

Borden Citizen
RFE BORDEN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Gail, Texas - September, 1965

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WE FINALLY DID IT! After much talking and planning, we have made a start toward preserving Borden County history, as evidenced by this newsletter.

You probably know that the State Historical Survey Committee is carrying on a very active campaign to preserve Texas history, mark historical spots, locate and mark Civil War Veterans' graves, and promote interest in Texas and her history. A committee has been appointed by the County Judge in each County to assist in this work. Your present Borden County Committee consists of EDNA CLARK MILLER, Chairman; DOROTHY DENNIS, Secretary-Treasurer; PAULINE CLARK, RUTH WEATHERS, DORIS MELBA PEARCE BENNETT, VAN YORK, and SHERIFF NORMAN SNEED.

There are so few of us in Borden County and many of the pioneer families are no longer represented here, so we must depend on your cooperation to make our efforts successful. This committee is very interested and willing, but they are limited without your help. We urge each of you to send information on your family (details outlined later in this letter) as soon as possible and to make this data as complete and informative as possible.

We also invite each family to become a member of the Borden County Historical Society by sending membership dues of \$3.00 a year, payable now. This will assure your receiving future issues of this newsletter, which will be issued periodically as the committee is able to assemble material. Dues received will be used to defray the expense of the newsletter and, if sufficient, to finance other projects of the society. (Checks should be mailed to Mrs. Bert Dennis, Gail, Texas), payable to the Historical Society).

Some of the projects on which work is already in progress are:

- (1) Recording and marking Civil War Veterans' graves.
- (2) Compiling history of early day schools
- (3) Establishing an Archives of early day family histories.
- (4) Erecting an historical marker on the Courthouse lawn to commemorate historical places and events in Borden County.

BORDEN COUNTY MUSEUM

The sons of Mr. and Mrs. David Dorward have made available the old Dorward Drug Store as a temporary site for our museum. We hope to restore the front of the building as it was originally. Your committee members and some of our college crowd have cleaned and rearranged the furnishings and hope to begin collecting items of interest right away. When we have assembled - through your generous efforts - a collection of Borden County artifacts of sufficient interest, we expect to have the Museum open - perhaps on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. We hope that it will become a meeting place for all those interested in reminiscing and preserving our history.

JOHN BEN SHEPPARD, Secretary for the Texas Historical Survey Committee, presented a Medallion for the Jail in Borden County. We are most grateful to Mr. Sheppard for this wonderful gift and for his cooperation in helping us organize. We are also indebted to DUDE WILKERSON, with the Texas Highway Department, for having our County marker moved from the Snyder Highway to a more beautiful spot in front of our Courthouse. The marker plates (1936 Centennial honoring Gail Borden) had been stolen years ago and have been replaced and restored by our Commissioners.

OUR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS are cooperating with this committee in helping finance our projects. We wish to thank them for their generosity.

Those of you who have not been in Borden County for many years must realize that we have great difficulty communicating with one another. There are no civic organizations except the Sheriff's Posse - there are five telephone exchanges and most of us have to pay tolls just to call a meeting of our committee. The committee members live various distances from Gail - one lives 25 miles, one 15, one 10, one 7, another 5, with two living in Gail. We have no Chamber of Commerce and the town is not incorporated. There are three filling stations, two cafes, the post office, Abstract office, Courthouse, and the prize possession - Borden County Independent School. Buses bring in the children from all over the County and we are most fortunate in having a first-rate school, with excellent teachers. There are approximately 253 school children, from 1st through 12th grades. At present we have 23 school personnel with 11 Auxiliary workers.

THE COMMITTEE would like to have information pertaining to the old stage line, or mail route, that ran from Colorado City through Gail to Lubbock. At one time Gail even had a telephone exchange and we would appreciate directories of that era. The mail was delivered from Big Spring after the railroad was extended there.

MRS. MILLER and MRS. DENNIS attended the State meeting of the Historical Society held in Austin in February. Mr. and Mrs. Miller, Judge and Mrs. C. C. Nunnally, Bill and Don, attended Region 17 meeting in Crosby County, June 13, 1965. Crosbyton has a most beautiful museum and is fortunate to have so many interested people working to preserve their history. MRS. A. C. SURMAN, chairman of Garza County, has been most helpful to the Borden County Committee, and our neighboring county must be congratulated upon their excellent work.

FRANK and EDNA MILLER, BEN and RUTH WEATHERS plan to attend the state meeting in Odessa, October 28-31.

PAULINE CLARK is trying to obtain information concerning five Civil War Veterans, so that their graves in Borden County may be marked appropriately. They are: W. P. Coates - b.1838, d. 1915; James M. Kincaid - b.1843 -d.1912; A. C. Mitchell - b.1824 -d.1905; Rev. J.A.Petty, B. 1844 -d.1904; W. S. Williams, trapper, dates of birth and death unknown. Send information to Mrs. Clark, Gail, Texas.

KELVIN DORWARD died August 31, 1965 and was buried in Lenoir City, Tennessee. Kelvin was the youngest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Dave Dorward.

J. R. ROPER died in a Big Spring hospital in June and was buried in Gail. Mr. Roper had lived in Borden County many years and had participated in the Land Rush in 1903.

ALFRED GREENWAY of Snyder died September 3, 1965 and was buried in Gail. His wife was the former Maggie Johnson, youngest daughter of Callaway Johnson, one of Borden County's earliest settlers. He took up land between the Smoot place and the Peak and his wife was the daughter of Rev. J. A. Petty, pioneer preacher of this county.

DID YOU KNOW?

There is a slender marble shaft in the cemetery at Gail on which are carved these words: Leither J., wife of J. L. Dow, Aug. 12, 1886-Dec. 31, 1901.

Did you know that this J. L. Dow is Lorenzo Dow, noted West Texas newspaperman, who was chosen to represent the newspaper industry in Peter Hurd's famous mural in the Texas Tech Museum? Did you know Lorenzo Dow began his career in Gail? A copy of the "Borden Citizen" of May 30, 1901 lists James L. Dow as Editor and Proprietor. He established his first newspaper in a small one-room building near the Bank on Gail's 'main street'.

Lorenzo and Leither were married Sept. 22, 1901 and soon afterward moved to Colorado City. Leither - his 15 year old bride - was a lovely blue-eyed girl with long blond hair, always rather pale and delicate. She was the daughter of Uncle "Scalper" Smith, who came to Borden County in 1838 or '89, and helped survey the town site of Gail. He once had a watermelon patch on the courthouse yard. Her brother, Jess Smith, still lives near Ackerly.

Aunt Ludie Clark, who lives in Clovis, New Mexico, remembers that her husband, George Clark, succeeded Lorenzo as editor of the Borden paper.

Leither was not to live to realize a full and happy life and died after 3 months of marriage. Lorenzo went on to establish the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, to have the town of Lorenzo named for him and to receive many other honors. His son, James Dow, lives in Seminole.

INFORMATION NEEDED FROM EACH FAMILY IN COMPILING OUR HISTORY:

Where family lived before coming to Borden County

Where and when parents born

Place of home - section number, if possible - land owned

Number in family, names, dates of birth, school attended, church, names of teachers and classmates - dates -

When and where did children marry? Where are they living at present?

Method of livelihood - where did family trade - how mail was received - names of merchants.

Places of burial

List forms of entertainment and recreation

How did family travel? How did children get to school?

Important events - incidents - any interesting stories - -

If you are a member of a pioneer Borden County family, won't you help us complete our histories? Mail in your finished copy to Mrs. Frank Miller, Fluvanna. or Mrs. Bert Dennis, Gail. Please send pictures, if you have them.

MAURICE DORWARD has had the original picture of the 1903 Land Rush in Gail reproduced and if you would like a copy, please send 10¢ in stamps to Mrs. Dennis and she will be happy to send one to you.

PLEASE let us know if your name or address is incorrect, so that we may correct our file. If you know of any person wishing a copy of this newsletter, send us his name, address and zip code.

SOUTHWEST COLLECTION
Texas Technological College
LUBBOCK, TEXAS