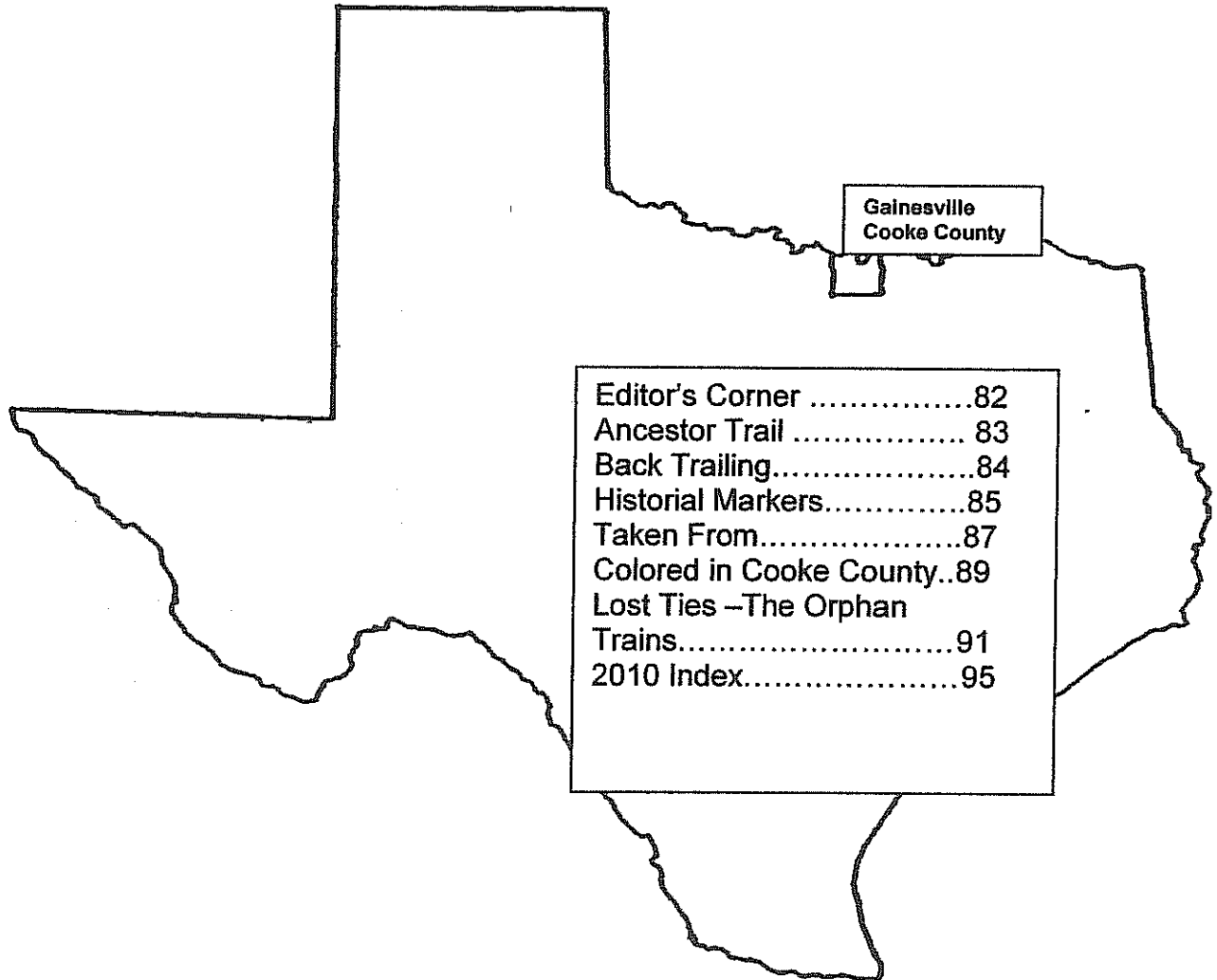


# CROSS TIMBERS POST

Editor: Dick Sparkman



Cooke County Website: [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txcooke/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txcooke/)

## December 2010

CROSS TIMBERS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF COOKE COUNTY TEXAS

**Cross Timbers Genealogical Society** was organized in 1977 to provide a forum for those interested in genealogical research and preserving records for the future generations.

Funds raised by the CTGS are used to research, preserve and publish records relating to Cooke County family histories. As a service to other researchers, CTGS has published several books which are for sale.

For more or additional information, please contact any of the officers listed here:

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The Cross Timbers Post is published four times a year: March, June September and December. Subscription is by membership in the Society. Annual membership dues are \$15.00 yearly per household. Memberships run from June 1<sup>st</sup> to May 30<sup>th</sup> the next year.

All correspondence and material relative to the Cross Timbers Post should be directed to: The Editor, P.O. Box 197, Gainesville, Texas 76241-0197.

Note: The Editor of the Cross Timber Post will not be responsible for the accuracy of material printed herein since no proof is required.

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## EDITORS' CORNER

A number of our members let other people read our newsletter (this is great). So we would like to let everyone know that CTGS has the following books for sale. This price includes shipping and handling.

Collection of Obits 1950-1988 pages 172 \$26.75  
Fairview Cemetery--- pages 191 \$20.00  
Good Times Edition---pages 27 \$10.25  
Probate Records 1848---1940 pages 70 \$19.00  
Resthaven Cemetery pages 27 \$9.00  
Ye Gainesville Towne 1850-1927 pages 121 \$16.50  
Cooke County Marriages  
Vol. I 1849-1858 pages 10 \$6.75  
Vol. II 1858-1872 pages 48 \$15.25  
Vol. IIA 1872-1877 pages 48 \$15.25  
Vol. III 1877-1882 pages 78 \$22.50  
Know Your County Pages 64 \$19.00  
Early History of Cooke County Pages 103 \$23.50

These are non-member prices with shipping.

Should you need a complete description of these books, contact the Editor or the Treasurer.

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### Meeting Schedules

Our 2011 scheduled meeting dates are:  
Jan N/M, Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, Mar 7<sup>th</sup>, April 4<sup>th</sup>, May 2nd  
June 6<sup>th</sup>, July N/M, Aug 1<sup>st</sup>, Sept 6<sup>th</sup>, Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>,  
Nov 7<sup>th</sup>, Dec Party

Go ahead and mark your calendar now so as not to miss a single one of our great meetings. Our meetings will meet in the Morton Museum, 210 South Dixon, Gainesville, Texas At 6:00 P. M. (go thru the south side door)

Good Hunting

*Dick Sparkman*

## Following the Ancestor Trail:

This page covers research material and research locations in Cooke County.

**MUENSTER LIBRARY,**  
418 No. Elm, Muenster, TX  
[.http://www.muensterlibrary.com](http://www.muensterlibrary.com)

**COOKE COUNTY LIBRARY**  
200 South Weaver St., Gainesville, Texas  
<http://cookecountylibrary.org>

**COOKE COUNTY-COUNTY CLERK**  
100 South Dixon, Gainesville, Texas  
(courthouse)  
\*Death, Birth, Marriage records available.  
\*You can look up most records yourself.  
Copies are \$1.00 per pages  
<http://www.co.cooke.tx.us/ips/cms/countyoffice>  
s/

**MORTON MUSEUM of COOKE COUNTY**  
210 South Dixon, Gainesville, Texas  
E-mail: [mortonmuseum@att.net](mailto:mortonmuseum@att.net)

**NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE  
LIBRARY**—1525 W. California St., Gainesville

[http://www.nctc.edu/NCTC\\_Library/library](http://www.nctc.edu/NCTC_Library/library)

**LATTER DAY SAINT CHURCH**  
Family History Center  
1703 West California St., Gainesville, Texas  
Hours: Tues. 9:00 am to -1:00 pm; Wed 7:00  
P.M.to-8:30 p.m.

## Church's in Gainesville with Libraries and Archives:

**First Christian Church**  
401 No. Dixon 940-665-2053  
Started May 10, 1874 Open Dailey  
Web site: [firstchristiangainesville.com](http://firstchristiangainesville.com)

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
415 E. California St. 940-665-4705  
Started August 6, 1885 Open 9 A.M. to  
12 Noon Only Look-up's

**First United Methodist Church**  
214 So. Dixon 940-665-3926  
Started 1852  
Web site: [fumcgainesville.com](http://fumcgainesville.com)

**First Presbyterian Church**  
401 So. Dixon 940-665-5153  
Started 1878 Archives  
Web site: [firstpresbyteriangainesville.com](http://firstpresbyteriangainesville.com)

**St. Mary's Catholic Church**  
825 No. Weaver 940-665-5395  
Started 1879  
Web site: <http://stmaryscatholic.com/>

**First Baptist Church**  
308 E. Broadway 940-665-4347  
Started in 1871 Open  
Web Site: [fbegville.com](http://fbegville.com)

## **BACK TRAILING**

**90Years Ago—Gainesville Daily Register-December 1920**

**Local Hunters Bag Quantity of Squirrels**  
Guy Roberts, L. R. Downard and Jake Broadwell spent Friday near Rosston hunting squirrels and bagged some 35 of them. Linn Downard broke all records for hunting, excepting Roy Dickerman, of course. He killed five squirrels at one shot and said it wasn't a good day for squirrel hunting.

**Clock to be placed in Courthouse Tower has reached the City.**

Patience never goes without reward. This was exemplified today by the arrival of the clock to be placed in the courthouse tower, the big Mechanism having been ordered many months ago. With a hope that its installation could be celebrated last July 4<sup>th</sup>, or at least on Armistice Day. But the many delays with weather have impeded the progress of business during the past year did not overlook the factory where town clocks are made, and therein lies the reason for the late arrival. As soon as an erector from the factory reaches the city, the work of installation will begin. The clock is to be erected in memory of the soldiers and sailors who represented Cooke County during the World War.

## **MARKETS**

Hens, per lb.....	13c
Turkeys per lb.....	27c
Rosters per lb.....	6c
Springs per lb.....	20c
Ducks per lb.....	15c
Butter per lb.....	25c
Eggs per dozen.....	65c
Guineas each.....	25c
Green hides, per lb.....	2c

## **COUNTY AUTHORITIES ACCEPT NEW BRIDGE**

County Judge Holman announced this afternoon that two new bridges have been completed over streams in Cooke County recently and were accepted today by the commissioners. One is over Wheeler Creek near the old brick yard, just southeast of Gainesville, while the other is on Hackler Creek, seven miles south of town, near the Thorat Gorham place.

**50 Years as Ago Gainesville Daily Register December 1960**

**1<sup>st</sup> Docket is found in move**

Peace Justice Carl Burchfield uncovered the first justice docket ever kept in the county while moving his office to the third floor of the courthouse this week.

The docket recorded its first criminal case of the office on July 11, 1885. A swindling charge was filed in Cooke County's Precinct One office and the person charged was found guilty.

H. S. Holman was serving as justice of the peace at the time, and held his first inquest jury on Sept. 2, 1885. S. H. Hargis served as foreman of the jury and members were B. F. Aplen, H. E. Ford, G. C. Vincent, I. P. Price and John Aplen. The inquest was held in the pistol slaying of H. D. Williams.

## **THE DAYS ' RECORDS**

**October report**

Building permits.....	\$50,300
Fire Losses (Est0.....	\$ 100
Bank Dep. Last qtr.....	\$34,606,332
County Traffic Deaths (1960).....	5
Births.....	49
Deaths.....	16
Telephones.....	7,017
Water Meters.....	4,816
Light Meters.....	5,148
Gas Meters.....	5,010
City Pop.....	13,031
Parking Receipts.....	1,919

**HISTORIAL MARKERS IN COOKE COUNTY** SH 51, in Moffett Park, Gainesville.

**Marker Title:** Barbed Wire in Cooke County

**Address:** 100 E. California

**City:** Gainesville

**Year Marker Erected:** 1986

**Marker Location:** 100 East California, Gainesville.

**Marker Text:** The development of barbed wire fencing had a revolutionary impact on the economy and settlement pattern in Texas. In 1874, Joseph Glidden of Illinois received a patent for his barbed wire. By 1875, Henry B. Sanborn had come to North Texas as Glidden's barbed wire salesman. Cleaves & Fletcher Hardware, once located at this site, and other Gainesville businesses began to stock Glidden's Barbed Wire as it came into demand by Texas ranchers. Sanborn's 1875 transaction with Cleaves & Fletcher may represent the earliest sale of two-stranded modern barbed wire in Texas. Texas Sesquicentennial 1836-1986.

**Marker Title:** Butterfield Overland Stage Line

**Address:** Grand Avenue and Star

**City:** Gainesville

**Year Marker Erected:** 1936

**Marker Location:** Grand Avenue and Star, Gainesville.

**Marker Text:** Gainesville was a station on the Southern Overland Mail Line (Butterfield Route), which provided semi-weekly mail and stage service between St. Louis and San Francisco, 1858-1861. The line was 2795 miles long--one of the longest stage transportation routes ever established. 1964

Cooke County

**Marker Title:** Cooke County

**Address:** Moffett Park

**City:** Gainesville

**Year Marker Erected:** 1936

**Marker Location:** East of Elm Fork Bridge on

**Marker Text:** Created March 20, 1848.

Organized March 10, 1849. Named in honor of William G. Cooke 1808-1847. Captain of the "New Orleans Greys," 1835; Assistant Inspector General at San Jacinto, 1836; member of the Santa Fe Expedition, 1841; Secretary of War and Marine, 1845; Adjutant General, 1846-1847; County Seat, Gainesville. 1964

**Marker Title:** Cooke County, C.S.A./2nd Frontier Regiment

**Address:** Moffett Park

**City:** Gainesville

**Year Marker Erected:** 1963

**Marker Location:** East of Elm Fork Bridge on SH 51, in Moffett Park, Gainesville.

**Marker Text:** Military, defense center in Civil War. Cooke voted 231 to 137 anti-secession, yet nine military units served Confederacy from here. In constant danger of Federal or Indian attack. Col. Wm. C. Young of Cooke, with 1,000 men took Indian Territory forts from Federals April-May 1861. Commissioners set up regular patrols. Forted a home as refuge for dependents. Gave \$4,000 for munitions and wool cards to make cloth. Cotton gin, grist mill, gunsmiths, blacksmiths made war goods. C.S.A. was furnished Epsom salts from Indian creek. Corn, beef, pork, wheat, other produce fed the military, home front. County swapped 25 steers for salt for dependent families. People worked hard, sacrificed much, protected homes of fighting men of Confederacy. (Back of Cooke County, C.S.A.) Organized Oct. 1863 with Gainesville as headquarters, the Second Frontier Regiment, Texas Cavalry C.S.A. guarded counties along Red River, to keep down outlaws, Indians, deserters. Col. James Bourland (1803-1868) was appointed Commander and it became known as "Bourlands Border Regiment." Union invasion from north of Red River was constantly threatened. These mounted troops

patrolled, maintained posts along river and in Indian Territory. Confederate Seminole troops served with the unit. Famous Confederate Indian Gen. Stand Watie and his Cherokee Brigade shared duty along perilous border. Bourland also worked with Frontier Regiment, state troops, that maintained line posts 100 mi. west, a day's horseback ride apart, from Red to Rio Grande rivers, and with a state militia line 30 mi. to the west. Erected by The State of Texas 1963.

**Marker Title:** The Cross Timbers

**Address:** US 82 roadside park

**City:** Gainesville

**Year Marker Erected:** 1970

**Marker Location:** From Gainesville take US 82 about 5 miles to roadside park on the south side of highway.

**Marker Text:** Two long, narrow strips of timber extending parallel to each other from Oklahoma to Central Texas; form a marked contrast to adjacent prairie. The more fertile East Cross Timbers begin here in Cooke County. Area was famous pioneer landmark as well as obstacle to travel because of its dense growth. It divided the hunting grounds of the Plains and East Texas Indians. Until 1870s it marked boundary of settlement, for Plains Indians avoided the timber. Forests' most important function was (and is) causing soil to retain water. (1970)

**Marker Title:** Gainesville

**Address:** US 82 E, roadside park

**City:** Gainesville

**Year Marker Erected:** 1964

**Marker Location:** From Gainesville take US 82 about 5 miles east to roadside park, north side of highway.

**Marker Text:** Founded 1850. Named for Gen. Edmund P. Gaines, who in 1836 aided Republic of Texas. Military supply headquarters during Civil War. Important in defense against Indian attacks and invasion. Center for agriculture, industry, oil. Home of famed Gainesville Community Circus. (1964)

**Marker Title:** Great Hanging at Gainesville, 1862

**City:** Gainesville

**Year Marker Erected:** 1964

**Marker Location:** ~~East of Elm Fork Bridge--SH 51 (south side of road), Gainesville.~~ (This marker has been moved and is now located on east bank of Pecan Creek, between Main St. and California St. The marker at one time was located west of I-35, near Elm Creek. It was moved here a few years ago.)

**Marker Text:** Facing the threat of invasion from the north and fearing a Unionist uprising in their midst, the people of North Texas lived in constant dread during the Civil War. Word of a "Peace Party" of Union sympathizers, sworn to destroy their government, kill their leaders, and bring in Federal troops caused great alarm in Cooke and neighboring counties. Spies joined the "Peace Party" discovered its members and details of their plans. Under the leadership of Colonels James Bourland, Daniel Montague and others, citizens loyal to the Confederacy determined to destroy the order; and on the morning of October 1, 1862, there were widespread arrests "by authority of the people of Cook County." Fear of rescue by "Peace Party" members brought troops and militia to Gainesville, where the prisoners were assembled, and hastened action by the citizens committee. At a meeting of Cooke County citizens, with Colonel W.C. Young presiding, it was unanimously resolved to establish a Citizens Court and to have the Chairman choose a committee to select a jury. 68 men were brought speedily before the court. 39 of them were found guilty of conspiracy and insurrection, sentenced and immediately hanged. Three other prisoners who were members of military units were allowed trial by Court Martial at their request and were subsequently hanged by its order. Two others broke from their guard and were shot and killed. The Texas Legislature appropriated \$4,500 for rations, forage used

by State troops here during the unrest. (1964)  
More

**Marker Title:** Kiowa Raid of 1868 (SW Part of County)

**City:** Valley View

**Year Marker Erected:** 1968

**Marker Location:** From Valley View take IH-35 3 miles north to rest stop on east side of highway.

**Marker Text:** On Jan. 5-6, 1868, Chief Big Tree and 150 to 200 Kiowa's raided Willa Walla Valley, Clear Creek and Blocker Creek. Burned homes; killed 13 people; scalped one woman alive. Captured 10 women and children; 3 escaped, 2 were ransomed. Raiders reached Elm Creek at Gainesville before blizzard forced withdrawal. More damage and deaths would have resulted if George Masoner had not become the "Paul Revere" of valleys and warned settlers of impending danger. Indian raids such as this one were in retaliation for loss of hunting grounds to settlers. (1968)

**Marker Title:** Montague, Daniel (First Cooke County Surveyor)

**City:** Gainesville

**County:** Cooke

**Marker Location:** from Gainesville take US 82 west about 7.3 miles to roadside park on south side of road.

**Marker Text:** (1793 - 1876) Born in Massachusetts. Moved to Texas 1836. Accepted post of surveyor, Fannin Land District, helping settlers locate claims and fight Indians. Joined Snively Expedition to capture Mexican traders trespassing in Republic of Texas, 1843, Captain of Company in Mexican War, 1846. When Cooke County was created, 1848, Montague was named County Surveyor. Like most surveyors, took land as pay for duty that called for constant risk of life. Rifles to stand off Indians were in field kits. Like Surveyor-Senator John H. Reagan, Montague was honored in having a county named for him.

**Marker Title:** Washington House (Sycamore Creek Ranch)

**Address:** Sycamore Creek Ranch

**City:** Dexter

**Year Marker Erected:** 1967

**Marker Location:** From Dexter, take County Road 103 north about 4 miles to Sycamore Creek Ranch gate. Marker is on private property.

**Marker Text:** Built 1867 by J.R. Washington, with lumber hauled by oxen from Jefferson, Texas. Architecture is Queen Anne Period; gingerbread trim. Excellent water facilities made ranch a collection center for cattle prior to trail drives. As home of a cattle industry leader, attracted distinguished visitors, including ranchers Chas. Goodnight and J.C. Loving, and statesman Sam Rayburn. Property in one family five generations. Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, 1967. Incise in base: Owned by K.B. and Neva McCain Yost, and By Lynda Yost Lindh, and Beverly Yost Lindh, (Mrs. Yost a granddaughter of J.R. Washington).

**Taken from "The First 100 years in Cooke County" by A. Morton Smith**

With the decline of the cattle boom as and as the 80's drew to a close, many large cattle raisers decided to put their land holdings on the market. The transition of Cooke County from a cattle-raising center to an agricultural area got underway.

One of the incidents which gave impetus to this movement was the bringing to Cooke County of scores of thrifty German farmers from the Midwestern states by three brothers, Emil, August, and Anton Flusche. Over-population of the German Catholic communities of the Middle West started an exodus. Who came to Texas having received encouragement from the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad to establish a colony. After having inspected land as far west as 200 miles from Gainesville,

they decided upon 22,000 acres comprising the Childers and Fischer pastures in western Cooke County owned by Jot Gunter and C. E. Wellesly of Dallas and J. W. Childers of Cooke County.

The Flusches arrived on October 2, 1889, spent the night with August Pulte, and next day inspected the future town site, than inhabited by a few cowboys looking after a herd of 6,000 cattle. They came back to Gainesville that night to learn that Jot Gunter was here from Dallas to negotiate with them. At the Lindsey Hotel they discussed the deal until late into the night, and next day a contract was drawn up, the Flusches agreeing to pay \$15,375 for the town site.

On November 14, 1889, only forty days after the signing of the contract, a landseekers excursion train arrived from the North. After a stop in Gainesville, the train carried the party westward, stopped on the open prairie and deposited the colonist.

When the first settlers arrived, Muenster was designed by ascrap of paper tacked on a telegraph pole. Earliest colonists who bought land included Joseph and Theo Wiesmann, Frank Hesse, William and Joseph Flushe, William Everet, J. Koester, H. Henchied, H. Felderhoff, and the G. Sonntag, J. Koll, Finke, Grube, J Herr, F. Trachta, Fischer, Knauff, P. Stoffels and M Ganz Familys.

At the end of the first year, 8,000 acres had been sold to seventy-five families. The earlist citizens dated their mcommunity from December 8, 1889, when the first mass was held in the Flusche Brothers land office. The Flusches had requested of the Franciscan fathers in St. Louis a priest for the colony. But in the meantime they asked Rev. H. Brickley, of St. Mary's church in Gainesville, to come to the colony for services.

One of the first persons to acquire property rights within the town site was August Pulte, who promised to build, a "good two-story house:. Mathias Ganz on December 5, 1889, bought a lot for a blacksmith shop; and on Decembner 12, Wendelin Hesse bought a lot for a store. William Ebert obtained a location for a hotel, Frank Hesse a lot for a store. Hesse and B. Wiesmann soon opened a lumberyard, getting most of their building material from Gainesville by train.

Building of a school was started in January, 1890, and it was completed in a few months at a cost of \$1,000. For school benches 2x12 planks supported by beer kegs were used. First teacher of the school was B. Kaupel, who came from Nebraska. With the school completed. A rectory 16x20 was built. It was enlarged in 1891 and servied as the priests' house until 1916. The first rectory cost \$600; when the present rectory was built, the original was bought by Franz Hoenig and moved two blocks north of the parish hall for a rent house. During this period, the first depot was build with \$1,200 donated by Jot Gunter to the railroad for the purpose. John Theisen of Iowa was named depot agent. The Myra depot was moved to Muenster and used as a section house.

Cooke County's population had reached 24,602 in 1890, and the commissioner's court had created twenty voting precincts. In 1890 there were 1,857 farms in the county, and this number was to be nearly doubled in the decade that followed. There were 39,240 head of cattle, 13,586 head of horses and mules and 14,699 head of hogs on county farms and ranches. Corn acreage was 41,686; oats, 21,308 acres; and cotton, 36,091, producing 23,670 bales.

The second German Catholic colony on former Cooke County ranch lands was established in 1891, six miles west of Gainesville at Lindsey Switch. The colony became known as Lindsey. The Flusche brothers, who colonized Muenster and named



the town for the capital of their home province in Germany, were leaders of the movement which resulted in the establishment of the new town. Anton and August Flusche, two of the three brothers who had four colonies to their credit, entered into a contract with Judge Lindsay in January, 1891, for 3,500 acres of land to be sold to German Catholic colonists. In March and April of that year, a part of the land north of the railroad was laid out in ten lots, and the remainder was divided into suitable farming tracts.

In the summer of 1892, Judge Lindsay bought the Summerfield and Peery holdings north of Landsay. These consisted of some 4,000 acres, which were surveyed by S. J. Brazelton, county surveyer, and Anton Flusche, and this additional land were made available to the colonists. W. W. Howeth also turned over a farm of 1,300 acres to the enterprise.

With the growing stress on the agricultural pursuits in Cooke County, it was to be expected an agricultural fair would be started. On May 28, 1891, the Gainesville Board of Trade president, F. M. Dougherty, appointed a committee composed of J. M. Lindsay, H. B. Fletcher, J. T. Leonard, F. R. Sherwood, C. M. Stevens and W. W. Howeth to form an organization, and the Gainesville Agricultural and Livestock Fair Association, to plan a fair for the fall of that year, was the result. The fair association acquired a 40-acre tract of land south of what is now Fairview cemetery at the corner of Broadway and Fair. A race track, stables and exhibit building were erected on the site, and the city's mule-drawn street car line was extended out Broadway to the fair grounds entrance. R. S. Rollins was president and F. R. Sherwood secretary of the fair. Premiums totaled \$5,000 in the various departments. The fair opened October 3, 1891, for a seven-day exhibition. There was a fine exhibit of grains, fruits, vegetables and geological specimens.

Speakers at the fair included Gov. James Hogg, Lt Gov. Pendelton and Editor W.L. Malone of the Fort Worth Gazette.

In 1892, the fair was held again with similar attractions. Jules Gunter showed his mammoth two-year-old hog, Black Friday, weighing 1,100 pounds and measuring nine feet in length. The fair was reorganized in 1893 with J. Z. Keel as secretary, and the last fair at this location was in 1894.

The county's third fair was started in 1897 on a tract of land at the south end of Lindsay Street owned by Judge J. M. Lindsay. It was adjacent to the Santa Fe Railroad and the McAfree tract of land. There were horse races, judging of livestock and agricultural displays, balloon ascensions and speeches, along with band concerts and an opening day parade.

The name of Cooke County cemetery was changed to East Hill cemetery by action of the city council, and then in 1904 it was renamed Fairview cemetery. In 1899, two squares of land in the cemetery were donated by the county to Joseph E. Johnston United Confederate Veterans, for burial of Civil War dead.

In 1898, the Gainesville city council ordered installation of hitching posts in front of downtown business establishments and passed an ordinance providing that "on one should be allowed to leave their horses hitched an unreasonable length of time, " the first traffic regulation in the city.

#### COLORED IN COOKE COUNTY

By Henry Stone —a Slave  
(This story is printed as written)

Henry Stone was a small negro slave during the lindsay war.

I came to Gainesville, Texas in 1861. I bought by old Dr. Stone I can remember when the Indain used to raid this country for horses. At one time they came in two miles of

Gainesville. So the people forted the women & children at the Fletcher hotel. There was not but few men at this time.

I was staying with a man named George the master would make me stayed at home and protected his family. If any one tried to hurt the family, I would have tried to kill them.

Once in a while the Indains would slip in and steal horses. They would go over mountains where the white people would not thought of going.

In 1866 they raided this country and capture a white women & her baby. A nergo slave out by Clear Creek, they carried her & her baby all day on the snow. After a while they kill her baby and throw it down. They raided in Wise county killed some people, steal horses, one man by the name **Packhill**, he has one son in Gainesville and a grandson who works at the brick yard. They got lost and could not find their way out so they lay down by some logs & slept. They still carried this lady around with them. A while before day light the Indain got up and said. "Heap dogs barking and heap chicken crowing" they got scared & left.

Crossed Elm near the **Gecdon** place. Leaving this women behind. After they had been gone some time she got up and went to closes house. I did not see the girl, but I married a girl that did. This girl was raised by Mr. Jan Dose. She was there the time this lady came up to Mr. **Dose** house. It was awuf cold, frosty, sunny morning

She said this women didn't have any clothes on except around her waist, she was pitful looking sight any one ever saw.

In 1868, they made two raids in Sivills Bend. But this time they didn't get any horses. The men chased them all night, early next morning they over took them near the old lake across the river. When the Indains saw them they thought that they were only Indain.

There were twelve men & twenty-five Indains. When they got there they found out there twenty-five men. They had a hot battle with them. They kill Mr. **Storks**. Mr **Resaw** got shot

in one wrist and the rest of the men never got a scratch on them.

When Mr **Storks** fell from his horse the white men slowed up. Mr. **Hobbs** was the captain of this squad. He said "come on boys less don't let them sculpture him". He ran over Indain and knocked them down. He threw up his pistol and shot Mr. **Hobbs** horse in the head. He cussed him. Mr. **Hobbs** stood over the dead man.

The white men killed one Indain two of the Indains got the dead Indain and went away. I could have seen the Indains but I did not won't to throw my self away. I heard them whoop like a night owl. I have laid by the fence and gauded my master horse many day when it would be snowing or raining.

One night I saw a colored boy. When he saw the Indains coming he dug out a hole in some plumes, and covered himself up so as the Indains could not find him.

The friendly Indains. There were some friendly Indain, they did not kill people like the raiding Indains. When they wanted anything such as bread, sugar or meat they would go & beat on the bread pan. When they wanted flour and sugar they go & beat on the can. When they would them any thing they would go away happy. When you would them a red handkerchief they would give you their pony. I was at Fort Sill in 1868 I saw the pony that the raiding Indains had stolen. They would steal from the civilized Indain as same as from the white people. The men would dress up in Navy blue brass buttons.

Col. **Montage** lived across Elm. One day he left a German out to guard his horses. when he saw the Indains coming he tried to put them in correl to keep them from getting his horses, but he could not. He got on a spotted pony. He named her spot, they ran into Gainesville bareheaded. Some one asked him what he said, all I said was "come a long spot"

Jesse **Murrel's** father sent him out early one morning to catch his horses. About the time he

reached the horses a band of Indians appeared, frighten him away. About that time a band of white men led by Col Bryant came in contact with the Indians, whip them & recovered his horses & also some of the Indians.

John Harden witness a terrible sight. Mr. Hardin & his clost neighbor was about quarter of a mile a part one moring he came up, after being there awhile he looked back home & saw the Indians were there.

Dismounted on the porch, attacked his wife and three children, after fighting some time, she killed two Indians with the butcher knife, they killed all of them and sculpted and gave a whoop & disappeared.

### **LOST TIES---The Orphan Trains**

By Elaine Schad---Star Telegram

The trains rolled into hundreds of small towns across the rural American West and Midwest. Among the passengers; thousands of orphaned or otherwise homeless children primarily from the slums of the big eastern cities, severed from family roots and facing an unknown future with families they had never met in places they had never seen.

The fortunate ones were picked early. The others re-boarded the trains and went on to the next stop, and the next, their stories eventually becoming lost in the haze of history. They rode the **Orphan Trains**. For Rachel Duesman, the ride ended July 3, 1922, when she was placed with the family of Edward and Angelica Blumberg near Pilot Point. A photocopy of a long-yellowed baptismal certificate is the only key to her roots she has found in years of searching, but she still hopes to find a relative someday.

"I prayed to the Lord that he would help me find my brother, but I guess maybe I'm not supposed to see him" said Duesman, 73. "But God has blessed me all the way through. I've just had a good life" Duesman was among 150,000 children who rode the trams to new lives between 1854 and 1929 in one of the largest social experiments in American history.

It is estimated that between 500 and 600 **Orphan Train** riders remain alive, and many of them and their descendants are trying to find their lost roots. Marion Strittman of Fort Worth, a friend of Duesman's was 3 when she became the 13<sup>th</sup> mouth to feed for a family from Orange, Texas. Strittman came West on one of the so-called baby trains that carried younger children.

"I'm still searching " said Strittman, 69, a grandmother of 28 children, two of whom are adopted. "Mother brought me there (A New York orphanage) when she was 24 and I was 18 months old. She was Catholic, and that's all I know. What Strittman has held on to these many years is a tidbit of knowledge: that her mother's was also Marion. After decades of trying to come to grips with the reasons that would prompt a mother to leave her baby, she has reconciled herself to believing that she was loved.

"I decided that when I got older and held my first baby in my arms," she said. "Giving me her name ---Marion. She tried, and she cared. The children who rode the **Orphan Trains** were being sent to what social reformers expected would be better lives. Many were children of the 16 million European immigrants who passed through Ellis Island and quickly found that New York's streets were not paved with gold. Poor sanitation was universal; cholera and tuberculosis were rampant. Many parents were sick, destitute and unable to care for themselves, much less their starving children.

By 1853, thousands of children of all ages were roaming the streets of the big East Coast cities, which had no social mechanism to provide for their care. Moved by their plight, a young minister named Charles Loring Brace founded the Children's Aid Society and devised the placing-out program, which begin in New York City in 1854. The first Orphan Train left New York City for Dowagiac, Mich, in 1854, carrying 46 boys aged 7- 15.. By 1910, Texas had received 2,100 children, according to records of the Children's Aid Society. The

children usually went to farming areas, where they could work and be absorbed into rural families.

"The Trains were the gimmick. It was the placing-out system that was the key," said Alice Ayler, 72, of Oklahoma City. Along with two other children, Ayler rode what she said was the last Orphan Train. "Regardless of how our lives turned out, good or bad, it was for a purpose we were put in those circumstances," she said of the trains.

Despite the good intentions of the social movement, some Orphan Train riders are resentful fiercely maintaining that they were taken for no reason. "They tell you these kids came off the streets and were dragged through the gutters. That's a lot of hogwash," said Hazelle Latimer of Greenville, who was 11 when she came to Texas in November 1918. "Most of us were kids from decent homes, but our parents were in circumstances they could not control."

At 83, Latimer's memories are so intense that she still recalls the address and telephone number of the governess for whom for whom her mother was a seamstress during World War I. After her mother hospitalized with a brain tumor, Latimer was made a ward of the state. She bounced from place to place until she was told on Armistice Day that she'd be getting on the train. "I told them I'm not an orphan and I wasn't getting on the train," Latimer said.

Latimer had come to America from Germany with her widowed mother. When her mother became ill, the mother's fiancé could not care for her and there was no one to help her find an aunt in California. It was wartime, she acknowledged, and she slipped through the cracks.

Latimer found herself among a group of children aged 18 months' to 14 years on a train that pulled into the Katy Depot in Greenville. They were taken to the Masonic Hall, line wall-to-wall with people—some looking for farm labor, some looking for a child to love and some just there out of curiosity. "We were

lined up like little calves, new stock for Texas," Latimer said. People would tug on the children's arms, look under their shirts to see if their legs were straight, she said. "One old man stuck his hand in my mouth to check my teeth," she said. "I thought about him, but I knew what would have happened to me."

Lee Hippie, an assistant professor of sociology at Texas Women's University in Denton, uses Orphan Train history in a course called "Children's Rights and Services." "At the time, there was no concept of children having rights or needs," she said. "They were regarded as property, and childhood was an apprenticeship for real life." Children were needed economically and were commonly used for labor. Hippie said. The orphan trains were a community solution for large cities. "People who were involved with it (Orphan Trains) thought it was for the best," she said. "But to be torn apart from their families was a very traumatic experience. The sad thing that happened is that they lost their roots or family ties. There's a real yearning there, because there are huge holes in their past.

The placing out programs that used the trains were run primarily by two groups. The Children Aid Society and the New York Foundling Hospital, both in New York City. Both groups sent agents along with the children but their procedures were somewhat different. Children's Aid, City for Dowagiac, Mich, in 1854, carrying 46 boys aged 7- 15.. By 1910, Texas had received 2,100 children, according to records of the Children's Aid Society. The children usually went to farming areas, where they could work and be absorbed into rural families.

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The placing out programs that used the trains were run primarily by two groups. The Children Aid Society and the New York Foundling Hospital, both in New York City. Both groups sent agents along with the children but their procedures were somewhat different. Children's Aid, Springdale, Ark. It is a clearinghouse and information center for those looking for relatives of Orphan Train riders. The society's next annual reunion is scheduled Oct. 26-26 Fayetteville. The reunions are becoming more frequent these days as one bit of information connects to another. Betty Glidewell of Viola, Kan., recently traveled to Weatherford seeking information about John Edgar Braxton family, with whom she now knows her mother lived as a child. "We're looking to fill in the holes," said Glidewell, 59, who said her really never talked about being on the Orphan Train. "It was kind of a stigma they had to go through because they were different," she said.

It wasn't until 1943 that Duesman born in Italy was able to acquire her baptismal certificate from St. Vincent Ferrer's Catholic Church in New York City. She had been baptized there just month before heading to Texas on one of the Founding Hospital's infant trains. There's no birth certificate, but Duesman knows that she had a brother named Charles Stanzo and that both her mother and father were dead by 1919, most probably victims of the flu

epidemic that raged through the United States at the end of World War I.

**Strittman** returned to New York last thanksgiving in search of more information but came away with nothing. **Evonne Watson** and her sister **Marcelle Hopper**, both of **Weatherford**, are daughters of **Orphan Train** rider **Maurice de Loleu**. He was 13 when arrived at **Weatherford** depot Oct. 21, 1912, on one of at least three trains the women have been able to trace to that city. They are still looking for exact arrival dates and the identities of the people who rode the train with their father. Her father was taken in by the **John W. Potts** family near **Peaster** northern **Parker County**, but he told his children little of his past, **Hopper** said. After her parents died, **Hopper** found a group of boys, taken outside the **Children's Aid Society** just before they boarded the train in **New York City**. The boys had been brought in to the city from a farm school, cleaned up and given a new suit of clothes; she said her father told her. Tracing their father's roots, the sisters found the graves of their grandparents during a trip to **New York** in **May 1990**. There were no tombstones, so the women arranged to have one placed there.

Despite the hurts, many **Orphan Train** riders are quick to say they are thankful for their lives and the opportunity the trains gave them for a new and better life. Since 1984, **Lee Neiling**, 74, of **Atlanta, Texas**, has been able to account for eight of the nine brothers he now knows he had. He remember how determined he was that he and two of his brothers stay together as rode the train to **Clarkville** in 1926, but at age 8 he was unable to control the situation. "There wasn't much love going on back then," **Nailing** said. He said he'll never forget when his brother **Gerald**, aged 3, was selected while he another brother, **Leo**, were left to another couple."As He (**Gerald**) went out the door, he turned and cried for **Leo** and I," **Nailing** said. "That made me, more determined that we'd stay together." It wasn't

until 1984 that **Neiling** was able to begin tracing his brothers through a front-page article that appeared in a **Watertown, N.Y.** newspaper. Like many **Orphan Train** youths who ended up as little more than free hands doing farm chores. **Nailing** remembers vividly how an intended good deed turned into a nightmare on a chicken farm where he stayed. The chickens had to be locked up at night to protect the young chicks from the night air and then let out each morning. "I got up early one morning and thought I'd let those chickens out like a really big thing," he said. It was too early. By the time the others got up and checked the chickens, most were dead. "The next thing I knew, they told me I was going to a new home." He said "I was really down. **Nailing** said he was determined to run away from his new home when he came down to breakfast that first morning. "I reached out for a biscuit, and he stopped me because we had to pray," **Nailing** said of his newest foster father. "he prayed, 'thank God for our son. That was the first time I had ever heard that.'" Said **Neiling**, the tears flowing freely as the memories flooded back. "Everything has been wonderful since then."

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