the outbreak of the Civil War, largely by German immigrants. This community today has several stores, a cotton gin, and a good rural school. As in all of these rural communities in Washington County, the church has played a prominent part in the life and activities of the people of William Penn. Here is located the BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, organized in 1860, under Pastor A. Grief. The present church building was erected in 1893. There is a parish house on the grounds and a good parsonage. The congregation consists of 290 communicants. The present pastor is the Reverend C. J. Appel.

CHAPTER IV

BRENHAM

Organization and Development

Brenham had its beginning in the early forties of the nineteenth century. The first building erected was the courthouse, a two-story wooden structure which stood on the place where the present, and fourth, courthouse now stands. The first county judge to preside at Brenham in the Washington County Courthouse was William H. Ewing. The first county clerk and the first sheriff were John Gray and James W. McDade, respectively. Leading lawyers residing here were R. E. B. Baylor, J. D. Giddings, Asa M. Lewis and others.

The first home was erected by Asa M. Lewis in 1844, on a vacant lot across the street from Mrs. Julia R. Simon's place. Brenham grew into importance just about the time of the ill-fated Mier Expedition. By the time of 1850, we find such citizens in Brenham as J. D. Giddings, Sam Lusk, John B. Wilkins, D. D. Crunchler, George B. Cooke, C. F. Barber, James McRea, William Pressley, W. H. Ewing, David Estes, Jones Rivers, J. C. Mundine, William and Joe McCutcheon, G. W. Buchanan, W. W. Hackworth, L. Dupuy, James Stockton, Hugh Sherrald, Joe Miller, Joe and John Tonn, Billie Norris, John Day, Vardeman Lee, Dr. Blake, Dr. Ware, Dr. J. P. Key, Captain Early, Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Ewing, Mrs. Paritz, Robert D. Harris, Johnson Hensley, Alex Simon, James A. Wilkins, W. G. Wilkins, W. H. Higgins, Rafe Fuller, John Probley, Charles G. Stockbridge, Dr. A. H. Rippetoe, D. C. Giddings, Thomas W. Morriss, J. E. Gray, J. C. Cade, John Petty, the Bassetts, J. N. Houston, George Wilson, Edmondson, McIlhenney, Murdock, J. S. Young, Dr. Noel, Misses Malinda, Bersheba and Myra Lusk, Sallie and Harriet McIntyre, Mary Portis, Mary Pressley, Sallie and Mary Cooke.[1]

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[1] Mrs. R. E. Pennington, *History of Brenham and Washington County*, page 34.

In his review of the history of Washington County in an address on July 4, 1876, Dr. William Carey Crane, President of Baylor University at Independence, made the following statement: "Brenham has grown into a commanding young city, sending twenty or thirty thousand bales of cotton to another market, with four thousand inhabitants, composed of a bar unsurpassed in the Southern Country, merchants of high financial skill, and citizens in every walk of life the peers of any Southern town. . . ."

As is known, Brenham was named in memory of Dr. Richard Fox Brenham, a member of the Mier Expedition, and the hero of a group of Texans imprisoned in the Hacienda de Salado, where Mexican guards were stationed all around the prison place. Here the disarmed Texans decided to escape. Knowing that the one who came through the narrow prison gate first would in all probability have to die, Dr. Brenham offered to be that one, so that his comrades might have a chance to get away. Rushing through the prison gateway, therefore, he seized the bayonet from the nearest guard, killing him and another guard and fatally wounding a third one; then he, too, fell mortally wounded. This was on February 11, 1843. Prison conditions were so horrible and the treatment was so cruel that the men had become desperate. Dr. Brenham was a single man and a soldier of adventure, and he felt that he could, in the manner decided upon, open the way for most of his fellow prisoners to escape to freedom.

Brenham became the county seat of Washington County in 1844. Jesse Farral and James Hurt gave a hundred acres of land for a town site. The towns that were candidates for the honor of being the county seat of this county at that time were — besides Brenham — Mount Vernon, Turkey Creek and Independence. In the first vote taken, none of the towns had a majority, but Brenham and Independence led in the number of votes received. In the final contest Brenham received three more votes than Independence.

Soon after this event, people began to move into Brenham from Independence, Washington and other places. Being surrounded by a rich farm section, business houses were established within its borders in rather rapid succession.

But not all was smooth sailing for the town. During the so-called Reconstruction period following the Civil War, the South was divided into five military districts, Texas being in

the fifth district. Federal troops were stationed on the eastern border of Brenham, and the carpetbag officials made rapacious exactions of the citizens. "Camptown," as the eastern part of the city is called today, is a constant reminder of unpleasant Reconstruction days. In 1867, when an epidemic of yellow fever swept over parts of Texas, whole families were wiped out in Brenham, and many died an untimely death. In 1873, a devastating fire destroyed a large part of the city.

But in spite of all adversities, Brenham, in the course of time, developed into one of the most complete small cities in Texas. It has today a large number of up-to-date drygoods and grocery stores, several hardware and jewelry stores, three prescription drugstores, several wholesale grocery and feed stores, three strong banks, a number of wholesale oil stations, four prosperous florists, beauty shops, barber shops, a cotton compress, a cottonseed-oil mill, a cotton textile mill, an ice factory, iron works, packing plant, four lumber yards, two hatcheries, three hotels, a half dozen good restaurants, two hospitals, thirteen churches, a public library, a daily paper, a radio station (KWHI), two parks, and over seven thousand inhabitants.

Brenham has today many miles of paved streets. Only a few years ago the citizens voted an additional bond issue of $350,000 to improve and pave more streets; this was done during 1947. The town now compares favorably in this respect with other towns of its size. Perhaps one of the most pressing needs of the city is signal lights at the most crowded places, where traffic often becomes jammed and where there is danger. Her policemen, so far, have taken care of these places on special occasions.

Being located at the crossing of the Gulf Colorado and Santa Fe and the Southern Pacific railroads, and having five concrete highways radiating from it, Brenham is a point easy to reach. In addition to these means of transportation, the city can be reached by air at its airport.

In the early history of Brenham, the city was governed by a council-mayor form of government, but in 1920 the charter was changed to that of a city commission form of government with a mayor. The city now is divided into four wards, with a commissioner for each ward. In this set-up of the city government, the commissioner for the first ward has charge of

the finances and tax; from the second ward the commissioner looks after the care of the streets, alleys, parks, and buildings; from the third ward the commissioner has supervision over the police and fire department; and from the fourth ward, over utilities, water, lights and sewer.

Besides the mayor and the city commissioners, there is a city attorney, a city secretary, a chief of police, a city health officer, a city engineer, a manager of electric utilities and a superintendent of waterworks.

According to records still extant, the city government of Brenham as such begins with the years immediately after the Civil War. The earliest complete records of the city government begin in 1866 and are complete from there on. Of the first year recorded we give here a complete list of city officials. For lack of space, we shall give the names of the mayors only from there on.

From 1866 to 1867, the following men were officials of the city government of Brenham: H. C. McIntyre, mayor; D. C. Giddings, G. M. Buchanan, John P. Key, and Claudius Buster, aldermen; A. Jeffries, secretary and Ed. Green, marshal.

The following men served as mayors of Brenham from there on: 1869-1870, Peter Diller; 1870-1871, S. S. Hosea; 1871-1873, F. A. Williams; 1873-1877, R. Shipley; 1877-1878, J. T. J. O'Riordan; 1878-1883, M. P. Kerr; 1883-1905, J. A. Williams; 1905-1913, William Lusk; 1913-1915, Alex Griffin; 1915-1919, William Lusk; 1919-1930, A. A. Hacker; 1930-1934, T. A. Low, Sr.; 1934-1948, Reese B. Lockett.

The present city officials are as follows: D. C. Dallmeyer, mayor; F. J. Kubitza, 1st ward, W. A. Stuckert, 2nd ward, Travis T. Voelkel, 3rd ward, and E. F. Kruse, 4th ward, commissioners. Other city officials are: G. H. Zeiss, secretary; W. J. Embrey, city attorney; Arthur Sternberg, chief of police; Dr. R. A. Hasskarl, city health officer; B. P. Greenwade, city engineer; George Cushman, manager of electrical utilities; Henry H. Broesche, assistant manager; and H. T. Eldred, superintendent of waterworks.

Special mention might be made of the Brenham Fire Department because of the important part it has played in the affairs of the city.

During the Reconstruction days, when a Federal army was encamped in the eastern part of Brenham, a fire was started, 1867, by some soldiers as an act of retribution for

some supposed violation of army regulations by the citizens. Considerable damage was done by the fire. Therefore, as a means of protection for the citizens, an organization was perfected, obviously to fight fire, but perhaps more for general protection. Right after this a company of twenty-two men formed a hook and ladder force. Then these two organizations together constituted the beginning of the Brenham Fire Department.

These fire fighters purchased the first steam pumper ever brought to Texas. It was in use till after the turn of the century. During the Galveston storm, in 1900, the machine was smashed when the city hall was blown over. The machine was then sent back to New York to be rebuilt. It is still in existence.

In 1911, the company was reorganized under its present name, with forty-three members, with T. F. Matchett as chief and Dan Hoffmann as secretary. The latter served as secretary till 1947.

In 1911, the department purchased a $5,000 Webb Combination Hose and Chemical truck, which served till 1921. In 1923 the city purchased a 600 gpm LaFrance Pumper. Other equipment was required as time went on, and today the department has seven pieces of fire-fighting equipment, which includes a small service truck, a hook and ladder truck, and a hose truck.

After 1946, the membership quota was raised to seventy-five. The chiefs of the fire department after T. F. Matchett were Henry Mueller, Frank Wood, Jr., E. P. Davis, Ernest Hermann, and E. W. Pflughaupt, the present chief.

From 1881 through 1941, except during World Wars I and II, when festivities were suspended, the Fire Department sponsored the annual celebration of the Maifest.

Because of its excellent record as a fire-fighting organization, the Brenham Fire Department has saved the citizens of the city many hundreds of thousands of dollars through the years in insurance, as fire insurance companies have given Brenham a comparatively low rate in insurance.

About 1938, a beautiful city hall was erected in Lusk Park in the place of the old hall. This municipal center has a number of offices, a large public auditorium, and it houses the Fire Department. The building of this city hall, as well as the street bond issue that was made a few years ago, and

general improvements in and about the city, were made during the long and efficient administration of Mayor Reese B. Lockett.

The growth of the city of Brenham, with its fluctuations in population through the years, and the population of Washington County for 1940, are given below. The population for 1940 for the city was not classified.[2]

YEAR	NATIVE WHITE	FOREIGN-BORN WHITE	NEGRO	TOTAL
1860	600		320	920
1870	1,008	280	933	2,221
1880	1,894	427	1,780	4,101
1890	2,081	1,178	2,645	5,904
1900	2,733	531	2,264	5,528
1910	1,353	1,235	2,129	4,717
1920	2,855	277	1,934	5,066
1930	2,738	1,336	1,900	5,974
1940				6,435
		COUNTY		
1940	14,934	972	9,661	25,387

Brenham as an Industrial and Business Center

Soon after its organization, Brenham became a rather active business center, and during the latter part of the nineteenth century had some of the most progressive and prosperous business houses in this section of Texas. Some of the early merchants of Brenham who operated business houses soon after the Civil War were: Thomas H. Dwyer, Wilkins Brothers, Robert Crow and Atreus McCrary, M. A. Healy, Alex Simon, Wood and Green, Harmon Levinson, William Zeiss, Henry E. Lockett, William Axer and Peter Diller, John Lusk, Carrington and Brophy, John Norton, Bolling Eldridge, R. Hoffmann, Watkins and Wright, S. S. Hosea, Henry Wood, Bud Chadwick and Miesner.

However, only a few of the business houses established after the Civil War, or during the latter part of the nineteenth century, are still operating, which goes to prove that

[2] Information by courtesy of Census Bureau, Austin.

business firms enjoy only temporary existence, and that those which survive above the average length of time are usually those that are exceptionally well managed or that have some one in the succeeding generation to carry on the business; for all firms must go through the same prosperous times as well as through the depressions.

The firms that are given here in brief sketches have been in existence approximately half a century or more. Most of them had their beginnings back somewhere in the nineteenth century. A few exceptions have been made because of the importance of a few business firms of later date and because of their uniqueness.

SCHURENBERG BLACKSMITHING AND IMPLEMENTS was established first as a blacksmith business by Captain Frederick William Schurenberg in 1875. This business is said to have developed into one of the largest of its kind in South Texas. It grew to its full fruition under the management of his two sons, William and Robert. With the coming of the automobile, however, the implement business finally discontinued. At any rate, the transition to the more modern vehicles was not made, and today the business is back to what it was at the beginning, a blacksmith shop, the largest around here.

SCHMID BROTHERS was founded in 1890. It was a flourishing business all these years. From a copy of a paper entitled "Brenham," with no date attached to it, but seemingly written about the turn of the century, we read about this business house:

> Schmid Bros. has become a household name in Brenham, there being no other firm in the city better known or more generally esteemed. Their handsome business house was erected last year at a cost of $28,000. The building is two stories with a front 134 feet and a depth of 80 feet. It contains 21,440 square feet of floor space, all of which is taken by the magnificent business of its proprietors. The entire front of this building is finished with costly plate glass windows and doors. This structure is by long odds the handsomest in the city and is of much actual worth to Brenham.

The largest part of this business today goes under the name of "Savitall."

FREEZITALL, owned by Mr. F. C. Kugel, was established in 1939, and was one of the pioneer firms of this type of business in Texas, being the eighth in order of organization. It contains 750 lockers, and carries on with it a wholesale meat and sausage manufacture. It specializes in home-cured bacon and sausage. Under the able management of Mr. Kugel it has been a highly successful enterprise.

H. F. HOHLT COMPANY, which was first established under the firm name of Brockschmidt and Hohlt, and in 1902 as H. F. Hohlt Company, dates back to 1884. It was incorporated in 1909, and today is the leading department store in Brenham, with a large grocery and feed business in addition.

From the Brenham *Evening Press* of 1910, we quote the following concerning H. F. Hohlt Company:

> This company has become well and favorably known as extensive dealers in dry goods, ladies ready-to-wear fancy goods, millinery, boots, shoes, hats, etc., and enjoys a splendid patronage from the best people of the county. They carry a splendid stock of clothing and are agents for Hart, Schaeffner and Marx fine clothing, which needs no word of commendation to those who have used this make once. . . . The business was incorporated on July 31, 1909, and has a capital stock of $75,000.00. . . . The officers of the company are as follows: H. F. Hohlt, president; Wm. Niebuhr, vice president; Edwin Hohlt, secretary-treasurer. . . . The directors are: H. F. Hohlt, Wm. Niebuhr, Edwin Hohlt, W. L. Tesch, Otto Baumgart, and George Neu.

The present administrative officers are: Edwin Hohlt, president; Herbert Hohlt, vice president; and Ernest Hohlt, secretary-treasurer.

G. HERMANN FURNITURE was established in 1885. Till 1887 it was known as Reichardt and Hermann Furniture, and in that year it was changed to its present name. For many years a funeral home was operated in connection with the furniture business.

H. C. MILLER AND SON, machine shop, manufacturers of cotton gin parts, crude oil engines, gasoline engines, pumps, pipings and fittings, was established in 1869, and became Miller and Son in 1885. It was the first business of

its kind in Texas. It is still a prosperous business and is being managed by Hugh Miller.

BRENHAM COTTON OIL AND MANUFACTURING COMPANY had its beginning in 1891, when it received its first charter. In course of time it developed into a combination of compress, ice, light, and cottonseed products producing firm. In its best days the company compressed as many as 80,000 bales of cotton in one year. A. L. Niebuhr was manager of the compress for many years. In 1924, the company sold the light, gas and ice plant to the Texas Power and Light Company, and it took out a new charter under its present name. It owns branch factories in Bellville and Giddings.

From the Brenham *Evening Press* we quote here concerning the compress and its activities:

> Their plant, which is one of the largest in the State, was constructed in 1891. It is equipped with a 90-inch Morse press, with a capacity of 1,200 bales in ten hours. It has a battery of three boilers, and furnishes its own light, with a dynamo of 100 light power. They have a floor space of 280 x 250 feet. The company employs 55 men, including the office force. Last year it compressed 78,000 bales of cotton, and this year they will compress between 75,000 to 80,000. . . .

The present administrative and executive officers are: John D. Rogers, of Navasota, president; Bolling Eldridge, vice president; and P. J. Lemm, secretary-manager, who has been with the firm since 1917.

WINKELMANN STUDIO, F. C. Winkelmann, proprietor, was established in 1895. R. W. Buehrer has worked for this studio since 1900.

From the sheet entitled "Brenham," we quote excerpts from a writing about the oldest art gallery in Brenham:

> In this issue we present a great number of views of the leading business institutions and some portraits of prominent citizens of Brenham, the photos of nearly all of which were taken by Mr. Winkelmann, one of Brenham's most alive, progressive and up-to-date photographers. Mr. Winkelmann's studio is located on West Sandy Street, near the crossing of the Santa Fe Railroad, in a commodious building, which he has fitted up in a very attractive manner. This

gallery, however, was purchased from Mr. W. T. Walker some four years ago, who had operated it for nearly ten years prior thereto. . . .

TRISTRAM PHARMACY, at first Wood's Drug Store, is said to have had its beginning close to 1860. An old drug bill to Wood's Drug Store was found among the files of that business in recent years, and the bill was then seventy-five years old, as stated by the present proprietor. The business became Tristram Pharmacy in 1880. It was purchased by Fred Heineke in 1913, the business retaining the firm name Tristram. Mr. Heineke built it into one of the largest drug businesses in this section of the state.

In the Brenham *Evening Press* of 1900 we read this:

> His father, Jos. Tristram, Sr., established this business nearly forty years ago. A full line of pure drugs and chemicals, medicines, stationery, perfumes, etc., is carried. . . . Mr. Tristram is a young man of fine business ability. . . .

J. F. SCHRAMM, SADDLES AND HARNESS, was established in 1893. It has been under the management of J. F. Schramm for forty-eight years and has produced some very high-grade leatherware all these years.

BRENHAM LUMBER COMPANY was established in 1875 under the firm name of "Wood and Low." In 1886 it was rechartered as "Wood and Company," and in more recent years the business was sold to the late Frank Wood, when it was rechartered once more under the name of "Brenham Lumber Company." Today the business is being managed by Frank Wood III and James Jones.

FARMERS-MERCHANTS LUMBER COMPANY started in business in 1889 under the firm name of "Low and Stuckert." In 1905 it was rechartered as "T. A. Low and Sons," in 1913 as "Farmers and Merchants Lumber Company" and in 1933 it assumed its present name. The present officials of the organization are E. L. Kurth, of Lufkin, president; L. M. Guggolz, vice president and manager; W. C. Bierwinkel, secretary and treasurer.

BRENHAM COTTON MILLS, founded in 1902, is the largest concern in Brenham. It suffered several reverses at first. In fact, it was closed for several years, but under new

management and with more favorable conditions in general, it was eventually placed on a sound financial basis. It employs at present about two hundred workers and consumes about 6,000 bales of cotton annually, which is manufactured into narrow sheeting, drills and osnaburgs. These products are being shipped to various states in the Union and even to foreign countries. The capital stock of this corporation today is $300,000. The officials are: T. A. Low, Sr., president; Wm. Seidel, vice president; F. J. Kubitza, secretary-treasurer; and Claude A. Mast, manager.

SCHLEIDER FURNITURE COMPANY was established in 1902, when it was known as Schleider and Sons. In 1917, the business was incorporated, and in 1947 it was reorganized under the present firm name. It owns branch houses in Taylor and San Marcos. Ben Schleider is president; Ernest Schleider, vice president; and Sedonia Schleider, secretary-treasurer. It is one of the outstanding business houses in Brenham.

DIXIE POULTRY FARM, established in 1922, has grown into one of the largest business concerns in Brenham and is said to be the largest of its kind in the Southwest. It has a hatchery capacity of 500,000 eggs and a brooder capacity for 150,000 baby chicks. Its baby chicks are being shipped to about seven states and to Mexico. It furnishes many of the farmers of the county fertilizer free of charge. In connection with the poultry farm, it operates a large feed store. The management is under Mr. Jack Drumm.

BEAUMIER IRON WORKS had its beginning in the early part of the eighties of the past century under the firm name of Beaumier Brothers. Later the business was reorganized as Beaumier Brothers and Company, and after the turn of the century assumed its present name.

The firm always specialized in the manufacturing of casts made to order, and in hydraulic pumps, the latter of which were shipped to all the cotton states and to Mexico. For a while this concern also made steam engines and boilers. Dan Hoffmann was manager from 1899 till 1946.

ADOLPH SEELHORST TIN SHOP started business about 1880 under the name of "Reichardt and Seelhorst," and as manufacturers of the "Champion" galvanized iron cisterns, flues, ventilators and gutters. Its trade extended throughout Texas and adjoining states.

In the Brenham *Evening Press* of 1910 we read:

> Mr. Aolph Seelhorst conducts one of the largest tin and manufacturing concerns to be found in this part of the country and during the twenty years he has been engaged in business here has succeeded in building up a large and prosperous business and it is one he has just reasons to feel proud of. He is the manufacturer of the "Champion" galvanized Flat Sheet Iron cisterns. . . .

The BLUE BELL CREAMERIES, now of Brenham and Giddings, was chartered as the Brenham Creamery Company on August 3, 1907. The names signed to the original agreement are the following: T. A. Low, Sr., Ben Schmid, Sam D. W. Low, L. A. Niebuhr, Flaor Jansen, A. D. Milroy, William Seidel, Wm. E. Dwyer, H. K. Harrison, H. F. Hohlt, E. W. Reichardt, D. C. Giddings, W. E. Reichardt, W. A. Wood, C. W. Winkelmann, and Gus Huettig. The purpose given in the charter for the organization was the "manufacturing and selling of various kinds of milk products."

Originally the plant was located behind the present Brenham Bottling Works, but several years later the present site was purchased, on which several substantial buildings have been erected.

In 1930, the Giddings plant was purchased, and the company was chartered under its present name as a corporation.

The first manager of the Brenham Creamery Company was the late H. C. Hodde, who did a good deal of ground work in the company. He was followed by A. J. Heineke. On April 1, 1919, after having been given an honorable discharge from the army of World War I, E. F. Kruse, the present manager, was elected by the board of directors. He has built the business to its present dimensions. The company today ships ice cream and other milk products to cities and towns over a large section of Texas.

TEXAS MANUFACTURING COMPANY is a partnership of which E. Haynie and Carl Kingsberry are the proprietors. The business started in 1942 as a toy-manufacturing plant, which continued in that work for about a year.

Almost as by accident Mr. Haynie and Mr. Kingsberry discovered a new idea which finally blossomed into a highly remunerative business. These two men were planning a

fishing trip and were thinking of taking something solid along on which to cut up fish and bull frogs, which they hoped to catch. The block they made pleased them so much that they showed it to some of their friends. These latter thought so much of the idea that they asked Haynie and Kingsberry to make them such blocks. This, then, gave the inventors the idea of starting a meat block factory. They called the new article "Tuck-Away Butcher Block." These blocks are being manufactured now in sizes of four to eighteen inches in diameter in round or square shape, as they may be desired. They are made of hard-wood oak, and are highly polished, showing forth the beautiful grain of the wood.

These blocks are bought by hunters, fishermen, ranchmen, farmers, and housekeepers. They make delightful gifts, and can be used, besides for meat blocks, as paper weights and for other purposes.

In more recent time, the company has added the manufacturing of table tops, and especially surveyors' stakes and hub stakes, which are being ordered from nearly every state in the Union. The company employs eight men. It is located on the edge of Brenham on the Houston highway.

ROGERS MANUFACTURING COMPANY, established in Brenham as late as 1945, has grown to rather large dimensions in that short time. The main purpose of this company is to manufacture Sealy mattresses, but it also makes innerspring and box spring mattresses. Lately it has added the manufacturing of fine upholstered living room furniture.

At present the firm employs an average of forty workers. Its goods are being sold all over South Texas.

HOLLE HARDWARE BUILDING, located in the H. F. Hohlt block, is one of the oldest buildings in the city, having been erected in 1866.

FINK BROS. had its beginning when the father of Gus and Sam Fink started a drygoods and grocery business in Brenham about 1900. Father Fink took out his citizenship papers in 1893. In 1912 the present business was chartered by his sons and, for years, was located in the old Farmers National Bank building. Later it was moved to its present location.

What is now NEW YORK STORE had its beginning over sixty years ago. It has changed hands a number of times.

One of the first business firms in that building was owned by Cohen Brothers. At another time it was Werner and Dobert, then again it was owned by Cather and Buster. The present business was purchased by the Toubins in 1922 and enlarged in 1934 as a drygoods and clothing business.

The GRAND LEADER BUILDING is said to have been erected about 1870. In it was located the F. A. Engelke Private Bank in 1875, which became the First National Bank in 1883. Business there changed hands a number of times until 1926, when I. Zlotnik established a drygoods and clothing store there.

Hospitals and Clinics

Brenham has been fortunate in having for many years highly efficient physicians and surgeons, as well as well-prepared specialists in eye, ear, nose and throat work, and a corps of highly efficient dentists.

Although the old Brenham Hospital has functioned in this place for a long time, it was in more recent years that this hospital was modernized and a second hospital was built.

The SAINT FRANCIS HOSPITAL AND CLINIC had as its forerunner the Brenham Hospital and Clinic, established in 1912, by Dr. T. J. Pier and Dr. Breckmeyer. In 1920, Dr. W. F. Hasskarl bought the plant and had it completely rebuilt in 1931. It was then taken over by the Sisters of Saint Francis and given its present name. Dr. W. F. Hasskarl remained the chief of staff, other members of the staff being Dr. O. F. Schoenvogel, Dr. R. A. Hasskarl, the late Dr. Arthur Becker, and Dr. T. L. Goodnight of Caldwell.

The hospital has a capacity of twenty-five beds and is equipped with a first-class X-ray and laboratory clinic, operated by Dr. R. A. Hasskarl. It has also a major operating room and a minor operating room. It is one of the best-kept small hospitals in the state.

The SARAH B. MILROY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL was established in 1931. Toward its construction the Milroy family had made a substantial gift, whereupon the hospital was given its present name in memory of the late Mrs. Sarah B. Milroy.

The hospital is equipped with thirty-two beds, a modern

X-ray and clinic, and it has a major operating room and a minor operating room.

Dr. W. A. Knolle is the chief of staff. Other members of the staff are Dr. R. E. Nicholson, Dr. R. E. Knolle, Dr. Herman Hodde, Dr. F. H. Hodde, Dr. H. L. Steinbach and Dr. Mantzel of Giddings.

The Dr. STINNETT CLINIC was built only a few years ago and is located on 209 N. Market Street. Dr. Stinnett is an osteopath and a doctor of medicine and has a large practice.

DENTISTS. Along with the physicians and surgeons and specialists, we here give a roster of dentists who are practicing dentistry in Brenham at the present time. They are: Dr. M. D. Burnett, Farmers National Bank Building; Dr. C. R. Eversberg, Giddings Building; Dr. Fred Graber, Graber Building; Dr. Gustav Heineke, Tristram Building; Dr. W. G. Wiebusch, Graber Building; Dr. Wm. H. Wiese, First National Bank Building; and Dr. S. E. Stafford, Citizens Drugstore Building.

NURSES. The following is a roster of registered nurses now on active duty in the two Brenham hospitals: Mrs. Elton B. Anderson, Mrs. William Buske, Mrs. Sam C. Dawson, Sister M. Ephrem, Mrs. O. A. Feuse, Mrs. Howard Long, Mrs. Zelma Richards, Sister M. Saraphia, Miss Ellenora Schlechte, Miss Emily Schleider, Mrs. C. F. Schmidt, Mrs. Loretta Ullrich, Mrs. J. V. Ustynik, Miss Wallie Utesch, Miss Sophia Wild, Mrs. Henry Wittbecker, Jr., Mrs. Royce Wittbecker.

Banks

The stimulating power of business activities in any place is its banks. Brenham has been fortunate in having three strong banks lately, formerly four, in which the people have always had much confidence.

GIDDINGS AND GIDDINGS BANK was Brenham's first bank. It was established right after the Civil War, in 1866, and operated as a private bank till about 1930. During the last few years of its existence it handled only money matters pertaining to the Giddings Estate.

The FIRST NATIONAL BANK was established on July 3, 1875, as the F. A. Engelke Private Bank and was

housed in the present Grand Leader building. It became the First National Bank on July 1, 1883, with a capital stock of $50,000 and with F. A. Engelke as president. In 1891, its capital stock was increased to $150,000. Today its deposits amount to about $4,500,000. Other presidents of this institution have been: Heber Stone, 1891-1902; H. K. Harrison, 1902-1903; Heber Stone, 1903-1904; T. A. Low, 1904-1910; H. F. Hohlt, 1910-1916. The present administrative officials are: T. A. Low, Sr., president, who succeeded Mr. Hohlt in 1916; Almot Schlenker, first vice-president, who has been connected with the bank since 1907; Will Seidel, second vice-president. This bank has been a tower of financial strength in this community for all these years. The bank is a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Directors are: Wm. Seidel, T. A. Low, Will Kolwes, E. F. Kruse, Hy. Schlottmann, R. D. Barnes, Almot Schlenker, W. H. Amsler, G. W. Wiebusch, Sam D. W. Low, F. C. Sommer.

BANK STATEMENT OF APRIL 11, 1949

RESOURCES

Loans and discounts		$ 671,592.88
Federal Reserve Bank Stock		6,750.00
Banking House		67,500.00
Furniture and fixtures		10,450.00
Prepaid Insurance		1,208.10
Other cash on hand and with banks	$1,220,773.51	
U. S. bonds and securities	1,286,281.05	
Other bonds and securities	789,740.28	
		3,296,794.84
Total		$4,054,295.82

LIABILITIES

Capital Stock Com.	150,000.00
Surplus	75,000.00
Undivided Profits	64,409.78
Deposits	3,764,886.04
Total	$4,054,295.82

The WASHINGTON COUNTY STATE BANK was established in 1905 with a capital stock of $25,000.00. Its capital stock today is $50,000, and its deposits run over four

million. The first president was H. K. Harrison, followed by the late Frank Bosse, who was president till his death in 1946. The present officials of the bank are: F. J. Kubitza, president; F. C. Winkelmann, vice-president and O. H. Winkelmann, cashier. It might be said here that the late J. S. Giddings, cashier for many years, served the institution longer than any other official.

The bank is the oldest state bank in Texas. Its present board of directors consists of the following citizens: O. H. Finke, Dr. Gustav Heineke, F. J. Kubitza, Edgar R. Matchett, Dr. O. F. Schoenvogel, Henry S. Thornhill, F. C. Winkelmann, Sr., and O. H. Winkelmann.

BANK STATEMENT OF APRIL 11, 1949 (Condensed)

RESOURCES		LIABILITIES	
Loans and discounts	$ 519,272.46	Capital stock	$ 50,000.00
Bonds, stocks and U. S. securities	2,963,786.53	Surplus (certified	150,000.00
Real estate, banking house furniture and fixtures	22,845.15	Undivided profits	16,910.27
Other real estate	2.00	Reserve for contingencies	15,000.00
Cash in vault and sight exchange	958,387.13	Deposits	4,213,269.29
Other resources	1,026.27	Other liabilities	139.98
Total	$4,445,319.54	Total	$4,445,319.54

The FARMERS NATIONAL BANK was organized in 1916 under the leadership of the late C. L. Wilkins, its first president. It was reorganized in 1933 under the presidency of the late J. W. F. Roeling. On the death of Mr. Roeling, Dr. R. E. Nicholson was elected president and served in that capacity till 1946, when he resigned because of ill health. The officials of the bank are: W. J. Sloan, president; who has been connected with this financial institution for many years in various official capacities; A. L. Niebuhr, first vice-president; Monroe H. Wittner, cashier; and A. E. Niebuhr and R. W. Loesch, assistant cashiers. The capital stock of the bank is $50.000.00.

On the board of directors are: A. F. Geick, J. F. Lyon, Dr. R. E. Nicholson, A. L. Niebuhr, O. A. Schatz, Chas. Schlottmann, and W. J. Sloan.

LATEST BANK STATEMENT

RESOURCES

Loans and Discounts		$ 346,740.04
Federal Reserve Bank Stock		3,000.00
Furniture and fixtures		3,960.85
Banking House		10,000.00
Other real estate		1.00
Other assets		30,506.02
Quick available cash:		
In vault and banks	$ 692,120.60	
U. S. Gov. securities	1,098,850.72	
Municipal and other bonds and warrants	319,754.12	
		2,110,725.44
Total		$2,504,933.35

LIABILITIES

Capital stock	$ 50,000.00
Surplus fund	50,000.00
Undivided profits	48,081.81
Deposits	2,356,851.54
Total	$2,504,933.35

Hotels

Brenham is fairly well supplied with hotel facilities. Perhaps it is better prepared to accommodate the traveling public than are most cities of its size.

HOTEL ST. ANTHONY, a stately modern brick structure, of which Mrs. E. R. Hacker is proprietor, stands on the site where Sunnyside Hotel once stood, which was erected at the beginning of Brenham and which consisted of a row of log houses.

In 1873, however, H. C. McIntyre erected a brick building at this place. In 1879, George H. Wilson, who had moved from Houston to Brenham, took over the hotel and changed its name to Exchange Hotel. In *The Industrial World,* 1900, we read this about the Exchange Hotel:

> In the Exchange Hotel, Brenham can be congratulated on having one of the best conducted and most popular hotels in Texas. Mr. George H. Wilson, the proprietor, is not only the oldest hotel proprietor in the state, but one of the most successful as well. This excellent gentleman was born in Bal-

timore, Maryland, March 17, 1833. He moved to Houston when eight years old, where he was educated and successfully engaged in the mercantile business until he removed to Brenham in 1879 to open the Exchange Hotel.

Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Hacker purchased the hotel in 1914 and rechartered it under the present name. At that time the hotel was completely remodeled, and in 1926 it was rebuilt at a cost of $36,000. In 1948 substantial additions and improvements were made, so that, when all is completed, the hotel will have one hundred rooms.

This hotel is a three-story brick building, has private baths, a mezzanine floor, a modern cafe, some air-conditioned rooms, and sample rooms. Hotel St. Anthony has been improved from time to time under the proprietorship of Mrs. E. R. Hacker, and today it compares very favorably with any other hotel of its size in the state.

WASHINGTON HOTEL. On the spot of the present hotel was a building of native stone, built by the father of Mrs. Hacker and Mrs. Carroll, and it was originally used as a cotton office and cotton storage building. On the same site Washington Hotel was erected in 1876. This building has been used as a hotel all these years, and today it has thirty-three rooms, some with private baths. It also has sample rooms and a café. It is located on South Market Street.

Other Business Firms of Brenham

Space does not permit us to write even a little about each business firm in Brenham, but for future records we give here the name of each firm and the street location of those business houses not mentioned in this book before.

Ackers Cleaners and Dyers, 104 Dallas
Alamo Cleaners, South Austin
Alamo Confectionery and Grocery, 307 E. Alamo
Al's Service Station and Garage, 305 S. Market
Amsler, F. L., Insurance, 307 East Main
Appel Garage, 504 South Austin
Arp, A. W., Jeweler, 108 South Park
Audish Electric Company, 106 South Market
Barbecue Cafe, 110 S. St. Charles
Barnes Cotton Company, 207 W. Alamo

Barnhill Bros. Drug Company, First National Bank Bldg.
Beard Implement Company, 1802 S. Market
Betty Boop Beauty Shoppe, N. Market
Blake's Stationery Shop, 102 S. Park
Blue Bird Beauty Parlor, 300 E. Main
Boettcher Lumber Company, 1718 S. Market
Bosse Service Station, S. Market
Botts Abstract Company, Graeber Building
Brenham Auto Supply, 303 E. Main
Brenham Bottling Works, 109 First
Brenham Butane Gas Company, 206 S. Market
Brenham Funeral Home, 815 S. Market
Brenham Garage, 304 S. Market
Brenham Gas and Oil Service Station, 108 W. Commerce
Brenham Mattress Factory, 220 W. Alamo
Brenham Production Credit Ass'n, 206 W. Main
Brenham Wholesale Grocery Company, 306 Church
Brenham Hardware Store, 207 W. Alamo
Brentex Tractor Company, 323 S. Austin
Broom Factory, 500 E. Commerce
Brown and Klein Grocery, 107 W. Alamo
Citizens Pharmacy, 200 E. Main
City Cafe, 211 E. Alamo
City Shoe Shop, 309 E. Alamo
Coca-Cola Bottling Company, 1720 S. Market
Deluxe Cafe, 305 S. Park
Dobert's Ready-To-Wear, 301 E. Alamo
Dr. Pepper Bottling Company, 307 W. Main
Durden Plumbing Shop, 222 W. Main
Faske's Jewelry, 207 E. Main
Felscher Bakery, 308 W. Alamo
Faye's Beauty Shoppe, 205½ E. Main
Ben Franklin Store, 201 E. Alamo
Giddings Flowers, 1811 S. Market
Glissmann Drug Store, 106 W. Main
Goodyear Service Store, 105 E. Alamo
Green Grain Company, 310 S. Baylor
Green Valley Cafe, 1013 E. Market
Grimm Louis Tourist Courts, 1701 Main
Grimm's Radiator Shop, S. St. Charles
Gulf Oil Corporation, 320 Clinton
Haas Ready-To-Wear, 208 E. Main
Hafer, H. C., Refrigeration, W. Alamo
Hausman, L., Wholesale Grocery, 418 W. Second
Heine and Kugel Cleaners and Tailors, 103 S. Douglas
Hi-Way Service Station, 723 W. Main

Hoffmann Market, 206 S. St. Charles
Holle Hardware Company, 100 E. Main
Holleman, M. B., Insurance, Washington County State Bank Bldg.
Howell, A. H., Optometrist, 104-B S. Park
O. P. Jacob Petroleum Products, 315 S. Park
Jaster Jewelry Store, 108 E. Main
Joswiak Market, 209 S. Austin
Kerrville Bus Company, Inc., N. Market
Kinsey Studio, 109-B S. St. Charles
Krasowski Sewing Machine Service, 215 S. St. Charles
Lacina Auto Service, 1014 S. Market
Lange, Robert, Terracing, Washington County State Bank Bldg.
Langston, Truck and Tractor Company, Houston Highway
Lockett, Reese, Clothing, 110 S. Park
Marsh Department Store, Alamo
Matchett, Edgar, Garage, 108 W. Alamo
Medical Arts Drug Company, 300-A E. Main
Mitchmore Service Station, 213 S. Austin
Model Market, 209 S. Austin
Modern Beauty Shoppe, 108 S. St. Charles
Modern Cleaners, W. Alamo
Montgomery Ward and Company, 305 E. Main
Navratil Music House, 111 S. Baylor
Neighborhood Hatchery, 1504 N. Park
New York Cafe, 206 E. Main
O'Shea's Drug Store No. 1, St. Anthony Hotel
O'Shea's Drug Store No. 2, 204 S. Park
Pankonien Battery Service, 206 S. Park
Pankonien Tin and Plumbing, 203 W. Alamo
Parks Service Station, 406 E. Main
Penney, J. C., Company, Department Store, 100 W. Main
Perry Bros., Inc., 109 E. Alamo
Pflughaupt, E. W., Tires, 401 E. Alamo
Piggly-Wiggly, 208 S. Park
Pioneer Flour Mills, 318 Clinton
Rankin, C. W., Insurance, Washington County State Bank
Rhames, Alvis, Service Station, 305 S. Market
Ripple, J. C., Garage, N. Park
Rodenbeck Cafe and Market, 300 S. Baylor
Rosenbaum, Robert, Feed Store, 201 W. Alamo
Savitall Market, 103 W. Commerce
St. Anthony Hotel Laundry and Cleaner, 2135 S. Market
Schlottmann Service Station, 412 W. Main
Schroeder and Meyer Service Station, 2300 W. Main

Schubert's Florist, 1206 S. Austin
Schultz, A. C., Food Market, 1419 S. Market
Schulze's Bakery, 212 W. Alamo
Schwettmann, D., Service Station, 202 W. Main
Sears Roebuck and Company, 304 E. Main
Seidel Bros. Cotton Co., 413 E. Commerce
Service Feed Store, 208 W. Alamo
Simank, Leon, Funeral Director, 500 S. Austin
Snodgrass, Joe E., Insurance, Graber Building
Sinclair Refining Company, 609 E. Commerce
Southern Drapery and Supply Company, S. St. Charles
Southland Life Insurance Company, Washington County State Bank
Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, 300 S. Baylor
Spears Dairy, Inc., 300 E. Vulcan
Stepan's Grocery and Market, 204 E. Main
Stolz, L. W., Memorials, 1616 S. Austin
Stolz, R. W., Cotton Buyer, Washington County State Bank Bldg.
Stone Abstract Company, First National Bank Bldg.
Suter's Gifts, 104-C, S. Park
Texas Cafe, 108 W. Main
Texas Public Utilities Corporation, Ice Plant, 502 W. Second
Texas Southern Gas Company, 302 E. Main
Three Sister Beauty Salon, 104½ W. Main
Tieman Bros. Service Station, 1100 E. Academy
Toddle Teen Shop, 300-B E. Main
Tracy, Dick, Tire Company, 305 W. Main
Venetian Blind Shop, 1935 W. Main
Walters Dairy, 1001 S. Market
Ward, Joe L., Company, Ltd., Auto Equipment, 310 W. Alamo
Washington County Bottling Corporation, 307 W. Main
Washington County Electric Company, 303 E. Alamo
Washington Motor Company, 513 E. Main
Wollie Radio Service, 309 W. Alamo
Woodson Lumber Company, 501 E. Commerce
Wymola Motor Company, 411 E. Main
Zernial Bros., Cleaners, 111 N. Baylor
Zschappel, H. L., Insurance, 911 S. Market

Brenham's Business-Promoting Organizations

In connection with the business activities of Brenham,

mention must be made of the organizations that promote and stimulate business and guide enterprises to this place.

BRENHAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. First and foremost among these organizations is the Brenham Chamber of Commerce, which has been always alert to influence business to locate here. It has always endeavored to create conditions that were conducive toward the development of business enterprises.

This body was originally known as the Young Men's Business Association of Brenham, and was organized April 3, 1912, with Thomas B. Botts as temporary president and Almot Schlenker as acting secretary. The first regular president was R. B. Elmore.

On September 12, 1917, in the City Hall, with Jasper C. Kennedy as temporary chairman, the Brenham Chamber of Commerce was organized. Arthur Wangemann was elected president, T. W. Falkenberg vice president, and Mrs. E. Shannon secretary pro-tem. On January 8, 1918, Mrs. E. E. Holtzclaw took over the secretaryship, which she held for many years.

The first board of directors consisted of A. A. Hacker, Jasper C. Kennedy, L. B. Russell, F. A. Cottle, W. R. Jahnke, R. P. Thompson, D. C. Williams, J. J. Marek, Arthur Wangemann, J. F. Harrison, George Neu, Henry Müller, and F. C. Winkelmann.

The present officials of the body are: Gordon Langston, president; Frank Wood III, first vice president; W. C. Hay, second vice president; A. A. Behrens, treasurer. The present directors are the following: Gordon Langston, Frank Wood III, W. C. Hay, A. A. Behrens, Wm. Acker, Joe E. Frobese, L. Hausman, Ed. F. Hildebrandt, Bob Koenig, F. J. Kubitza, Irvin Navratil, Herbert C. Schroeder, A. W. Shannon, W. J. Sloan, Travis Voelkel, and D. S. Walters. Mrs. Dorothy Wilkening is secretary, and Bob McVey, manager.

BRENHAM RETAIL MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION was organized about the same time the Chamber of Commerce came into existence. This organization has much directive power among the business firms of the community. An important personality in this body is Mr. Fred Amsler, who has served as secretary since 1917.

The JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF BRENHAM AND WASHINGTON COUNTY was organ-

ized about the middle of the thirties of this century. It was very active up to World War II, when it suspended its regular meetings for the "duration," as most of its members went into the service of the country at that time. Recently, however, it was reorganized with the following officials: Frank Wood III, president; Harry McIntyre, first vice president; Paul Wittner, second vice president; Melvin Kelm, treasurer; and Bob McVey, secretary.

The organization sponsors its own projects, which are usually for community betterment. It serves as a kind of training school for young men to later become members of the senior chamber.

BRENHAM POST OFFICE. Postal service has existed for many centuries. It dates back to the great Eastern empires, and in later centuries postal service was initiated by the Western European countries. Wherever colonies of these countries went in more recent centuries, they soon established mail service. This was especially true of the Anglo-Saxon people, as they were in the process of colonizing the North American Continent. As soon as a colony was well established, postal service was introduced.

Brenham was founded in 1844, and on May 22, 1846, a post office was established. Now, as the community grew, the mail service expanded and the post office was given higher rating, the rating being determined by the amount of receipts in the office. On July 1, 1941, the Brenham Post Office was given first class rating, and it has held that classification ever since. The banner year was 1945, when the receipts amounted to over $75,000.

In 1916-1917, during the Woodrow Wilson administration, a stately post office building was erected on the corner of Main and South Market, just opposite Hotel St. Anthony.

From this post office radiate six rural routes. The office employs four city carriers and has nine clerks in the office. It has now existed over a century. The present postmaster is a son of a prominent Brenham family, Mr. T. A. Low, Jr., who took up his duties September 1, 1934.

Other postmasters who have served here in the past are the following:[3]

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[3] Information by courtesy of T. A. Low, Jr., Postmaster of Brenham.

L. Gilbert	May 22, 1846
Henry K. Judd	October 9, 1846
F. J. C. Smiley	August 23, 1847
Francis J. Cooke	January 20, 1848
George B. Cooke	February 5, 1850
J. A. Wilkins	April 7, 1852
John G. Knapp	September 16, 1852
James P. Pressley	November 10, 1857
James W. Gullick	October 24, 1860
David A. Allen	September 5, 1865
Stephen A. Hackworth	October 24, 1876
Moses A. Bryan	November 20, 1877
William A. Ryan	February 18, 1881
Jno. W. Hackworth	June 7, 1881
James E. Shepard	January 13, 1886
Julian M. Byrns	September 25, 1886
William E. Dwyer	May 21, 1889
Frank A. Eldridge	June 26, 1893
William E. Dwyer	September 14, 1897
Henry A. B. Mueller	January 27, 1914
Ben I. Conner	August 15, 1919
Henrietta Fricke	January 10, 1924

According to information we have at present, there are only two former postmasters of Brenham living. They are Mr. Henry A. B. Mueller and Miss Henrietta Fricke.

THE GULF, COLORADO AND SANTA FE RAILWAY COMPANY built into Brenham in 1880. The Houston and Texas Central, which started as a Washington County project from Hempstead to Brenham, was extended west to Austin in the seventies of the past century. Soon after that, the Santa Fe became interested in this section of Texas. At a meeting of the board of directors of that company on April 26, 1879, a resolution was adopted "to take immediate steps to contract for construction material for the construction of a railroad to Brenham."[4]

At the directors' meeting of May 12, 1879, the President, Mr. John Sealy, reported having organized and placed in the field a corps of engineers to locate the line to Brenham.

The first agent at Brenham was Mr. F. R. Allison. The locomotive engineer on the first train into Brenham was Mr.

[4] Information by courtesy of Gulf, Colorado Railway Company.

James McDonough, whose daughter is now secretary in the main office at Galveston.

The first depot was built by the Houston and Texas Central Railway Company. When, therefore, the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway Company proposed to build a jointly owned depot at Brenham, the former company at first turned down the offer, on the grounds that it had ample facilities at Brenham. However, on August 10, 1882, a contract was executed whereby the Houston and Texas Central Railway Company was to have the use of one-half of the building of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe for twenty dollars a month. The present union depot was completed in August, 1906, at joint expense, each company paying one-half, under the supervision of the Houston and Texas Central Railway Company, now the Southern Pacific Railway Company.

Brenham as a Social and Industrial Center

The citizens of Brenham have cultivated the finer things of life from the earliest days of the founding of this community. During primitive days the social functions consisted largely of neighborhood gatherings and the observance of certain events in family life, or perhaps the celebration of certain holidays. Although from the time of Austin's colony social matters received considerable attention, it was in the years following the Civil War that festivities that are still in vogue among the people of this county were instituted.

The MAIFEST was introduced with the coming of German settlers into the county in the latter part of the nineteenth century. These Germans, of course, brought with them customs and the observance of social functions as they had known them in the states from which they came, or in the old country.

One of the oldest festivals among people of Teutonic descent is the annual Maifest. It was originally a kind of national custom that the people observed each spring in which they celebrated the passing of winter of Northern Europe and the opening of springtime. The celebration at first had some religious significance, but in course of time that phase of the festival was lost. Certain ceremonies attended this annual observance, as for instance, symbolizing winter by an old-man doll that was usually burned up at the

close of the ceremony. Young people dancing around a Maypole symbolized spring. Later, as time went by, other ceremonies were introduced, as for example the Mayking (Green George or Grassking) was crowned. To this ceremony there was later added the Maybride.

Later this festival became a totally social affair, which was celebrated with much eating, drinking and singing. The modern Maifest emphasizes the Mayqueen and puts the Mayking more in the background.

With such a history in the long ago, people of Teutonic descent have modernized this festival to what it is today. The people of Brenham first began to observe the so-called *Volksfest* – people's festival. The Brenham Volksfest Association was organized in 1874 and continued its sponsorship of the annual event and other social events till 1880. Having had financial reverses, this association that year turned all of its facilities over to the Brenham Fire Department, which sponsored its first Maifest in 1881, and has done so continually. In 1927, a junior court was added. But during World Wars I and II festivities were suspended. After this festival had not been observed for five or six years after World War II, there was a good deal of apathy toward reviving it again. However, in 1948 the idea was talked around, and this time it was not the Brenham Fire Department, but the promoters of a Brenham public swimming pool who undertook the sponsorship of the Maifest. Judging by the interest shown in the preparation of floats and by the enormous crowds that attended the Maifest, it was a greater success than any of the previous celebrations. If this festival will find sponsors in the future, it will undoubtedly continue to be the leading annual event in Washington County for years to come.

For the record's sake and because I am sure it is of interest to many, we here list the names of the May Queens and their kings as they were chosen from year to year since 1881, with the exceptions of the years 1918, 1919 and 1920, right after World War I, and again from 1942 to 1947, inclusive, when no Maifest was arranged for.[5]

1881 – Frankie Foote; Robert S. Tarver
1882 – Annie Spencer (Cochran); Albert G. Haynes

[5] Information by courtesy of Brenham Fire Department.

1883 — Annie Spencer (Cochran); Albert G. Haynes
1884 — Emily Harris; Eugene B. Muse
1885 — Ida Bassett (Botts); William Lusk
1886 — Lizzie Lindemann (Hoffmann); G. B. Bryan
1887 — Nettie Pampell (Lockridge); Hon. Ben Rogers
1888 — Eula Gee (Garrett); R. E. Pennington
1889 — Nettie Estes (Fischer); P. H. Swearingen
1890 — Ethel Muse (Gillespie); Tom Holland
1891 — Lillian Lindemann (Meyer); Jessie Shepard
1892 — Lillian Engelke (Wangemann); E. R. Curry
1894 — Hester Abbott (Smith); Charlie Wilkins
1895 — Alice Lockett (Mrs. L. J.); Tom Rivers
1896 — Hattie Simon (Mrs. Louis); Henry Grote
1897 — Julia Epstein (Epstein); E. P. Curry
1898 — Bertha Becker (Wilkins); John Watson
1899 — Mary Stone (Nicholson); William Lusk
1900 — Julia Epstein (Epstein); Frank Dever
1901 — Lillian Lindemann (Meyer); Tom Holland
1902 — Alita Gardner (Vann); Tarver Wilkins
1903 — Susan Shepard (Becker); Alita Gardner Vann
1904 — Elise Lockett (Williamson); Heber Stone
1905 — Macadee Warnett (Mayfield); Fred Amsler
1906 — Julian Salley (Hover); John Pace
1907 — Theresa Dee Ross (Carroll); Dunbar Affleck
1908 — Florence Seward (Denson); Frank Shepard
1909 — Minnie Lee Gehrmann (Sampley); Frank Shepard
1910 — Lulu Shepard (Roseberry); L. E. Roseberry
1911 — Louise Stone; Earl Dallas
1912 — Florence Simmons (Becker); Frank Gehrmann
1913 — Susie Lipscomb (Knolle); Wm. J. Tucker
1914 — Edna Buck (Eversberg); Eugene Eversberg
1915 — Gladys Baumgardt (Hoffmann); Oscar Hoffman
1916 — Margaret Bozman (Hoffley); Arthur Hoblt
1917 — Mattie Reeves Wood (Ferguson); George Nelson Rodesney
1921 — Willie Mae Knolle (Hasskarl); W. J. Embrey
1922 — Ida Mae Baumgardt (Ruland); Giddings Stone
1923 — Hester Smith (Lockett); Reese Lockett
1924 — Martha Grote (Schmid); Wallie Schmid
1925 — Mary Sommer (Low); Theo. Low, Jr.
1926 — Erette Reese (Watwood); Edwin Hacker
1927 — Margaret Routt (Terry); Dr. S. E. Stafford
1928 — Bernice Becker; Edward Searcy
1929 — Ruth Hasskarl (Robertson); Smith Mercer
1930 — Flora Ann Williams (Stuckert); Dan Williams, Jr.
1931 — Mary Edna Carroll (Lee); Chas. DeWare

BRENHAM

1932 – Bopeep Seelhorst (Fisher); Franklin Fisher
1933 – Annie Louise Tiemann (Seidel); Lorenz Seidel
1934 – Lillian Louise Adams (Wilder); Frank Wood III
1935 – Mary Seidel (Ziesmer); Henry W. Hughes
1936 – Minerva Inez Reese (Rymer); Clinton Giddings Anderson
1937 – Maurine Barnes (Harrison); Harold Pflughaupt
1938 – Elvira Dallmeyer (Simms); Sam Muery, Jr.
1939 – Dorothea Hasskarl (Niemeyer); Hoffman Reese, Jr.
1940 – Nancy Green (Scheffler); Tom Adams, Jr.
1941 – Ruth England (Runnels); Ernest Reichardt, Jr.
1948 – Frances Ann Navratil; Charles Mast
1949 – Sudie Lu Schaer; Fred Becker

THE JUNIOR COURT

1927 – Mary Joe Becker; Billy Stuckert
1928 – Mary Louise Stone (Rankin); Frank Wood III
1929 – Nancy Green (Scheffler); Paul Lemm, Jr.
1930 – Millie Ann England (Schaer); Clint Giddings Anderson
1931 – Ruby Schroeder (Allen); Eugene Whiddon
1932 – Alma Wood Ferguson; Ernest Reichardt, Jr.
1933 – Marian Wiese (McCord); Hoffmann Reese, Jr.
1934 – Elizabeth Hacker (Hunt); Robert Pennington
1935 – Ann Hohlt (Ramey); Thomas Giddings
1936 – Janice Holleman; Robert Schoenvogel
1937 – Betty Sloan; Billy Schell
1938 – Mary Pat Amsler; Arthur Earl Mgebroff
1939 – Frances Ann Navratil; Arthur Al Geick
1940 – Patsy Jean Koon; Simms Allen Buckley
1941 – Hester Lockett; Allen Hunter Hohlt
1948 – Laura Cherry Stinnett; Reese Lockett, Jr.
1949 – Suzann Seidel; Billy Spinn

THE BRENHAM CONCERT BAND gives expression to the musical taste and talent of the people of the county, as well as of the people's love for this fine art. There is an old saying, the substance of which is: "Where people sing, there sojourn; bad people have no songs." People who have music in their souls, seldom have meanness in them also.

This organization had its beginning as the Second Regiment Band in 1888. The first director was J. H. Browning, and the first president was Walter Amsler, who is still living

and is still functioning in that office. Other directors were J. Kirchner, and W. A. Jakel. The present director, Prof. F. J. Navratil, became the director of this band in April, 1908, and under his leadership this band became the Second Texas Infantry Band and a unit of the Texas National Guard. As such, the band took part every summer in the annual National Guard training encampments at Austin and other points. On May 12, 1916, the band was suddenly called into Federal service at the Mexican border, where an Army was being gathered under the command of Gen. John J. Pershing, because of threat of war from across the Rio Grande. Being the first to reach the Mexican border, the Second Infantry Band was designated as General Pershing's Band. It was stationed at such points as Mission, Donna and Corpus Christi.

In March, 1917, this band was mustered out of Federal service, only to be called back a few days later, as the United States was now at war with Germany. It was again sent to the Mexican border with the Second Texas Infantry. However, at this time Prof. Navratil obtained his discharge from military duty on his own request.

In October, 1917, the Second Texas Infantry Band was consolidated with the 141st Infantry Band of the Thirty-Sixth Division composed of Texas and Oklahoma National Guards troops. But the original Brenham Band and the Second Texas Infantry Band formed the nucleus of the 141st Infantry Band, which participated in combat during 1918 in France and which otherwise served with distinction to the end of the war overseas.

This band became famous for its unique way of rendering the popular tune, "The Old Grey Mare, She Ain't What She Used To Be," and to the delight of the soldiers and French people, who liked to hear American music. Soon after the war, a Texas delegation to an American Legion convention brought the 141st Infantry Band with them, and when they rendered the "Old Grey Mare" number, it was acclaimed as the official American Legion Band, and nicknamed "The Old Grey Mare Band."

By far the great majority of the musicians in this famous band were from Brenham and Washington County, and as they came back to their home county and city, they, of

course, rejoined the local organization, which became the Brenham Concert Band in 1923.[6]

Prof. Navratil, who has made a reputation far and wide as a band leader, is still directing this organization. This band celebrated its sixtieth anniversary in June, 1948, with an all-day program of music and addresses. Every summer open-air concerts are being given in Brenham and near-by towns, to which large audiences come to enjoy the music. (Prof. Navratil died May 23, 1949, during the Maifest.)

The GERMANIA, a purely social organization, was organized in 1870. It continued its activities till 1929, when it merged with the local Elks Club.

"VORWAERTS." This was a singing club, or male chorus, organized, it seems, in the early seventies, for we find in the records that Brenham was represented at the State Saengerfest at San Antonio in 1877, and it was stated then that this was the first time that a singing club from east of the Colorado River had participated in such a festival.

In 1879, at Austin, when the State Saengerfest celebrated its twenty-fifth jubilee, Brenham was again represented, and this time under the name of "Germania."

In 1893, the "Vorwaerts" was organized under the leadership of Prof. H. L. Krueger, who had directed the "Germania" since 1887. Thus the "Vorwaerts" became the successor of the "Germania." This new organization sang at the State Saengerfest at Dallas in 1893, and at Houston in 1894.

A Saengerfest of the South Texas District was held in Brenham, May 30, 1892, the local club being the host. New life was brought into this club in 1897, when Professor C. Klaerner took over the leadership, and the club prospered till Klaerner withdrew in the fall of 1915. The First World War had its influence, in a way, on the deterioration of this splendid chorus. Efforts were made to revive it after the war, but with little success.

The extra sheet, entitled "Brenham," gives a picture of the "Vorwaerts" singing club, Professor Klaerner director, with the following members: First tenor: A. Brauner, president; P. Mundelius, secretary; C. Nulle, F. C. Winkelmann, G. Lempe, J. Frey. Second tenor: S. Schmid, W. Vollmer, H. Cornelson, B. Wigand, E. H. Eversberg. First

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6 Information by courtesy of Dr. R. A. Hasskarl of Brenham.

bass: B. Schneid, H. Grote, F. Grall, H. Dornberger, Ed. Schmid, G. Huettig, C. May. Second bass: W. Suter, E. Weidner, L. Bronekant, H. Dippel, C. Hesse, S. C. Zettner, and O. L. Schroeder.

Schools

The citizens of Brenham early recognized the importance of schools in the city. As early, therefore, as 1840 a private school had been established within the present confines of the city. This school was called the "Hickory Grove School" because of its surroundings. It was first taught by James Mitchell, who was followed by the Reverend L. P. Rucker. In the later forties the Masonic Fraternity Graham Lodge No. 20 sponsored an academy and also absorbed Hickory Grove School, and this school was operated by the Masons till 1875, when the Brenham public school system was organized.

In 1898, the "German-American Institute" was established under the leadership of Christian Klaerner. The school offered courses in the upper and lower elementary grades, but primarily on the secondary level. It continued till 1907, when Washington County created the office of county superintendent, and Mr. Klaerner was appointed to that office.

The PUBLIC SCHOOLS were organized in Brenham under the law passed by the Texas Legislature in 1875, which authorized incorporated towns and cities to establish and maintain public schools. In that year the citizens of Brenham petitioned the city council to establish a public school system. Whereupon the city council passed a series of resolutions on April 26, 1875, under which it proceeded to organize the Brenham Public School District No. 1. Brenham, therefore, became the first public free school district in Texas. Under a city ordinance adopted August 16, 1875, a school board was created, its relationship to the city council defined, and courses of study outlined. W. C. Rote was the first superintendent. The mayor of Brenham was ex-officio member of the board. The Brenham public schools were authorized to operate forty weeks in a scholastic year if the financial conditions would permit, but under no condition were they to run for a shorter period than five months.

The first teachers of the Brenham public schools were A. C. Jessen, Mrs. W. A. Lockett, Miss Mary Rial, Miss Kate Saunders. These teachers received their certificates to teach from Russell Shipley, the mayor of Brenham at that time.

In his last report to the city council, Superintendent Rote reported a total of 605 children registered, 340 white and 265 colored.

Later superintendents were C. P. Estill, who followed W. C. Rote; J. T. Hand, Jay E. McGuire, H. Stanberg, W. H. Flynne, E. W. Tarrant, Peyton Irving, Jr., W. D. Notley, J. C. Tucker, Floyd McCullum, J. R. Peace, M. B. Holleman, and C. M. Selman.

After the school had been a part of the city government of Brenham for half a century, the school authorities asked for an independent school district, which was created by the State Legislature on September 27, 1926. On October 4, of the same year, the city commission passed a resolution transferring the control and title to the property to the trustees of the Brenham Independent District.

The Brenham public schools have developed through the years into a first-class system, with a grade A high school at the head of the system. The Brenham high school is a member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

In 1928 the present high school building was erected on grounds purchased especially for that purpose and is located on the southern border of the city limits, east of the Houston highway. It is a stately two-story brick structure, with basement on the north end which contains the heating plant and a cafeteria.

In more recent years a large stadium with a seating capacity of 3,500 was erected around the football field. This field is equipped with a powerful lighting system and all games are being played at night.

During 1939 to 1940 a large modern gymnasium of native rock was erected with the aid of the WPA. Besides having a large auditorium for basketball, it is provided with a large hall for band rehearsals.

Brenham High School authorities, taking cognizance of the agricultural interests of the county, organized classes in Vocational Agriculture. To give these classes practical experience and training in agriculture, the board of trustees of

the Brenham Independent School District purchased, in 1944, seven and a half acres of land and built a brooder house with a capacity for 1,000 chicks.

Three buildings, the Alamo school, the Central school, and the high school building, house the white children of the district, whereas two large frame buildings, one at the eastern end of the city and the other in the western part, give only fair accommodations to the colored children. The board very keenly realizes the inadequacy of facilities and has purchased seven surplus houses from the Federal Government for needed construction of temporary additional classrooms.

The scholastic population of the Brenham Independent School District for the year 1948 to 1949 is 1,224, of which 749 are white and 475 colored. The actual enrollment in the various schools this session is 1,103, of which 758 are white and 345 colored.

Frank W. Allenson is the superintendent of schools, and G. L. Keahey principal of the high school. The other members of the high school faculty are: Miss Banita Brite, Frank Buffington, Owen Erekson, Robert Fuchs, Mrs. L. M. Guggolz, Mrs. W. C. Hay, Miss Lota Hayes, Mrs. Dick Kilgore, Mrs. Nerine Kinsey, Mrs. A. W. Lanier, M. E. Morris, Howard Perry, Mrs. J. A. Ruggles, Mrs. W. C. Schwartz, Mrs. William Suter, Mrs. Delores Stewart.

H. C. Smith is the principal of the Central school, which teaches the first seven grades. The other teachers of this school are: Mrs. Mattie Brusse, Miss Tina Curtis, Mrs. Cecil Donalson, Mrs. Frank Buffington, Miss Tecla Mueller, Miss Elizabeth Malsby, Mrs. G. L. Keahey, Clarence Linnstaedter, Miss Mary Wallace and Mrs. August Weiss.

In the Alamo the first four grades are being taught, and the following teachers do the teaching: Mrs. John Maynard, Mrs. Billy Sohns, Mrs. Benita Lawrence, and Miss Louise Giddings.

The directing and policy-making body of these schools is, of course, the board of trustees, which, in this case, consists of some of Brenham's very best citizens. This board manages the affairs of these schools in the very best manner with the means that are at its disposal. The members of this board are: Dr. R. A. Hasskarl, president; Judge W. J. Embrey, A.

F. Geick, H. H. Broesche, Martin Eichler, Irvin Navratil, and Fred Kessel.

In the cases of both the white and colored schools additional classrooms, as well as other improvements of the plants and additions to the teaching staff, will be needed. As the consolidation of the rural schools continues, more transfers will very likely be made to the Brenham High School. The citizens of the district are, therefore, facing the problem of providing more funds to finance their public schools.

The EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN COLLEGE was established in Brenham in 1890, this city having made the best offer for such a school. The plan for the institution, as adopted by the Synod in 1890, was to train young men for the ministry. Since the businessmen of Brenham were not able to donate the amount they had promised, the "Deutsch-Amerikanische Schulverein" offered to contribute its property, consisting of one acre of land and a school building, to the Synod, under the following conditions: "1) that the school should be maintained for a period of not less than fifteen years; 2) that children of non-Lutheran families be permitted to attend without being required to take religious instruction; and 3) that an elementary department would be maintained at the institution."[7]

R. M. Gannon and Christian Klaerner were the first teachers employed. The Reverend G. Langner was the first president and served as such till 1896.

Because of financial difficulties and because of better offers from Seguin, the school was finally moved to the latter place. Negotiations for this change were carried on in 1910 and 1911, when the institution was moved to its present location, where it is prospering and has, by this time, developed into a four-year senior college.

BLINN COLLEGE, known as Mission Institute till 1889, and as Blinn Memorial College till 1933, had its beginning in the true mustard seed size, when its first class of three students met with the Reverend Carl Urbantke for instruction in the old German Methodist Church at Brenham, March 28, 1883. This old church is now the "annex" of the First Methodist Church of Brenham.

The original purpose of the school was to train young

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7 Grusendorf, *A Century of Education in Washington County*, p. 354.

men for the ministry, and the classes for the first years consisted of ministerial students exclusively. During the years that the institution functioned under the sponsorship of the Methodist Church, about seventy-five young men received part or all of their training for the ministry in the department of theology of Blinn College. This department was headed by the strongest teachers on the faculty, and the work was quite in advance of the other departments.

After a few years, however, the board yielded to the many requests for academic courses. Not only that, the school was made co-educational. Until 1927, Blinn was of academy rank, offering some twenty accredited college entrance courses. The school in those days made a reputation for its thoroughness in its instruction and the character-building influence that prevailed there. The largest enrollment during the academy years was about 225, which was the year 1908 to 1909. After that, the average attendance during the regular session ranged from 150 to 175.

The Southern German Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church created a substantial endowment fund of about $85,000. Hundreds of gifts to this fund were in the amounts of a few dollars, being given by hard-working day laborers and small farmers. This small conference erected all the buildings on the campus, except the gymnasium and a few of the lighter built structures moved on the campus from Camp Swift just recently. Yes, that small conference, having hardly two thousand members, did a heroic piece of work in sponsoring Blinn College for half a century. There were no millionaires among them at that time, but the small sacrificial gifts of the many made up most of the fund. The largest gift to the fund was made by the Blinn family. The last decade before united Methodism, the German Conference was changed to the Southern Conference and it took in the Swedish Mission Conference, and the former Gulf Conference, which increased its membership considerably.

However, soon after the turn of the century, academy days were a thing of the past, except for a few academies of the military type. A school such as Blinn was had too strong competition from the public high schools. In 1927, therefore, measures were taken to organize the institution into a junior college. The task was assigned to Dr. Phil Deschner, who had been elected to the presidency that year. It was a

difficult task, as it called for a good deal more money for the library, laboratories, and especially for better-paid teachers with higher degrees. But despite it all, the school received recognition by the State Department of Education as a Class-B junior college for the first year and Class-A for the second. The latter rank it has held all these years.

But the financial situation became more critical as time passed. It was then thought by some of the leaders that a merger with some senior institution would remedy the situation. Negotiations with Southwestern University were begun and finally they materialized in a merger with that institution in 1930. It was soon found, however, that neither of the merged institutions had gained materially. There was quite a bit of sentiment in Brenham that Blinn should be placed back into the hands of a Brenham board. The merger lasted till 1936; but in 1933 the Church discontinued sponsoring or supporting Blinn College, which would mean discontinuance of the school after all. The Brenham Chamber stepped in and took over the sponsorship of Blinn temporarily and thus kept her doors from being closed. The plant was rented from Southwestern University for several years. In the meantime plans were laid to get the plant back into the hands of a Brenham board, which was accomplished by 1936.

Having profited by the failure of a former campaign to make Blinn College a public institution of Washington County, the administrative officials of the school made careful plans this time. The friends of the institution were organized under the chairmanship of Mrs. Jack Green for a second attempt to carry the election. Arrangements had to be made with the State Board of Education to get the legal phase of the project according to law. The people of the county were organized to vote for the passage of three measures. The voters were to decide 1) whether this county should constitute itself into a public junior college district, 2) whether a tax of ten cents on the one hundred dollars property value should be levied, and 3) whether a board of seven trustees should be elected. The election was set for June 8, 1937, and carried, 1208 votes being cast for the school and 821 against it. Blinn thus became the first junior college in a county-wide district in Texas. The board elected consisted of the following members: C. D. Dallmeyer, F. J. Kubitza, Dr. J. A. Luedemann, W. E. Schaer,

Almot Schlenker, Will H. Weeren and Julian Weisler.

Insufficient financial support was the great handicap under which the school labored during its entire existence. A ten-cent tax on the one hundred dollars, little as it was, looked rather encouraging to eyes that had seen very small sums all along; yet here is where the first mistake was made in launching the school on its public career. It is almost certain that the people would have voted a twenty-cent tax about as easily as a ten-cent tax. But all in all, the small tax support was a "shot in the arm" for Blinn College, and the school has been gaining in momentum ever since the election.

There were other hindrances to overcome besides financial difficulties. Fifteen to twenty years ago, there was much opposition to junior colleges among the people as a whole. Who wanted to attend a junior college? It was a "junior" in the educational world, and people looked down on it. Over half of the people contacted in those days asked the question, "Will our children get credit for the work they do in your junior college when they transfer to a senior college?" That question had to be answered patiently over and over again. That "anxiety" has been about completely overcome by this time.

The overcrowded conditions of the larger institutions of higher learning following the last war helped the junior colleges. Thousands of veterans who could not get into the senior college finally found their way into the smaller senior colleges and the junior colleges, where most of them really belonged because of their poor preparation for entrance into college.

At the beginning of the forties of this century, the public junior colleges of Texas finally were admitted to state aid. The Legislature started them off on fifty dollars per every fifteen-hour student enrolled. That has been raised to $175 by this time, and well can the State afford to support the junior colleges, as these institutions furnish their own plants. Furthermore, the junior college enables thousands of young people to go to college at least two years just because of the low cost. We submit, therefore, that it is a good business proposition on the part of the State to recognize, as in this way it can furnish higher education to young people at a much lower cost than through the senior colleges. It is good business sense on the part of the local citizens to send their

sons and daughters to their junior colleges, because there their children can get more personal attention, which most of them still need after they leave high school. The parents, too, can save a nice sum of money in those two years, which they can use when their children have to go to senior colleges and board away from home.

Blinn's financial concerns have been lessened considerably, to say the least. But from the very beginning as a public junior college, in 1937, the school did not depend on local support alone and on local young people to make up the class rolls. Even the first year a bus was purchased, which brought students from Sealy and Bellville. In 1941 a second bus was purchased and placed on the road to Somerville and Caldwell. By the close of the year 1946-1947 the college was operating four buses, a station wagon and a car, bringing in over a hundred students from surrounding centers. During the session of 1947-1948 two more buses were added, and today, 1949, seven buses are in use.

The enrollment had increased considerably by 1941, the year of Pearl Harbor. During the war years, however, the enrollment dropped as much as forty per cent. In 1945-1946 the enrollment began to pick up again. For the year 1946-1947 we had estimated our budget on the basis of about 150 students, the pre-war average. To our pleasant surprise the enrollment that year approximated for the regular session 250. The arrangement made by the Congress under the G. I. Bill began to show its effects, for about ninety ex-soldiers enrolled with us that year, and besides there seems to have begun a general increase in college attendance everywhere. Colleges and universities had to put up temporary buildings to accommodate their students.

A word should be said here about the library of Blinn College. Libraries in an institution are important. They are the heart of college work. Institutions of learning are being judged much on the library facilities they have.

The Blinn library was built up through the years to over 6,000 volumes while the school was under the sponsorship, first, of the Southern German Conference, and later under the Southern Conference, which was a merger of the Swedish Mission Conference and the Louisiana Conference with the Southern German Conference, assuming the new name of Southern Conference, as mentioned before. These many

books were accumulated through donations by friends of the school and through funds set aside for the purchase of books.

More than anyone else connected with the school, J. L. Neu was the moving spirit in organizing the library during many years, and till his withdrawal from Blinn he was unsurpassed in longevity of service, which was twenty-seven years. No trained librarians were employed in those years, which accounted for the fact that I served as librarian for five years.

On the termination of the merger of Blinn College with Southwestern University, perhaps two thousand volumes were moved to the library of that institution, where a Blinn Memorial alcove was created in that library.

The first trained librarian employed by Blinn College was Mrs. Alice Clay Watson, who came to the faculty in 1927 when Blinn became a junior college. She served as librarian for nine years. Other librarians employed were Miss Clara Mae McFrancis, who came to us from Chicago; Miss Sue Moore, now with the Browning Library of Baylor University; and the present librarian is Miss Clara Hamblen.

When Blinn became a junior college, one thousand dollars was set aside the first year to purchase new books. Every year after that a minimum of five hundred dollars was used for the purchasing of new books and rebinding old ones. In this way the library has built back up to the minimum standard. It now has over 6,000 volumes again, as fine a reference library as any small library of its size and a large and well-selected number of current magazines and papers.

The school is in need of a separate library building, with a large reading room, a workroom for the librarian and assistants, and other accommodations. It had always been my dream to be able to have such a building erected on the campus, for which purpose I contacted several men with money, but to no avail.

Blinn College has the following departments in which it offers appropriate courses: Agriculture, Business Administration, Education, English, Foreign Language, History and Government, Mathematics, Music, and Science — bacteriology, chemistry, biology and physics.

Blinn was saved for Brenham and Washington County by the cooperation of the local citizens in taking the school over on a tax-supported basis, but during the critical period largely through the sacrifices of the teachers. These teachers

for at least ten years worked for salaries far below the average salaries paid by other public junior colleges in the state during those years, even after Blinn had become a tax-supported school. Conservatively estimated, the salaries of teachers in Blinn at that time were as much as $400 to $500 annually below the average salaries in other public institutions of the same rank as Blinn. Multiply this annual loss by ten and you have from $4,000 to $5,000 that each of these teachers contributed toward the saving of the college.

On the other hand, let us say the average citizen of Washington County pays tax on $2,000 each year, which, at ten cents on the one hundred dollars property value, would amount to $2.00. Multiply that by ten and you have $20.00 contributed toward the saving of the institution.

The teachers that were on the faculty all these meagre years deserve to be mentioned here. Mrs. Louis Beazley, M. A., who did a good job as science teacher from 1931 till 1947, could have moved on to better compensating positions, but she stayed with us; Mrs. J. C. Lauderdale, instructor in music and chorus director, came here in 1931, and is still active in that capacity; Miss Margaret Cotham, M. A., was added to our faculty in 1933, when the depression was at its worst, and did good work in the department of English and in extra-curricular work; Sam K. Bright, M. A., and member of the National Association of Mathematicians, was instructor in mathematics and coach (all for the same salary as the rest) till 1939; T. P. Walker, M. A., came to Blinn in 1929 as registrar and instructor in education, and continued in this capacity till his death in 1947; H. J. Boehm, M. B. A., came to Blinn when the crisis was about past but salaries were still low for a number of years. All of these teachers "adorn the order."

For record's sake we give here all former instructors in Blinn who served at least one year and over and have not been mentioned elsewhere in this book. They are: Rev. Joseph Fielder, English; Rev. Carl Schuler, Music and English; John E. Stulken, M. S., Science (first teacher with a degree); Wesley Speckmann, B. A., Mathematics; E. W. Winkler, B. Lit., History; Gus F. Urbantke, Mathematics; Albert Cohn, Music; Mrs. Ida Harris, Music; D. H. Fischer, M. A., Science; Arthur Niebuhr, M. A., Mathematics; G. W. Kopp, Commercial Courses; W. S. Brandenberger, B. A., History;

Mrs. Emma Tarrant Fisher, B. Lit.; Miss Alice Mae Schneider, B. A., Bible; Howard A. Brooks, M. B. A., Business Administration; Miss Emily O'Neal Harris, Music; Lili Nagler, of Cincinnati, Ohio, Music; Mrs. P. J. Lemm-nee Ludwick, Music; Mrs. B. F. Teague, Music; Mrs. Kate Estes McAdam, Music; L. H. Schmidt, Athletics; J. W. McCord, Athletics and English; Miss Flora Moreland, Stenography and Typewriting; A. S. Hendon, Stenography and Typewriting; C. A. Ridge, M. A., Science; Tom Perrin, M. A., Science; Sam D. Leifeste, B. A., Mathematics; Miss Georgia Broughton, Stenography and Typewriting; Miss Laura Wendt, M. A., Mathematics; Miss Angela Niebuhr, B. A., English; Mrs. Alice Clay Watson, Librarian; Mrs. D. C. Becker, Piano; Miss Juanita Niederauer, Piano; J. V. Sikes, Athletics and Arithmetic; Frank W. Allenson, B. S., Athletics; Ernest Heyer, Foreign Language, R. O. Berry, M. A., Science; H. W. Grant, M. A., Science; Mrs. Gladys Dalrymple, B.S., Stenography and Typewriting; A. S. Nemir, M. B. A., Athletics and Social Science; Carl Fischer, B. A., Band and Chorus; Charles M. Palmer, B. A., B. D., Dramatics and Speech Art; Miss Aleeta Mae Swenssen, M. A., Mathematics; Miss Laura Lee Bird, M. A., English; Mrs. Dick Kilgore, B. A., Mathematics; John H. Morgan, M. A., History and Government.

The faculty members listed in the catalogue for the year 1949-1950 are as follows: T. M. Spencer, B. S., M. A., Ed. D., President; Charles F. Schmidt, B. A., M. A., President Emeritus, Foreign Language; Henry J. Boehm, M. B. A., Registrar and Business Administration; James H. Atkinson, M. S., Athletic Director; R. W. Bingham, M. A., Mathematics; Mrs. Martha Robertson Burgess, B. M., Speech; Frank Butler, B. S., Assistant Coach; Margaret Cotham, M. A., English; Mrs. Irene Jenkins Ehlert, B. S., English; Jess T. Ferguson, M. A., Social Science; Mrs. Edwina Hallstein, B. A., English; Clara Hamblen, B. S., Librarian; Jack Harrington, M. S., Science; Arthur W. Lanier, M. S., Agriculture; Dora L. Lengefeld, M. A., Business Administration; James G. Lynch, M. S., Education; Mrs. Dorine Kendrick Sauls, B. A., Shorthand and Typewriting; R. E. Sauls, B. S., Business Administration; Walter C. Schwartz, B. B. A., Business Administration; August Weiss, M. A., Social Science; Mrs. J. C. Lauderdale, Music and Director of Chorus.

Many of the best citizens of this county, as well as citizens of other counties of Texas, served on the board of trustees of Blinn College in the days that are past. The original board consisted of these men: Rev. Wm. Pfaeffle, M. W. Mann, Rev. J. C. Albrecht, Rev. H. Dietz, L. A. Niebuhr, and Rev. C. Urbantke. Others that served on the board later were: F. Theulemeyer, Rev. D. Matthae, Rev. G. Koch, Rev. R. Brueck, Rev. J. C. Groth, Rev. Wm. Felsing, Ferdinand Niebuhr, Fritz Blumberg, E. W. Hander, Rev. H. Homburg, Rev. Boezinger, Rev. A. J. Traeger, Rev. G. Schulze, E. W. Blinn, Rev. John Streit, Otto Rau, Rev. John Hierholzer, Rev. G. Dosdall, Rev. C. Blinn, H. Wellmann, Rev. Otto Riebe, Rev. E. C. Draeger, Rev. J. Ott, Gustave Urbantke, Rev. J. J. Kienle, Rev. C. Schuler, L. F. Kneese, Jacob Martin, Rev. W. A. Moers, Henry Raeke, F. Brandenberger, Henry Breihan, John B. Meyers, H. C. Hodde, John Wiedemann, Rev. A. A. Leifeste, Wm. Wendt, F. H. Miller, A. L. Niebuhr, Rev. Wm. Buehrer, Rev. J. W. A. Witt, L. C. Holze, Rev. E. C. Schuessler, Rev. Phil Deschner, D. C. Blumberg, T. A. Low, Rev. C. F. Bohmfalk, Rev. C. W. Berquist, Rev. B. E. Breihan, Rev. J. L. Rode, G. A. Kunkel, Rev. Everett Frey, J. P. Campbell, W. F. Finck, Rev. E. Lundblad, Rev. J. F. Sarner, Frank Jensen, Ben Kneese, Rev. W. B. Morgan, Rev. W. A. Ward, James B. Meyer, E. A. Eversberg, F. L. Amsler, Rev. Ben Behrens, W. C. J. Marquardt, W. E. Hoting, Rev. H. C. Leonard, Edwin Hohlt, H. C. Hafer, H. G. Broesche, H. E. Draeger, Rev. Percy Beck, C. L. Wilkins.

The trustees who served on the board right after the merger with Southwestern University had been dissolved and reconstruction of the finances was begun, were R. C. Barnes (president); Almot Schlenker, treasurer; J. E. Weisler, attorney; C. F. Schmidt, T. P. Walker, and F. J. Kubitza. The first board elected by the junior college district were C. D. Dallmeyer, Almot Schlenker, J. E. Weisler, Dr. J. A. Luedemann, Will Weeren, F. J. Kubitza, and W. E. Schaer.

The present board consists of Dr. Gustav Heineke, president; Odis Tomachevsky, secretary-treasurer; M. B. Holleman, vice president; and Abie Lesser, Sr., Paul Rothermel, Robert Appel, and Reinhard Goeking.

PRESIDENTS OF BLINN COLLEGE

Reverend Carl Urbantke	1883-1899
Reverend Gottlieb Dosdall	1899-1901
Dr. John Pluenneke, B. A., M. A., D. D.	1901-1909
Professor J. L. Neu, B. A., M. A.	1909-1924
Reverend B. E. Breihan, Ph. B.	1924-1927
Dr. Phil Deschner, B. A., S. T. B., S. T. D.	1927-1929
Dr. A. A. Grusendorf, B. A., M. A., Ph. D.	1929-1935
Professor C. F. Schmidt, B. A., M. A.	1935-1947
Dr. T. M. Spencer, B. S., M. A., Ed. D.	1947-

During the merger with Southwestern University, Dr. King Vivian was president also of Blinn College.

Brenham Newspapers

Brenham early in its history had a newspaper. The *Lone Star* was established by William H. Ewing in 1845. In 1848 the *Christian Advocate* was started in Brenham but was published here for only a short time by the Methodist Church. Right after the Civil War, in 1866, Donald McGary and John G. Rankin established a newspaper called the *Watch Tower,* which became the *Brenham Banner* shortly after it was begun. It was a weekly paper and began its influence in the so-called Reconstruction days.

The managing editor was evidently bolder than prudent when he protested in the *Southern Banner,* as it was called then, that certain practices of the military forces be discontinued. This resulted in his arrest a few days later and he was fined two hundred dollars for publishing "inflammatory editorials." McGary refused to pay the fine and was sent to jail. In a few days, the matter was brought to the attention of Governor Throckmorton, who protested vigorously to the military headquarters, and McGary was released after nineteen days in jail. But the military forces stationed in East Brenham, "Camptown," were not satisfied, and the third day after McGary's release from jail, the *Southern Banner* office was set on fire, which resulted in the destruction of an entire block of Brenham's best buildings.

German immigrants came into the county in large numbers soon after the war. They naturally brought with them customs and attitudes to which they were accustomed in

their homeland. One of the things they soon did was to establish a German paper, the *Texas Volksbote,* the first issue appearing in 1873. The paper was widely read and had a large circulation for nearly a half century, but its publication ceased soon after World War I.

The *Brenham Banner-Press,* as it is called today, was organized in 1913. However its forerunner, the *Brenham Banner,* was published soon after the Civil War, as stated before. It was housed in what was then the Morris Building, located on the west side of the Square. Its first issue appeared on January 3, 1866, the issue being weekly.

The daily *Banner-Press* was established by George Neu, who, together with Joe and Will Cathriner, bought the *Brenham Banner* in 1912, and the *Brenham Press* in 1913. The latter paper had been published by George Tucker since 1911.

George Neu was the managing editor from 1912 till his death in 1927. During his management the Banner-Press Publishing Company was organized, and the beautiful structure which houses the work today was erected. D. C. Blake became managing editor after Neu and carried on the work till his death in 1936. Tom Whitehead took over the management after D. C. Blake, May, 1937. Under him the *Brenham Banner-Press* has prospered and has gained much in circulation. In May, 1947, the usefulness of this paper was increased by the adding of a 1000-watt radio station (KWHI), which has a coverage of about eleven counties, and is quite an asset to the town.

A few other newspapers appeared on the scene in Brenham and then vanished again. Beginning with October, 1919, the Brenham *Morning Messenger* was published in a daily as well as a weekly issue. It was in existence only a few years, however. In 1940 and 1941 the Brenham *Weekly* was published by Billy Mayfield.

Other Cultural Interests

HOME CONFECTIONERY. This is really not a business firm, but a source of joy. It is so highly artistic that we would hesitate to class it among the ordinary business firms. It is a mint factory, yes, and was begun in 1921, when the first few boxes of these beautiful mints were sent to custom-

ers. By the time of the Second World War these mints had become so well known and so much appreciated that they were sent to our boys in every country on the globe, except Iceland, where they were perhaps not known among our soldiers and their relatives at home. They are being ordered by people in practically every state in the Union, because they make the most delightful gift anyone could imagine. Miss Martha Schweiss owns and operates this confectionery.

The BRENHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY, sponsored by the local Fortnightly Club, was established in 1901. It is housed in a beautiful stone structure built especially for library purposes under the administration of Mayor T. A. Low, in 1934. The library has over 6,000 volumes, consisting of fiction, history, biography, a large collection of books in the fine arts, children's books and books in psychology. That the library is being used rather actively by the public is shown by the circulation during one month in 1948, which amounted to 1,080 juvenile books and over 500 for adults. The library is fully catalogued and employs a librarian. It receives funds for its maintenance and improvement by observing "library tag day" annually and by receiving memorial books by donation.

CHAUTAUQUA is the name given to a remarkable system of popular education, which is the evolution of a Sunday school assembly held at Chautauqua Lake, New York, in the summer of 1874, for the instruction of Sunday School teachers. The movement was popular from the first, and it increased in scope from year to year until it had grown to large proportions. It was attended by from 40,000 to 50,000 interested people annually.

But local Chautauquas began to develop and spread over America. After the turn of the century, Brenham, for years, had a whole week of Chautauqua, consisting of two programs a day. Some of the most famous speakers of the nation and of foreign countries spoke from these platforms, musical and dramatic organizations of national and international fame gave programs. Thousands of people attended these Chautauquas.

But the coming of the phonograph, the radio, and the "movies" seems to have made the continuance of the local Chautauqua impossible. During its time the Chautauqua

movement added much to the cultural life of local communities and to the nation as a whole.

THE REX AND SIMON THEATERS. The Rex Theater was purchased by W. A. Stuckert in 1913. It has been completely renovated in recent years and enjoys a large patronage. It has a seating capacity of 450.

The Simon Theater, built by Mrs. Alex Simon in 1925 and recently purchased by W. A. and W. R. Stuckert, is a two-story brick structure of graceful architectural style. The theater part of the building has a seating capacity of 715. It is equipped with a Westinghouse air-conditioning apparatus. The architect designed the auditorium so that its acoustics are the best, and it was made sound proof. The two theaters are under the joint management of W. A. and W. R. Stuckert, father and son, and they furnish much for the community that is cultural and entertaining.

The Brenham Churches

The churches of Brenham are a mighty force for good. They are the "savoring salt" in the community, imperfect though they may be. The American people had better wake up and realize the great importance of their churches in the life of the nation; for what the United States is as a democratic country is very largely the by-product of the religious influence of its churches upon the thinking and attitudes of its people. The Church has always stood for freedom, the value and importance of the individual and his inalienable rights. Allow the churches to close up, and soon there will be no more American way of life.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH dates its beginning back to November, 1870, when the plot of ground on which the church stands was donated by B. H. Bassett and his brother, Jefferson Bassett.

The congregation has grown steadily and is today worshiping in the beautiful edifice that was erected in 1936. Father Charles Weisnerowski is the present priest.

St. Mary's Catholic school is located on the same ground. Here the children of the parish get instruction in religion and in the common courses.

THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH came into existence when the former Fourth Street Methodist Episcopal

Church and the Giddings Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, South, merged in 1939.

The Giddings Memorial Methodist Church dates back to 1844, when Methodists met in the Hickory Grove schoolhouse under the leadership of J. D. Giddings. The first church was built on the present site of the Christian Church. The ground was purchased in 1848, but as all the lumber had to be prepared by hand, the structure was not completed until 1851. The building is said to have been 30 by 50 feet, with a spire and a bell. J. D. Giddings was the Sunday school superintendent from 1844 till his death in 1878. The Texas Conference was held in Brenham in 1868. Giddings Memorial Methodist Church was erected in 1879, and was named in memory of J. D. Giddings.

Methodism among the Germans of Texas began in the later forties of the past century. Missionaries were sent out from Cincinnati, Ohio, where a strong center of German Methodism had developed under the leadership of Dr. William Nast.

By 1867, Brenham had become a mission field where such German missionaries as the Reverend Mr. Schneider and the Reverend Mr. Mumme did pioneer work. These men did not live in Brenham, but in a settlement four miles north of town, where services were held in a log house. In Brenham a number of German Methodists held their Sunday school in the Methodist Church, South. In 1872, the Reverend Carl Urbantke was assigned to the Brenham circuit. In 1873, he conducted services in a cabinet worker's shop. That year a plan was adopted to build a church. When in 1883 it was decided to open a church school at Brenham, importance was added to this congregation. Blinn College was built only a block away from the little church. In 1913, the present church structure was erected, and the present parsonage in 1923. Several annual conferences were held in Brenham, the last one in 1931, Bishop Waldorf presiding.

The merged congregation now numbers over 500 members. Its Sunday morning services are regularly broadcast over KWHI, the local radio station. The church has adopted a building plan, which it hopes to carry to completion within the next few years. The present pastor is the Reverend J. A. Chapman.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH was established in

1935 with seven families. Since its beginning, the congregation has had a phenomenal growth, for today it counts over three hundred souls under its spiritual care. The present sanctuary was dedicated in February, 1942. The Reverend T. H. Graalmann is the pastor. The church is located in South Brenham, in a beautiful residential part of the city.

In 1947, the church added a parochial school to its work. In this school the children of the first four grades are being given instruction in the common courses of our schools and are also given instruction in religion. In 1948 a kindergarten was added to this school, this being the only kindergarten in Brenham. It is being conducted by Miss Eunice Szegedin and Mr. W. O. Doering is the instructor of the grades.

The FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH began its activities in 1867, when the Reverend A. J. Bush began to preach to groups of Christian Church members in private homes. The first organization was effected on November 5, 1877, with eighteen charter members. A building was soon after that erected, but was destroyed by fire in the late eighties. The present sanctuary was dedicated January 15, 1899. In 1942 an educational building was erected. It is a two-story structure and answers the needs of the congregation for Sunday school purposes and other activities of the charge. The church now has a membership of over one hundred. The pastor is the Reverend G. H. Farmer.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH was established on May 2, 1848, and was the fourth Episcopal Church to be established in Texas. For some time religious services were held in a log school which stood near the site of the present sanctuary. Meetings were also held in the courthouse. A stone church was begun in 1848, but, it is said, was never finished. A second church is said to have been built of solid cedar. Years later a brick church was built. In 1919 it was rebuilt under the direction of Father S. Moylan Bird and Mr. Ginn. The bell in the tower is said to be ninety years old. In 1949 a beautiful and spacious educational building was added to the church. Many of the leading families have been, and still are, communicants of this church. On May 2, 1948, this congregation celebrated its centennial. It has a long and noble record. Father S. Moylan Bird has been the rector of the parish for thirty-five years.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH dates its begin-

ning back to October 29, 1890, when the first sanctuary was erected on Clinton Street. This building was destroyed by the Galveston storm in 1900, whereupon a second structure was erected on the same site. Years later a new site was purchased on South Austin Street, on which the present beautiful edifice, dedicated on September 27, 1925, now stands. This building has a large basement with rooms for Sunday school classes and a large hall for social gatherings and general assemblies. The sanctuary is one of the most beautiful in this section of the state.

The congregation is the largest in Brenham, counting its membership at 1,282. The Reverend G. Langner was the first pastor, serving this congregation from 1890 till 1912. He was also president of the Evangelical Lutheran College that was located here till 1911. The present pastor is the Reverend Theodore Streng, who took charge of the congregation on October 20, 1938. Under his leadership the congregation has paid the rather large balance of the building debt, has been well organized and placed on a high spiritual level.

The FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, known first as New Year's Creek Baptist Church, had its beginning on New Year's Creek, December 20, 1846. It was organized by R. E. B. Baylor, Hosea Garrett, and W. W. Buster. The Reverend D. A. Fisher was the first pastor. In May, 1853, the church was moved to Brenham, where, in the meantime, a congregation had been begun and a church built.

The present edifice was erected in 1892. A parsonage, built in 1888, was destroyed by fire on June 3, 1924, and the present parsonage was erected the same year. In 1935 the church was completely renovated and an educational building added at a cost of $15,000. In 1946 the congregation observed its centennial. It is one of the strong churches in the community, and it is steadily growing in membership and in its influence for good. The Reverend John W. New is the present pastor.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. This church was organized in 1877. It had among its charter members such prominent citizens as Judge Bassett, Judge W. W. Searcy, Captain Graham Sloan, and others. The present building was erected in 1879, and has been in constant use, except for a few years.

Dr. W. K. Riggs served as pastor of the congregation for

many years. For some time the congregation consisted of a large and active membership. Unfortunately, many of the leading members moved to other centers, and for a few years no services were held.

By 1919 some new members had moved to Brenham, and efforts were made to reorganize the congregation and begin services again. Several resident ministers have served the church since 1919. At present, however, it is being served by Dr. Thomas Gordon Watts, former pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Bryan.

The SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS have a small congregation in Brenham, the leading members of which are the J. F. Schramm family, Miss Lydia Eldred and others. They are small in number but strong in faith and good works.

The BNAI ABRAHAM congregation was organized about 1885. Jewish immigrants came to Washington County as early as 1861, when B. Levinson settled here. About 1866 came the Alex Simon family, whose descendants have been prominently connected with business enterprises in Brenham, as well as with social and civic affairs.

As more Jewish people came to this city, a congregation was organized. At first it held services on the Sabbath and on High Holidays in the hall of the Second Texas Infantry Band on Baylor Street on the site now occupied by the public library.

The first Hebrew Synagogue was erected in 1892, but was destroyed by fire the same year, and the present building was erected in 1893. The congregation assumed the name Bnai Abraham. L. Fink was the first president of the congregation; F. Susnitzky, vice president; L. Z. Harrison, treasurer; and J. Lewis and Abe Fink, secretaries, during 1897 and 1898.

Among the charter members were: Joe Levin, J. Fink, B. L. Levin, Abe Harrison, M. Rosenstock, H. Levin, A. Aranson, P. Meyer, H. Mammerman, G. H. Hyman, M. Gutman, N. Cennamon, J. Lipshitz, B. Schoenfeld, M. Wolf, L. Vilinski, M. N. Fink, H. Gross, J. Stein, and L. Becker.

A Sabbath and Hebrew school was organized in January, 1899. The congregation was served by Rabbis Israel, M. Schwartzstein, L. D. Rabinowitz, I. Nurbin, L. Katz, M. Alter. After Rabbi Eskin, who died in 1943, no regular rabbi has served the congregation.

COLORED CHURCHES. Brenham has a number of colored churches. A Baptist church is on the corner of Gay and Garrett streets; a Methodist Church is on the corner of High and First streets; the African Methodist Church is on Alamo Avenue and Davidson Street, and several other churches of the same and different denominations are around the edges of the city. A colored Catholic Church is located about seven miles from Brenham on the Old Washington highway.

Civic Service and Fraternal Clubs

The AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN is a national educational organization that was founded in 1882 by a small group of women who held degrees from colleges and universities. Their purpose was to emphasize the importance of admitting women to colleges and universities. The organization also stood for equal rights for women in the industrial and business enterprises of the country. The national association has grown rapidly and today counts close to 70,000 members and about 900 chapters.

The university women of Brenham, under the leadership of Miss Margaret Cotham, Professor of English in Blinn College, and Mrs. Ben Ziesmer, organized the Brenham, Texas, branch of this national association on June 16, 1941, when the following officers were elected: Miss Margaret Cotham, president; Mrs. J. W. Gilliland, vice president; and Mrs. Wm. Suter, secretary-treasurer. Mrs. B. H. Ziesmer was appointed membership chairman; Miss Tina Curtis, educational chairman; Mrs. Tom Whitehead, publicity chairman; Miss Joardis Parks, social studies; Miss Marjorie Arp, creative arts; Mrs. Louis Beazley, economic and legal status; Miss Frances Sharpe, fellowship; and Miss Sue Moore, librarian. On July 21, 1941, their charter was approved by the national association.

The local chapter has been very active since its beginning. Meetings are held regularly and topics of current interest are ably discussed by some member at their meetings. A few years after its organization, this chapter established a scholarship for high school girls of Washington County who want to enter Blinn College and who can quali-

fy for college entrance. Four girls have received this scholarship to date. They are Miss Gail Hinze, Miss Ruthlyce Knight, Miss Dorothy Appel and Miss Estelle Bernshausen.

The present officials of the Brenham branch of the association are: Miss Marjorie Arp, president; Miss Margaret Cotham, vice president; Mrs. Cecil Fae Donalson, secretary; Mrs. J. A. Ruggles, treasurer; and Miss Tina Curtis, historian.

The BRENHAM PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION began its activities about 1910. Mrs. Bowers was one of its first members and president, and Mrs. H. G. Simmons became secretary about 1913, both ladies doing much pioneer work in the organization.

For years there were three groups of the Parent-Teacher Association in Brenham, one in the Alamo school, one in Central school, and a third one in the high school. The latter, however, has not been functioning since about 1946.

These groups of the association have done much to bring about better understanding between the homes of Brenham and their public school teachers. They have also been instrumental in bringing the needs of the schools before the public and before the administrative officials of the school system, and this has occasionally resulted in the betterment of conditions and in improvements on the school plants. Undoubtedly there is no better connecting agency between the public of a school district and its educational forces than a wide-awake and understanding Parent-Teacher Association.

The BRENHAM ROTARY CLUB was organized in 1921, with Judge W. J. Embrey as its first president and Fred Amsler as secretary. Judge Embrey served two years as president and Fred Amsler as secretary for many years. These two gentlemen are the only charter members still with the club.

The club has never grown into a large membership, generally having from thirty to forty members. But it has assumed the leadership in many worth-while movements and projects. When the Rotary Club endorses a project or movement, it means a great deal, as among its membership are some of the leading citizens of Brenham.

In the past years the club has sponsored a young men's project at Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College. This project was in the form of a rooming and boarding house

intended largely for young men from Washington County who needed help to go to college. Probably several hundred young men from Washington County have had the benefit of this project house, where the cost of meals and lodging was at a minimum. At present the value of this house is estimated at about $25,000.

Every summer the club sends a high school junior to the Boy State at Austin. It backed up substantially every Boy Scout project and movement in the county, and boosted the movement for funds to build a public swimming pool for Brenham. At present it is sponsoring the skating rink at Blinn College by making a loan of $500 to the College to purchase the skates. This loan is being paid back on the installment plan.

The club meets every Tuesday at noon for lunch at Hotel St. Anthony. Its present officials are: Claude Mast, president; Adolph Wiede, vice president; Henry A. Wood III, secretary; and Almot Schlenker, treasurer. Miss Patsy Koon is Sweetheart of the Club.

The BRENHAM LIONS CLUB dates its beginning back to September 1, 1936, with the following charter members: Walter Collins, M. H. Ehlert, H. E. Ferguson, Franklin Fisher, R. K. Gardner, Fred Heineke, L. Henkel, Dr. H. Hodde, J. E. Josey, C. E. Koon, A. F. Menke, Wesley Niebuhr, Ernest Rising, Ernest Schawe, Leon Simank, Richard Spinn, A. C. Stepan, E. F. Stegemueller, J. E. Weisler, Dr. A. E. Stinnett, A. J. Williams, Frank Kulhanek, and W. E. Taylor.

The first officers of the club were: J. E. Weisler, president; Walter Collins, first vice president; M. H. Ehlert, second vice president; E. F. Stegemueller, third vice president; A. F. Menke, secretary-treasurer; J. E. Josey, lion tamer; and Wesley Niebuhr, tail twister. The directors were: Richard Spinn, C. E. Koon, A. J. Williams, and Fred Heineke. The club held its first meeting on October 20, 1936, in the Blinn College dining hall, where it met regularly for over a year. At first the club started to meet weekly, but soon it was decided to meet twice monthly on Tuesday evening. This order has been adhered to consistently ever since. Its usual meeting place now is the American Legion Hall, although the club has met at various places.

True to its ideals as a service club, this local chapter has

taken interest in assisting blind children or children with defective eyesight. The club also boosts and sponsors Boy Scout activities, the biggest item under this activity that it has carried out being the erection of the Boy Scout hut close to Firemen's Park. It also annually sends a high school junior to the Boy State at Austin. It has taken interest in the 4-H Clubs of the county by making loans to these clubs to enable them to undertake some projects in animal husbandry.

Its present officials are: Leon Simank, president; A. M. Rogers, first vice president; G. A. Tracy, second vice president; B. H. Ziesmer, third vice president; R. W. Loesch, secretary; Billy Sohns, treasurer; F. E. Buehrer, lion tamer; and Travis T. Voelkel, tail twister. The directors are: E. J. Gerbermann, Irvin Navratil, John F. Reed and D. S. Walters. Joan Schmid is the Sweetheart of the Club.

The BRENHAM FORTNIGHTLY CLUB was organized in 1895, with the following charter members: Mrs. T. B. Botts, Mrs. Beauregard Bryan, Mrs. B. Eldridge, Miss Frankie Foote, Mrs. C. C. Garrett, Mrs. H. K. Harrison, Mrs. Henry Hughes, Mrs. John M. Key, Mrs. J. L. Lockett, Mrs. R. E. Luhn, Mrs. H. C. McIntyre, Miss Lucy Rucker and Mrs. O. A. Seward.

In 1901 this club established a public library, which, at that time, was housed on the second floor of the old city hall. In 1934, the present library building was erected especially for that purpose, as stated before. The club became a member of the State Federation in 1899 and of the General Federation in 1914. In 1920 it was admitted to membership in the Pioneer Club, and in 1932 it organized itself into art, civic, literary and music departments, with officials of each department.

According to the constitution and by-laws of the club, the chief purpose or object for its existence is "the establishment and maintenance of a public library, and mutual and civic improvement."

The club holds regular monthly business meetings on the second Tuesday of each month, in which members of all departments take part. A year book is prepared and published annually.

The present officials of the club are: Mrs. Louis Beaumier, president; Miss Marjorie Arp, first vice president; Mrs. W. F. Hasskarl, second vice president; Mrs. Lorenz Sei-

del, secretary; Mrs. A. E. Stinnett, treasurer; Mrs. Gordon Langston, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. W. C. Dobritz, reporter.

The board of directors of the library is composed at the present time of the following members: Mrs. Louis Beaumier, Mrs. A. F. Stinnett, Mrs. Day Sampley and Mrs. E. P. Anderson. Mrs. H. G. Simmons is the librarian.

GRAHAM LODGE NO. 20, A. F. and A. M. dates back to 1844, when D. McGee, James Wm. Hunt, J. D. Giddings, Geo. W. Gentry, Henry King and Hugh McIntyre "petitioned the Grand Lodge Republic of Texas for a charter for Graham Lodge, under the dispensation, which was recommended by Milam Lodge No. 11 of Independence, Texas, now demised. A dispensation was granted at Washington, Texas, on August 24, 1844, by Brother Thomas G. Western, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge Republic of Texas. The charter was finally granted on January 13, 1845, with the following Brothers serving as first officers of Graham Lodge No. 20: Henry King as first Worshipful Master, James Wm. Hunt as first Senior Warden, and H. C. McIntyre as first Junior Warden."[8]

Early in its history, Graham Lodge took active interest in education by taking over Hickory Grove School, built in 1840. This school was taken over in 1848 or 1849 and the name of the school changed to Masonic Academy, and at the same time the building was enlarged. This academy was sponsored by the local chapter till 1875, when free schools became active. It was then that Graham Lodge No. 20 presented its school property to the city of Brenham.

Graham Lodge No. 20 is strong today, adding constantly to its membership. As of January 24, 1944, it reported 163 members. In that year the officers were W. J. Sloan, W. M.; H. L. Steinbach, S. W.; J. M. Tomme, Jr., J. W.; Joe E. Snodgrass, treasurer; M. H. Wittner, secretary; R. D. McLaid, S. D.; Fred Graber, J. D.; C. W. Rankin, Sr., S. S.; Robert Koenig, J. S.; C. E. Stokes deceased, Tiler.

The EASTERN STAR, Brenham Chapter No. 144, Order of the Eastern Star, was established October 25, 1923, with Mrs. Jessie M. Tucker as Worthy Matron and G. W.

[8] Information from "Centennial Program," Graham Lodge No. 20.

Kopp as Worthy Patron. Mrs. Bertha DeWare was Associate Matron.

The following charter members are recorded: Mrs. Jessie M. Tucker, Bertha DeWare, Mattie R. Ferguson, Isabel Haring, Ruth Haring, Mrs. Lulu High, Florence High, Bertha High, Alma High, Zolo High, Mrs. Ella Mae Kopp, Mrs. Kate Landgraf, Mrs. Edwin W. Pflughaupt, Mrs. Lillian Pflughaupt, Mrs. Julian Rogers, Annie Marek, Mrs. Lizzie Reichardt, Mrs. Clara Simmons, Mrs. Annie Stokes, Maud Reese and Mrs. Robert Schreiber.

The meeting place of this organization is in the Masonic Temple of Brenham, Texas, the first Tuesday of each month.

The present officers of the chapter are: Miss Florence High, Worthy Matron; W. C. Dobritz, Worthy Patron; Mrs. Ada Hackney, Associate Matron; and M. H. Ehlert, Associate Patron.

BRENHAM LODGE B. P. O. ELKS 979 was organized July 5, 1905. The Elks of the country have set for themselves the high ideal of enhancing the happiness of others and alleviating the suffering of crippled children.

The local club supports every Boy Scout movement and assists in sponsoring the Elks Crippled Children's Hospital at Ottine, Texas, in Gonzales County, where children are being treated for polio and other diseases.

The local lodge has its own club house, which is provided with all kinds of conveniences and accommodations. It has a membership of about three hundred. The present officials are: Kirvin Kieke, Exalted Ruler; Leon Simank, Leading Knight; Frank Wood III, Loyal Knight; Travis Philips, Esquire; Oscar Schubert, Inner Guard; Fred Amsler, Secretary; T. A. Low, Sr., Treasurer; and Sam Muery, Tiler. H. S. Rubenstein is secretary of the Texas Elks State Association. This club meets on every second and fourth Wednesday of each month in the Elks Club Rooms.

The GRAND LODGE OF THE SONS OF HERMANN was organized in Brenham, Texas, March, 1890, with such charter members as Adolph Moehler, Chas. Holenza, Robert Strickert, W. F. Cordes, E. G. Langhamer, Wm. Wenenwieser, Ed. Amsler, T. U. Meyer, Hugo Becker, C. Niederauer, H. Franke, Ben Schmid, E. Reichardt, F. Kretexlin, and G. E. Neinast.

The name of the local chapter is Vorwaerts Lodge No. G. The order was named after Hermann, the famous leader of the Teutonic hordes against Caesar Augustus' legions in Teutaburg Forest, in which the Romans suffered a disastrous defeat.

The present officers of the local chapter are: F. C. Kugel, president; Henry Tiaden, vice president; and W. H. Schwenker, secretary-treasurer.

The WOMAN'S AUXILIARY to the WASHINGTON COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY was first organized in 1920, but after two years was again disbanded. On September 18, 1931, it was reorganized by Mrs. M. A. Jones of Hempstead, council woman for the Ninth District of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Texas Medical Association, who explained the aims and duties of the Auxiliary.

Mrs. T. O. Wooley was elected president; Mrs. G. A. L. Kusch, vice president; Mrs. H. Holle, recording secretary; Mrs. O. F. Schoenvogel, corresponding secretary; Mrs. F. Hodde, treasurer; Mrs. R. A. Hasskarl, press reporter. Other charter members were: Mrs. A. E. Becker, who was elected parliamentarian; Mrs. R. E. Knolle and Mrs. W. F. Hasskarl.

Several of the members have attended State and District conventions and have held offices in these larger units. Mrs. R. A. Hasskarl was president and treasurer of the South Texas District Medical Auxiliary (8th, 9th, 10th District) in turn, and served at State Historian. Mrs. C. E. Southern served as Council Woman of the Ninth District and as president and vice president of the South Texas District Medical Auxiliary. Mrs. W. F. Hasskarl was treasurer and Council Woman of the same district, and Mrs. A. E. Becker was recording secretary of the state organization and also president of the district, while Mrs. T. O. Wooley served a term as first vice president of the South Texas District Medical Auxiliary and as corresponding secretary.

In 1946 the Auxiliary entertained the South Texas District Medical Auxiliary which was held in Brenham, with the Washington and Austin County Medical Auxiliaries acting as joint hostesses.

The local Auxiliary has contributed annually toward a student loan fund for needy medical students. It gave $25.00 toward the cost of the iron lung purchased by the citizens of Brenham in 1937. This local chapter of the Medical Auxili-

ary has also contributed to the Tubercular Fund, the Cancer Fund, and the Crippled Children's Home at Gonzales, and the March of Dimes.[9]

The officers for 1948 to 1949 are: Mrs. Robt. A. Hasskarl, president; Mrs. Roger E. Knolle, vice president; Mrs. Sam Toubin, recording secretary; Mrs. Arthur Becker, corresponding secretary; Mrs. A. Miller, treasurer; Mrs. F. Graber, press reporter; and Mrs. S. E. Stafford, parliamentarian.

The BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB of Brenham was organized in 1925, with the following charter members: Mrs. E. A. Becker, Miss Alma High (deceased), Mrs. Bertha High Schreiber, Miss Frederick Turner, Miss Adele Cathriner Carmean, Mrs. W. H. Koller, Mrs. Dula Jahnke Strickert, Mrs. Rosa Levin Toubin, Mrs. Louise Marek Pennington, Mrs. Ella Werner Searcy, Miss Rosa Evans, Miss Myrtle Kenney (deceased), Miss Kathryne Blondeau, Miss Della Niederauer, Miss Florence High, Mrs. Jessie Holtzclaw, Mrs. Leona Weimann Becker, Miss Sophie Heine, Miss Dollie Lisk (deceased), Miss Texana Ehlert, Miss Rosa Levine.

The original aim of the club was recreational. Later, however, it began to sponsor play and physical training activities. It meets on the third Thursday in each month.

The present officers are: Mrs. Josey Viereck, president; Mrs. E. E. Holtzclaw, vice president; Miss Ida Mae Williams, treasurer; and Miss Marie Wigand, secretary.

AMERICAN LEGION, BUDDY WRIGHT POST NO. 48 was organized in 1919. From its very beginning the Post has been a real power for all kinds of wholesome and helpful activities in the county and in taking care of Buddies who needed help. Some of the very best citizens of the county belonged to it from the first.

In 1936, under the leadership of Commander Ben Schleider, the beautiful Legion Hall was built of native rock. This hall has not only served the Buddy Wright Post No. 48, but the public as a whole has had the use of this hall.

The Buddy Wright Post No. 48 has sponsored most of the important programs, especially those of a patriotic nature, the most outstanding being the Texas Centennial celebration

[9] Information from manuscript by Mrs. R. A. Hasskarl of Brenham.

in March, 1936, which was observed with a grand parade in Brenham and then followed by an all-day program out at Washington Park, where thousands of people from all over Texas and from other states gathered for the celebration.

The late World War has added considerable new blood to the membership. The American Legion, not only in Washington County or Texas, but all over the United States, will and can be a mighty force for true Americanism, which must include things that are sound, safe and sane in our economic, civil and international relationships.

The following ex-service men have served as commanders of the American Legion Buddy Wright Post No. 48 since 1919: Giddings Stone (deceased), H. A. Kelling, Dr. R. E. Nicholson, Gus Fink, H. L. Zschappel, F. W. S. Chappel, S. H. Hyman, E. A. Gajeske, W. W. Gross, Joe K. Gurka, Louis Beazley, E. F. Kruse, C. D. Dallmeyer, Dr. E. W. Stork (deceased), Dr. Wm. Schell (deceased), H. R. Scharff, Ben Schleider, J. V. Dietz, W. C. Dorbritz, W. T. Owens, F. C. Pflughaupt, I. H. Bartz, J. L. Routt, A. F. Wiede, F. W. Mieling, Franklin Fisher, and M. H. Ehlert. James H. Atkinson is commander at present.[10]

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[10] Brenham *Banner-Press*, Vol. 88, No. 223, October 9, 1948.

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APPENDIXES

Appendix A

The *Declaration of Texas Independence* had its background in the oppressive Mexican Governmnt that disregarded the rights of the people, and in conditions that made for unhappiness of the people in general. Believing, as all good Americans do, that sovereignty is vested in the people and that those in authority are merely the people's servants in government, these sturdy Texans met at Washington-on-the-Brazos on March 1, 1836, and on the second of that month issued to all mankind a solemn declaration of independence from Mexican rule.

UNANIMOUS
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
BY THE
DELEGATES OF THE PEOPLE OF TEXAS
IN GENERAL CONVENTION
AT THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON
ON THE SECOND DAY OF MARCH, 1836

When a government has ceased to protect the lives, liberty, and property of the people, from whom its legitimate powers are derived, and for the advancement of whose happiness it was instituted; and, so far from being a guarantee for their inestimable and inalienable rights, becomes an instrument in the hands of evil rulers for their oppression: when the Federal Republican Constitution of their country, which they have sworn to support, no longer has a substantial existence, and the whole nature of their government has been forcibly changed, without their consent, from a restricted Federative Republic, composed of Sovereign States, to a consolidated Central Military despotism, in which every interest is disregarded but that of the army and the priesthood, both the eternal enemies of civil liberty, the ever ready minions of power, and the usual instruments of ty-

rants: when, long after the spirit of the constitution has departed, moderation is at length so far lost by those in power, that even the semblance of freedom is removed, and the forms themselves of the constitution discontinued, and so far from their petitions and remonstrances being regarded, the agents who bear them are thrown into dungeons, and mercenary armies are sent forth to force a new government upon them at the point of the bayonet: when, in consequence of such acts of malfeasance and abduction on the part of the government, anarchy prevails and civil society is dissolved into its original elements; in such a crisis, the first law of nature, the right of self-preservation, the inherent and inalienable right of the people to appeal to first principles, and take their political affairs into their own hands in extreme cases, enjoins it as a right towards themselves and a sacred obligation to their posterity to abolish such government, and create another in its stead, calculated to rescue them from impending dangers, and to secure their welfare and happiness.

Nations, as well as individuals, are amenable for their acts to the public opinion of mankind. A statement of a part of our grievances is therefore submitted to an impartial world, in justification of the hazardous but unavoidable step now taken, of severing our political connection with the Mexican people, and assuming an independent attitude among the nations of the earth.

The Mexican Government, by its colonization laws, invited and induced the Anglo-American population of Texas to colonize its wilderness under the pledge of faith of a written constitution, that they should continue to enjoy that constitutional liberty and republican government to which they had been habituated in the land of their birth, the United States of America.

In this expectation they have been cruelly disappointed, inasmuch as the Mexican nation has acquiesced in the late changes made in the government by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, who, having overturned the constitution of his country, now offers, as a cruel alternative, either to abandon our homes, acquired by so many privations, or submit to the most intolerable of all tyranny, the combined despotism of the sword and the priesthood.

It hath sacrificed our welfare to the State of Coahuila, by which our interests have been continually depressed through a jealous and partial course of legislation, carried on at a far distant seat of government, by a hostile majority in an unknown tongue, and this too, notwithstanding we have petitioned in the humblest terms for the establishment of a separate state government, and have, in accordance with the provisions of the nation-

al constitution, presented to the general congress a republican constitution, which was, without just cause, contemptuously rejected.

It incarcerated in a dungeon, for a long time, one of our citizens, for no other cause but a zealous endeavor to procure the acceptance of our constitution and the establishment of a state government.

It has failed and refused to secure, on a firm basis, the right of trial by jury, that palladium of civil liberty and only safe guarantee for the life, liberty, and property of the citizen.

It has failed to establish any public system of education, although possessed of almost boundless resources (the public domain), and although it is an axiom in political science that, unless a people are educated and enlightened, it is idle to expect the continuance of civil liberty, or the capacity for self-government.

It has suffered the military commandants, stationed among us, to exercise arbitrary acts of oppression and tyranny, thus trampling upon the most sacred rights of the citizen, and rendering the military superior to the civil power.

It has dissolved, by force of arms, the state congress of Coahuila and Texas, and obliged our representatives to fly for their lives from the seat of government, thus depriving us of the fundamental political right of representation.

It has demanded the surrender of a number of our citizens, and ordered military detachments to seize and carry them into the interior for trial, in contempt of the civil authorities, and in defiance of the laws and the constitution.

It has made piratical attacks upon our commerce by commissioning foreign desperadoes, and authorizing them to seize our vessels and convey the property of our citizens to far distant parts for confiscation.

It denies us the right of worshipping the Almighty according to the dictates of our own conscience, by the support of a National Religion, calculated to promote the temporal interest of its human functionaries, rather than the glory of the true and living God.

It has demanded us to deliver up our arms, which are essential to our defense — the rightful property of freedom — and formidable only to tyrannical governments.

It has invaded our country both by sea and by land, with the intent to lay waste our territory, and drive us from our homes; and has now a large mercenary army advancing, to carry on against us a war of extermination.

It has, through its emissaries, incited the merciless savage,

with the tomahawk and scalping knife, to massacre the inhabitants of our defenseless frontiers.

It has been, during the whole time of our connection with it, the contemptible sport and victim of successive military revolutions, and hath continually exhibited every characteristic of a weak, corrupt, and tyrannical government.

These, and other grievances, were patiently borne by the people of Texas, until they reached that point at which forbearance ceases to be a virtue. We then took up arms in defence of the National Constitution. We appealed to our Mexican brethren for assistance: our appeal has been made in vain. Though months have elapsed, no sympathetic response has yet been heard from the interior. We are, therefore, forced to the melancholy conclusion that the Mexican people have acquiesced in the destruction of their liberty, and the substitution therefor of a military government; that they are unfit to be free, and incapable of self-government.

The necessity of self-preservation, therefore, now decrees our eternal political separation.

We, therefore, the delegates, with plenary powers of the people of Texas, in solemn convention assembled, appealing to a candid world for the necessities of our condition, do hereby resolve and DECLARE, that our political connection with the Mexican nation has forever ended, and that the people of Texas do now constitute a FREE, SOVEREIGN, and INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC, and are fully invested with all the rights and attributes which properly belong to independent nations; and conscious of the rectitude of our intentions, we fearlessly and confidently commit to the decision of the supreme Arbiter of the destinies of nations.

RICHARD ELLIS,
President

George C. Childress,
Sterling C. Robertson,
of Viesca.

Chas. B. Stewart,
Thomas Barnett,
Austin.

Jas. Collinsworth,
Edwin Waller,
Asa Brigham,
J. S. D. Byrom,
Brazoria.

Francisco Ruiz,
José Antonio Navarro,
Jesse B. Badgett,
Bexar.

William D. Lacy,
William Menefee,
Colorado.

James Gaines,
W. Clark, Jr.,
Sabine.

John Fisher,
Matt. Calwell,
Gonzales.

William Motley,
Goliad.

Lorenzo de Zavala,
Harrisburg.

Steph. H. Everitt,
George W. Smyth,
Jasper.

Claiborne West,
William B. Scates,
Jefferson.

M. B. Menard,
A. B. Hardin,
Liberty.

Bailey Hardeman,
Matagorda.

J. W. Bunton,
Thos. J. Gazley,
R. M. Coleman,
Mina.

Elijah Stapp,
Jackson.

Robert Potter,
Thomas J. Rusk,
Ch. S. Taylor,
John S. Roberts,
Nacogdoches.

Robert Hamilton,
Collin McKinney,
Albert H. Latimer,
Red River.

Martin Parmer,
E. O. Legrand.
Steph. W. Blount,
San Augustine.

Syd. O. Pennington,
W. Car'l Crawford,
Shelby.

James Power,
Sam. Houston,
David Thomas,
Edward Conrad,
Refugio.

John Turner,
San Patricio.

B. Briggs Goodrich,
G. W. Barnett,
James G. Swisher,
Jesse Grimes,
Washington.

The following were not able to be at the convention, but were duly elected delegates, and signed later: Samuel Rhoads Fisher, Matagorda; Samuel A. Maverick, Bexar; John White Bower, Goliad; James B. Woods, Andrew Briscoe, John W. Moore, Harrisburg; a total of fifty-eight who signed the Declaration of Independence.

Appendix B

SPEECH DELIVERED BY SAM HOUSTON IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE MARCH 3, 1857, ON THE NEBRASKA AND KANSAS BILL

MR. PRESIDENT, – I have very little hope that any appeal which I can make for the Indians will do any good. The honorable senator from Indiana (Mr. Pettit) says in substance that God Almighty has condemned them and has made them an inferior race; that there is no use in doing anything for them. With great deference to that senator, for whom I have never cherished any but kindly feelings, I must be permitted to dissent from his opinions. He says they are not civilized and they are not homogeneous, and cannot be so with the white race. They cannot be civilized! No! Sir, it is idle to tell me that. We have Indians on our western borders whose civilization is not inferior to our own.

It is within the recollection of gentlemen here that, more than twenty years ago, President Ross, one of them, held a correspondence upon the rights of the Indians to the Cherokee country which they possessed east of the Mississippi, and maintained himself in the controversy with great credit and ability; and the triumph of Mr. Adams, if it was one, was much less than he had obtained over the diplomatist of Spain (Mr. Don Onis) in relation to the occupation of Florida by General Jackson. The senator from Indiana says that in ancient times Moses received a command to go and drive the Canaanites and Moabites out of the land of Canaan, and that Joshua subsequently made the experiment of incorporating one tribe of the heathen with the Israelites, but finally had to be killed off. Therefore, the senator concludes, the Cherokees cannot be civilized. There may have been something statesmanlike in the policy, but I do not discover the morality of it. I will say, however, that there is no analogy between the two cases. The people of Judea who were killed or exterminated were idolaters, and the object was to keep the people of Israel free from taint of idols and idolatry under the command of Providence, and therefore the extermination in his dispensation became necessary. But the Cherokees never have been idolaters, neither have the Creeks, nor the Choctaws, nor the Chickasaws. They believe in one Great Spirit – in God – the white man's God. They believe in his Son Jesus Christ, and his atonement and propitiation for the sins of men. They believe in the sanctifying efficacy of the Holy Ghost. They bow to the Christian's altar and they believe the Sacred Volume.

Sir, you may drive these people away and give their lands to the white man; but let it not be done on the justification of the Scriptures. They have well-organized societies; they have villages and towns; they have their state houses and their capitals; they have females and men who would grace the drawing-rooms or salons of Washington; they have a well-organized judiciary, a trial by jury, and the writ of habeas corpus.

These are the people for whom I demand justice in the organization of these Territories. They are men of education. They have more than one hundred native preachers in those tribes, as I have heard. They have their colleges, as I remarked in my former address to the Senate on this subject. They become associated in friendship with our young men in the various institutions in the United States; and they are prepared to be incorporated upon equal terms with us. But even if they were wild Indians, untutored, when you deprive them of what would give them knowledge and discourage them from making an effort to become civilized and social beings, how can you expect them to be otherwise than savages?

When you undertake to tame wild horses do you turn them from you and drive them into the desert, or do you take care of them and treat them with humanity? These Indians are not inferior, intellectually, to white men. John Ridge was not inferior in point of genius to John Randolph. His father, in point of native intellect, was not inferior to any man. Look at their social condition in the nations to which I have alluded. Look at the Chickasaws who remain in the State of Mississippi. Even among white men, with all their prejudices against the Indians, with their transcendent genius and accomplishments, they have been elected to the legislature. Whenever they have had an opportunity they have shown that they are not inferior to white men, either in sense or sensibility.

But the honorable senator from Iowa (Mr. Dodge) characterizes the remarks which I made in reference to the Indians as arising from a feeling of "sickly sentimentality." Sir, it is sickly sentimentality that was implanted in me when I was young, and it has grown up with me. The Indian has a sense of justice, truth, and honor that should find a responsive chord in every heart. If the Indians on the frontier are barbarous, or if they are cannibals, and eat each other, who are to blame for it? They are robbed of the means of sustenance, and with hundreds and thousands of them starving on the frontier, hunger may prompt to such acts to prevent their perishing. We shall never become cannibals in connection with the Indians; but we do worse than that. We rob them, first of their native dignity and character; we rob them next of what the government appropriates for them.

If we do not do it in this hall, men are invested with power and authority, who, officiating as agents or traders, rob them of everything which is designated for them. Not less than one hundred million dollars, I learn from statistics, since adoption of this government, have been appropriated by Congress for purposes of justice and benevolence toward the Indians; but I am satisfied that they have never realized fifteen millions beneficially. They are too remote from the seat of government for their real condition to be understood here; and if the government intends liberality or justice toward them it is often diverted from the intended object and consumed by speculators.

I am a friend of the Indian upon the principle that I am a friend to justice. We are not bound to make them promises; but if a promise is made to an Indian it ought to be regarded as sacredly as if it were made to a white man. If we treat them as tribes, recognize them, send commissioners to form treaties and exchange ratifications with them, and the treaties are negotiated, accepted, ratified, and exchanged — having met with the approval of the Senate — I think they may be called compacts; and how are these compacts regarded? Just as we choose to construe them at the time, without any reference to the wishes of the Indians or whether we do them kindness or justice in the operation or not. We are often prompted to their ratification by persons interested; and we lend ourselves unintentionally to an unjust act of oppression upon the Indians by men who go and get the signatures to a treaty. The Indian's mark is made; the employees of the government certify or witness it; and the Indians do not understand it for they do not know what is written. These are some of the circumstances connected with the Indians.

Gentlemen have spoken here of voting millions to build ships, and placing the army and navy at the disposition of the President in the event that England act inconsistently with treaty stipulations. This is done because, if England violates a treaty with us, our national honor is injured. Now I should like to know if it becomes us to violate a treaty made with the Indians when we please, regardless of every principle of truth and honor? We should be careful if it were with a power able to war with us; and it argues a degree of infinite meanness and indescribable degradation on our part to act indifferently with the Indians, who confide in our honor and justice, and who call the President their Great Father and confide in him. Mr. President, it is in the power of the Congress of the United States to do some justice to the Indians by giving them a government of their own, and encouraging them in their organization and improvement by inviting their delegates to a place on the floor of the Senate and House of Representatives. If you will not do it,

the sin will lie at your door, and Providence, in his own way, mysterious and incomprehensible to us though it is, will accomplish all his purposes, and may at some day avenge the wrongs of the Indians upon our nation. As a people we can save them; and the sooner the great work is begun, the sooner will humanity have cause to rejoice in its accomplishment.

Mr. President, I shall say little more. My address may have been desultory. It embraces many subjects which it would be very hard to keep in entire order. We have, in the first place, the extensive territory; then we have considerations due to the Indians; and we have the proposed repeal of the Missouri Compromise, which seems to require the most explanation and to be the main point in the controversy. The great principle involved in that repeal is non-intervention, which, we are told, is to be of no practical benefit if the Compromise is repealed. It can have no effect but to keep up agitation. Sir, the friends who have survived the distinguished men who took prominent parts in the drama of the Compromise of 1850 ought to feel gratified that those men are not capable of participating in the events of today, but that they were permitted, after they had accomplished their labors and seen their country in peace, to leave the world, as Simeon did, with the exclamation: "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation." They departed in peace, and they left their country in peace. They felt, as they were about to be gathered to the tombs of their fathers, that the country they had loved so well and which had honored them – that country upon whose fame and name their doings had shed a bright lustre which shines abroad throughout all Christendom – was reposing in peace and happiness.

What would their emotions be if they could now be present and see an effort made, if not so designed, to undo all their work and to tear asunder the cords that they had bound around the hearts of their countrymen? They have departed. The nation felt the wound; and we see the memorials of woe still in the chamber. The proud symbol (the eagle) above your head remains enshrouded in black, as if it deplored the misfortune which had befallen us, or as a fearful omen of future calamities which await our nation in the event this bill should become a law.

Above it I behold the majestic figure of Washington, whose presence must ever inspire patriotic emotions and command the admiration and love of every American heart. By these associations I adjure you to regard the contract made to harmonize and preserve this Union. Maintain the Missouri Compromise! Stir not up agitation. Give us peace.

This much I was bound to declare, in behalf of my country, as I believe, and I know in behalf of my constituents. In the discharge of my duty I have acted fearlessly. The events of the future are left in the hands of a wise Providence; and, in my opinion, upon the decision which we make upon this question must depend union or disunion.[1]

Appendix C

WILLIAM BARRETT TRAVIS, the hero of the Alamo, was born in Conecah County, Alabama, in 1811. He was admitted to the bar and practiced law. He also taught school for a while and married one of his pupils, by whom he had two children. He arrived in Texas in 1832, taking part in the insurrectionary movement against the Mexican Government at that time. He was soon imprisoned by Bradburn at Anahuac. After that he moved to San Felipe, where he practiced law. When the Mexican armies began to move into Texas again in 1835, he was placed in command of the garrison at the Alamo.

In his personal appearance he was tall, with well-proportioned figure, and carried himself soldier-like. He was only twenty-seven years of age when he died.

There is so much strength of soul and character in his immortal message to American people everywhere that every generation can profit by reading this message. We give it here:

COMMANDANCY OF THE ALAMO,
Bejar, Feby. 24th, 1836.

TO THE PEOPLE OF TEXAS AND ALL
AMERICANS IN THE WORLD,

Fellow Citizens and Compatriots – I am besieged, by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna – I have sustained a continual bombardment and cannonade for twenty-four hours and have not lost a man – The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise, the garrison are to be put

[1] Hazeltine, Mayo W., *Great Orations from Homer to McKinley*, Vol. 12, P. F. Collier and Son, New York.

to the sword, if the fort is taken – I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, and our flag still waves proudly from the walls – I shall never surrender or retreat – Then, I call on you in the name of liberty, of patriotism, and everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid, with all dispatch – The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily and will no doubt increase to three or four thousand in four or five days. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible and die like a soldier who never forgets what is due his own honor and that of his country – VICTORY OR DEATH.

WILLIAM BARRETT TRAVIS
Lt. Col. Comdt.

P. S.: The Lord is on our side – When the enemy appeared in sight we had not three bushels of corn – We have since found in deserted houses 80 or 90 bushels and got into the walls 20 or 30 head of beeves. –

TRAVIS

Appendix D

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN. No mortal man ever lived a more unselfish life than did Stephen F. Austin. As empresario he had the opportunity to get title to enormous areas of land, and the best lands in Texas. But his interest in his people, his modesty, and unselfishness led him to sacrifice self-aggrandizement, which, however, was not always appreciated by the people, and this often hurt him to the very quick. He wrote:

For I do not merit it. I have no house, not a roof in all Texas that I could call my own. The only one I had was burned at San Felipe during the late invasion of the enemy. I make my home where the business of the country calls me. There is none here at the farm of my brother-in-law, who only began to open up this place three years ago, and is still in the primitive log cabins and wild shrubbery of the forest. I have no farm, no cotton plantation, no income, no money, no comforts. I have spent the prime of my life and worn out my constitution in trying to colonize this country. Many persons boast of their 300 and 400 leagues acquired by speculation without personal labor or the sacrifice

of years, even days; I shall be content to save twenty leagues or about ninety thousand acres, acquired very hard and very dear indeed. All my wealth is prospective and contingent upon the events of the future. What I have been able from time to time to realize in active means has gone as fast as realized, and much faster (for I am still in debt for the expenses of my trip to Mexico in 1833, '34, and '35) where my health and strength and time have gone, which is in the service of Texas, and I am therefore not ashamed of my present poverty.[2]

We quote Dr. Eugene C. Barker, author of *The Life of Stephen F. Austin,* who writes in the concluding paragraphs of this great work the following:

He (Austin) was a man of warm affections, and loved the idea of home, but he never married. Texas was home and wife and family to him. He died on a pallet on the floor of a two-room clapboard shack, a month and twenty-four days past his forty-third birthday. His work was done, but he was denied the years so hardly earned for the enjoyment of its fruits. There is a certain poetic completeness in this, but the prosaic mind rebels. Austin sowed unselfishly and abundantly, and he deserved to reap.

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[2] Austin writing to Ficklin, October 30, 1836.