

# The Promised Land

A History of Brown County, Texas

By JAMES C. WHITE  
PUBLISHER OF THE BROWNWOOD BANNER  
*Secretary and Historian of*  
BROWN COUNTY PIONEERS ASSOCIATION



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## PREFACE

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The series of sketches contained in this booklet was written primarily for newspaper publication rather than as a book. For many years the author and his associate, Mr. Clark C. Coursey, have been gathering and writing stories of the early days in Brown county, and the entire series has been published during the past seven months in serial form in *The Brownwood Banner*.

The purpose of this publication is to provide in convenient form a record of the early days in the Promised Land, particularly of the period from the founding of the county in 1856 to the end of the seventies. The facts and figures quoted herein are believed to be as authentic as it is possible to make them. Official records of activities in the frontier era are meagre, and we have depended upon the researches of many people in addition to the memories of a number of pioneer citizens for verification of many of the details of the several stories we have used. If there are any serious errors we apologize for them in advance of discovery, but believe that in the main the record is correct.

Hardships that are inconceivable to the present-day citizenry were endured by the early settlers of this and many other Central and West Texas counties. The menace of Indian raids during the first two decades was in reality one of the minor difficulties to be overcome. Of major importance was the clearing of the lands, the erection of homes, the establishment of schools and churches, inauguration of civil government and the building of a social order calculated to continue through the future.

Our pioneers were not adventurers in any sense of the word. They first visited this section, spying out the land and evaluating its potentialities. Then they moved in, with their families, their livestock and their household equipment, and settled down to live. Sources of supply were so far away, and transportation so slow and difficult that it was necessary for the early settlers to wrest their living from the country in which they lived. Money was probably needed less than any other thing. The most marvelous feature of the whole story is that so many not only managed to survive the hardships of the frontier, but lived to see the fruition of their work during the earlier years of the present century. Certainly, there were few weaklings among the pioneers of the Promised Land, but to the contrary they were a people who were strong physically, intellectually and morally. They have given to their children and their children's children a heritage that is priceless, and it is to honor these founders of the

county that this little publication is offered, the first printed record of their achievements.

Since our major purpose is to honor the pioneers themselves rather than to write a history of the county, we have sought to gather biographical information about the leaders of the frontier area. It is a source of regret that not all the heroic families of that period could be included in this record, but it is obviously an impossibility to secure the necessary information. If this little booklet has the effect of reviving in the hearts of the people a reverent respect for the memories of those who labored here and have gone on to their eternal reward, and if it inspires any of us who now enjoy the benefits of their labors to give more unselfish and sacrificial service in behalf of the community at large, we shall be well repaid for the effort required to assemble and publish this material.

This booklet is not written or published for profit. It is not copyrighted, and quotation from it is not only permitted but invited. It represents the combined efforts of many who have interested themselves in writing the history of the county, including the following, to all of whom our gratitude and obligation is hereby acknowledged: The Rev. F. M. Cross, pioneer preacher, from whose book describing pioneer days and conditions we have quoted liberally; Henry Ford, pioneer citizen and banker, whose series of "Calculators" contained much detailed information about the pioneer period; The "History of Brown County" written in 1935 by Professor T. R. Havins of Howard Payne College, after he had spent many months in research work here and in the archives at Austin; Tevis Clyde Smith's booklet describing many incidents of the pioneer period; personal research work by the late Henry C. Fuller, once a Brownwood newspaper man who gathered a great deal of information about the early day families of the county; Brooke Smith's autobiography, published serially in The Brownwood Banner in 1939-40; a voluminous scrapbook kept by Miss Elizabeth Dobbs; miscellaneous clippings from The Brownwood Daily Bulletin, of articles written while we were editor of that paper; the files of The Brownwood Banner; personal interviews with many pioneers and their descendants; letters and other data offered by scores of citizens; and the records of the Brown County Pioneers Association and many other sources. Clark C. Coursey, editor of The Brownwood Banner, shares with the author whatever credit may be due anyone for compilation of this material.

The booklet is respectfully and humbly dedicated to the Pioneers Association of Brown county.

JAMES C. WHITE.

## Civilization Moves In

TWO STATUESQUE horsemen sat on their ponies on the brow of a rolling hill, shortly after noon of a hot, July day in 1856. Their naked, bronzed bodies glistened sweatily in the mid-summer heat, and their ponies dropped their heads as though exceedingly weary.

Immobile, silent, their faces showing no trace of the thoughts tumbling through their minds, the riders gazed into the valley lying before them.

They long had known the land, for here they had visited many times on their journeyings to and fro, in search of food, hunting horses or following the vague trails of unknown visitors into their domain.

Today, however, their attention was crystalized upon slowly moving objects the like of which they had never before seen in this part of the country. Riders they had encountered many times; but here were wagons, and horsemen, and cattle, and women and children.

The Indians watched with a trace of instinctive uneasiness in their hearts. They who feared only the anger of the Great Spirit knew from the long talks about their council fires that the pale faces were steadily encroaching upon

their domain. Already the red men had been squeezed out of the fertile areas of the east, and compelled to maintain themselves on the more barren reaches of the buffalo country. Wherever wagons and white men went trouble came to the Indian. And here were wagons, and white people, moving purposefully into the verdant valley before them. An unexpressed fear gripped the hearts of the silent sentinels upon the hilltop.

It was the beginning of a new era for the western frontier, and of a new and the final hegira of the Indian. His days in the freedom of the open range were definitely numbered. Civilization was moving in.

This year, 1941, marks the eighty-fifth anniversary of the initial settlement of Brown county. Eighty-five years is not so long a time, measured against the tumultuous history of Texas, or the memory of citizens now living in this favored land. Nevertheless, the transition from uninhabited frontier to populous and prosperous urban communities covers a span of human activity that can hardly be measured by years, because it is epochal.

The saga of Brown county's frontiersmen is an oft-told tale, but a

tale, nevertheless, that is always full of thrilling interest. It parallels and in some respects even excels the romantic story of Texas as a whole; for here was wrought in a limited area and by a mere handful of heroic settlers what was accomplished in Texas by a larger but no more courageous population of adventurers, homesteaders, professional soldiers and thrill-seekers recruited from the four corners of the earth. Texas has been under six flags; but there was a time when no flag actually flew over Brown county, and no law save his own prowess and fortitude protected the Brown county citizen.

There is no record of the first visit to Brown county by a white man, as there is no record of the first visit to Texas by a white man. Tradition is as indistinct as is history on this point, but it is not unreasonable to surmise that three hundred years ago this section was visited by one or more of the adventurous explorers who came up from Mexico and elsewhere to spy out the land, and that their reports were similar to the optimistic conclusions of ancient Joshua and Caleb, who found a land flowing with milk and honey, although the inhabitants indeed were men of valor and the land itself presented many grave difficulties for those who contem-

plated conquering and possessing it.

The terrain of Brown county is the only thing that remains unchanged, or almost so, since the eye of man first saw it. The hills and the valleys, the trees, grasses and flowers are as inviting now as when first examined by the frontiersmen. But the life of this section has undergone a marked change. Then there were buffalo, antelope, wild deer, bears, panthers and every other form of wild animal life. There were roving bands of warlike Indians, already feeling desperately the constantly expanding encroachments of the invading pale faces, and ready to defend with every artifice known to them the land remaining as their heritage.

The first visitors of whom there is a credible record were Captain Henry S. Brown and a party of companions who came into Brown county in 1828, chasing a band of Indians who had stolen their horses. The county was named in honor of Captain Brown, although he had no later connection of importance with the founding or building of the county.

After the Battle of San Jacinto and the establishment of the Republic of Texas, Brown county was visited many times, perhaps, by Texans examining the country with a view to selecting lands up-

on which to settle. Included among these were surveyors and officials representing the Republic and one among this number was Judge Greenleaf Fisk, veteran of San Jacinto and a Senator of the Republic. Judge Fisk surveyed a portion of the county, and found the land so desirable that he chose as a part of his land grant (given to each San Jacinto veteran) lands in this county, including the present site of the city of Brownwood.

Among those who came here to spy out the land were Welcome W. Chandler, Jesse P. Hanna, Ambrose Bull, J. H. Fowler, and others. All these found the county ideal, from their standpoint, and in 1856 Mr. Chandler moved with his family to a site east of Pecan Bayou, built his log cabin and established his family as the first permanent residents. During the year several others joined the Chandler family, settling at various points, principally in the eastern part of what was first included in Brown county but later was separated and made a part of Mills county.

The Chandler home was located a half mile east of Pecan Bayou, near the edge of what is now the Lucas field. It was about 150 feet south of the main highway entering Brownwood, and about even with the junction of the old highway cutoff with the new highway.

In this house was born on February 1, 1860, Miss Melissa Chandler, only child of the family who now survives, and the oldest living native of the county.

Israel Clements and his family followed the Chandlers, settling near their home on Pecan Bayou.

Jesse P. Hanna and his sons, David, John, James and R. M., settled in 1856 near the Colorado river, arriving only a few weeks later than the Chandlers. Their home was in what is known as Hanna Valley, and it was here that the first white child, Miss Josephine Hanna, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Hanna, was born in Brown county, March 26, 1857. David Hanna was one of the first county commissioners, and an active leader in the frontier life.

In 1857, and within a year of the establishment of these first Brown county homes, many settlers came here. Among them were M. J. Coggin, S. R. Coggin, Charles Mullins and sons, Isaac, J. C. and William Mullins; Greenleaf Fisk, T. D. Harriss, Sutton Harriss, G. H. Ennis, Harvey Adams, Ichabod Adams, Brooks W. Lee, Marion Potter, J. B. Marshall, M. G. Anderson, David Baugh, and their families. These constituted the frontier aristocracy of Brown county.

The Coggins were founders of the bank which bore their name

for many years, and with J. A. Austin and others helped establish Daniel Baker college. Judge Fisk is known as the "father of Brownwood," because he moved the site of the town from its original location surrounding the Chandler homestead to its present site. The Adams and Baugh families, with Brooks Lee, were prominent in all frontier activities, particularly in the constant battle against Indian depredations and in the efforts made by the early colonists to preserve law and order. The Chandlers were leaders in political life.

In 1858 the movement of citizens to Brown county continued, with

W. C. Parks, Richard Germany, Al Kirkpatrick, Jay Kirkpatrick, Richard Robbins and others coming here and establishing their homes. They introduced agriculture to the county, and began the development of the cattle business which started late in 1856 when J. H. Fowler brought the first herd here. Welcome W. Chandler raised the first crop here in 1857. The first bale of cotton was produced here by W. F. Brown in 1868. It was ginned in Comanche in a gin operated by horse power. Comanche county was settled a bit earlier than Brown, and was organized in 1856.

## First Election Was Illegal

**B**BROWN COUNTY was created by Legislative act August 27, 1856, almost before the first citizen had moved his family here. The bill creating the county authorized and directed the chief justice (county judge) of Lampasas county to order an election for county officers and administer the oath of office to them.

There were so few citizens here at that time, however, and they were so engrossed with the business of building cabins and clear-

ing farm lands that nothing was done toward organization of the county during 1856. Late in 1857, after some two dozen families had moved here, a movement was started to hold an election and organize the county; but upon examination it was found that the boundary lines fixed in the legislative enactment were erroneous, and it was not until February 5, 1858, that the necessary amendments were made by the Legislature. The lines as then established began at



the mouth of Pecan Bayou, ran due east to the line of Hamilton county, thence northwest along the lines of Comanche and Hamilton counties to the northwest corner of Comanche county, thence west 16 miles, thence due south to the Colorado river and down its meanderings to the point of beginning. The amended law also specified that the county seat should be named Brownwood.

After the law was amended an election for officers was held at the home of Welcome W. Chandler late in May, 1858. The following officers were named: Welcome W. Chandler, chief justice; M. G. Anderson, county clerk; W. F. Brown, district clerk; B. J. Marshall, treasurer; Marion Potter, sheriff; Oliver H. P. Keesee, tax collector and assessor; David Baugh, T. J. Preddy, Edmund McReynolds and David S. Hanna, commissioners.

A site east of Pecan Bayou, a mile and a half from the present court house, was selected as the county seat, and a log court house was built in the summer of 1858 but when good water could not be found on the site the court house was moved early in 1859 to the Connell farm two miles south of the first location. Title to this land was found to be defective, and the whole matter was in a state of uncertainty for a time until Greenleaf Fisk offered a site

of 60 acres for the town and 100 acres for county purposes and the court house and town were moved across the Bayou to the present location. The move was made in 1868 or 1869, the exact date not being available because the court-house and all its records were burned in March, 1880.

But the business of organizing the county was not completed with the first election in May, 1858. That election had not been ordered by the Lampasas county judge, as directed by the Legislature, and there was doubt as to its legality. It is interesting to note that while this matter was under consideration Brooks W. Lee received a letter from John H. Connors, at Austin, advising that since the Lampasas county judge had already ordered one election, which was not held because the county boundaries were incorrect, that official had discharged his full duty. Hence, Mr. Lee was advised, "it would be as legal as any plan that could be suggested," for the people to assemble in any convenient place, name presiding officers and proceed to elect officials. All this had been done in May, before the Connors letter was written July 9, 1858.

Meanwhile, the Lampasas county judge ordered an election, which was duly held August 3, 1858, and legally elected officers for the new

county were named. The officers who had been elected in May were reelected, however, and no change in the official setup of the county was effected. August 3, 1858, therefore, becomes the official birthday of Brown county as an organized unit.

Elections seem to have been held regularly at two year intervals after the first organization of the county, with the possible exception of a brief period during the war of the Confederacy. Most of the able-bodied men of Brown county were enlisted in the Confederate army, and were away from home much of the time during the period from 1862 to 1864.

Officers were elected in 1860 as follows: Thomas J. Keesee, chief justice; M. G. Anderson, county clerk; Ichabod Adams, treasurer; Frank A. Baugh, sheriff; Oliver H. P. Keesee, tax assessor and collector; Levi P. Goodrich, surveyor; Jesse Bonds, Thomas J. Preddy, J. N. Clark and James H. Fowler, commissioners. Burl Roberts served as sheriff from April 7 to August 17, 1860. Frank A. Baugh, elected sheriff in August of that year, resigned in March, 1861, and Jesse S. Harriss was elected to fill the unexpired term. Harriss was killed and A. A. McCain was elected June 8, 1861, to complete the term. The mortality rate among frontier sheriffs was high.

County officers elected August 4, 1862, were: Greenleaf Fisk, chief justice; M. G. Anderson, county clerk; Gresham Lee, sheriff; Ichabod Adams, district clerk; Welcome W. Chandler, treasurer; Oliver H. P. Keesee, tax assessor and collector; Thomas J. Preddy, W. L. Williams, David Baugh and J. A. Callen, county commissioners. The third term tradition was established early in this county, in the first three elections held.

The first courthouse built in Brown county, moved from the Chandler neighborhood to the Connell farm, was a one story structure, to which an upper story later was added. It was in the upstairs part of the house that the first Masonic lodge was organized in 1865. Brownwood became a post-office August 23, 1858. The date of removal of the court house to its present site is uncertain, but is indicated by the fact that the postoffice was discontinued January 23, 1867, and reestablished March 31, 1868. Conjecture is that the change in location of the town occurred during this period. It is noted, however, that the postoffice was again discontinued September 9, 1868, and reestablished July 27, 1870; and it may have been during this period that the court house was moved.

Judge Greenleaf Fisk, donor of the site of the new town, threw

little light upon the subject when he made a new deed in 1880 to convey to the county the land previously donated for a townsite (because the original deed had been burned with the court house) and stated that it was to replace a "former deed of about ten years ago." Transactions involving the originals of deeds executed under this transfer still appear often in the abstract records of the county.

The first court house on the present site of Brownwood was a log house on East Broadway, just south of the building now occupied by two big chain grocery stores. In 1867 a new building was erected of stone, the first floor being used as a jail with one or

two offices, and the upper floor for offices and a court room. This building was burned in March, 1880, and a new stone building was built on the present court yard, to serve until 1917 when it was replaced by the structure now in use. In order to finance the building with warrants, the county commissioners contrived to "repair" the old building; and in doing so left only a few stones standing in their original position, including a vault now used by the county treasurer, while a magnificent new brick building was constructed around the remains of the old court house. Brown county is still paying for the new building.

## Settlers Fight for Their Land

EARLY settlers of Brown county literally had to fight for their land. Not all of the fighting was against Indians, for there were roving adventurers traveling through the country from time to time to steal livestock and commit other depredations, and it is of record that at least one bloodless engagement of the War of the Confederacy was won by Brown county men in the early sixties.

Brown county people late in

1861 held a formal election and ratified the ordinance of secession from the Union. A Confederate flag was made by patriotic women of the community, and was erected on a flag pole 100 feet high. The flag was made by Mrs. Welcome W. Chandler, Mrs. Brooks W. Lee and Miss Jane Chandler. A little later men from Brown county and neighboring communities journeyed out to Fort Camp Colorado, held by Union forces, and

brought about the surrender of the fort by Captain E. Kirby Smith, who joined the Confederacy and made a splendid record as a Confederate officer.

### Indians Here First

Indians roved over this section for many years before the first white settler came to challenge their supremacy. There were two principal tribes of Indians in this section. The Apaches, comprising a dozen or more tribes, were fierce fighters; and the Comanches, most bitter warriors of all the Indians of Texas, made this their hunting grounds. They were excellent horsemen, usually well mounted, and fought uncompromisingly and savagely.

There were two main trails by which the Comanches entered the county. One of these was through Mercer's Gap, running along toward what later became known as Salt Mountain, and continued toward the west and northwest up Pecan Bayou and on into Callahan county. The other trail came from the west, and crossed Pecan Bayou in the vicinity of what is now Elkins. In raiding this county the Comanches usually entered from the west, circled around south of Brownwood, then doubled back through Mercer's Gap and on to the north.

An Indian raid was responsible for the coming of Captain Henry

S. Brown, first white man known to have entered Brown county, in 1828. Captain Brown and a company of 28 men left Gonzales early in December, 1828, to recover about 500 horses which the Indians had stolen from Brown. The trail led toward the mouth of Pecan Bayou and crossed the Colorado river into Brown county. Traveling westward, Captain Brown and his company came to an Indian camp on Clear Creek. Here a hot fight occurred, and after a time the Indians ran away. Brown, pursuing them, camped for the night on Home creek. During the night camp fires of a body of Indians were discovered about two miles up the creek and at daybreak Brown and his company surprised the Indians, killed some of them and stampeded their horses. Brown then rounded up the horses, recovering almost all his 500 head, and drove them back to his home.

The first Indian raid into the county after settlement began here was in November, 1857. A settlement on Steppes Creek was raided, and a man named Lewis was slain, many horses being driven away by the marauders. The first Indian fight of the new community was in the following year, 1858, in the Swinden valley. One of the Chandler slaves discovered a band of Comanches rounding up horses in the valley and gave the

alarm. J. S. Harriss, M. J. and S. R. Coggin, A. E. Adams, Israel Clements, George Isaacs and W. W. Chandler happened to be at the Chandler home at the time, and went immediately to attack the Indians. The whites were defeated, however, and beat a retreat. The Indians drove their stolen horses toward Delaware creek, and after about seven miles were met by Captain Conner, W. L. Williams and a man named Holman of the Texas Rangers. The Indians charged the whites, and wounded Holman. Williams dismounted and killed one of the Indians but lost his horse. After about fifteen minutes of fighting the Indians withdrew and made their escape with the stolen stock. Holman was taken to the Chandler home and was ill for a long time.

Welcome W. Chandler had an experience with the Indians again in 1862. He had traded a part of his homestead, now a part of the Lucas farm, for 200 ponies. He took them to Williamson county for pasturage, and shortly after he had returned the herd to a corral near his home the Indians came. Chandler had his saddle horse tied near the door of his house, and when the Indians attempted to steal his horses he jumped on his pony, without saddle, bridle or a gun, and gave chase. The Indians left hurriedly

without taking a single animal. They evidently did not know that Chandler was armed only with his righteous anger.

There were many small raids by Indian bands, with wanton murders of homesteaders, and there were a few major engagements between the Indians and the whites. The Jackson murders were among the most savage and gruesome of all the tragedies occurring during their frontier period. It was in December, 1858, that Mose Jackson, whose home was in the Jackson Springs community in southwestern Brown county, with his wife and four of their children, started from their home to the Kirkpatrick home, a few miles away and near Pecan Bayou, to gather pecans. About two miles away from their home cabin they were attacked by Indians, and the father, mother and two daughters, one 18 years old and the other a child, were killed. The other two children were carried away by the Comanches.

As soon as news of the tragedy was circulated around, a posse took up the chase, and a fight occurred near Salt Mountain. Another group of the Indians, camped in the same neighborhood, heard the firing, and left immediately, leaving the two kidnapped children to be found a little later by the whites. Descendants of this

Jackson family still live in Brown county.

Because of the constant menace of Indian raids, Brown county people successfully asked for a company of Rangers to be assigned here, financed by part of a \$70,000 legislative appropriation. It turned out, however, that the principal responsibility for defending the county remained with its own citizens, because most of the fifteen Rangers assigned to this county were recruited from settlers here. Under the leadership of Captain John S. Ford, these Brown county men were recruited for Ranger service: Brooks W. Lee, Sr., George H. Adams, A. E. Adams, H. C. Knight, George Isaacs, J. S. Har-

riss, Dick Germany, B. J. Marshall, Willis Holloway, W. L. Williams, Cyrus Ford, Avery Toby, Steve Derrick, John Herrige and Andrew Mather. Headquarters of the camp was established on Pecan Bayou about a mile east of the present courthouse, and Brooks W. Lee was placed in command of the company.

Indian raids occurred at frequent intervals during this period, some of them originating in neighboring Comanche county and continuing into Brown county as the Indians were pursued by the avenging white settlers. One spectacular fight occurred on Salt Creek in 1859 or 1860 in which Comanche county men engaged.

## *Spectacular Indian Battles*

**M**ANY of the early settlers of Brown county found homesites in what is known as the Salt Creek neighborhood, and it was in this vicinity that there were many skirmishes with Indians because the neighborhood was on one of the main trails used by the Indians in crossing the county.

The Salt Creek fight in 1859 or 1860 did not involve Brown county people, but was fought by a small

group of Comanche county men, principally of the pioneer Cunningham family, and a band of Comanche Indians. Three Indians were seen driving a herd of horses through Comanche county, and it was surmised that the horses had been stolen in Hamilton county. Old Captain Cunningham, always ready for a fight or any other emergency, hastily summoned Aaron Cunningham, R. T. Cunning-

ham, J. V. Cunningham, Alex Tuggle and Jay Hugh Chism, and gave chase to the Indians.

The Comanche men in some way passed the Indians without knowing it, and camped at Logan's Gap for the night. About 4 o'clock next morning David Cunningham, who was guarding the horses, heard the Indians passing not far away. Horses were saddled, and when daybreak came the Indian trail was followed to a point near Salt mountain where the Indians were eating breakfast.

It was a foggy morning, and before the Indians knew the whites were near the battle started. Two Indians escaped on a horse, but the third was thrown from his horse. David Cunningham shot him, and then Aaron Cunningham finished him with another shot. The Indian had an arrow drawn on Aaron Cunningham when the final shot took effect. All the horses were recovered except the one on which two Indians had escaped.

A story of Salt Mountain is told by F. M. Cross, pioneer, in his booklet, "Early Days in Central Texas."

"Salt Mountain is a little mountain on the east side of Brown county, about five miles from the upper line of Comanche county," the Rev. Mr. Cross wrote. "It was the most noted place for Indian

fighting in the state. From the time this country began to be settled until the Indians were driven out entirely, there were several fights on or near this mountain. I have never seen any account of the first killing on this noted battleground. I will tell of the first Indian fight near the place.

"In the first settling of Lampasas county there was a family living near Lampasas named Mullins. Old Uncle Charlie Mullins had three boys, whose names were Ike, Bill and John. In about the year 1854, they moved their cattle and horses out on the head of Brown's creek, near where the town of Mullin now is, in Mills county. The Indians came in one night, rounded up a few head of their horses and got off with them just before daylight. When the boys saw where they had started with the horses, they saddled some others and took the trail. Being well mounted, they soon came in sight of the Indians. There were only three of the boys after them but they left the stolen horses, and pulled for the thickets around Salt Mountain.

"Here the boys ran into them. The Indians dismounted and took to the brush. Ike Mullins found one of them hiding behind a big rock. The Indian saw he was discovered and sprang up to shoot at Mullins, but Uncle Ike got in his work with a six-shooter first, kill-

ing the Indian. This was the first Indian killed at Salt Mountain by a white man of which we have any account."

In 1859 Indians raided the Kirkpatrick and Moseley settlements, and took all except one of the horses. Dan Moseley and J. Kirkpatrick followed them on foot to the head of Buffalo creek. There they found the lifeless body of Richard Robbins, a stockman, who had been scalped.

During the war of the Confederacy, when many Brown county men were in the southern army, the Indians seemed to be worse than ever before. They were given arms by renegade whites, and became both more daring and more savage in their frequent attacks. During this period the Legislature authorized the organization of Ranger companies to serve in the thirty-seven frontier counties, their enlistment to run from February 7, 1861 to March, 1862. Captain T. N. Collier was commander of the section of the company that was stationed at Camp Pecan Bayou near where the town of Burkett is now located. Another section of the company was stationed on Clear Creek, under command of Brooks W. Lee, on land now in the ranch of Aaron D. Lee, son of the frontiersman.

In 1863 this group of defenders was withdrawn, and the Legisla-

ture passed a law that persons liable to military duty should be formed into companies of 25 to 65 for frontier defense. Captain Dan H. Moseley and Lieut. L. P. Baugh saw much service in this organization.

The frontiersmen found that dogs were good guardians of their livestock. The animals barked vociferously whenever Indians came around the livestock. The Indians soon discovered, however, that by detailing one man to attract the attention of the dogs away from the horses, others could steal horses and get away with them. They tried this ruse once too often at the home of David Baugh. Baugh slipped around behind the Indian who was attracting the attention of the dog, and shot him dead.

A hand to hand encounter with the Indians occurred March 9, 1862, in Hanna Valley, in the south part of the county. A band of Indians raided the valley and drove off a number of horses. A posse was called, and for some unknown reason it was agreed that when the Indians were overtaken the whites would charge the savages and fight them hand to hand.

After following the trail about ten miles, the whites overtook the Indians who could not move so fast because they were driving the horses. O. F. Lindsey led the



whites, and carried his little posse into a charge. A. J. Jones and George Robbins were wounded immediately. Lindsey battled courageously, using his gun as a club

after firing it, and the other whites fought so valiantly that the Indians were put to rout. Three Indians were left dead on the field of battle, and Lindsey was killed.

## No Surrender On Frontier

THE FRONTIERSMEN who settled this area knew no such word as surrender, and accepted defeat only in death. F. M. Cross in his "Early Days in Central Texas" tells the tragic story of James Carmean and James Tankersley, who met death in a fight with sixteen or eighteen Indians:

"James Carmean and James Tankersley were residents of Comanche county. In the fall of 1863 they took a large supply of bacon to sell at Camp Collier on Clear Creek, to our Company (a section of the Ranger force in the county) stationed some four or five miles from the site of the town of Brookesmith. The men stayed two nights at the camp and on the second morning started on the return trip to their homes. When they had gone about six miles they were attacked by a band of 16 or 18 Indians. The men turned back and tried to make a run for our camp. Tankersley was a large

man and was riding a horse that was lame. Carmean could undoubtedly have made his escape but he was too brave a man to leave his friend, so he held back and they fought the Indians for about a mile. They were coming right back on the road to the camp. Close to the roadside was a big tree and by this they stopped, Tankersley having been wounded in both legs.

"Carmean got behind this tree with his rifle and stood the Indians off while his companion crawled off his horse and dragged himself to a small thicket nearby. It was evident that Tankersley died first, having received fatal wounds while on his horse. There was no one to tell this, but blood on the ground from where he got off to where he crawled to die showed how badly he was wounded. Signs on the battleground showed that men never fought more bravely for their lives than these two. One of the Indians had

a rifle and we found where he had crawled up behind a stump and shot at Carmean, who was still behind the liveoak tree. We found a bullet in this stump that Carmean had evidently put there. The Indian succeeded in putting a bullet through the forks of the tree where it was only a few inches thick, and struck Carmean in the breast, killing him. Tankersley's body was pierced many times with spears, both men were scalped and Carmean's clothing was taken.

"We found the bodies of these men only a short time after they were killed, for two of our boys, Pat Gallagher and Isom Large, had been out horse hunting and came on them while their wounds were still bleeding. The Indians were still around and immediately gave chase. Being mounted on good horses, however, the boys soon ran off from them.

"We took the bodies of Tankersley and Carmean and buried them in the same grave. The two men were neighbors, they died side by side and are sleeping side by side at the old Camp Collier, near Brookesmith."

The famous Dove Creek fight, January 8, 1865, on the creek of that name near where it flows into Concho river west of San Angelo, was a tragic mistake. If the whites had listened to the stern warning of Brooks W. Lee, Brown county

man in the party, there would have been no fight, no bloodshed and no more trouble from the band of Kickapoo Indians who were involved in the battle. Declining to listen to Lee, however, the whites fought a losing battle, only to discover their mistake after the fighting was over.

Henry Ford wrote in his Calculator: "This fight was particularly notable from the fact that the attack of the whites was made on friendly Indians, and the shedding of blood on that occasion was evidently an unfortunate mistake and unnecessary."

The Kickapoo Indians, then living in Indian Territory, decided to move to old Mexico in order to avoid participation in the War of the Confederacy, and started through Texas to the Rio Grande during the winter months. They were followed by men claiming to be Confederate soldiers, who stopped in Brown county and asked for fourteen volunteers, and the following were sent under the command of Lieut. Addison Morton: Brooks W. Lee, Sr., G. H. Adams, John P. Brown, James G. Connell, R. M. Hanna, Isaac Bradshaw, Sam Hanna, P. R. Clark, T. D. Harriss, W. C. Chandler, E. D. Carmack, J. Bolinger and Henry Jones.

Late in the evening of January 7, it was learned that the Indians

were encamped on Dove Creek, in a dense thicket. Major Totten, commanding the whites, determined to attack early next morning. During the night, however, Brooks W. Lee and a man named James Mulkey from San Saba county, both of whom were well versed in Indian affairs, scouted the Indian camp thoroughly and became convinced that the Indians were friendly, and not Comanches as had been reported. These two scouts strongly advised no fight, but an effort to make peaceable contact with the Indians. There were about 400 Indians in the camp.

Ignoring this advice, the whites made a desperate but unorganized attack early in the morning of January 8, but the Indians held stubbornly to their camp in the thicket. The battle raged all day and late in the evening the whites withdrew with 20 men dead and as many wounded, five of them fatally. The Indians had lost 14 men and had eight wounded.

When the fight started a detachment of men under command of Lieut. Morton had captured the Indians' herd of horses, guarded by an old man and two small boys. It was then recalled that Indians were not to be captured alive, and the old Indian was immediately shot. The white soldiers were

about to shoot the two little boys when Brooks W. Lee protested so vigorously that the murder was not committed. He told the soldiers he would not permit the murder of the two boys, and the latter, understanding that he was their champion, clung to him until he had an opportunity to arrange for their escape. Under his direction, they made a dash for liberty and reached their camp safely.

The white forces camped that night about two miles from the battlefield, and during the night and all next day there was a steady snow. The weather was very cold, and the wounded suffered terribly. During the next day the dead were gathered up and buried.

The Indians left soon afterward, abandoning their tents and other equipment, and since their horses had been captured they trudged onward toward the Rio Grande afoot. None of the Brown county men in the fight was injured, but the horses of T. D. Harriss and A. E. Adams were wounded, and Isaac Bradshaw's horse was shot under him. Two Comanche county men, Don Cox and a Mr. Parker, were killed. Don Cox was the father of Mitchell M. (Bud) Cox, a widely known Brown county citizen.

## Tragic Mistake at Dove Creek

A DRAMATIC recital of incidents leading to the unfortunate Dove Creek fight, and the manner in which Brooks W. Lee saved the lives of two small Indian boys at the beginning of that battle, was told by C. V. (Uncle Charlie) Harriss, whose father, T. D. Harriss, was one of the 400 white men involved in the engagement. His father, Uncle Charlie said, often talked of this fight.

According to his story, which probably is authentic, a party of apparently friendly Indians passed through Brown county a few months after the close of the Civil War. A few hours later a large group of white men rode into Brownwood claiming they were on the trail of these Indians. The redmen, they said, were horse thieves, that their animals had been stolen in East Texas from their pursuers, and they felt the righteous indignation which all honorable people have toward those who are dishonest. Brown county men were urged to join the party and help run down the thieves.

Most of the Brownwood men were hesitant about trailing the Indians. As a matter of fact, the redmen appeared to have had an air of decency about them that

was lacking in their white pursuers. The strangers were an ill-looking group. They claimed to be Confederate soldiers and one of them wore the gray uniform of the Confederate army. No one knew whether they were former soldiers, and it is more likely that they were of the species known in those days as bushwhackers.

Finally, after much discussion, it was agreed that a party of local men would set out with the strangers on the trail of the Indians. Two Tonkawa Indians were with the party, and these were to sneak down to the Indians' camp when it was reached and ascertain their identity.

T. D. Harriss, father of Uncle Charlie, was in the fight. He said the whites trailed the redmen to Dove Creek, sighting the Indians as the valley was approached. As planned, the Tonkawa Indians with the pursuing party made a scouting tour and came running back shouting "Comanches! Comanches!"

With no warning or discussion, the whites spurred their horses down the hill in a mad charge against the Indians, and the Brown county men followed or

accompanied them. Before reaching the Indian camp they came upon the herd of horses where an old Indian man and two boys were on guard. The three appeared to be peaceable but before anyone could do or say anything one of the white men raised his rifle and brought the old man down. He then turned the weapon toward one of the Indian boys but Brooks Lee by this time had drawn abreast of him and knocked the rifle upward as it was discharged.

With an angry oath the man complained because he had been deprived of the privilege of sending another Indian "where he belonged" and wanted to know "were the Brownwood men in league with the thieves?"

"Thieves, hell," Brooks Lee said. "They aren't likely thieves and I know they aren't Comanches. You have duped us all and led us into attacking friendly Indians. You have killed one, and now you've got to fight whether they are friendly or not."

In answer the man raised his rifle again to shoot the Indian boy who was not more than seven or eight years old. Lee stuck his pistol into the man's ribs, saying that he would blow him off his horse if he shot the child. The man slowly lowered his gun.

One of the men had dismounted and was examining the old

man who had been shot. He was not yet dead but had sustained a mortal wound. After he was given a drink of brandy the old Indian revived enough to say that the Indians were friendly and were making for the border with the intention of crossing into Mexico. Now that he had been shot, he said, the white men would have trouble and it would be better for them to get out of the country. The old Indian spoke a brand of English that showed he had been around whites a good deal.

Suddenly, a shot rang out from the thicket and one of the white men fell from his horse. Other shots followed and the whites lost no time seeking shelter of nearby woods. But as they turned, the Indians came out after them in a wedgelike formation which had the whites hemmed in on three sides. Rifles were cracking and men were firing backward as they rode.

One of the Brown county men, a moment after the Indians left the brush, yelled "They are out in the open now, and if they don't need cover neither do we! Let's charge 'em!"

The others quickly turned and rode down upon the Indians, who were emptying saddles so fast that it looked like the fight wouldn't last long. This sudden charge, however, kept the Indians from killing most of the whites. After

a few moments, they melted away into the brush, followed by the whites, who dismounted and crouched behind trees and in thickets and kept up a running fire with the redmen.

After dark several of the men slipped out in the open space, rounded up the horses and kept guard over them, while the others fought the Indians in front. The weather during the day had been warm but about midnight, after the firing had stopped a norther came up and the men, hiding in the brush, became bitterly cold. They waited and watched all night but there was no more fighting.

Next morning, creeping through the woods, the whites came upon a symbol of Indian victory. Joe Bowers, the man who had worn the Confederate uniform, was propped, headless, against a tree, and over him, leaning in a threatening attitude, with an expression of hatred upon his cold, dead face was the lifeless chieftain of the Indians. Nearby, in a cactus, was Bowers' scalplless head.

As Bowers had worn a military outfit, the Indians evidently

thought he was the leader of the white men. They had come to the conclusion that he was chief of the palefaces, and when their own chief had been killed they had placed him above Bowers in silent token that they had won the fight.

The Indians did win, too. They killed many more of the whites than the whites killed of them. Their victory was deserved, of course, for they were innocent of any harm, were accused of thievery by a bunch of desperadoes who coveted their horses, and who duped a group of Brown county men to join them by lying about the redskins.

The whites recovered most of their horses, and also most of the Indians' horses, which were taken with them so that the Indians could not mount, circle the whites and ambush them.

On the way home a severe snow fell, in some places coming up to the stirrups. The Indians made it safely into Mexico. Travelers brought the news to Brownwood later that a tribe of Indians had been seen on foot, going toward the border.

## Hog Creek Fight

HENRY FORD, pioneering banker, described the famous Hog Creek Indian fight in his "Cotton Calculator" as follows:

The Hog Creek Indian fight took place in the Jesse Dickerson League survey in Brown county in 1870, and was fought by Comanche county men.

During the early frontier days there were a determined set of settlers living in Comanche county, foremost among whom were the men who engaged in the Hog Creek fight, who were always on the alert for Indians, and who acted as if an occasional scrap with them was a relief from the monotony of frontier life.

On the date mentioned, Frank Brown, George Wallace and B. Grissom, who were on their way to the mill at San Saba, stopped to rest their team at Mustang water hole in Comanche county. They were soon joined by Mr. John Roch, who had been out hunting horses. A few minutes after Roch joined them they heard a noise and looking around were surprised to see about 30 Indians charging down upon them.

Mr. Roch, who had some experience in fighting Indians, took charge of the defense. The In-

dians came yelling and circling around the outfit. While some of the party were shooting at the Indians, the others hastily constructed a barricade of sacks of wheat. In less time than it takes to tell it Brown was shot in the face with a six shooter ball and Wallace was shot through the arm.

The Indians made a charge with the evident intention of running over the whites, but a lucky shot fired by Brown fatally wounded the leader and they retired, only to renew their charge, but more cautiously.

The whites decided it would be impossible to hold out against such odds. Taking out their mules they made a run for their lives. The Indians pursued, the whites shooting back as they ran. Roch was shot in the back with an arrow which protruded from his breast, and his mule was severely wounded. In the running fight Roch had become separated from the others. After escaping from the Indians he got down to get a drink of water and found he was too weak to remount, and seeing that his mule could not carry him much farther he made his way to C. C. Campbell's place on

Mountain Creek, where he arrived late at night.

Falling in the yard, unable to rise, Roch's groans awakened a negro on the place who carried him into the house. Dr. Montgomery pulled the arrow out next morning. Roch hovered between life and death for a long time but finally recovered.

Next morning Dave Cunningham, with a small posse, went out to the wagons, found them cut to pieces and the wheat poured out on the ground.

About 1 o'clock the next night a posse composed of Dave Cunningham, in command; W. H. Cunningham, Joe J. Cunningham, Joel Nabors, Freeman Clark, Joe Gurley, J. M. Millican, Ed Roch, Lark Stone, Jesse Johnson, Sam Powers, John Stevens, Dan Pinkard, Wm. Ross, J. M. Tunnell, Thomas Jones, Ike Ward, John Albino, Wm. Cox, H. Northcut, Wm. McAdams, and a Mr. Gardner with four of Captain Cunningham's bloodhounds, took the trail in pursuit of the Indians. On dry Blanket creek they found where the chief, wounded the day before, had been buried and his pony had been killed beside his grave to carry him to the happy hunting grounds.

From there the trail was followed with great difficulty into Brown county, the Indians setting

fire to the grass in several places along the trail. Several times it became necessary to carry the dogs back to water. About 2 o'clock in the afternoon they arrived at Hog Mountain, where a halt was made and a scout sent ahead to reconnoiter. He soon returned with the information that the Indians were encamped at the spring. A detour was then made, and under a sweeping gallop a charge was made and they succeeded in getting almost among the Indians before they were discovered. The Indians scattered in every direction, except one who came running toward the white men with a six-shooter in one hand and a knife in the other. He was soon dispatched with a dozen bullets in him. Three more Indians were killed on the ground and then a chase commenced after the others.

Dave Cunningham and Freeman Clark soon overtook one, who dodged under Clark's horse and shot Clark under the arm, the ball lodging in the opposite side of his neck and killing him instantly. Dave Cunningham killed the Indian who killed Clark. Three other Indians were killed in the running fight of two miles which ensued before the rest of them gained the shelter of some thickets.

One of the Indians, badly wound-



ed, entered a thicket, and Joe Gurlley, Wm. Cunningham, Joel Nabors and Ike Ward were left to prevent his escape while the others continued the chase. Upon return of the pursuing party the thicket was surrounded.

The dogs having been tied to prevent them from going in, the Indian was soon located but before he was killed two of the dogs broke loose, ran into the thicket and attacked him. He killed one of the dogs and shot the other

through the breast, the arrow coming out behind his shoulder. The wounded dog came out of the thicket, laid down and deliberately pulled out the arrow. He was carried home and got well. Joel Nabors' horse was killed in the fight and the horses of John Albino and John Stevens were badly wounded.

Dan Pinkard, who died at his home in Blanket in 1935, was the last survivor of this hardy band of frontier Indian fighters

## Mother and Children Killed

**M**OST of the Indian raids in Brown county during the frontier era were in connection with horse stealing or other thievery, but some of them appeared to be motivated by pure savagery. The massacre of Mrs. Williams in late December, 1873, was in the latter category.

Bill Williams and his family lived on Sand Creek in the northwestern part of Brown county, half way between Thrifty and Bangs. One day while Williams and his son were engaged in cutting timber on Jim Ned creek, Mrs. Williams went to the cow lot to do some milking. She built a

fire in the lot, because it was cold. While attending to her chores, she was attacked by a small band of Indians who came upon her unexpectedly. She was wounded many times by their arrows and fatally hurt.

The Indians took the six-month-old child of Mrs. Williams and dragged it through the fire several times. Then they captured another child, a little girl about 12 years old, and carried her away, leaving the mother and baby to die. The baby was taken a short while later to the Mullins home in the Thrifty community and nursed carefully, but succumbed

to its terrible burns after a few days.

Men of the community formed a posse and took up the trail of the Indians. They were unable to overtake the savages, but found the little girl hanging dead in a tree near Double mountain.

The last fight with the Indians in Brown county is generally believed to have occurred in the spring of 1874 on Clear Creek. Captain Maltby's company of Rangers heard the Indians were coming into the settlement and started after them. The Rangers overtook the Indians near what was later known as the Sears pasture. Before reaching this place two of the Indians had been killed near Santa Anna mountain. There were about 18 Rangers and a similar number of Indians in the engagement. The Indians ran when the Rangers approached, but two were killed, a big Indian and a small one. Jake Hand tied the larger one across a mule and brought him to Brownwood. Someone took the Indian across the slough and hanged him to a tree along the roadside. The body remained there for several days before someone took it down and threw it in the slough, where it was devoured by hogs. The smaller Indian was scalped and his body was left where he fell, and was also eaten by hogs.

The chase after the Indians who murdered Mrs. Williams and her baby and kidnaped her daughter was fraught with much hardship. The settlers were aroused by the outrage, and a posse was formed with W. W. Hunter and Bill Adams as leaders. Thirty-two men volunteered to go, and Capt. Ike Mullins of Thrifty was later chosen as commander of the party.

The fleeing Indians had gone north and while the pursuers were following somewhere near the head of Jim Ned creek, they ran upon a bear. The bear stood up on his hind legs and made toward the men at first. W. W. Hunter pursued him about 300 yards and killed him. The bear was a big one, and the men ate the best parts of him for their dinner. The party then went on to the head of the Clear Forks of the Brazos, and were unable to pursue the fleeing Indians farther. They started back, coming by way of where Post City now is. It was a long and arduous journey, fraught with many hardships, not the least of which was hunger.

Soon after they had left the cap rock of the plains they became lost and wandered two days without food or water. Finally Hunter, who was a cowboy, told Captain Mullins he could find water, so he was placed in the lead and about 10 o'clock at night led the

party to Pecan springs, near Glen Cove. Captain Mullins permitted the men to drink only a little water at a time. The horses, too, were not allowed to drink too much water. Each man then hobbled his horse and all lay down to sleep without a bite to eat.

The next morning, Capt. Mullins saw a drove of cattle feeding on a distant hill, and detailed two of the cowboys to go kill a cow and bring the meat to the camp. They succeeded in killing a fine red cow and she was soon dressed and each man cut off a slab of beef, held it on a stick over the fire for a few minutes and ate the meat, half cooked and without salt. Some of the men were so hungry they ate slices of the cow's liver raw. After satisfying their hunger the posse broke camp and started home.

The body of the little Williams girl was found by another party. She had been hung by a piece of buckskin placed under her arms, in a mesquite tree. Birds had pecked out her eyes.

Some months later a party of whites had a skirmish with a band of Indians near Camp Colorado and captured a squaw who was riding on a boy's saddle and had a silver bridle on her pony.

She threw up her hands and yelled, "Me squaw! No kill!" When she was carried into camp

she had an apron tied to the saddle horn and in it was a peck of pecans. When she came to Bill Williams, who was one of the party, he began to cry and said, "That was my wife's apron."

Later the squaw was turned over to Williams and another man. They shot her. The silver bridle had been stolen from Mexicans and later became the property of W. W. Hunter.

There were innumerable small raids by Indians at various points in the country during the frontier period. Every settler had to be constantly on guard, to see that his livestock was not stolen and to protect his family against the savages. Children carried heavy guns to school with them, preachers carried six-shooters and rifles along with their Bibles.

Two Indians were hanged in Brownwood during the seventies. A band of Indians had stolen some horses from the Rangers near the Mud Creek Camp, and Rangers set out in pursuit. The red men were overtaken six miles west of Brownwood and in a fight there three Indians were killed and two were caught. The captured Indians were brought to Brownwood and hanged in a tree on the north side of the court house.

The Rangers were constantly active in chasing the Indians, traveling all over this section wherever

they could pick up a trail. M. R. Cheatham and a fellow Ranger, Webb Arnett, while in Brownwood one day were told that a party of 22 Indians had been seen driving a big herd of horses near here. The Rangers went to the Mud Creek camp and told the story and when Lieut. Foster called for volunteers 14 men were hastily mobilized for the chase.

The Rangers traveled all day and all night, and finally came within a mile of the Indians, who were camped near San Angelo.

Scouts reported that the Indians outnumbered the Rangers badly, and discretion gained the better of valor. The Rangers returned to their home base.

While all this was under way, the homesteaders of the county were building their homes, establishing churches, arranging for the education of their children, tilling their farms and looking after their livestock. Brown county was growing, the hard way, but growing substantially.

## First Family Moves In

**H**ISTORY was engraved with an axe upon the logs which Welcome William Chandler shaped for the rude cabin home which he built in Brown county in 1856, immediately after his arrival here with his family in July of that year. It was the first home established here by the first family which had severed all its ties with civilization and launched out into the uninhabited wilderness, not to seek a fortune but to find independence in a new country.

Others had visited Brown county before the Chandlers, with their meagre household equipment and

seven negro slaves, came here to build their home. The county had been charted and surveyed, and legislative action establishing it as a political unit was either completed or under consideration on the day when Chandler moved here. Many other families were looking toward Brown county, because this area had been scouted by land-hungry and freedom-seeking homesteaders, and even at the moment one or more families were actually enroute to this county with the purpose of making this their permanent dwelling place. The Chandler family became the first family

merely by arriving slightly ahead of others of similar courage and hardihood who were already committed to life on the Brown county frontier.

It is thought that Welcome W. Chandler had already bought land in this county before he located his home on a part of what is now the Lucas farm. His log cabin, built in the customary style with two big rooms on either side of a large open hallway, was located near what is now the main highway leading into the city of Brownwood, and half a mile east of Pecan Bayou. It is generally agreed that this first settler selected one of the finest farm tracts in Central Texas, for no more desirable site could be found than this fertile valley land on which is now located the largest pecan orchard in the state.

J. H. Fowler, a bachelor, accompanied the Chandler family to Brown county and aided in building their log cabin home. Fowler came to stay, for in December of 1856 he brought the first herd of cattle into the county. In 1857 he married Mary Ann Chandler, daughter of Welcome W. Chandler, and they were the first bride and groom in the county. Fowler during the next few years became associated with the Coggins, W. C. Parks, the Baughs, Sam Windham and others in extensive cattle op-

erations. At times the Brown county operators had under their control herds of cattle of stupendous proportions, and their cattle interests covered all of West Texas in the open-range era.

Almost coincident with the coming of the Chandler family, other frontiersmen entered Brown county and established homes. Ambrose Bull came here from Arkansas in 1856, as did John Williams and wife, who came from Missouri a few weeks after Chandler arrived. David Hanna and sons, John, James and R. M. Hanna, settled in the fall of 1856 in the southern end of what was then Brown county, in a section known later as Hanna Valley. Israel Clements, William Williams and Frank Carmichael are said to have been the only other settlers of 1856.

Welcome Williams Chandler was born in North Carolina in 1813, a son of William Hugh Chandler and Tebitha Elizabeth Hodges Chandler. While he was a boy his family moved to Missouri, then a wilderness "away out west," and in Copiah county, Missouri, Chandler at the age of 21 married Sarah Brown. Shortly after their marriage the young couple moved to Texas, reaching here at about the time this state was effecting its independence from Mexico.

The plain log cabin of the Chandler family became at once the com-

munity center for the people of this new county. It was the social meeting place as well as the headquarters for the frontier forces who were constantly engaged in defending their homes against the menace of Indian activities. The meetings at which the first elections were held and the initial organization of Brown county was effected were held in the Chandler home. The first session of court was held here, with Chandler presiding as judge. It is indicated, however, that he had no ambition to become a political leader, for he stepped aside to permit the election of Thomas J. Keesee as chief justice (county judge) in the election of 1860.

The first postoffice in Brown county was located in the Chandler home, and Welcome W. Chandler was the first postmaster, from February 20, 1860, to January 23, 1867, when the office was temporarily discontinued. During a part of this time one of the Chandler girls actually served as postmistress although the Post Office Department records do not show that she was ever formally appointed to the office.

When the Chandler family came to Brown county there were eight children, and five others were born here. The family brought with them a few negro slaves, and it is from this stock that the many

colored citizens of the county now carry the family name of Chandler. Ella Chandler, later Mrs. Ella Stafford, was the second white child born in Brown county November 10, 1857. She died January 10, 1937. Many of the Chandler children married into other pioneer families, and their descendants today are numerous throughout the county.

Only one child of the family, Miss Melissa Chandler, still survives. She was born in the original log cabin home February 1, 1860, with her twin sister, Laura Caldora (Davis) who died in 1933. Laura Caldora was the wife of W. T. Davis. Other children of the family were:

Mrs. Jane Harriss, wife of Jesse Sutton Harriss, who was a brother of T. D. Harriss.

Mrs. Mary Fowler, wife of J. H. Fowler, first bride of the county. She died at Sweetwater in 1927.

Mrs. Carrie Dubose, wife of Dr. J. G. Dubose, first physician of the county. She died about 1915, in Dallas.

William Washington Chandler, who died about 1923 in Saragosa, Texas.

Mrs. Lizzie Manning, wife of J. E. Manning, who died at Marathon, Texas.

Mrs. Sallie Hardee, wife of

Charles Hardee, died in Brownwood in 1914.

Mrs. Lucy Moseley, wife of W. P. Moseley and mother of Mark Moseley. She died several years ago.

Sam H. Chandler, who died in 1884.

Jesse R. Chandler, who died at San Antonio about 1920.

Mrs. Ella Stafford, who died in Dallas in 1937.

Edward Vontress Chandler, who died in 1934 in this county, where he had lived all his life.

Five generations of descendants of this frontier family live in Brown county, and the name will always be revered not only because it was the first name enrolled upon the scroll of this county's citizens, but because through eighty-five years it has symbolized all the ennobling principles of upstanding American citizenship.

## Early Morning Tragedy

RECORDS of the exact dates when some of the first citizens of Brown county moved here with their families are lamentably incomplete. It is very well established, however, that Israel Clements and his family became the second household to establish themselves in the county. The arrival of this family is dated on the day following the arrival of the Chandler family, in July, 1856.

Israel Clements was born near Fayetteville, Georgia. He came into Texas as a youth, and stopped for a time in what is now Cass county. He married Harriet Anderson, a daughter of Moses Anderson, in Panola county, near the present

site of the town of Carthage. Moses Anderson himself became one of the pioneers of this county, and was the first county clerk, having been elected to that office in the first three elections held here. The Anderson home was established in the Salt Creek community, where he built a log house for his family.

Israel Clements made scouting trips into this section before moving his household here, and established his first home on a tract of land south of Brownwood. The family lived there until 1869, when Clements moved to a point on the old road between Camp Colorado and Comanche, on the east side of

Salt Creek. Piles of rock marking where the corners of the cabin stood were still visible in very recent years.

Very soon after this move had been made and the new home established, tragedy stalked into the Clements home and took the husband and father away. The children were small, Jim, the oldest, being nine years old and a native of this county. A hired man named George Isaacs lived with and worked for the Clements family.

In order to give protection against raids by Indians, who were seen often in the Salt Creek neighborhood, Clements had built a corral of stout poles in such way that the opening was directly against one corner of the residence. At night, because of the Indian menace, the horses were placed inside this corral and the gate was securely fastened. The kitchen was in a separate building about thirty feet from the other cabin, and both structures had rock chimneys. The cooking and eating was in the kitchen, and here the industrious Mrs. Clements also had her loom for weaving cloth because there was no room for it in the other cabin.

The story is told that one night the family suspected the presence of Indians in the neighborhood, and one or two of the older boys and the men pushed a wagon in front

of the corral gate, chaining a rear wheel to a post at the side of the opening so that the Indians could not quickly get the gate open and make way with the horses without making so much noise the family would awaken. A watchful dog was also kept on the place.

During the night a rain came up, and those who had planned to sleep in the wagon were driven into the house. Indians immediately sneaked up and in the noise made by the rain moved the wagon and drove the horses and mules out of the corral. Clements, however, heard the stealthy savages and at once gave the alarm, calling on all hands to seize guns and pursue the Indians, who were leaving the yard when he discovered them. Everybody except George Isaacs, the hired man, responded with alacrity, Isaacs remaining in bed while Clements and his boys recovered their stolen animals.

Tragedy came next morning. During breakfast Clements upbraided Isaacs severely for his refusal to assist in recovering the stolen animals, declaring that if the hired man had helped none of the horses would have been lost. Isaacs was infuriated but said little.

After finishing his meal Clements went to the fireplace where he stood with his hands spread out to the fire, warming them. His back was turned toward Isaacs,



who was still at the table. Saying not a word, Isaacs went to the loom from which there was hanging a gun belt with a pistol and a large knife in it. He grasped the knife, stepped up behind Clements, and seizing him by the waist began plunging the long knife into his body.

Clements struggled to free himself, but not until after he had been stabbed eight times was he able to wrench the knife from Isaacs' grasp. Then he knocked Isaacs to the floor. The hired man fell near the breakfast table, and here Clements literally cut him into ribbons. Too weak to plunge the knife into the man again, Clements struggled to his feet. Isaacs likewise managing to get up and walk to the door. Then he staggered into the yard, leaned on a stump on which a washpan usually was placed, and died quickly with blood spurting from his body.

Clements also managed to walk out the door, and started toward the other cabin. When asked by one of the boys whether a doctor should be called, he replied, "No, a doctor would do no good now." He asked whether Isaacs had died, and when answered in the affirmative sank to the ground and was dead within a few minutes. This early morning tragedy occurred October 23, 1869, and was witnessed by Mrs. Clements and her

children who stood helplessly during the fight.

There is no explanation of Isaacs' behavior. His name occurs several times in the history of the first two or three years of the county, sometimes spelled "Isaaks." He was one of the taxpayers enrolled in the first assessment for 1859, and engaged in a fight with the Indians in 1858, the first such encounter recorded in the new settlement. At that time he and others, including the Coggin brothers, Sutton Harriss, A. E. Adams, Israel Clements and Welcome Chandler, were at the latter's home when Indians were discovered rounding up horses near the Chandler house. The white men gave chase but were unable to beat the Indians because of poor arms. The Indians got away from them, and a little later also defeated and ran away from another party of whites headed by Captain Conner.

Isaacs was also one of the Rangers enrolled under command of Brooks W. Lee in 1858, under Legislative authority, and stationed for a time at a camp on Pecan Bayou. These men had many brushes with the savages. There is no indication in the meagre records of the day that Isaacs was other than a brave and courageous man.

A few days after the tragedy, the routine of the home life of the Clements family was reorganized,

and Mrs. Clements and her children went forward with the usual burdens and responsibilities of the day. In 1872 the widowed mother moved her family to the south side of Salt Creek, and built a large double house in the field, not far from the present residence of Jim Clements and his sister, Miss Eliza. The new house was a double log affair with two huge chimneys, and was the largest and most substantial home in the Salt Creek com-

munity. It was one and a half stories high, and in later years was weatherboarded with heart-lumber which made it both substantial and comfortable. In one of the upper rooms Jim Clements did his studying at night, and helped work out the problems confronting his mother as she carried on the task of looking after her family.

Of such families was the foundation laid for the future development of Brown county.

## Hanna Valley Settlement

**H**ANNA VALLEY on the Colorado river was first claimed for settlement by Jesse P. Hanna, in October, 1856. He moved his family, including five sons, into the attractive valley, built his home and established civilization in that part of what was then Brown county, only a few months after the first settlers built their homes near Pecan Bayou in the vicinity of what is now Brownwood.

Jesse Hanna's sons were Sam, Jim, John, David and R. M. Hanna. Dave Hanna seems to have been more active in frontier affairs than other members of his family, and took part in the organization

of Brown county in 1858. He is said to have been a man of good education and fine personality, and he and his wife were parents of the first white child born in the county—Josephine Hanna, born March 26, 1857.

Brown county, as originally formed by legislative enactment, and until the year 1887, included in its area a large part of what is now Mills county. When Mills county was created a new line was run between the old own of Williams ranch and the present towns of Mullin and Goldthwaite, and Hanna Valley was transferred to the new county.

Hanna Valley is an attractive

locality and is now the home of many old settlers. Its first post-office was established in 1875, and Jim Hanna, a son of Jesse P. Hanna, was the first postmaster. The postoffice was discontinued after a few years, and when reestablished was named Regency because in the meantime another office named Hanna Valley had been established.

The first store was established in the Valley in 1871 by Jones and Watkins, according to old-timers, although there is no record of this. Mail service came from Brownwood once or twice a week.

The first house erected in Hanna Valley, the home of Jesse P. Hanna, was built of elm logs, and was about 18 feet square. The logs were cut along the river bottom and carried to the building site by Hanna and his sons, in the fall of 1856. The rafters were elm poles spiked to plates on the two side walls by tough wooden pins. Cracks in the walls were daubed with cement made by Hanna and his boys, and the entire structure was serviceable as a fort in case of an Indian attack. Two small windows, one at either side of the fireplace, gave light for the interior, and a stout rock chimney was built at one end of the house, with a fireplace five feet wide. The house is still standing in a fair state of preservation.

First tax rolls of Brown county show the Hanna family as among the leading citizens of the new county. Dave Hanna served on the first grand jury and was one of the first commissioners elected in the county. He joined a company of Rangers under Captain John Williams in 1858. Williams was killed in a fight with Indians on Baby Head mountain, Llano county, in 1863.

Bullet holes and arrow marks on the old Hanna home showed the reality of the conflict in which early settlers were engaged in this section. In a log near the door there is a bullet said to have been fired by a Comanche Indian at one of the women of the family. The story is that in the daytime the Indian had slipped into the barnyard and stolen and mounted a horse which he was riding away when one of the women saw him and called to him to stop. Instead of stopping, the Indian fired at her, barely missing her as she reached for a shotgun.

In the old Hanna cemetery rest the bodies of Jesse P. Hanna and his wife and many of their kin. Jesse P. Hanna was born in 1803 and died in 1883. He was known as a hunter, law-giver, expounder of the scriptures, physician and veterinarian in emergencies, blacksmith, dentist and general handy man in the community. On his

monument in the Hanna cemetery there is represented an open Bible, carved in the marble and held by a hand pointing upward.

Descendants of this first family live in various parts of Texas and many of them still make their homes in the historic Hanna valley.

The Lindsey family, living across the Colorado river in San Saba county, were neighbors of the Hannas, and O. F. Lindsey, head of the family, figured in one of the most spectacular and tragic Indian fights of the frontier period—a fight in which Dave Hanna participated and came near losing his life when his horse was killed under him.

O. F. Lindsey and a small posse

pursued a band of Indians that had raided the Hanna Valley settlement and stolen several horses. The white settlers are believed to have been poorly armed, and decided they would charge the Indians when they caught the red men. Lindsey was killed while making a gallant fight. He left a wife and six children, of whom James H. Lindsey, fourteen years old, was the oldest. He took charge of the situation and lived to be an honored citizen of his county.

Information as to the Hanna and Lindsey families was gathered during a period of years by the late Henry C. Fuller, who visited the Valley, examined the old Hanna home and talked with many residents of the section.

## *Mullins Family Reaches Frontier*

ONE of the families which contributed very largely to the development of Brown county in the frontier era, and which continues to this day to exert a useful influence in the county, is the Mullins family. The town of Mullin, now in Mills county, bears the name of this family, although the final "s" in the town's name has been dropped. The community

originally was known as Mullins Ranch.

Charles Mullins, Kentuckian, and head of the family, brought his family of six children into Brown county in 1857. The family first came into Texas in 1836 and settled on Navidad creek, Fayette county. The state gave him 1,080 acres of land in Nueces county and gave his eldest son, Isaac

Mullins, 640 acres in Williamson county.

When J. C. Mullins, son of Charles, was 21 years old his father gave him two yoke of oxen and a wagon. After hauling freight for a time, young Mullins traded his oxen and wagon for cattle, and his herd and that of his father was worked on one ranch. When grass became scarce the Mullinses moved to Lampasas county, and then in 1857 they moved to the eastern part of Brown county, establishing a home which became known as Mullins' ranch.

In 1858 the Mullins cattle were moved to the northwestern part of Brown county and from that time to the present the family has been closely identified with that community in which the town of Thrifty now stands. The location of the Mullins home here was in the Jim Ned valley and ten miles from Camp Colorado, where 500 Rangers and soldiers were quartered. The home was built of lumber hauled from Round Rock. This place became the home of J. C. Mullins, who married Miss Susan Elizabeth Allen, January 4, 1859. They had a large family of children, some of whom are still living in Brown county.

Indians were active in that part of the county when the Mullinses established their new home, and it was necessary to carry firearms

wherever Mr. Mullins went. The family defended themselves on the ranch by various devices. The community began to attract new homeseekers, and within a short time became the leading town in the county.

There are many "firsts" connected with the J. C. Mullins home and family. The first Methodist church in the county was organized in the Charles Mullins home at Mullins ranch, and a few years later another Methodist church was organized in the J. C. Mullins home at Thrifty. Mr. Mullins and his brother were charter members of the first Masonic lodge organized in the county, about 1865.

The Mullins family was constantly menaced by Indians during the early years in the Thrifty neighborhood, and there are many stories of narrow escapes from death at the hands of the savages. One such instance, recalled a few years ago by Mrs. Julia Mullins Baker, was when Indians threw a heavy piece of pecan timber at Mrs. Mullins while she and one or more of her children were sitting on the stoop of the house. They ran into the house, and when Mr. Mullins came home he found moccasin tracks near the barns where the Indians had hidden.

The little child of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Williams was taken to the Mullins home and nursed tenderly

after Mrs. Williams had been slain and another child carried away to die horribly while hanging in a mesquite tree.

Mr. Mullins engaged in many encounters with Indian bands. In 1864 he and a company of home scouts followed a band of Indians over a long and arduous trip, finally missing their quarry and returning home, the return trip requiring nine days in which the men had nothing to eat but buffalo meat.

On another occasion Mr. Mullins heard a noise near the house, and when he ran out to investigate, saw an Indian trying to steal his horse. He set the dogs on the redman, who ran away and escaped. In 1857, after Indians had stolen some of their horses. Mr. Mullins and brother, Isaac, with R. Y. Cross and Tom Fowler, chased the savages and overtook them at about daylight one morning. Two Indians were killed and the horses were recovered. On another occasion Mrs. Mullins frightened away an Indian who had lain down on the door step and was trying to look into the house. When he saw a gun in her hands he ran away.

A peculiar incident of the early days is related by members of the family. One day while none of the men were at home, Mrs. Jane Cross' children were playing about

the yard when they heard a noise and immediately corralled Mr. Mullins' horse, after which they hurried into the house. The Indians stole the horse, which carried the "I. C." brand that marked all the Mullins livestock. The horse was four years old at that time, which was 1866. Ten years later the horse was identified by its "I. C." brand when John Townsend saw the animal at the Philadelphia Centennial, where it took a prize as a draft animal. John Townsend is said to have been the first merchant in Brown county, although this is not verified by the records.

The Mullins family was prominently identified with the early day business life of the county, and were large operators in cattle. In 1881, Mr. Mullins sold 2,050 cattle and 200 horses and began farming. In the 1887 drouth he sustained heavy losses, and bought the interest of Dr. G. W. Allen, his partner, and brother-in-law, in the business which they had operated jointly. Dr. Allen at one time endeavored to have the post office named Jim Ned, but the Washington authorities called it Thrifty and the name has stuck. The post office was established on Koehler's farm, in a log cabin, with J. Jett Green in charge. In 1877 a new postoffice was established, and Mr. Mullins managed it.

The firm of Allen & Mullins was formed about 1877. The firm maintained a large store handling general merchandise, and employing eight or ten clerks—a truly monumental enterprise for that day in frontier territory. Thrifty soon became a trading point and provisions were bought there by settlers living all over West Texas. The Allen & Mullins cotton gin, first established in Brown county, was also operated at Thrifty.

In the seventies Thrifty had a "hotel," and there was a saloon owned by Gallman & Jester of Waco. The blacksmith shop was owned by Lee Scham.

It is claimed that the first regular school in Brown county was conducted at Thrifty by Henry Sackett, who later was a representative of this district in the legislature. Early settlers in this and other communities had much difficulty arranging school facilities, usually solving the problem by "pooling" the children of two or three families with a part-time tutor in charge. School work was begun in Brownwood at a very early day before the townsite was moved across Pecan Bayou to the Greenleaf Fisk tract, present downtown district of the city.

W. N. Adams, later state senator, taught one or two sessions at

Thrifty. The Thrifty school, however reached its zenith under the leadership of J. H. Miller, who came to Brown county in 1879, a youth of 24 years, from Kentucky. For the next 15 years Miller taught at Thrifty and other points in the county. Among his pupils were the Mullins children, and J. C. Mullins and R. Y. Cross were the principal patrons. The school building was constructed of logs, the benches were made of logs, and there was no floor. There was one door, covered with rawhide and the one window was used as a peephole through which to watch for Indians. The red men, however, disappeared from this section at about this time. The school building was located on what later was the J. L. Cross land. All boys who were old enough carried pistols to school, each pupil having a place assigned to him in which to keep his weapons while at the school. Mr. Williams later gave a four-acre tract of land on which were built a school, a Masonic temple and a Methodist church.

J. H. Miller, pioneer teacher, still lives in Brownwood and often enjoys meeting his "boys," former pupils at Thrifty, who are now grandparents and—some of them—great-grandparents.

## Brooks W. Lee a Real Frontiersman

THE SUCCESS of Brown county's pioneer settlers in finally overcoming the menace of Indian depredations and in firmly establishing themselves in the new country was due very largely to the capable and courageous leadership of Brooks W. Lee. He was a modest and unassuming man, but he brought to his new home here ten years of active experience in dealing with Indians, and an inherited fearlessness that made him an ideal frontiersman.

Typical of his spirit of daring as well as of his skill, he rode alone through the Indian Territory in 1846, when he was twenty years old, while traveling from Missouri to Texas. During the ensuing years he was an Indian fighter, peace emissary of the federal government in negotiations with the Indians, Texas Ranger, Confederate soldier, trail driver, cattle raiser and pioneer homesteader. From the time of his arrival in Brown county until Indians no longer were seen here, there was hardly a skirmish with the savages in which he was not a participant.

Brooks W. Lee was a native of Tennessee, where he was born January 25, 1826. While he was still a young boy his father moved

to Newton county, Missouri, and in 1846 young Lee traveled alone to Texas. A year later his father and others of the family joined him in Texas, during the first year of this commonwealth's statehood, the family settling after a time on Tehuacana Creek in Navarro county. About 1852 the family moved to McLennan county. Brooks Lee and Miss Keziah Adams, a daughter of Ichahod Adams, another Brown county pioneer, were married in McLennan county in 1854.

During the first years after he reached Texas Mr. Lee was sent by President Polk to call the Indians to assemble for peace negotiations, and with three others went as far as the Platte river. The story is told that while on this trip the man came in contact with a small band of Indians under the leadership of a chief named Santa Anna. They were camped at the base of a double mountain, which was named Santa Anna. The town by that name now stands at the base of this double mountain. This is one of the legendary stories of the origin of the name.

Continuing this trip, Mr. Lee and his three associates were captured by Indians who held a council to determine whether or not



to kill them. Lives of the party were saved by the efforts of a chief who was a friend of Lon Williams, Indian agent.

Mr. Lee and his father-in-law, Ichabod Adams, moved with their families into Brown county, arriving May 3, 1857. Already here were Welcome W. Chandler and family, Israel Clements and his wife, Charles Mullins and his sons, Jesse Hanna and his sons and possibly one or two other families. During the year, however, several other families joined the little settlement in Brown county, among the new arrivals being T. D. Harriss, W. F. Brown, David Baugh, George H. Adams and others. These men fought the battles of the early years, aiding each other not only in repelling Indian attacks but in overcoming the hardships presented by Nature in a new land far away from civilization. Settlements in Comanche county were the nearest neighbors.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee were parents of ten children, eldest of whom, George L. (Bud) Lee was the third white child born in the county and the first boy born here. A son, Aaron D. Lee, still lives in Brownwood. After thirty-five years of residence in the county, Brooks Lee died in 1892, while all the county mourned his passing.

Brooks W. Lee was a member

of the First Texas Ranger company stationed here. Funds were appropriated by the Legislature in 1858 to provide protection for the frontier counties, and Ichabod Adams was sent to Austin to ask that a company of Rangers be stationed here. The request was granted, but of the fifteen Rangers assigned to service here most of the men were Brown county citizens. They included Mr. Lee, George H. Adams, A. E. Adams, H. C. Knight, George Isaacs, J. S. Harriss, Dick Germany, B. J. Marshall, Willis Holloway, W. L. Williams, Cyrus Ford, Avery Toby, Steve Derrick, John Herrige and Andrew Mather. Mr. Lee was placed in charge of this detachment, which was part of a company commanded by Captain John S. Ford, and had the rank of lieutenant.

This detachment of Rangers participated in many fights with Indians throughout this section of the state.

When the War of the Confederacy began Mr. Lee joined the Southern forces. Brown county held an election in February, 1861, and ratified the ordinance of secession from the Union. Mrs. Lee, with Mrs. Welcome W. Chandler and Miss Jane Chandler, found materials and made a Confederate flag, which was raised at the Chandler home as a symbol of Brown county's allegiance to the

cause that was destined to be so cruelly defeated.

Shortly after this incident Mr. Lee, as a Confederate soldier assigned to frontier defense against the Indians, participated in what came near being an engagement of the Confederate War in this vicinity.

When the secession convention met in Austin January 28, 1861, a committee of public safety was appointed, and delegated to look after protection of the frontiers. H. E. McCullough was given the rank of Colonel and appointed to command the frontier forces. McCullough reached Brownwood February 17, and five days later left for Camp Colorado in Coleman county at the head of a force of 200 men, including Mr. Lee and other Brown county Confederates.

The Camp Colorado post was under command of Captain E. Kirby Smith, in charge of the Second U. S. Cavalry. Colonel McCullough demanded the surrender of the post, together with all arms, horses and other equipment. Captain Smith demurred, but after conferences it was agreed that the post surrender, and that the men keep their arms and horses, and later surrender them to the Confederacy at a point designated on the Texas coast.

Mr. Lee, continuing to serve in the Confederate army, was appoint-

ed enrolling officer for the western district of Texas. After the war he resumed his civilian occupations in the county, and was one of the fourteen Brown county men engaged in the tragic Dove Creek Indian fight January 8, 1865, in which he saved the lives of two small Indian boys. It was over his vigorous protest that this encounter occurred, he having rightly concluded that the Indians were friendly and should not be molested.

Mr. Lee was one of the first cattle raisers of this section, operating at a time when the Coggin brothers, W. C. Parks, J. L. Vaughn, L. P. Baugh, William Guthrie, John Bryson Jr., J. J. Driskill, John A. Glass, Elkins & Gholson and other early cattlemen were running immense herds in West Texas. The family home was moved in 1866 from the log cabin on Pecan Bayou to the Clear Creek neighborhood, near the present town of Brooksmith. The ranch he established there is still operated by Aaron D. Lee.

In 1869 Mr. Lee launched an undertaking that would be a staggering one even today. Accompanied by his nephew, Brooks Lee, his brother-in-law, Ennis Adams, and Tom and Jack Wright and a negro named W Riley, he drove a herd of 2,000 cattle from Clear Creek to San Bernardino, California. This was only twenty years after the

famous gold rush to the west coast.

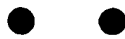
After many months of weary effort the party drove the cattle through, taking the longer northern route because of a scarcity of water on the southern route. Upon arrival in California, however, it was found that the cattle could not be sold profitably. In the emergency Mr. Lee leased a tract of land, pastured the cattle for several months and then sold them. He returned home by boat, going all the way around Cape Horn and landing at Galveston two years after he had left home.

Mrs. Lee, who was just as courageous as her doughty husband, had heard nothing from him in the meantime and had reached the conclusion that he had lost his life. While she was cooking the noon meal one day she heard a familiar voice call her name, and turned

round to see her husband standing in the door. He had \$40,000 worth of gold with him.

Mr. Lee had ridden a pony called "Brownie" to California, and after he had sold his cattle he left "Brownie" with a man who was soon to return to Texas and promised to bring the horse home. Two years after Mr. Lee reached his home, the man came up one day with the horse and delivered him to his owner.

Mrs. Lee was also a native of Tennessee, where she was born March 31, 1840, daughter of Ichabod and Caroline Adams. The family came to Texas in 1850 and after a short time spent in Henderson county moved to McLennan county where she and Mr. Lee were married. On more than one occasion she protected her own life and that of her family against threatened Indian attack.



## *From Tarheel to Longhorn*

UNTIL LATE in 1940, the connecting link between the frontier of Brown county and the present era was a quiet mannered man universally known as "Uncle Charlie" Harriss. He was the fourth white child born in Brown county, March 18, 1859; and until

his death was an honored and honorable citizen of his native county.

"Uncle Charlie" (C. V.) Harriss was a son of T. D. Harriss, who came to Brown county in the summer of 1857 from Mississippi at about the time his cousins, the

Coggin brothers, reached the county. Jesse Sutton Harriss, brother of T. D. Harriss, came a little later and was killed while serving as Brown county sheriff in 1861. The Harriss family settled east of Pecan Bayou, in the neighborhood of the Chandler settlement, and lived there until the early sixties—the date is indefinite—when Judge Greenleaf Fisk induced Mr. Harriss to move to the new town of Brownwood. The Harriss children were needed to make up the roll for the school. There were about ten families living in Brown county at the time Mr. Harriss settled here.

Moving across the Bayou, the Harriss family settled down near what is now known as "The Flat," colored section of the city. There were a few slaves with the family, and Harriss is now a well known and respected name among colored citizens of the community. The first cotton raised in Brown county was in "The Flat" where Mr. Harriss operated a small farm.

After he grew up and gained a family of his own "Uncle Charlie" moved west of Brownwood, half way between this city and Bangs, and established a home in which he spent the remaining half century of his life.

In an interview written by this author for The Brownwood Bulletin ten years ago "Uncle Charlie"

gave much interesting information about his family and about early day incidents here. He said, in part:

"My father, Thomas D. Harriss, was a native of North Carolina. Like most of those who lived on the Atlantic coast in those days, he felt a consuming interest in the west. About the middle of the fifties, he and his brother, Sutton Harriss, began their trek westward. They stopped for a while in Mississippi, where my father met my mother. They were married a short time later.

"All the while the two brothers had their eyes on Texas. It had become, to most Southerners and to not a few Yankees, the Promised Land. Strange, exaggerated tales left the frontiers of the Lone Star State. It was, rumor said, a land flowing with milk and honey; a land of plenty, where vast fortunes could be made overnight; a land in whose capital one rubbed elbows with half-naked Indians, swarthy Mexicans, negro slaves, and dangerous, killing white men who perhaps wore horns, and who certainly were not afraid of the ten commandments. These killers had become so careless with their guns that all of them were forced to maintain private graveyards where they escorted their victims to their last resting places. To these cemeteries the bad men took

chance strangers who became their friends, not in a horizontal position, as their enemies were carried, but rather on a friendly visit, in order that the killers might point out to their admiring guests to what summits of artistic ability they were capable of rising, and to point with pride, which was, as a general rule, modest and devoid of egotism, to the results of their handiwork.

"There was a lot of truth, of course, in most of the rumors that reached the outside world about the state. But the talkers did not tell everything. . . My parents didn't figure on getting rich quick—they were interested in Texas in much the same manner as were the other families who moved here at an early date. It was the pioneer impetus that drove them and countless other Americans to take up land in unsettled places, and that caused them to move here. They were, like others, attracted by the grandeur of the primitive.

"My father, my mother and my uncle came to Texas, settling for a short time in Bell county. But the family was still unsatisfied; they were living in too civilized a country. Hearing much of Brown county, the two men decided to take a trip here and get the lay of the territory.

"Everything turned out to their satisfaction. Brown county offered

much. It was a magnificent cattle country, whose pastures were filled with tall grass. It was abounding in wild game. The hills were full of deer; quail were everywhere, so tame that a man could almost reach down and pick them up with his hands. Along the Bayou, which was then such a clear stream that one could look into its depths and see the bass and catfish as they swam about, there were numberless pecan trees, and these trees were filled at twilight with hundreds of wild turkeys.

"People did not travel much in those days. In fact, it was a rare thing for anybody living around here to go as far as San Saba or Comanche, two towns where supplies were obtained. Both were older settlements than Brownwood.

"My uncle, Sutton Harriss, was appointed as one of the first sheriffs of Brown county, and was killed while holding that office in 1861.

"It started with a fist fight. Sutton thrashed a man named Roberts. The man's brother, Burl Roberts, became indignant and sent word to Sutton that he was 'going to get him before sundown the next night.' He let it be known also, that he was not going after the sheriff with his fists. He had two six-shooters with which he intended to settle affairs with the

office holder. After that, he said, the friends of the sheriff could plant him in a Christian manner.

"Court was on at the time. The next morning, when my uncle went up to the court house, he made all the necessary preparations, taking with him a six-shooter and a double barrelled shotgun. He had barely deposited the shotgun in a corner of the room when he glanced out the window and saw Roberts coming up the walk to the courthouse. Taking up the gun, he stepped out of the room, stationing himself in front of the entrance to the log building. Roberts was about ten feet away at the time.

"'Hear you're looking for me, Roberts,' the sheriff said. 'Better go on about your business and let things slide. There's no use in you and I having trouble.'

"Roberts replied by reaching for his gun in no uncertain manner. My uncle let him have both barrels of the shotgun, blowing the man's breast entirely away.

"Almost at once a friend of Roberts shot my uncle in the back. He was a school teacher named Anderson, who had no connection with the quarrel. The sheriff lived for quite a while, suffering a slow and painful death. Anderson made a quick getaway after the shooting, and was never seen around here again. It is rumored that he fled to one of the older states and en-

tered the Confederate army as the war was beginning.

"A fellow named John Wesley Hardin, who lived in Comanche county had a gang of outlaws at his beck and call. These men had the reputation of being cattle rustlers, and were not liked by very many people.

"Hardin bore a grudge against Webb, one of the early sheriffs of Brown county. One day seeing Webb in a Comanche saloon, Hardin entered and, getting the drop on Webb, killed him. News of the affair reached Brownwood, and a party of local men chased Hardin out of the country. A few days later some of Hardin's gang rode over to Brownwood, took a few drinks and wound up by shooting the mirror and windowlights out of the saloon. As a consequence, they were lodged in the local jail.

"Other members of the gang, hearing of the fate of their comrades, took matters into their own hands. They rode into Brownwood, held up the sheriff and freed all the prisoners in the calaboose."

Burl Roberts, shot by Sutton Harriss,, served as sheriff from April 7 to August 17, 1860. Jesse Sutton Harriss was named to fill the unexpired term of David A. Baugh, who was elected sheriff in August, 1860, and resigned in March 1861. A. A. McCain was

named sheriff to succeed Harriss.

T. D. Harriss and Jesse Sutton Harriss were included in the first tax roll of the county, made up in

1859. T. D. Harriss participated in many Indian fights, including the disastrous Dove Creek battle in January, 1865.

## *Williams Ranch Bloomed and Died*

A GHOST TOWN with a historic past but an unpromising future is Williams Ranch, formerly included within the territory allotted to Brown county but separated from the Promised Land when Mills county was formed in 1887 by taking parts of Brown, Lampasas, Comanche and Hamilton counties.

If unsupported legends are true, Williams Ranch was first settled a year before the Chandler settlement at Brownwood; but the real date is obscure. John Williams, a native of Tennessee, is said to have settled at the site of the ranch in 1855. Another report is that a man named Russell was the first settler there, about 1855, and that a Mr. Jackson was the first to make his home in the neighborhood, at the site of what was known later as the Jackson Springs.

However this may be, it is certain that Williams Ranch settlement dates from the very earliest frontier period. Due to the fact

that it was on the route from Austin to Fort Concho (San Angelo) it was visited often by travelers, and within a few years became a real metropolis of this section of the state. Today there is only a small community there, with only the dilapidated remains of buildings which once housed important enterprises—ruins that are mute reminders of the departed glory of a frontier village which, it is said, finally was wrecked by internecine strife among its own people rather than by adversity having its origin elsewhere.

John Williams came to Texas from Missouri, and lived and died on the ranch to which he gave his name. His body, with those of his wife and other relatives, lies in the old cemetery, on an elevation in front of the site where the old Williams Ranch school building once stood.

Williams, it is believed, had no intention of making his permanent home here, but stopped at the re-

markable springs which used to flow there, and after finding the location a pleasant one remained to make his home.

A son of the founder, J. D. (or J. T.) Williams, was the directing genius back of most of the little community's development. He built a mill, housed in a stone building and serving the pioneers of a large section. The town reached its peak as a business center in the early eighties, when it accumulated several business enterprises, a hotel, several saloons, a telegraph office and other accoutrements of civilization. The town was a meeting place for stockmen of this area, who gathered there to discuss sale settlements, plan drives and attend to other matters. The hotel, known as the Florida Hotel, was a pretentious hostelry for its day and time, operated by Captain A. A. Hutchinson, from Florida. It was a two story structure of many rooms, and housed from time to time many notable people.

General Robert E. Lee passed through Williams Ranch while moving a detachment of troops to Fort Griffin from the now defunct port of Indianola, on the Gulf coast. Judge Bert Holden, of the Mississippi Supreme Court, spent some of his youth there. Samuel W. T. Lanham, later a member of Congress, was a frequent visitor at the Ranch.

The telegraph line was built from Austin to Fort Concho about 1876, and the operator at the Ranch is said to have been a nine-year old girl, little Hallie Hutchinson, daughter of the hotel proprietor. A little later the telegraph was replaced by a telephone line which at that time was declared to be the longest line in the world.

Alex Ware, Charlie Ware Tol Ware, William Ware and Dick Ware, with their father, B. F. Ware, operated the leading mercantile establishment. Dick Ware later was made a U. S. marshal and killed the notorious desperado, Sam Bass, at Round Rock.

First resident preacher in the Ranch was J. C. Combs, a Baptist from Mississippi, who preached there in 1877. The following year the first Methodist preacher, M. W. Weatherby, came to the community. He was the ancestor of the Weatherby families now living in Brown, Mills and San Saba counties.

A story of unidentified origin, probably written in the early eighties, was found a few years ago in a scrapbook of the late Henry Ford, Brown county pioneer banker. The story tells, among other things, of the strife which seems finally to have broken up the community, and names several early settlers whose families are



actively identified with Brown county history. The story reads in part as follows:

"Williams Ranch was once a lively and thriving village of about 175 inhabitants, situated in the southeastern part of Brown county, surrounded by an industrious and enterprising community of farmers and livestock men.

"The first settlement made at Williams Ranch was by a gentleman named Russell, in the year about 1855. Next came a Mr. Jackson with his family who, perhaps, was the first white man to discover what is known as Jackson Springs, to which he removed, and was with his entire family soon after murdered by the merciless Comanches. (This tragedy may be confused with the murder of Mose Jackson and most of his family at another location in Brown county in the early days.) It is said that having returned from a cattle drive, a short time prior to the murder, having a considerable amount of money, he buried it in some secluded spot known only to himself and his brave, beautiful daughter, a maiden of uncommon intelligence and sagacity, who with the balance of the family was a victim of the red devils' knives, and it is unknown to this day the whereabouts of the hidden treasure.

"Next came uncle Jimmy (J. C.)

Jones, J. R. (Charles?) Mullins, old Uncle Johnny Williams, with four grownup Tennessee boys, Wm. L., James D., John T. and G. W.; together with Bud and Bob Forsythe and Moccasin John Bishop, who with the assistance of the Chandler negroes—Albert, Tobe and John—with the Conners, Vanns and others, redeemed by their bravery, skill and frontier hardihood and vigilance the village and its magnificent surroundings from anarchy and Indian raiders to civilization and prosperity.

"About this time there came upon the scene our much esteemed fellow townsman, Henry Ford, who with his manly intelligence, accomplished much not only for our immediate vicinity but for Brown county generally. Although of a naturally retiring disposition and modest mein, he was bound to go to the front in the march of progress and civilization, and was an inspiration and exemplar of honorable manhood and good citizenship. Also with him came John M. Parks and a Mr. Walker, and others who added strength and intelligence to the now important settlements.

"Up to this time peace, quiet, confidence and good will reigned supreme. Subsequently a feud arose between the 'old comers' and the 'new comers,' which led to the formation of what was the so-called 'Honest Man's Club,' in the

formation of which many good and honorable men were apparently proscribed, which as a matter of course, led to a deadly hatred and combination of another party, who charged the other with being a secret organization for 'violence and bloodshed,' called the 'Trigger Mountain Mob,' Crimination and recrimination was the natural consequence. Dr. T. B. East was notoriously the leader in this section of the so-called 'Trigger Mountain Mob,' and John M. Parks, who was a wily, shrewd and brave man, naturally led the other party, finally culminating in an attempted assassination of Parks. Both these parties contained good men, and both contained bad men; the consequence was a very bad name for Williams Ranch, and the prime

cause, perhaps, for her untimely demise.

"Around and contiguous to the Ranch are some of the finest agricultural lands, interspersed with a quality of grazing lands never, perhaps, to be invaded by plough, yet producing an excellent grass, in quantity sufficient for small stocks of cattle, sheep, goats, horses and hogs, suited to the demands of small and independent farmers. The commercial prosperity of the Ranch was proverbially astounding up to August, 1881."

One factor contributing to the decline of Williams Ranch probably was the failure of the Santa Fe railway company to build its line through the community, in the middle eighties.

## Coggin Brothers Bring Cattle

**CATTLE OPERATIONS** on an almost unbelievably large scale resulted from the coming to Brown county of the Coggin brothers, who were arrivals of 1857. Their herds, pooled with those of W. C. Parks, another frontiersman who became their partner, ranged all over West Texas, and at one time numbered as many as 24,000 animals. There were many

cattlemen among the earliest citizens of the county—McInnis, Cox, Windham, Baugh, Fowler, Lee and several others—but none engaged in the industry on so large a scale or apparently profited as handsomely as did these transplanted North Carolinians.

A story outlining the far-flung operations of the Coggin brothers and W. C. Parks is taken from a

National Livestock Historical Association publication of several years ago, as follows

"M. J., Samuel R. and Simeon L. Coggin were three of the nine children of Mr. and Mrs. Levi Coggin, a native of North Carolina. When he was five years of age, Samuel R. Coggin was moved with his family to Marshall county, Mississippi, and with his brother, M. J. Coggin, moved to Houston, Texas, in 1854. With a capital of about \$700 the brothers entered into a partnership which lasted more than forty years and brought them wealth.

"M. J. Coggin acted as ranch manager, and Samuel R. Coggin as financial agent. They engaged in freighting to north Texas, hauling salt, bacon, flour, coffee, molasses and other commodities. Each trip required a month because there were no bridges and few roads. Salt brought \$10 a hundred pounds and other supplies were priced in proportion.

"In 1856 the brothers disposed of their outfit and bought 3,000 steers. They stayed a while in Bell county, and then came to Brown county in 1857, soon thereafter establishing a herd in Coleman county. At that time there was no civilization west of Brownwood to the New Mexico border. Stiles Brothers lived four miles away and had a ranch there. Beef cattle were

sold to buyers who shipped them by steamer from Shreveport, and usually brought around \$15 per head for four and five year old steers."

When the war of the Confederacy began, the Coggin brothers left their affairs in the hands of J. E. and Frank Stiles of Coleman county, and joined the Southern forces. Samuel R. Coggin was a member of Allen's regiment, Walker's Brigade, in Ben McCullough's Division, and was engaged in active service in Arkansas. After two years he was discharged and returned to Brownwood on account of ill health. He then joined with other settlers in repelling Indian raids and building up the new country.

In the middle sixties Coggin brothers bought the interests of the Stiles brothers. W. C. Parks, recently arriving in Brown county, joined the firm, which then was known as Coggin & Parks. Mr. Parks had also been a Confederate soldier and came to Brown county after being discharged. Coggin & Parks operated immense herds of cattle, on the open range that extended indefinitely to the west.

Operations of this firm were so large that they have become legendary. Some reports say the firm had as many as 31,000 cattle under their brand at one time, and that Indians stole from 7,000 to 12,000 head from them. J. W. Taber,

a nephew of the Coggins, says that "Uncle Modie" Coggin, who was in charge of the cattle operations for the firm, told him 24,000 head was the largest number they ever owned at one time, and that losses to Indians and rustlers were less than reported. It was impossible to handle a herd larger than about 3,000 head at one time, and Indian raids could not have taken away many more than that, Mr. Taber said. The major raid of the Indians was broken up by troops from Camp Colorado, and the remainder of the herd was driven to a ranch in Tom Green county. A second raid on a Christmas Eve resulted in the loss of many cattle, and claims later were paid by the federal government amounting to about \$35,000.

The remnant of this herd was sold by Coggin & Parks in 1872 to John S. Chisholm, about 8,000 head being involved in the deal. The Coggins then left the cattle business temporarily, but a short while afterwards took it up again with the idea of producing a better grade of cattle. They bought herd bulls and other good breeding stock and in 1882 brought high class bulls from Kentucky to place with their herds. The first fence in Coleman county was built by them, enclosing a 1500 acre pasture. Other land was bought around Brownwood in 1874, and the widely known Coggin ranch southwest of

Brownwood, originally containing about 10,000 acres, was bought and fenced. It is now owned by E. E. Kirkpatrick, and is a well developed property.

The Coggins were among the most active town builders in the early days of Brownwood. They built the first stone house in Brownwood in 1875, giving inspiration for a building boom which during the next few years brought a great many stone structures into the business section. Several of these early business houses, with the original tin roofs placed on them in the late seventies by J. C. Weakley, are still being used by business concerns. One of the last big cattle deals of the Coggin brothers was the purchase from John S. Chisholm of about 4,000 head which were placed on Peace river. These animals later were sold to the founders of the Matador Land & Cattle Company.

The banking operations of the Coggins began after they had disposed of most of their cattle holdings. Henry Ford, who came here in the late seventies, became associated with them, and until his death in 1910 was active in the private bank, known as Coggin Bros. & Ford. Through this bank were financed a great many of the business and industrial ventures of the last two decades of the nineteenth century, and by personal

leadership the Coggins and Mr. Ford gave inspiration for much of the development of the community and of this section of the state.

M. J. Coggin remained a bachelor, but S. R. Coggin married Mrs. Mattie Smith of Alvarado in 1884. Upon his death he directed that his widow make provision in her will for leaving their large fortune to Daniel Baker college, in which they long had been interested, as an endowment fund to finance the education of needy Brown county boys and girls. Also provided was a fund for construction of a building which is used as a fine arts studio and auditorium. But for this endowment, it is generally agreed, the college would not have been able to weather the stormy years, and scores of Brown county young people have been enabled to com-

plete their college education because of it.

Mr. and Mrs. Coggin also made provision for giving the municipality the beautiful tract of land known as Coggin Park, and for the erection of a building, at a cost of \$10,000, on the tract. Due to faulty planning, the building when erected proved to be of little use, and after being more or less neglected for several years was demolished and replaced by a small stone structure which houses the park keeper. The Coggin park is contiguous to the Parks Estate, where W. C. Parks and his family made their home until death broke up the family circle. The H. L. Cravens home now occupies the site of the old Coggin home, a great two-story structure of wood, which was burned several years ago.

## Many New Families Move In

THE MAN who is credited with having slain the last buffalo killed on open range in Brown county was William Franklin (Uncle Billy) Brown, an arrival of 1857, whose life span of almost 100 years carried him well into the modern era of the county. He was

born in Georgia April 9, 1820, and died here December 22, 1919.

Horns of the buffalo Uncle Billy shot were placed in the Boenicke collection, later given to Howard Payne college.

Mr. Brown settled in the Jones chapel vicinity, and assisted in the

organization of the county. In fact, a great many people were under the erroneous impression in later years that the county had been named in his honor. He was elected the first district clerk of the county in the two elections of 1858, and served as the third postmaster here, shortly after the office was established. The first postmaster was also a Mr. Brown—Henry C. Brown. The office was opened August 23, 1858. Henry C. Brown was succeeded in November of that year by Wiley B. Hamilton, and Wm. F. Brown served as postmaster from March 17, 1859, to May 31, 1859.

The Baugh, Moseley and Anderson families were among the new citizens moving here during 1857 and 1858, who left lasting impressions upon the new county. There were several branches of the Anderson families, second generation descendants of whom are still living in the county.

M. G. Anderson, who arrived here either late in 1857 or early in 1858, was elected first county clerk of the county, serving for three or more consecutive terms. It may be that the local tradition sanctioning the election of the county clerk for multiple terms had its origin in this fact. William M. Anderson, Sr., brother of M. G. Anderson, arrived a few weeks or months later from Missouri, and

brought with him four sons, Dave Q., William C., Francis and James N. Anderson. Each of these sons established his own home and family, and joined in the rapidly expanding community life of the county. Jas. N. Anderson settled six miles north of Brownwood, and was active in Indian fighting and other frontier services. Among his children are John W. Anderson and Pete Anderson, residents of Brownwood. Dave Q. Anderson made his home also in the northern half of the county, the beloved Mrs. J. F. McGee being one of his children.

Col. William C. Anderson settled here in 1863, and in his later years was known as "Uncle Bill." He lived in the Salt Creek community until his death in 1927, and an air of mystery developed about him because of his insistence that he had been a member of the famous Quantrill Band of post-Confederate war guerrillas. His story was not doubted by the late Henry C. Fuller, who gained Uncle Bill's friendship after a period of years, and had many interviews with the aged veteran during the years immediately preceding his death. Mr. Fuller described him as a kindly man and a good citizen, a typical product of a difficult and dangerous era in which he was most active. Among his children were F. M. Anderson of Mineral Wells, M.

G. and R. L. Anderson of Brownwood, Mrs. Ellen White and Mrs. Texas Pedigo of Owens.

Dave Baugh and Dan Moseley brought their families to Brown county early in 1858, and there are many descendants of both still living in the county and counted among the best citizens of the Promised Land. The Baugh and Moseley families were brought closer together in frontier life by the marriage of Lev P. Baugh and a daughter of Moseley, and another Moseley girl married William Washington Chandler, son of Welcome W. Chandler.

Dave Baugh brought his five sons to the county. They were Lev P. Baugh, W. M. Baugh, Mack M. Baugh, F. C. Baugh and J. O. Baugh. A nephew, Frank Baugh, accompanied the family here, and was elected as the second sheriff of the county in 1860, serving until he resigned to enter the Confederate army. He was killed in a gun fight near Byrds store in the late sixties. Lev P. Baugh established his home on what came to be known as the Baugh ranch north of Brownwood, where he lived to a ripe old age. W. M. (Morg) Baugh was only 4 years of age when he came to Brown county on June 9, 1858, and spent the remainder of his life here, dying in 1939. After reaching manhood he established his home at a spot

which is now covered by several feet of Lake Brownwood water, but moved to Brownwood about 25 years ago to send his children to school. He served two terms as alderman in Brownwood, and was the first president of the Brown County Pioneers Association.

Mack M. Baugh was killed during the war of the Confederacy, and J. O. Baugh died here eight or ten years ago.

Dave Baugh, head of the family, was one of the first county commissioners, having been elected to that post a month after his arrival, and in 1862 was elected a commissioner for another term. He was one of the active leaders of the county during its frontier period.

Dan Moseley was one of the most active Indian scouts and fighters of the new county, his record paralleling that of Brooks W. Lee. He was said to have had "a nose like a bloodhound" on the trail of marauding Indians, after having, like Mr. Lee, several years of active experience with the savages. He served a short time in the Confederate army.

Moseley and the Baughs were in many skirmishes with Indians, and Lev P. Baugh killed an Indian in a single-handed fight at his home one night during the early years. It was in the eighties, however, when the so-called wire cutters'

war broke out here—as it did at about this time over west Texas—that Lev P. Baugh had even more trouble and excitement than during the days of Indian fighting. He was one of the larger cattlemen of the county, and was involuntarily made the unofficial leader of the group of stockmen who were trying to erect and maintain fences on their properties.

The wire cutting era had its origin in the question whether the ranges should remain open and unfenced as they had always been. Wherever wire fences were erected, in this and other counties of west Texas, there was bitter opposition especially on the part of the stockmen whose operations were relatively small and whose land holdings were limited. The trouble broke out here in the early eighties, and led during the next three or four years to bloodshed and prolonged court action. Nothing came of the latter, however, as a result of a series of postponements and changes of venue which, from this distance, seem to have been inspired by the temerity of trial judges who were unwilling to bring the warring factions into court for trial.

Wire cutting began here in the winter of 1884-85, when fences owned by Lev and Morg Baugh on Pecan Bayou and Jim Ned creek were cut. One fence on L. P.

Baugh's place was cut between all the posts for a mile. In 1885 the grand jury returned indictments against ten men. The identity of the wire cutters was not particularly difficult to ascertain, for the two factions were out in the open in their conflict. These cases were continued two times and then dismissed in 1886.

Aid from the state authorities was asked by ranchers whose fences had been cut. A Ranger, Ira Aiton, was sent here to work with John Copeland, a local man who had been employed as special officer by the ranchmen. When it was learned that the Lev Baugh fence was to be cut at a certain time, they asked for and received reinforcements of Captain Scott, Lieutenant Brooks, Sergeant Carmichael and Private Bill Treadwell of the Rangers. These officers hid near the expected scene of wire cutting late in the evening November 7, 1886, and when the wire cutters began operations Jim Lovell and Amos Roberts were killed.

Next day there was uproar in Brownwood, with all kinds of rumors afloat and an open battle expected in the business part of the community. There was little actual trouble, however, and the matter was referred to the courts, with seven men indicted by the grand jury in February, 1887. Then be-



gan a series of transfers of the cases from Brown county to Bell county and back again, and the Bell county judge finally dismissed them in June, 1888, and the matter was ended.

The wire cutting wave seems to

have passed out of the whole state at about the same time. It began in south and southwest Texas several years before it reached this section, because the older cattle growing regions had begun fencing much earlier.



## First Tax Rolls of County

WHEREVER civilization goes—and stays—there inevitably is that bane of life, the white man's burden—taxes. The first settlers of Brown county, however, were not especially burdened by taxation, the total collections for the first year being only \$66.90 on a tax rate of about two cents per \$100.

The first levy and assessment of taxes in the new county was in 1859, the year following organization and election of officers. Due to the small population, it is likely that this assessment was complete, for it was comparatively easy to enroll all the tax payers at that time. Curiously enough, negro slaves comprised a property that was twice as valuable as all the land rendered for taxation that year, and it is noted that the Brown countians went right ahead assessing taxes against slaves through

the year 1862, in spite of the war and emancipation.

Tax payers listed for the year 1859, a list comparable to a complete census of the county, were:

Ichabod Adams, W. M. Bennett, Abel Bowser, W. F. Brown, David Baugh, F. A. Baugh, P. C. Brewer, Levi Roberts, James Vaughn, G. W. Williams, J. J. Cox, Welcome W. Chandler, William Carver, S. R. Coggin, M. J. Coggin, James H. Fowler, Thompson Fowler, Henry Skinner, Jasper Willis, W. L. Williams, Cyrus Ford, D. S. Hanna, Jesse P. Hanna, T. D. Harriss, Jesse S. Harriss, W. B. Hamilton, George Isaacks, George Tankersley, Gideon Willis, John Williams, John Jones, Brooks W. Lee, B. J. Marshall, J. B. McReynolds, R. Potter, Thomas J. Priddy, George Robbins, A. Roberts, Frank Tankersley, Rupel Williams.

Property valuations for that year included:

2,978 acres of land at \$1 per acre (evidently 100% valuation);

10 negro slaves at \$580 each;

41 horses at \$59.15 each;

3,952 cattle at \$6 each;

Cash, \$235;

Miscellaneous property, \$3,641.

There is no record, according to Professor T. R. Havins, of an assessment of taxes in 1860, although no reason can be discovered for omitting it.

In 1861 there was a levy and assessment, and 109 names appear on the rolls for that year, showing the speed with which the new county was being settled. The acreage of land rendered for taxation had increased to 24,081, and an additional 156,245 acres of unrendered land was shown on the tax rolls. The value of negro slaves had increased to \$773 each, and 23 were rendered for taxation. There were 216 horses, valued at \$47 per head, and 18,450 cattle at \$5 per head. Sheep had made their appearance in the county, and 265 were taxed at \$3 per head.

The tax rate for this year was 16 2-3 cents per \$100 valuation, and the tax total was \$799.48.

Names appearing on the tax rolls for 1861 were:

Ichabod Adams, A. E. Adams, M. G. Anderson, David Q. Anderson, J. J. Anderson, W. Aldredge, Peter

Alba, Charles Arnett, David Baugh, P. W. Brewer, W. F. Brown, Abel Bowser, W. W. Beaumont, Fred Brookerson, Wm. Bevens, William Bennett, Wm. E. Burks, J. N. Beasley, John Beasley, Welcome W. Chandler, William Chancellor, N. J. Clark, Israel Clements, W. R. Carver, J. J. Callen, S. R. Coggin, M. J. Coggin, John W. Cox, John Connell, H. M. Childers Sr., H. M. Childers Jr., Elisha Childers, Samuel Crimer, A. J. Davis, J. J. Daniel, W. C. Dunn, Richard Fitzpatrick, Thomas Fowler, James H. Fowler, Levi Fowler, Greenleaf Fisk, Thomas Forsythe, Benjamin Goates, L. D. Greaves, Isaac Griffin, Harry Gilliland, David S. Hanna, Jesse P. Hanna, Thomas D. Harriss, Jesse S. Harriss, R. Hill, W. A. Holloway, F. Marion Hodges, W. S. Houge, Malcom Hunter, H. H. Hunter, James M. Hunter, John James, A. J. Jones, Thomas J. Keesee, O. H. P. Keesee, James E. Keesee, Brooks W. Lee, Gresham Lee, James Lindsey, W. Manuel, John Mullins, William Mullins, A. K. McKean, E. B. McReynolds, Harvey McPeters, John Nichols, W. C. Parks, J. L. Poplin, Isaac Pettitt, Thomas J. Priddy, John Rhodes, James Richardson, Thomas Rogers, George Robins, James Robins, Arch Roberts, Levi Roberts, J. R. Austin, D. D. Sallee, T. C. Small, Benjamin Skinner, John Sheen, Elizabeth St. Clair, G. W. Tankers-

ley, R. F. Tankersley, P. Turner, 360;  
James W. Vaughn, R. W. Vaughn,  
R. A. Vaughn, Elizabeth Watts, W. 575 head of sheep valued at \$2,-  
P. B. Wilbern, F. M. Wilbern, Ben- 300;  
jamin Smith. Miscellaneous property valued at  
\$7,625.

Tax rolls for 1862 contain the  
following additional names: M. W.  
Baugh, J. S. Byers, J. D. Barcroft,  
Elias Bridges, R. D. Beauford, Jep-  
see Bond, W. Baker, J. F. Black-  
well, F. A. Baugh, Samuel Bailey,  
J. J. Cox, Wm. Connell, James P.  
Chancellor, Isaac Christmas, Geo.  
H. Cherry, W. H. Cox, Duncan  
Bros. Wm. Edmundson, John Gilli-  
land, K. L. Gossett, Bap Howell,  
L. J. Harriss, Jas. Hanna, D. Hol-  
lingsworth, W. K. Hamblin, J.  
Hamblin, Dudley Johnston, J. Kirk-  
patrick, L. B. Ledbetter, W. P.  
Mills, Isaac Mullins, W. A. More-  
ton, D. J. Marshall, D. C. Morgan,  
Joel Parks, L. D. St. Clair, James  
E. Stiles, F. M. Stiles, Taylor  
Smith, Anthony Smith, R. J. Towns,  
John Williams, Thomas Williams,  
W. L. Williams, Allen Williams,  
Isaac West, A. L. Watts, Celia  
Watts, W. J. Wilkerson, Lacey  
Webb.

Properties listed on the tax rolls  
for 1862 included:

29,799 acres of land valued at \$1  
per acre;

26 negroes valued at \$17,300;

33,425 head of cattle valued at  
\$205,355;

697 head of horses valued at \$15,-

Here were listed taxable proper-  
ties of a total value of \$298,349—  
a remarkable evidence of the de-  
velopment that had been made in  
half a dozen years.

Property assessments for 1863  
are not available, but new names  
appearing on the tax rolls for that  
year included:

J. Adams, John A. Adams, F. M.  
Anderson, W. C. Anderson, J. N.  
Baugh, Howell Bass, Wm. Barfoot,  
John Barfoot, B. J. Burford, Mary  
Bevin, J. J. Collins, I. Christian,  
G. Cherryhomes, E. O. Chafee, S. R.  
Camgle, J. M. Coffelt, Joel Counts,  
Henry Counts, S. L. Doran, Henry  
Griffin, W. R. Hough, W. F. Hud-  
son, J. Johnson, J. W. Lewis, D.  
H. Moseley, W. J. Morton, John  
Montgomery, W. McClear, Thomas  
McClear, Lewis Roberts, J. M. Ral-  
lins, G. M. Rallins, Willis Roberts,  
W. Robertson, I. Scogg, W. Stowell,  
G. N. Taksler, James Winters,  
James Ward and Ida Watts.

A certificate attached to the 1863  
tax rolls by M. G. Anderson, county  
clerk, recited that O. H. P. Keesee,  
county assessor and collector of  
taxes, had gone before the com-  
missioners court October 24, 1863,  
with the desire and intention of  
settling with the court, having been

ready to settle for some time past, but that due to the "deranged condition of the county, Indians and other causes, we can not get the court all together at one time." The "other causes" included the War of the Confederacy, which at that time was claiming the attention of a great many Brown county men.

That Brown county citizens were confident of the success of the

Confederate cause is indicated, according to Professor Havins, by the record of a transaction August 26, 1861, in which Ambrose Bull of Lampasas county, living between Lometa and San Saba, sold to Greenleaf Fisk of Brown county one negro woman and her child, for \$1,800. The woman was "of dark complexion, 26 years old, and the child was six years old."

## "Father of Brownwood"

GREENLEAF FISK is a name that is engraved indelibly upon the tablets of Brown county's history, and is known throughout West Texas where his descendants have settled during the past eighty years. The title, "Father of Brownwood," has been given to him because he established the present site of the city and gave a large acreage to the townsite. Supplementing this gift, which obviously was inspired in part by the purpose of gain because he owned a tremendous acreage contiguous to the town, he gave many years of intelligent and faithful service to the city and county.

Judge Fisk had a romantic career. Born in Albany, New York, May 19, 1807, he began at the age of twenty years to prepare for en-

trance into the ministry of the Presbyterian church, after securing a liberal education in ordinary academic subjects. He spent one year at Lane's Theological Seminary at Cincinnati, and then went to Hanover college at Hanover, Indiana, for further study.

At this period of his life the Austin colonization scheme in Texas was taking tangible shape. Many families from the settled areas of the east and middle west were moving toward this section, and marvelous tales of adventure were in circulation. The orderly procedure of the classroom was entirely lacking in glamour; and young Fisk, and a companion, finally decided they would seek their fortunes in the new land.

Embarking in a skiff on the

Ohio river, the two young men started to Texas, reaching this territory while the Mexican flag was still flying and while the colonists were beginning the long series of negotiations which ended finally in their declaration of independence. What became of his companion in adventure is not known, but Fisk settled at Bastrop, and after a time married Miss Mary A. Manlove there.

When Houston organized his small army and the war for Texas independence was begun, Fisk went with the great liberator to San Jacinto, and was one of the valiant patriots engaged in that historic battle April 21, 1836. After this history-making engagement, the soldiers of Houston began returning to their homes, to reestablish civil life in the new Republic of Texas. Fisk went back to Bastrop, to find that during his absence of a year his wife and her family had fled before the Mexicans to east of the Sabine river. After a long search he found her—and with her his first born son, almost a year old, who had been born during his long absence with the Texas army.

Returning to Bastrop, the family rebuilt their home. Fisk sought and obtained election as a Senator of the Republic of Texas, and the record shows that he served faithfully and well. Later he moved

to Williamson county, and it appears that he lived there until his removal to Brown county in 1860.

In 1838 Fisk visited this territory, looking over the vast area with a view to selecting his land grant to which he was entitled because of his service at San Jacinto. In 1846 he made a rather detailed survey of portions of Brown county, and on the 8th day of December, 1846, received a grant signed by J. Pinckney Henderson, giving him title to 1280 acres of land, known as the Marcus Hulen survey, in Brown county. A photostatic copy of this original land grant is in the possession of Mrs. O. B. Porter of Brownwood, a daughter of Henry Ford. The survey includes much of the land now incorporated within the city limits of Brownwood.

Evidently in pursuance of a project that long had been in his mind, Judge Fisk moved his family here in 1860, and camped where Milton avenue now is. Seven children were born at Bastrop to Fisk and his first wife. His second wife was Mrs. Mary Hawkins Fisk, and to this union eight children were born.

Judge Fisk was elected chief justice (county judge) of Brown county in 1862, and afterwards served as district clerk, county clerk, county treasurer and justice of the peace. Whether he ever

qualified as an attorney is not known, but his title of "Judge" came from his service in these offices. At his death in 1888, the whole town was closed and his funeral at the old First Presbyterian church, at the corner of East Anderson and Fisk avenue, was attended by everybody who could get there. His body was laid to rest in Greenleaf cemetery, the land for which he had given to the community and which is named in his honor, as is Fisk avenue.

Judge Fisk had lived here for several years before his project for moving the town crystalized. The first court house was built on the Chandler farm east of the Bayou, but in 1859 it was moved to the Connell farm, two miles south of the first location. A courthouse was built there and in 1865 the Masons added a second story to the structure, to be used as a meeting place. When title to this land appeared to be defective, Judge Fisk proposed to give a site of sixty acres for the town and a hundred acres for county purposes, if the court house were moved, along with the town, to its present location. The offer was accepted.

Exact date of the removal of the town is not known, but appears to have been in the period between 1867 and 1870. Records of the transaction were destroyed when the court house burned in 1880,

and in a substitute deed written in 1880 Fisk mentioned "my former deed of about ten years ago."

Not content with moving merely the court house, Judge Fisk set about moving residents, too. He sold T. D. Harriss 800 acres of land adjoining the townsite, lying in what is now known as "The Flat," on condition that Harriss would move his family onto the tract from their home on Stepps creek. The Harriss children were needed to support the school, and the late C. V. (Uncle Charlie) Harriss often spoke of his attendance at the school.

During the years that followed Judge Fisk bought and sold many other tracts of land in or near the original townsite, and had the satisfaction of seeing the town incorporated as a city in 1877. Among the sales was the transfer of a large acreage adjoining the court house tract to Major John Y. Rankin, Brownwood's first real estate dealer and promoter, who immediately subdivided the tract and sold business blocks from it. This was Rankin's addition, which embraces the heart of the business section.

Like many other early settlers, Judge Fisk in spite of the adventurous spirit which brought him to Texas and to the wilderness of Central Texas, was a well educated, scholarly gentleman with a

record as a patriot, statesman, explorer, business man and far-seeing town builder. At the same time he was universally respected as a neighbor and friend, and his fam-

ily relations were regarded as ideal. Truly, the "Father of Brownwood" was a man worthy of the name, and of the honor which has attached to it through the past eighty years.



## *Bibles and Six-Shooters*

**B**IBLES and six-shooters made their appearance simultaneously in Brown county, and the frontiersmen, while exceedingly busy in building their log cabins, clearing their lands, setting up civil government and combatting all the hardships incident to life on the edge of the wilderness, did not neglect organized religious activities.

The Methodists were the pioneer organizers of churches here, although the first preacher whose visit to the county is of record was a Baptist, a Rev. Mr. Ainsworth, who performed the first wedding ceremony here in 1857 when Mary Ann Chandler and James H. Fowler were married. Before regular churches were organized—and afterward, too, for a long time—religious services were held periodically in the homes of settlers, as itinerant ministers came into the country.

Professor Havins in his "History of Brown County" records the fact that the first church established in Brown county was organized by two Methodist ministers, George Vest and William Mayberry, both of Comanche county, in 1863, in the Hanna Valley community. These preachers did missionary work in Brown and Hamilton counties, both of which were large in area.

The next church organized here was on Jim Ned Creek, above the present town of Thrifty, and was also a Methodist congregation founded by the Rev. Elisha Childress. Services were held at the home of Charles Mullins, and this became one of the regular appointments on the long circuit established by the Methodists of that day.

Rev. F. M. Cross, who settled in Comanche county in 1855, a year before that county was organized,

was a frequent visitor in this county, and in his book "Early Days in Central Texas," tells of the circuit of Mr. Childress, whom he accompanied occasionally. The appointments were: "First at the Beasley crossing on Colorado river; from there down the river to Hanna Valley that is now called Regency; then down to a private house near the old Williams Ranch; from there by Blanket Springs; then up the Bayou to Clements' house above Brownwood; and from there to the last appointment at the Mullins house."

Describing Mr. Childress, who was known as the "bear hunter preacher," and his work, the Rev. Mr. Cross wrote: "Just after the close of the war I went with him the whole round of his circuit. As the Indians were often passing through the country and everybody had to carry guns, the old preacher always carried a shotgun and a six-shooter. I saw him often go into a house where he was to preach on Sunday and set his gun against the wall and lay his six-shooter under the table, get out his Bible and go to preaching. It did not seem to embarrass him in any way."

Professor Havins recites that "it was not until 1875 or 1876 that the third church in the county was organized. This was also a Methodist church and Mr. and Mrs. T. D.

Harriss and four of their children were among the charter members. (Curiously enough, most of the Mullinses and the Harrisses of later generations became Baptists.) The Mount Zion Methodist church located on Hog Creek about two miles northeast of Byrds was founded in 1882. Another church was established a year or two later but united with Mount Zion after about a year. The Mount Zion church was a great center for camp meetings.

Baptist missionaries from Comanche county and elsewhere were active in the county in the early days. The first Baptist missionary ever to preach in the county was the Rev. William Robinson, who lived in Comanche county and operated a saw mill there. Other early Baptist preachers were Ben Wilson, J. M. Perry, John May, D. J. Cook and Noah T. Byars. A monument in honor of Mr. Byars has been erected on the campus of Howard Payne college, and his grave in Greenleaf cemetery is one of the Texas shrines because it was in his blacksmith shop at Washington-on-the-Brazos that the Texas Declaration of Independence was signed March 2, 1836.

The Baptists organized two churches in the county in 1875, the New Prospect church and the New Hope church. Rev. John May was pastor of the first, which had



forty-one members, and Rev. J. M. Perry (father of Jesse M. and Nat Perry) was pastor of the other, which had 19 charter members.

The years 1875 to 1877 were fruitful of the organization of several churches by different denominations. The Baptists organized five churches in 1876, including First Baptist church of Brownwood; Live Oak Baptist church 10 miles south of Brownwood, Feb. 20; Elm Baptist church, later named Pleasant Valley church, August 11; Blanket Baptist church August 12; and Mount Zion Baptist church August 12. First Baptist Church of Brownwood was organized under the leadership of N. T. Byars and J. M. Perry, and Rev. Ben Moore was the first pastor. Charter members were G. I. Goodwin, Mrs. Sallie Goodwin, John W. Goodwin, G. R. Patterson, Marl L. Patterson, Susan Grady, William Keene and W. A. McIntosh.

First meeting of Pecan Valley Baptist Association, Mr. Havins continues, was held with New Prospect church September 6, 1876, with J. M. Perry as moderator and G. I. Goodwin as clerk. A second meeting was held Sept. 13 and 14, 1877, at Live Oak church, at which time four churches in Coleman county were received and five new Brown county churches were added to the original seven. A reorganization of the association was

effected in 1907 when the Brown County Baptist Association was formed.

Rev. S. M. Lewis of Little River Presbytery organized the Cumberland Presbyterian church Sept. 18, 1875. Charter members included Rev. W. C. Sparks and Mary E. Sparks, W. E. Crane and Samuel Sparks. Rev. R. W. Lewis was first pastor.

The First Presbyterian church (southern) was organized in the home of John Ross Sept. 10, 1876, under the guidance of the Rev. B. T. McClelland, who was also founder and first president of Daniel Baker college. Among the charter members were Elders John Ross, Samuel T. Frazer, F. M. Saunders, and J. P. Brightwell, with Mrs. C. A. West, Mrs. Lydia Brandenburg, Mrs. Mary E. Lowe, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Allcorn and others.

The Episcopal church was organized in 1882 with Mrs. Wm. H. Scott, Mrs. Charles Bean, Herbert Stone and Brooke Smith among the charter members. The church was served first by W. W. Patrick, missionary, and Rev. Peter Wagner was the first rector. For a year Brooke Smith served as preacher for the congregation, so that the sum ordinarily applied to the pastor's salary could be used in paying for the church property. Two other denominations, the Christian and the Catholics, organized

churches here in 1888 and 1889.

Rev. F. M. Cross, who was the father of J. L. Cross and other children, was a native of Mississippi and was brought to Texas in 1846 when he was 12 years old. The family finally moved to Bell county, which they assisted in organizing. The Rev. Mr. Cross moved to Comanche county in the fall of 1855 and settled near the town of Newburg. He enlisted in the Confederate army, but after Texas' participation in the war was practically ended he returned home, and in 1863 moved with his family to this county.

After three years here Mr. Cross moved to Navarro county, and in 1871 went back to Bell county, but in the winter of 1875, after his wife's death, he came back to Brown county and worked for his brother, G. B. (Uncle Burney) Cross who served for many years and until his death as justice of the peace, making a unique record which did not parallel that of Judge Roy Bean but was based upon homely philosophy and an unerring sense of justice. His oldest son, J. R. Cross, came from Bell county with F. M. Cross in 1875. A brother, W. B. Cross, had bought 2,500 acres from Greenleaf Fisk and also moved here at about this time. The Cross family has been prominent in the county since that time.

It is to the Rev. Mr. Cross that Brown county is indebted for much information about the early days here. In his little book, "Early Days in Central Texas," he incorporated many stories which he had gained at first hand, together with excerpts from Henry Ford's booklets, "Cotton Calculators."

The first hotel in Brownwood, Mr. Cross wrote, was erected and kept by Mr. Hodge, whose wife, "Granny" Hodge, is remembered by a great many people. It was called the Star Hotel. A story of his attempt to attend a session of court in Brownwood is described by Mrs. Cross:

"The court house was a little log cabin about 200 yards from Billy Connell's house (east of Pecan Bayou, second location of the structure). The judge and the attorney and lawyers all went out to Mr. Connell's for the night, and the rest of us who were summoned to attend court camped at the court house. We took our horses across a slough and hobbled them in a low valley. We thought we had them hidden from the Indians, but next morning found that the Indians had been among them and had stolen my horse and Mr. McCullough's. Those two horses had gotten out on high ground. So Mack and I borrowed horses from Brooks Lee, and Dan Moseley and David Lee (Baugh?) went with us.

We hit their trail and found they had crossed the Bayou and were making down the divide toward Indian Creek and the Bayou. After about six miles the trail turned west and we then knew they were going down country to steal more horses. So we kept the trail and it went straight down that high bluff by Dick Grady's house. Dan

Moseley was almost equal to a bloodhound on the trail and thought that here they began to scatter, so we did not seek them any further." The party continued to ramble around trying to find the Indians, and Mr. Cross finally got back home and either forgot or neglected to ascertain what occurred at the term of court which he had been summoned to attend.

## *R. D. Forsythe and Henry Ford*

A PIONEER of the sixties who lived sixty-seven years in Brown and Mills counties, experiencing in his later years the thrills of the turbulent twenties and some of the throes of the throbbing thirties, was Robert DeK. Forsythe, native of Arkansas who settled here in 1866. During his long residence in the eastern part of Brown county he became one of the Gibraltar-like figures of the early days, and until his death in 1933 was revered by countless people who honored him for his sturdy citizenship and his unflinching goodness. He was an outstanding figure in the life of the Williams Ranch community throughout the years when that settlement was headquarters for much of this territory.

Mr. Forsythe was born in Polk county, Arkansas, August 23, 1847, and his parents moved to Texas in 1851, settling first in Ellis county. With his brother, Bud Forsythe, he came to Brown county in 1866, and established his home at Williams Ranch, with a big herd of cattle. Later he and his brother engaged in merchandising at the Ranch. His ranch at first was in Brown county, but when Mills county was established a part of his holdings were included in the new county, including his home place. In 1917 he moved to the Zephyr community, however, and spent his remaining days as a citizen of Brown county.

The Forsythe store at Williams Ranch was a trading post for a great area of the new country, and

the cattle operations of the brothers were both big and spectacular.

Mr. Forsythe's grandfather was killed in the war of 1812, and his father fought in the Mexican war. It was during this war that the elder Forsythe became acquainted with Texas, and determined as soon as possible to move his family here. Of the Forsythe home at Williams Ranch Henry Ford wrote: ". . . a frontier trading post which inspired many of the legends that have come down to us of fights and tragedies; the swish of Indian arrows; legends that tell of the friendliness of that other day, of such open-handed hospitality, as in the instance when a stranger stopped and asked for a night's lodging. The genial host responded, 'Well, get down and commence staying.' Door locks and bells were not fashionable but the proverbial latch-string hanging on the outside was."

Mr. Forsythe made two cattle drives into New Mexico, disposing of his herds at a ranch on or near the present site of Roswell. There were 1,500 cattle in the first drive and 1,800 in the second. Good steers cost him \$10 and the best cows \$3, and he doubled his money by driving the cattle to New Mexico.

It was on the first cattle drive to New Mexico that Mr. Forsythe met Henry Ford, then a young

man wanting to come to Texas, and was instrumental in bringing to this county a citizen who exercised great leadership here throughout the remainder of his life. Mr. Ford joined the wagon train and came home with Mr. Forsythe, living for a time at San Saba and Williams Ranch and later moving to Brownwood, to become county clerk for nine years and then a banker who served until his death in 1910. Ford accompanied his friend on the second drive to New Mexico.

The story of the period of tragedy and turmoil at Williams Ranch near the final years of that community's life is shrouded in more or less mystery, and is colored by legends many of which probably are inaccurate. Mr. Forsythe was reluctant to discuss the matter, but in a booklet published a few years ago by Tevis Clyde Smith was quoted at some length upon certain phases of the three-county feud.

"Willis Johnson was one of the pioneers of this district who worked for me at the old Williams Ranch," Mr. Forsythe was quoted as recalling. "Later he bought him some land of his own and as the years passed became enormously rich.

"While apparently within the law most of the time, Johnson had many friends who were not, and when these friends got into trou-

ble Johnson always gave them a helping hand. He went on the bonds of more cattle rustlers than anybody who ever lived in this section of the state. He did more than go on their bonds, too. When the time for their trials came he always hired good lawyers for them, and as a general rule these outlaws succeeded in beating their cases.

“Finally, Johnson got into a kidnaping scrape. He took a sixteen-year-old girl away from her parents and assisted her in marrying a man much older than herself. As far as the girl was concerned, she wanted to marry the man, but her parents objected to the match and took the suit to court, charging Johnson with abduction, and with swearing a lie in regard to the girl’s age.

“Johnson’s trial never came off. A few days before he was to appear in court he was ambushed near his home in Mills county. He was riding a \$500 race horse at the time and the man killed both Johnson and his horse.

“Johnson’s murder started the famous San Saba, McCulloch and Mills counties feud, a reign of terror which lasted more than two years, eventually developing into a wire cutting war. I do not think I’m exaggerating when I estimate that one hundred men were killed in the three counties during these

two years, back in the turbulent eighties. Most of them were the victims of ambushes—neither side gave the men they were after a chance to defend themselves.”

\* \* \*

### HENRY FORD

Henry Ford was born in Ohio county, West Virginia, January 28, 1845. Before coming here he had spent much time in New Mexico and elsewhere in the west, and was known as “a linguist of ability, an interpreter for the Indian tribes.” His first work in this section was as a cowboy in San Saba county, but he became a cowboy for R. D. Forsythe soon after coming here, doing all the hard and dangerous work involved in frontier ranching.

Early in the seventies he came to Brownwood, and was elected county clerk in 1875, holding that position nine years and leaving behind him a splendid record not only for fidelity to his duties but for the neatness of the records he kept. He saved his money, and went into the cattle business on a small scale, and this brought him directly in association with the Coggin brothers, S. R. and M. J., who were the biggest cattle operators in the west at this period. In the eighties he gave up the cattle business and became associated with the Coggins in banking as a stockholder and cashier

for Coggin, Ford and Martin. The bank later was reorganized as Coggin & Ford, then Coggin Bros. & Ford, Coggin-Ford Company and by other similar titles until after Mr. Ford's death it became the Coggin National Bank:

During all this period, until death ended his career in 1910, Mr. Ford managed the banking business of which he had charge for the benefit of the community. When times were hard and money scarce, he went away and borrowed large sums which he loaned to Brown county farmers and stockmen, usually with little or no security, and it was said that he never lost a loan, the gratitude of the people for his help in saving their homesteads inspiring them to make payment in full. He was one of the leaders of the community during the era when Brooke Smith, J. C. Weakley, John Y. Rankin,

the Coggin brothers, T. C. Yantis and other stalwarts were inducing railroads to build into the county, were building waterworks systems and directing other great public improvements of lasting nature.

Mr. Ford spent much of his spare time gathering historical data about Brown county, and in a series of little booklets called "Calculators"—because they included tables to aid in figuring the costs of cotton and other commodities, calculating interest and making other arithmetical calculations—he left for permanent record many of the facts as to the frontier period which otherwise probably would have been forgotten or obscured through the years.

Mr. Ford married three times, and two of his children still live in the county which he so greatly honored by his long and useful life here. They are Marion Ford and Mrs. O. B. Porter.

## *Brownwood's First Realtor*

**B**BROWNWOOD'S first realtor, and probably the most successful realtor, as well, was Major John Y. Rankin. He built a great many houses here in the pioneer period, and his name marks the first subdivision of Brownwood

that includes practically all of the present business section of the city.

Major Rankin moved here from Comanche, where he had spent about a year, in 1869 or 1870, and remained until his death February

20, 1924. He was associated with other great town builders in a great many of the enterprises of the early days, and continued actively his chosen role of promoter and builder until the turn of the century.

Major Rankin was born in Lexington, Kentucky, November 3, 1833. His family moved to Missouri in 1840, and he was educated in Kemper Institute, at Booneville, Missouri. At the age of twenty he went to San Augustine, in East Texas, and for a time studied law in the office of United States Senator J. Pinkney Henderson, after which he served as a lieutenant in a company of Texas Rangers. Later he went into the commission business with the Houston & Texas Central railroad, then a pioneer enterprise, building from Houston northward.

When the war of the Confederacy began Major Rankin organized a company at Navasota, and reported for duty to Colonel J. S. Ford, "Old Rip," as this fighter was known to his friends. After a short time he transferred to the Texas cavalry, and saw active duty with this unit until he was dismounted at Arkansas Post, January 11, 1863, and sent to Camp Chase prison for six months. He was exchanged at City Point in June, 1863, and his command was assigned to duty in the famous Pat Cleburne division,

in the Army of Tennessee, under Generals Bragg, Houston and Joseph E. Johnson. He was promoted to the rank of major at Dalton, Georgia, for gallantry on the field and for heroic and signal service, and was assigned to duty on the staff of General Deshler, who fell at Franklin, Tennessee, when General Pat Cleburne was killed. Major Rankin was captured a second time at Palmetto, Georgia, but was on the staff of General Cheatham at the final surrender of the army of General Joseph E. Johnson at Durham Station, N. C. He became one of the organizers of Camp Stonewall Jackson, United Confederate Veterans.

After the war was over Major Rankin came back to Texas, and moved to Comanche, from which point he came to Brownwood. He was married to Miss Sarah Shedd of Harrodsburg, Ky., in 1868.

Although he was a lawyer by profession, most of Major Rankin's activity was in real estate and building. Shortly after he moved to Brownwood he began building houses, and selling them as fast as they were built. In 1873 he persuaded Greenleaf Fisk to sell him a part of his holdings, securing title to an acreage adjoining what was then the major business district surrounding the court house. The acreage was subdivided into 200 foot blocks, and sold at prices

ranging from \$200 to \$600 per block. This is known as Rankin's Addition, and comprises the heart of today's business area.

The necessity for building straight and wide streets to carry traffic of the future was not realized by Major Rankin and other early-day builders, who laid out blocks and streets along what were then the roads and trails leading through the frontier community. Hence it is an unusual fact that the only streets in all Brownwood that run east and west or north and south are the Broadways surrounding the courthouse—and all other streets are narrow, according to present day standards. Very few lots or blocks have square corners.

Of the many amusing stories told about real estate trades of the early days, and comparable with Brooke Smith's favorite yarn about slipping in an extra 640 acres when he was making out the deed to a tract which he had sold to an East Texan, is the tale about Major Rankin taking his wife's acknowledgement to a deed. The Major was a notary public, and there were not many of them here. In fact, he was the only notary available in Brownwood for a time. Accordingly, he solemnly acknowledged the oath of Mrs. Rankin, who had just signed a deed, in which she certified that she had been examin-

ed separately and apart from her husband. And the deed apparently stood the tests of the years.

When he first came to Brownwood Major Rankin was in charge, for a time, of most matters pertaining to the government, including the Ranger service. He took charge of property captured from the Comanches in the battle at Santa Anna mountain and forwarded it to the proper department at Austin. He served in various official capacities here, including county surveyor, county judge, county clerk, city recorder, and others.

\* \* \*

### THE TOWN THAT NEVER WAS

While Major Rankin was helping build here a town that has grown steadily through the years, other persons with purely commercial views uncolored by any ethical considerations contributed to the history of the county one of the greatest real estate hoaxes of that day in Texas. The story of Empire City, the town that never was, is almost unbelievable, and yet it is written in the records of the county, to show that Barnum was right when he made his famous remark about suckers. There evidently were many suckers in the late seventies and eighties.

Professor Havins made an exhaustive inquiry about Empire City, and found that "the Great



Western Land and Immigration company was chartered by the Secretary of State in 1875. The charter mentions A. B. Hay of Austin as president of the company and H. M. Murchy of Austin as secretary. This company purchased three hundred acres of the Alford survey ten miles south of Brownwood, for fifty cents per acre. This tract they cut up into town lots 23x100 feet in size. A thoroughgoing advertising campaign was inaugurated in the northern states and the scheme worked wonderfully.

"Pictures of a thriving city with substantial buildings were shown on cards and broadsides. Crowded streets which were not even considered in mapping the lots were shown filled with people from ranch and farm. Bales of cotton and bags of wool were shown piled high on the wharves, while longhorn steers walked placidly down the gangplanks of steamboats tied up to their wharves on Pecan Bayou.

"That the land was valueless save for grazing purposes, and that the possibility of a steam-

boat ever ascending Pecan Bayou was beyond question did not deter the promoters from perpetrating their fraud. Agents armed with the advertising matter were sent north and sold great numbers of the lots. The purchaser bought a lot for the consideration of one dollar and the notary and recording fees, and it was right here that the promoters made their money. The notary located in Brownwood (he was not Major Rankin) charged two dollars and fifty cents for writing the deed and also collected two dollars for the recording of the instrument. He in turn paid the county clerk one dollar for recording the deed and kept the extra dollar. Thus the promoters made four dollars and fifty cents on each lot. The tract contained nearly five thousand lots, hence it is easy to figure the profits made on the scheme."

Ample evidence that many lots were sold was available here. Even today the county clerk occasionally receives an inquiry from one of the purchasers of Empire City property, wanting to know the status of the deal. It was a great scheme, while it lasted.

## Postal Service Is Established

MAIL SERVICE was uncertain, as was everything else, in the early days of Brown county, but the United States Post Office Department began functioning here August 23, 1858, only a few weeks after the organization of the new county. All mail was carried overland, much of it by horsemen, and in the early years the volume, of course, was very light.

Henry C. Brown was appointed first postmaster. He had come to the county a year before, along with several other families who moved into the Promised Land in 1857. Wiley B. Hamilton succeeded Mr. Brown November 3, 1858. William F. Brown was made postmaster March 17, 1859, and on the following May 31 H. A. Gallup took over the office. There seems to be no explanation of the rapid turnover of postmasters during the early years, unless it were that the compensation of the office was very small and it was largely a matter of finding someone who was willing to attend to the matter.

Welcome W. Chandler, first settler in the county, was made postmaster February 20, 1860, and served seven years, until January 23, 1867, when the office was temporarily discontinued. He kept the

office in his home, which was a community center for almost everything during the first decade after the settlement of the county began. It is said by some old-timers that one of the Chandler daughters served as postmistress for a time, possibly when the office was first established, but the records of the Postal Department do not show that she was ever officially appointed to the position. It is thought that while Welcome W. Chandler was postmaster one of his daughters probably did the work of the office, and in view of the fact that the office was in the Chandler home it is likely that all members of the family shared the responsibility at various times.

A story of the pioneer period illustrates how the postal service was handled here. Postmaster Chandler, while away from home with his family, was accustomed to place a box near the front door, in which outgoing letters were deposited. One day a resident sent his small son to the Chandler home to mail a letter, telling him to put it in the box if nobody were at home. Weeks went by and no reply to the letter was received, and upon inquiry it developed that the boy had deposited the letter in a box in the chimney corner, and

that it had been covered with ashes and other refuse. Rescued from this precarious receptacle, the letter was sent through the mails, a little late but practically as good as new.

After being suspended January 23, 1867, the Brownwood postoffice was reestablished March 31, 1868, with James E. Reese as postmaster. Again the office was discontinued September 9, 1868, and reopened July 27, 1870, with S. H. Keyes as postmaster. Keyes served until January 13, 1871, and he was succeeded by James H. Counts.

By this time the business of the office had increased considerably and the type of service had likewise been greatly improved. Brown county was being settled rapidly in the early seventies.

Postmasters serving in Brownwood since the Counts administration with the dates of their appointments, were: Samuel W. Hyatt, September 2, 1872; David C. Connell, December 26, 1872; J. Robert Brown, January 7, 1874; Luke L. Brumley, March 26, 1879; William P. Goff, June 15, 1881; Jeremiah Mickle, August 3, 1881; Marion Mullins, December 18, 1884; T. C. Connell, December 21, 1889; E. E. King, January 12, 1894; Marshall Smith, July 27, 1897; W. D. McChristy, April, 1914; D. F. Johnson, April, 1923; W. L. Turner,

1925; J. D. Stewart, April, 1929; George Kidd, July 1, 1933; and J. Edward Johnson, present postmaster, March 24, 1939.

Seventeen years after the post office in Brownwood was established, the office at Blanket was authorized June 10, 1875. Pinkey Anderson was the first postmaster there. Other offices then were established as follows:

Indian Creek, September 11, 1876, Francis A. Harriss, postmaster.

Owens, October 11, 1877, John W. Yantis, postmaster. The office first was called Clio, but the name was changed June 6, 1910.

Byrds, November 6, 1877, Martin Byrd, postmaster. The office first was called Byrd's Store but was changed to Byrd's March 19, 1896. The community is still called Byrd's Store by many people.

Cross Cut, April 9, 1879, James M. Bloodworth, postmaster.

Zephyr, December 20, 1879, John M. Wilson, postmaster.

Thrifty, November 9, 1880, George W. Allen, postmaster.

May, November 30, 1881, James W. Atchison, postmaster.

Holder, October 3, 1896, Willis C. Strickland, postmaster (discontinued).

Grosvenor, May 77, 1900, Efram W. McClain, postmaster.

Brookesmith, January 30, 1903, William H. Carr, postmaster.

in Texas to adopt this system after legislation authorizing it was enacted at Austin.

Sol Tanner, first mayor of Brownwood, was an interesting character typical of the pioneer period. There is a tradition that he and City Marshal Dave Breckenridge hanged a man named Pierce, but the story was said by old-timers to be wholly erroneous. Pierce had disappeared, and when some bones were found in an old well some time later the story gained circulation. The bones were proved to be those of a young goat. Mayor Tanner did sleep one night with a captured Indian chained to a post of his bed.

Mayor Tanner with his family moved here from San Antonio January 23, 1875. He died in 1891,

and Mrs. Tanner in 1901. Several of their children survive and live in this vicinity. Mr. Tanner was born in Indiana August 5, 1835, and was married May 20, 1858, in Blanco, Texas, to Miss Cinthia A. George. Their marriage license was the first issued in Blanco county. His obituary in the local paper declared that "he was a landmark of the infancy, growth and progress of Brownwood, seeing it grow from the little frontier hamlet to its present (1891) proud dimensions as the metropolis of the Southwest Texas. He was a man in whose heart dwelt many honest virtues that endeared him to his friends. He was devoted to his friends, his family and his home, and in their memory his name shall live."

## Early Schools and Teachers

EDUCATION came to Brown county with the first settlers, and for more than eighty years Brownwood has been recognized as an educational center for Central-West Texas. The first schools were short and irregular, due to the conditions existing at that time, but by the late seventies the county's educational program was functioning well, and the groundwork was

laid upon which the present countywide system of independent districts and large consolidated rural schools, with the two standard colleges in Brownwood, is thoroughly established.

In the beginning the teachers of the county's schools were volunteers, serving without pay in most instances. There were few textbooks of any kind, wooden boards

were used as slates and bits of charcoal for pencils. All-day sessions were held in log cabins with dirt floors. Light and ventilation were bad in these crude structures. Pupils brought guns to school with them, and upon more than one occasion used their weapons to frighten away small bands of Indians. Benches were made of split logs, and had no backs.

An incident was related by Mrs. Josephine Wooldridge a few years ago, illustrating the difficulties under which the early-day schools were conducted. Mrs. Wooldridge said that when she was 12 years old and her brother Tom was 16, they were attending school in the Trickham community. They were children of J. R. Rushing, who settled in the Thrifty neighborhood of Brown county in 1861.

One day, Mrs. Wooldridge recalled, the pupils looked out the window and saw a large party of Indians approaching. "Everybody was scared, but Tom grabbed a couple of six-shooters and went outside, and I went after him. He took his six-shooters and began blazing away at those Indians. Some men working on the stone walls of the Chisholm store building, not far away, tumbled down inside the walls. The Indians were surprised, or scared, and wheeled around and left in a hurry. I was sure enough scared because

my hair was in two long, black braids, and I knew if the Indians got me they would drag me away by my hair." The same gang of Indians, she added, had killed her cousin, Jake Dofflemeyer, whose body was found three or four days later, buried in a shallow grave.

Judge Greenleaf Fisk was one of the first teachers of the county. Although he was a large land owner and had many affairs to command his attention, he volunteered to teach a group in 1860. Levi W. Goodrich and A. J. Gallop were other teachers of that period. Gallop was a lawyer, but found a greater demand for his services as a teacher than as an attorney.

Four communities, in addition to Brownwood, had regularly organized schools prior to 1876. These were the Lone Oak school near Blanket, the More school several miles south of Lone Oak, the Thrifty school on Jim Ned Creek north of Brownwood, and the Byrds Store school still farther north.

In 1871 there were 189 scholastics reported for the county, according to Professor Havins, who examined the state records at Austin. The state that year apportioned \$1,336.15 for school purposes here, but the money was not accepted and used. It is thought that bitter opposition to the carpet-bagger government at Austin

was responsible for this unusual refusal to accept government aid for educational work.

By 1873-74 the scholastic population had grown to 332, and 206 pupils were actually enrolled in the eight schools then operating in the county. Teachers that year received a salary of \$49 each for the term, which averaged three and a half months.

In 1874-75 there were 422 scholastics and an actual enrollment of 245 for a four months term. The scholastic population had more than doubled by 1876-77, when 976 were enumerated, and 514 were actually enrolled in attendance. Sixteen teachers were employed that year. In 1877 there were 28 school districts, in 1878 there were 37, and in 1879 there were 46. Most schools were of the one-room, one-teacher type.

For 1877 the state school apportionment was \$4.06 per capita, and totaled \$3,334.50 for the county. This was divided approximately as follows: Connell \$126, Spring Creek \$94.50, Byrds Store \$153, Clark \$90, Blackwell \$90, Reagan \$103, Rock Spring \$153, Elm Grove \$144, Stepps Creek \$144, Pecan Bayou \$99, Rough Branch (near present community of Holder) \$103.50, Parksford \$198, Prairie Gap \$99; Bruce \$54, Windham \$85.50, Stovall \$103, Pleasant Valley \$171; Mud Creek \$45, Teague

\$157, McDaniel \$67.50, McInnis \$99, Williams \$99, Jim Ned \$67.50; Golsen \$130; Hannaville \$58.50, Clear Creek \$122, Jones Creek \$99, Brownwood \$378.

Teachers employed in the county for the term of 1878-79 included: G. W. Dexter, Miss E. C. Henderson, A. E. Perry, J. D. Seay, D. R. Whiteley, D. J. Cook, James Williams, George Hogue, A. E. Forbes, C. H. Powell, J. W. Yates, Phil H. Clements, L. S. Childress, James S. Smith, T. B. Kempner, S. H. Allison, W. F. Homes, Emma Agee and N. N. Trapp. George Hogue was principal of the Brownwood school and received a salary of \$378 for a four months term.

Prior to 1878 there were a number of teachers, including W. N. Adams, and others who served for short periods of time in the schools of the county. J. H. Miller came here in 1879, and for several years taught at Thrifty and later at Indian Creek, probably serving for a longer period of time as a rural teacher than any other during that period. It is noticeable that almost all the teachers of the first dozen years or more were men, whereas the modern school has many more women than men in its faculty.

In 1885 there were 2,333 scholastics and 64 teachers in the county. The system of maintaining small rural schools was continued

until comparatively recent years, when consolidations began and larger rural districts were created so that more adequate facilities and longer terms could be made possible. Residents throughout the county cheerfully accepted heavy taxation for school purposes, and in the past few years the state apportionment was also greatly increased and special aid was made available for almost every school.

The first public school system in Brownwood was established in 1876. The first building for school purposes was built at the site of the present Central school, on the block surrounded by Main, West Lee, Booker and Anderson streets. This was later called the Ford ward school. George Hogue, first teacher here, was followed by a Mr. Parks as principal. In 1880 P. C. and Mark E. Ragsdale were placed in charge of the town's schools, and a new building was erected in the southern part of town that year. It was the old brick building now on the campus of Daniel Baker college and used

as a science building by that institution. It was known by several names during the years, including that of Coggin Academy.

Brownwood Independent School District was formally incorporated at an election held June 3, 1883. Carl Vincent became the first city superintendent of schools in 1883.

Daniel Baker and Howard Payne colleges were established in 1889 and 1890, respectively, and soon become the leading institutions in this part of the state. Although at first each college was largely a private enterprise, it was not long before the Presbyterian church, U.S.A., assumed control of Daniel Baker college and the Baptists of this section became responsible for Howard Payne college. Several other schools and colleges, including Mc's Business college and its successor, Brownwood Business College; Central Texas School of Oratory, and many others, have been established during the past twenty or thirty years, in addition to innumerable private kindergartens and schools of music.

## Origin of Brown County Names

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The early settlers seem to have given to localities certain names which had a temporary significance, and while the names have



been retained through the years the original significance in many cases can not now be traced. Tradition answers the question as to many of the names and their origin, as in the case of Wolf Valley, for instance.

Robert H. Porter, a pioneer of Brown county and a long time resident in the valley, is of the opinion that when early day scouting or hunting parties first visited his section they found and possibly killed a great many wolves in that immediate vicinity. Consequently the name Wolf Valley was given to it, and is still used.

Many of the communities bear the names of pioneer families, such as Williams, Angel, Byrds, and many others. The county itself was named in honor of Captain Henry S. Brown, who was the first white man known to have visited the county, in December, 1828, whose successful chase of a party of Indians from central Texas into this area has already been described in this history. Brownwood likewise was named in honor of Captain Brown. It was a coincidence that one of the earliest settlers here and the first postmaster of the Brownwood office, appointed in 1858, was Henry C. Brown, and that W. F. (Uncle Billy) Brown was another of the settlers of the first two years who lived here until comparatively recent years, dy-

ing at the age of more than ninety years.

Professor T. R. Havins conducted extensive researches into the musty records and discovered either the facts or the traditional explanation as to the origin of many names in Brown and neighboring counties. Among others, he recorded that Caddo Peak, a little mountain west of Cross Plains in Callahan county near the Brown county line, derived its name from the camping of the Caddo Indians at the springs just west of the peak for a number of years. Santa Anna mountains and the town of Santa Anna, twenty miles west of Brownwood in Coleman county, likewise got their name from an Indian chief and there is no association between the name and that of the Mexican President whom Sam Houston defeated at San Jacinto. Professor Havins says there were two Indian chiefs named Santa Anna who were active in this section during the past century, and that the mountains were named for the older of the two who had his camp just north of the mountains. This chief died in an epidemic at Anson, Texas, in 1849.

There is so much tradition about the frontier Indian activities in the vicinity of the Santa Anna mountains that some of the details merit mention here. Chief Santa Anna, for whom the mountains were nam-

ed, was sketched by the Rev. F. M. Cross in his little book of Central Texas history as an unusual man in many respects. Chief Santa Anna, he says, was a party to a treaty of peace executed in the forties, and the chief himself was taken to Washington where he met the President and was given a photograph of the chief executive. The chief died and was buried near Fort Chadbourne, and some years later Rev. Mr. Cross and a Colonel Gooch found the grave and identified it. Later, when the grave had been desecrated by somebody, the Indians went on the war path and there was much trouble with them.

Continuing his story of the Santa Anna mountains, Mr. Cross writes of many fights with the Indians there: "In 1863 a company of Confederate soldiers were stationed at Colorado post. This was the company to which I belonged. When the Indians would slip down in the settlements and steal horses the people would send a runner to our camp and we would send a party to these mountains to spy out for them.

"We would station men at secreted places as near the mountain as possible and then place a spy on top of the mountain to watch for the Indians. A man on one of these mountains could see a bunch of horsemen a long way off. When

the man on the mountain would discover the Indians coming, he would watch then until he could see which side of the mountain they were going on, and then he would go down to the other men and tell them which side of the mountain the Indians were starting for, and the white men knew just how and where to make the fight. The Indians hardly ever passed those mountains without losing all the stock they had stolen."

Mr. Cross adds that while many Indians were shot and wounded in that neighborhood few were killed, chiefly because they usually rode the best horses they possessed and could run away when attacked. Several hard battles were fought there between the Indians and the whites.

Professor Havins records that "three streams in Brown county owe their names to Indian activities or associations. Indian Creek in South Brown county received its name in 1846. That year William S. Wallace, a deputy surveyor from San Antonio, with seven companions, made a number of surveys in the county. The party was engaged in surveying lands west of Pecan Bayou when two members of the group, Martin James and William Bratten, followed a wounded deer to the creek that is now known as Indian creek. They were

making their way cautiously along the stream, keeping a sharp lookout for the deer when they met a Kiowa brave on foot and swinging along at a fast trot.

"They stopped the Indian and inquired the cause of his hurry. He pointed toward the Colorado river and said, 'Heap Indians,' and trotted away. The Kiowa band of which the grave was a member had been attacked by Yellow Wolf and his Comanches that morning and all but exterminated. James and Bratten hid in the brush and waited for the Comanches to pass, which they did in about an hour. Late in the evening they made their way back to camp and related their story. Since that time the creek has been called Indian creek."

Blanket creek, Mr. Havins continues, was a favorite haunt of the Tonkawas when they came west to hunt buffalo. "They always stopped for a few days along this stream about half way between Zephyr and Blanket. On one occasion they had the sumachs covered with their gaudy blankets. A band of Coryell county men stopped at the camp and visited with the friendly Tonkawas. The whites noted the great number of blankets being sunned on the bushes and conceived their idea of naming the creek Blanket creek." The

town of Blanket got its name from this incident.

Jim Ned creek, which empties into Lake Brownwood, was named in honor of Jim Ned, a noted Delaware chief who lived in the region of Wise and Montague counties. Delaware creek was named in honor of Jim Ned's tribe. Jim Ned was a friend and ally of the Comanche chiefs Old Owl and Santa Anna, as well as a friend and ally of the whites. There is much tradition about his life and activities, much of it unsupported legend. The Delaware Indians, according to W. K. Baylor, an old time Texan, were the aborigines of West Virginia and Kentucky, who gradually were forced out of their home territory, the tribe breaking up and scattering, some going north to the Great Lakes and some into the Southwest. "They seem to have been on friendly terms with everybody, both white and Indians," Mr. Baylor wrote. "They were interpreters and messengers of peace on numerous occasions and no act of hostility is recorded against them. The Delawares redeemed numerous prisoners from the wild tribes, and so far as known never sought profit from it.

"After the annexation of Texas to the Union many Delawares were employed as guides and interpreters for the regular army and one, John

Conner, was interpreter at the Comanche agency. This Indian was given a grant of land for his faithful service to the state. Surviving Delawares now are scattered among the numerous agencies and reservations." The meek shall inherit the earth, but meekness earned no emoluments for either Indians or whites in the frontier period of this country.

Mr. Havins says the origin of Pecan Bayou's name is a problem. "Just when the stream received its name is not known, he wrote. "It was known as early as 1838 when the first land survey was made in the county. The word "pecan" certainly must have come from the abundance of timber of that variety which grows along the stream, but the word 'bayou' is a misnomer for the stream is not unlike other rivers of this section of Texas and is wholly unlike a typical bayou." Perhaps the frontiersmen who called it a bayou were like the blind men examining the elephant—they probably were familiar with only a part of the stream and uncertain as to just what it was.

Steppes creek was named for James Steppes who settled on the stream in 1851, but not in Brown

county's portion of it. Adams Branch, known to most people as the "Slough," drew its name from Ichabod Adams who came here in 1857 and was one of the most prominent citizens of the county in the early days. He was sent to Austin in 1858 to ask for a company of rangers to protect the frontier from Indian ravages, and also held office in the new county for many years.

Salt Mountain and Salt Creek got their names from the fact that deer and antelope congregated there and licked salt from the banks of the little stream.

Logan's gap was in the line of hills along the Comanche county line and was named for Thomas Logan, Comanche county pioneer. Turkey creek, emptying into Pecan Bayou, received its name from the fact that many wild turkeys were found along its course. Turkey Peak, near Zephyr, was similarly named. The origin of many other familiar names is not definitely known, while some are self explanatory, such as Clear Creek, Dulin, Weedon, and others. But there must have been some tight-wads in the neighborhood when Thrifty was named.

## Frontier Hardships Were Many

**C**ATTLE MOVEMENTS of the early days were by trails, involving hard and tedious and often dangerous work for the frontier cattlemen of this area. Likewise, the hauling of freight in the early days was a difficult task, because there were no roads or bridges, and hardships were on every hand. It was a wild and untamed country even as late as the late seventies and early eighties, the first railroad entering the county at about the time the homesteaders began winning their war with the fence cutters, in the late eighties. Prior to that time freighters, the frontier truckers, hauled whatever the settlers needed, and were akin to the cattle drivers in many respects.

A colorful picture of the conditions here in the early seventies was related a few years ago by Bob Routh, who came here in 1872. He was a native Texan, born in Collin county in February, 1854, and many of his relatives now live here. In an interview written in 1930 he told of many of the trails and trail drivers of the early days:

"When I was eighteen years old I decided to move into a new section of the country, and made the journey from Collin county to Brownwood by ox wagon. It was

slow going, and a tedious way of traveling," he related, "but it was the mode in those days. There were few horses in Texas when I was growing up. Horses were scarce even in the cattle country. Brownwood was a log cabin town.

"This section was cattle country. When I came here there were about twenty acres in cultivation in the whole county. Old Uncle Bill Anderson had a ten acre patch out at his place, and someone else had a farm near town. (Welcome W. Chandler raised the first regular crop in the county). Brownwood was better off in a lot of ways then because this country is naturally cattle land. It should never have been cut up into farms. There was little money, but none of us ever suffered.

"The Chisholm Trail never ran through this part of the state," Mr. Routh continued. "It started on the Chisholm ranch in Wise county, and went up into the Indian Territory. It branched into two main routes: one to Kansas City and Dodge City, and the other one to Denver. Cattle were driven into Kansas and sold to the packing plants, and were driven to Denver and sold to the western cattlemen.

"There were a number of cattle

trails in this section of the state but all of them, as far as I knew, were unnamed. There was one trail which started in southern Texas, came up through Brown county (it passed the old round mountain on Salt Creek) and went on north through Callahan county. This trail may have merged later with the Chisholm Trail, but I do know that the Chisholm Trail was never south of Wise county. I have been on the Chisholm ranch many times and could find the old trail easily.

"I joined the Rangers here in 1873. There were 75 men in our company, and they were detailed for Indian duty although I was never in an Indian fight. The government didn't pay us much for our work. We furnished our own horses, clothes and blankets and the government furnished our guns and ammunition. When a company was disbanded the men returned their guns. The company here was disbanded about a year after I joined it. I then rode into Me-  
nard and joined the force down there.

"In 1876 I went into the freight-  
ing business with headquarters at Fort Griffin. I have hauled many a load of buffalo hides in my day. There were no troops at Brown-  
wood when I first came here, and Camp Colorado, in Coleman coun-  
ty, about 25 miles away, had al-  
ready been evacuated. Fort Grif-

fin, Fort McKavett and Fort Con-  
cho were the nearest military  
posts, and negro troops were sta-  
tioned at Fort Griffin."

Mr. Routh said the Indians who caused so much trouble in this area in the frontier period were not as bad as they were said to be. "The Indian was never bad at heart," he thought. "The white men crowded the Indians into the Pacific ocean, stole their lands, broke promises made to them and imposed upon them in every way.

"This was a rough and ready country in the seventies and early eighties," the old pioneer con-  
tinued. "Shooting scrapes were common here. Men considered kill-  
ing the easiest and most effective way to settle their quarrels. As a rule they had nothing to fear from the law, because there were few convictions when trials were held.

"I can recall many killings of the early period of my residence here. There was one old man who killed once too often. He shot his brother-in-law and carved a sec-  
ond notch on his gun. A short time later he was heading for the pen-  
itentiary with a six-year sentence over his head. He served his full term and came home, and I saw him at the age of eighty-three, still able to load wagons with grain in the morning and go to a picnic in the afternoon. I knew a ranger

here named Captain James. He was a first cousin of Jesse James, and looked as much like the famous bandit as his twin brother."

There were many cattle raisers in the frontier period of Brown county's history, as Mr. Routh recalled. There were open ranges and plenty of grass was available for the immense herds that roamed all over west Texas. In addition to the Coggins, Parks, Baughs and others already mentioned in this story, several cattlemen settled in the northern part of the county and established ranches, which are still being operated by their descendants. McInnis, Cox and Windham are names that have been prominently identified with the cattle business here throughout the history of the county. The families were all related to each other, and their operations were in the vicinity of what is now Lake Brownwood. Dan Cox, father of Mitchell M. (Bud) Cox, was killed in the Dove Creek battle, and his widow married S. P. McInnis. The father of Marion M. Cox died and his mother, who was a sister of W. M. and L. P. Baugh, married Sam Windham, a son of Dr. J. D. Windham, one of the frontier physicians who came here in 1865, and who served the people of a large area for a number of years. The Cox and McInnis herds of register-

ed Herefords are now among the best in the Southwest.

The Captain James, mentioned by Mr. Routh, told of many of his own exploits in a little book, "Memorable Events," published several years ago. He was Captain Jason W. James, and was assigned to service with a Ranger company here and in this vicinity in the early eighties. The story was given new interest in 1935 when an unusual souvenir of his work here was brought to light. It was the left forearm and hand of a desperado whom James had killed in a gun fight in June, 1884. The man was fatally shot, but his arm was amputated in an effort to save his life. R. G. Hallum, a veteran druggist here, dropped the arm into a container of alcohol, and sealed the lid. The arm remained in the container for fifty-one years, during which time all the alcohol evaporated and the arm became hard and dry as if almost petrified.

Describing the fight, Captain James wrote that he had arrested a murderer about three miles from Brownwood. The man asked permission to step over to a wagon and get his coat, but came up with two guns blazing, one in each hand. James shot at him and dodged, and the men then exchanged several shots. James was wounded, but finally brought down his man. The other men who were with

James, and who were not Rangers, did not participate in the fight but brought both wounded men to Brownwood, and the murderer died with eight or ten wounds in his

body, after his arm had been amputated. James was ill for three months but finally recovered, and died peacefully many years later on a South Texas ranch.

## *Era of Development Begins*

THE PERIOD between 1870 and 1880 was marked by substantial development of Brownwood and Brown county, as many new families moved into this area, the city of Brownwood was incorporated, roads were improved, newspapers established, huge mercantile enterprises at various points in the county were begun, and other progress was made, including the digging (not drilling) of what is believed to have been the first real oil well in the entire state of Texas, and in fact the first in the entire Southwest.

This old well merits a bit of description, because it was unusual in many respects. In the first place, it was a disappointment, because Martin Meichinger was digging for water when he found a thin oil sand at a depth of 102 feet, on a spot which is now covered by the Gold Room of the Hotel Brownwood. In the second place, nobody knew what to do with the oil, so it was sold prin-

cipally for medicinal purposes, the yield of about five gallons daily being bottled and sold as dope for boils and other skin and blood disorders, as well as for greasing wagons. This well was dug in 1878, according to sworn statements made a few years ago by Brooke Smith and C. V. Harriss. Mr. Smith came here in 1876, and Mr. Harriss was born here in 1859. The oil was sold at 50 cents per gallon, for lubricating purposes, and for 25 cents for a four-ounce bottle. There was no tax on it, and somebody has estimated that the barrel price was about \$21. Modern oil men might dream of such a well, but will never find one.

Pipe of this old well was uncovered when the foundation was being made for Hotel Brownwood; and a few years ago gas believed to be coming from this well caused much trouble in the vicinity of Memorial Auditorium. Gas in the well, in fact, came near causing the death of Gomer Thomas, in



June, 1891. He had gone down into the well to set off a dynamite blast, and the gas became ignited. With clothing blazing, he was drawn from the well, and finally recovered.

Among the large families locating here in the seventies were the Gradys—C. M. Grady, Mrs. A. A. Smith, W. G. Grady, J. T. (Dick) Grady, Mrs. W. R. Kelley, V. L. Grady and E. B. Grady. C. M. Grady, living, was a pioneer Texas Ranger, joining company E in Major John B. Jones' battalion in June, 1875. The family moved into Brown county in 1874, when Brownwood had "about a dozen houses, with a two story log court house," to quote from an article written some time ago by J. T. Grady. "The window shutters and door shutters were well shot up by cowboys shooting up the town and there was plenty of lead sticking in the logs. We built all our houses from logs hauled from the woods, and lumber hauled from Round Rock," Mr. Grady stated.

W. N. Adams, in later life known universally as "Uncle Bill," came here in 1872. He was born on a farm in Knox county, Tennessee, son of A. Adams. When a boy he was crippled by disease and for a time used crutches. Nevertheless, he walked two miles to teach a subscription school, and thus earned the costs of his own edu-

cation. He came to Texas in 1870, after teaching and attending school for some time, and immediately after reaching this county began teaching in the pioneer schools. Sometimes he would have to leave his school for a day or two while joining other men on an Indian chase. Indeed, on his first night in Brown county Indians stole every horse he had brought here with him.

Mr. Adams married Miss Kate Haden, a Brown county girl, with Rev. J. M. Perry, father of Jesse M. and Nat Perry, as the officiating clergyman, and twelve children were born in their home.

In 1882 Mr. Adams was elected sheriff of Brown county and also served as tax collector, the two offices being combined at that time. He declined endorsement as a candidate for the Legislature in 1888, and in 1896 was elected county treasurer, being reelected four times in succession and holding the office ten years. In 1908 he was nominated for State Senator and in November of that year was elected, to serve with distinction for four years. In 1912 he accepted appointment as superintendent of the state school for delinquent juveniles at Gatesville, working there two years. During all this period he had various business interests here, and his big old red barn, which formerly occupied the

site of the Memorial Auditorium, was a landmark here. His children still reside in Brownwood.

The Mallow family came to Brown county in 1873, settling in a log cabin in the Clio neighborhood. Lewis C. Mallow, native of Missouri, came to Texas from Arkansas at the close of the War of the Confederacy. During the war his wife died, leaving three small children, one of whom was the late Mrs. Ellen E. Yantis. After the war he married Mrs. Sarah C. Hampton, whose husband had died during the war. Four children of this union accompanied the family to Brown county—E. A. Mallow, Mrs. J. E. McGaughey, Mrs. W. J. Bowden and L. L. Mallow. The Mallow family gave great encouragement to religious and educational work in their section of the county. They were staunch Methodists.

W. A. (Uncle Bill) Osburn, father of Jack Osburn, moved here with his family in 1872, coming from Kentucky. In the seventies W. F. Son and his wife and five children also came to Brownwood, from their former home in Boone county, Arkansas, reaching here in 1874. The first home, known later as the "Son Hotel," was a log structure, located on the block now adjoining the county jail. Later a more modern building was erected, and the Son boarding

house was operated until comparatively recent years. Mrs. Rex Gaither is a daughter of this family, and Mrs. Rhoda Gaither Willeford a granddaughter.

Mr. Son also built and operated a corn and flour mill here, installed a cotton gin and for years ginned most of the cotton yield of this section. In a boiler explosion in his gin one day a negro worker was blown through a nearby tree-top and scalded to death. Mr. Son died in 1887, and after his death the old place was sold and a much larger house was built, which Mrs. Son managed until her death in 1921. She was called "Aunt Rhoda" by most of her guests. The list of boarders in the Son house reads almost like a census of the young men of the community for a forty-year period. Among them was Pat Ford, who boarded with Mrs. Son for 42 years.

Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Earp came to Brown county in 1866 and settled twelve miles north of Brownwood. Mr. Earp died many years ago but Mrs. Earp lived until 1931, when she passed away at the age of 95 years.

James C. Jones, who died at the age of 88 in 1934, was a pioneer road builder of the county. He was born near Pulaska, Tennessee, and served as a soldier in the Confederate Army. He came to Texas in

1871, stopping in Collin county where he and Mrs. Virah Roberts were married in 1872, then moved here and settled in the Blanket community. He helped to build the first road between Brownwood and Blanket in 1875. There was no right-of-way to be bought and no fences were to be avoided, and the road was made as straight as possible. Streams near Brownwood were forded, as no bridges could be built at that time. Mr. Jones was instrumental in securing the opening of the Blanket postoffice, in which Pink Anderson served as the first postmaster, in 1875.

Rev. Sam C. Steele who lived until 1934 was one of the prominent pioneer Baptist preachers of

the county. He was born in Arkansas in 1853 and came to this section in 1875. He established the first blacksmith shop in Rising Star and hauled the first steam boiler to Brown county for T. C. Yantis in 1877. The boiler was drawn by five yoke of oxen, and the trip from Fort Worth required a solid month.

Mr. Steele was pastor of the Pleasant Valley church in north Brown county for 39 years and also served as supply pastor for other churches in this section. He was beloved by all the people. At his death it was said that he had officiated at more marriages, baptized more people and preached at more funerals than any other preacher in the county.

## Texas Patriot Settles Here

A MAN who brought with him to Brown county a background of participation in activities of the most picturesque period of Texas history, and who labored here and in this vicinity for several years, was the Rev. Noah T. Byars, pioneer Baptist preacher. This rugged old minister of the gospel lives immortally in the archives of Texas patriotism, because it was in

his crude blacksmith shop at Washington-on-the-Brazos that the Texas Declaration of Independence was signed March 2, 1836. His grave in Greenleaf cemetery, therefore, is one of the shrines of the state, and he is further honored by a granite shaft erected a few years ago on the campus of Howard Payne college, commemorating his work for the Baptist church as well as for the state of Texas.

This inscription appears on the college monument:

“N. T. Byars  
Born in Spartanburg District,  
South Carolina,  
May 17, 1808.  
Died at  
Brownwood, Texas, July 17, 1888.”

The Rev. Mr. Byars moved from his South Carolina birthplace to the state of Georgia in 1830, and five years later, at the age of 27 years, came to Texas and settled at Washington - on - Brazos, historic seat of the colonial government. Here he opened a blacksmith shop, and it soon became one of the community meeting places. When the convention of delegates met in Washington in March, 1836, his shop was the only building in the little town large enough to accommodate the meeting, and it was thus that the great Declaration of Independence from Mexico was signed there.

He was a charter member of the first Baptist church ever organized in Texas, which he helped to organize at Washington in 1838.

As the war for Texas independence got under way, Byars was made armorer for General Sam Houston's army, using his skill as a blacksmith more effectively than he could have used a musket in the ranks of the fighting men. Aft-

er the war he was sergeant-at-arms for five years in the Senate of the Republic of Texas.

After moving to Bastrop in 1838, Mr. Byars was licensed to preach that year, and was ordained as a minister October 16, 1841. Among those attending the ordination ceremonies were President Mirabeau B. Lamar, of the Republic of Texas, with members of his Cabinet and other distinguished Texas patriots. His first pastorate was in Burleson county, but he soon gave up pastoral duties and became a missionary, spending the forty years from 1848 to 1888 as a frontier preacher, revivalist, church organizer and religious leader in communities scattered over most of Texas. He organized the First Baptist church at Waco in 1851, and assisted in the organization of the First Baptist church in Brownwood in 1876. He also assisted in the organization of several other Baptist churches at various points in this and neighboring counties. Many Brown county citizens who are still living remember him well, and honor his memory.

All was not preaching or Indian fighting in the seventies, however, as is attested by an invitation to a social affair which was preserved by Mrs. Mattie Emerson as an interesting memento of the pioneer period. The invitation, print-

ed in the ornate typography of the period, read:

"The pleasure of your company is requested at Coggin's Hall, Brownwood, Texas, December 24th, 1878. Committees: Arrangements, Ed McMinn, Brooke Smith, H. H. Lockett; Invitation: Heber Stone, Chas. Steffins, Wm. Bourland; Reception: Otto Steffins, John McMinn, Milton Mays; Floor: C. H. Allen, H. H. Allen, R. J. Ferguson." The affair apparently was to be a Christmas Eve dance, and presumably the gentlemen checked their guns and Bowie knives, if any, before beginning the festivities.

There was a dancing school here in the seventies, too, which issued cards reading:

"Mr. Reid Williams, Dancing Academy, Open for Season at Tanner's Hall, Brownwood, Texas. Soiree every Friday night. Lesson hours Thursday and Saturday for young gentlemen; for young ladies, misses and masters every Saturday." This was probably the beginning of the fine arts in this section.

A contemporary of the Rev. N. T. Byars, who left an indelible mark upon this community, was Rev. B. T. McClelland, D. D., who organized the First Presbyterian church here in 1876 and established Daniel Baker college in 1889. Dr. McClelland was born in Pennsylvania in February, 1845, and

married Miss Mary Susan Smith, also a native of Pennsylvania, who became his faithful and competent helpmate in his work here. It is said that this frontier preacher helped to quarry and haul the stones which were used in erecting the old Presbyterian church, on the corner of Fisk avenue and Anderson street, where it served until the new building was erected in 1920.

Speaking of hauling stone reminds also that in 1876 J. C. Allcorn and his family moved into Brown county, and with an oxcart he hauled most of the stone used in constructing the major business buildings of the city—buildings which are still being used and which for a long period of years were the only permanent structures in the town. Mr. and Mrs. Allcorn were charter members of the First Presbyterian church. He was a Confederate Veteran, and until his death was active in the affairs of the United Confederate Veterans here.

Charles L. Steffins, mentioned as a committeeman for the social affair of December 24, 1878, was organizer of the first band in Brownwood. Mr. Steffins came here from Comanche, where he had organized a brass band, in 1873, and in the spring of 1877 formally began the first band in Brownwood. He and C. A. Standenmyer are regarded

as the first professional musicians in the town, and Mr. Steffins continued his active interest in music until his last years, playing a violin for many years in church organizations and taking an active part in other musical affairs of the community. Among the early pupils of Mr. Steffins, and members of his band, were four brothers—John, Frank, Harry and George Knight; Jewell Fagg, Hart Mickle and Frank Crumb. This group, aided by other musicians who arrived from time to time, played at all public functions for several years. Other members of the group were Gardner Thomas, the Gilliam brothers (Ed and Joe), C. Y. Jackson, Ed Jackson and others.

Rex Gaither was the next notable band leader who came to Brownwood and in 1903 began the reorganization of the town's band, which led eventually to the formation of the famous Old Gray Mare Band that won nationwide recognition under the leadership of R. Wright Armstrong.

The press came to Brownwood along with the gospel and the fine arts. The first newspaper of which there is any record was the Pecan Bayou Valley Eagle, which first screamed here in 1875. Less than a year later it was absorbed by the Brown County Banner, which was established early in 1876 by Colo-

nel William H. Martin, father of James P. Martin, and which is still published as Brownwood's only weekly newspaper. It is the survivor of a field of probably more than two score publications, including several daily newspapers which have been launched in Brown county during the past sixty-five years.

Colonel Martin sold The Banner after two or three years to E. P. Mickle, and went into the banking business with the Coggin brothers and Henry Ford. In the eighties The Brown County Bulletin was established here by a printer named Schafer, and the town had two weekly newspapers until both were brought under one ownership late in the eighties by Will H. Mayes, who published the paper under the hyphenated name of Banner-Bulletin. After the daily Bulletin was launched in October, 1900, the Banner-Bulletin was continued as a weekly edition. In 1933 it was separated from the daily paper and sold to Wendell Mayes and John Blake, and in 1938 was sold to James C. White, who had been connected with the paper since January, 1903, as employe and later as part owner of the Bulletin property.

A notable episode of the early day period was the publication here of a newspaper called The Sunny South, by Ed P. Mickle and

two brothers. The paper ran a lottery, giving chances for prizes with each subscription, and at one time during its brief career of two years was actually printing 150,000 copies each bi-weekly issue. The capital prize in each drawing was a good blackland farm, while most other prizes were dollar watches and similar cheap items. J. T. Hall, father of Ira W., Maury, Ed G. and Lee Hall, had the mail hauling contract at that time, and the Sunny South almost broke him, since he received no extra compensation for hauling the thousands of Sunny Souths twice a month and it required extra equipment and heavy additional expense. His mail stage was frequently hijacked by robbers. The Sunny South ceased to shine, however, after about two years. There are many stories about the fabled old paper. One is

that the owners lost title to it in a poker game. The probability is that it died of its own weight, since the lottery racket soon failed, and the paper had no news or advertising value. Incidentally, not a single copy of this old paper is known to exist anywhere in this part of the country.

There was also a daily paper here in the eighties. It was called "The Bee" and it buzzed only a short while. Most of the publications launched during the late eighties and the nineties were political in character, and there were many casualties among these ventures in the hazardous field of pioneer journalism. The wonder is that there were no casualties among the editors, but it is of record that while an editor occasionally was beaten none was ever really given what some of them probably deserved.



## *Brooke Smith Was a Builder*

**B**ROOKE SMITH came to Brownwood February 8, 1876, at the age of 23. He died here in April, 1940, at the age of 87. The intervening sixty-four years of his life probably was never paralleled by any Texan, and certainly by none who lived in this section of the

state. So many "firsts" are associated with his life and work here that no effort will be made to record them all, but it is to be recorded that until the last day of his life he was unfailing in his optimistic faith in the Promised Land, and even in his eighty-sev-

enth year was active in the conception of new ideas calculated to benefit this city and county.

Mr. Smith was known principally as a banker, because he established the first bank here, and was actively engaged in banking for half a century. But he was also a cattle man, a large land owner and trader, a town developer, railroad builder and director, college benefactor and trustee, mayor of the town, waterworks builder, and even a preacher for about a year while his church was trying to erase a building debt.

Born in Hanover county, Virginia March 13, 1853, Mr. Smith came to Texas as a mere boy in 1870 and his family settled at Waco. Here he worked in a store, farmed a little, and incidentally planted McLennan county's first cotton crop on land now incorporated in Cameron park. It was his privilege also to grow McLennan county's first wheat crop in 1871. He was frugal and industrious, and managed to save a little money, then interested a Jewish firm in extending a line of credit to enable him to come here and start a store. It is of record that in 1877, a year after coming here, he bought the entire cotton crop of Taylor county. The production was sixteen pounds, and Mr. Smith paid forty cents for it. That same year he built Brown county's first

cotton gin, but our story runs away from us.

It was a long and arduous journey from Waco to Brownwood with a load of merchandise which went into Mr. Smith's general store early in 1876. The business grew, for settlers were moving here rapidly, despite the hazards of travel, and the ambitious young man from Virginia prospered. Soon there was a demand for facilities for storing money, for all transactions were in cash and it was not long before farmers and ranchers asked Mr. Smith to take care of their cash. Seeing both the need for a bank, and the probability that it would be profitable, Mr. Smith opened the first bank here in 1877, when there was only one other west of here, at El Paso. Associated with him in the bank and in the mercantile business for many years was Otto Steffins, who later went to other points in this section of the state and engaged in banking.

The first cotton gin in Brown county, established by Mr. Smith in 1877, ginned 136 bales the first season. The nearest competitor in the ginning business was at Comanche. During the ensuing years he built and owned, in whole or in part, sixty-four industrial and business houses in Brownwood; built three flour mills with elevators, three cotton compresses, three ice



factories, three hotels, an electric light plant and a theatre. During the same time he was instrumental, with the aid of J. C. Weakley, Henry Ford, the Coggin brothers and other leaders of that period, in inducing the railroads to extend their lines here, and was present when the first train moved in on the Santa Fe line December 1, 1885. He also aided in securing the Fort Worth & Rio Grande line (Frisco) from Fort Worth, the first train on that new line reaching here in 1891. Mr. Smith was a director in this road for many years.

Another railroad venture which was engineered by Mr. Smith with great success, but which came to a disastrous end, was the building of the Brownwood North and South Railroad from Brownwood to May, about thirty-five years ago. The twenty-mile line was financed entirely by Mr. Smith and other Brownwood citizens, but was not profitable. Eventually it was given to the Frisco line, which operated it at a loss until permission was secured to abandon the road and remove the rails. Much of the present highway from Brownwood to May is along the route of this railroad's high-of-way.

In 1886 Mr. Smith was elected mayor of Brownwood, and during his term of office the city's first waterworks system was built. Mr. Smith himself was actively in

charge of the water department for a year, collecting the bills and managing the department without salary from the city. He also served for a time as alderman, and was a city school trustee for many years.

Half a century ago Mr. Smith had a survey made for a big dam at almost the exact site of the present Lake Brownwood Dam, and throughout the nineties he and Will H. Mayes, Henry Ford, J. C. Weakley, T. C. Yantis, J. R. Looney and other leaders were busy trying to put over an irrigation system such as that now in operation here.

Mr. Smith became a large land owner, but was also a large land seller. He signed more real estate deeds than any other citizen who ever lived in Texas, more than 7,000 instruments bearing his signature, "and every one of them a good one," he liked to recall. He owned subdivisions here, in Houston and in other cities at various times, and for quite a while was rated at more than a million dollars. Misfortune hit him in the middle twenties, however, and forced him to close his bank. Depositors voluntarily appointed him to liquidate the institution in his own way, and the situation looked good until litigation began and it was not long before the assets that otherwise could have liquidated deposits were dissipated and lost, hundreds

of thousands of dollars worth of notes in his note cases became worthless, and with the exception of his home and a few other small interests he saw everything swept away and lost. He ended his life a poor man, but never a sad or disappointed man, for no word of complaint or criticism or self-pity was ever heard from his lips.

His brief preaching experience was described by Mr. Smith in his memoirs, published a couple of years ago. He was a charter member of St. John's Episcopal church here, organized in 1882. Shortly after the church was organized a building was erected, and the inevitable debt was hung over it. In order to help the congregation pay the debt, Mr. Smith volunteered to conduct the regular worship services for a year, provided the people would pay the rector's salary into the building fund. The plan worked nicely.

Mr. Smith was named a trustee in Daniel Baker College when that institution opened its doors in 1889, and until his death fifty years later he signed every diploma issued by that institution and copied with his own hand the minutes of the meetings of the board which he served as secretary. During this period he was a financial "angel" of the struggling college, at times loaning the school as much as \$30,000; and in comparatively re-

cent years he went into Presbyterian pulpits all over the state and personally raised money enough to pay the college loans which he had made.

Mr. Smith was confronted by many difficulties in the early days of his banking experience here. Money had to be transported by wagon or horseback over long distances, and robbers were plentiful. In his memoirs he tells of many thrilling experiences while carrying large sums of money, and of many ingenuous devices he employed for hiding his money around the store and in all manner of vehicles while carrying it across country. He was here during the days of the wire cutters, but seems not to have been active in the warfare that flared for a while over that issue. He did lose a finger in October, 1886, when it was shot off.

A rifle drummer named Ben Haraldson had come to town with a new type of buffalo gun, and since he wanted the people to see it he threw some shells in its magazine and went to a saloon located at the corner of the public square. In came an editor named Marion, of all people. He picked up the gun, aimed it toward the wall and pulled the trigger. The rifle slug went through the wall, through the street and through Mr. Smith's left index finger as the

banker was walking across from his store to John McMinn's store on the oposite corner of the square. The bullet went through Mr. Smith's vest, not three inches from his heart.

Mr. Smith was a past president of the Brown County Pioneers Association.

He was married in 1880 to Juliet Logan Sparks, daughter of a family who had moved here from Kentucky in 1877. Four children were born to them, all of them preceding their parents in death. Mrs. Smtih died in 1938. Several grandchildren survive, making their homes here and at various points in Texas and other states.

## Merchants and Bankers Move In

CLEAR CREEK community between Brownwood and Bangs was established by James Alfred Cheatham, doughty Kentuckian who came here in 1872 and lived until December 3, 1926. His home was built of lumber hauled by ox wagon from Round Rock, and a small house built of elm logs was erected in a corner of the yard.

Many believe the last Indian fight in Brown county was in the Clear Creek community in 1873. It is said that the Indians had been stealing livestock on their raids through the county, and Mr. Cheatham and other settlers overtook the redmen about a mile from the Cheatham home. Two Indians were killed in the running fight that followed.

While there is some doubt as to the time and place of the last fight

with Indians in this county, there is no question but that Dan Pinkard of the Blanket community was the last of the frontier Indian fighters to pass away. He died in October, 1935, and took part in the famous Hog Creek fight in 1870. He lived in Comanche county for many years before moving to the Blanket community, although he spent about thirty years in Indian Creek, Brown county, and his body was laid to rest there. He was born in Perry county, Tennessee, in January, 1848.

While living in Indian Creek Mr. Pinkard assisted in building the first church in that community. He and Andrew Stewart hauled the lumber from Hico and the building was erected during the ministry of the Rev. Peter Gravis.

The first Masonic Lodge in

Brown county was chartered June 13, 1865. For many years the lodge here was the frontier outpost of Masonry, and was one of the first organized in Texas. The first meeting place was on the second floor of the county's courthouse, a log structure. The second meeting place was in a building located on what is now Fisk avenue near Lee street. The lodge next bought a lot at 202 East Broadway. Across the back of this lot was a building in which the "Sunny South" was published during its short but meteoric career. The lodge met here for several years, and then erected a more commodious structure on the same site early in this century. Meetings were held here until 1930, when the new Masonic building was constructed at Adams and Brown streets.

First officers of the lodge here were: James E. Stiles, worshipful master; Isaac Mullins, senior warden; Brooks W. Lee, junior warden; James S. Reed, senior deputy; M. V. Phillips, junior deputy; Arch Moore, secretary; William Connell, treasurer; Grisham Lee, tiler. In addition to the officers, charter members included G. H. Adams, R. Y. Cross, Jesse Bonds and a Mr. Tate.

A Masonic lodge was organized at Thrifty in the late summer of 1879. A building was erected with lumber hauled from Round Rock,

and this structure was used by the Thrifty lodge until 1935. The lodge met on the second floor, and the first floor was used for a school. Later another building was erected for the school, and the lower floor of the lodge building was not occupied.

C. F. Wilson was the first Master of this lodge. Other officers included Riley Cross, Sr., senior warden; Joe Green, junior warden. J. L. Cross of Brownwood is the oldest living member of this original lodge, although many of the Masons of Brownwood and Bangs lodges took their degrees in the Thrifty organization.

J. C. Weakley came to Brownwood and Brown county in 1876, and until his death in 1926 was one of the active civic leaders, a contemporary of the several enthusiastic town builders of this period. He came here after one year's residence in Comanche.

Mr. Weakley was born April 4, 1839, near Indianapolis, Indiana, near the field where the battle of Tippecanoe was fought. As a youth he learned the trade of a tinsmith, and throughout his life he stayed with the trade, using it to advantage in the business he established here in 1876, now known as the Weakley-Watson-Miller Hardware company. He put tin roofs on almost all the early day business structures erected here

in the seventies and eighties, and most of those roofs are still giving good and satisfactory service.

When the war of the Confederacy began Mr. Weakley enlisted in the Union army. After serving for a time he was honorably discharged and returned to his home to make thousands of tin canteens for use of the federal army. He remained in Indianapolis until 1866, when he started west, intending to go to Denver. At St. Joseph, Missouri, he learned that it would be a long time before he could join a caravan moving farther west, and so went to St. Louis, stopping there until 1870. He came to Texas at Galveston in 1871 and the same year went on up to Waco. He moved to Comanche in 1875 and to the Promised Land the following year.

Moving here with his family, Mr. Weakley established his home in a cabin sixteen feet square, located across the street from the present site of the county jail. Two years later he moved his family to a two story house in the vicinity of East Broadway, and in the meantime had purchased several tracts of land here. He served as mayor from 1888 to 1892, and was recognized as the "father of the Volunteer Fire Department," which he was active in forming in the days when water was carried at fires in buckets, and there was

no water supply or fire fighting apparatus.

Mr. Weakley was a member of a number of social and fraternal organizations, and actively identified with several business institutions, including the First National Bank of which he was a director for many years.

Thomas Caldwell Yantis came to Brown county in the early seventies, entering business as a miller in the Clio community, and ending his career at his death in 1922 as president of the First National Bank and one of the best known bankers of the state.

Mr. Yantis was born in Collin county, Texas, August 22, 1854. He moved to the Clio community and there established a mill, which was equipped in 1877 with the first steam boiler ever brought to this county. It was hauled from Fort Worth by ox-team, and a month was spent on the road. In 1875 he moved to Sipe Springs in Comanche county and engaged in the milling business on a somewhat larger scale, also entering other business and industrial enterprises there. In 1893, however, he and his family moved back to Brownwood and he immediately went into the banking business, taking over what is now the First National Bank, which at that time had been in business only eleven months under the name Brown-

wood National Bank. He continued to head this bank until his death, and was succeeded in the presidency by his son, John T. Yantis.

For almost thirty years Mr. Yantis served as president of the Board of Trustees of Howard Payne college, and devoted much of his time and energy to the support of that institution. He was a lifelong Baptist, and a firm believer in the worth of the school to the Baptist denomination of Texas.

Also active in Masonry, Mr. Yantis was made Grand Master of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Texas in 1910, and in 1922 was elected Grand Commander of the Knights Templars of Texas.

In 1875 Mr. Yantis married Miss Ellen Elizabeth Mallow, daughter of a pioneer Brown county family, and they reared a family of four daughters and a son, all of whom are still living.

A new community was founded in Brown county about 1871 when Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Dulin came

here from Kentucky and settled on what was then known as the Carroll ranch near the town of Winchell.

Mr. Dulin was born in Ohio and educated in Cincinnati. Early in life he moved to Kentucky, and taught school there for several years before moving to Brown county. Mrs. Dulin, the former Miss Salira A. Epperson of Kentucky, was also a teacher, and taught one or two terms on the Carroll ranch.

During the War of the Confederacy Mr. Dulin served in Gager's mounted battalion under Captain J. C. Borden, and was discharged August 21, 1865.

The family moved to the present site of the Dulin community in 1880 and lived there until their deaths. He was accidentally killed by his horse while riding after cattle in 1892. The Dulin family had one adopted child, a daughter, native of England, who married and settled in this county with her husband.

## *J. R. Looney and C. H. Jenkins*

**J. R. LOONEY** left his name and impress upon many enterprises and institutions in Brown county during the fifty-odd years of his residence here, and devoted more

time to public service in the municipality than any other man. He served ten years as alderman, beginning in the nineties, was a public school trustee for many

years, and served five terms as mayor, during a part of which time he also was city manager.

Mr. Looney came to Brownwood in 1875, moving here from McKinney with his wife, a bride of one year. The remainder of their lives was spent here, Mr. Looney dying July 11, 1929, and Mrs. Looney August 2, 1933. Both were natives of Tennessee. He was born near the small village of Goodlettsville, about twelve miles north of Nashville, while Mrs. Looney was born and reared a dozen miles west of Lebanon.

When he was twenty years old, in December, 1869, Mr. Looney and a brother-in-law, W. P. Cloyd, started from Tennessee to Texas, making the long, difficult trip partly by boat and partly by freight wagon, and the latter part of the journey in unusually bad weather. Mr. Cloyd was a minister of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church of which Mr. Looney was a member, and his purpose in coming to the Southwest was to establish a new home and to do missionary work for his church. He was also a teacher, and with Mr. Looney as an assistant the pair engaged in teaching during their first year in the Lone Star State.

Going back to Tennessee for a visit later, Mr. Looney was married to Miss Laura Hewgley, September 24, 1874, and the young couple

immediately came back to Texas, reaching McKinney in October. After another year they moved to Brown county, making the trip in company with Dave Mallow, and reaching the Promised Land October 23, 1875.

The new-comers pitched their tents in the vicinity of what later was known as the Mallow well in the Clio community. Mr. Looney found a man who owned a small preemption, and traded a wagon and a pair of mules for the claim. This left the two families of settlers with only one wagon. Mr. and Mrs. Looney lived in a tent until a cabin could be built of poles on a quarter section of the land, and their new home was then firmly established.

For thirteen years Mr. and Mrs. Looney lived here, clearing their land and getting a good start of cattle, hogs and other livestock. Then the severe drouth of 1886-87 came along to add hardship and difficulty, but in spite of this they practiced close economy and managed to pay for their 592 acres of land.

In the autumn of 1888 Mr. Looney decided to move to Brownwood with his family, and took a job with the Brown County Milling Company as manager. He held this position for a couple of years, and in 1890 he and John F. Wilson, another pioneer, bought a small

stock of groceries and established a store, beginning the mercantile business which was known for the next several decades as the Looney Mercantile Company, with commodious quarters on the public square. Mr. Looney soon purchased Mr. Wilson's interest in the business, and the latter then conducted his own business until his death in recent years.

Mr. Looney's career of public service began immediately after his removal to Brownwood, and continued throughout the remainder of his years. In 1894 he was elected alderman and served continuously for ten years. He served as a member of the board of Public School Trustees, and the Looney ward school bears his name. He was elected mayor in 1907 and retired voluntarily after serving four terms, or eight years; and again in 1920, after the city manager charter was adopted here in 1916, he again was elected mayor and for two years served as city manager as well as the municipality's chief executive. During this period of public service he instituted many permanent improvements throughout the town, and worked unceasingly in behalf of municipal ownership of public utilities, strengthening the city's water and sewer department and laying the groundwork for the establishment of the city's gas service in later years.

In the early nineties Mr. Looney with other civic leaders began working for the establishment of a water reservoir such as Lake Brownwood, and in honor of his memory one large bay of the present lake bears his name. While Mayor he greatly increased the city's water supply by improving the dams on Pecan Bayou which impounded the domestic water supply.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Looney were active in church work, serving as members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church until that organization was merged with the Presbyterian church, U.S.A. After retiring from active business life Mr. Looney spent his time in various activities of civic nature, and even in his eighties was a popular player on the Country Club's golf course.

Another eminent pioneer of the seventies, who mixed law, politics and journalism in a long and successful career, was Charles H. Jenkins. He reached Brownwood May 1, 1877, when he was twenty-five years of age; and for the next half century was an outstanding figure not only in Brown county but throughout Texas.

Judge Jenkins was born in Dallas county May 17, 1852, and died in Brownwood February 23, 1931. He was a practicing attorney when he came here, and immediately launch-



ed into a career of public service and professional activity that soon made him well known over a large territory. He served the town as alderman and mayor, and for many years was a public school trustee. He was a member of the 30th and 31st Legislatures. From 1910 to 1923 he was Associate Justice of the Third Court of Civil Appeals, sitting at Austin. In 1925 he served the state as chairman of the codifying commission to whom was entrusted the task of codifying and editing the revised civil statutes. His service with the public school board here covered twenty-four consecutive years, during most of which time he acted as president of the board.

On several occasions during his earlier years here Judge Jenkins engaged in the newspaper business. Shortly after it was established he bought the weekly Bulletin, and a short while later sold it to Will H. Mayes for \$1,000. Mr. Mayes, who had come here in 1880, bought the paper after he had served two terms as county attorney. After buying The Banner, Mr. Mayes combined the two weekly newspapers, making one edition called The Banner-Bulletin. Typical of the friendship and confidence that existed between Judge Jenkins and Mr. Mayes throughout their long association here is the story of the sale of the news-

paper. They agreed upon the price and Judge Jenkins suggested, "Come around some day and we will fix up the papers." But both neglected the matter, and the obligation was finally paid by Mr. Mayes without having ever signed a note or other written instrument.

Judge Jenkins was a staunch Democrat, but a free-thinker. In the nineties he was among those who dissented and withdrew temporarily from the Democratic party. A statement of his political tenets, written two decades ago with his own hand—he usually scorned the typewriter, as did many old-time lawyers—said among other things:

"I was born a Democrat which means, if it means anything, that my father was a democrat. I voted for General Weaver in 1890 because I believed in full legal tender of paper money, and was opposed to refunding our bonds and converting them into gold bonds. I was opposed to the demonetization of silver. I advocated the free coinage of silver, and believed in the quantitative theory of money as advocated by William Jennings Bryan. I have not changed my views as to those matters.

"Beginning with 1888 I was a member of every Democratic precinct and Brown county Democratic convention, and of my state Democratic convention until I went on

the bench at Austin in 1910, and thereafter without my solicitation I was elected to and attended all state Democratic conventions except two until I resigned from the Court of Civil Appeals. Otherwise I took no part in politics while I was on the bench.

"I was a member of the platform committee of the subcommittee in the state conventions of 1908 and 1910, and also of the state conventions to select delegates to the St. Louis convention that nominated Alton B. Parker. I was an alternate delegate to that convention, and attended the same. I did not favor the nomination of Judge Parker. I was and am in favor of the United States becoming a member of the League of Nations. I believe that Woodrow Wilson was a wise statesman."

The statement is a reminder of the fundamental issues that once determined the identities of the major political parties, and also that many years ago our leading men were looking into the future and foreseeing conditions as they are today.

Judge Jenkins was a staunch and active churchman, a member of the Christian church. Although outspoken on all matters of public moment, he was tolerant toward the views of others and many of his warmest friends were in opposing political camps. He became widely known as a practicing attorney, and was associated as counsel with many of the notable cases that were entered on the dockets of Central Texas courts during his active career as a lawyer.

## Some Brown County "Firsts"

IT IS impossible to enumerate with absolute certainty the many "firsts" in the history of Brown county. Records are unavailable in many instances, and only legends and the memories of some of the older residents of the county can be used to support the record of names, dates and places. Research by Professor Havins and others,

however, has uncovered authoritative documentary or other evidence to substantiate a long list of "firsts," and these with others are given herewith.

First white visitor to the county was Captain Henry S. Brown, who came here in December, 1828, chasing a band of Indians who had stolen his horses. Legends that

Coronado's fabled march passed through this county are rejected by the historians.

The first settler in the county was Welcome W. Chandler, who moved here in the summer of 1856. Israel Clements was the second settler, moving in one day later than the Chandlers and establishing his home near their place.

The first election held in Brown county, which had been created by legislative action August 27, 1856, was held late in 1857. This election later was found to be illegal, and first legal election was held late in May, 1858, for the election of the first officers. A third election was held August 3, 1858, ratifying the May election.

A list of the first officers of the county will be found in preceding chapters of this history.

The first courthouse was erected in 1860.

The first flag raising was February 23, 1861, and it was a Confederate flag which had been made by Mrs. Brooks W. Lee, Mrs. Welcome W. Chandler and Miss Jane Chandler.

The first postoffice was established August 23, 1858.

The first postmaster was Henry C. Brown.

The first white child born in the county was Josephine Hanna, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Hanna, March 26, 1857. Second

white child born here was Ella Chandler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Welcome W. Chandler, November 10, 1857. Third white child was George L. "Bud" Lee, son of Mr. and Mrs. Brooks W. Lee, February 25, 1858; and fourth was Charles V. Harriss, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Harriss, March 18, 1859.

First negro child born in the county was Wash Chandler, son of the Chandler slaves.

The first wedding in the county was that of Mary Ann Chandler and Jas. H. Fowler, early in 1857. The ceremony was performed by a Baptist minister named Ainsworth.

Mr. Fowler was the first cattle raiser in the county.

First school was taught by Judge Greenleaf Fisk, about 1860. This was a small private school.

First general school was taught by A. J. Gallop, beginning about 1864.

The first circuit rider was the Rev. Elisha Childress.

The first church organized in the county was in 1862, a Methodist congregation.

The first Indian fight was in 1857, near the home of the Chandlers.

The first crop was raised by Welcome W. Chandler, in 1857; 100 acres in corn, 5 acres in wheat, with a yield of forty bushels per acre of each crop.

First bale of cotton was grown by W. F. Brown in 1868.

The first hotel was the Star Hotel, operated by Mr. Hodge, beginning about 1872.

W. W. Chandler was the first merchant, opening a small store in 1857.

First Masonic lodge was organized in 1865 with J. E. Stiles as Worshipful Master.

The first camp meeting was held in 1865.

The first bank was organized by Brooke Smith late in 1876 or 1877.

The first newspaper was the Pecan Bayou Eagle, in 1875; it was combined the following year with the Brown County Banner, established in 1876 by Col. Wm. H. Martin.

The first daily newspaper was "The Bee," in the early eighties. It survived only a short while.

The first flour mill was established by Tom Lovelace in 1877.

The first cotton gin was built by Brooke Smith, in 1877.

The first roller flour mill was established in 1884 by Brooke Smith, Will H. Mayes, J. J. Ramey and J. C. Weakley.

The first mayor of Brownwood was Sol Tanner, in 1877.

The first Baptist church in the county was organized in 1875. This congregation built the first church building.

The first Cumberland Presby-

terian church was organized September 18, 1876.

The First Presbyterian church was organized September 10, 1876.

The first Episcopal church was organized in 1882.

The first Christian church was organized in 1888.

The first Catholic church was organized in 1896.

First band leader in the county was Charles L. Steffins, in 1877.

Ice was first manufactured here in 1876, a process that created wide interest.

The first railway train to enter the county was a Santa Fe train December 1, 1885.

The family of Columbus Scott brought the first waffle iron and the first sewing machine to the county when they came from Kentucky in 1874. The sewing machine was an "improved model," sewing material drawn sidewise from under glass foot plates.

There is no record of the establishment of the first saloon in Brown county, but it was in the very early days. Saloons were voted out of the county in September, 1903, after several years of balloting on the subject.

The first cemetery was near where the court house now stands, and contained about a dozen graves. Of the dozen buried there, it is said that eleven had died "with their boots on." The oldest

cemetery still in general use is said to be the Roberts burying ground near Byrds.

First city water system was built in 1886 while Brooke Smith was mayor.

\* \* \*

### EARLY DAY MEMORIES

Some interesting facts pertaining to the early days here were recalled by Daz C. Price, now deceased, who came here as a youth in the early seventies and died in 1935. Among other things, Mr. Price said he could remember:

“When we hauled our cotton to the gin and our corn to the mill at Comanche.

“That we hauled freight and lumber from Waco, Round Rock and Austin.

“When I worked a team of horses and a yoke of oxen to a plow, and hauled water from the Bayou to supply Brownwood.

“When we went to Bell county to get corn, and drove our hogs to the Brady mountains near where the town of Placid now is to get acorns, in 1879.

“When there was not a bridge in Brown county.

“When I went to school under a brush arbor at Indian Creek, and to Sunday school in a log house on the bank of the Slough.

“When Shorty Brown, a son of Uncle Billy Brown, and a Mr. Anglin, both Rangers, were killed by the Indians.

“When we could go 100 miles west and get a wagonload of buffalo meat just for the killing.

“When I worked from daybreak until 10 o'clock at night for 25 cents a day. We ate bread and water, with biscuit on Sunday when we could get it, and did not cuss the government for hard times.

“When there was a killing frost June 5, 1876, that killed corn in tassel in the lowlands. There was an awful blizzard January 8, 1888, when men and livestock froze to death. Men were cradling and binding oats with their coats on in 1878.”

Those were the good old days, Mr. Price always contended.



## Preachers Were Early Day Leaders

IT IS a noteworthy fact that a great many of the men who aided in the development of Brown county during the frontier and pioneer period were ministers of the gospel. These hardy evangelists of the message of peace and good will toward all men did not think it either inconsistent or un-Christian to carry both a Bible and a gun as they went about their routine tasks; or to preach one day and chase Indians the next.

Henry Ford, in one of the series of invaluable little booklets which he wrote and published forty years ago called attention to this fact. "The sustaining power of Christianity and Christian example was not lacking on the frontier in the days of its early settlements," he wrote. "The message of peace and the story of the Cross was told and retold, sometimes under the shade of the trees, other times at the home of some settler to which the neighborhood gathered, and at other times at camp meetings, by such men as Elisha Childress, George Vest, Wm. Mayberry, John Hanna, Robinson, Coker, Monk, W. P. Gravis, and some others, ministers of the gospel, who were loved and respected not alone for their religious zeal, but for their sterling manhood as well.

"These were men of strong, native ability, whose preaching, always of the practical kind, was listened to with an eagerness that told plainer than words that even frontier vicissitudes did not lessen the ever-pervading human desire in the hearts of men for life beyond the grave. Camp meetings were looked forward to with a great deal of interest and were enjoyable religious feasts for these people, and the 'old-time religion is good enough for me' was certainly applicable to these gatherings."

An interesting commentary upon the music of the frontier as compared with that of the period in which Mr. Ford's last years was spent is contained in the little book;

"The old songs, rendered by voices rich in tone and volume, and so full of pathos, was an impressive feature of the frontier camp meeting," he wrote. "While this is being written, we are wondering as to the impression one of our modern solos, with its entangling wordless labyrinth of fantastical musical intricacies, would have made at a frontier camp meeting. Time has certainly proven that there was no inhospitality on the part of these people against practical innovations in any of

their settled customs, but we imagine that had one of our modern solos been suddenly thrust upon one of these camp meetings the congregation would have concluded that the country was about to receive immigration from a newly discovered planet."

Mr. Ford himself would have been amazed, in all likelihood, if he had heard some of the present-day "swing" or "popular" music, or seen some of the present-day fashions in dress or witnessed some of the current customs in social procedure.

After the frontier period had ended and the Promised Land was rapidly settling down to a steady development that has continued to this day, a great many ministers of the gospel came here, some of whom have already been mentioned in this series of stories. Among the number was the Rev. Hiram Thomas Savage, who came here in February, 1876, and with the exception of a few years remained to the end of his days, January 21, 1918. The Rev. Mr. Savage was ordained as a minister of the Baptist church after he reached Brown county, in 1881; and he devoted many years to preaching and general missionary work, including a great deal of campaigning in behalf of Howard Payne college in the early years of that institution's history. He educated all his

nine children in Howard Payne, and had the satisfaction of seeing all of them enter upon successful careers in their mature years.

The Rev. Mr. Savage was born in Dade county, Missouri, December 21, 1843, son of James Robbins Savage and Louise Jameson Savage. His forebears were frontiersmen in America, his grandfather, William Savage, having been a Revolutionary soldier. The family moved to Texas in 1845, stopping first near McKinney and later moving to Bells, Grayson county. Mr. Savage was a Confederate soldier, in Troop B. 13th Texas Dismounted Cavalry. He was married to Susan Catherine Roberts of Savoy, December 25, 1871, and after three children had been born the family moved here in 1876 and settled in what is now known as the Weedon community west of Lake Brownwood. He helped organize the Pecan Valley Baptist association and was its treasurer for many years. He preached and organized churches all over this section, and was instrumental in the establishment of Howard Payne college here, contributing generously to the school at its inception.

Of his nine children two live in Brownwood now. They are George Benton Savage, past president of the Brown County Pioneers Association, a former state official of

Oklahoma and a practicing attorney; and Mrs. Edna Savage Saunders, widely known musician and business woman. Other children are James J. Savage, Hollis, Oklahoma; William T. Savage, Dallas; past grand master of the I.O.O.F. and former Legislator; John B. Savage, Roswell, N. M.; Edgar Savage, in the U. S. postal service in Los Angeles, California; Ernest Samuel Savage, Elida, N. M.; Carroll Otto Savage, Abilene; Mrs. R. C. (Maye Savage) Nipper, San Antonio.

A contemporary of the Rev. Mr. Savage, who is remembered by many old-timers here, was the Rev. B. A. Norrell, a minister of the Cumberland Presbyterian church. He came here in either the seventies or eighties, reared a large family of children, and established friendships all over this part of the state. In addition to his work as a missionary preacher, in which he established many churches and Sunday schools, Mr. Norrell was one of the first "colporters" in this part of the state. He used to drive a team of little mules, and no weather or road was too bad for him.

Rev. A. R. Watson was one of the several ministers of the gospel who came here during the seventies, and has labored in this vicinity most of the time since moving to the Promised Land. He was

born in 1855, and came to Texas from Arkansas in 1873, settling in Brown county in 1875. He was ordained as a minister of the Baptist church at the Cottonwood church, then in Brown county but now in Mills county, in October, 1879.

Still vigorous despite his advanced age, Mr. Watson is one of the leading spirits in the Brown County Pioneers Association and has served as its chaplain for the past three or four years. He is still engaged in pastoral work much of the time.

W. O. Turner, who was 87 years old last June 17, recalls the first cotton press he ever saw. It was used by Colonel Bradford in Fannin county as late as 1875. The first gin Mr. Turner ever saw was in 1867, and was a crude affair operated by horsepower. He has lived in Brown county a long time, and it is interesting to note that due to the decline in cotton production here during the past two or three decades cotton gins are becoming almost as rare here as they were sixty years ago.

The McMinn brothers, John and Ed, were among the arrivals in Brownwood in the seventies, reaching here in 1871. John McMinn lived here the remainder of his life, dying in 1926, but his brother moved away and died in California.

The McMinn brothers came here first with wagonloads of apples,



their home being in Missouri. Then they decided to go into business here, and for many years operated a general store under the firm name of John and Ed McMinn. After selling the business in the eighties they engaged in cattle raising for some years. John McMinn served the community as mayor, and it was under his administration that the first sewer system was constructed and the first fire wagon was bought.

Going from the sublime to the ridiculous, no record of the first half century of Brownwood's community life would be complete without at least a mention of the "badger fights" which were staged at intervals for the benefit of the

northern and eastern "drummers" who came into this territory to sell their wares. It was a form of initiation for new-comers, and most of the business men of the town entered into the fun like boys at a picnic. Everybody, as a rule, enjoyed the "fights" except the hapless victims of the pranks. Most of them were able to understand that it was a gesture of hospitality and good will, and invited the assemblage to the nearest saloon for a round of drinks. Sometimes an obstreperous individual had his feelings hurt, but nothing else was hurt so everybody had a good time. The custom was continued until well into this century.

## Pioneers Association

INDIANS were not the only bad actors who caused trouble in the early days of Brown county. School teachers and preachers had difficulty with obstreperous white boys and men who in some communities found pride in their ability to break up a school or stop a "meeting." This was the case in much of this area sixty years ago and later, but occasionally there was found a teacher or a preacher who couldn't be run off the job.

The Wilson brothers, Rev. Ben Wilson and Rev. Cam Wilson, both Brown county pioneers, on one occasion leaned a Winchester rifle against the pulpit when they went into a community in Menard county to conduct a religious service. They had been warned that no service could be held there, but the Winchester gave them the balance of power. A third brother, Henry Wilson, known generally as "Uncle Henry," came here in the

seventies. He settled at Bush mountain near Club Lake, and was the grandfather of Henry Wilson, Brownwood business man. Rev. Cam Wilson was the father of A. E. Wilson, former county attorney now living in Bangs. Rev. Ben Wilson was first pastor of the First Baptist church here.

Dr. W. A. West was one of the pioneer physicians of the community, moving here in 1875. His sons, Armit and Arthur, still live here.

In conclusion of this sketchy outline of the history of the Promised Land and the people who brought its promise to fruition, we present herewith a roster of pioneers who were registered at the beginning of the Brown County Pioneer's Association in 1935, all of them having come here by 1876. Many of these are still living, although half or more live elsewhere than in Brown county:

Mrs. Mary E. Allcorn, widow of J. C. Allcorn, 1876.

M. G. Anderson, 1867.

Phillip Anderson, 1873.

R. L. Anderson, 1874.

F. M. Anderson, 1864.

John W. Anderson, 1873.

Andrew Anderson, 1871.

Mrs. Bob Andrews, 1876.

Mrs. T. C. Andrews, 1876.

Ed Alexander, 1872.

J. C. Alexander, 1872.

Mrs. F. E. Baugh (widow of L.

P. Baugh), 1862.

W. M. Baugh, 1858.

L. Batton, 1876.

Mrs. Flossie Blackburn, 1872.

Mrs. Barbara A. Bolt, 1873.

Ed Blinn, 1874.

Mrs. Ed Blinn, 1875.

Mrs. Lou Boyd, 1876.

Mrs. Blanche Mullins Baker, 1876.

E. O. Baker, 1876.

Mrs. Julia Mullins Baker, 1868.

L. L. Baker, 1876.

Mrs. N. T. Bruton, 1876.

J. H. Burns, 1872.

Jake Brooks, 1875.

R. S. Brooks, 1875.

H. H. Brooks, 1875.

S. P. Burns, 1872.

Mrs. S. P. Burns, 1875.

Mrs. W. J. Bowden, 1873.

Mrs. Alice Stover Brewer, 1875.

Mrs. C. C. Boyd, 1869.

Mrs. Henry Brooks, 1876.

Mrs. Della Burkett, 1874.

Mrs. A. M. Bowden, 1876.

Walter E. Burns, 1871.

Mrs. J. H. Burns, 1875.

Mrs. Mary Bourn, 1874.

Nat Burns, 1875.

Mrs. D. S. Camp, 1874.

Mrs. Nina Escott Cook, 1871.

Jesse Virgil Chandler, 1875.

Mrs. E. A. Chandler, 1862.

M. L. Cooper, 1876.

Miss Melissa Chandler, 1860.

M. R. Cheatham, 1872.

Mrs. M. R. Cheatham, 1872.

Wm. T. Crow, 1876.

- Sid Crow, 1876.  
 J. A. Clark, 1876.  
 Mrs. J. A. Clark, 1874.  
 Mrs. Ada Parton Cooley, 1876.  
 J. L. Cross, 1863.  
 D. O. Connell, 1872.  
 Mrs. N. E. Clardy, 1875.  
 Dink Crow, 1876.  
 Mrs. Z. A. Chisholm, 1875.  
 Mrs. M. A. Childress, 1873.  
 J. C. Clements, 1860.  
 Miss Eliza Clements, 1866.  
 Mitchell M. Cox, 1875.  
 Mrs. J. A. Cheatham, 1874.  
 Mrs. M. A. Childress, (Bangs),  
 1876.  
 Wiley Chamberlain, 1876.  
 Mrs. Mary Campbell, 1872.  
 Dave Cox, 1862.  
 J. J. Cates, 1875.  
 R. A. Day, 1875.  
 Mrs. Lizzie Davis, 1876.  
 Mrs. A. B. Driskill, 1875.  
 Mrs. G. C. Duncan, 1876.  
 W. S. Dickinson, 1873.  
 Mrs. Mattie Emerson, 1874.  
 J. M. Ethridge, 1876.  
 Mrs. S. F. Elms, 1874.  
 Mrs. Lou C. Earp, 1870.  
 L. W. Evans, 1876.  
 F. M. Elms, 1876.  
 Mrs. Frank (Pearce) Emison,  
 1875.  
 Julian Emison, 1875.  
 Mrs. Julian Emison, 1875.  
 Mrs. Rose Earnest, 1873.  
 Mrs. Rena Wilson Etheridge,  
 1876.  
 Mrs. O. B. Fomby, 1875.  
 Mrs. G. W. Faulkner, 1872.  
 Hosea Fisk, 1863.  
 J. L. Falls, 1875.  
 Greenleaf Fisk, 1860.  
 J. C. Fisher, 1876.  
 Marion Ford, 1874.  
 C. M. Grady, 1874.  
 J. T. Grady, 1874.  
 V. L. Grady, 1874.  
 E. B. Grady, 1874.  
 W. G. Grady, 1874.  
 Mrs. W. G. Grady, 1876.  
 Mrs. Pamela Wyatt Gilmer, 1876.  
 Will Garms, 1876.  
 John Garms, 1876.  
 Henry Garms, 1876.  
 Mrs. T. F. Goodson, 1875.  
 S. H. Gilliland, 1859.  
 J. M. Guthrie, 1876.  
 Mrs. Mary Young Constitution  
 Scott Garrett, 1876.  
 George Griffin, 1874.  
 Louis Garms, 1876.  
 O. F. George, 1874.  
 Mrs. Mollie Gilbert, 1876.  
 Mrs. Lou J. Hughes, 1876.  
 Jack Henderson, 1876.  
 Mrs. Eliza Connell Hawkins,  
 1864.  
 Joe Howton, 1872.  
 C. A. Hardee, 1871.  
 C. V. Harriss, 1859.  
 Mrs. Mary Head, 1876.  
 F. W. Hardee, 1872.  
 Mrs. Nettie Hickman, 1875.  
 Mrs. Fannie Howard, 1876.  
 Mrs. C. G. Howard, 1876.  
 G. W. Hardesty, 1874.  
 Mrs. Gus Hardy, 1876.

- J. Tom Inmon, 1874.  
 C. W. Johnson, 1863.  
 W. Y. Johnson, 1863.  
 Mrs. Ella Jones, 1876.  
 Mrs. Earl Johnson, 1871.  
 Mrs. J. C. Jones, 1874.  
 Mrs. M. J. Jernigan, 1873.  
 Mrs. W. R. Kelley, 1874.  
 C. L. King, 1876.  
 Mrs. Sallie Brandenburg Knight,  
 1875.  
 Mrs. H. M. Killion, 1876.  
 Mrs. E. R. Kelly, 1875.  
 George Kidd, 1875.  
 John Keesee, 1875.  
 John Knudson, 1874.  
 W. D. Long, 1872.  
 Mrs. Annie E. Luxon, 1876.  
 Mrs. Willie McMahan Low, 1875.  
 Mrs. W. C. Lockett, 1876.  
 John W. Lewis, 1868.  
 Mrs. Collie W. Lewis, 1874.  
 J. E. Long, 1872.  
 Mrs. Sam E. Lacy, 1875.  
 G. E. Lester, 1876.  
 Aaron D. Lee, 1874.  
 Jim McCulley, 1876.  
 Mrs. M. A. Melton, 1874.  
 Mrs. James McGarrity, 1876.  
 Jas. P. Martin, 1876.  
 Mrs. Will Middleton, 1875.  
 Mrs. H. McGeorge, 1873.  
 Mrs. A. P. Meek, 1873.  
 Mrs. Annie McQueen, 1874.  
 G. C. Maner, 1876.  
 Mrs. G. C. Maner, 1872.  
 Mrs. J. F. McGee, 1862.  
 Mrs. Mollie Cross Murphy, 1876.  
 Mrs. W. Z. Morris, 1875.  
 George W. McMahan, 1875.  
 W. M. Medcalf, 1875.  
 S. P. Martin, 1875.  
 Mrs. S. A. McDonald, 1876.  
 Mrs. Mary McDonough, 1863.  
 J. W. C. Mullins, 1862.  
 I. C. Mullins, 1872.  
 J. G. McBride, 1874.  
 A. McIntosh, 1875.  
 R. M. Medcalf, 1875.  
 August McInnis, 1874.  
 Emma McInnis, 1875.  
 Susan McInnis, 1876.  
 Edgar McKinney, 1876.  
 J. W. Millhollon, 1874.  
 Mrs. W. A. Murry, 1876.  
 L. L. Mallow, 1873.  
 E. A. Mallow, 1873.  
 Mrs. J. E. McGaughy, 1873.  
 Mrs. Elvada McDaniel, 1861.  
 Mrs. Mary Anderson McGarrity,  
 1873.  
 Mrs. J. P. McClarty, 1870.  
 Mrs. Leacy McGaughy, 1874.  
 Henry Millhollon, 1875.  
 R. A. McCulley, 1875.  
 Mrs. G. W. McHan, 1876.  
 B. F. Nolen, 1875.  
 Mrs. B. F. Nolen, 1874.  
 Mrs. Henry Norwood, 1874.  
 H. A. Newton, 1876.  
 Mrs. Bettie Nichols, 1868.  
 J. P. Newton, 1865.  
 Mrs. Minerva Owens, 1874.  
 Jack Osburn, 1872.  
 David Oneal, 1874.  
 Daz C. Price, 1874.  
 Sam Parks, 1875.  
 Dan Parton, 1876.

- J. M. Price, 1874.  
 J. C. Price, 1874.  
 V. L. Phillips, 1875.  
 H. W. Phillips, 1875.  
 W. M. Phillips, 1875.  
 Mrs. E. A. Parks, 1870.  
 W. D. Pierce, 1876.  
 R. W. Pentecost, 1875.  
 J. W. Philer, 1875.  
 M. L. Price, 1874.  
 Mrs. Texas Pedigo, 1875.  
 G. W. Plummer, 1875.  
 W. R. Plummer, 1876.  
 J. M. Perry, 1875.  
 Mrs. J. M. Perry, 1865.  
 Miss Cora Posey, 1876.  
 Lee Page, 1875.  
 Mrs. Nancy A. Johnson Purcell,  
 1866.  
 N. A. Perry, 1874.  
 Mrs. W. D. Pierce, 1874.  
 Mrs. M. M. Penn, 1874.  
 Robert D. Routh, 1872.  
 Mrs. James Boware, 1875.  
 Lon Robinson, 1874.  
 Mrs. M. J. Russell, 1875.  
 Mrs. L. A. Ray, 1874.  
 A. B. Reagan, 1875.  
 H. G. Ratliff, 1874.  
 Lillie D. Rich, 1876.  
 Mrs. T. A. Roberts, 1875.  
 Miss Martha Richard, 1869.  
 John Y. Rankin Jr., 1870.  
 T. A. Roberts, 1875.  
 Tom A. Robinson, 1875.  
 Mrs. W. W. Reagan, 1875.  
 C. E. Scott, 1876.  
 Mrs. Ella Chandler Stafford,  
 1857.
- Brooke Smith, 1876.  
 Mrs. J. W. Snead, 1876.  
 Mrs. Etta Snow, 1876.  
 Jack F. Smith, 1876.  
 George B. Savage, 1876.  
 W. T. Savage, 1876.  
 James J. Savage, 1876.  
 John B. Savage, 1876.  
 J. J. Smith, 1875.  
 Mrs. Orлма Lee Scott, 1874.  
 W. M. Sears, 1872.  
 Mrs. W. H. Sikes, 1874.  
 Mrs. M. C. Smith, 1875.  
 Mrs. M. L. Sanders, 1874.  
 Mrs. J. B. Snyder, 1874.  
 Mrs. J. W. Stewart, 1875.  
 W. P. Scott, 1876.  
 Miss Mattie Scott, 1876.  
 Mrs. Emma Shields, 1875.  
 W. M. Simpson, 1875.  
 Mrs. J. M. Sherrod, 1874.  
 J. M. Sherrod, 1874.  
 Mrs. J. W. Shore, 1865.  
 J. W. (Neal) Shore, 1876.  
 J. F. Stewart, 1874.  
 Mrs. W. M. Sutton, 1872.  
 W. H. Simmons, 1876.  
 W. E. Swart, 1876.  
 R. M. Sherrod, 1874.  
 Mrs. Fannie Earp Scott, 1868.  
 Sam Tipton, 1876.  
 Mrs. J. M. Teague, 1875.  
 Mrs. W. C. Thames, 1875.  
 Mrs. C. E. Taylor, 1875.  
 F. E. Turner, 1876.  
 J. W. Taber, 1874.  
 R. B. Terrell, 1874.  
 F. D. Tanner, 1875.  
 Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson, 1875.

John M. Taber, 1874.  
 Mrs. Ida Thompson, 1876.  
 Mrs. Dona Wright Thomas, 1876.  
 Mrs. J. B. Turner, 1874.  
 J. L. Utzman, 1873.  
 L. J. Vann, 1863.  
 T. C. Wilson, 1872.  
 J. S. Wilson, 1876.  
 Mrs. J. S. Wilson, 1876.  
 A. R. Watson, 1875.  
 L. H. Wilson, 1876.  
 A. B. Wilson, 1876.  
 S. H. Wood, 1875.  
 J. A. Wells, 1875.  
 Mrs. Josephine Womack, 1860.  
 Mrs. Josephine Rushing Wool-  
 dridge, 1861.  
 S. J. White, 1875.  
 W. D. Wilson, 1874.  
 Mrs. J. W. Warren, 1870.  
 Mrs. R. L. White, 1875.  
 Mrs. Texanna Wright, 1874.  
 Mrs. Jimmie Winters, 1874.  
 Mrs. Ellen Wheeler, 1875.  
 Tom M. Windham, 1874.  
 H. W. Walton, 1876.  
 B. J. White, 1873.  
 Mrs. Ellen Anderson White, 1872.  
 Bud Williams, 1866.  
 Ave Williams, 1864.  
 Ollie Williams, 1863.  
 Mrs. Ellen E. Yantis, 1875.

\* \* \*

The Brown County Pioneers As-  
 sociation was organized October

15, 1935. W. M. (Morg) Baugh, who came here as a child in 1858, was elected the first president of the society. Brooke Smith was made first vice president; George B. Savage, second vice president; A. B. Reagan, secretary-treasurer; and James C. White (honorary member) historian.

Presidents of the organization since its inception have included Brooke Smith, elected in 1936; George B. Savage, elected in 1937; C. V. Harriss, elected in 1938; J. H. Miller, elected in 1940 (no meeting was held in 1939); and J. M. Perry, elected in 1941. Other present officers in addition to Mr. Perry are Miss Melissa Chandler, first vice president; E. R. Ashcraft, second vice president; Rev. A. R. Watson, chaplain; James C. White, secretary and historian; and these with George B. Savage and J. H. Miller are the executive committee. The Association meets on the Sunday nearest April 21 of each year.

\* \* \*

Error: In the list of children of Colonel William C. (Uncle Bill) Anderson, on pages 54 and 55, the name of Pat Anderson, youngest son, was unintentionally omitted. Mr. Anderson now lives in Brownwood.

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