



## Hood County Sesquicentennial Almanac - A Digest of News Items from Around the Country

**March 1, 1900** Four prisoners escaped the Hood County Jail by working a stone out of the partition wall between the insane cell and run-around. The insane room being unlocked, the prisoners made their escape down the stairs while the jailer was at supper. Dallas Morning News

**March 1, 1906** Paluxy News. There was a very exciting game of baseball last Thursday afternoon between the "Squints" and the "Squats," and was witnessed by a large number of people, the young ladies—which composed some of the fairest flowers of the Paluxy valley—were very enthusiastic. The score was 17 to 4 in favor of the Squints. The Granbury News

**March 4, 1880** Correspondent J.N. Doyle writes that Robert P. Crockett, the only surviving son of Colonel David Crockett, has been living at his present homestead in this (Hood) county for about twenty-two years, having settled here when this part of Texas was a howling wilderness. The Weekly Kansas Chief

**March 5, 1898** The prisoners in the Hood County Jail made a rush for liberty yesterday evening when the jailer brought in their supper. Two prisoners ran over Jailer Lay, passed down-stairs and into the street. The prisoners were pursued, captured and returned to jail. Dallas Morning News

**March 5, 1905** Special to the News. Granbury, Tex. Granbury is to have a system of waterworks. The City Council last night granted a franchise for that purpose to the Frisco Ice and Light Company, a local enterprise, which already has in operation a cotton gin, electric light and ice plant. Work will begin on the water works right away. Dallas Morning News

**March 9, 1905** Hall's Hypnotic Show, with a lady hypnotist and some fine specialties, will hold the boards at the Opera House on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights. The Granbury News

**March 11, 1912** The Commissioners' Court ordered that all horses, cattle or any other live stock be prohibited from running in the Court House yard.

**March 13, 1895** Granbury, Hood Co., Tex., March 12—Messrs. Lancaster and Turner, county physicians, report a case of smallpox in the family of Groves Halford, who lives eight miles north of town. County Judge G.W. Riddle, who is at Dallas, has been telegraphed to come home at once to quarantine against it. Galveston Daily News



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**March 16, 1909** John Swofford of Granbury, sheriff of Hood County and one of the best known officers in Texas, shot and instantly killed Genevieve Sneed of Dallas shortly after noon today and two minutes later sent a bullet crashing through his head that ended his life. Fort Worth Star Telegram

**March 17, 1867** Letter from Texas. Acton, Hood County, Texas. D.S. Stribling wrote a letter to the Keowee Courier, Pickens County, South Carolina, describing the newly formed Hood County and promoting its features.

DEAR SIR: According to promise, I avail myself, this morning, of writing to you and my many friends, through your valuable paper, thinking that all who wish to hear from me would very likely get your paper. I do not expect to describe the State of Texas, but merely Hood County, as that is all that I am well enough acquainted with to give a fair description of. At the outset, I will state that I am very well pleased with this county, and would not be back in Pickens again upon no consideration.

Hood County is a new county, taken off of Johnson and Erath Counties, with the Brazos River running through about the center of it, containing about as much water, in common time, as the Keowee in your District. The channel of the River is deep and wide enough to contain all the water in time of the highest freshet—therefore it never overflows the lands on it—runs very rapid and very crooked, resembling the trail of a crawling snake; the outside of the bend is very high and stony bluff, the inside is perfectly level valley, of the finest kind of lands, some open Prairie, but the most of it is timbered; always timber on the River banks, from one hundred to two hundred yards in width—the valleys differing in size—some containing as much as five hundred acres. The soil is of a dark yellow color, a little sandy—the sand very fine; the river water is a little salty. The smaller streams are beautiful clear limestone water—very pure—running on gravel bottoms; they also have deep, wide channels, sufficient to contain all the water in time of freshets, so that none of the farms suffer from an overflow of water. The most of the valleys on the small streams are black land, inclined to be sandy, and very rich. The open Prairies are stony bluffs, gravelly ridges, and rich valleys of black, sticky soil—the best of wheat land. You may sow one field in wheat for ten years in succession, producing the last year and equal crop with the first year. The lands here are adapted to corn, wheat, oats rye, cotton, and vegetables of all kinds. The vegetables are not so sure a crop as the corn and wheat; the early and fall vegetables are the surest crop, owing to the dry months in summer. Fruit is not very good here; there are some peaches, but no apples. There has been some years that the corn crop almost fails, but when well worked, it yields a sufficient supply for consumption. When the seasons are



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good the average yield is about forty bushels per acre. The wheat crop is a very sure one, averaging fifteen bushels per acre. The people here live on flour bread. Cotton is not much raised here. It is a new settled country, and we have no cotton gins yet. There was some cotton planted last year, which yielded eighteen hundred pounds per acre. The quantity of land being prepared for cotton this year is larger than it was last. Fine country for sorghum cane. The people make their own syrup. At least three-fourths of the land is Prairie. The timber is very short and scrubby, mostly post oak; the consequence is, we live in small cabins, unless we build stone houses (stone is very plenty) or haul lumber from Eastern Texas, about one hundred miles. But hauling is cheap; we haul in the summer and fall, when we do not feed our teams, but let them live on grass, hitch up from four to eight yoke of oxen to one wagon, and haul off a load of flour, and return with a load of lumber. There are plenty of mills here—some water and some steam mills. We have excellent society for a new country, and it is improving very fast. Good schools here,—Dr. J.N. Doyle is teaching school—making some seventy or eighty dollars per month. We have good churches. A large stone building is now being erected in the neighborhood for the purpose of a Masonic Hall and College, and will be completed this Spring. The land here is worth from \$2 to \$5 per acre (improved) and rising. There is plenty of vacant lands yet not located. According to the laws of the State, a man is entitled to one hundred and sixty acres to settle it. He can choose his settlement on vacant land. There is a fine range for stock here, and will be for many years. No kind of stock is fed here except the stock used on the farm; they should be fed, but can manage without, by having two sets of horses and work them one day at a time. There are many grown horses here which never ate a grain of corn. The grass here grows large and fine—sufficient to mow if you choose, but this is never done; it seems to cure where it grows, and stock live on it all winter; but some old and young stock get very poor by the time green grass springs up, which is generally in March. Steers from four to six years old and upward keep fat all the time—some of the finest beef your eyes ever beheld.

I have given my views of Hood County, Texas. I will say to my friends in South Carolina, who want good homes, if they are able, to move to Texas, for there is some parts of the State that will suit them. I have said nothing concerning the health of the county. I see no local cause for sickness; the people say it is very healthy, and their appearance goes to prove the fact. Game is pretty plenty. We see from one to twenty deer in a bunch, and turkeys up to as high as one hundred in a gang.

Please give this publication for the benefit of my many friends; and perhaps you will hear from me again after we are satisfied of the yield of our crops.



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Your friend and well-wisher,

D.S. STRIBLING

Keowee Courier, Keowee South Carolina

**March 17, 1907** Special to the News. Granbury, Tex. Bill Mitchell, who was arrested a few days ago in New Mexico by Sheriff Denny and brought back to Hood County on the charge of complicity in a murder committed in hood County in 1874, is now in jail at this place. It is expected that his attorneys will make application for habeas corpus at once. Dallas Morning News

**March 20, 1877** Hood County. Granbury Vidette: Friday two horse thieves were killed near Acton. A party of seven men have been in that neighborhood, who claimed to be from Red river, and who had trailed the thieves to the vicinity of the killing. The thieves, Bailey Barton and another, were overtaken a Mr. Holder's, three miles east of Acton, in the act of saddling their horses when called upon to surrender. This they refused to do, but made a desperate effort to escape. After a lengthy chase the pursuing party commenced firing, this was returned by Barton, who, as well as his comrade, was armed to the teeth. The firing became general and resulted, as stated, in the killing of the two men, whose bodies were riddled by bullets. Barton was a former resident of this county, but has been on the tramp since last September, about which time several horses were missing and Barton implicated in the thefts..Mr. B.H. Counts, just returned from the buffalo hunting regions, informed us of the sad death of Mr. Rudy, one of his companions. While sleeping in camp, a polecat crawled on the bed, and before he could get fully awakened the animal bit him on the upper lip. The wound, though painful, did not excite any alarm, but in a short time the case developed all the symptoms of hydrophobia, and terminated fatally. Mr. Counts states that no less than six men have died within three months of hydrophobia in the hunting camps beyond Griffin after receiving bites from these animals. Galveston Daily News

**March 22, 1913** Special to the News. Granbury, Tex. Funds are now in hand to the amount of \$501.65 for the erection of the Gen. Granbury monument, the base of which has been completed and stands in the court house yard at this place. Dallas Morning News

**March 24, 1922** The Grand Jury Reports: We have examined the courthouse and jail, and find that the courthouse is in fairly good condition, except there are a few leaks. We find that one of the doors to the district clerk's office is in bad condition and should be repaired, as the records do not have proper protection from fire, and the door will not close. We find the jail in bad



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condition and it should be looked after. Window lights are badly needed. It is in a very bad sanitary condition and we especially recommend that it have prompt attention. We find that there is one inmate of the poor house and he is very poorly provided for. We recommend that he be furnished with a bed and springs at once. There is an alarming condition among the young men of the county in regard to evading the truth before the grand jury. If the good people of the county do not wake up to the conditions that confront them we will have a wave of crime in this county that will make us regret our negligence. We especially refer to the liquor violations and the well-organized system of selling it. The Granbury News

**March 24, 1932** Special to the News. Granbury, Tex. An early morning fire originating on the second floor of the Famous Dry Good Company building caused a loss estimated at \$25,000 here Wednesday. The flames spread to the adjoining two-story building occupied by Cherry Drug Company and destroyed the roof before being brought under control by the local fire department. The Famous Dry Goods Company building and stock was a total loss and the Cherry Drug Company stock was badly damaged by smoke and water. Dallas Morning News

**March 26, 1879** About a dozen young men of Granbury and vicinity are making arrangements to start for Leadville. The complaint from Paluxy is that rain is needed for wheat and oat crops. Mr. W.H. Denson, of Paluxy, sold 70 bushels of average fair wheat at Fort Worth for 60 cents per bushel, after hauling it 50 miles. There is a report to the effect that Mr. Will Formwalt has discovered the existence of a large stratum of finest quality marble. Thirty-five teams passed through Thorp Springs last week bound for Leadville. We learn that in the family of Mr. James Bond, of Buck Creek, three members have died of pneumonia within two weeks. The prairie fires in the vicinity of Lipan have been very destructive to farms and fencing. Galveston Daily News

**March 26, 1939** Ashley W. Crockett is convinced that it is the turbulent blood of his grandfather, Davy Crockett, still racing through his veins that makes it impossible for him to retire even though he will be 82 years old next August. He has tried to retire. He even sold his paper, the Hood County Tablet, two years ago to A.B. Crawford, the present publisher, in his determination to stop and take life easy. Then Crockett found that he could not stay away from the Tablet office, so he applied for a job and now works regularly at setting type for the paper he formerly owned. Dallas Morning News

**March 27, 1875** Hood County. The fine stone courthouse at this place was destroyed by fire a few days since. It was undoubtedly the work of an incendiary. The fire originated from the office



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of the District Clerk, and in less than twenty minutes the entire structure was enveloped in flames. The county records and everything pertaining to the clerk's office were consumed. The contents of the sheriff's office and the extensive law library of Judge Williams were also lost. The printing establishment of Garland & Price, valued at \$2000, was also totally lost; about \$200 of the material was saved. This is a heavy blow to Hood County, and the damage will be felt for years to come. The walls of the building are left standing, and perhaps may be used again. Galveston Daily News

**March 30, 1897** Three prisoners escaped the Hood County Jail Thursday night. They escaped through a hole 10 X 12 inches cut by a saw an inch long, made from the spring out of a shoe. They had been sawing on the bars for several days. Dallas Morning News

**March 30, 1923** The L.B. Wesselman Stock Company advertised its Granbury engagement for one week starting Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, "showing in the Big Tent Theatre and presenting new, clean comedies and comedy-dramas and high class vaudeville between acts. The tent will be located in a convenient place and will be heated and made comfortable. The tent is new and absolutely storm and water proof." The Granbury News