

History of Madison County

by

Mrs. W.T. Taylor

Courtesy of the Woman's Collection Texas Woman's University

History of Madison County.

Background of its History.

Spain began her conquest of Mexico when Cortez landed at a point, now Vera Cruz, Apr. 21, 1519. He overthrew the ancient Aztec kings and set up a government through Viceroyes. Numerous short expeditions were sent across the Rio Grande. In May 1691, Don Domingo Teran then military governor of the Kingdom and Province of Texas, led an expedition through East Texas and on to San Antonio, thus was the first to blaze the trail.

Other historians claim that St. Denis, in an effort to contact the Spaniards crossed Texas from the Sabine to the Rio Grande. At that time the French in Louisiana were pushing conquests westward. It is supposed that he followed the old Indian Trail, afterwards known as "ELCamino Real, "King's Highway", the Old Spanish Trail", "Royal Road" and Old San Antonio road, for that was about the only place on the Trinity that could be crossed without great difficulty. This was in 1714.

Another road, the Labahia or La Baderend ran east and west to Pensacola, Fla, and the two roads came together at this point on the Trinity.

Antonio Gil Barbo, attempting colonization established "Bucarelli" near the banks of the Trinity.

The exact location is unknown.

The destructive, overflowing river and fear of the Indians caused them to move further east.

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Early History of Madison County.

Three tribes of Indians were scattered over a wide territory along the Trinity river. The earliest settlers traded with them. The names of the tribes were: Bedias, Kickapoo and Cushattee. Later, Bedias in Grimes county, and a village or neighborhood church in Madison county were named for them, Kickapoo being the name of the church.

During the era when Mexico belonged to Spain, there were two factions in Mexico, the Royalists or those who preferred belonging to Spain and the Republicans who were in favor of Mexico's ruling.

Hidalgo had been defeated so the Republicans were in exile, and many of them escaped to the Neutral Ground. Gutierrez, a noted Spanish exile, was living here when he met Magee, an American. The two entered into a compact to free Mexico from Spain. Mexicans in Texas, Indians and Freebooters from the Neutral Ground joined them.

Getting supplies and equipment in Louisiana, they crossed into East Texas and easily took Trinidad, then went on to San Antonio, causing the garrison to surrender, with treasures. This alarmed the Viceroy and very soon they were pursued on their way back to Trinidad. It is claimed they buried their treasures when the Spaniards overtook them, if so they have never been found and many searchers have used the spade in vain.

The expedition proved a failure, they were cap-

tured and taken to Bull's Hill- ElTauro- and forced to dig a pit. Then they were shot , falling into the pit they had prepared. In addition to the soldiers, all citizens left in Trinidad were mas a cred and it is said their bodies were dumped into the pit with the soldiers.

Years later , Dr. Patrick Hayes in making a brick kiln, excavated a bayonet but never knew until Yoakum's history was published that he had located the graves of the victims that the Spaniards had assassinated.

Towering trees and heavy undergrowth hide Old Trinidad from the eyes of the world but pieces of pottery and old coins found now and then truthfully tell of its notorious location.

James Mitchell was the first American citizen to settle in this section. His log house was just a short distance from the point where the La Bahia road diverged from the Old San Antonio road. His home was said to be "at the parting of the ways"., and he lived here as early as 1835.

According to Blair's history of Grimes county in the election of officers for the municipality of Washington, held July 18, 1835, Asa Mitchell was elected one of its regidors. And in Oct. 1835, Washington municipality was represented in the Consultation by five men, two of whom were Asa Mitchell and Elijah Collard.

Elijah Collard was a neighbor of James Mitchell.

When Montgomery county was created Dec. 14. 1837, James Mitchell, William Robinson and Elijah Collard were three of the nine commissioners appointed to select a location for the county seat and to purchase land for the same. The question arises , where did Asa Mitchell live, and was he related to James Mitchell?

Although James Mitchell was the first settler in this section, he was soon followed by a number of others. Phil Bettis, Pres. Winghard, Nathaniel and John Robbins, were names associated with his. And when Sam Houston issued a call for volunteers on leaving the Declaration Convention, Mar. 2, for Gonzales, Donald Robinson, Farrier, and Billy Young responded from their homes in Madison county.

The following story was told to the writer by Wayne Mitchell, son of James Mitchell:

There was a log rolling held near Midway. An immense log had to be circled around in another direction. Twelve men taking hold of one end of the log were unable to move it. Phil Bettis, a very large man, almost a giant in size, taking hold of the end of the log moved it around without the aid of any of the company.

Thomas B. Bozeman lived near the crossing of the Trinity before the operation of the ferry boat, He would run his wagon into the shallowest point of the Trinity, in order to swell the wheels. One day while attending to

to his wagon, his little son was with him and was shot by an Indian's arrow.

Three names by which the ferry was known were "Robbins, Ferry, Bozeman Ferry" and "Clapp's Ferry". If not identically the same location, they were very near the same spot.

In 1836, when news of Santa Anna coming with thousands of troops was spread abroad in Texas, causing consternation akin to despair, most every one who owned any kind of vehicle, were it a horse, wagon or sled, gathered together a little bundle and fled toward the east. The greater majority of persons composing the "Run-away- scrape" passed through what is now Madison county and crossed the Trinity at Robbins Ferry. They continued to pass through this noted crossing until turned back by the news of the glorious victory at San Jacinto.

Courtesy of the Woman's Club

Madisonville

The province of Texas had been divided into two al-
calde districts by Governor Felix ~~Trespalacie~~ known as
Colorado and Brazos. A somewhat different organization
was made a few months later when the new Federal constitution
of Oct. 24, 1824 created the state of Coahuila and Texas ,
with the capital first at Saltillo, then at Monclova, Mexico.
In January 1825, the name of the District of Brazos was
vhanged by proclamation of S.F. Austin to Bravo, in honor
of Gen. Nicholas Bravo, then Vice- President of Mexico.
Then the new state was divided into three departments,
namely: Saltillo, Monclova and Bexar. Bexar embraced all
territory that had formerly been the province of Texas.
The three departments were made in 1828. In 1831 , Bexar
was divided into two districts.

In 1833 the line was defined : The dividing line sh~~l~~
shall commence at the expanse of water formed by the Trinity
and San Jacinto rivers and continue along the latter to the
headwaters thereof; thence following the line of Austin's
colony, and by way of the dividing ridge that separates the
Brazos and Trinity rivers, to the headquarters of the latter,
terminating north of the source of said river upon the Red
river."

The territory east of this line was designated as
the District of Nacogdoches with town of Nacogdoches the capit
al.

March 18, 1834, the territory of Texas was subdivided into three departments, Bexar, Brazos and Nacogdoches.

San Felipe was capital of Department of Brazos. Then the departments were subdivided into municipalities. There were 18 in 1836. , - Austin, Bexar, Brazoria, Goliad, Gonzales, Matagorda, Mina (called Bastrop) Nacogdoches, San Augustine, San Patricio, Harrisburg, Jasper (formerly Bevil), Liberty, Milam (called Viesca) Refugio, Shelby (Teneha) Victoria and Washington.

The provisional council added five in 1835, namely:

Colorado, Jackson, Jefferson Red River and Sabine.

The executive power was vested in a political chief appointed by the governor of the state from the three nominated by the state council.

The legislative power in 1834 was vested in a unicameral house in which each Texas department had one deputy and one substitute deputy elected by district electoral assemblies and members having been elected by popular vote from the municipal district.

The Ayuntamiento was real unit of government, - one in each municipality. composed of alcaides, rigidores and a sindico, the number based upon population of municipality. Members were required to have some capital or trade and be able to read and write. Appointment to office could not be declined. In case of death one next highest succeeded .

The first Ayuntamiento of San Felipe was the first

and was installed Feb. 12 1828.

The "Superior Judicial Court of Texas" was composed of one superior judge, one secretary and one sheriff. There was one court in each of three judicial districts. Court held every three months.

On Jan 27, 1853, Madison county was created out of Grimes, Walker and Leon counties, organized in 1854. It is bounded by the Navasota river in the west and Trinity on the east. It was named for James Madison, fourth President of the United States.

Dr. P.W. Kittrell named the county seat Madison, citizens added ville at a later date. It is the chief trade center and two highways cross each other, Highway 75 from Dallas to Houston and Highway 21 - U.S. 90.

When the county was organized there was no court house in which to have court or attend to any county business.

The District Judge from Montgomery county convened court under some oak trees in the northern part of town.

The following year court was held under oak trees back of the present First Baptist Church. The next court was held in a church building just south of the present court-house square and later in different vacant buildings.

The first two court-houses were built of logs and both were destroyed by fire. The third court-house was built of lumber hauled in oxwagons from a saw mill in Walker county. It stood until Jan. 2, 1873 when it, too, burned.

After the burn, the county government was carried on in an old Masonic building until a \$7000 brick building was erected.

County Judge, W.C.Gibbs, Commissioners P.K.Goree, R.S.Page and H.B.Cobb and County clerk Wm .W.Viser, met in special session Apr. 2, 1878, to levy a tax of one-half of one percent on all assessed county property. The building was completed in Jan. 1879.

This building was a two-story brick, forty feet square, but in a few years it was condemned, so on Feb. 17 1894, a contract was let to Myer Bros. and Risk of Houston to build the present court house.

The Madisonville Baptist Church was organized in 1850. Rev. Geo. Green and Dr. J.V.Wright were leaders in its organization. Mr. J.D.W.Creath, for whom the Creath Association was named donated the land.

In the late seventies Rev. G.H.M.Wilson organized the Liberty Baptist Church west of town, Rev. A.T.Farrar succeeded him as pastor. In 1880 it was moved to Madisonville. This was in use about twenty years, but under the leadership of Rev. A.E.Page, the building became too small so the present building was erected.

Rev. J.B.Adair was pastor of the Methodist church in 1884, '85 and '86. The first church was

located on the site where Roy Fannin's residence now stands. The Methodist parsonage stood where Mrs. Minnie Connor's home is now.

Rev. Jim Adams was pastor in 1894, Rev. Mc Clarty in 1900, R. v. T.B. Anderson, 1904; Rev. J.C. Carr, 1907; Rev. Jesse Lee in 1911; Rev. Ed Morgan, 1914; Rev. A. S. Whitehurst, 1917; Rev. L.L. Loyd, 1919; Rev. F.E. Few, 1920; Rev. Chas. F. Smith, 1923; Rev. B.C. Anderson, 1926; Rev. M.R. Turner, 1931; R. v. H.C. Willis, 1933; Rev. D.S. Hotchkiss, 1934. He passed away in one month and was buried in Madisonville cemetery. Rev. Carrol Pope, 1935; Rev. J.C. Huddleston, 1936; Rev. Frank Luker, 1937; Rev. J.W. Ford, 1941; Rev. LiFesti, 1944.

The Church of Christ was organized in 1883. J.B. Lee and Jim Galespie were elders. Later elders and deacons were: John E. Burtis, E.E. Day and S.D. Nichols.

The first church was erected where the telephone office now stands. Sixteen years later a new church and pastor's home was built where Highways 75 and 21 intersect. where the Humble Filling Station now stands.

In 1931 the present church building was completed.

Early Evangelists were: Rev. Harry H. Hamilton who was instrumental in organizing the church here; Rev. A.J. McCarty. T.W. Phillips, W.D. Bills and Cled Wallace. Ministers of the church were: F.J. Berry, T.W. Evans, Oscar Smith, W.P. Skaggs, G.E. McCaleb, J.L. Pummil, Foy

E. Wallace, Sr., John W. Taylor, W.S.Wiley and MackStirman.

T.M.Kellett .owner of the Kellett Barber shop was the oldest business in town.

J.L.Cleere began a general merchandising business in 1894. He was the first man to buy cottonseed here. It was bought by the bale for \$2.50 flat. When he first came to Madisonville , he floated his wagon across the Navasota river.

J.M.DAY opened his furniture house in 1903

Jimmie Collard kept a hotel here before Madisonville was named.

Wilson and Case carried a line of general merchandise,

Sam Allphin another merchant, was among the first.

John R. Burtis came to Madisonville in 1872 and in 1886 bought the corner drug store, now run by J.W.Burtis.

The first telephone switch-board in Madisonville was in Burtis' store. News of the Spanish- American war was telephoned from Navasota and John Burtis posted the facts on a bulletin board outside his store.

The store had a drug mill operated something like an old fashion coffee mill. It was used to grind drugs into powder. Inside the rescription section is an original fixture which was hauled from Huntsville in an ox wagon. The banisters of the bridge over North Bedias creek had to be removed before the immense show case could be moved across.

Mrs. Crutchfield kept a hotel in a two-story frame building north of the jail.

About where the Cities Service Garage is stood the old Brizolari home, and near the east end of what is now Cleere's store was a dwelling occupied by a family named Bolling.

Where the Thomas hardware store is now was the Post Office, and general merchandising store of T.B. Viser and A. Viser. Adjoining this building was that of a Mr. Vogel.

R.C. Burtis had a livery stable located on the southeast corner of the block where Cleere's warehouse now stands.

On the north of the east side of the square was the W.A. Price business, he sold wagons, buggies, saddles and harness.

R. Wiley's home was located where the Post Office is now. Further down the street was the "Bachelor's Hall".

Dr. J.D. Jordan's home stood about where L.O. Thompson's residence is now. Dr. J.F. Dunn lived about where the Day funeral home is situated.

The Primitive Baptist Church stood near the S.W. Jackson home place.

Sam Allphin's home stood where the Riddle Funeral Home is now located. The home of Judge J.C. Morris, who was county judge when the court house was built stood at the location of T.W. Byers' home.

On the present site of the N.M Wycough brick building were the law offices of J.F.Randolph and M.Y.Randolph.

Across the street from the Hill place was the home of J.R.Mc Adams.

Tom Stephens christened the "Madisonville Meteor"

Courtesy of the Women's Collection Texas Woman's University

Midway

Midway was the first permanent settlement in the county, and was founded in 1838. Major W.C.(Billy) Young, hero of the battle of San Jacinto came that year. Indians encamped about the lakes and near the Trinity river made many raids on the settlers taking and killing cattle and calves and driving off the horses. Many were the desperate stands, often single handed taken by the early settlers. Arrow heads buried deep in the cedar logs give mute evidence of their attacks.

But despite the visits from these marauders, the place began to grow, however, it had no name until 1855. The name seems to signify a position half way between two points, but this is not true, Prof.J.A.Clark named it for his home town Midway in Kentucky, He was the town's first minister and first school teacher, and during his service at Midway he established the first Christian Church at Huntsville. He instilled Christianity in to the old and young. Prof. J.L.Clark, head of the social science department at the Sam Houston State Teacher's College, Huntsville is his grandson.

Two of his sons, Addison and Randolph, founded a private school at Thorp's Springs, known as ADD* Ran College from the first syllable of their names. It was moved first to Waco then to Fort Worth where it is called Texas Christian University.

Ex- mayor J.T.Brown, of Houston was a student of Midaway , under Prof. J.A. Clark.

James F. Cox taught two terms here and later was President of John Tarlton College and afterwards became President of Abilene Christian college.

John and R.O.Allen, founders of Allen Academy, also, taught here.

Prof. J.J.Jopling was superintendent for fifteen years. He also taught in Madisonville.

Dr. and Mrs. Layton Goree were early citizens. Dr. Patrick Hayes was another.

Mrs. P.K.Goree, died at the age of 76 yrs. having been married 55years and lived in the same home all her wedded life. She was born and reared within one mile of this home.

Prof. J.A.Clark and Prof. Benton Sweeney taught here. Some old citizens were: Clapps, Brooks, Burtis, Kittrells, Forests, Wakefields, Wycough, Finney, Mc Mary, Page, Riley and those mentioned in the early history of the county.

Dr. P.W.Kittrell assisted in drafting the Texas Constitution and was Madison county's first representative to the state Legislature.

Normangee was named for Norman G. Kittrell.

In the fall of 1839, a small company of movers came from Mississippi to Texas, making their first stop where the town of Midway now stands. An old cedar log house in which some of them lived for awhile was still standing a few years ago.

The company consisted of Andrew Mc Whorter and wife, two sons, James and John, Mrs. Quirl, a widowed daughter, W.W.Byers, a son-in law, Tommie Thompson and R.S.Rayburn with their families.

When their supplies played out, they were almost destitute of food. Deer and wild game were plentiful in the woods, but the presence and hostility of the Indians made it both difficult and dangerous to hunt them. Then the Indians often stole the corn from the little fields near their houses.

Five of the men made rails at 50¢ per hundred to buy bread at \$1.50 a bushel, and only one of the men could make 100 rails in a day.

In 1842, the Mc Whorters and Byers went a little further west and settled on North Bedias creek, about ten miles southwest of what is now Madisonville.

Andrew Mc Whorter was the great grandfather of Mrs. Rosa Wilhelm of Madisonville. He taught the first school at Bedias.

Most of the houses were made of logs; doors were hung on wooden hinges, and floors were made of puncheon.

Not a saw-mill was near and all the lumber they had was thick, hand hewn.

Most of the furniture consisted of bedsteads, chairs and table made by hand.

Cooking was done on the fireplace in ovens, iron pots and frying pans. Fires were kindled with flint and steel.

At that time, thousands of acres were covered with thick coats of brush and saplings. Few large trees could be found.

A heavy growth of grass was everywhere and it grew so tall that a deer standing would only show his head and ears or antlers above it, and it was of such fine quality that horses and cows required no other feed.

Many of the descendants of the founders are occupying positions of trust and responsibility, - some are teachers in schools of note, others have been and are Representatives in our Legislative halls.

One of their number composed the following poem:

Hardships and dangers all were past,
And brighter times were come at last,
A bounteous store of meat at hand,
No vicious Red skin in the land,
The little fields afforded bread,
And cows came home with udders spread,
While oft in hollows of the trees,
Were found the nests of honey-bees,
And pails of golden honey-comb
Were no rare sight within the home

So here amid scenes that pleased them well,
They built them homes content to dwell,
Within a land as rich and fair,
As Canans brightest valleys were.

Courtesy of the Women's Collection Texas Women's University

History.

(Copied from ALLEN Academy Annual)

In 1887 J.H.Allen, working with the citizens of Madisonville, Texas, established the Allen High School. Here as a pioneer in the educational system of the State he worked for twelve years, and conducted a school of remarkable vigor and success. He was joined by his brother, R.O.Allen, in this work in 1896. Then came the decision of the two brothers to establish a school for boys, and after mature deliberation their one seed was planted in Bryan, which has indeed been good ground. In Sept, 1889, these two men, known in the Texas educational circles as the Allen Brothers, formed with a few of the prominent citizens of Bryan a corporation for the purpose of maintaining a preparatory school for boys. During the first year the Principals were the only teachers. But since that day, there has been no turning back, and the school has had very gratifying success. The initial purchase of land has been increased from five acres to thirty-six acres. From one building of two rooms the material equipment of the school has been brought to a plant which includes the new administration building, three dormitories, the dining hall, an outdoor gymnasium, an indoor gym. and drill hall, a hospital, five homes for faculty members and students, fifteen bungalows for student quarters and a twenty-acre athletic field.

Zulch

In 1839 ,the first German colonists came to Texas. Soon thereafter the song of Texas was widely sung in Germany.

Julius Zulch, while still a lad, hearing so much of the new land, ran away from home and arrived in Texas with only a small coin in his pocket.

He was strong in body, alert in mind, and worked with a vim, so all the land he was working soon belonged to him. He married Martha Martin and buikt a little home for her. By strict economy , they extended their possessions. Then he opened a small store, the first in this area, and increased his stock by the year.

When a man by the name of Pruitt died, he donated land for a cemetery. This man's grave, marked by a large rock may still be seen at the Willow-hole cemetery.

Right here we might explain why the name "Willow-hole". There was a deep hole in a depression along the Springfield road. Swaying willows guarded the place. Here travelers stopped to water their stock or teams, and advertently to refresh themselves. Passers by told of this hole and the cemetery near by being used to designate the watering place became the "Willow-hole " cemetery

Julius Zulch gave the land for the first church and probably the first school house which stood near the watering place.

When the post office was set up, the place was named in his honor.

The first bank in the western part of the county was opened here and Dave Schapira was cashier.

Mat Burney built his home in a grove of oaks and afterward the area around a church came into existence and was known as Oak grove.

When Frank Bell married a school teacher, Ella Bell they built their first home just north west of the cemetery later, they sold to -Cheatham and built a two-story residence across the road, and a short distance therefrom Frank Bell put in a general merchandise store. An old cistern remains to indicate where the hospitable home once stood.

The first home is now owned by - Mc Mahan and his wife, Kate Cheatham Mc Mahan.

Some of the earlier citizens of Zulch were: Robertson, Mc Nair, Walthall, Dr. Hill, Mosley, Hays, Bass. Rascoe, Harris, Taylor , Andrews and many others.

Places or church communities rather were known as Sand Hill, Kickapoo, Pleasant Grove and Oak Grove.

North Zulch.

Julius Zulch owned land on the west side of the Springfield road and Will Zulch, his son on the west side.

When the Mexia Cut -Off, a branch of the H.& T.C. railroad was surveyed through this region, Will Zulch donated each alternate lot in forty-six blocks lying west of the Springfield road, to the railroad company. This was in 1906.

A round house was started, a turn table was constructed, foundations were laid and there were great expectations for the new town.

Kernohan lived in a box car and had charge of everything, but soon the railroad officials decided to give up everything but the land donated to them and move out.

Two lakes known as the North and South Zulch reservoirs were repaired for watering places. J.E.(Trot) Gresham pumped water from the North Zulch lake and M.Utecht watered the engines at South Zulch.

Tom Ware was the first section foreman and occupied the new section house.

Horace Cobb was the first agent for the H.& T.C. and lived in the freight room of the depot. Alvah Garland was the next agent. He built a small home south of the town-site, then later gave it in exchange for the C.A.Griffin farm at Bundic. It was burned when R.V.Hibbetts lived there.

W

W.G. Prescott was cultivating the land when the town

was laid off, but moved to Zulchafter having lived in the same spot for about forty years.

Maxey Keefer was living just northeast of the town-site on the old Springfield road. When North Zulch became a town, the course of the old road was changed, it made a bend at Childress corner and the old road formed a gulley. A portion of it in the Northeast part of town was used for a time but now because of a deep hole ~~is~~ abandoned.

Across Springfield road and almost parallel with the spot on which DR. W.A.Cole built his residence stood the old Tom Ball home. This was Mrs. Maxey Keefer's father's home.

Arthur Cergey moved into this home, having come from Macey. Later it was burned.

Jim C.Parker was the first to build and put in a stock of merchandise here. His building faced the railroad and stood back of where A.W.Folsom is now. Jim Brown had the first barber shop in the back of his store.

When the main thoroughfare of North Zulch began running north and south instead of east and west as formerly, Jim Parker moved to the stand about where Mrs. Jim Parker's brick is now- the Jimmie White general merchandise store.

The Parker store became known as A.R.Wilson & Co.store.

Jim Parker kept the post-office in both places, and was followed by Grover Donaho as Postmaster.

GroverDonahoe's first building adjoined J.C.Parker's on the railroad. Both their bricks faced east and adjoined.

Henry Donaho put in the second general merchandise store. His building , a long flat structure, stood north of the location of the Guaranty State bank. Donaho, with Jim Donaho and Joe Berry put in the first lumber company in North Zulch.

A company of thirty-eight individuals put in a gin north of where the two-story hotel stood. Later Henry Donaho and Joe Berry buying out others held the controlling interest. Still later John Parker bought the gin.

T.D.Poteet moved the Will Zulch gin from Zulch and located it where Lipscomb had his gin at a later date. His residence was the present home of John Burk, C.H.Crockett built the house and sold to E.L Ford, Then he built and lived next door to Jake Keefer, west of the railroad.

M.B.Kimmey owned the first meat market. His building adjoined Jim Parker's and faced the railroad. Jack Lee, son of Peleg Lee was his butcher.

Kimmey's home was the present home of R.V.Hibbetts which was bought and remodeled by A.E.Ford who now resides in Madisonville, being cashier of the Farmer's State Bank. Hibbetts acquired the place in exchange for his home ~~2 1/2~~ two and one half miles distance from town.

Charlie Casey, father of Jim Casy owned the first restaurant. A.D.Blount kept a restaurant about where his present store is located. Later Bob Adams had

three cafe's here at different periods of time at different locations.

Sam Bethke was the first blacksmith here. He moved his shop from Zulch. W.T.Taylor bought and tore down the building. Bethke built his home at the termination of main street. His daughter, Margaret Morton lives there.

Frank Pavelky owned and operated the first grist mill. He also had a blacksmith shop under the same roof.

In 1912 he sold his grist mill, shop and residence to W.R.Akin. The mill and shop building stood east of the T & B.V. depot about where Mrs. Batson's home is located. His residence was the Bound's home which burned, It formerly belonged to Luther Adams.

Louis Simpson owned the first drug store, but was soon followed by the Burtis Drug Company, owned by J.R. Burtis of Madisonville and managed by Western.

Simpson's drug store stood just north of A.R.Wilson and Co., The Burtis drug store was located on railroad street, southwest of where Claude Batson kept a shop.

Sam Johnson built the building which stood opposite W.T.Taylor's ware house but he exchanged with Taylor for the Tom May building which Taylor acquired , together with its contents when ill-health forced "Uncle Tom", as he was affectionately called, out of business. This place was formally young Tommy May's meat market.

When Julius Fulghberg stopped selling coffins and other burial equipment,

W.T. Taylor bought him out.

A.J.Simpson and wife were among the early merchants. at first their building was small, but they kept adding to it until they owned quite a lengthy building. It, with contents was burned in 1916 at the same time that "Bush" Wilson's store burned. After the fire, the Simpson's started business again on a small scale increasing their building as their stock increased. At the time, Mrs. Simpson was the only milliner in town, Later Mrs. W.F.Utsey made and trimmed hats as did A.R. Wilson & co. Mrs. Utsey sold to W.T.Taylor afterwhich Taylor kept ready to wear and hats.

R.N."Bush" Wilson built the house where Jack Black lives now. Mrs. Utsey lived in the two story bought by Irvin Carter. It was formerly the home of Mrs. Alice Rascoe. Mrs. Rascoe also had the frame building built in which Ernest Bethke first went into business. Bethke later built a brick now occupied by A.W.Folsom's general merchandise store.

A.J.Simpson built and occupied the home torn down and re-modeled by Travis Hurry.

Louis Simpson built his residence in the south eastern part of town on the old Springfield road. It now belongs to George Maddox.

The first bank was opened by Dave Schapira, who moved it from Zulch and located it on the corner opposite A.W. Folsom's store. John P. Mc Adams was the cashier.

The Guaranty Bond and State bank was established in February, 1911 with A.L. Lipscomb president. The brick building in which it was located stands north of the Utecht building in which George Ellis has his grocery store. Will Hollis bought the bank building and moved into it, then erected another brick next door to George Ellis, in which Jef Heflin runs a feed store.

A.L. Lipscomb occupied the Oor building until his residence was built near the center of town.

W.M. Dowell bought the Oor building and sold to Claude Andrews.

Perryman B. Shannon built the frame building about the center of Main St. Here he and his brother Mobley carried a stock of general merchandise. Later the Shannon Bros. and A.A. Arthur, increasing their merchandise moved into the two story building brought from Zulch and placed just north of the first bank building. The W O W Lodge occupied the upper story. Later Arthur moved away and Jake Keefer and T.S. Hollis were incorporated in the firm. Arthur lived where W.M. Stewart lives, but Stewart remodeled the home.

Mobley Shannon put in a saddle, harness and buggy shop, first in the town. He also put down the first deep well, the same that supplies the town with water at the present time. Gustine bought it and after his death, his son sold to Claud Andrews, the present owner.

Mobley Shannon's first home was that sold to Arthur

Dowell which burned while Dowell was living there. Later Shannon built where Asa Boswell now lives. Boswell re-modeled the home.

W.M. Stewart began general merchandising in the Henry Donaho building. Later he used the corner bank building and sold the remnant of his stock of goods to W.T. Taylor who began his first business in this same building.

John Parker bought the Donaho building and put in a stock of general merchandise.

Mrs. C.L. Gustine now owns the old J.W. Parker residence. Henry Donaho's home was just east of the John Parker residence. It burned when vacated by Joe Drake.

M.J. Webb was editor and publisher of "The Commonwealth" the first and only paper published at North Zulch. The house in which he did his printing is now occupied by Lester Broadway. He bought the J.M. Tomlinson residence now owned by Semi Rush.

Jess Tomlinson kept drugs in a building north of A.R. Wilson's mercantile establishment. It was known as the "City Drug Store"

Ben Payne bought the building left vacant by P.B. Shannon and stocked in drugs. His residence was in the northern part of town next door to the present home of R.V. Hibbetts.

Frank Isgitt was owner and proprietor of the first hotel. Later Mrs. Mary Carmichael bought and ran this hotel.

It stood opposite the present phone office.

Mrs. Texas Mc Millan moved her home from Leon Prairie, and adding to it converted it into a hotel. It is now the home of W.T.Taylor. He tore down the hotel and built a two-story house.

A.D.Blount built the first dwelling house in what is now North Zulch, then sold to Jake Keefer and lived in the old Prescott house until he built at his present location.

Mrs. J.A.Andrews was the first variety store dealer. She occupied the Bell Building. Frank Bell moved his store from Zulch. Mrs. Andrews owns and resides in a stucco building on north Main St.

Miss Carolyn Keefer owns the second variety store, and has a beauty parlor in connection with her store.

Gladys Keefer and Jessie Hahn had the first beauty parlor here. Mrs. Gladys Hicks owned and operated the second beauty shop. Both Mrs. Keefer and Mrs. Hicks have moved away. Miss Hahn lives with her parents some two miles south west of town.

C.H.Crockett was the first agent on the T.& B.V. Maxey Keefer was the first to meet the trains and deliver goods to merchants. Joe Vance followed in his wake. Later George Carmichael took up the job. Now Tom Canty trucks the mail and delivers goods. He has just recently built a new home.

Luther Adams was the first rural mail carrier.

He lives on "Childress Hill in a home remodded from the old Childress home. The father of J.C.Childress lived there.

W.O.Mosley is the next oldest rural mail carrier. He resides in the former home of George Powers on the old Springfield road.

Elisha Williams who for years was a faithful carrier of goods to rural communities collecting chickens and eggs. He resides in the home that Dr.W.A.Cole sold to Tomlinson.

Dr. Cole purchased the first automobile seen on these streets. It was a red ,one-seated affair built high off the ground.

Joe Berry and Henry Donaho had the first lumber company. G.W.Mc Donald was manager of the second. He sold his interest in the Co-Operative Lumber Co, owned by several citizens. Finally E.L.Ford bought them out.

Owen Ford, coming from Hollis, built and occupied the T.J.Dowell home where Miss Grace now resides

M.B.Kimmey was the first to handle ice. Ernest Bethke was the second. He later built the modern brick now owned by A.W.Folsom., dealer in general merchandise.

Plummer Taylor was the second man to open a barber shop. He built and afterward remodeled his home.

W.N.Coleman bought the Grover Donaho home which stood between A.W.Folsom's store and the railroad. He converted it into the first apartment house which burned. A very large corrugated iron clad building, the first cotton

ware house stood on this spot. A storm so damaged it that it had to be torn down.

Either Maxey Keefer or W.N.Coleman owned the first livery stable. It was sold to Herman Zulch and Jim Long botham. The stable burned in 1914 and with it a horse. It was located in the northern part of town.

Otto Bethke owned the first garage. He sold to G.C.Wilson who now owns a large garage on the Highway 190 and uses the upper story for a dwelling.

Tony and his brother-in-law from Thornton owned the first telephone system. They sold to W.K.Payne who built his home in the extreme east and about the center of town on the old Springfield road.

Luther Payne, pastor of Free Baptist church lived here.

W.T.Taylor owned the first electric light plant. The power house stood between the present site of Dr.

Burney's office and drug store and the Lumber Company recently bought from Mrs. E.L.Ford by Norwood.

First pastor of Free Will Baptist church was Tom Searcy. First church services were held in the depot.

Rev. John Swanwick preached the first sermon. Rev. Swanwick lived next door to W.M.Stewart. Here his aged mother, his sister, a widow with one daughter, now Mrs. M.E.Andrews whose large grocery store stands on Taylor Tap.

W.T.Taylor bought some land from Mrs. Venable and presented this road to the town. It is now the main thoroughfare going east and west through the town.

The first Sunday School was held in the depot, This was a union Sunday School and Western was the first Superintendent.

The First Church house was the Free Baptist, The second church building was brought from Zulch. The church party of the Baptist held services on the lower floor while the upper floor was the Masonic Hall. The Masons still use this hall and later it became the meeting place of the O.E.S.

The Mrthodists built their church in 1910 and 11.

The first school was taught in the Free Baptist church and in Joe Berry('s home.

Teachers the first year were W.S.Barron and Irene Morgan; the second year , W.S.Barron and Amy Barron taught. Murphy taught the third year, folowwed by Strickland.

Joe Whitley, Justice of the Peace for more than thirty years lived southeast of the T.J.Dowell home. Folsom bought and lives there now.

John Rumfield, for years constable and deputy sheriff lives in his same home east of where Mrs. Tom Hutchinson resides.

Dr. Burney's first office and prescription drug store was located in Will Zulch's building He was the second doctor and resides in a red brick one story across the street from Mrs. Lipscomb's residence.

The one and only band stand was located in an open area just north of the Will Zulch two story building.

All musicians of the town took part.

W.T.Taylor built his two -story store building across the street and east of the Will Zulch building. Here he kept a general mercantile store, now has all but groceries. About 1912 he ~~he~~ began carrying a stock of farming implements, wagons and buggies in the W.M.RICE warehouse which stood very near the highway and east of Main Street. When it burned he suffered a great loss.

Matthew Kelch had a dry goods store about where A.D.Blount's store is now.

Carol Cobb was one of the first section bosses.

Below is the house in which W.G.Prescott lived for forty years before Will Zulch donated the land on which to build North Zulch, 1906.

After Prescott moved away, A.D.Blount occupied the place until he built his home across the railroad.



Main street , going north. The first building
on the left is the Will Zulch building erected in 1906.
Here Dr. Burney had his first office and drug store.
Across the street is A.W.Folsom's general merchandise
store. Ernest Bethke had the building put up.
Across from Folsom's is the old Schapira bank building
moved from Zulch.



Another view of the old bank with garage added.

W.T.Taylor's Gen.Merchandise Store and Warehouse
erected in 1912.



One of the oldest buildings in Nor Zulch.



House built by Herman Zulch.

The house beyond the plat of ground laid off for the gymnasium was the second house built by W.R.Oor, Cecil Jones and family now own the place and reside there. All the buildings are on Church Street.



Below is a picture of the first school building.
to the right
The three windows in the upper story are in the auditorium.

