



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

**April 4, 1937** Granbury, April 3. Associated Press. Dismantling of the old bridge across the Brazos river here, built in 1877, removes a landmark from this region. It was constructed of lumber hauled by wagon from Fort Worth and required two years to complete. Abilene Morning News

**April 5, 1912** Dr. J.P. Philley and M.L. Gartrell were instantly killed and T.M. Wilson badly wounded in the village of Hill City. Mack Parker, a young farmer 25 years of age is supposed to have done the shooting. Fort Worth Star Telegram

**April 8, 1938** Mambrino was well represented Sunday afternoon at Granbury airport. Several had the thrill of the first airplane ride. The Granbury News

**April 9, 1924** Granbury, Tex. The explosion of a film which was being run at Granbury's moving picture theater was the cause of a fire that badly damaged the building and fixtures of the theater here. The prompt response and good work of the fire department prevented the fire spreading and confined the damage to the place where it originated. Dallas Morning News

**April 15, 1912** In Granbury, a head-on collision occurred between a passenger and a freight train this afternoon on a curve within 300 yards of the depot. Five people were injured and both engines demolished. The accident occurred on a bridge about 50 feet long. Fort Worth Star Telegram

**April 16, 1890** The First national bank of Granbury was organized in August, 1887, and has done a satisfactory business. A second bank has just been organized with P.H. Thrash as president and O.S. Houston cashier. It is to be known as the Hood county national bank of Granbury. It will occupy the Boyd building on the northwest corner of the square until a suitable one can be erected. Mr. T.J. Cook has secured the right of way from the city council for the construction of a street railway from the passenger depot to the public square. The contractor for building the new courthouse at Granbury has begun operations by laying the foundation stones 5 feet below the surface of the earth. The building is to be completed by the 1<sup>st</sup> of April next at a cost not to exceed \$40,000. Dallas Morning News

**April 16, 1904** The citizens of Granbury and Hood County participated in a picnic today to celebrate the completion of the opening of the new suspension bridge across the Brazos River. Fort Worth Star Telegram



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**April 17, 1897** Granbury, Hood County. (To the News) Newt Gresham last night at 9:10, o'clock, while drilling the Riddle rifles, discovered that mysterious flying jenny of which we have heard so much. Newt could not stand the sight of the air machine, so he ordered the company to open fire on the object, which it did, and the whole town was soon aroused. Every back yard was filled with spectators and still the animal hung quietly in the sky over the city. The opinions of various responsible parties here are: Hon. Lee Riddle said: "It's an airship run by electricity." Frank Gaston said: "It is a cloud of some mysterious substance with phosphorescent properties." Newt Gresham, captain of the Riddle rifles and editor of the Hood County Truth, says that it was a huge fish with wings, but the general opinion is that it is an airship, which I think it is, having had a better opportunity to observe it than the majority. It disappeared quickly southward over Comanche Peak. I think the above might be of interest to News readers, and you may publish same with my name affixed. E.B. Hilbun. Dallas Morning News

**April 17, 1910** A party of Ft. Worth men have successfully completed a hard trip in a couple of little Hupmobiles, traversing some of the worst roads in North Texas. The roads from Fort Worth to Granbury were found to be in fair condition, but the remainder of the road was very bad. Between Tolar and Bluffdale lay ten or twelve miles of deep sticky mud. Fort Worth Star Telegram

**April 19, 1913** Special to the News. Granbury, Tex. At the Nutt Building here B.F. Cambron of Granbury and Logan White of Weatherford, wrestled two hours to a draw. Dallas Morning News

**April 21, 1892** The lady friends of the Silver Coronet Band will give the boys a benefit entertainment at the Opera Hall on Friday night, April 29<sup>th</sup>. The program will consist of vocal and instrumental music, closing with a new and entertaining comedy entitled "Too much of a Good Thing." The Granbury News

**April 21, 1902** Hood County farmer H.E. Berry, living 6 miles east of Granbury, brought into town a sack of hail stones that fell three weeks ago, and had laid on the ground for that length of time. Strong winds had drifted the stones up into a shady spot along a stone fence. Dallas Morning News

**April 22, 1910** In their annual game of baseball played here yesterday between the fats and leans of Granbury the leans won by a score of 11 to 8. Fort Worth Star Telegram



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**April 22, 1910** E.G. Gaines, charged with murdering J.W. Reese, took the stand in his own defense at his trial in Judge Oxford's district court today in Granbury, Texas. El Paso Herald

**April 23, 1939** West Texas Bureau of the News. Tolar, Hood Co., Texas. When the pioneer settlers of Hood County found that land was becoming scarce along the Brazos River and its tributaries, hardy adventurers among them sought homesteads farther west. Among them was Adam Bowers, who ventured ten miles away from the river and erected his home near where the city of Tolar now has been established. Bowers had to travel over the hills to Paluxy to get the lumber for his home and was compelled to make frequent trading trips back to Granbury. Thus the activities of this early settler formed one of the first crossroads in West Texas. The home still stands at the junction of Highway 10 and the Paulxy road. It is occupied by Mr. and Mrs. J.T. Neely who farm its 220 acres. Dallas Morning News

**April 23, 1913** Granbury, Tex. Major J.A. Formwalt today celebrated his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday anniversary and was able to walk to town, standing six feet and two inches and as erect as when he took command of his first company in the Civil War. With the exception of his eyesight and hearing he appears as strong and walks as rapidly as he did forty years ago. Major Formwalt is one of the few remaining veterans (possibly there are only three in this part of the country whom he recalls) who served the entire four years. He took command of Company J. Tenth Texas Infantry, at the beginning of the war and served as its Captain until they surrendered at Arkansas Post. At the battle of Franklin, Tenn., he was Colonel in command of 650 men and was wounded there. He was in the same line of march as Gen. H.B. Granbury when the latter was killed. The question having arisen of fate, in connection with the erection of a monument to Gen. Granbury, as to whether the statue should be shown with boots or with shoes, Major Formwalt said: "Gen. Granbury died in my boots. They were a new pair of shop-made boots made by an old shoemaker in Georgia, for which I paid \$150. The fact that I had these boots became known to Gen. Granbury, who remarked that he was nearly barefoot, and offered to break them in for me. I gave them to him and he had them on when he was killed." The remnants of these boots were brought to Granbury in 1893 by Dr. J.N. Doyle and were buried with the bones of Gen. Granbury in Granbury Cemetery. Dallas Morning News

**April 29, 1939** West Texas Bureau of the News. Fort Spunky, Hood Co., Tex. Logs hewn from trees of the Brazos River bottoms by his great-grandfather have been used as the nucleus of the summer cabin near here erected last year by Roy L. Armstrong of Cleburne, and the cabin is built in the shade of a pecan grove from which that same pioneer ancestor gathered nuts more than seventy years ago. The cabin faces the Brazos just south of the De Cordova Bend and is a



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mecca for the picnic minded citizens of a wide section in Johnson, Hood and Somervell Counties. The logs which wall its main room are just as sound as they were when James Armstrong squared them off with an adze to provide a shelter for his family. Inside the cabin, on the mantel shelf of the native stone fireplace, Armstrong proudly displays a clock of ancient vintage which still keeps good time despite the fact that it was once the property of Gen. Patrick Cleburne, the man for whom Johnson County's capital was named. Dallas Morning News

**April 30, 1909** Special to the News. Fort Worth, Tex. A freight wreck was reported from Granbury, on the Frisco, today, in which the caboose of train No.33 was demolished and one car derailed. Conductor Gregory and two men accompanying stock which composed a part of the train, were considerably bruised, but according to report received here were not seriously injured. The wreck occurred in the Granbury yards. Dallas Morning News