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THE HISTORY OF ANGELINA COUNTY

THESIS

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By

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PREFACE

In this paper the writer has endeavored to give the geographical setting of Angelina County and to follow the gradual development of the county from the first grant of land issued to the present industrial period. The writer has searched books, county records, state records, maps, land files, newspapers, and magazines and has interviewed many people in order to secure the data used. An attempt has been made to select the outstanding features in the development of the county from 1797 to 1937.

The writer acknowledges her indebtedness to Dr. W. P. Webb and Dr. A. K. Christian for their constructive criticism in the supervision of this work and for their advice as to methods of collecting and assembling the data. Thanks are due to the staff of both the University and State libraries, the Land Office, and county officials and to the lumbermen and the old citizens of the county for their service in collecting materials. Grateful acknowledgment is made of the assistance of Miss Annie C. Hill, Miss Maurine Wilson, Mrs. Mattie Austin Hatcher, and E. W. Winkler of the University Library; Miss Harriet Smither of the State Library; J. B. Giles, C. F. Von Blucher, and J. Glover of the Land Office; E. L. Kurth of Keltys, Texas; W. C. Trout of Lufkin, Texas; F. H. Robinson of Sabine, Texas; and C. L. Carter and James

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CHAPTER I.

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOGRAPHY

The Location and Topography.

Angelina County lies in the long-leaf pine timber region of East Texas. It is located between the meridians 94° and 95° west longitude and between the parallels 31° and 32° north latitude. The county is approximately fifty miles long and twenty-five miles wide, and has an area of 940 square miles. It is situated in the angle formed by the junction of the Angelina and Neches rivers; therefore its position among the bordering counties is governed by the southeast course of these two rivers which form the two long boundary lines of the county. The shape of the county is largely determined by the meandering courses of the rivers and is an irregular oval. Angelina is bounded by the following counties: on the north Cherokee and Nacogdoches, on the east San Augustine and Jasper, on the south Tyler and Polk, and on the west Trinity and Houston.¹

¹Commercial Atlas of the World, 296-299.

The position of the county between the two rivers gives it an unusual surface topography. In topographical features it has a striking resemblance to Mesopotamia of the Tigris-Euphrates Valley. Its position between the rivers and its general

shape are so much like that of Mesopotamia that it might be called the Mesopotamia of East Texas. The surface is rolling, rising in higher swells toward a center ridge, running almost parallel with the rivers, and forming a watershed between them. The county is generally included within the 250-foot altitude belt,² but the central ridge rises to an elevation of 325 feet

²Tharp, B. C., Structure of Texas Vegetation East of the 98th Meridian, p. 12, Plate I.

at the highest point, and Diboll has an elevation of 232 feet.³

³Marvin, Charles F., Chief, The Climatic Summary of the State of Texas, United States Department of Agriculture, Austin, Section 33, p. 22.

The central ridge is a little nearer the Angelina River, particularly in the southern half of the county, as is indicated by the tributaries of the rivers. This watershed divides the county into two slopes which have the semblance of a housetop, though the grade is extremely gentle. The Neches River slope has a general southerly course whereas the Angelina slope is inclined a little to the northeast. Low hills are prevalent throughout the county, but they occur mostly along the streams. However, there is a section in the northern part of the county within the redland belt that is quite hilly and there is also

another hilly section in the sandy lands of the south. In these sections the hills are low and commonly have fairly gentle slopes, though some few have a rather steep grade. The county as a whole has much flat, level land. One of the distinguishing features of the level lands was the little prairies which were entirely treeless prior to 1890. These prairies ranged in size from about two hundred to six thousand acres and had a smooth table-like surface covered with tall coarse grasses and small flowering plants. These original prairies have almost disappeared. The greater portions of them are now in cultivation, but the parts that are not being cultivated have developed a growth of scrubby timber, principally post oak and old field pine. The old settlers suggest two reasons for this growth of timber: (1) the introduction of large herds of cattle which ranged on the prairies, and (2) the cultivation of adjoining lands which were originally timber lands.⁴

⁴Barge, J. W., Interview, June 20, 1931.

The county is drained and watered by the Angelina and Neches rivers and their tributaries. The principal tributaries of the Angelina River are Popper, Stanley, Odell, Mill and Procella creeks, which have a general northeast course. The most important tributaries of the Neches are Shawnee, Buck, Biloxi, Stovall, Cedar, and Bodan creeks, all of which

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have a southerly course.⁵

⁵Map of Angelina County, Land Office, Austin.

The Soils of the County.

The county lies near the southern line of the eocene geological formation; therefore its soils have been developed mostly from beds of noncalcareous clay, sandy clay, clay shale, or sand under the influence of a warm, moist climate and of a vegetative cover of trees which contribute but little organic matter.⁶ The surface soils are in most places of two

⁶Dumble, E. T., The Geology of Texas, Plate XI.

distinct layers. The upper soil contains only a small amount of organic matter, grading below into a subsurface of similar texture. The organic layer is generally two or three inches thick, but with proper cultivation this is increased to six inches or more. The soils are variable, but consist in the main of gray, black, or red sandy loams occasionally interspersed with areas of red clay and stiff black lands. The two natural physiographic slopes described above divide the soils of the county into two groups. On the Angelina slope is found the

Nacogdoches-Norfolk series which have a permeable subsoil; and on the Neches slope is the Lufkin-Susquehanna series which rest on a dense heavy subsoil.⁷

⁷Carter, W. T., The Soils of Texas, Bulletin No. 431, Texas Agriculture Experiment Station, 32-36.

The Neches-River slope embraces more than half of the area of the county. It includes practically all of the prairie lands and the greater part of the sandy soils that produce the pure long-leaf pine forest. The prairie soils are of the Lufkin-Susquehanna series and they have a gray, black, or yellowish surface layer resting on heavy dense gray or yellowish subsoils. These soils occupy flat or slightly rolling areas lying high above the bottom lands. The fine sandy loams and the clay loams are the chief soil types of the series. On drying, these soils become hard and tight. They have slow natural drainage owing to the flat surface and dense subsoils. These types are not extensive, but they occur irregularly on the Neches-River slope almost the entire length of the county. The natural growth, where there is any timber, is largely post oak, though some scrubby pine grows.

The long-leaf pine region, which includes the greater part of the uplands of the Neches-River slope from Cedar Creek to the Jasper County line, has gray sandy soils. These soils

are gray on the surface with a subsurface that ranges from yellow to red. The top soil layers are friable or loose, but they rest on dense heavy subsoils; therefore the surface drainage is good, but the underdrainage is poor. The surface is mostly rolling or undulating, though in places high smooth plateau-like areas occur. The fine sandy loams and fine sand are the principal soils of this region with the fine sand predominating. Though these soils are thin and not highly productive, they are used to some extent for farming. The original vegetation was long-leaf pine with an undergrowth of scrubby blackjack and sweet gum.

The alluvial soils are of the Ochlokonee-Bibb series and occur along the streams. These soils consist of materials that have been transported by water from the adjacent uplands. The types of soil range from light sandy soils to heavy clay with the heavy soils predominating. These soils range in color from light gray to black and grade below into mottled yellow and gray subsoils. Generally the surface is low and nearly flat so that the surface drainage is slow. The water table is high, and since the underdrainage is not rapid, overflows occur occasionally. These conditions cause the soils to remain wet for long periods, but where adequate drainage is supplied the land becomes highly productive, and suited to such general farm crops as sugar cane, corn, cotton, and legumes.

Although the Angelina-River slope is smaller than the

Neches slope, it is the more productive farming area because it has better sandy soil. The northern part of the Angelina slope lies within the redland belt of East Texas; therefore the soils are of the Nacogdoches-Norfolk series. The Nacogdoches soils are red, blood red, or reddish brown loam set upon red, heavy, crumbly, permeable clay subsoils. The soils and the subsoils contain fragments and layers of ironstone. The surface is generally rolling and in places hilly and some of the slopes are rather steep. The fine sandy loams seem to be the most extensive soils of this series. A large proportion of the land composed of this soil is under cultivation and produces good yields of general farm crops, truck crops, and fruits. These soils respond profitably to fertilization, but the unprotected surfaces erode rapidly. The native vegetation consists of short-leaf pine, some species of oak, and other trees common to the mixed forest.

South of Durasno Creek the Angelina slope has areas of flatwoods. The soils of the flat areas belong to the Lufkin-Susquehanna series and occupy rather smooth, nearly flat, and even depressed areas. The top soil is gray to a depth of several inches and rests upon a heavy dense gray or yellow subsoil. In many places the run-off is slow thereby causing the soil to become saturated with water and to remain wet for a long time in cool or rainy seasons. The dense heavy subsoils hinder underdrainage and slow up the surface drainage. Small dome-like

mounds of fine sand dot the surface at irregular intervals. The flatwood area is moderately productive and fairly well suited to the general farm crops. The timber growth is a mixed forest in which short-leaf pine predominates.

The Angelina slope has a large amount of alluvial soil that has been formed by the soil materials washed from the uplands. This soil is usually deep, relatively rich in organic matter and acid in reaction. In places it is friable and quite permeable. These alluvial soils are generally gray or black and are underlain with dense, heavy, gray subsoils that are typical of the Ochlockonee-Bibb series. The surface is commonly low and nearly flat; therefore the surface drainage is slow. Occasional overflows, a high water table, and a dense, heavy subsoil tend to keep these soils cold and wet in the spring. Wherever sufficient drainage can be secured and the lands can be protected from overflows, the soils are highly productive and seem to be particularly adapted to the growth of corn, cotton, and sugar cane. It is in these soils that a large part of the farm lands of the Angelina slope are found, but large areas remain uncultivated because of insufficient drainage.

In addition to the types mentioned, there are small areas of red clay soils and gravelly soils occurring on each slope. These soils occur in spots in other soil areas and are generally

unproductive.⁸

⁸Carter, W. T., The Soils of Texas, Bulletin No. 431, Texas Agriculture Experiment Station, pp. 36-48.

The Climate, Rainfall and Water of Angelina.

Because Angelina County lies within the north temperate zone in a region of low altitude, it has a mild climate and short winters. During the winter months cold winds sweep down periodically from the north and are occasionally accompanied by freezing temperatures. These cold winds, or "northers," last only a few days. The summers are warm, but the heat is tempered by the gentle southerly winds from the Gulf. As the county is located in the humid region of East Texas, it has a heavy rainfall. During the period from 1916 to 1930 the rainfall ranged from 27.83 inches to 51.78 inches with an average of 44.48 inches. The long rainy season usually begins in October and lasts through May. May, the month of heaviest rainfall, has an average of 5.43 inches, whereas September, the month of least rainfall, has only 2.69 inches.⁹

⁹The Climatic Summary of the State of Texas, Weather Bureau, Austin, Section 33, pp. 22-35.

There are two great artesian areas in Texas. One is the great geosyncline of the Llano Estacado which lies east of the eastern Front Range of mountains. The other is the great gulfward dipping monocline of the Edwards Plateau, Grand Prairie, and Gulf Coastal Plains. Angelina County lies in this last named area. In the Gulf Coastal Plains region the water in the porous bed is impounded and its escape is prevented for two principal reasons: (1) as the Gulf is approached the sandy bed changes to non-porous clay which has resulted from the deposition of coastal plain sediment; and (2) the porous beds are overlain by impervious clays and shales which prevent the upward escape of the imprisoned water.¹⁰ The artesian water was

¹⁰Udden, J. A., Publications of Economic Geology and Technology Bureau, Bulletin No. 29, of the University of Texas, 1916, p. 125.

not used as a source of supply until about 1920. Since this date many deep wells have been sunk within the county. Lufkin has two artesian wells that supply the city with water. Keltys, Manning, Diboll, and Huntington have deep wells ranging in depth from 390 to 1200 feet.

In addition to the artesian water the county has an abundant supply of shallow underground water. Springs are numerous along the streams and the water is generally soft,

but some of it has a high mineral content of sulphur, iron or copperas. Shallow underground water can be secured in hand-dug wells from eight to forty feet, though the water is often highly mineralized.

The Minerals of the County.

Angelina County is classed as poor in mineral wealth because no minerals have been disclosed in paying quantities. Several minerals are known to be present in small quantities. There are three salines in the county where salt was made by the pioneer settlers and presumably by the Indians before the arrival of the white men. Two of these salines are in the southern part of the county near the Neches River where Shawnee Creek flows into the river. One saline is east of the creek and the other is west. The third saline is on the Angelina River near the H. E. & W. T. Railway crossing.¹¹ These salines

¹¹Gray, Walker, County Surveyor, Interview.

were worth a great deal to the early settlers because they were about the only means of supplying salt prior to 1870. The salt beds underlying these salines must be large. The salt seems to rise from an underground supply, and, despite the heavy rainfall, it appears in solution in the shallow underground water

and forms whitish incrustations on the surface during the dry season.¹²

¹²Russell, W. D., Interview.

In addition to the salt there are deposits of iron sulphid, red hermalite iron ore, brown coal, and asphaltum. Natural gas and seepages of petroleum are also found in many places, particularly in the southern part of the county.¹³

¹³Texas Almanac, 1904, p. 204.

The iron ore occurs in the redland district in the northern part of the county, the brown coal is found in thin layers underlying the greater part of the county, and asphaltum is present in small quantities in nearly all sections. No interest has been shown in any of the minerals except petroleum. Test wells have been sunk in all sections of the county, but the search has been for a high grade shallow oil. The oil seepages show a high grade oil that is unlike the oils of the northern fields, and for this reason the theory that it comes from the northern pools has been questioned. A deep-well movement has begun since the failure of the shallow wells.

The Flora and Fauna

The natural vegetation is so varied that it will be impracticable to mention all of the plants of the county. For the purpose of convenience the vegetation may be discussed under three headings: (1) the large trees; (2) the small trees; and (3) the small plants, vines, and grasses.

Although the county had an abundant and varied flora, it was predominantly a pine timber region. The county was generally divided into two areas by the lumbermen: (1) the long-leaf area which included the southern half of the county; and (2) the short-leaf area which covered the northern half. This division of the pine did not hold true, except on a large scale, because the bottom lands of the long-leaf area were covered with a growth of loblolly pine and hardwood and a few small islands of short-leaf pine were found. In the short-leaf area the pine was interspersed with hardwood and the bottom lands were covered by the natural lowland growth of hardwood and loblolly pine, but short-leaf pine was the primary growth of the uplands.¹⁴

¹⁴Kirby, John H., Houston, Texas, Interview.

The large trees have been outstanding because of their merchantable value. The pine was predominant, both in value and number, particularly in the southern half of the county.

There were three species of pine: the long-leaf, the short-leaf, and the loblolly. The loblolly pine was found on the bottom lands of both the long-leaf and the short-leaf areas and was generally classed as short-leaf pine.

On the uplands of the long-leaf region the stands of large trees were pure long-leaf pine with little or no underbrush. The scattered underbrush was composed chiefly of scrubby blackjack, though some sweet gum and post oak were found. As the long-leaf pine merged with the short-leaf the undergrowth became larger and denser. The stand of timber was not nearly so thick in the long-leaf area as in the short-leaf and the loblolly areas. Mr. John H. Kirby described the long-leaf area as a great park studded with towering pines through which one could look and see everything in the way of man or beast within one-half to three-fourths of a mile. The open piney woods had a floor covering of tall coarse piney woods grasses and small flowering plants.

The uplands of the short-leaf region were covered with a mixed forest where a dense and varied undergrowth often formed thickets. The short-leaf pine was the primary tree, though white oak, post oak, red oak, cow oak, pin oak, ash, maple, hickory, elm, sweet gum, black gum, and chinquapin were found in varying numbers. Many small trees were common to the short-leaf region and they generally appeared throughout the region. The small trees may be grouped as flowering trees and fruit

bearing trees. The flowering trees are dogwood and graybeard and the fruit bearing trees are mulberry, winter huckleberry, wild plum, persimmon, blue haw, black haw, and other haws. Sumac, sassafras, and yaupon occur in many places. The vines are chiefly muscadine, grape, green briar, rattan, trumpet creeper, red honeysuckle (woodbine), and yellow jasmine. The trumpet creeper, red honeysuckle, and yellow jasmine are flowering plants and each produces a bugle-shaped flower. The trumpet creeper produces large red flowers growing in clusters; the red honeysuckle has small bright red flowers followed by red berries; and the yellow jasmine has medium, sulphur yellow flowers. The principal native pasture plants are carpet grass and a small-leaf clover.

The loblolly area which was confined to the bottom lands contained some pine, but cypress and hardwood made up the greater part of the forest. The cypress was found along the rivers and on the large creeks, particularly where the bottoms are marshy and overflowed for long periods during the rainy season. Other large trees of the bottom lands were white oak, red oak, willow oak, water oak, overcup and cow oak, hickory, sweet gum, black gum, beech, birch, magnolia, holly, black walnut, and lynn. The largest trees of the county grow in the river valleys. During the year of 1933 the Angelina Hardwood Company cut one white oak that measured seventy-two inches at the stump and scaled 2800 feet; one red oak that measured seventy-four

inches at the stump and scaled 1600 feet; and several sweet gums scaling from 2800 to 4200 feet. Many kinds of small trees grow on the bottom lands and on the hummocks bordering the bottoms. Hornbeam, ironwood, persimmon, wild peach, mulberry, prickly ash, sea ash, cherry, hackberry, laurel, and mayhaw are interspersed with the large trees. The mayhaw is the only one of the small trees that grows profusely in the overflowed areas of the river valleys.

On approaching the bottom lands a distinct change in the timber growth is noticed, but this is not true of the vines because the vines of the uplands extend into the bottoms. Among the smaller plants several kinds of fern occur along the edges of the bottoms and on the high areas that are not overflowed often. Carpet grass and clover grow in the higher sections and water grasses in the lower places. Switch cane, the predominant small plant of the lowlands, is a reed-like plant that has long, thick, jointed stems which if protected often grow one and one-half inches in diameter and twenty-five feet in height. In places where the cane is protected, it grows tall, but where cattle range on it, a scrubby growth from one to three feet tall occurs. This is one of the chief plants for winter pastures.

There are a few plants peculiar to particular sections of the county that deserve mention. Among these are the sweet bay, wild pansy, bear-grass, and palmetto. The sweet bay belongs to the magnolia family and grows along the spring branches in some

parts of the long-leaf pine area. This tree is generally small and has light gray bark, light green foliage, and large white highly scented blossoms. The wild pansy is a species of violet that grows in the open piney woods. These small plants have violet-colored flowers which occur in great profusion in early spring. The bear-grass, a species of yucca, produces a tall flower stalk bearing a large spike of creamy white flowers. This plant has long slender grass-like foliage that was used by the pioneer settlers for cordage. The palmetto, a species of fan palm, has fan-shaped leaves that are typical of the palm family. There is one large palmetto brake in the county, which is located on Stanley Creek eight miles east of Huntington and covers about one hundred acres.¹⁵

¹⁵Tharp, B. C., Structure of Texas Vegetation East of the 98th Meridian, 12-49.

Another plant of interest is the yaupon which is a species of holly. The yaupon is a small evergreen bush that grows on the uplands and produces a profusion of red waxy berries. The plant has small, smooth, elliptical leaves that were formerly used in preparing the "black drink" of the North Carolina Indians.

Angelina was originally the home of many animals. The fauna was, perhaps, as varied and abundant as the flora and had

a great influence on the life of the pioneer farmer. Many of the animals affected the pioneer directly or indirectly, either for good or for evil. The deer, turkey, bear, squirrel, quail, and duck provided a constant supply of meat. All of these animals were found in great numbers except the bear which has been completely exterminated. The deer was the principal animal for supplying meat and was also the greatest destroyer of such crops as corn and peas. For these reasons the deer as well as the turkey and squirrel have been reduced to negligible numbers.

Some furbearing animals were common, particularly mink, skunk, opossum, and raccoon. Although these animals were trapped and hunted with dogs, they are still numerous. The mink, skunk, and opossum caught the farmers' chickens and the game birds and the "coons" ate the corn. The raccoon and opossum have been hunted for sport, but generally they were hunted for furs. The wolf, fox, and rabbit comprise another group that may be classed as animals for sport. The wolves were killed because they caught young calves and pigs. The wolf-hunts were conducted by drives in the daytime for the chief purpose of killing the wolves, which have been exterminated. It seems that in the wolf-hunts the aim of sport was almost as strong as the aim of extermination, because the old hunters describe the wolf-hunts as thrilling events. The fox-race was engaged in merely for sport, and has survived as a sport because the foxes are still plentiful. The rabbits did much harm to grow-

ing crops and gardens; therefore they were killed when caught.¹⁶

¹⁶Colwell, John, and Barge, J. W., Zavalla, Interview.

The streams and lakes contained many fish. Those most commonly found were cat, buffalo, drum, perch, and trout. Catfish weighing from five to thirty pounds were caught in the rivers.¹⁷ In addition to the food fish the streams and lakes

¹⁷Haltom, R. W., History and Description of Angelina County, 1888, p. 26.

contain many other water animals. The largest is the alligator. Alligators are still found in both rivers and sometimes small ones are found in the large creeks. Some of the larger ones are sixteen feet or more in length. The bellow of the alligator is one of the unusual sounds that can be heard across the overflowed bottoms in the springtime. Gars, eels, and turtles are so numerous in the rivers and the large lakes near the rivers that they often interfere with fishing. The soft-shell turtle is used to some extent for food. Many kinds of frogs live in and around the streams and lakes, but the bullfrog is the only member of the frog family that seems to influence man. Bullfrogs are fairly numerous and they are often caught for their hind legs which comprise one of the foods secured from the lakes. The

bullfrog makes a loud croaking sound that distinguishes him from the other frogs and enables the hunter to locate him.

The members of the bird family that were and are significant are cardinals, bluejays, doves, bluebirds, martins, bee martins, blackbirds, crows, buzzards, hawks, owls, whippoorwills, mocking birds, and humming birds. The cardinals, bluejays, and doves pulled up the young corn; the bee martins caught the bees; the crows ate the peanuts; the hawks and owls caught the chickens; the buzzards killed the young pigs; the whippoorwill announced spring by his first call; and the rain-crow presaged rain. The mocking bird is the best songster and the humming bird is significant because of his size and gay color. It is the smallest native bird.

There are many kinds of snakes and lizards, but only the poisonous snakes will be named. The rattlesnake is the most poisonous and it is also the scarcest. It is generally found on the hummocks near the river bottoms. There are three kinds of moccasins which live in the bottoms in or near the water. The little ground rattler and the pilot are the poisonous snakes of the uplands. The non-poisonous chicken snake does a great deal of harm by eating the young chickens and the eggs.

There are many native insects which are usually active during the growing season. The cattle tick, horse-fly, horn-fly, blow-fly, buffalo gnat, and black gnat are enemies to the stockraiser. The greatest pest that the farmer has to deal

with is the boll-weevil, which is not a native insect. The cutworm and drill-worm do much damage to young corn. The cutworm is also one of the worst pests in the garden. Plant lice destroy many of the leafy vegetables. Grasshoppers and cray-fish give some trouble in small areas. The stinging insects include the honey bee, hornet, red wasp, mud wasp (dirt dauber), and yellow jacket. The mosquito and house fly are disease carriers. There is a group of harmless insects, such as the lady bug, katydid, cricket, and locust. Various kinds of spiders and butterflies are to be found as well as beetles.

CHAPTER II.

EARLY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL LIFE

The Origin of the County's Name

Angelina County is, comparatively speaking, a rather new political sub-division of Texas. It was not organized until after Texas was annexed to the United States. As a county unit it does not have as rich a historical background as some of the other East Texas counties, particularly Nacogdoches and San Augustine, but it was given a name that was connected with Spanish tradition. The name Angelina was first given to the river that forms the northern and eastern boundaries of the county more than one hundred and fifty years before the county was organized. When the Legislature created the county in 1846, the name, Angelina, was chosen for it. The choosing of the name may have been merely incidental or it may have been due to some member of the Legislature knowing its significance.

In Spanish the word, Angelina, means "Little Angel." The fixing of the name upon the river involves an interesting and perhaps traditional episode in the early Spanish missions of East Texas.¹ Before 1690 the river had been known to the

¹Fulmore, Z. T., The History and Geography of Texas, 1-3.

Spaniards as the Pascua del Espiritu Santo. Fray Francisco

Casonas de Jesus Maria discovered the river on the day of Pascua del Espiritu Santo. Because he happened to find the river on that day, he named it Pascua del Espiritu Santo.² The river

²Hatcher, Mattie Austin, "Descriptions of The Tejas or Asinai Indians, 1691-1723," in The Southwestern Historical Quarterly, XXX, 210.

was known to the Spaniards by this name until after De Leon's second visit to Texas. On his second visit to Texas De Leon, accompanied by Father Massanet, brought with him soldiers, priests, and the necessary equipment for the establishment of missions. The first mission established by him was San Francisco de los Tejas. The exact location of this mission is not known, but it is somewhere near the northeast corner of Houston County where San Pedro Creek empties into the Neches River. Later, the Spaniards in their visits around among the Indian villages, farther up the country, came upon an Indian settlement which was known as the Hasinai Village. In this village which was near the site of the present town of Douglas the priests met an Indian maiden who expressed a wish to learn their language. They invited her to come to the mission and receive instruction. She went and was warmly received by both priests and soldiers. "Her studious habits and affable ways so charmed both priests and soldiers that they applied to her the pet name 'Little Angel,' and called her native village Angelina's

village and the stream that flowed by, Angelina's river."

In 1693 the Spaniards determined to abandon this mission and return to the Rio Grande. Angelina had not progressed in her work enough to enable her to speak and write the Spanish language. She was forced to choose one of two courses. She had either to give up her education or abandon her people and home and cast her lot with the Spaniards. She chose the latter and accompanied the Spaniards to the mission of San Juan Bautista on the Rio Grande. She remained in this mission for ten years and naturally became the pride of the mission because she had become a Christian and had grown proficient in the Spanish language. When she reached her goal in the mastery of the Spanish language, she returned to her home in East Texas where later she became a distinguished interpreter.³

³Fulmore, Z. T., The History and Geography of Texas, 1-3.

Setting up the First Units of Government

Angelina County seems to have been influenced very little, if any, by the activities of the Spanish missionaries in East Texas. Very little Spanish colonization work was done in the area that is now Angelina County. The first real colonization work was begun during the Mexican regime. In 1825 Colonel

Haden Edwards was granted a colonization contract by the State of Coahuila and Texas by which he agreed to introduce and settle eight hundred families in a district embracing Angelina County in East Texas. Although Angelina County was included in Edwards' district, he did not settle any families in it. This conclusion is drawn from a comparison of the date of his colonization period and the dates of the Spanish and Mexican land titles. The records show that his contract was canceled in 1826 and that the earliest Mexican land titles issued for lands in the area which is now Angelina County were issued in 1834. Prior to 1821 there was only one Spanish title issued for land within the present limits of the county. This title was issued for a large tract of land acquired by Vicente Micheli in 1797.⁴

⁴Brown, J. H., History of Texas, p. 120; Burlage, John, Land Claims, 601-670.

After Edwards' contract was canceled, his district was divided among three other empresarios, David G. Burnet, Joseph Vehlein, and Lorenzo de Zavala. In this partition of the Edwards' district the greater portion of the present territory of Angelina County fell within Zavala's grant and the lesser part was included in Vehlein's grant. Lorenzo de Zavala was a Mexican and his contract called for the settlement of five

hundred Mexican and foreign families within his district. Joseph Vehlein's contract called for one hundred families.⁵

⁵Record of Translations of Empresario Contracts of Coahuila and Texas from 1825-1835, pp. 117, 120, 186, Texas Land Office.

The records show that fifty-two land titles were issued during 1834 and 1835 for lands in Angelina County.⁶ A complete

⁶Burlage, John, Land Claims, pp. 601-670; Map of Angelina County, Texas Land Office.

list of these original land grants in Angelina County is given in Appendix A, page 217.

Angelina County was also within the limits of the claims of the Galveston Bay and Texas Land Company. This company claimed lands located between the Navasota and Sabine rivers, south of the Natchitoches-Nacogdoches Road. Members of the company acting as trustees and attorneys of Zavala, Vehlein, and Burnet sold land certificates for lands located in the territory described above. The illegal transactions of this company brought mortification to Zavala, Vehlein, and Burnet, as

well as unjust reproach to this region of Texas.⁷

⁷Brown, J. H., History of Texas, I, 123.

The Boston Legal Aid Society, "Copy of Land Certificate No. 1345", to Charles T. Cablin, New York, October 16, 1830, by The Galveston Bay and Texas Land Company, in the Texas Land Office.

Angelina County was a part of the municipality of Nacogdoches under the Mexican regime. When Texas won her independence and established the Republic of Texas in 1836, the municipality of Nacogdoches became a county and functioned as a county unit of Texas after the organization of a county government in 1837. As the population of Nacogdoches increased a partition of its vast area was begun and several counties were carved from its original territory. Angelina County, which was among this group of counties, was created in 1846 by a legislative act.⁸

⁸Johnson-Barker, Texas and Texans, II, 915-916.

The Indians of Angelina County.

The first pioneer settlers came to what is now Angelina County in 1834 and 1835. They found many Indians of which some were native East Texas tribes and some were emigrants from the

United States. The Hasinai, Caddo, and Bidai were the chief native tribes, whereas the emigrant Indians were composed of Shawnee, Biloxi, and Cherokee Indians. The Shawnee and Biloxi Indians were already established when the pioneers arrived, but the Cherokees came in during 1835. The Hasinai were scattered along both the Neches and the Angelina rivers and the Caddos occupied a portion of the Neches-River slope. The Bidais were located in the northern part of the county along the Angelina River. The Shawnees who had drifted into Texas from Missouri about 1820 occupied the southern half of the county. The Biloxis were also early emigrants and they lived along the Neches River and the large creek that now bears their name. The Cherokees had settled in the northern part of the county by 1836, but they were expelled in 1839 because President Lamar looked upon them as intruders and he believed that the dense Indian population retarded the settlement of East Texas. The hostility of the Texas government toward the Indians was not confined to the Cherokees. Before the end of Lamar's administration, 1841, all other tribes had been driven from the Angelina country, and thereafter the region was held exclusively by white men.

The native Indians lived in fixed habitation, cultivated the soil, and hunted. They lived in wooden houses and grew large quantities of beans, maize, calabashes, cantaloupes, and

watermelons.⁹ The Shawnees were perhaps the largest of all

⁹Hodge, F. W., Handbook of American Indians, I, 145-147, 176.
The Southwestern Historical Quarterly, XXV, 229-260.

this group of Indians. They had a well-established trail which led from the mouth of Shawnee Creek on the Neches River to the Shawnee Crossing on the Angelina River. This trail was the route traveled by the Indians when they went to Nacogdoches to sell their pelts. The Old Shawnee Trail became one of the main routes of travel for the pioneer settlers.¹⁰

¹⁰Brookshire, J. P., Lufkin, Texas, Interview, January, 1934.

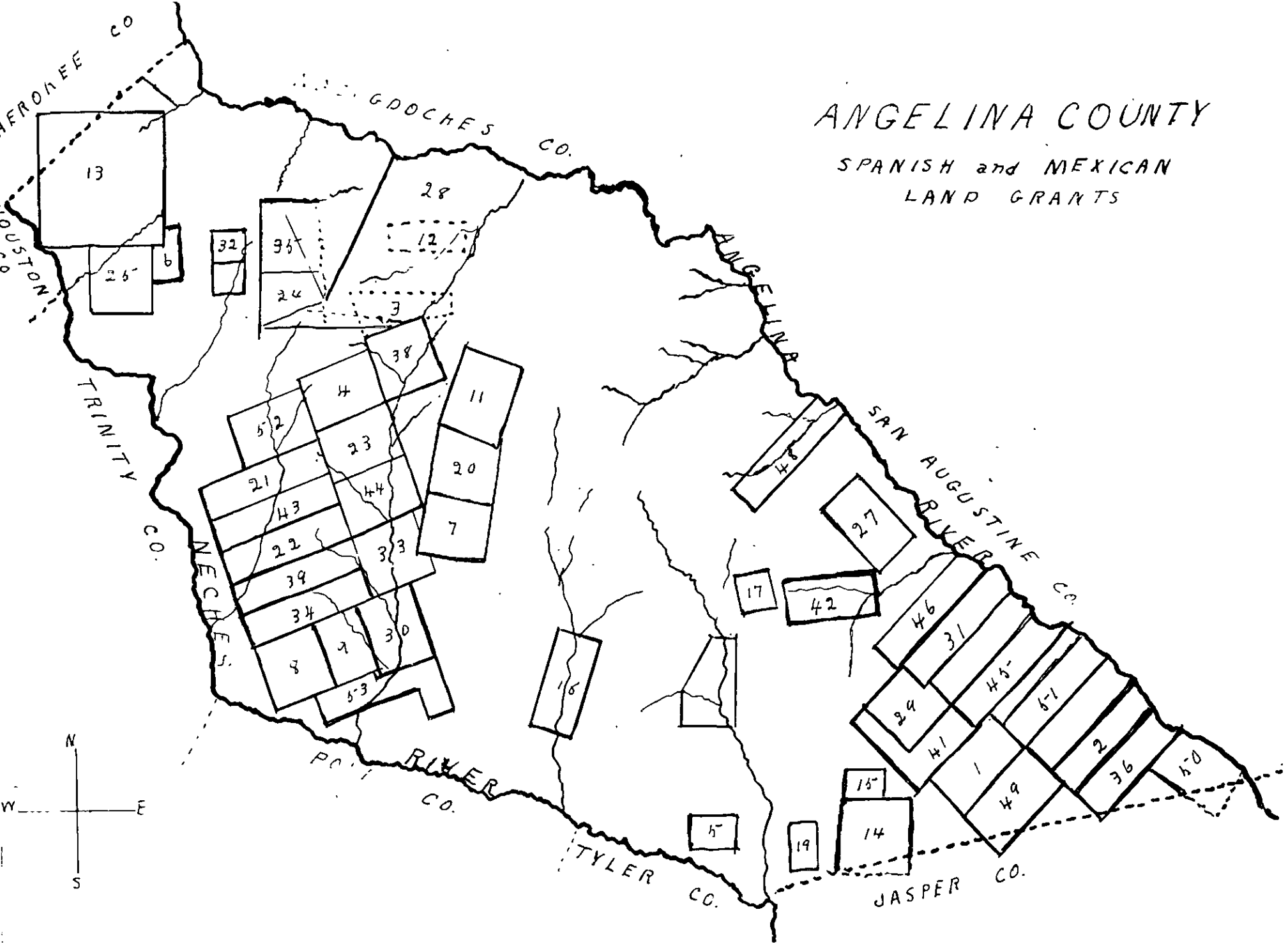
Although the Indians were removed from Angelina County at an early date, they left many names and some legends as reminders of their prior claim and occupation of the region. Among the Indian legends that have been handed down is the story of Chief Poppher who lived on the creek which now bears his name. The story as told by Mrs. Mary K. Sayers, whose uncle witnessed the episode, is as follows:

Poppher was the chief of a congenial and peaceful tribe of Shawnee Indians living on Poppher Creek. The Chief had a son, Jim, who was young and somewhat wayward. One day Jim

aroused the anger of the white men by murdering two peddlers. The peddlers were passing through the country and they stopped at the Indian village and traded with the Indians. When they left the village, Jim followed and murdered them, supposedly, in an attempt to rob them. It seems that this was the first real crime that Jim had committed. The Indians were quiet and silent until Jim was apprehended and given a sort of a military trial and convicted for the crime. After the death sentence was passed, the aged father and chief came forward and offered himself as a ransom for his son's life. The old Chief pled most pathetically for the life of his son. He was willing to give a life for the murder of the peddlers, but he wanted that life to be his own. When the white men hesitated to accept him as a ransom, he reasoned that he, himself, was old and could do very little more that would be of service to his people, whereas the youth was strong and vigorous and could be of great service. He assured the white men that Jim, who was young and good, would repent of this crime and become a great friend of the white men if permitted to live. The white men were touched by the plea of the aged chief and they feared the revenge of the Indians in case the son was executed. Therefore, they accepted Chief Popher as a ransom and permitted him to plan the method of his own execution. He chose to be shot publicly by a firing squad of twelve men. At the time he set, twelve guns which had been prepared for the executioners were brought forward and arranged

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in line. Eleven of them were loaded with blanks, and the other contained a full charge. However, the executioners did not know which gun would fire the fatal shot. At the appointed hour the aged chief came out dressed in a calico robe which had long flowing sleeves with ruffles falling below his hands. Knowing that this was his last chance to display his bravery he walked up in front of his executioners and calmly gave them directions for firing. He then fell to his knees giving his tribal war whoop and was shot as he had directed.¹¹

¹¹Townsend, W. J., Lufkin, Texas, Interview, January 10, 1934.

The Early Settlers.

There were very few if any Spanish settlers in what is now Angelina County. It has already been stated that there was only one patent issued for lands within the limits of Angelina County and it was for a large tract of land containing eight leagues and twenty-seven and one-half labors, in the northern part of the county. The chief importance of this grant is that it shows how the Spaniards bartered with the Indians for their lands and how the Spaniards evaluated the lands before granting titles. The patent was issued to Vicente Micheli who was a non-resident of the county. The deed record shows that Vicente

Micheli acquired this land by judicial purchase October 21, 1797. A large portion of it was transferred by an Indian mentioned as the son of Surdo (probably El Sordo). The Indian received one white shirt, eight brass bracelets, a handful of vermilion, a fathom of red ribbon, a gun, and fifty charges of ball and powder. In 1810 Micheli applied for a title that would legalize his selling the land. Before granting the title the Spanish government sent an appraiser to evaluate the land. The appraiser, Don Marua Mora, described the land as follows:

Part of the land being prairie and without timber consequently is unfit for cultivation. All classes of stock have good cane brake with abundant pasture for the whole year besides the creeks may be permanent watering places but without facilities for irrigation. The only impediments which it has are various hills in consequence of which it has very little value by the appraiser.

A section on the river was described thus:

A small clearing where the old boundaries exist has good pasture the whole year round, very good soil for farming, water only in the Angelina River but not suitable for irrigation. It is a well timbered land, very liable to epidemics of horse flies, mosquitoes, gallinippers, and other insects interfering with cattle raising.¹²

¹²Deed Record, Book A, 59-63, Lufkin, Texas.

The first wave of settlers came to what is now Angelina County after 1830. In 1830 General Mier y Terán visited East

Texas and laid out a town named for himself on the Neches River west of the mouth of Shawnee Creek. General Terán gave four leagues of land to this town and left Colonel Ellis P. Bean in command.¹³ At this time Colonel Bean was acting as

¹³Thrall, H. S., Pictorial History of Texas, 641.

Indian agent in East Texas for the government of Mexico. In 1832 Colonel Bean built Fort Terán on the Neches River where he continued his work as Indian agent. He kept the Indians quiet during the Texas Revolution. After the Texas Revolution he gave up the fort and returned to Mexico.¹⁴ Although Terán

¹⁴Frontier Times, VII, 147-148.

is shown on the maps of Texas that were made in the fifties, it could not have been more than a little village where a river crossing was made. Old settlers who have been in the section where the town was located know nothing of it. After the first Anglo-American settlers arrived they established a ferry at or near Terán. In the early forties the ferry became known as Bett's Ferry and later as Boone's Ferry. It has been assumed that the ferry was established at the village of Terán

which thereby lost its name or identity.¹⁵

¹⁵Commissioners Court Record, Book A, p. 7, Lufkin, Texas.

As previously stated, the Mexican government did not issue any titles for lands in the county until 1834 and 1835. During these two years fifty-two land titles were issued for grants of one-fourth league to four leagues. Twenty-six of the titles were issued to Mexicans who later sold their lands to American emigrants and left the county.¹⁶

¹⁶Burlage, John, Land Claims, 601-670, ...

The next wave of emigrants were all Anglo-Americans who came after the Texans had won their independence and established the Republic of Texas, or Americans who came too late to get patents before the Revolution. The colonization laws had been changed and the land unit reduced to six hundred and forty acres for all settlers who arrived after 1836 or had not served in the army. All settlers who had arrived in Texas prior to 1836 and who had not received titles to their lands were given titles according to the Mexican land laws.¹⁷ The

¹⁷Land Files and Map of Angelina County, Land Office.

provisional government of Texas promised volunteers liberal land bounties which were increased by the Convention of March, 1836. The Convention offered soldiers land grants of three hundred and twenty acres to twelve hundred and eighty acres depending upon length of service.¹⁸ There were a few patents

¹⁸Wentham, L. J., A History of Texas, 196.....

issued under each of these laws after 1838.

The settlers who came after 1836 were mostly Americans and they came chiefly from the Southern States east of the Mississippi River. The majority of them were honest pioneers seeking homes in a new country that offered better opportunities than the states in which they lived. Most of the early settlers were small farmers and stock raisers rather than slaveholding planters. The largest ranchmen owned from five hundred to one thousand head of cattle, one hundred to five hundred head of hogs, and ten to fifteen horses. The cost of raising cattle and hogs was almost nothing because they roamed over the free open range the entire year. The hogs lived on grass, berries, and haws in the spring and summer and fattened on acorns, beechnuts, and hickory nuts in winter. The cattle were usually fat throughout the year. In the winter there was plenty of switch cane, myrtle, and holly for them to feed on when the grass was killed down. The French mulberries which

grew in many areas were a source of food for the cattle during the dry season. There were some sheep raised in order to provide wool for home use. The largest stock raisers were usually the largest planters who owned from ten to twenty-five slaves and five hundred to three thousand acres of land. The majority of the settlers owned much smaller tracts of land, no slaves, and only a few head of cattle and hogs.

Before 1846 the houses were built of logs and covered with red oak or cypress boards. The log houses varied in size and comfort according to the wealth of the owners. The better homes had four or six rooms, a large hall, and plank floors. Some of the houses were ceiled, but lumber for flooring and ceiling was hauled long distances or cut by hand with a rip saw. In either case the lumber was obtained at a great outlay of labor. The majority of the homes were one-room log houses with puncheon or dirt floors and they were ceiled with long thin boards that were split from pine or other native timber. The first frame houses were built about 1846 and after this date plank floors were used more extensively, though lumber was not plentiful until after the establishment of the first steam sawmills in 1867.¹⁹

¹⁹ Ewing, James A., now of Houston, Texas; Colwell, John, Zavala, Texas, Interviews, January, 1934.

The early homes were all equipped with huge fireplaces for cooking and heating. The chimneys were commonly made of mud, but some were built of rock. The fireplaces were equipped with a crane for hanging the pots and kettles, a trivet for the coffee pot, and tongs for handling the burning wood. The cooking utensils were clumsy, heavy, cast iron vessels and consisted of pots, kettles, skillets, Dutch ovens, and gridirons. The homes were lighted by home-made tallow candles and pine knot fires when it was not too hot to have a fire. The furniture was nearly all home-made and it was neither stained nor varnished. The most common pieces were bedsteads, tables, chairs, and benches. The home-made furniture was generally plain and crude but there were a few talented woodworkers who made elaborate spool bedsteads. The early settlers knew nothing of springs for the beds and rarely used slats. Holes were bored in the bedstead and rope was interlaced in six-inch square meshes so as to serve for both springs and slats. A spinning wheel and cards were found in every home until the seventies. The first sewing machine was introduced in the county about 1880 when Charles L. Kelty accepted the agency for the Singer sewing machine. Mrs. Kelty owned the first machine which she demonstrated to her friends. The chief foods were meats, corn bread, potatoes, milk and butter. Some fresh fruits and vegetables were provided and these were supplemented by dried fruits and vegetables. Fresh meat could be easily secured from the woods-

any day that the farmer needed it. Deer and wild turkey provided the greater part of the supply of meat.²⁰

²⁰Barge, J. W., Zavalā, Texas; Powell, Mrs. Sarah, Diboll, Texas, Interviews, December, 1933.

The pioneer women lived rather busy lives. They arose early and worked until late because there was little time for play, with cooking, milking, spinning, dyeing, weaving, sewing, knitting, mending, soap making, washing, ironing, house cleaning and gardening all to be done. Despite all of this work they were happy and found some time for a type of recreation. The women frequently had quilting parties and spinning bees. When they had such gatherings they often walked two or three miles and carried their spinning wheel, cards, or sewing baskets. If the distance was too great, they went in an ox-wagon. The women washed their faces with home-made lye soap and used tallow to keep their skin soft. If they used any powder at all, they had to use a little corn starch.²¹

²¹Powell, Mrs. Sarah, Diboll, Texas, Interview, December, 1934.

The pioneer men found their hours long and their work hard because all of their work was done by hand with crude tools.

They had to build houses, clear land, split rails, make their tools for farming, tan leather, make shoes, kill game for meat, gather bark for dyes, cultivate the crops, and go long distances to market. There was generally a shoe cobbler in each community who made all of the shoes, as well as a blacksmith who made most of the tools. These men were usually paid with farm products because there was very little money. There were some carpenters who were more skilled in building houses than the average man. Some men spent all of their time making such furniture as chairs, tables, and bedsteads for sale.

The men often worked together at house raisings, rail splittings, log rollings, chimney daubings, and fodder pullings. Even though the work was hard these occasions were made gay by feasting and joking. Another type of community work was salt making. A group of men would collect a number of large iron kettles which were called wash pots and carry them in "ox-wagons" to one of the salines in the county where they spent two or three days making salt. Each man usually got enough salt to supply his home for a year. The settlers made nearly all of the salt they used in this manner until about 1870.

Horse racing, fox hunting, and wolf hunting were often engaged in for sport. Horse racing seems to have been a favorite sport. Very few if any of the pioneer farmers had ever seen a race horse, but they ran their "broom-tail" ponies with as much thrill as though they had been thoroughbreds. Deer

hunting was engaged in both for sport and for a supply of meat. The deer were hunted in two ways. Some of the men preferred making drives for the deer and some liked fire-hunting. In the drive a pack of dogs were led into a small territory where the deer were known to stay. One of the men would take the dogs in to start the deer and the others would take stands at points where the deer usually ran out. The deer usually followed one of several paths in leaving the drive. This habit of the deer made the hunters' success more certain. In making a drive the men generally rode favorite ponies that had been trained for driving. The fire-hunt was a milder form of sport than the drive, but it was also more productive of meat. In fire-hunting the hunters used a fire pan which resembled a modern frying pan except the handle was much longer than that of the frying pan. Pine knots were used for fuel. Usually two men hunted together. One held the fire pan and shined the deer's eyes while the other one shot the deer. Sometimes the hunters would kill a cow or some other animal by mistake, but the experienced fire-hunters could distinguish the eyes of the various animals.

In addition to the types of recreation described above the pioneers had dances, parties, singings, and weddings that provided entertainment for the young people. During this period practically every one went to church. The camp meetings of the summer were well attended. People would go miles in ox-wagons and camp for a few days in order to hear the series of sermons

delivered by some favorite minister.²²

²²Vaughn, J. H., Lufkin, Texas, Interview, December, 1933.

The pioneer farmer grew corn, potatoes, sugar cane and other food crops. The corn was used chiefly for bread because the pioneers did not feed their stock regularly. The sugar cane was grown for both syrup and sugar. The syrup and sugar was cooked in large iron kettles that would hold fifty gallons or more. The making of syrup was not so difficult as the making of sugar. In making sugar the cane juice was boiled to the sugar stage. The farmer tested it with his eye by dripping a little of the boiling syrup from the skimmer. After the juice was cooked to the "sugar-boil", it was poured into large barrels that had been prepared for the sugar. The sugar barrels had holes bored in the bottoms and were set on a large drain board that had grooves cut in it so the drippings or molasses could be run into a container and saved. A deep layer of the crushed cane stalks was placed in the barrel into which the sugar was poured. The cane stalks provided a drain for the dripping sugar. After the sugar had dripped sufficiently, it was taken out and rolled with a rolling pin to make the grains finer. After being rolled it was stored in barrels.²³

²³Davis, R. L., Lufkin, Texas, Interview, June, 1934.

The farmers grew cotton for the home loom and for the market, but the difficulty of getting it to market made the farmer indifferent about growing it. During the forties the farmers hauled their cotton to Shreveport in ox-wagons, a distance of one hundred and twenty-five miles, or built rafts on the rivers and floated it down the rivers to Beaumont. When they reached Beaumont, they got little tug boats to tow the rafts on to Sabine Pass because the rafts could not be floated any farther than the tidewater. At Sabine Pass the cotton was loaded on ocean-going vessels and carried to Galveston or to New Orleans. The rafts were used for floating cotton down the rivers until the seventies and ox-wagons were used for hauling cotton and for freighting until the railroads were established. The freight rates by ox-wagons were generally fifty cents a hundred from Shreveport. Cattle raising was carried on with the farming and was the chief source of income because cattle could be raised cheaply and with a small amount of labor. The cattle could be sold at a fair price and the buyers took them at the pens. However, the young men were often hired by the drovers to help drive the cattle to the northern markets.²⁴

²⁴Herrington, J. C., Huntington, Interview.

The pioneer settlers hardly knew what schools were. For

a long time the county made no provisions for schools and the communities made very little. The first schoolhouse mentioned in the records was in the J. F. Renfro neighborhood. This house was designated as the place for holding the election July 10, 1848, in precinct No. 3. There was no description of the house, but it was very likely a loghouse that had been built by the community.

Mr. John Colwell who was born in the county in 1849, describes the school that he attended as follows: the house was a log cabin put up by the community with split-log benches, no doors, and the ends not gabled. The school was a subscription school taught by an Irishman who was paid in farm products. Drinking water was carried from a branch about two hundred yards from the schoolhouse. Each community had a similar school building that served for both school and church purposes. The two or three months free school in winter was often supplemented by a subscription school during July and August.²⁵ In

²⁵ Brookshire, J. P., Lufkin, Texas; Colwell, John, Zavala, Interviews, January, 1934.

1859 one of the poorest schools received \$48.50 from the public school fund and one of the best received \$144.00.

The first grist mills and gins owned by the pioneers were horse-mills that may have been adequate for grinding corn, but

were a poor means for ginning cotton. The best of these mills ginned only three or four bales of cotton a day. The horse-mill was replaced by a small steam mill that ginned six or eight bales a day. The steam-mill had a small upright boiler that set up on legs, and water was supplied by means of a barrel. The water was carried by hand from some nearby source. The engine was often fired with cotton seed that had been left at the mill. In those days the farmers rarely ever hauled all of their cotton seed home because they could not sell them and did not want them for stock feed. The cotton presses were home-made and had no facilities for getting the cotton from the gin to the press. This made it necessary to carry the cotton by hand from the gin to the press.²⁶

²⁶Herrington, J. C., Huntington, Texas, Interview, January, 1934.

In 1852 regular steamboat lines were established on the Neches and Angelina rivers and boats were operated until after the Civil War. The average yearly run-off of the Angelina River is 1,790,000 acre feet and the Neches River 1,650,000 acre feet; therefore the river boats were small and they were built for utility only. They were primarily freight carriers on which passengers were allowed passage at their own risk of inconvenience and discomfort. The light draft of the vessels

prevented luxurious features of construction and the sparse settlement along the rivers made them unnecessary. There was no gay life on the boats that plied the Neches and Angelina rivers because the transportation of products on these rivers was a seasonal task limited somewhat by the stages of the water in the rivers. Hence, the one purpose of the masters was to load and unload as quickly as possible. The capacity of the boats was measured in bales of cotton and ranged from three hundred bales to fourteen hundred bales. Captain Wiess says:

I have helped to wear out two steamboats on these rivers and I, myself, have run a four hundred bale boat as high up the Angelina River as Pattonia in Nacogdoches County and to Rockland on the Neches River. The steamer J. J. Warren carrying fourteen hundred bales of cotton ran as high up the Angelina River as Townsend's Bluff in the south end of San Augustine County and brought out cotton.

Captain W. E. Rogers and E. I. Kellie were navigators of the Neches River. Captain W. A. Fletcher, Wm. Wiess, Napoleon Wiess, Cave Johnson, and James Dalton belong to the later period of river steamboats.²⁷ The Steamer Laura, one of

²⁷ Stratton, Florence, The Story of Beaumont, 39-45.

the later boats, is the best known to the older people who lived near the Angelina River after the Civil War. Captain Smith and G. A. Medford helped run the steamer from Beaumont

to Pattonia during the late seventies and early eighties.²⁸

²⁸ Cochran, J. C., Lufkin, Texas, Interview, January, 1934.

Setting up a County Government

Angelina County was created by an act of the Legislature April 22, 1846. The important provisions of the act may be summarized as follows:

Section one established the boundaries of the county and named the county, Angelina.

Section two named William G. Lang, Henry Massengill, Wiley Colwell, Joseph Herrington, James A. Ewing, John Bowman, and John McAnally as a board of commissioners to locate a seat of justice for the county.

Section three provided for the location of the county site.

Section four named the county site, Marion.

Section five provided for the purchase or for the receiving by donation of land for county site purposes.²⁹

²⁹ Gammel, Laws of Texas, Vol. III, pp. 1540-1542.

Now that the county had been created and a Board of Com-

missioners had been appointed to carry out the terms of the legislative acts, the constructive work of organizing it devolved on the commissioners. The work of organization must have been a tremendous task with their means of communication and a population of approximately one thousand Texans scattered all over the county, but principally along the Angelina river. Judging from their signatures in the Deed Records and other records the writer concludes that only five of the commissioners served. These were William G. Lang, Henry Massengill, Joseph Herrington, James L. Ewing, and John Bowman.³⁰

³⁰ Commissioners Court Record, Lufkin, Angelina County, Texas, Book A, p. 37.

The first duty of the commissioners as set forth in section number 3 of the act was to select a site for the seat of justice. In pursuance of this duty the commissioners selected Moses Bluff on the Angelina River as the center point, north and south, on said river and Dunagan as the center of the county. An election was held February 3, 1847, to select one of these sites as the seat of justice. For some reason only twenty-eight votes were cast. The river site received twenty-six and Dunagan only two. As was frequently the case in elections, some dissatisfaction was expressed and a second election

was held April 3, 1847. This time a little more interest was expressed by an increase in the number of votes polled. The river site received thirty-seven and Dunagan two. As a result of this election the river site was declared the official county seat and named Marion, as provided for in section number 4 of the legislative act.³¹

³¹ Commissioners Court Record, Lufkin, Angelina County, Texas, Book A, p. 37.

On July 13, 1846, the first election was held in the county for the purpose of electing county officers.³² On

³² Register of State and County Officers, State Library, Austin, Texas, No. 258, p. 19.

Friday, July 31, 1846, the newly elected officers assembled at the home of A. C. Caldwell at Shawnee Prairie for the purpose of taking the required oaths of office and making bonds before assuming their respective duties as officers of the county. W. W. Winfield, chief justice of Nacogdoches County, administered the oath of office to Joseph Herrington, chief justice elect of Angelina County. After having been sworn in, Joseph Herrington administered the oath of office to the following officers: A. C. Caldwell, county clerk, John D. Gann, district

clerk, Thomas B. Windham, probate judge, G. W. T. Collins, sheriff, Squire Brown, assessor and collector of taxes, John D. Windham, Thomas Crawford, John Evans, and Francis Hill, commissioners, Otto Sickenberger, coroner, Nathan W. Gann, constable, beat number 1, H. A. P. Berry, constable, beat number 2, and S. L. Shofner, constable, beat number 3.³³

³³Commissioners Court Record, Book A, pp. 1-3.

The county site was not established until April 3, 1847; therefore the county officers had to use their own homes as offices and hold court in the home of some settler until the county site was located. The first term of the commissioners court met at the home of James W. Bridges October 12, 1846, and thereafter at the home of Isaac Dunagan until April 12, 1847, when, at this time, the court convened at Marion which had been elected as the seat of justice on April 4.³⁴ The first term of

³⁴Commissioners Court Record, Book A, pp. 3-10.

district court convened at the home of Isaac Dunagan, but the second term was held at Marion under a large tree where a pine log served as a bench for the jury. The first case brought before the court at Marion is said to have been a case of hog

theft. The ears of the stolen hogs, which had been preserved as evidence in the case, were carried in and laid on the log. During the course of the trial a fight ensued. While the members of the court were occupied with the fight, some vigilant dogs took advantage of the disturbance and ate the "evidence", thereby bringing the trial to a close.³⁵

³⁵Will Evans and W. J. Townsend, Interview, January, 1934.

On June 7, 1847, a new building was rented from J. F. Richardson at three dollars a month to be used as offices and court room until a courthouse could be built. The following month, July 22, the county contracted with John Evans to build a two-story, log courthouse for \$700. The building was thirty-six feet long and twenty-four feet wide. The walls of the first story were ten feet high and the second eight. Plank partitions divided the first floor into one large room, twenty-four feet square, and the second story had two plank partitions so placed as to make three rooms of equal size. The building was covered with 30-inch, red oak boards.³⁶

³⁶Commissioners Court Record, Book A, pp. 13, 17.

On September 25, 1847, J. C. Moses, who then resided in

San Augustine County, conveyed to the Board of Commissioners of Angelina County fifty-one acres of the Randolph M. Gilbert survey which was located on the west bank of the Angelina River. The only consideration for the transfer of the land was lot number 2 in block number 3 of the townsite of Marion.³⁷

³⁷Deed Records, Lufkin, Angelina County, Texas, Book A, pp. 122-123.

The records indicate that the town was located and platted on this tract of land before the transfer of titles had been consummated. This seems to be the only land that the county acquired for the town site of Marion. The lots were sold and the proceeds used for public buildings.

A second courthouse was built at Marion in 1849. This was a two-story frame building thirty feet long and twenty feet wide and was constructed on the same plan as the first. On January 1, 1849, the commissioners court made a contract with John Aldridge to build this courthouse for \$500 and to complete it by June 1. He had to ask for an extension of time which was granted on condition that he pay rent on the courthouse from June 1 to November 1.³⁸

³⁸Commissioners Court Record, Book A, p. 88.

There is no record of a jail having been built at Marion. There are no entries of a plan for a jail, a contract, or cost for building and maintaining a jail, but there are entries for small sums of money that were paid for the guarding and boarding of prisoners.

The first work of the commissioners court was to make provisions for financing the county government. During the October term of court in 1846, the commissioners levied property and occupation taxes, equal to one-fourth of the state taxes, on all properties and vocations subject to state taxes.³⁹

³⁹Commissioners Court Record, Book A, pp. 3-4.

The court had also to establish a system of public roads for the county. The roads that had been maintained by Nacogdoches as public roads were re-established and some new ones were established. Road districts were laid out and overseers were appointed to supervise the work on the roads.

There were no bridges on the creeks and rivers until after 1870. The creeks could be forded most of the year, but it was necessary to provide some means for crossing the rivers. Ferries were established on the rivers at the most important road crossings. The ferrymen were required to pay licenses ranging from six to thirty dollars and make bonds of \$5,000 each. The rates of toll were fixed by the commissioners court

in 1846 as follows:

Footman 5¢;
 Man and horse 10¢;
 Two oxen and cart 30¢;
 Two oxen and wagon 40¢;
 Four oxen and wagon 50¢;
 Loose stock of all kinds 3¢.

If the water was high the ferrymen could charge double these rates. All of the ferry boats were owned by individuals except the one at Marion. In November, 1850, the court made a contract with Ashburn Davis to build a ferry boat for the county to be used on the Angelina River at Marion. The boat was fifty feet long and ten feet wide, with gunwales twenty inches deep. The boat was completed by February, 1851, and leased to Jesse Bruce who was the highest bidder. Bruce paid an annual lease of \$136.60 and was given the right to charge the regular rates of toll. The ferries were used until bridges were built. The first river bridge was built across the Neches River at Bonner ferry in 1894. In the summer of 1897 the Angelina River was bridged at Brown's Ferry and at Worden's Ferry in the autumn. In 1870 the commissioners court levied a road tax of one-eighth of one per cent on all taxable property for the upkeep of public roads and to build bridges in the county for the year 1871. The first bridges to be built on the creeks were contracted in July, 1872, and completed in the spring of 1873. Buck Creek

was bridged on the Homer-Jonesville road, Biloxi on the Homer-Rocky Crossing road, and Shawnee on the Homer-Jasper road. From this date bridges on the creeks were constructed rather rapidly.⁴⁰

⁴⁰ Commissioners Court Record, Book A, pp. 7-11, 27, Book C, p. 398.

The county had to have a sketch of all the lands belonging to it before it could survey, sell, or transfer its lands successfully. On May 29, 1848, William G. Lang was appointed to go to the surveyor's office at the town of Nacogdoches and make a sketch of all the lands belonging to Angelina County as they appeared on the district map and also to take a copy of the field notes of the county. As soon as Lang completed this work, he was appointed county surveyor and he assumed the duties of this office January 1, 1849.⁴¹

⁴¹ Commissioners Court Record, Book A, p. 42.

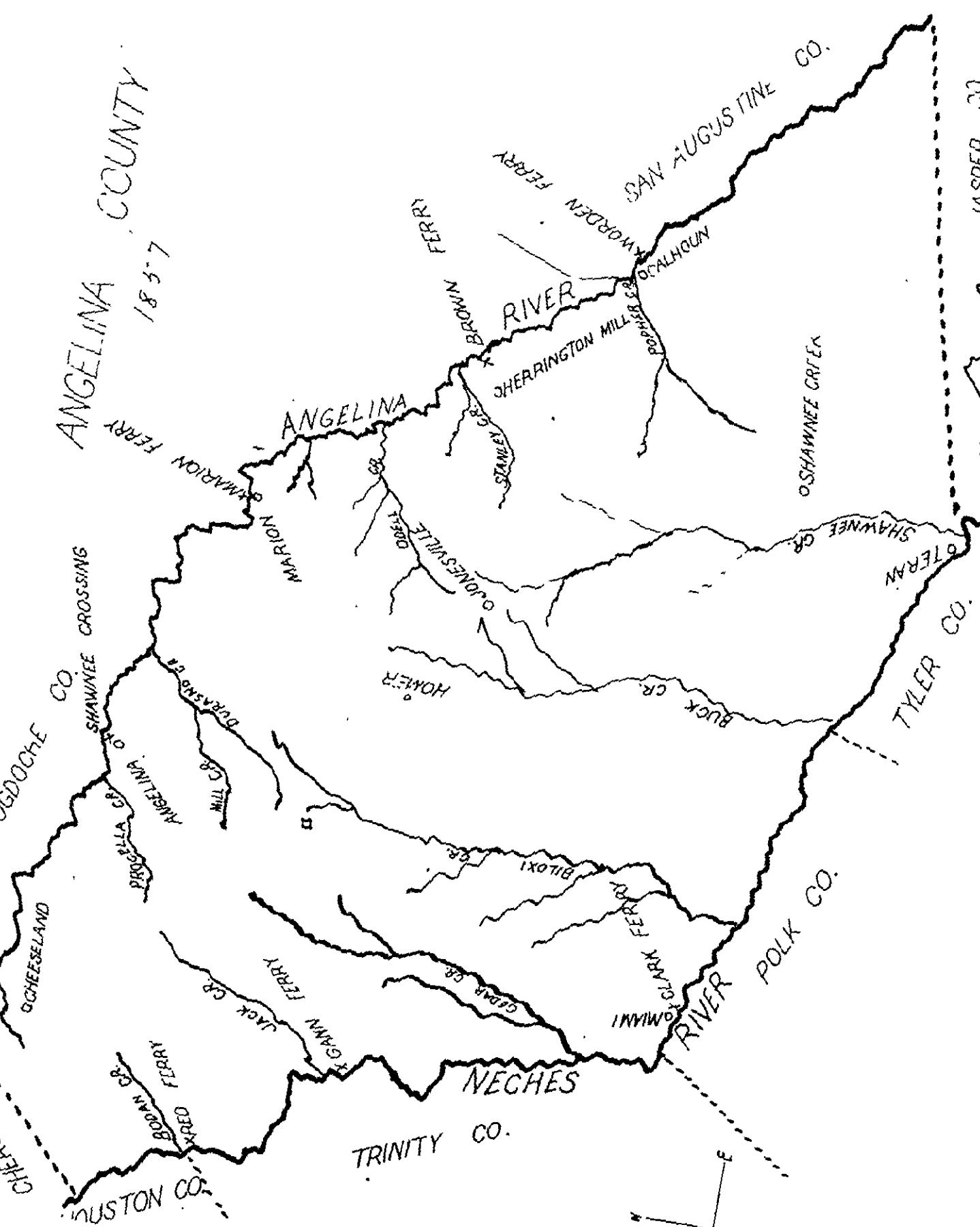
Very little was done for the schools of the county until about 1900, but the first definite step toward establishing a system of free schools was taken in 1854. In pursuance of an act to establish a system of public schools the county was divided into three districts. District number 1 included all

of the territory north of a line drawn from the mouth of Durasno Creek on the Angelina River to the mouth of Cedar Creek on the Neches River. District number 2 included the territory south of a line drawn from the mouth of Stanley Creek on the Angelina River, along the creek to the river road, thence across to the Old Shawnee Prairie Road, and thence to the mouth of Buck Creek on the Neches River. District number 3 included all of the territory between districts number 1 and number 2. A petition was presented at the August term of court by J. B. Cochran, William Herrington, and Joseph Herrington for a smaller and more convenient district to be cut out of the northern part of district number 2. This petition was granted and the court redistricted the entire county making sixteen districts instead of three.⁴²

⁴²Commissioners Court Record, Book A, p. 223, Book B, pp. 8-10.

In August, 1857, William Hudson was appointed to locate and survey the four leagues of land appropriated to the county as a school fund by a legislative act passed June 16, 1854. G. H. Martin, E. Finley, and W. L. Denman were appointed in 1858 as a board of school examiners who on application examined all persons proposing to teach school in the county. A poll tax of one dollar was levied December 1, 1870, for the support of public free schools. In 1860 the county provided a tuition of one

ANGELINA COUNTY
1837



dollar and fifty cents for the orphan and indigent children of the county.⁴³

⁴³Commissioners Court Record, Book B, p. 130, Book C, p. 356.

The Chief Centers of Population..

The county sites were the chief centers of population until about 1890, but there were several little villages that mark the centers of population and important river crossings. The earliest of these were Calhoun, Herrington Mill, Cane Hill, Cheeseland, Wilmoth, Bradley, Shawnee Creek, and Miami. The description of Miami will give an idea of the type of village that was found in the early days. Miami or Neches City was a little village located on the Neches River at Clark's Ferry. This village which was established by the pioneer settlers is shown on the maps of Texas as early as 1857. In 1882 F. H. Robinson, editor of the county paper, describes the village as follows:

This place (Miami) is commonly known as Clark's Ferry, but is designated on the railroad maps as "Neches City." It is situated on the east bank of the Neches River at Clark's Ferry. The place is also known as Miami, that being the name given the postoffice established there. It is the present terminus of the H. E. & W. T. Railway. There is only one drygoods and grocery establishment, Shindler & Chambers, which has a drinking saloon attached. Another saloon owned by J. W. Chancy and a hotel owned by Mr. Chambers constitute the business enterprises of the

place.⁴³

⁴³Robinson, F. H., The Banner, Homer, Texas, August 4, 1882.

The first county site was located at Marion on the west bank of the Angelina River, about twelve miles east of Lufkin, the present county site. At the present time Charlie Moorehead resides on the old townsite of Marion and is using the land for farm purposes. In the beginning the town consisted of a few log houses and a two-story log courthouse, but in a short time a few frame buildings, a general merchandise store, drugstore, blacksmith, and a two-story courthouse were erected. The town was small and its population was composed chiefly of the county officers and the few people who had business establishments in town. When the county site was moved the greater part of the population moved with it because there were no industries to support a town, and the best location for trade was at the county site. Marion deserves mention as a town only because it was the first county site and it was one of the earliest centers of population. At the time the county was organized it was the natural location for the seat of government because the people looked toward the rivers as the principal means of transportation, and the majority of the people lived on the Angelina River

slope.⁴⁴

⁴⁴Townsend, J. W., Lufkin, Texas, Interview, January, 1934.

After the county site had been at Marion eight years or more an agitation was begun for moving it from Marion to the geographical center. Marion was located on the eastern edge of the county and was inconvenient for the people living near the Neches River. The movement for the change was due perhaps to the growth of the population of the Neches River slope. Some of the people desiring the change succeeded in getting the Legislature to pass an act, February 11, 1854, providing for an election to be held the first Monday in June, 1854, for electing a permanent county site. The Legislature appointed Francis Hill, W. L. Denman, H. Parker, Joel Hill, and M. Jones as town commissioners to lay out, sell, and transfer town lots and to receive a suitable building for court purposes.⁴⁵

⁴⁵Gammel, Laws of Texas, Vol. III, pp. 1540-1542.

There were only two sites, Marion and Jonesville, nominated to be considered by the voters in the June election. Jonesville received 116 votes and Marion 39. Jonesville had been chosen as the geographical center of the county and it was

located four miles south of the present town of Huntington on Highway number 40. For some reason Jonesville was not a well chosen site. The records indicate that it was not generally accepted as a permanent county site because no provisions were made for public buildings except to rent a house for court purposes. The records show neither a plan nor a contract for a courthouse or jail at Jonesville. The town commissioners employed William G. Lang to survey the town and lay out the lots. This seems to have been the only step taken to establish a permanent county site. On August 11, 1856, the Legislature passed another act providing for an election to be held the first Tuesday in November, 1856, for the permanent location of the seat of government.⁴⁶ The candidates for this election were

⁴⁶Gammel, Laws of Texas, Vol. III, pp. 466-467.

Jonesville and Homer. When the election returns were examined, they were found illegal and rejected by the court. This caused the Chief Justice to order another election to be held December 4, 1856, at which time Jonesville received a majority in the first count of the votes, but a second count was ordered. The second count showed that Homer had received a majority vote. After some wrangling the county site was moved to Homer.⁴⁷

⁴⁷Commissioners Court Record, Book B, pp. 95, 122, 147.

The dispute between Homer and Jonesville caused the Legislature to pass the following act February 3, 1858:

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas that the first Monday in May, 1858, be fixed as the day for holding an election in the county of Angelina for the election of a suitable and permanent location for the seat of justice in said county.

Section 2. Election returns shall be opened on May 17, 1858, compared, and the result declared in open court. The place selected, whether it be Jonesville or Homer, shall thereafter be called Angelina. Should Homer be elected, then, and in that case, the acts of Joel Hill, W. W. Manning, William Gann, and Thomas Crawford as commissioners in laying out disposing of the tract of land on which Homer is located, under the act of August 11, 1856, be and are hereby legalized and declared valid.

Section 3. Be it further enacted that until the permanent location of the seat of justice is selected as herein provided, the county site shall be at Homer.⁴⁸

⁴⁸Gammel, Laws of Texas, Vol. IV, p. 974.

In the election of May 10, 1858, Homer received 221 votes and Jonesville 130. On May 31, 1858, Homer was declared the county site and named Angelina as provided for in section 2 of the above legislative act.⁴⁹ Although Homer was official-

⁴⁹Commissioners Court Record, Book B, p. 150.

ly named Angelina, the name did not live. The town was referred to as Angelina in all official records from the recording

of the above declaration until 1862, when it was changed officially to Homer.

As soon as Homer was declared the county site, the officers took steps to secure a patent for the town site and to provide public buildings. The legislative act of August 11, 1856, had provided for an appropriation of 640 acres of land for a county site on condition that it be located within five miles of the geographical center of the county on unappropriated lands. Now that these conditions had been met at Homer, the town commissioners employed William G. Lang to survey and lay out the town site so that the field notes could be returned and the patent issued. On June 15, 1858, a contract was made with Samuel Mantooth for moving the courthouse from Marion to Homer. In September W. J. Largent, J. J. Aldridge, and W. L. Denman were appointed as a committee to draft a plan for a county jail. On September 29, 1858, the committee submitted a plan which was accepted. A study of the plan reveals a lack of consideration for the health and comfort of the prisoners, particularly in the provision for air in the dungeons. It also shows the class of materials used in the buildings of this period and the extravagant use of the native timber as well as the amount of labor expended and the small returns for hard labor. The plan is so expressive of the time that it seems best to give it in full. It is recorded as follows:

Art. 1. Lower floor shall be laid by digging a pit in the ground twenty-four inches deep. The first tier of

the foundation to be laid of post oak hewed twelve inches square.

Art. 2. A second floor of timbers may be laid of good heart pine directly across the first floor or foundation, to be hewn twelve inches square, each floor of hewn timbers to be sufficiently long to place the outer wall B on each floor or foundation timbers, to be laid sufficiently close so that in no one place betwixt timbers there be not more than one inch space.

Art. 3. On the top of said upper timbers of said lower floor there shall be placed a covering or floor of two-inch plank (oak if to be got) twelve inches wide, the full length of inner wall, or walls, sufficiently close, said floor to be secured in the following manner:

Floor shall be laid off in squares of four inches each and at each corner of four-inch square shall be a 20d nail and at each inch square in the four-inch square shall be a 10d nail, except where middle wall or walls cross the floor.

Art. 4. Inner wall or wall A shall be of timbers hewn twelve inches square of heart pine twenty feet long, notched sufficiently close to admit of not more than one-inch space at any place, said inner wall or wall A shall be nine feet high and sealed with two-inch plank standing erect, spiked or nailed in the same manner or form as the covering on floor of the foundation or D. The ceiling of said wall shall reach from the lower floor to lower side of floor number 2.

Art. 5. The outside wall or wall B shall be of hewn timbers twelve inches square of heart pine, twenty-three feet long, notched sufficiently with dove-tail, so as to admit of not more than one-half inch between timbers, said outside wall or wall B to be set six inches from wall A and built nine feet high as wall A.

Art. 6. Top line or six-inch space to be filled with pine or oak poles nine feet long, said poles to stand erect and be placed in such a manner as to touch each other all around the outside of inner wall and the inside of outer wall, said poles to have bark taken off.

Art. 7. The second floor shall be laid of timbers hewn ten-inches square, of heart pine, the full length of twenty-three feet, to be placed on said inner and outer

walls at the termination of said nine feet of said inner and outer walls, said timbers to be placed sufficiently close to form as small a space between joints may not exceed one inch in no one joint.

Art. 8. The outside wall or wall B shall be a single wall built of timbers twelve inches square, hewn of heart pine, said wall to be eight feet high, the timbers to be notched in like manner walls below said second floor.

Art. 9. At the above named eight feet, there shall be a third covering or floor to be placed in like manner as that of the second floor to be hewn timbers ten-inches square of heart pine.

Art. 10. On each end of the said third floor shall be placed a plate of hewn timbers eight-inches square for rafters to be set on said plate to be pinned through at each end of said timbers with two-inch pins to extend through said plate four inches.

Art. 11. The rafters to be placed two feet apart from center to center and shall be secured at the foot of each with two sufficient spikes or nails.

Art. 12. The said rafters shall be lathed over in such manner as to admit a covering as is hereinafter mentioned.

Art. 13. The covering of said building shall be of boards three-feet long to be placed in such a manner as to show ten inches, said boards to be of heart pine.

Art. 14. There shall be end plates placed under the rafter plates at each for studdings, the gable ends shall be of seven-inch weatherboarding of heart pine, outside dressed.

Art. 15. There shall be three sets of lights in each lower cell one in the center of each end and one in the center of each side except in the end next the courthouse and one under the staircase.

Art. 16. Each window shall in no case admit more than ten square inches of light, the lower edge of said light to be five feet from the level of the lower floor.

Art. 17. Each window shall be let into rabbeting sufficiently deep to cover one-half inch bars, two inches

wide, each of said two-inch iron bars shall be secured by spikes.

Art. 18. The above named iron bars shall have at every two inches an iron bar one inch square through the two inch bar, each of the one inch bar shall cross at right angle and brad at each end.

Art. 19. The above grating shall be placed on the outside edge of the inside wall.

Art. 20. The door of said jail shall be placed to enter said jail on the second floor directly over the middle wall in the end facing the courthouse.

Art. 21. The door shall be six feet high, three feet, six inches wide.

Art. 22. The door shutters shall be built of two-inch plank crossing directly, spiked in the same manner as the covering of the lower floor, said door shutters shall be spiked and nailed in like manner on either side, one to open to the right, the other to the left, one to be hung on the inside and the other on the outside.

Art. 23. The manner of swinging said door shutters shall be as follows: There shall be three large door hinges twenty-four inches long, three inches wide, one-half inch thick rabbeted into the outside of said door shutter even or level with the outside plank and said hinge shall be spiked with spikes sufficiently long to go through the said shutter and clinch.

Art. 24. The lock shall be placed on said shutter by placing said lock between the plank in such a manner as to admit the bolt of lock to extend into the facing the full length when sprung.

Art. 25. On the facing of said door shall be a plate of iron one-half inch thick, six inches square, with a hole through the center to admit the lock, said iron plate to be level with the facing and secured by sufficient spikes at each corner.

Art. 26. There shall be steps running from the foundation on the end of said building fronting courthouse so as to admit entrance through the door on the second floor, said steps shall be lasting timbers, attached to said steps shall be a platform eight feet square, level with the

top of the second floor, with a railing around two sides, said steps and platform shall be secured from injuring by covering in the same manner as the roof of said building.

Art. 27. There shall be a trap door in each dungeon through the second floor, the door twenty-four inches square to be built and spiked as door shutters, said trap door shall be secured by two hinges two inches wide and twenty inches long, spiked with five spikes to each hinge. The hinge shall be secured with an iron rod one inch thick, with sufficient staples at each end. There shall be to each trap door an iron bar two inches wide and twenty inches long, with a hole three inches long and one inch wide, the staple for said trap to reach through the timbers of the floor and clinch, said staple shall be sufficiently high above the bar to admit of a sufficient padlock to hold same.⁵⁰

⁵⁰Commissioners Court Record, Book B, pp. 208-211.

On February 21, 1859, J. M. Stovall and G. W. Perkins contracted to build this jail within twelve months for \$470. This was the first jail to be built in the county and it was used until the courthouse burned in 1891. The two dungeons on the first floor were for keeping prisoners and the second floor was used for offices.⁵¹

⁵¹Davis, R. L., Lufkin, Texas, Interview, June, 1934.

On November 23, 1859, Judge Guinn, Thomas B. Windham, W. W. Wheeler, Thomas Denman, Thomas Crawford, Cal Fisher, John M. Stovall, Jack Davis, G. B. Stark, and John D. Gann were

appointed as a committee to consider the relative cost of a brick court house, fifty feet square and twenty-eight feet high and a frame building of the same dimensions. They submitted a plan for a brick building sixty feet long, fifty feet wide, and twenty-eight feet high. The plan was accepted and the building was contracted to J. B. Stark, in January of 1861, for \$5,250, and Stark was required to give a bond of \$20,000. The contract was transferred from J. B. Stark to J. W. Chapman and William Davenport of Rusk County, May 30, 1861. These contractors had erected only the wall of the building when the work was stopped on account of the Civil War. The building was never completed. The walls stood for several years after the close of the war, but were finally torn down and the brick was sold for other purposes. After the plan for the completion of the brick building was rejected in 1873, a two-story frame building fifty-six feet square was erected for a courthouse. This building was destroyed by fire in 1891 shortly before the county site was moved to Lufkin.

Although Homer was the county site for thirty-four years, it was only a small inland trade center with a population of about six hundred. When the Houston East and West Texas Railway crossed the county six miles west of Homer in 1882, it determined the future of Homer. As soon as the railway station was established at Lufkin six miles northwest of Homer, the people saw the advantages that the railroad center offered.

As early as 1885 an attempt was made to move the county site to Lufkin. In the election of May 9, 1885, Homer received 532 votes and Lufkin 247. On January 2, 1892, a second election was held. In this election Homer received 436 votes and Lufkin 1076. There were two reasons for the voters of the county favoring Lufkin as a county site at this time. Lufkin with its railway facilities was a better market for the farmers. After the courthouse at Homer burned, the business men of Lufkin offered to build a courthouse if the voters of the county would move the county seat of government to their town. When this was done, most of the merchants, lawyers, and physicians followed and Homer was soon reduced to a little country store and post-office.⁵²

⁵² Election Returns, Lufkin, Angelina County, Texas, Book 2, Commissioners Court Record, Lufkin, Angelina County, Texas, Book F, p. 122.

The Civil War Period

Texas seceded from the Union in February, 1861, and was admitted to the Confederacy by an act of Congress March 1, 1861. Secession was not favored by the majority of the voters of Angelina County. The election returns of February 3, 1861, show that there were 184 votes cast against secession and 139

for it.⁵³ Soon after Texas was admitted to the Confederacy a

⁵³Winkler, E. W., Journals of the Secession Convention of Texas, p. 88.

call came for three thousand troops and a little later a second call for five thousand. In order to secure proper enlistment the Legislature of Texas divided the State into thirty-three brigade districts. In each district all able-bodied men between the ages of eighteen and fifty years, with necessary exceptions, were to be enrolled in companies subject to the call of the Confederate Government.⁵⁴

⁵⁴Ramsdell, Charles W., Reconstruction in Texas, pp. 21-22.

Although the majority vote of Angelina County was against secession, there was a good enlistment in response to the call for volunteers. In September, 1861, the county organized a company for Civil War service. This company was organized as Company D of the 7th Texas Cavalry. It was mustered into service at San Antonio and designated as the Third Regiment of General Sibley's Brigade and afterwards became known as Tom Green's Brigade. For a list of the names of the men who served in this company see the muster roll of Company D in the appendix,

page 220.⁵⁵ This is not a complete list of the Civil War

⁵⁵Rush, C. A., "Clipping from a newspaper"; Kurth Memorial Library, Lufkin, Texas.

veterans of the county, but only a list of Company D. There were many men enrolled after this company was organized and there may have been some volunteers before.

The Confederate Conscript Law of April 16, 1862, brought into active service, immediately, all able-bodied men between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five years for three years or for the length of the war. This age limit was extended again and again until the State was almost drained of men.⁵⁶

⁵⁶Ramsdell, Charles W., Reconstruction in Texas, pp. 21-22.

Before entering the war Angelina County had a white male population of 466 between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, 124 over forty-five, and 606 under eighteen.⁵⁷ This number of

⁵⁷Texas Almanac, 1859, p. 208.

men perhaps provided five hundred or more men for actual army service.

Some relief work was carried on during the war in order to lessen the suffering of the destitute families of the soldiers. In January, 1862, a county tax of twenty-five cents on one hundred dollars was levied for the support of the destitute families of soldiers, widows, and orphans. In 1864 this tax was raised to one dollar. In 1863 the county issued scrip amounting to \$4,000 for relief purposes and it also collected corn which was distributed among the destitute families. The State of Texas appropriated a sum of money which was apportioned among the counties for relief purposes. Angelina County received \$5,648.86 in state treasury warrants October 3, 1864.⁵⁸

⁵⁸ Commissioners Court Record, Lufkin, Angelina County, Texas, Book C, pp. 58, 99, 101, 163.

The Civil War caused the people of Angelina County to have to undergo many hardships in addition to the actual service on the battle field. The coast of Texas was soon blockaded so that the crops could not be marketed. Certain kinds of supplies could not be bought, prices rose high, and taxes were heavy. During 1864 the tithe of the cotton taken by the Confederacy was increased to one-fifth and then to one-half. Military authorities impressed beef, corn, and other supplies for

the army and paid for them in worthless certificates.⁵⁹ The

⁵⁹Ramsdell, Charles W., Reconstruction in Texas, 21-22.

people of Angelina County who experienced Civil War hardships emphasize the worthless Confederate money and the lack of coffee and flour. Some wheat was grown to supply flour, and various things were substituted for coffee. The most common substitutes were potatoes, beans, and corn which were parched and ground and used as coffee.⁶⁰

⁶⁰Russell, W. D., Huntington, Texas; Davis, R. L., Lufkin, Texas, Interview, January, 1934.

The Civil War was followed by the period of reconstruction which, in some way, affected all of Texas. On June 19, 1865, General Granger, of the United States Army, took command of Texas. Upon his arrival at Galveston he issued orders that until the arrival of the treasury agents all cotton should be turned over to the quartermaster's department for shipment to New Orleans or New York. About a month later the treasury agents arrived, but they did not help the cotton situation. These agents had constant opportunities to defraud and speculate with little danger of being punished. In a short time the cotton

market was so badly paralyzed that the planters were unable to sell their cotton.⁶¹ The mismanagement of the cotton

⁶¹Ramsdell, Charles W., Reconstruction in Texas, pp. 21-22.

market seems to have been the chief evil of reconstruction that Angelina County had to bear. All of the county officers were removed by the reconstruction officers, but local men were appointed to fill all of the offices. These men who were appointed perhaps served as well as the men who had been elected.⁶² There were no Federal troops stationed in Angelina

⁶²Official Bond Record, Lufkin, Angelina County, Texas, Book B, pp. 1-15.

County.⁶³ The nearest Federal troops were stationed at

⁶³Texas Almanac, 1867, p. 64.

Nacogdoches. Occasionally a Federal soldier would come over to Homer, the county site, but such visits did not seem to

influence the management of the county's affairs.⁶⁴

⁶⁴Russell, W. D., Huntington, Texas, Interview, January, 1934.

Another problem that was caused by the Civil War was the freed slaves. There were about five hundred slaves in Angelina County when they were freed. The negroes gave no trouble after being freed except they did not work well and the planters could not get white laborers to take their places.⁶⁵ No one

⁶⁵Texas Almanac, 1867, p. 64.

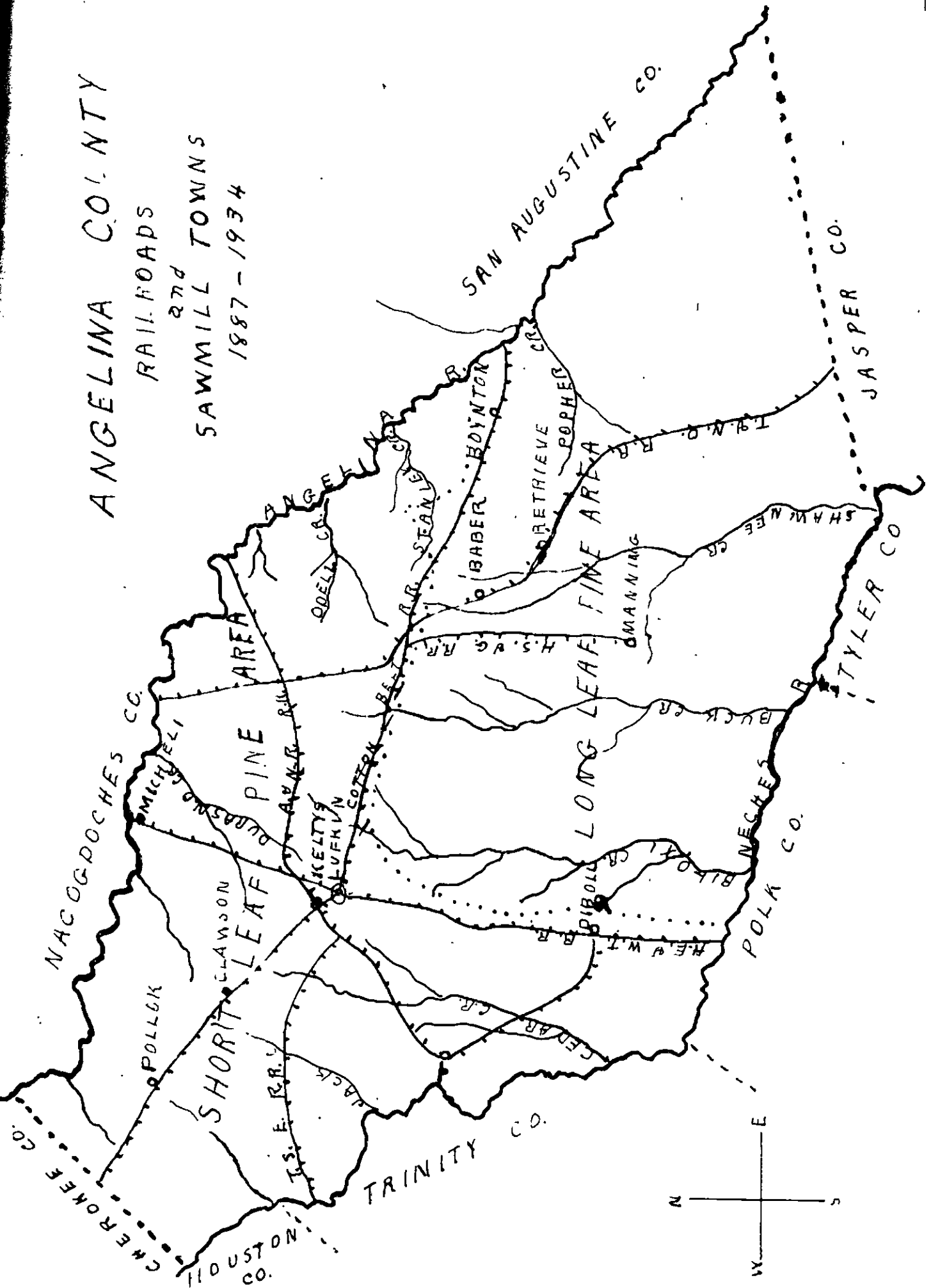
but the former masters were prepared to give them living quarters. For this reason most of the negroes remained with their former masters and became renters until the "Kansas Exodus" which almost cleared the county of negroes. Some of the negroes became vagabonds and wandered here and there, but even these committed few crimes. Stealing was the common crime and this was caused from hunger rather than a desire to do wrong. About the time the negroes had become settled a "white-collared" fellow came in from the North seeking immigrants for Kansas. He promised the negroes one hundred and sixty acres of land, a mule, and a supply of food for one year if they would go to Kansas. The majority of them accepted his offer and started.

Some left in wagons, some on horseback, and some on foot. Almost all of them were able to get away, but only a few were able to return. The majority of those who returned wrote their former masters for money to pay their traveling expenses back home.⁶⁶

⁶⁶Ewing, James A., now of Houston, Texas; Russell, W. D., Huntington, Texas, Interviews, January, 1934.

ANGELINA COUNTY

RAILROADS
27d
SAWMILL TOWNS
1887 - 1934



CHAPTER III.

LUMBERING IN ANGELINA COUNTY

Timber Resources

The greatest natural wealth of Angelina County was its abundant growth of merchantable timber. In 1890 it was estimated that Angelina County had a crop of merchantable long-leaf pine amounting to 1,340,800,000 feet and 1,190,400,000 feet of short-leaf pine.¹ All of the timber lands carried a stand of

¹Thompson, D. W., Keltys, Texas, Interview, July, 1934.
Texas Almanac, 1904, p. 204.

pine timber of not less than 8,000 feet per acre and many lands carried a stand of 18,000 feet to 22,000 feet per acre.²

²Kirby, John Henry, Houston, Texas, Interview, February, 1934.

In addition to the pine there was a stand of valuable hardwood amounting to five hundred million feet or more. The hardwood was interspersed with the short-leaf and loblolly pine. The actual stand of hardwood, perhaps, outnumbered the short-leaf pine, but only a small per cent of the hardwood was merchantable timber. There were two reasons for this low per cent of

merchantable hardwood timber: (1) a great number of imperfect trees was present and (2) several kinds of hardwood trees were not used for lumber. Among the hardwoods not used for lumber the Texas red oak, the blackjack oak, and the post oak were outstanding. The Texas red oak and the post oak were very numerous and contributed to the industry of lumbering by providing a great supply of timber for cross-ties used in railway building. The merchantable hardwood timber consisted of white oak, overcup oak, cow oak, spotted oak, black oak, southern red oak, water oak, willow oak, live oak, red gum (sweet gum), black gum, beech, birch, locust, ash, magnolia, cypress, black walnut, red and sugar maple, willow, chinquapin, holly, cottonwood, sycamore, elm, cedar, hackberry, basswood (linden), china, tupelo gum, dogwood, persimmon, cherry, and hickory.³

³ Sayers, Scott, Ewing, Texas, Interview, July, 1934.
Henderson, John, Ewing, Texas, Interview, July, 1934.
Thompson, D. W., Keltys, Texas, Interview, July, 1934.

With the exception of a few small prairies, which had an approximate area of fifty square miles, the county was predominantly a large timber region. As previously stated, the county was divided into two areas by the lumbermen (see map). The long-leaf area which included the southern half of the county had a dense and almost pure stand of long-leaf pine. Some parts of this area carried a stand of 22,000 feet per acre.

The stand of long-leaf was pure except in the stream valleys and along the margin. The short-leaf area carried a dense stand of mixed timbers which included the hardwoods, the short-leaf and loblolly pines, and a few islands of long-leaf pine. Because of the nature of the wood the loblolly pine was classed by the lumbermen as short-leaf pine. The loblolly pine was a bottom land growth that occurs in both regions and also occurs as an old-field growth in the short-leaf area.

The timber varied in size. The short-leaf and loblolly pines approximated forty inches in diameter and twenty to eighty feet in merchantable length and scaled from 2500 to 4000 board feet. Some few of these pines had a diameter of more than six feet and scaled 6000 board feet. The long-leaf pine was not as large in diameter as the other varieties, but had longer trunks which made the scale run higher. The average long-leaf pine measured two to three feet in diameter and seventy to ninety feet merchantable length and scaled 2500 to 6500 board feet. Generally, the hardwoods were larger in diameter, but the trunks were short; therefore the scale did not run as high according to diameter as the pine. One red oak cut in the Angelina River bottom had a diameter of seventy-four inches at the stump and scaled only 1500 board feet merchantable length. At the same time a white oak was cut that measured seventy-two inches in diameter and scaled 2800 board feet. Many of the sweet gum, black gum, and cypress which commonly have longer

trunks than the oaks scaled from 2400 to 4200 board feet. Most of the trees running this high scale were more than six feet in diameter.

At the time Angelina County was organized this crop of valuable timber was looked upon as the greatest hindrance to the progress of the county because the best agricultural lands carried the heaviest stand of timber. Although the pioneers were dependent upon the timber supply for building materials and fencing as well as for fuel and an acorn crop to fatten the hogs for their yearly supply of bacon and shortening, they gave no thought to the conservation of timber. Great numbers of valuable trees were destroyed unnecessarily because the timber had no market value except that occasionally an order for a few ship timbers could be secured. These had to be floated down the rivers or carried on the small boats that navigated the rivers.

It seems that the pioneer settlers introduced no method of cutting lumber until after the county was organized and Marion was established as the county seat. In most of the homes could be found an ax, broadax, crosscut saw, frow, and hammer, whereas the men who were classed as carpenters owned in addition to the above tools an adz, augers of various sizes, a handsaw, chisels, a level, and planes such as the jack-plane, the smoothing plane, the compass plane, and the rabbet plane. The mauls and wedges were made of certain kinds of hardwood. Supplied with these tools the pioneers could build log houses, fences,

and curb the shallow dug wells, and make crude farm implements.

The First Steps of Lumber Manufacturing

The first and the crudest method of cutting lumber in the county was by means of a rip saw. This method required more labor than capital outlay. A strong frame was built of heavy timbers to hold the log while it was being sawed. The frame was high enough for a man to stand under it and work and it was constructed so the log could be lined up and the lumber gauged in order to secure a uniform thickness. The saw which was called a rip saw had a long narrow blade somewhat similar to our modern crosscut saw and it was operated by hand with one man standing beneath the log and one above. As the lumber was cut, it was stacked and dried in the open air. The lumber was sold in the rough and the purchaser or carpenter dressed it to suit his needs. This slow and laborious method of cutting lumber was resorted to mainly to obtain lumber for flooring, window and door shutters, and furniture. One of these crude plants which is said to be the first established in the county was located one and one-half miles from the town of Marion. A part if not all of the lumber used in the first log houses built at Marion was cut by this plant.⁴

⁴Ewing, James A., Houston, Texas, Interview, January, 1934.

Brookshire, P. J., Lufkin, Texas, Interview, 1934.

The next step in lumber manufacturing was the adding of a rig for a saw, usually a sash saw which worked perpendicularly, to a water mill. The water mill was a combination of a grist mill and a cotton gin propelled by the same water wheel. The first water mill was constructed about 1857. The use of water mills was hindered because the water for operation had to be impounded. Angelina County does not have the perpetual spring branches and creeks as are found in some of the adjoining counties, particularly Tyler and Jasper. The water had to be supplied by impounding the run-off during the rainy season. As the early settlers lacked our modern equipment for building surface ponds, they built dams across the streams. These dams were hard to construct and difficult to hold during the season of heaviest rainfall; therefore few such dams were built. It is said that Dick White owned the first water mill in the county. White's mill which was located near the Denman place north of Lufkin was a grist mill and cotton gin combined with a sash saw attached. It was located in the short-leaf pine area which was the chief agricultural section of the county. There was another water mill which was built and owned by Slater, four miles south of Zavalla. This mill was located in the long-leaf pine area and was one of the most important water mills in the county. The chief importance of the water mills is that they supplied rough lumber for local purposes and they mark a step in the

manufacture of lumber.⁵

⁵Vaughn, J. H., Route 5, Lufkin, Texas, Interview, 1934.
Russell, W. D., Route 1, Huntington, Texas, Interview,
1934.

It is agreed, generally, that steam sawmills were not introduced until after the Civil War. There were two steam sawmills in Angelina County in 1867. These mills were owned by W. W. Manning and Charles L. Kelty. Manning's mill was located south of Homer on Lindsey Lake and Kelty's on Biloxi Creek four miles west of Homer. About 1870 Charles L. Kelty moved his mill to the western edge of Burris Prairie. This was the first sawmill in the county to have a planing mill attached for the finishing of lumber for building purposes. Since these sawmills had no facilities for shipping lumber, their output was limited to home consumption. Kelty had chosen an ideal location for his mill which has become one of the oldest and largest sawmills in East Texas. He operated the mill until 1887 and during that year he sold the mill to the Angelina County Lumber Company, which is still operating the mill as one of the most modern sawmills in the South. New, larger, and more modern machinery has been added, but the mill is now operating on the same site under the same name as when erected. Other small sawmills were established as the local demands increased, but the big sawmills were

not erected until the early nineties.⁶

⁶Ewing, James A., Houston, Texas, Interview, January, 1934.

Vaughn, J. H., Route 5, Lufkin, Texas, Interview, 1934.

The Large Sawmills.

The introduction of the large sawmills was influenced, greatly, by the building of railroads in the county. The first railroad, the Houston East and West Texas, was built in 1882. It crossed the county from Clark's Ferry on the Neches River to Shawnee Crossing on the Angelina River. The second railway, the Kansas City and Gulf Short Line, was built from Tyler to Lufkin and completed in 1885. Lufkin was the terminus of this railway until 1900 after which time it was gradually extended to White City, San Augustine County, by one of the large mills. Soon after these railroads were completed, sawmills were established along both lines. Micheli, Emporia, and Diboll were located on the Houston East and West Texas Railway and Clawson and Pollok on the Kansas City and Gulf Short Line. The latter railway was built through the little sawmill town of Keltys which was the only one of the large mills that was located prior to the railroads. These two railroads determined the sites of all the large sawmills in the county except Manning which was

erected in the midst of the long-leaf pine forest. The Lufkin-Land mill was located about one mile east of the junction of the two railroads. In its logging operations it extended the Kansas City and Gulf Short Line (Cotton Belt) to White City, San Augustine County. This particular site was chosen because of the transportation facilities afforded by the two railroads.

The large sawmills may be divided into two groups: (1) the short-life mills that depended chiefly upon the county timber supply and (2) the long-life mills that owned extensive timber holdings in the county and in adjoining counties. In the first group were Micheli, Emporia, Clawson, and Pollok. These were exclusively yellow pine mills with a daily capacity of approximately 90,000 board feet. Their general set-up and operations were very much like that of the long-life group except they did not maintain the extensive lumber camp and logging operations necessary for the long-distance timber supply. Neither did these towns install the modern city conveniences found in the second group. In the second group are Keltys, Diboll, Lufkin-Land, and Manning.⁷

⁷ Peavy, W. F., Lufkin, Texas, Interview, 1934.
 Kurth, E. L., Keltys, Texas, Interview, 1934.
 Peavy, A. J., Shreveport, Louisiana, by letter, 1934.

KELTYS

Keltys was the first of the large sawmills to be erected.

It is located one and one-half miles northwest of Lufkin on the Cotton Belt Railway (formerly the Kansas City and Gulf Short Line). It is exclusively a yellow pine mill and its products include home building materials, industrial timbers, and railroad timbers. The mill has a daily capacity of 125,000 feet and it employs more than three hundred men. It has the distinction of being the oldest sawmill in Texas today, under the same ownership from its organization in 1887. The history of Keltys begins in the early seventies when Charles L. Kelty built the first sawmill at this mill site.

In 1887 the late J. H. Kurth and S. W. Henderson bought the mill of Charles L. Kelty and organized the Angelina County Lumber Company. Two years later Sam and Eli Wiener became interested and were made members of the firm. The Company is at the present time under the management of Eli Wiener, president; E. L. Kurth, vice-president and general manager; and D. W. Thompson, secretary and treasurer.

The mill burned in 1906, but it was soon rebuilt with larger and more modern machinery. The entire plant and manufacturing equipment has been kept in repair and modern in every respect by the installation of new and up to date equipment from time to time. The dry kilns and lumber sheds have been enlarged greatly since 1906 so as to kiln dry properly and take care of the entire cut of the mill. Millions of feet of all kinds of pine materials are kept in stock in the rough lumber sheds and

on the yards. This large supply of dry rough lumber enables the company to fill special orders on short notice.

For convenience and efficiency in operation the Angelina County Lumber Company has divided the plant into five major divisions: (1) the logging operations, (2) the milling operations, (3) the planing and shipping, (4) the management and selling, and (5) the housing. Many changes have been made in each of these divisions since the mill was purchased in 1887. Some of the changes have developed because of the installation of larger and more modern equipment and others because the management learned that certain situations give greater efficiency or lower the cost of production.

The logging operations have changed materially during the life of the mill. When the mill was first established, it had an abundant supply of timber near the mill. This supply of near-by timber enabled the company to log the mill by means of wagons and carts drawn by mules and oxen. Ox-teams were more common and preferable to mules before 1900. As time passed the mill reached out farther and farther for timber until it became too expensive for the mill to be logged wholly by wagons and teams. This situation caused the introduction of a railway equipment to lower the cost of the logging operations. This first railway equipment consisted of wooden trams, one small locomotive or dinkey, and a few small flat cars. The wooden trams were built on the same general plan as the steel railway.

The chief difference was the wooden rails, four-inch square timbers, which were laid on the cross-ties. These wooden trams extended out five to eight miles from the mill. Eight miles was considered the greatest practicable distance for hauling logs over wooden trams. In logging under the wooden tram system the logs were hauled by wagons and carts to the tram where they were decked along the track at a convenient distance for loading on the flat cars. Teams were used for loading the logs on the flat cars until after 1900. The use of teams five to eight miles from the mill made it necessary to build corrals in the woods where the logging was carried on. The establishment of corrals was the first step toward the lumber camp which was not a necessary unit of this system.

After 1900 the regular steel railway equipment was adopted and the wooden tram system was abandoned altogether. The use of steel railway equipment enabled the company to use larger locomotives and larger flat cars and to reach out longer distances for a supply of timber. The mill has cut timber in the following counties: Angelina, San Augustine, Nacogdoches, and Tyler. At the present time the lumber camp is located in Tyler County, at a distance of sixty miles from the mill.

The adoption of the steel railway induced more extensive lumbering which made the lumber camp a necessary unit for the logging operations. The lumber camp is equipped for cutting, hauling, loading, and transporting the logs to the mill. This

work requires about one hundred laborers. The camp consists of forty to fifty cottages in which the lumbermen live, a company store, offices for the business management, a hotel or boarding house for the accommodation of men who do not have families, and usually a postoffice. The camp is located on the tram in or near the timber area where the timber is being cut. The location of the camp is temporary because it follows the timber supply. The life of the camps has varied from two to ten years. Commonly the camp remains a separate unit from the rural community in which it is located. That is, the camp has its own peculiar social activities within the camp and the chief participants are members of the camp. Although the people remain somewhat aloof in their social life, they usually send their children to the local school.

The steam loader, which was a large machine used for loading the logs on the flat cars, was introduced soon after the construction of steel railways. The first loader purchased was an American loader which was stationary on a flat car and had to be moved by an engine. A few years later this loader was replaced by a McGiffert loader that was self-propelling and had a daily capacity of five hundred logs. The McGiffert loader which is still in use moves at the rate of only two to three miles an hour. This speed seems very slow, but it is adequate for loading purposes. Another advantage of the McGiffert loader is that it is constructed so it can pass over a string of empty flat

cars as it loads them. The steam loader eliminated teams for loading purposes, but they were used for hauling logs to the track until 1923.

In 1923 Camp Nancy was established about two miles south of Zavalla in the long-leaf pine area of Angelina County. The company owned several sections of virgin pine located chiefly between Zavalla and Manning. On entering this open piney woods the company changed its method of logging. All company teams were disposed of and a four-line rehaul skidder was put into operation. The skidder is a machine used for drawing the logs from the place where they were cut to the railway. That is, the logs are dragged in by means of a cable that operates on a large drum instead of being hauled on wagons drawn by mules. In this open piney woods the skidder had a daily capacity of eight hundred logs when operating two lines. On account of a few streams and spots of sparse stands of timber, teams could not be eliminated entirely. A few contract teams were used for hauling such logs as the skidder could not get or logs located in a way that it was too expensive to build tracks to them.

The use of the skidder required a peculiar network of railways or trams. The skidder could take care of six hundred feet of timber on each side of the track. This reach governed the placement of tracks. For the accommodation of the skidder a main tram was built through a chosen area and parallel spurs

or "little tracks" extended out, twelve hundred feet apart on each side of the main tram. Sometimes a stream or a thin stand of timber would cause a "little track" to be farther than twelve hundred feet from its parallel, but an attempt was made to keep them uniform and parallel because the successful operation of the skidder depends largely on structure of the trams. The location of the main line and the "little tracks" are governed by the land forms; therefore a skilled surveyor is a necessary asset for this method of logging. The timber holdings of the company in the long-leaf area provided a supply of logs until October, 1933. At that time the camp was moved to Tyler County. In Tyler County the skidder is working in rough woods where its daily capacity is only about four hundred logs. In addition to the steam loader and the skidder the company has one rod engine and one shay for use in the woods and one main line locomotive with thirty flat cars for hauling the logs from the woods to the mill. The company does not own a railway the entire distance from the woods to the mill. It pays trackage rights for the use of the Texas and New Orleans Railway from the camp at Alco to the point of intersection with the Angelina and Neches River Railway which is owned by the company.

The logging operations end with the unloading of the logs in the pond which is between the railroad and the mill. The logs are unloaded in the pond for three reasons: (1) the dirt is washed off, (2) the water keeps down deterioration, and (3) the

logs are easier fed to the mill from the pond. The pond is equipped with a dredge boat which clears the pond of bark and two sinker boats which pick up the logs that sink.

The milling operations begin with the logs in the pond and include the cutting, the kiln drying, and the storing of the lumber in the rough sheds. The logs are fed from the pond by means of a feeder chain that is operated by steam power. The feeder chain carries the log up to the log deck of the mill and the log is rolled from the deck to the carriage which holds and gauges the lumber as it is being cut. The carriage has an attachment called the "steam nigger" that turns the log on the carriage.

The lumber is carried from the saw to the edger by means of live rollers. After the lumber goes through the edger, it is stacked on kiln cars and carried to the kilns for drying. The common grades require sixty hours for drying and the clear grades require seventy-two hours. The kilns are equipped with a kiln control that registers the heat and the humidity of the kilns. Proper humidity tends to prevent kiln checks (cracking). One thousand feet of green lumber weighs approximately 4500 pounds and the same number of feet of kiln dried lumber weighs 3400 pounds. When the lumber is taken from the kilns it is stacked in the rough sheds, according to its grade, length, width, and thickness.

The green rough edges that come from the edger go to the

power plant where they are ground by a machine called "The Hog". This ground wood is used for fuel in the power plant. As the rough edges or slabs leave the edger, they are graded. The best ones are picked out and run through another machine that cuts pickets for fencing. The pickets are stacked on kiln cars and carried to the kilns for drying. When they are removed from the kilns they are carried to the Fence Factory at Lufkin and made into red fencing. These pickets are an important by-product of the mill.

The planing operations include taking the orders, dressing the lumber, and shipping the lumber. When the manager of the planing department receives the order for a bill of lumber, he has the exact number of feet of each kind of lumber brought from the rough sheds and it is dressed according to the specifications of the order. As the lumber is dressed he has it loaded in cars or on trucks for shipment.

The planing mill is run by a new coilless engine that weighs 69,000 pounds. This engine has a sixteen-foot flywheel that has a twenty-nine inch face. The engine runs a line shaft and every machine of the planing mill is hooked to this shaft. The engine oils itself automatically through sight feeds and uses the shavings from the planing machines as fuel. The shavings that are not needed as fuel for this engine are blown about one thousand feet through a large pipe to the hog of the power plant where they are ground for fuel for the power plant.

The lumber is hauled from the rough sheds to the planing mill on go-devils (three-wheeled carts). The go-devils are pulled by small Fordson tractors. The mill also uses two-wheel buggies that are pushed by man power or, to use the lumbermen's term, "nigger power".

The management and selling operations include all the business management of the entire plant and the selling of the lumber. The general merchandise and grocery store, the market, and the drug store which come within this division are considered as incidentals that come as a matter of necessity. They are operated chiefly for the benefit and convenience of the employees with little thought given to profit.

The housing operations include the building, repair, and general upkeep of all the houses on the mill yard. The company has about two hundred houses that are used as residences for the employees. These houses are well screened and furnished with lights, water, and sanitary conveniences and each house has a garden space. For the last five or six years the company has made gardening compulsory, because all men had to be cared for during the period of depression. A garage is provided if the family owns a car and a barn is provided for a milk cow. The employees pay a monthly rent of five dollars. The houses are of three classes: (1) the large modern homes where the office men and other high-salaried men live, (2) the cottages for the white employees, and (3) the cottages of the negro quarters.

The cottages for the white employees comprise the greatest group.

Keltys is a modern sawmill town with a population of approximately one thousand inhabitants of which about six hundred are white and four hundred are negroes. Many of these people have been born and reared at Keltys and others have lived there for many years. There has been very little shifting of labor at this mill because the company takes good care of its employees. The town is supplied with water from a deep well which is connected with a 30,000 gallon tank for city distribution. Two ponds, which cover about twenty-five acres each, supply water for the boilers and for fire protection. A 50,000 gallon tank distributes the pond water over the mill yard. Keltys maintains two churches, Methodist and Baptist, and is fairly well equipped for recreation. A large hall which serves as a community meeting place is also used for skating and a small park is supplied with modern apparatus for the amusement of the children. Many years ago Keltys was consolidated with the Lufkin Independent School District in order to give better training to the high school students. Keltys maintains one grammar school for the white children, which is under the same supervision as the grammar schools of Lufkin.⁸

⁸Kurth, E. L., Keltys, Texas, Interview, 1934.
Sellars, S. C., Keltys, Texas, Interview, 1934.
Thompson, D. W., Keltys, Texas, Interview, 1934.
Broderick, J. B., Keltys, Texas, Interview, 1934.

EMPORIA

The Emporia Lumber Company erected a sawmill on the Houston East and West Texas Railway one mile south of Diboll in 1892. Most of the stock of this company was owned by S. F. Carter, now of Houston, Texas. When erected the mill had a daily capacity of 40,000 feet and employed about fifty men. The planer was set-down by the side of the mill and all the lumber was dressed green except the large timbers. The lumber was carried from the planer to the yard and stacked to be air dried before shipping. This small mill was logged entirely by wagons and ox-teams. In 1900 larger machinery was installed and a steel railway equipment for the logging operations was used. The mill's daily capacity was increased to 75,000 feet and a crew of one hundred men was required. A steam loader was added to the railway equipment. The logs were hauled from the woods to the tram by large two-wheel carts drawn by mules and horses. A large planing mill with several up-to-date machines and steam dry kilns were installed. This was a yellow pine mill that cut both long-leaf and short-leaf pine. The company's timber holdings that supplied this mill were all located within the county; therefore the trams were short and the lumber camps were small. Car houses were used on the front because they could be moved with ease as the lumber camp followed the timber supply. On the mill yard was found the usual sawmill set-up of company owned houses and company stores with a school and churches.

Water for household purposes was supplied from shallow wells, and ponds furnished the water for the mill. The cottages were not provided with modern conveniences because this was a short-life mill that cut by 1906.⁹

⁹Carter, S. F., Houston, Texas, Interview, 1934.

MICHELI

The Micheli mill was located on the Houston East and West Texas Railway on the south bank of the Angelina River within the limits of the old Spanish land grant which was given to Vicente Micheli in 1797, hence the name. This mill was put down about 1900 by the Tyler-Car Lumber Company whose home office was at Tyler, Texas. A. L. Clark was president and manager at the mill and John Durrow who was one of the stockholders assisted with the management. This was a single circular mill with a daily capacity of 90,000 feet. The total number of men employed at the mill and in the woods was about three hundred, of which two hundred and twenty-five were negroes and seventy-five whites. Although negro labor was used extensively by all of the sawmills for the hard and dangerous work, no other large mill employed as high per cent as Micheli.

The mill was logged by contract teams. The chief contractor for logging was A. J. Peavy who began the logging

operations in 1893 and continued until the mill cut out in 1906. The company supplied a steel railway, a locomotive, and flat cars to transfer the logs from the camp to the mill. Although the railway equipment was used generally, in 1905 the logging company floated a lot of logs down the river to the mill. This was the only mill that attempted to use the river for floating logs and its venture was not so successful. In 1906 the mill went into the hands of a receiver and, in order to save themselves, the members of the logging company rented the mill and cut the logs it had in the river as well as the balance of the standing timber that was owned by the mill company in Angelina County.

The mill town had a population of about one thousand, but the greater portion of the inhabitants were negroes. The company provided school buildings and churches for both races. The river supplied water for mill purposes and the water for the household supply was secured from shallow wells. Each well was commonly located so that it served several families. These community wells caused many disputes which added "spice" to sawmill life.¹⁰

¹⁰Peavy, A. J., Shreveport, Louisiana, by letter, July 4, 1934.

POLLOK

Pollok, another one of the short-life mills, was established by the Harris-Lipsitz Lumber Company during the early nineties

and was located on the Cotton Belt Railway (at that time the Kansas City and Gulf Short Line) twelve miles north of Lufkin. The mill had a daily capacity of around 90,000 feet and employed two hundred and fifty or more men. This number of laborers usually gave the mill town a population of eight hundred to one thousand. At first the mill was logged by wagons and teams, chiefly ox-teams, but as the pine timber was depleted a railway equipment had to be added to supplement the team-work. The skidder had not come into use in East Texas and this mill probably did not use a steam loader. The sawmill at Pollok operated for about fifteen years during which time it cut only yellow pine lumber from the timber supply of Angelina County.¹¹

¹¹Peavy, W. F., Lufkin, Texas, Interview, 1934.

CLAWSON

Clawson was another of the large sawmills that falls in the short-life group and also comes within the early period of lumbering. Clawson was located on the Cotton Belt Railway five miles northwest of Lufkin and was established in the early nineties. It was a circular mill with a daily capacity between 75,000 and 90,000 feet and employed around two hundred and fifty men. The usual sawmill management prevailed. The logging was done by wagons and teams and the simplest railroad equipment

which consisted of a steel railway, two or three locomotives, and a number of flat cars.¹²

¹²Peavy, W. F., Lufkin, Texas, Interview, 1934.

DIBOLL

In 1894 T. L. L. Temple of Texarkana, Arkansas, organized the Southern Pine Lumber Company that set up the large sawmill on the Houston East and West Texas Railway six miles from the Neches River. Diboll is also located on Highway 35 which runs almost parallel to the railroad from Lufkin to the Neches River. Mr. Temple owns practically all of the stock of the company and has been very active in the management of the plant. This mill is one of the largest in East Texas. On the normal ten-hour day schedule it now has a daily capacity of 200,000 feet and a yearly capacity of 60,000,000 feet. It employs six hundred men. Forty-nine per cent of these men are native born white men of which about twenty-five per cent were born in Angelina County and the greater part of the remaining twenty-four per cent in East Texas. Forty-nine per cent of the laborers are negroes, of whom probably twenty-five per cent were born in Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana, and the balance were reared at the sawmill in East Texas. About two per cent of the population are Mexicans who are used for work on the railways. There has

been very little shifting of laborers. A large number of the present inhabitants have been born and reared at Diboll and are, therefore, well qualified for the positions they hold.

The mill has been operated at night for short periods, but night operation did not pay; therefore it has been suspended. The mill cuts all sizes of lumber from the smallest moulding to railroad stringers and walking beams. The railroad stringers are timbers measuring 8" x 16" x 28' and the walking beams measure 14" x 26" x 26'. The mill cuts both pine and hardwood, but it is chiefly a yellow pine mill. The hardwood includes the two species of gum, red gum and black gum, which compose nearly sixty-five per cent of the hardwood that is cut. The mill has a box factory attached that converts a part of the hardwood into materials for boxes. Orders for various sizes of wooden boxes are accepted.

The company had large timber holdings in Angelina County that supplied the mill with logs until 1906, at which time the company moved to Trinity County where it operated until 1912. The next move was to Houston County where the timber supply lasted until 1915. At that time the logging operations were moved to San Augustine County. Logging was carried on in San Augustine County until 1921 then the camp was moved to Cherokee County. The company has been operating in Cherokee and Anderson Counties since 1921, where it has an estimated supply for six years.

The company has used skidders for logging purposes, but pronounced them impractical and disposed of the skidder. The company found that the skidder would produce more logs than could be produced by teams, but the cost was also greater. The skidder was used during the World War while labor was scarce and market demands great. The rehaul skidder was used for some time and later a horse skidder was tried out. The horse skidder was found to be less expensive than the rehaul skidder. A four-line rehaul skidder was used, but it did not pay to operate more than two lines unless the stand of timber was unusually dense. There is only a slight difference in the two skidders. The horse skidder has lines that are carried from the machine as far out as four hundred feet, by a man on a horse, another man fastens the line to the log by grabs, then a drum propelled by steam on the skidder winds the line thereby drawing the log in to the track. The rehaul skidder has a little line that works in a circle and is handled on a separate drum. The little line is carried out and placed, then the large line for pulling the logs works on the little line which carries the large line out as far as six hundred feet. The large line has grabs attached for holding the log while it is being drawn in. The large line works on a drum as in the horse skidder.

The company maintains a lumber camp for the woods crew, which is composed of nearly two hundred men. The camp is now located fifty miles from the mill and its buildings consist of

seventy-five cottages, a boarding house, and office buildings. Each house is well screened, has electric lights and water for all purposes, except sewage. The hotel provides accommodations for about forty persons. The camp has a schoolhouse and church. The camp functions the same as that of Keltys which has been described, except a skidder is not being used and the logging is being done by mule teams owned by the company. The company uses the best grade of mules weighing from 1400 to 1600 pounds.

The mill as a manufacturing plant has the same divisions as Keltys. It differs from Keltys in that it has a box factory in conjunction with the mill instead of the picket machine. Diboll is the largest and the second oldest sawmill in Angelina County, now operating. It has been in continuous operation since 1894 and has a timber supply of first growth that is estimated to be sufficient for fifteen years operation at the present capacity. In addition to this supply of first growth timber the company owns 200,000 acres of cut-over land that is growing a crop of timber which will supply the mill for several years to come.

Diboll ranks second in size as a town of Angelina County. It has a population of more than fifteen hundred inhabitants. The employees live in houses that are owned by the company. The houses are well screened and kept in good repair and are furnished with lights and water. The town maintains three churches and has the second best school system in the county. The white

scholastic population is four hundred and fifty and the negro one hundred and fifty. The Diboll school has first class affiliation. Many of the graduates of Diboll attend the colleges and universities of Texas.¹³

¹³Kenley, D. C., Diboll, Texas, Interview, 1934.

LUFKIN-LAND

The Lufkin-Land mill was established in 1900 by the Lufkin-Land and Lumber Company. The mill was built within the corporate limits of Lufkin, the county seat of Angelina County. This was the first and only large sawmill to be located within the limits of an established town in the county. The mill site was on the east side of town, one mile from the Cotton Belt Station. On the ten-hour day schedule the mill had a daily capacity of 100,000 feet. The mill was operated day and night, thereby doubling its daily capacity. This was the only mill equipped to operate day and night on a permanent schedule.

The stockholders of the Lufkin-Land and Lumber Company were E. W. Frost, A. E. Frost, T. L. L. Temple and G. A. Kelly, Texarkana men. In 1905 they sold the mill to the Long-Bell Lumber Company that was composed of county men. The mill was operated for twenty-five years under Long-Bell ownership. During this time it produced more than one and one-half million

feet of lumber.

The timber holdings of this company were located in Angelina and San Augustine counties. It operated as an exclusive yellow pine mill until 1923 when it began cutting hardwood because of its depleted timber supply. From 1923 to 1930 it cut both pine and hardwood. While cutting long-leaf timber the mill made railroad stringers and walking beams for oil rigs a specialty. The railroad stringers were 7" x 12" x 28' and the walking beams were 14" x 24" x 26'.

The mill used a steel railway equipment for logging from the beginning. The company built the Cotton Belt Railway from Lufkin to White City, San Augustine County. The railroad was built as a main line for logging purposes and was extended only as it was needed; therefore it was under construction for several years. The steam loader was a part of the first equipment for the logging operations, but the skidder was not used until 1913. A rehaul skidder was used for a time in San Augustine County only. The company owned teams for logging and also used some contract teams.

The Long-Bell Lumber Company maintained a well equipped lumber camp for its logging operations. The school and church were made a unit of the camp. The camp was located at the following places: Donevan, Broaddus, Lakeview, White City, Hamburg, then back to White City, Banister, and Donevan. The company moved the camp back to Donevan in Angelina County in 1926 and

cut all the merchantable timber then standing on its cut-over land around Donevan. The houses used for the camps were all car houses except the houses at Banister, where four-room or six-room cottages were built on foundations.

A mixed crew was employed at both the mill and the camp. At the camp the negroes were used in the steel gang, in the loading crew, and some few sawyers (flat-heads) were negroes. Mexicans were used to keep the finished track in repair and Americans were used for all other work. The mill crew was composed of white Americans, Italians, Mexicans, and negroes. The negroes were used in the dangerous places.

Although the mill was located within the city limits of Lufkin the general sawmill set-up was observed at the mill. The company owned the houses and operated a general merchandise store, a market, and a drug store for the benefit of the employees. The mill was allowed a grammar school, but the high school students went to the Lufkin High School.

When the mill cut out in 1930, many men were left without employment. Most of these men had been making good salaries, but had followed the usual sawmill custom of living up to their salaries and had no savings for a period of unemployment. Their families were accustomed to a fair standard of living and they were trained for sawmill work only.

¹⁴Wood, Harry, Huntington, Texas, Interview, 1934.
Kurth, E. L., Keltys, Texas, Interview, 1934.

MANNING

In 1898 W. T. Carter and his brother, A. E. Carter, bought several sections of school land in the long-leaf area of Angelina County. This land was purchased for five dollars an acre or \$3,200 a section. In 1906 W. T. Carter, of Houston, Texas, and G. A. Kelley, of Lufkin, organized the Carter-Kelley Lumber Company and erected a large sawmill in the heart of the long-leaf pine area.

Manning was the only one of the large sawmills that was not located on one of the railroads. The mill was located eleven miles south of Huntington, which is a small railway town near the junction of the Cotton Belt and The Texas and New Orleans railways. For transportation purposes the Carter-Kelley Lumber Company constructed a short railway, the Houston, Shreveport, and Gulf, from the mill to Huntington. The short line made connection with the Cotton Belt about one-half mile from the Cotton Belt Station near the point of intersection of the Cotton Belt and The Texas and New Orleans railways. From this point the cars of lumber could be transferred to either railroad. This gave an advantageous position for shipping.

The mill had an annual capacity of 34,000,000 feet of lumber and employed three hundred men. Seventy-five per cent of these employees were whites and twenty-five per cent negroes. Manning expressed a decided preference for white labor. The mill was never operated at night and never maintained a lumber

camp nor used a skidder. The woods crew all lived at the mill and were carried to the woods on a special train called the "caboose". When the distance did not exceed thirty miles, the company found that the men could be carried to and from the woods with less expense than it took to maintain a lumber camp. Another factor in favor of this plan was that better housing could be provided at the mill than at the camp. As a matter of course the teams had to be kept in the woods, but a satisfactory system was worked out for the management of the corral, since all of the feed for the mules was put in the feed troughs at night. The company did not use a skidder because of the opinion that the gain in the number of logs produced did not off-set the damage done to young timber.

Manning was a yellow pine mill that was well equipped with the best modern machinery. It cut all sizes of lumber from the smallest mouldings to the heaviest construction timbers. Since the long-leaf timber made the best grade of lumber, the company was fortunate in securing large timber holdings in the long-leaf area. The main divisions of the mill functioned about the same as Keltys with the exception of the lumber camp which was not maintained. The housing, modern conveniences, and company stores were on the same general plan. Timber was secured from Angelina, Tyler, Polk, and Jasper counties. When the mill burned in 1936, it had a supply of timber that had been estimated as sufficient for fifteen years continuous operation. The mill has not been

rebuilt because the remainder of the timber can be cut by the mill owned by the Carter heirs at Camden, with less capital outlay than would be required in rebuilding.

Manning was a modern sawmill town with a population of about fourteen hundred. There were three active churches and Sunday schools in town. The scholastic population of Manning was two hundred and thirty-five children. A seven-teacher school was maintained for the white children and a two-teacher school for the negro children. The high school for the white children was affiliated. On account of the affiliated high school Manning secured many high school students by transfer from the contiguous agricultural section.¹⁵

¹⁵Gibbs, W. M., Manning, Texas, Interview, 1934 and 1936.

EWING

Though there was a large number of stockholders, the late S. W. Henderson, Sr. was the founder of the hardwood mill at Ewing in 1920. The mill is located on the Angelina and Neches River Railway one mile from the Angelina River. It has a daily capacity of 60,000 feet of lumber and now employs about three hundred men. In 1929 a veneer plant was installed as an extra unit of the mill. The veneer plant cuts materials for crates, boxes, and baskets.

Ewing, which is the only hardwood mill in the county, cuts twenty-six kinds of hardwood and some pine. The hardwoods used in the manufacture of lumber are listed at the beginning of this chapter. Fifty-five to sixty per cent of the hardwood that is cut is sweet gum. The gum lumber has to be steamed in order to kill the fungus growth which causes rapid decay when the lumber is not steamed. In number of feet produced red oak ranks second and white oak third. The white oak lumber is one of the highest products of the mill. The lumber is cut and air dried. Two years is the minimum length of time required for the white oak lumber to become thoroughly seasoned in the process of air drying. The white oak lumber which includes both overcup, and cow oak is used for wagon stock, farm implements, decking, bridge construction, and many other purposes where strong timber is needed. The quarter sawed oak is used for finishing materials, flooring, and furniture. The sap gum is used for furniture, building materials, boxes, and crates. The sap gum warps and twists and does not last very well when exposed to weather conditions. Red gum which is the best grade of sweet gum is used for inside finishing and furniture. Black gum is the toughest veneer wood that grows in Angelina County. The sap (white) black gum makes a cheap grade of lumber and is used the same as sweet gum. The yellow or heart black gum is used for car flooring. The tupelo gum makes a high priced lumber which is very light. Cypress, known as the "wood everlasting", is used for

well curbs, boat stock, fencing, and interior woodwork. It is used where the wood is exposed to a great deal of moisture. Ash is used where strength is required. There are three kinds of ash: white, blue, and yellow. The yellow ash is the toughest and the highest priced. Magnolia, "the tree beautiful" produces lumber that has the quickest sale. Magnolia is a very white wood that is used in the manufacture of furniture in the United States, but almost the entire cut of Ewing is shipped to England. There seems to be a great demand in England for this particular wood. Hickory and elm are also cut in large quantities. These are tough, hard woods used chiefly for making wagons and farm implements.

The logging operations are carried on by means of mule teams, trucks, and the customary railroad equipment which consists of a loader, locomotives, and flat cars. The company does not use a skidder and it does not maintain a front. The woods crew is carried to the woods on a work train. In regard to the corral the company has the same management as Manning.

Ewing is a small town with a population of only about six hundred. It has a distinctive industrial atmosphere that makes one forget that it is a town. That is, the industrial features stand out.¹⁶

¹⁶Sayers, Scott, Ewing, Texas, Interview, 1934.
Henderson, John, Ewing, Texas, Interview, 1934.

The Small Sawmills

The small sawmills had a place in the lumber manufacturing of Angelina County. The small mills may be placed in two groups: (1) the early mills that preceded the large mills, and (2) the small mills that operated from 1900 to 1915. The first group was, without doubt, the most important because they supplied the local demands for lumber at a time when there were no large mills from which necessary materials could be purchased. The chief mills of this group have been named earlier in this chapter. In the second group were many small mills ranging in size from the little portable mill that cut cross-ties, bridge timbers, and rough lumber for local use to the mill that cut 25,000 feet of finished lumber daily. The outstanding mills of this group were Baber, Boynton, and Retrieve.

Baber was located on the Texas and New Orleans Railway about four miles southeast of Huntington. This mill was built in 1906 by S. F. Carter who had owned and operated the large mill at Emporia until that year. The mill had a capacity of 15,000 feet daily and employed only thirty or thirty-five men, but it turned out finished lumber that was shipped to the various markets in competition with lumber cut by the large mills. It was a short-life yellow pine mill which cut out in 1913.¹⁷

¹⁷Carter, S. F., Houston, Texas, Interview, 1934.

Boynton was established by the Boynton Lumber Company about 1904. The mill was located on the Cotton Belt Railway ten miles southeast of Huntington in the edge of the long-leaf pine area. Though the mill was located in the edge of the long-leaf pine area its timber supply lay chiefly in the short-leaf area. The mill had a daily capacity of 25,000 feet and employed about seventy-five men. Though the mill was small, its machinery was modern and it cut good grades of lumber that held their places in competitive marketing. A steel railway, locomotives, and flat cars were used to convey the logs from the woods to the mill. Both ox-teams and mule-teams were used in logging. A pair of large horses were used to load the logs on the flat cars as the company did not have a steam loader. The mill was operated at this location until 1908, by which time its timber supply was exhausted.¹⁸

¹⁸Herrington, J. C., Huntington, Texas, Interview, 1934.

Retrieve was located on the Texas and New Orleans Railway six miles southeast of Huntington, in the edge of the long-leaf pine area. The daily capacity of this mill was only about 15,000 feet and it employed around thirty men. Both long-leaf and short-leaf pine were cut and finished by this mill, which carried on its logging operations on the small mill plan. It

was in operation at the same time Baber and Boynton were operating.¹⁹

¹⁹Fairchild, C. B., Burke, Texas, Interview, 1934.

Allied Industries.

In the lumber manufacturing of Angelina County there were certain other industries related to or contingent upon lumbering. Among these allied industries we find the making of cross-ties and piling for railway construction a profitable industry that used small timber or timber entirely unsuited for lumber. This applies particularly to the Texas red oak and post oak and old field pine. Of course some merchantable timber was used, but the majority was non-merchantable stock. The production of cross-ties and piling was generally considered as two separate units without any company organization for the production of either. The greater part of the cross-ties were hewn by hand; however, some ties were cut by the portable sawmills. Many thousands of cross-ties and pilings were made and they brought thousands of dollars into the county. It is difficult to get an accurate value and number of ties and pilings produced because of the way the business was conducted. The piling was generally worked on the contract plan, but the ties were produced by both

the contractor and the individual. One important feature of this industry was that it was combined with agriculture, thereby enabling the farmers to earn a fair wage during the periods between planting and harvesting. In clearing new land the farmer could market timber that he had once burned.

Turpentine Distillation

The distillation of turpentine was an allied industry of lumbering that did not reach over a very large area of Angelina County. There were two reasons for this: (1) the production of turpentine was confined to the long-leaf pine timber and (2) the Angelina County Lumber Company was the only one of the mill companies that attempted to have the turpentine extracted from the timber before cutting it. The Angelina County Lumber Company permitted the timber to be run only three years as a turpentine orchard. This period of tapping did very little damage to the timber because the logging followed the tapping as closely as could be managed. The lumber company leased the turpentine rights to the McMillan Naval Stores Company that began operation just a little in advance of the logging operations.

In 1923 the McMillan Naval Stores Company began work in the long-leaf pine area of Angelina County. From 1923 to 1931 this company worked 23,000 acres of virgin long-leaf pine. The company worked on an average about 2500 acres a year. This acreage produced nine hundred barrels, fifty gallons each, of

turpentine and twenty-five hundred barrels of resin. The turpentine was classed as the major product and the resin as a residue product. The turpentine was sold at fifty cents a gallon and the resin at eight dollars a barrel of two hundred and eighty pounds each. At these prices the annual production of turpentine had a value of \$22,500 and the resin \$20,000. Over the period of nine years that the company was in operation the total production of turpentine was worth \$202,500 and the resin \$180,000.

The company set up two distilleries which required about seventy-five men to keep the work going. Negro labor was used for practically all of the work except the management. The average pay roll was twelve hundred dollars a week. Only a small per cent of the turpentine produced by these distilleries was exported because there is a large demand for naval stores in the United States. The turpentine is used in the manufacture of paints and varnishes, for medical purposes, and as a base for perfume. The resin is used in the manufacture of soap, paper, varnishes, cup grease, and many other things.

The industry was important in that it saved large quantities of valuable and needed products that would have been wasted in the process of lumbering. It gave employment to a large group of men over a period of nine years and brought extra

money into the various businesses of the county.²⁰

²⁰McMillan, Benton, Zavalla, Texas, Interview, 1934.

The Lufkin Foundry and Machine Company.

The Lufkin Foundry and Machine Company was organized in 1900 by F. Cavanaugh, who prior to this time had owned and operated a small foundry and machine shop in Rusk, Texas. While operating this shop in Rusk Mr. Cavanaugh secured most of his business from the large sawmills of Angelina County. At the same time, a large part of the business of these sawmills was going to Houston, Texas. This situation caused Mr. Cavanaugh to move his shop to Lufkin, which had been selected as a location for one of the largest sawmills of the South. Lufkin was also centrally located among the other large sawmills of the county. For this reason the machine shop which was a necessary unit in lumbering can be considered as an allied industry.

Before moving his shop, Mr. Cavanaugh came to Lufkin and with the co-operation of Eli Weiner and J. H. Kurth and other lumbermen organized the Lufkin Foundry and Machine Company for the exclusive purpose of taking care of the sawmills of Angelina County and the surrounding territory. Despite the backing of the big lumbermen, the company began business with a

few wooden buildings and a limited number of tools. However, the business grew so rapidly that within a few years all of the wooden buildings were replaced by modern steel buildings that are fireproof and provided with ample light and ventilation for the employees. The administration building is one of the most modern brick structures in Lufkin. The entire second floor of this building is devoted to the Engineering Department.

The firm is now one of the largest foundry and machinery manufacturers in the Southwest. The plant which occupies about seven and one-half acres is composed of the following departments: the emergency hospital, welding department, structural shop, brass foundry, supply department, wash and locker building, pattern shop, forge shop, boiler and tank shop, foundry, tool room, erecting and machine shop, administration building, and a large community garage for the employees' automobiles. During normal times the company employs more than five hundred men and its payroll amounts to \$15,000 per week. Almost all of the employees are highly skilled men. Few common laborers are employed because of the nature of the work. The plant has a maximum capacity of one hundred tons of grey iron per day. The company has a capital stock of \$600,000 and an annual business turnover of about \$2,500,000 in a world-wide trade territory.

For twenty-two years the company devoted its time almost exclusively to sawmill machinery which included locomotives. Some of the largest sawmills of the Southwest are products of

this plant. Since 1925 the decreasing timber supply has made it necessary for the plant to direct much of its energy to other fields. Fortunately, by the time the timber supply had reached low ebb the East Texas oil industry had opened up another avenue of business. This shifting of industry has caused oil field machinery to become the chief product of the plant for the last several years.

The demand for oil production machinery caused the company to make a survey of the refining and production divisions of the oil industry. This survey led to the development of the Lufkin worm gear pumping unit in 1925 and later the patented Trout counterbalance crank was invented. This means of pumping oil wells proved a radical departure from the old expensive Standard rig. The advantages of this unit were easily recognized by the practical operators and accepted by the oil men. More than two thousand of these units are now operating successfully in every major oil field of the world which includes Roumania, India, Japan, Mexico, Central and South America. Along with the pumping unit there followed other inventions, namely: a rod and tubing hoist, walking beam, Samson posts, and Pitmans.

Eli Weiner, director, and W. C. Trout, president and general manager, are the only two living members of the firm who helped to organize the company in 1900. In addition to Mr. Weiner and Mr. Trout the present officers and directors are J. H. Kurth, Jr., vice-president; C. B. Edwards, treasurer;

W. D. Winston, secretary; and E. L. Kurth, Simon Henderson, A. E. Percy, and Sam Weiner, Jr., directors.²¹

²¹Trout, W. C., Lufkin, Texas, Interview, 1934.
Cudlip, A. L., Lufkin, Texas, Interview, 1934.

Influence of Lumbering.

From an economic point of view lumbering was an important factor in the development of the county. The sawmills that have ceased to operate employed a total of 1,820 men and supported a population of 5,250. The outstanding effects of these mills are: (1) they aided in denuding the county of timber, and (2) they enabled a few men to amass fortunes and some to lose their accumulated savings. The sawmills that are now in operation employ 1,250 men and support a population of 3,100 persons. The chief effects of this group are: (1) they are still engaged in denuding Angelina County and adjoining counties of timber, (2) they have enabled a few men to amass fortunes, (3) they are now providing employment for a large number of men, (4) they help the farmers by supplying a home market for many of the farm products, (5) they also produce building and construction materials for the surrounding territory.

In addition to the above effects the sawmills helped the small landowners (1) by supplying a market for many farm products,

(2) by giving the farmers extra work during the slack season of farm duties, and (3) by buying what merchantable timber the farmers owned. Indirectly the sawmills caused many lawsuits that increased the cost of courts. Timber deals caused ill-will among the settlers and in a few instances murder. The loss of life by accidents was increased because much of the work was dangerous. It had some influence on crime since all of the people could not resist illegal timber deals. It also added many new words to the vocabulary of the inhabitants of the county.

Important Lumbermen of the County

Charles L. Kelty

The pioneer lumberman, Charles L. Kelty (Klein) was born June 4, 1842, in Alsace-Lorraine. His parents came to America when he was only two years old and landed in New York. His father's name was Klein and his mother's maiden name was Kelty. By the time Mr. Kelty had reached his fifteenth year he had built up such an aversion for school that he ran away from home. This seems to have been the only means of escape from classroom duties, since his father had taken a very determined stand in regard to the youth's education. Young Klein made his way to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he stayed for about two years. He felt that he could not remain in Cincinnati because his father might

locate him and force him to return to school. Finally, he decided to go to Texas and change his name from Klein to Kelty, which was his mother's maiden name. He arrived in Texas just before the outbreak of the Civil War and located at Homer, which was then the county seat of Angelina County.

Since he had no relatives or friends in the county, he had to find employment in order to provide for his personal needs. Here "Luck" dealt him a hard blow. The only work he could find was a position as teacher in a small subscription school. Circumstances left him no choice, he had to accept the position though he was not yet eighteen years of age and had a special aversion for school. He began work under the name of Charles L. Kelty and he retained this name throughout life. He continued teaching until the county called for volunteers for service in the Confederate Army. He enlisted, but remained in active service only a short time. In some activity he was run over by an artillery wagon and injured seriously. As soon as he was able to begin work after his accident, he was placed in charge of a government commissary where he served as manager until the close of the war. When he was discharged he returned to Homer and became engaged in selling drygoods, particularly calico, which was at that time the most popular material for dresses for both women and children. The drygoods which he sold on a commission basis were manufactured by a cotton mill at Huntsville, Texas, and Mr. Kelty transported the

goods by means of an ox-wagon. Within a short time Mr. Kelty owned one of the largest general merchandise stores at Homer.

Though prosperous in the mercantile business, he was not satisfied because he could see so many openings in other fields. He accepted the agency for the Singer Sewing Machine Company. This he could manage in connection with his store. He became interested in cattle raising because the open free range of the county made that a profitable industry from 1846 to 1900. The local demands for lumber aroused his interest in a sawmill. The few water mills could not supply the demands and the lumber was a poor grade that had to be finished by hand. In the latter part of the sixties he entered the field of lumber manufacturing and established the first steam sawmill with a planing machine attached in Angelina County. He operated this mill at the site on Biloxi Creek and at Keltys from 1867 to 1887, at which time he sold the mill to J. H. Kurth and S. W. Henderson. By 1887 Mr. Kelty was the wealthiest man in Angelina County and there is no doubt about his having made the greater part of his money in the lumber business. He had accumulated all the wealth that he wanted; therefore he did what no other lumberman of the county has done. He retired from business.

In 1860 Mr. Kelty married Nancy Katherine Davis, who was born in Tennessee. Mr. and Mrs. Kelty had one child, Laura Kelty. On reaching womanhood Miss Kelty married James A. Ewing whose business interests were lumbering, farming, and stock

raising.²²

²² Ewing, James A. and Laura Kelty, Houston, Texas, Interview, 1934.

J. H. Kurth

Among the lumbermen who came to the county to live as well as to engage in the lumber industry was Joseph H. Kurth. Mr. Kurth was born in 1857, in Bonn, Germany, where he was reared and educated. He came to America in 1878 by way of Galveston. He began work in one of the sawmills of Galveston and later drifted inland to other mills. He became interested in the timber of East Texas and was far-sighted enough to see the future possibilities of a sawmill in that region. In 1887 he and S. W. Henderson organized the Angelina County Lumber Company and purchased the sawmill at Keltys from Charles L. Kelty, who had built that mill in the early seventies. At the time of the purchase the mill had a good business and was surrounded by cheap timber.

Though the mill was comparatively small at the time of its purchase it has become one of the largest lumber manufacturing plants in East Texas. Mr. Kurth and his associates have by continuous improvement and by select buying of timber and timber lands been able to maintain a growing lumber business for a period of fifty years and now have a brilliant outlook for a

fifteen-year future operation. The success of this company is due largely to the far-sightedness and business ability of Mr. Kurth. He was president of the company from the time of its organization until his death June 16, 1930.

In 1882 Mr. Kurth married Hattie M. Glenn, a native Texan. Mr. and Mrs. Kurth reared five sons: Joseph H., Jr., Roy W., Ernest L., Melvin E., and Robert L.

In addition to his connection with the sawmill at Keltys Mr. Kurth was also president of the Lufkin Foundry and Machine Company which he helped to organize in 1900. He was vice-president of Lufkin National Bank and president of the Pawnee Land and Lumber Company of Louisiana.²³

²³ Kurth, E. L., Keltys, Texas, Interview, 1934.
Glenn, W. M., Lufkin, Texas, Interview, 1934.

S. W. Henderson

S. W. Henderson was born in 1861 on a farm near Waycross, Georgia. As soon as he was large enough to do farm work, he hired out as a farm hand at twenty-five cents a day and board, thereby helping to take care of a widowed mother and some brothers and sisters. Early in life, either in 1882 or 1883, he moved to Texas and located at Corrigan. Here he engaged in the mercantile business. At that time the Houston East and West

Texas Railway was under construction and Corrigan had become a thriving little town. Mr. Henderson's chief assets were youth, energy, determination, business ability, and a pleasing personality. Soon he began to prosper in the mercantile business, but his far-seeing eye sighted the one great opportunity in East Texas at that time. In 1887 he gave up his mercantile business at Corrigan and moved to Keltys to become associated with J. H. Kurth in the manufacture of lumber. Mr. Henderson was actively associated in directing the affairs of the Angelina County Lumber Company until his death May 3, 1923. In addition to his interest in the Angelina County Lumber Company he had holdings in other large lumber companies of both Texas and Louisiana. He was director of the Lufkin National Bank, Lufkin, Texas, and vice-president and director of the Angelina and Neches River Railway. He was an owner of considerable real estate.²⁴

²⁴Henderson, S. W. Jr., to Effie Boon, April 30, 1934.

William Thomas Carter

The late William Thomas Carter was born in Tyler, Smith County, Texas, February 4, 1856. He was the son of John Joseph Carter and Jane Elinor Agnes Anderson Carter. The family moved to Angelina County right after the Civil War and located at Homer where the father, John Joseph Carter, had accepted

positions as teacher for both himself and Mrs. Carter. While living at Homer W. T. Carter was initiated into the lumber business by Charles L. Kelty.

Mr. Carter began work as a clerk in a general merchandise store owned by Charles L. Kelty when he was about twelve years of age. After he had worked in the store for some time and had grown larger and stronger, Mr. Kelty began using him at the Kelty sawmill on Biloxi Creek. In 1871 the family moved from Angelina to Trinity County where the father, John Joseph Carter, became engaged in the lumber industry. That business venture was unsuccessful and the properties were sold by the creditors. The mill was bought by a friend of W. T. Carter and turned over to him for operation. At that time Mr. Carter was only eighteen years of age. Although quite young he operated the mill successfully in the vicinity of Trinity, Texas, until 1881 when he moved to Polk County and established a sawmill at a railroad station called Barnum. That mill was destroyed by fire in September, 1897; then he moved to Camden, Texas, and rebuilt. The mill is still in operation at Camden. In February, 1898, Mr. Carter and his brother, A. E. Carter, bought alternate sections of school land in the long-leaf pine area of Angelina County. The land which carried a dense growth of virgin long-leaf pine was purchased for five dollars an acre. In 1906 in company with the late G. A. Kelley of Lufkin, Mr. Carter organized the Carter-Kelley Lumber Company and established a plant

at Manning, which was operated until it burned in 1936.

Due to the early associations and acquaintances he had with citizens of the county in earlier years, he always maintained a very active interest in the affairs of the county and its people. Although he did not make his home in the county during the time his mill was in operation, he spent a generous portion of his time in the county from 1906 until his death February 23, 1921. The time he spent in the county was divided between the sawmill and a large farm on the Angelina River. The farm that contains approximately 2,600 acres, of which about five hundred acres are under cultivation, was purchased of James A. Ewing in 1908. The farm was his recreation in the latter years of his life, and he supervised its operation. Although the farm was a hobby, Mr. Carter was very successful in operating it as a farm. He paid more attention to the raising of fine hogs and common cattle, and the production of syrup and feed-stuff than to cotton culture. He was always enthusiastic over the farm and studied the various activities of the farm with a view of making each pay.

It is generally conceded that Mr. Carter did more for the people of the county--that is, man for man--than any one stockholder of the sawmills of the county. He was a natural philanthropist and had a super-abundance of energy that caused him to undertake more and greater tasks than the average man. His motto of making the world better by his having passed that way caused

him to render all types of aid from a kindly word of encouragement to a pure donation. Despite his free-handed giving, he accumulated one of the largest fortunes in East Texas made in the lumber industry.²⁵

²⁵ Carter, C. L. and A. L., Houston, Texas, to Effie Boon, March 7, 1934.
Gibbs, W. M., Manning, Texas, Interview, 1934.

G. A. Kelley

Another lumberman of interest was the late G. A. Kelley, a Canadian, who was born July 6, 1861, in Huntingdon, Quebec. He lived the hard life of a Canadian farmer until he grew to manhood. He began his work as a lumberman in the northern forest where the trees were felled and floated down a stream to the mill. In the spring of 1881 Mr. Kelley went to Minneapolis, Minnesota, and entered the employment of the Pray Manufacturing Company, which was engaged in the manufacture of flour. There he did mill-wright work in the flour mills. He left the flour mills in 1884 and secured work as a night foreman with the Diamond Star Sawmill Company. In 1897 he accepted a position with the Edward P. Allis Company (now the Allis-Chalmers Company) of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as representative for the company in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. This was the beginning of the period of the greatest development of lumbering

in these states. That is, some of the largest sawmills were constructed during that time.

In February, 1890, Mr. Kelley resigned his position with the Edward P. Allis Company and in association with E. W. Frost, A. E. Frost, and T. L. L. Temple, of Texarkana, Arkansas, organized the Lufkin Land and Lumber Company of Lufkin, Texas. The mill at Lufkin was built under the personal supervision of Mr. Kelley. At that time the plant was, perhaps, unexcelled in the South in manufacturing and earning capacity. In 1905 the Lufkin Land and Lumber Company sold the mill to the Long-Bell Lumber Company. In 1906 Mr. Kelley became associated with W. T. Carter of Houston, Texas, and organized the Carter-Kelley Lumber Company and they built a large plant at Manning. Again, the supervision of construction was left to Mr. Kelley. Personally, he inspected every piece of machinery that was used and supervised the building and arrangement of the various parts of the plant from the beginning to completion. Mr. Kelley was manager of the mill until his death.²⁶

²⁶Gibbs, W. M., Manning, Texas, Interview, 1934.
American Lumberman, Chicago, January 16, 1915.

CHAPTER IV.
RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Reforestation

At the present time one of the greatest problems of Angelina County is the proper utilization of the cut-over timberlands. Up to eight or ten years ago practically no thought was given to making productive again the idle cut-over lands or to increasing the productivity of cut-over areas that had a fair stand of young trees. According to data compiled by the State Department of Forestry at College Station, Angelina County has an area of 601,600 acres, of which 170,300 acres, or twenty-eight per cent, is owned by farmers. Of the land owned by farmers only 69,600 acres are tilled for agricultural crops, while 104,400 acres are classed as woodlands and 5,300 acres as improved lands. Over sixty-one per cent of the land actually owned by farmers in Angelina County is timberland. The farm acreage actually tilled in Angelina County constituted but ten per cent of the total land area. It has been estimated that even with reasonable progress in placing under cultivation additional areas of land having agricultural possibilities, it is probably safe to assume that not more than thirty per cent of the land area of Angelina County will be under plow thirty-five years

hence.¹

¹ Siecke, E. O., Ninth Annual Report of State Forester, State Department of Forestry, 13.

The second growth timber in Angelina County consists for the most part of a volunteer crop which, except for the protection from fire furnished by the State, has come up in spite of neglect. Some sections of the long-leaf area seem rather slow in starting a second growth. This is the area that is totally unfit for anything except grazing and a timber crop. The Division of Forestry has estimated that with protection from fire, together with a few simple efforts toward proper forest management, it will be possible to produce from 15,000 to 20,000 board feet of pine lumber per acre in from thirty-five to fifty years from second growth timber and to restock with young pine trees the thousands of acres of totally unproductive cut-over land. In other words, with a little care and attention our cut-over land will produce lumber at a rate of three hundred to four hundred board feet per acre annually and in addition will produce on the same area vast quantities of pulp wood, post, pole, and cross-tie material. The work in reforestation in Angelina County was begun by the State and is gradually being taken up by the lumbermen and farmers. The chief work done by the State has been to furnish fire protection

for areas where the owners will pay the cost of protection. In order to have the work carried on properly the Legislature created a department to direct it.

In 1915 the thirty-fourth Legislature created a State Department of Forestry. The purpose of this department was to stimulate forest protection, reforestation, and the proper management of existing stands in the commercial timber belt of East Texas. This belt comprises thirty-nine East Texas counties which have a gross area of approximately sixteen million acres. About eight million acres of this area are better fitted for growing timber than for any other purpose.

By 1926 the forestry activities had attained such a development as to influence the Board of Directors to recognize the Texas Forest Service as one of the main divisions of the Agricultural and Mechanical College system, placing it on the same official basis as that accorded to the Extension Service and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.²

² Siecke, E. O., Director, Texas Forest Service, Circular No. 4, 1930, pp. 6-7.

As stated above, the commercial timber belt of Texas includes thirty-nine East Texas counties. Eighteen of these are being afforded protection from forest fires by the Division of Forest Protection. Angelina County is among this group of

protected counties and it ranks fourth among the counties in the gross acreage under protection. The county has 601,600 acres, which if properly cared for will produce another valuable timber crop. Much of this land is unfit for agriculture and should be devoted to the growing of timber.³

³ Siecke, E. O., Director, Seventeenth Annual Report, 1932, Texas Forest Service, 9-10.

The protection area is divided into patrol districts. In each district the owners of the timber lands contribute one-half of the total cost of protection, the State contributes twenty-five per cent and the remaining twenty-five per cent is supplied from Federal money. At the present time the Angelina Timber Company has 10,475 acres on which it pays two cents an acre and 33,123 acres on which it pays two and one-half cents an acre. The Frost Lumber Industries has 25,561 acres on which it pays two and one-half cents an acre for protection. This makes a total of \$1,666.60 that these two lumber companies contribute each year. There are some smaller units under protection. In order to protect adequately the contributing acreage belonging to the co-operating owners, it is necessary to protect equally as well all of the small adjacent and intermingled areas owned by farmers and others within the protection unit. The result is that at least twice the contributing acreage

receives the benefit of protection.⁴

⁴Ibid., 11-13.

The personnel of the Division of Forest Protection for Angelina County consists of one chief, W. E. White; one assistant forester, Ivan C. Jones; one forest engineer, Knox B. Ivie; one inspector, W. O. Durham; six forest patrolmen, T. C. Jacobs, C. A. Forrest, R. E. Chambers, T.J. O'Quinn, W. A. Kimmey, and T. J. Vardeman. In addition to these there are six emergency patrolmen, one lookout man, one smoke chaser and eleven forest guards on the annual retainer basis.⁵ The Federal Government

⁵Balthis, B. F., Acting Director of Texas Forest Service, Angelina County, Lufkin, Texas, Interview, January, 1934.

in protective work on national forests and some of the State forest protective agencies have followed the practice of employing extra laborers to assist in suppressing forest fires during emergencies. This developed in many instances an incentive toward causing fires to create employment. Because of this experience of others, the Texas Forest Service has never followed the policy of employing extra help, all assistance is purely

voluntary.⁶ The equipment for fire protection consists of hoes,

⁶ Siecke, E. O., Director, Seventeenth Annual Report, Texas Forest Service, 1932, p. 27.

rakes, shovels, axes, swatters, Indian fire pumps, waterbags, telephones, and observation towers. The county now has five steel observation towers and one tree cab and approximately forty-five miles of telephone lines. The steel observation towers are ninety-five feet high and are equipped with fire-finding instruments that give a good visibility for a distance of ten miles. The tree cab is about seventy feet and the vision is five or more miles. Each tower is also equipped with a telephone and a map. When a fire is discovered and located, the nearest patrolman or smoke chaser starts to it. Enroute he endeavors to pick up one or more volunteer helpers to assist him. Each patrolman has his own cap and equipment of fire suppression tools. He can usually get voluntary helpers in the vicinity of the fire, because the farmers have stock that are dependent on the open range. Upon arrival at the fire the patrolman or smoke chaser stays with it until it is extinguished and safe.

In addition to the fire suppression activities the Texas Forest Service is trying to develop a public fire consciousness through proper education. The educational work is carried on in several ways. The forest patrolmen visit the schools of the

county during the rainy season and make talks on fire prevention. They distribute forestry literature and bookcovers carrying forest fire warnings among the children. Fire posters are placed along the roads and trails. The Division now has a motion picture unit truck that is used to carry the forest protection story to small town and rural communities in a very effective way.⁷

⁷Balthis, B. F., Acting Director, Lufkin, Texas, Interview, January, 1936.

Timber Experiments

Two tree experiments are being sponsored at the present time within the county. One is a tung tree orchard that is owned by the Angelina County Lumber Company and the other is a pasture and forest experiment which is owned and directed by the State of Texas. The purpose of the experiments is to find some means for making the cut-over lands, particularly of the long-leaf pine area, productive again.

The tung tree experiment was begun in 1930 by the Angelina County Lumber Company as a reforestation project. The orchard contains ten acres and is located in the southern portion of the county two miles south of Zavalla. The area covered by this orchard had an original growth of long-leaf pine which was cut

by the lumber company a short time before the tung trees were set.⁸

⁸Sellars, S. C., Keltys, Texas, Interview, January 10, 1934.

The tung trees are native plants of eastern and southeastern Asia. They grow from Japan and China to India and are also found in Hawaii, Phillipines, and Australia. There are three species of the trees, the aleurites moluccana in Hawaii, the aleurites cordata in Japan, and the aleurites fordii in China. The trees have large lobed leaves and attain a height of forty to sixty feet. They usually bear after the fourth year, producing a nut two to three inches in diameter, which resembles our native hickory nut in outside appearance. Each nut contains from two to five seeds which yield fifty to sixty per cent oil. The oil is said to be one of the best drying oils known. It is used largely in paints and varnishes because it hastens the drying and lessens the liability of cracking. It is also used for waterproof cloth, paper, insulating materials and various kinds of masonry and woodwork. It waterproofs and preserves wood that is exposed to excessive moisture. The pomace after the oil has been extracted is valuable as a fertilizer. Large quantities of the oil are imported by the United States. As early as 1911 the United States imported 5,800,000 gallons of oil which was valued

at about \$3,000,000.⁹

⁹The New International Encyclopedia, Second Edition,
Vols. 13, 14.

The aleurites fordii of Chinese species has been introduced and successfully cultivated in the United States since 1906. This species is grown from South Carolina to Florida and west to Texas and in California. The trees may be grown from the seeds or from yearling plants. Yearling plants are preferable because they produce so much earlier.

The Angelina County Lumber Company has set the Chinese variety. The trees are set every twenty-five square feet and are being cultivated in order to keep down the native vegetation until the trees get well established. Another purpose of cultivation is to grow a nitrogenous plant on the poor sandy soil in order to provide a supply of nitrogen for the trees. A small amount of commercial fertilizer has been used to increase the growth of the young trees.

The purpose of this project is to determine the actual cost of getting a productive orchard started and to see if the trees will grow profitably on the sandy, piney woods soil of Angelina County. It has been estimated that an acre of tung trees will return sixty dollars a year. This is a private experiment owned and directed by the Angelina County Lumber

Company that is looking ahead for some outlet for its capital and labor when the sawmill cuts out.¹⁰

¹⁰Sellars, S. C., Keltys, Texas, Interview.

The second timber experiment was begun in the county in 1933. It is known as The East Texas Pasture Investigation and is sponsored by the State of Texas. The primary purpose of this experiment is to determine the best pasture grasses or plants that are adapted to East Texas for lands that are growing a crop of timber and for open lands. The secondary aim is to study different methods of producing timber. The three species of pine and the most valuable hardwoods have been selected for the experiment.

The idea or plan for the experiment originated in the county among some of the lumbermen who are interested in reforestation and some of the farmers who wish to make their timber lands productive while the crop of timber is growing. The project was perhaps started by Tom Russell, a farmer, who interested O. C. Lagrone, the county agent, in the work. Mr. Lagrone in turn was able to secure the cooperation of Harry Morris, of Nacogdoches, and Roger Davis and some of the lumbermen of Angelina County. Some of the group applied to John S. Redditt, the State Senator, and John Laird, the Representative of the district, for State aid to finance the project. Mr. Redditt

and Mr. Laird secured an appropriation of \$5,000 a year for two years for financing the project. This appropriation was included in the general appropriation bill of 1933. E. L. Kurth of Keltys, W. F. Peavy of the Hudson School District, and A. J. Peavy, now of Shreveport, Louisiana, donated a lease on approximately 200 acres of land for the project.

The lands selected for this experiment are located about five miles west of Lufkin, near the Hudson Consolidated School on Highway 94. The area includes about forty-five acres of bottom land on Jack Creek and the rest is upland. The forty-five acre strip of bottom land has been divided into ten pasture areas with a different combination of pasture plants on each. One ten-acre block has been left to the native switch cane. The purpose of leaving the switch cane is to determine the actual amount of grazing that it will produce and its value as a winter pasture plant. The native carpet grass is being used on several blocks under different growing conditions so as to check it against the other summer pasture plants, particularly burclover, white Dutch clover, and lespedezas. Bermuda grass is also being tested. This is not a native grass, but it is a naturalized grass found in all of the farming sections of the county.

The upland is divided into blocks of open land and blocks of timber land. Each block has a different combination of grasses or pasture plants. All of the timber experiments are on the uplands. On some of the timber blocks the timber has

been thinned out and some blades have been left unthinned. On one block all of the timber except the most valuable hardwoods has been cut. The chief experiments are being done in short-leaf pine because there is a good stand of short-leaf pine already established. Both long-leaf and the loblolly pine will be tested to some extent. One timber area will be checked against another in order to ascertain the difference in the growth of the timber as well as the actual amount of grazing that can be produced on each block.

A small introduction garden has been established in conjunction with the pasture experiment. The purpose of the garden is to test plants from various parts of the world in order to ascertain their value as pasture plants in Angelina County. The plants are to be tested for their mineral and protein content because the native plants of East Texas do not supply enough mineral substance to grow bone; therefore the cattle are small. Plants have been collected from Japan, the West Indies, Algeria, Manchuria, Spain, Chile, California, and Angleton, Texas, and set in the garden. There are about forty varieties now growing and others will be introduced from time to time. The plants that are now growing range from tall growing plants, two or more feet tall, to low growing varieties that resemble Bermuda grass.¹¹

¹¹Vantine, J. T., Lufkin, Texas.
Redditt, John S., Lufkin, Texas.

Recent Developments in Agriculture

Angelina County is generally thought of as a lumbering area because of its many large sawmills. Lumbering has been the most important industry in the county since 1890 and has overshadowed farming to such an extent that farming has received very little recognition as an industry. According to the census of 1930 Angelina County has a population of 27,803 of which 12,751 are classed as farmers. More people are engaged in farming than in any industry of the county. The farmers own 170,300 acres of land, but they cultivate only 69,600 acres. Almost half of this acreage is used for the production of cotton. In 1930 the cotton crop amounted to 30,553 acres and produced 8,553 bales.¹² The rest of the cultivated area is used for

¹²Texas Almanac, 1933, pp. 50, 143.

diversified crops: such as corn, peanuts, sweet potatoes, sugar cane, and truck crops. The principal truck crops are tomatoes, watermelons, and sweet corn. Some fruits are grown for home consumption and for the local markets. The most common fruits are peaches, pears, plums, strawberries, blackberries, figs, and apples.

There are few large farms in the county. The largest have a cultivated area of about five hundred acres and the average

about sixty-six acres. The better farms are located along the rivers, large creeks, and on the small prairies. The prairie lands are used mostly to produce cotton because they seem better suited to the growth of cotton than any farm crop. For a long time the prairie lands were left for pasture purposes. The people believed that the prairie lands which would not grow timber would not grow crops. When once the people were convinced of the productivity of the prairie soil, the prairies became very popular farming sections and within a short time practically all of the prairie lands were under cultivation.

The farmers of Angelina County have very little money, but they live well because they produce nearly all of their food supply at home. The farmers produce practically all of the vegetables, meats, fruits, meal, syrup, and even sugar that they use. About the only things that they buy are coffee, flour, spices, and tobacco. Most of the farms are supplied with hogs, chickens, and milk cows.

In 1921 Angelina County employed O. C. Lagrone as agricultural agent for the county. The major part of Mr. Lagrone's work during the sixteen years that he has served the county has been in connection with terracing or proper drainage. The terracing has been done chiefly on the hillsides. In addition to terracing he teaches the farmers by demonstrations and other methods, the benefits of modern and proper cultivation, proper fertilization, seed selection, and the advantages in raising

good stock. Mr. Lagrone has more than four hundred 4-H club boys organized, including one hundred and thirty engaged in timber projects. The work of the youths who are engaged in the forestry projects includes thinning out trees, pruning, and protecting the growth of the trees. In addition to the juvenile forestry work there are about eight adult demonstrators doing forestry work. Some of these men take care of as many as one hundred acres. One of the noticeable things about the various industrial activities in Angelina County is that each is beginning to give some attention to the production of another crop of timber. The farmers are being instructed in forestry and they are being encouraged to grow trees. The present plan is to do more intensive farming and leave the timber lands for the production of timber. Cattle raising is being encouraged in connection with the timber crop. It is believed that by scientific management some plan can be worked out by which enough cattle can be raised on the timber lands to pay the yearly expenses of the timber crop while the timber is growing, thereby leaving the timber crop as a profit.

The farmers are giving some attention to pasture grasses. The chief kinds grown for permanent pasturage are Bermuda, carpet, rescue, burclover, yellow, sweet and white Dutch clovers. For temporary pastures the farmers sow oats, rye, Austrian winter peas, and Sudan grass. Some of the farmers are now seeking to find the best grass for growth under the trees. The

carpet grass which seems to be the best nature grass does not grow very well in the densely wooded areas.

The Lufkin Chamber of Commerce and the commissioners court of the county have both aided in stimulating agriculture in Angelina County. When the hailstorm destroyed a large part of the crops in the county in 1930, the Chamber of Commerce distributed two carloads of cotton seeds among the farmers of the storm area. In 1931 the Chamber of Commerce purchased sixty Jersey calves and distributed them among the boys and men on easy payment terms. In 1930 the commissioners court appropriated five hundred dollars to purchase rat and worm poison to fight these pests. The court also appropriated money for a county-wide sparrow campaign and placed the county road machinery at the disposal of the farmers to be used for terrace and drainage work. The farmers pay only the actual cost of operating the machinery and they are permitted to pay the small cost of operation by working on the county roads if they like.¹³

¹³ Lagrone, O. C., Agricultural Agent, Lufkin, Texas, Interview, January, 1934.

Home Demonstration Work

The work that has been carried on under the supervision of the home demonstration agent has been one of the most important

phases of farming, because it has practically fed the farmers. In 1929 when Miss Gladys Young was employed as home demonstration agent, there were only about 10,000 jars and cans of food being canned annually. As soon as Miss Young arrived, she began organizing clubs. The first year she had only eighteen girls' clubs with an enrollment of three hundred and seventy-three, and five women's clubs with an enrollment of sixty-seven. During the first year the women's work was concentrated around the idea of food preservation. There were canned 256,000 jars and cans of foods in 1930. In 1931 there were fifteen girls' clubs with an enrollment of three hundred and sixty-eight members and twelve women's clubs with an enrollment of two hundred and five members. During this year the farmers' wives preserved more than 1,500,000 cans and jars of foods.

During 1931 Miss Young concentrated on the year-around gardens, 4-H pantry, and living room work. The year-around gardens included growing at least fifteen varieties of vegetables in the spring gardens and eight in the fall gardens. All club members were required to introduce two new vegetables in the fall gardens. The garden work also required the planting of some kind of fruit trees or berries. Angelina County is well suited to growing many kinds of fruits, but many of the farmers do not grow any fruit. Since it has become necessary to spray fruit trees in order to produce a crop of fruit and keep the trees in a healthy growing condition, the farmers have almost

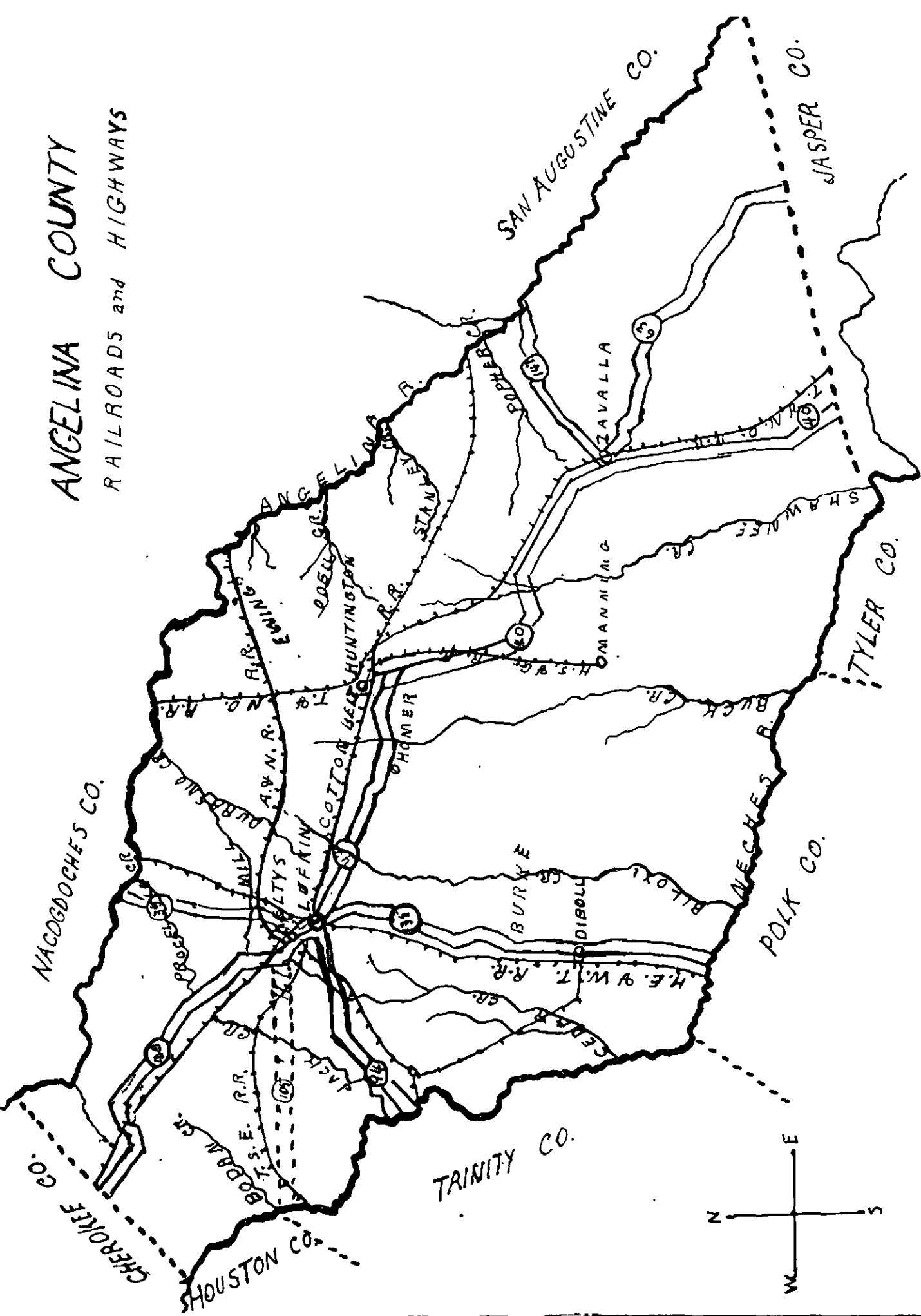
quit growing fruit for home use. For a number of years they have depended largely on wild fruits: such as mayhaws, grapes, muscadines, dewberries, blackberries, summer huckleberries, and wild plums for a supply of fruits and jellies for table use. The farmers are being taught to spray and care for fruit trees so that they can produce fruits for home consumption.

The rural women and girls are also being taught to make canning budgets, to prepare canned fruits and vegetables for exhibits, to cook and sew, and to make some pieces of home-craft furniture. The members of the various clubs have made commendable progress along each of these lines of homemaking.

Another important phase of the work that is supervised by Miss Young is yard improvement. For this work Miss Young is using native wild shrubs and plants. At least a dozen evergreen and other plants grow wild in Angelina County, and are on sale in nurseries and by florists of the larger cities. These native shrubs and plants include yaupon, winter willow, wild myrtle, redbud, dogwood, buckbush, sumac, haw, French mulberry, bear grass, salvia, trumpet vine, yellow jasmine, woodbine, southern smilax, and palmetto. The home demonstration agent is making a special effort to get the farmers to plant these shrubs around their homes, landscaping the grounds so that the woodpile, the outhouses, and other unsightly structures might not be seen from the highway. During the pruning season Miss Young has collected cuttings of yard plants and shrubs from various places

ANGELINA COUNTY

RAILROADS and HIGHWAYS



in Lufkin and distributed them in the rural communities.

Much has been done in the way of recreational work. The agricultural agent and home demonstration agent work together and do county-wide recreational work. They have been able to secure the cooperation of the rural teachers and they use the rural schoolhouses as centers for the work. In 1931 W. P. Jackson of Washington, D. C., of the National Recreational Association of America, spent two weeks in Angelina County, holding two courses in recreational work. His aim was to train leaders for the rural communities. As a result of this the county now has a recreational organization with the leaders meeting monthly.¹⁴

¹⁴Young, Gladys, Home Demonstration Agent, Lufkin, Texas, Interview, January, 1934.

The Highways of Angelina County

The good road movement in Angelina County seems to have been started by the business men of Lufkin and by newspaper publication. The following excerpts which were taken from the earliest available copies of the Lufkin News indicate the steps taken by the business men and the News to obtain better highways:

Nacogdoches County made a proposition to the commissioners court of Angelina County offering to bear half of the

expense of bridging the river and fixing the bottom so as to make a good substantial crossing between the two county seats over the Angelina River. The business men of Lufkin are very much in favor of the proposition, they seeing that Nacogdoches County had agreed to do more than her rightful part in the matter, but the commissioners court turned down the proposition. So Nacogdoches County with the subscriptions of Nacogdoches business men have gone ahead and built the bridge independent of Angelina County. We are advised that Angelina County has more money to the credit of her road and bridge funds than any county possibly in Texas.¹³

¹³The Lufkin News, Lufkin, Texas, August 13, 1913.

The dirt road leading from the Gulf Pipe Line Station in the Allen Community northeast of town must be fixed, and that right away or else the city will lose thousands of dollars in trade this coming fall and winter. Superintendent N. H. Perry of the station reported deplorable conditions which now exist. Mr. Perry says that the farmers are hauling their cotton across the Angelina River to Nacogdoches because the bridge four miles from town will not bear a heavy load.

The News doesn't know why a public road will get in such a condition. Surely it is some one's mission to see after such highways.¹⁴

Ibid., September 2, 1913.

A meeting of the business men of Lufkin was held Wednesday evening to discuss paving in Lufkin and the public roads of the county. A committee of business men was appointed to meet with the commissioners court now in session to talk over the road proposition. They hope to secure better highways.¹⁵

Ibid., February 13, 1914.

In 1913 when the business men of Lufkin began trying to influence the county commissioners to form some plan for the improvement of the highways of the county, the highways were all poorly kept dirt roads. The road work was still done under the old overseer system that had been established in 1846. The overseer system provided that every man in the county between the ages of twenty-one and forty-five should give five days free work for the upkeep of the public roads of the county. The road work was compulsory, but a man was allowed to hire a substitute or he could pay \$3.50 at the first of the year and get an exemption certificate. The county was divided into road districts and an overseer was appointed for each district. The overseer's duties were to warn the hands for work, supervise the work, and see that each man in his district worked the required number of days or paid his road tax. The free road work which was done mostly with hoes, shovels, and axes was not eliminated entirely until 1929.¹⁶

¹⁶Barge, J. W., Jr., Lufkin, Texas; Courtney, R. A., Lufkin, Texas, Interview, January, 1934.

The first move that the county made toward improving the roads was to call an election which was held January 8, 1916, for the purpose of voting a fifteen-cent road tax on the one hundred dollars valuation of property for the upkeep of the

public roads of the county. The road tax was defeated in this election. A second election was called for June 3, 1919, at which time the road tax was again defeated. A third election which was called for October 12, 1920, favored the fifteen-cent road tax.¹⁷

¹⁷Record of Election Returns, Lufkin, Angelina County, Texas, Book 3, p. 174; Book J, pp. 311, 449.

Before the above road tax was voted the various road districts had begun to vote bonds for the construction of highways within the district voting the bond. On January 9, 1918, road district No. 2 voted a \$60,000 bond for the construction of highways in the district. About the same time road district No. 4 voted \$75,000 and district No. 3 voted \$15,000. On June 15, 1918, the commissioner precinct No. 3 voted a \$75,000 bond. The proceeds of these bonds were to be used for constructing and maintaining roads in the district or precinct voting the bond. Macadamized, paved, and graveled roads were the types of roads that the districts considered.¹⁸

¹⁸Commissioners Court Record, Lufkin, Angelina County, Texas, Book I, pp. 238, 383.

In 1917 the commissioners court issued warrants to the

amount of \$75,000 to rebuild the road which is now known as Highway No. 40. This issue of warrants was to be paid from the fifteen cent state road tax.¹⁹

¹⁹Ibid., Book J, p. 176.

After the above bonds and warrants were voted an election was called for the purpose of voting a county bond of one million dollars for the construction of a system of highways in the county. In the election which was held August 20, 1921, there were 1917 votes cast for the bond and only 559 against it.²⁰ After this million dollar road bond was voted, the execu-

²⁰Election Returns, Lufkin, Angelina County, Texas, Book J, p. 449.
Commissioners Court Record, Lufkin, Angelina County, Texas, Book J, p. 311.

tive committee of the Angelina County Good Road Association adopted and mapped a list of roads that were to be constructed and improved from the million dollar bond issue. The committee chose highways No. 40, 35, and 65 as the main highways which were to have a graded width of twenty-four feet and a hard surface of sixteen feet. In addition to the surfaced roads a number of lateral roads were selected as roads to be graded. The lateral roads connected the various centers of population with

the main highways.²¹

²¹ Commissioners Court Record, Lufkin, Angelina County, Texas, Book J, 315.

This system of highways was completed by 1924. All of the bridges on highway No. 40 were 18-foot concrete bridges and all the bridges on highway No. 35, except the river bridges, were concrete. The old iron bridge was left on the Angelina River, but a concrete and steel span bridge was constructed on the Neches River. An all-concrete bridge is now under construction on highway No. 35 at the Angelina River crossing. The bridge when completed will be twenty-four feet wide and 1950 feet long and will cost \$120,000. This cost includes the under-passes in the river bottom and a small bridge on Procella Creek.

Angelina County now has 105.5 miles of highway that are under the control and management of the Texas Highway Department. Highway No. 40 also has United States designation. (See highway map.) Angelina County is included in Division Eleven of the Texas Highway Department. This division includes fourteen counties, Angelina, Nacogdoches, Houston, Jasper, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Trinity, Tyler, Jefferson, Orange, and Hardin. The office of the division was moved from Beaumont to Lufkin March 6, 1925. T. E. Huffman is now the resident district engineer for the division.

The funds derived from the gasoline tax and the State's portion of the automobile registration fees are used for maintaining the established highways, for construction work, and for paying off the highway bonds. Approximately \$50,000 is spent annually in Angelina County for maintenance purposes and the number of men employed for maintenance work is estimated to average about one hundred and twenty-five.²²

²²Keen, W. B., General Foreman of Division Eleven, Lufkin, Texas, Interview, June, 1934.

The lateral roads which are under the control and management of the county commissioners require approximately \$40,000 annually for maintenance. The funds for this work are derived from the automobile registration fees of the county. The county is fairly well equipped for the lateral road work. It owns nine caterpillar tractors that cost about \$24,000 and nine graders that cost \$11,000. In addition to the large machinery the county is supplied with slips, shovels, picks, and jacks for road work.²³

²³Barge, J. W., County Judge, Lufkin, Angelina County, Texas, Interview, January, 1934.

Pipe Lines

Angelina County lies across the pipe line zone which extends from the Oklahoma and the East Texas oil fields to Beaumont and Port Arthur. The Gulf Pipe Line Company laid the first pipe line across the county in 1907. This line has three branches that unite at the Lufkin Station eight miles north of Lufkin. The Oklahoma or northern branch has three eight inch lines laid in the same right-of-way. The Louisiana branch has two lines, one six-inch and one eight-inch. The West Texas branch has three lines, one six-inch, one eight-inch, and one ten-inch. The main line from the Lufkin Station to Chester has from four to six lines which range in size from six to twelve inches. The total mileage of these lines in the county is approximately forty miles and there is one large pump station which pumps the oil to Chester, the next station on the line.²⁴

²⁴ Hutchinson, F. O., Superintendent, Lufkin, Texas, Interview, June, 1934.

The Sun-Yount Lee Pipe Line Company built a ten-inch line from Henderson to Beaumont in 1931. This line is approximately thirty miles long and has one pump station which is located on the Diboll-Renfro Prairie Road. The station is an electric station which has three electric pumps that have a capacity of 54,000 barrels of oil every twenty-four hours when running full

capacity. The electric power for operating the station is furnished by a local line of the Texas Power and Light Company, which has been extended near the station. The company owns about six cottages at the station where the employees live.²⁵

²⁵Majors, P. L., Superintendent, Lufkin, Route 5, Texas, Interview, January, 1934.

The Texas Empire Pipe Line Company laid a twelve-inch pipe line from Longview to Port Arthur in 1931. The pump station on this pipe line is located about six miles from Diboll on the Diboll-Renfro Prairie road. The station is equipped with a fifteen hundred and twenty-five horse power McIntosh and Seymour Diesel engine which has a capacity of 3200 barrels of oil an hour. The engine burns crude oil for fuel, which it takes from the line.²⁶

²⁶Walker, Jimmy, Lufkin, Route 5, Texas, Interview, June, 1934.

The Atlantic Pipe Line Company laid a ten-inch line across the county in 1931. The line crosses the Neches River above Rockland and the Angelina River near Marion. That line is about thirty miles in length. The pump station is located on Highway No. 35 four miles north of Zavalla. The station is equipped

with three four hundred and twenty horse-power Diesel engines. There are a half dozen cottages at the station where the employees live. This station, as well as the other stations, is provided with deep well water. The well at this station is four hundred and fifty-three feet deep. It provides an abundant supply of water, but the water contains so much mineral that it has to be treated before it can be used in the engines.²⁷

²⁷ Love, R. E., Superintendent, Nacogdoches, Texas, Interview, June, 1934.

CHAPTER V.

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS

Education

Very little improvement was made in the schools of the county until after 1900. The coming of the first railroads in 1882 and 1885 marks the beginning of a period of industrial development in the county that was to bring about a change in the schools. The railroads influenced the schools in three ways: (1) railway transportation made it possible to operate the large sawmills which caused a rapid increase in population; (2) the railways increased the valuation of the taxable property; and (3) the railways provided transportation for the agricultural products, thereby stimulating agriculture.

The annual report of 1882 shows that the county maintained thirty-four schools for white children and eight for negro children. The total scholastic enrollment was 987, of which 175 were negroes. The total amount of the public school funds expended for teachers' salaries was \$4,474.91. In addition to the public school funds the county provided a private fund of \$420.30 for indigent children. At that time there were only two frame school buildings in the county and they were both at Homer. One of the buildings was not ceiled until

the summer of 1882.¹

¹The Banner, Homer, Texas, September 15, 1882.

In 1882 many of the school buildings were one-room log houses with just window shutters for light and ventilation and a large stick-and-dirt chimney for heat. Some of the schools had built houses of rough lumber with glass windows and had provided large cast-iron heaters. The school buildings were built and furnished by the people of the community and were used for both school and church purposes. All other community meetings were held at the school building, which was in reality the community center. After heaters were introduced, the community generally provided two for the school building. The heaters were placed on opposite sides of the room. The purpose of such placement was to provide a separate heating unit for the boys and girls rather than to secure equalization of heat. The building was equipped with home-made blackboards, home-made benches, and a small table made of heavy pine lumber for the teacher's desk. If a chair was provided for the teacher, it was a home-made oak chair with a cowhide bottom.²

²Ellis, A. E., Route 5, Lufkin, Texas, Interview, 1934.
Ewing, James A., Houston, Texas, Interview, 1934.

The school terms varied in length from four to six months. In some districts the short terms provided by the public funds were supplemented by subscription schools.³ Subscription

³ Haltom, R. W., History and Description of Angelina County, 42-44.

schools were taught as continuations of the public schools and as summer schools. A summer term of two months was very popular in most of the communities because it came at a time when there was very little farm work for the children. The following data are given for a few schools to show the distribution of the scholastic population and the amount of the public school funds in 1882.

<u>District No.</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>No.Scholastics</u>	<u>Amt.of funds</u>
No. 1	Homer (G. S.)	45	\$ 191.38
	Homer (H. S.)	17	79.20
No. 16	Lufkin	33	140.25
No. 44	Cross Roads	17	127.21
No. 7	Pine Grove	17	138.96
No. 12	Oak Flat	21	89.29
No. 39	Rocky Hill	26	110.86
No. 24	Homer (colored)	38	161.92

At that time the Homer High School employed three teachers,

H. L. Stegall, C. Mantooth, and H. C. Warren.⁴

⁴The Banner, Homer, Texas, September 15, 1882, p. 3.

There has been very little change in the number of public schools in the county since 1882. As previously stated there were thirty-four schools for white children and eight for negro children. The annual report of the county superintendent for 1936-1937 shows that the county now maintains thirty-four common school districts for the white children and eight for the negro children. In addition to the common school districts there are three independent school districts, Lufkin, Huntington, and Burke. Although the number and location of the schools have remained almost the same, the progress made in fifty-five years is expressed in the new school buildings, the equipment, the number of scholastics, the number and qualification of teachers, the amount of money expended for school purposes, and transportation. The scholastic enrollment for 1936-1937 was 7,730 and there were one hundred and forty white teachers and eleven negro teachers employed in the common school districts. The amount expended for school purposes was \$174,113.84. The county received \$33,916.00 for rural aid which was distributed as follows: \$11,798.00 for transportation, \$6,788.00 for high school tuition, \$14,630.00 for salaries, and \$700.00 for

industrial work.⁵

⁵Walker, Howard (county superintendent), Lufkin, Texas, to Effie Boon, July 6, 1937.

The County Judge was ex-officio superintendent of the county until 1907, at which time the office of county superintendent of public instruction was created, and G. W. Largent was appointed to serve as superintendent until the general election in 1908. The duties of the ex-officio superintendent had been largely clerical because the county judge had very little time for supervisory work. The duties of the county superintendent were principally clerical until 1919 when the county provided an assistant for the superintendent. With office help and better roads the county superintendent has been able to supervise the schools to some extent and to work out county-wide programs to create interest and good will.

The movement for bond issues for the purpose of building and equipping modern school buildings was begun in 1914. That is, the first bonds were voted May 11, 1914. District number 10, Ora, voted a \$2,500 bond for building and equipping a two-room frame building. District number 25, Redland, voted a bond for \$8,000 for building and equipping a brick building. District number 26, Clawson, voted a \$2,000 bond for building and equipping a four-room frame schoolhouse. After these districts took

the lead, others followed so rapidly that by 1918 all of the districts had modern buildings and equipment.⁶

⁶Bond Records, Lufkin, Texas

In 1928 a movement for consolidation was begun. Since that time there has been a gradual development of consolidation which has produced eight consolidated schools; namely, Central, Concord, Hudson, Manning, Moffett, Redland, Rocky Hill, and Zavalla. Most of these schools have brick buildings that are well equipped and they all provide bus transportation for the children. The following table shows the number of scholastics, the number of teachers, the number of affiliated credits, and the number of busses operated by each school:

<u>School</u>	<u>Scholastics</u>	<u>Teachers</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Busses</u>
Central #1	587	14 W. & 2 C.	17	7
Concord #3	126	4	--	4
Hudson #33	495	15	18½	7
Manning #12	124	4	--	1
Moffet #24	178	6	--	3
Redland #25	253	7	18½	1
Rocky Hill #19	190	7	--	2
Zavalla #6	440	13	21½	5

In addition to the consolidated schools there are some

rural schools that transfer the high school to the nearest affiliated school. In this group we find that the Beulah and Prairie Grove districts transfer all high school students to Diboll; Burke and Biloxi transfer to Lufkin; Retrieve transfers to Zavalla; Odell and Ora transfer to Huntington; and Shawnee Prairie transfers to Manning. The one-teacher rural school is an institution of the past.⁷

⁷ Walker, Howard, (county superintendent), Lufkin, Texas, to Effie Boon, July 6, 1937.

The Lufkin Independent School District maintains the best school system in the county. The organization of this district was determined by the establishment of Lufkin in 1882. The preceding table shows that Lufkin had a scholastic population of thirty-three and an appropriated fund of \$140.25 for the school year of 1882-1883. The school grew slowly until 1900, which marks the beginning of the period of industrial development. The introduction of industrial plants caused a rapid increase in population and also a rapid increase in the scholastic enrollment. The school has continued to grow rather rapidly from 1900 to the present time. Since 1920 the attendance has doubled, the building expenses are three times greater, operating expenses five times greater, and teachers' salaries six times greater. The scholastic enrollment for 1936 was 2,800 and the system

employed seventy-two teachers, sixty-four white and eight negro. The number of affiliated credits have been increased from sixteen to forty-three and one-half.⁸

⁸Coston, I. A. (Superintendent), Lufkin, Texas, Interview, September, 1936.

Newspapers of Angelina County

The Pioneer was the first newspaper published in Angelina County. It was established at Homer in 1861 by Judge McGowen, but the publication lasted for only one or two years.⁹ The pub-

⁹Haltom, R. W., History and Description of Angelina County, 57-58.

lication was stopped, perhaps, by the paper famine that came as a result of the Civil War. During the war period the newspapers of Galveston and Houston were printed on many kinds of paper, some of which looks like scrap paper and some wrapping paper. Perhaps the smaller town could not secure any kind of paper.

The second newspaper published in the county was The Banner, which was established at Homer by F. H. Robinson. The paper was edited by F. H. Robinson and his sister, Miss Georgia Robinson. They put out the first edition May 12, 1882, and

continued the publication weekly until January 7, 1883. It seems that the publication of the paper was forced on Mr. Robinson by a situation that resulted from the "April Showers" of East Texas. He gave the following account of his newspaper experience in Angelina County:

Jasper H. Chapman, J. C. Everitt, and T. S. Sayers of Homer, in January, 1882, conditionally arranged for the publication of a small newspaper at Homer, in Angelina County, Texas. They placed in escrow in the County Judge's safe \$1200.00 to be paid to T. J. Carraway and F. H. Robinson upon the latter's delivering a printing outfit and getting out for them their proposed initial edition of "The Dispatch" at Homer during April, 1882. The office materials were at Jasper, Texas, and had to be moved overland by ox-wagons. Leaving Jasper on April 18, after heavy rains had fallen we found that the Angelina River was overflowing much of the roadway and that a cyclone had twisted and scattered many large trees across the highway. This situation made it necessary to cut and remove several oak and pine trees and to fill in numerous bog holes. In fact we rebuilt a roadway over about ten miles of the country between Mott's Ferry and Homer with rains continuing during the time we were enroute. Arriving at Homer on May 1, 1882, we were told by the contracting gentlemen that they had accepted failure to get the paper under way during April as forfeiture of the agreement and that ended the "Dispatch" enterprise. I published the first edition of the "Banner" at Homer May 12, 1882. It was a four-page, twenty-four column sheet; published weekly until January 7, 1883, when I sold the paper to J. M. Stockton & Son, Clint. I aided them in getting out their first edition and in moving the plant to Lufkin where they published only a few months before moving to Moscow in Polk County. The Banner's circulation averaged about five hundred copies weekly during its publication by me.¹⁰

¹⁰Robinson, F. H., Sabine, Texas, to Effie Boon, March 7, 1934.

In 1886 the Clarion began publication and was continued until the office burned in 1887. In September of that same year the Lufkin Leader made its appearance.¹¹ The Lufkin Leader was

¹¹ Haltom, R. W., History and Description of Angelina County, 50.

published by R. W. Haltom who wrote the History and Description of Angelina County during the period that he was publishing the Lufkin Leader. In 1887 L. Augusta Wilson, editor and publisher, established the Angelina County Press which was an eight-page paper published weekly, on Wednesday. That same paper was published on Friday by Volney Pattee, editor and publisher.¹²

¹² Rowell, American Newspaper Directory, 1901, p. 1105.

During the nineties the Lufkin Leader and the Angelina County Press were consolidated and the publication was continued until 1897 when V. V. Daniels established the Tribune, a four-page weekly published on Thursday. In 1897 J. F. Davis and W. R. McMullen established the Weekly, a four-page paper published on Thursday.¹³

¹³ Rowell, American Newspaper Directory, 1901, p. 1105; 1897, p. 982.

G. E. Watford purchased the Tribune from V. V. Daniels in 1902 and continued to publish it until 1909 as a weekly. The first daily newspaper, Lufkin Daily News, was established in 1907 by C. L. Schless. Mr. Schless published the daily for two years. In 1909 he organized a stock company and purchased the Tribune which he consolidated with the Lufkin Daily News. Mr. Schless was to continue as editor for the stock company, but after a time he became dissatisfied and returned to Beaumont to become editor of the Journal. The company retained H. A. McKelvey as editor until 1913. By that time the paper was facing financial difficulties and the stock company sold the plant to G. E. Watford who had returned from Hamlin where he had been editing a paper since 1909. When Mr. Watford bought the daily, Mr. McKelvey bought another weekly that was being published in Lufkin and was combined with a commercial house. Later Mr. McKelvey discontinued the weekly and sold the commercial printing shop to W. C. Binion. In August, 1914, Mr. Watford and Mr. Binion formed a partnership and combined the newspaper and the commercial printing and began publishing a semi-weekly. They did not have any linotype machines. Everything was done by hand. In 1916 the Watford-Binion Printing Company was organized and the first linotype machine was purchased. The daily publication was resumed in 1917 and the service of the Associated Press secured. When the daily publication was resumed, the semi-weekly was changed to a weekly. Another linotype machine

was purchased in 1923 and in March, 1928, a new Duplex flatbed web press was added.¹⁴

¹⁴Lufkin Daily News, Lufkin, Texas, April 18, 1932, sec. 7, p. 1.

Churches of Angelina County

There seem to be no available data on the actual dates that the earliest churches were established since they were all rural churches that kept very poor records or no records at all. Some of the oldest citizens who were born in the fifties say that each community had an organized church that used the school building for church purposes. The three prevailing denominations were Methodist, Baptist, and Christian. There were some Presbyterians in the county, but not a sufficient number to organize a rural church. A store and a church were found at practically all of the early postoffices. The early postoffices were Ivy, Mott, Miami, Cheeseland, Bodan, Ora, Shawnee, Calhoun, Bradley, Cane Hill, and Wilmoth. In some of the communities there would be one organized church while in others there would be two or three. The general custom was to call a pastor who preached one Sunday in each month and every one attended regardless of his belief. The monthly-service plan made it possible for all the denominations to use the schoolhouse for church

purposes or to have a union Church.¹⁵

¹⁵ Russell, W. D., Huntington, Texas, Interview, 1934.
Powell, Sarah, Diboll, Texas, Interview, 1934.
Ewing, James A., Houston, Texas, Interview, 1934.

The minutes of the commissioners' court show that on September 29, 1858, the county commissioners appropriated three acres of land to the Missionary Baptist Church for the establishment of a church and cemetery. This land was appropriated from the town tract that had been appropriated by the Legislature of Texas for the location of a county seat.¹⁶ The following ex-

¹⁶ Minutes of the Commissioners' Court, Book B, 165.

cerpt from the Banner gives the organized churches in Homer in 1882.

Homer, the county seat, is a flourishing little town in the center of the county. It has Methodist, Baptist, and Presbyterian organizations, two good Sunday Schools, and two literary schools, one being the Homer High School.¹⁷

¹⁷ The Banner, Homer, Texas, August 4, 1882, p. 3.

The second excerpt from the History and Description of Angelina County by R. W. Haltom gives the number of churches in

Lufkin and in the county in 1887.

Lufkin has three organized churches, Methodist, Baptist, and Presbyterian, and one consolidated Sunday School which has been in successful and continuous operation since the day it was organized, four years ago, without the least discord or schism.

Every settlement has its church organization and religious worship is held more or less frequently according to circumstances. Sunday Schools are to be found in every community and are well attended and much interest is manifested by all in their success. Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterians, and other denominations dwell together in peace and harmony. The following is the number of organized churches: Baptist, fourteen; Methodist Episcopal, South, nine; Christian, four; Old School Presbyterian, five; Primitive Baptist, two; and Protestant Methodist, one.¹⁸

¹⁸ Haltom, R. W., History and Description of Angelina County, 39-40; 50.

We find that the churches developed along with the schools, because the church, from the beginning of the organization of the county, has been placed on the same level of the school in that it was considered as an institution necessary for training the children as well as a place of worship for the adults. When the rural communities began improving their schools, they began also providing better and separate buildings for church purposes. The Baptist and Methodist are still the prevailing churches of the rural group.

Lufkin is the church center of Angelina County. It has ten beautiful church buildings located in various sections of

the city. They are as follows: the First Baptist, the Second Baptist, First Methodist Episcopal, South, Presbyterian, First Christian, Church of Christ, Nazarene, Episcopal, Catholic, and Gospel Church. The church property is evaluated at \$500,000. The First Baptist Church, which is the largest and best equipped church in town, cost \$100,000. The combined Sunday School attendance is about 3,000 and the young people's organizations that are maintained by the various churches have a large and regular attendance.¹⁹

¹⁹Lufkin Daily News, Lufkin, Texas, April 18, 1932, sec. 5, p. 1.

Clubs of Angelina County

Angelina County has several well organized and active clubs that have done much in the fields of education, public improvement, charity, recreation, conservation, and beautification. Lufkin is the club center of the county although all of the towns have active clubs and lodges. All of the clubs have been organized since 1900. One of the oldest as well as one of the most effective organizations in Lufkin is the Lufkin Chamber of Commerce, which was organized as a commercial club in 1900.

Lufkin Chamber of Commerce.

The old commercial club has grown into the present day Chamber of Commerce which expresses an interest in the agricultural section of the county, public improvement in both city and county, and friendly contact and co-operation with other parts of the State. One of the first activities of the club was to obtain a stock law for Lufkin to keep the hogs and cattle off the down town streets. After securing the desired stock law the organization directed its attention to street lights, sidewalks, a water system, a race track, and a county fair. Since 1920 the Chamber of Commerce has helped to pay the salaries of the home demonstration agent and the county agricultural agent and has co-operated with the agents in the home canning and land terracing projects of the county. It has encouraged the production of better farm products by promoting county fairs where prizes are given for the best exhibits of farm products and livestock. It has co-operated by helping to provide exhibits for the fairs at Dallas, Tyler, and Beaumont. The Chamber of Commerce has aided also in securing a Federal Building for the postoffice and federal courts at Lufkin. It has had some influence in the improvement of highways of the county, in the establishment of an airport, in beautifying the city, and has assisted in the malaria program.²⁰

²⁰ Lufkin Daily News, Lufkin, Texas, April 18, 1932, sec. 3, p. 4.

Retail Merchants Association

The Retail Merchants Association was organized in 1920. The association is affiliated with both the state and the national retail credit association and has a class "A" rating. As a result of the efficient service of the Retail Merchants Association it has been estimated that the loss by citizens from bad checks is sixty per cent less than that of other cities of the same size that have no such an organization. The Retail Merchants Associations of Lufkin, Groveton, Nacogdoches, Henderson, and Rusk are under the same management, which results in increasing benefits for all members.²¹

²¹Ibid.

The Angelina County Medical Society

The Angelina County Medical Society was organized in 1906. The charter members included Drs. L. Mantooth, T. W. Largent, A. M. Denman, R. L. Denman, W. B. Treadwell, J. H. Chapman, S. P. Cunningham, and R. B. Bledsoe. Dr. Mantooth was the first president and Dr. Bledsoe was the first secretary-treasurer. Monthly meetings were held from the time of organization until 1929. Since that time the society assembles semi-monthly, on the second and fourth Friday of the month. The present membership includes

practically all of the physicians of the county.²²

²²Ibid., sec. 3, p. 1.

The Lions Club

The Lions Club was organized in 1920 with the following officers: K. W. Denman, president; W. C. Trout, vice-president; W. A. Colmorgan, second vice-president; J. C. Carter, secretary; and N. D. Shand, G. A. Kelley, and W. M. Glenn, trustees. It had eighteen charter members at the time of organization and by 1923 its membership had increased to fifty-three. Club meetings were held in the basement of the First Christian Church until 1923. Since that time the meetings have been held in the Angelina Hotel.

The club has sponsored many worthwhile movements since its organization. It has always maintained a very active entertainment program. From time to time it has entertained groups of teachers, farmers, merchants, lumbermen, and delegates of various conventions that have been held in Lufkin. One of the earliest projects of the club was the maintenance of the Lufkin Band which contributed a great deal to city entertainment and to rural school entertainment. In 1922 the club raised \$4,500.00 for the organization of a Young Men's Christian Association in Angelina County. The club has done much for the under-privileged children by providing Christmas parties for them and by aiding the schools

to provide funds necessary for keeping such children in school. A loan fund was established by the club to aid worthy boys and girls in securing a college education. Other important projects sponsored by the club are the improvement of the Courthouse Square, adequate parking space around the courthouse, beautification of the city and of the county highways, improvement of the streets and water system, protection of the fish and game, a high-breed milk cow for the family, establishment of the airport, organization of Boy Scouts, better roads, and proper observance of our state and national holidays.²³

²³ Ibid., sec. 2, p. 6.

The Historical and Literary Club

On May 29, 1909, a small group of women met at the home of Mrs. Norman Belk and organized a study club which they called the Lufkin Historical Club. The club was organized under the influence of Miss Byrnes who was organizing clubs throughout the state. Under the guidance of Mrs. Martin Feagin as president the club began its work with the study of American History and Romance and later it added the study of American Literature. The club has established a small scholarship loan fund and has sponsored and organized a junior club. In 1921 and 1922 the club sponsored a music memory contest in the schools, and the success of the contest brought about the organization of the

Music Study Club. It was very active in war work during the World War, but its greatest work has been the placing of many beautiful pictures in the Lufkin schools.²⁴

²⁴Ibid., sec. 2, p. 8.

The United Spanish War Veterans

The camp for the Spanish War veterans was organized February 25, 1925, with seventeen members. When the United States declared war against Spain in 1898, a number of Angelina County men enlisted for service. The veterans did not organize as a group until after the World War veterans organized the American Legion Post. The local camp is known as the Kit McConnico Camp number 21. The charter members were H. A. Atkinson, Paul Bloten, Archie Cole, John Frisby, Ben S. Lang, Pat Taylor, T. W. Baker, Clyde V. Coe, C. L. Dowel, T. V. Gillespie, W. R. McMullen, T. E. Todd, W. C. Binion, R. M. Cain, T. E. Ennis, Pick Lacy and C. W. McGibboney. Other members that have come in are Robert Weaver, William E. Thomason, W. H. Shearer, Mallory B. McKinney, C. T. Matlock, C. W. Gatewood, Joseph Kane, P. P. Drace, J. D. Bradshaw, and W. H. Biggers.²⁵

²⁵Ibid., sec. 3, p. 1.

Angelina Post of American Legion

The Angelina Post number 113 was organized in 1922, but became so inactive that it was reorganized in 1926. Since its reorganization the Post has been very active in various fields of service. It has marked all of the graves of the ex-service men in the county that were unmarked, regardless of the war service of the deceased. It raised three thousand dollars for the erection of an appropriate memorial to the county's soldiers who lost their lives in the World War. The monument is located on the southwest corner of the Courthouse Square and is illuminated at night by a search light. The names of the county's casualties which made up the honor roll are engraved on the monument. The Post has been active in securing hospitalization for ex-service men who were disabled while in service. It cooperates with the state and national legions in all programs planned for the year. It has helped to organize two Boy Scout troops, number 19 and 29. The Boy Scouts participate in the Armistice Day program and other patriotic programs.²⁶

²⁶ Ibid., sec.6, p. 1.

The Civic League

The organization of the Women's Civic League was brought about by some civic problems that were apparent in 1914. The officers were Mrs. J. L. Philips, president; Mrs. G. A. Kelley,

first vice-president; Mrs. W. D. Price, second vice-president; Mrs. G. E. Watford, third vice-president; Mrs. L. P. Campbell, fourth vice-president; Mrs. W. J. Patterson, secretary; and Mrs. C. N. Humason, treasurer. The club was organized for the purpose of promoting civic improvement, public cleanliness, and the beautification of Lufkin. Membership was open to all women interested in civic improvement. According to the minutes of a meeting held February 28, 1914, the club had a membership of fifty. Soon after its organization the club put on a clean-up campaign which included both the business and the residential sections of the city. The club members planted more than five hundred trees in the city and sponsored the first garden contest held in Lufkin. The club has become inactive.²⁷

²⁷ Ibid., sec. 6, p. 1.

The Lufkin Band

The first band organized in Lufkin was the Tribune Band which was organized in 1900 and named for the Lufkin Tribune, the weekly newspaper published by V. V. Daniels at that time. After a short time the Tribune Band was developed into a musical organization known as the Hoo-Hoo Band. The Hoo-Hoo Band was organized by the Hoo-Hoo Association which was a lumbermen's association of East Texas. The original members included T. A. Humason, director; C. N. Humason, manager; W. P. Humason,

S. H. Kerr, W. E. Stegall, Clyde Stegall, Otto Lang, V. C. Blake, Conrad Rushie, George Schmidt, Charles Chenevale, and Albert Glenn. The band continued to grow until it had twenty members, but it was disrupted by the World War in 1917. The Hoo-Hoo Band was not fully reorganized until 1928 when the Lions Club took the band under its wing.²⁸

²⁸Ibid., sec. 5, p. 4.

Other clubs that are worthy of mention are the Women's Auxiliary of the Medical Association, the Music Study Club, and the Women's Auxiliary of the Chamber of Commerce. The Women's Auxiliary of the Medical Association was organized in 1928 by Mrs. A. E. Sweatland with a membership composed of the wives of the members of the Medical Association of Lufkin. The Music Study Club was organized in 1923 for the purpose of developing music appreciation. The Women's Auxiliary of the Chamber of Commerce was organized in 1920. The most important work of the club was the establishment of the Public Library in 1925.²⁹

²⁹Ibid., sec. 6, p. 3; sec. 5, p. 8.

The Red Cross is an old county-wide organization that has functioned in the county for many years. Its greatest work was

accomplished during the World War by sponsoring a movement to supply a large number of hand-knitted helmets, sweaters, and gloves for the soldiers of the United States. At that same time many garments were made for the destitute women and children of the devastated region of Belgium.

Another county-wide organization is the Young Men's Christian Association. Groups have been organized at Lufkin, Homer, Huntington, Sulphur Springs, Burke, Diboll, Keltys, Clawson, and Redland. Log cabins have been built at Zavalla and Diboll as camping places for the members. The Southern Pines Lumber Company built a large gymnasium and recreation hall for the use of the men and boys at Diboll. The special activities are summer camping, athletics, and service programs.

CHAPTER VI.

THE RAILROAD CENTERS OF ANGELINA COUNTY

The towns of the county may be divided in two distinct groups: (1) the railroad centers that have been established primarily as railway stations and trade centers, and (2) the towns that have been established as lumbering centers. Although some of the railway centers became lumbering centers, they maintained certain distinguishing features that set them apart from the sawmill towns that have already been described. The present sawmill towns include Keltys, Diboll, and Ewing. The towns that may be classed as railroad centers are Lufkin, Burke, Huntington, and Zavalla. The location of the railway centers was determined by the railroads. That is, the railroad company selected the town site, built a depot, and named the town.

Zavalla

The Texas and New Orleans Railway was built across Angelina County in 1900. In September of that year the railroad company built a depot at Zavalla Prairie and named the station Zavalla. At the time the station was built the population within a four-mile radius consisted of six families. Cal Warren lived near the station, George Hawkins two miles west, Felder Jones three miles north, John Colwell three and one-half miles north, Arasmus Gibson four miles west, and James Gilliland four

miles east. The station was built on a small prairie surrounded by a virgin forest of long-leaf pine. Zavalla was an ideal location for a large sawmill, but the railway was built after all of the large mills except Manning had been established. The following small sawmills were in operation at Zavalla for a short time: Hodge's mill, 1909; Granberry and Brashear, 1912; the Black Sap Lumber Company, 1920; and Boynton, 1925. The timber supply for these small mills was limited because the companies owning the large mills had bought practically all of the surrounding timber during the nineties. Zavalla became a shipping center for cross-ties, pilings, and staves. It became also a shipping point for cattle because it was located in the area that was devoted largely to grazing. The town was most fortunate in the location of modern highways. Highway 40 was built along the western edge of town and Highways 65 and 80 converge with Highway 40 near the business section of town. These highways have enabled Zavalla to establish one of the best consolidated schools in the county. The Zavalla School now has an enrollment of four hundred and forty and a teaching staff of thirteen. Although the town was located in one of the most sparsely settled sections of the county, it has grown slowly but continuously. It has become the chief trade and shipping center for the farmers of the southern part of the county and now has a

population of two hundred.¹

¹Gibson, Noah, Zavalla, Texas, Interview, 1934.
Colwell, John, Zavalla, Texas, Interview, 1934.

Huntington

The Texas and New Orleans Railway Company selected the town site and built the depot in October, 1900, and named the town Huntington. That same year the Long-Bell Lumber Company built a railway for logging purposes from Lufkin to Donevan, across the southern edge of the town site. In 1903 that tram was taken over by the Cotton Belt Railway Company and the Cotton Belt depot was built in the winter of 1903-1904. In 1906 the Carter-Kelley Lumber Company built a short line, the Houston, Gulf, and Shreveport, from Manning to Huntington. The three railroads gave Huntington excellent shipping facilities and it soon became a popular shipping center for cross-ties, pilings, and staves as well as farm products. The timber industries were the chief factors that caused the early growth of the town. The employees of these industries lived in camps and usually went to town on Saturday afternoon and spent their earnings of the week. Huntington was surrounded by a rich and densely settled agricultural section; therefore it provided a trade center for a large

group of farmers.

As soon as the town site was located, buildings for various businesses were built. Captain R. D. Chapman established the first mercantile business which was followed by Hall and Hayter, D. E. Cochran, and Wilson Brothers. These were all small, general merchandise stores. Hall and Hayter established a drug store in a building adjoining their general merchandise store. The first hotel was under the management of the three Varnen sisters and was known as the Three Sisters Hotel. Three saloons were opened about the time that Captain Chapman established his mercantile business. The saloons were very prosperous business establishments as long as the camps of the various timber industries were located within trading distances of town. When the town was first established, a large part of the business section was east of the Texas and New Orleans Railway, but the building of the Cotton-Belt station tended to draw the business establishments between the railroads.

The present population of four hundred seems stable because the town is supported by an agricultural section which is growing. Since 1930 the town has been provided with electric lights and a water system. The water is supplied from a deep well on the south side of town. Huntington maintained a small bank from 1915 to 1935, but the depression reduced the business of the bank to such a low margin that it was consolidated with the First State Bank at Lufkin. The town maintains an independent

school district and has a good school with modern buildings and equipment. There are four churches in this small town and three cotton gins. Although these gins are equipped with modern machinery, they have to operate at night during the rush of the harvest season in order to take care of the ginning.²

²Ivy, W. D., Huntington, Texas, to Effie Boon, 1934.

Burke

Burke is the oldest railway station in the county. In the early part of the year of 1882 the Houston East and West Texas Railway Company built a depot at the western edge of Bradley Prairie and named the station Burke for Ed Burke, a civil engineer, who helped to survey the line for the railway.³ At the

³Tallichet, J. W., Houston, Texas, to Effie Boon, April 9, 1934.

time Burke was established Bradley Prairie was a treeless area about one and one-half miles wide and two miles long. The prairie was located on the margin of the long-leaf pine area and was surrounded by a dense growth of merchantable

timber.⁴ In 1888 R. W. Haltom described Burke as a thriving

⁴Powell, Taylor, Diboll, Texas, Interview, 1934.

little town with three general merchandise stores, a drug store, and a sawmill. He stated also that the school had an enrollment of fifty.⁵ The sawmill was small and did not amount to

⁵Haltom, R. W., History and Description of Angelina County, 56.

much in the lumber industry on the commercial scale. There was a postoffice which is still maintained. The postal system has established two rural delivery routes that serve the surrounding agricultural section. Burke continued to be a prosperous little trade center until about 1920. By that time automobiles and trucks were coming into general use and the highways were being improved. Better roads and automobiles began diverting the trade to Lufkin, thereby starting the decline of Burke. Diboll, which was established in 1894, has been a great factor in retarding the growth of Burke. With its population of more than one thousand Diboll has supplied a market for certain kinds of farm products that could be grown in that territory. For this reason much of the farm trade went to Diboll.

Lufkin

Lufkin was the second railway station established by the Houston East and West Texas Railway Company in Angelina County. The depot was built in October, 1882,⁶ and the town was named

⁶Tallichet, J. H., Houston, Texas, to Effie Boon, April 9, 1934.

for E. P. Lufkin, an engineer, who was engaged in the construction of the railway from Houston to Shreveport, Louisiana. E. P. Lufkin was the son-in-law of Colonel Bremond, who was one of the chief stockholders of the railway.⁷

⁷Wortham, Louis J., A History of Texas, V, 302.

The preliminary survey of the Houston East and West Texas Railway through Angelina County was made between 1877 and 1880, and the line was finally and definitely located through the county in 1881. Its construction was begun at Houston in 1876. It was built into Lufkin and put into operation in October, 1882, and built into Nacogdoches and put into operation May 15, 1883.⁸ There is a popular and well known traditional story

⁸Tallichet, J. H., Houston, Texas, to Effie Boon, April 9, 1934.

connected with the location of that railway, which suggests that the final location of the line was determined by a desire for revenge. The following summary of the story was given by F. H. Robinson, of Sabine, Texas:

When the surveyors of the Houston East and West Texas Railway, who were running the preliminary line, reached Homer a dance was on. The surveyors attended the dance and indulged in the then usual between-dance refreshments. After a few drinks the surveyors became very jolly and later grew somewhat boisterous. This led to a protest which developed into a fight. The officers were called and the surveyors were arrested and put in jail. When the surveyors were released the next day, they had changed their plans for the location of the railway. They went back to the Neches River and turned the permanent line so it would not go through such rough country.⁹

⁹Robinson, F. H., to Effie Boon, March 12, 1934.

At that time Mr. Robinson was living at Homer, which was the county seat, and he was engaged in publishing a newspaper, The Banner. The officials of the railway company give the following and more logical reasons for the location of the line:

The line was located as it now exists instead of turning to the east and going through Homer because it was desired that it go to Shreveport by the shortest practicable route, and to have turned to the east through Homer would have necessitated a rather long detour. In addition, the line was located to avoid unnecessary bridges and was, accordingly, on a sort of ridge between Stovall Creek, which enters the Neches River to the east of the railway crossing on the river and Cedar Creek which enters that river to the west of the crossing. The actual location carried the line through the county with a minimum amount of bridging. To have gone by Homer would have involved apparently a maximum

amount of bridging.¹⁰

¹⁰Tallichet, J. H., Houston, Texas, to Effie Boon, April 9, 1934.

The town site of Lufkin originally consisted of approximately 360 acres. On November 9, 1881, W. L. Denman conveyed to the Houston East and West Texas Railway Company 189.5 acres described as the south half of the Lufkin town site. On November 10, 1881, F. P. Abney conveyed to the same company 178.6 acres described as the north half of the town site. Little appears, however, to have been done in connection with the townsite until 1885. On November 10, 1885, the Houston East and West Texas Railway Company and the Kansas City and Gulf Short Line Railway Company entered into a contract with respect to the townsite, in effect, dividing it and arranging for the sale of lots. On Tuesday, November 24, 1885, there was a barbecue and sale of lots at auction. Excursion trains were run from Houston, Shreveport, and Tyler to Lufkin. The actual sale of lots was conducted by John Durst of Tyler, Texas, who appears to have been land agent for the Kansas City and Gulf Short Line Railway Company.¹¹

¹¹Tallichet, J. H., Houston, Texas, to Effie Boon, April 9, 1934.

Although the two railway companies did not form a cooperative plan for laying out the townsite and selling lots until 1885, the Houston East and West Texas Railway Company had laid out and sold a few town lots as early as the autumn of 1882. Advertisements in the county paper show that the following men were established in business at Lufkin by January, 1883:

W. R. Kerr & Company - groceries, hardware, stoves, and tinware; and manufacturers of saddles, harness and tinware.

Muller and Clark - drygoods, hardware, and holiday goods.

W. H. Bonner - general merchandise (located on the southwest corner of Cotton Square).

Denton Hotel - facing the railway station.

The Shofner Hotel - operated by B. L. Shofner.

Dr. J. A. Abney - physician.¹²

¹² Robinson, F. H., The Banner, Homer, Texas, January 12, 1883.

Lufkin became the transportation center for Homer and gradually absorbed the greater portion of Homer's business enterprises and population. The process of absorption was hastened by moving the county seat to Lufkin. On May 9, 1885, a special election was held for purpose of voting on the question of changing the location of the county seat from Homer to Lufkin. In that election Homer received 532 votes and Lufkin 247. That election did not settle the question. It was only the beginning

of one of the bitterest and hardest fought issues that had come before the people of the county. A second election was held January 2, 1892. In that election Lufkin received 1076 votes and Homer 436. The burning of the courthouse at Homer in 1891 was the chief factor in turning the majority vote to Lufkin in 1892. The business men of Lufkin offered to build a courthouse for the county if the voters would support Lufkin in the election called for January 2, 1892.¹³

¹³ Election Returns, Book 2, pp. 12, 37.
Townsend, W. J., Lufkin, Texas, Interview, 1934.

On February 9, 1892, the county purchased block No. 15 for a location for the courthouse. That block was purchased from the two railway companies. One-half of block No. 15 was conveyed to Angelina County by the Tyler Southwestern Railway Company for the sum of one dollar provided the courthouse be located and maintained on it. For the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars the Houston East and West Texas Railway Company conveyed one-half of block No. 15 to the county on June 23, 1892.¹⁴

¹⁴ Deed Records, Book T, pp. 219, 345.

After the county officials had consummated the above purchase, the business men of Lufkin, according to their election

promise, built the courthouse which was a two-story frame building, fifty-six feet square. That building was replaced by a modern brick building in 1902. The first jail at Lufkin was built in 1892 and was located on the southeast corner of the Courthouse Square. As in the case of the courthouse, the county soon outgrew that jail, but failed to get a new building until 1926. The new jail was located on the north side of the courthouse and was erected by the Southern Steel Construction Company of San Antonio, Texas, at a cost of \$59,000.¹⁵

¹⁵ Commissioners Court Record, D, 158-166; F, 122.

The first business section of Lufkin was located at Old Lufkin which is now the site of the factory of the Martin Wagon Company. After the townsite was surveyed and laid out completely in 1885, a new business section sprang up around Cotton Square. The first buildings around Cotton Square were all frame buildings which were later destroyed by three successive fires, the first occurring about 1900. As the business section was rebuilt, it was moved one block east and modern brick buildings were erected.

The oldest business establishments are Abram's, Burke's Drug Store, and Glenn Hardware and Furniture Company. The Abrams entered the mercantile business at Homer in 1872 and moved to Lufkin in 1887, where they have been in continuous operation up

to the present time. W. M. Glenn & Company was established at Lufkin in 1897 and reorganized as Glenn Hardware and Furniture Company in 1930. Burke's Drug Store was established in 1895 by C. A. Burke.¹⁶

¹⁶ Glenn, W. M.; Abram, Harry; and Burke, C. A.; Lufkin, Texas, Interview, 1934.

Lufkin was incorporated in 1890. In the election for incorporation only seventy-seven votes were cast, fifty-one in favor of incorporation and twenty-six against it.¹⁷ The popula-

¹⁷ Commissioners Court Record, F, 12-13.

tion at that time was about five hundred.

Before 1900 Lufkin was classed as a trade and shipping center, but since that date it may be classed as an industrial center because the industrial phase has become the most important. In 1900 both the Lufkin-Land and Lumber Company and the Lufkin Foundry and Machine Company were established within the city limits of Lufkin. The Lufkin-Land and Lumber Company erected one of the largest yellow pine mills in East Texas at that time. The stockholders of that company lived at Texarkana. They operated the sawmill until 1905, at which time they sold to the Long-Bell Lumber Company. The mill was operated under Long-Bell

ownership until 1930 and it produced more than one and one-half billion feet of lumber during the twenty-five years that it was in operation. The Lufkin Foundry and Machine Company established a small plant in wooden buildings in 1900 for the purpose of providing repair and new materials for the sawmills of Angelina County. The plant which has become one of the largest of its kind in the Southwest now has a daily capacity of one hundred tons of gray iron. The wooden buildings have been replaced by modern steel structures.¹⁸

¹⁸ Kurth, E. L., Keltys, Texas, Interview, 1934.
Cudlip, A. L., Lufkin, Texas, Interview, 1934.

The Angelina Building Material Company was organized in 1904 for the primary purpose of retailing building materials and financing homes in Lufkin and the surrounding territory.¹⁹

¹⁹ Lufkin Daily News, April 18, 1932, Lufkin, Texas, sec. 5, p. 4.

The Martin Wagon Factory was founded in 1910 by D. W. Martin for the purpose of producing log wagons for the sawmills of the county as well as adjoining territory. When first established the factory manufactured only an eight-wheel log wagon, but later it began the manufacture of a larger heavy-duty wagon

and a heavy-duty trailer for use in the East Texas oil fields. When motor trucks were introduced for long-distance hauling, the company began the manufacture of truck bodies and trailers for the trucks.²⁰

²⁰ Zeagler, B. L., Lufkin, Texas, Interview, June, 1934.

The Texas Fence Company was established in 1925 and began the manufacture of various kinds of fencing. The factory has an annual capacity of 2,000,000 feet of fence which is made from materials purchased chiefly in Texas. Many of the pickets used in manufacture of the fencing are cut by the Angelina County Lumber Company at Keltys. The production of pickets enables the mill company to salvage a large part of the rough edges that are cut from the lumber that would otherwise go into the fuel supply. The fence company manufactures ornamental fence, garden fence, lawn fence, snow fence, grain bins, and gates of all sizes. The company manufactures a portable silo on which it holds exclusive patent rights. The products of the plant are shipped to all parts of the United States, Mexico, and Canada. Thousands of feet of snow fence are purchased each year for use in the far Northwest.²¹

²¹ Zeagler, B. L., Lufkin, Texas, Interview, June, 1934.

There are other small factories in Lufkin such as the ice factories, ice cream factories, bottling works, tin shops, and box factory that supply the local demands.

Lufkin has a modern airport consisting of one hundred acres. The first aeroplane landed in Lufkin in 1918. The plane was brought to Lufkin to stimulate the patriotism of the county during a Liberty Loan drive. The first men to become interested in an airport were J. E. and Eulen Berry. J. E. Berry expressed his interest by donating one hundred acres of land for the airport and by helping Eulen Berry level the land with a grader and a tractor. After the Berrys had begun the airport, the Chamber of Commerce and the city leased the field in 1930. The field has two runways each 2800 feet in length, one running north and south and the other east and west, and it provides ample room for the largest plane to land or take-off. Lufkin is on two major airlines, one from Houston to Shreveport and the other from Beaumont to Dallas.

Lake Myriad Country Club is another particular attraction of the city. Lake Myriad is a beautiful club estate located one and one-half miles from town and it is provided with equipment for bathing, dancing, and golf. The artificial lake on the property was dug thirty years ago for the Lake Myriad Fishing Club.

Lufkin offers excellent hotel accommodations for a town of its size. The Hotel Angelina, which was opened in 1922, has

one hundred and ten rooms, of which eighty have private baths. A beauty parlor, a barber shop, and a coffee shop are operated on the first floor for the convenience of the guests. The Angelina Club Room, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Union Bus Station are also located on the first floor of the hotel. Among the smaller hotels the Old Bonner Hotel is the most popular because of its location and its many years of excellent service.

Among all the buildings constructed in Lufkin the Angelina County Hospital has been appreciated more than any by the citizens of both the town and the county. The hospital is a modern, fire-proof, three-story, brick building which has five wards, two operating rooms, an X-ray room, a laboratory, two diet rooms, and twelve private rooms for patients. It will accommodate thirty-five patients and was built for county use, but many patients from adjoining counties are served. There is a training school for nurses connected with the hospital and there is also a home where the student nurses are housed.²²

²² Lufkin Daily News, April 18, 1932, Lufkin, Texas, sec. 4, p. 2.

The first public library was established in 1925 by the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. J. W. Hawkins, president of the auxiliary, took the lead in the library project.

A lot that was located on Ellis Avenue, across from the Lufkin High School, was purchased for one thousand dollars. The School Board of Lufkin donated a small house that had been given to the School Board by the Historical Society. The next step that was taken by the auxiliary was to pay one hundred dollars to get the house moved to the lot. After the building was moved, the late J. H. Kurth donated lumber for shelving and a sum of money to purchase books. Other citizens donated to the book fund so generously that the library was opened with one thousand books ready for circulation. That little library served the public until 1932. When the late J. H. Kurth, Sr. died June 16, 1930, he left to the executors of his will the sum of ten thousand dollars to be spent for any civic project the executors deemed worthy. After much deliberation they decided that the need for a public library was more pressing than any other civic need; therefore plans were made for the Kurth Memorial Library which is located on Cotton Square. The City of Lufkin gave the lot on which the building is located. Mr. Kurth was one of the outstanding lumbermen of the county. During his life he had contributed generously to the various civic projects of Lufkin and he crowned his philanthropic work by providing at his death a sufficient sum of money for a beautiful and adequate library building.

²³Lufkin Daily News, Lufkin, Texas, April 18, 1932, sec. 5, p. 3.

The banking system of Lufkin has been developed from a fire-proof safe in the general merchandise store of W. H. Bonner to the present system that includes two modern banks with resources amounting to \$2,223,865. During the nineties W. H. Bonner carried on an unusual type of banking in connection with his mercantile business. At that time there was no bank in Lufkin, but Mr. Bonner had purchased a fire-proof safe for his use. Soon after Mr. Bonner received the safe, a few of his friends began placing their surplus cash in the safe only for the purpose of security. As time passed by more and more friends and customers asked to place their money in the safe. This situation developed into a type of private banking as a unit of the mercantile business. The first bank in Lufkin was established by Snow and Craven in 1898 and was called the Citizens Bank. It was located in a small frame building on Cotton Square and was burned in the fire of 1900 which destroyed a large part of the business section of town. The next bank was established by L. W. Wettermark and was opened as a private bank in a one-story brick building which was located where the Lufkin National Bank Building now stands. That bank was finally taken over and re-organized as the Lufkin National Bank in 1901.²⁴ The two banks

²⁴ Glenn, W. M., Lufkin, Texas, Interview, 1934.

that are now in operation are the Lufkin National Bank, which was organized in 1901 with a capital stock of \$100,000, and the First State Bank and Trust Company that was organized in 1910 with a capital stock of \$50,000.²⁵

²⁵Lufkin Daily News, Lufkin, Texas, April 18, 1932, sec. 5, p. 3.

Lufkin did not maintain a city fire department from the time the town was established in 1882 until 1900. During that period a group of business men known as the "Bucket Brigade" served as firemen for the town. For the first several years fires were not frequent because the buildings were new and placed rather far apart, but as the town grew and the buildings began to age fires began to occur with greater frequency and to cause more damage. When a fire occurred, each of the business men ran to the fire equipped with a bucket that he had grabbed as he rushed from the store. Because of their equipment and the frequency of the fires they were given the title of "Bucket Brigade".²⁶ The first fire department was organized in 1900 with

²⁶Glenn, W. M., Lufkin, Texas, Interview, 1934.

a volunteer personnel of twenty-five men and the following officers: C. N. Humason, chief; W. C. Binion, assistant chief;

Sam H. Kerr, secretary-treasurer. The equipment consisted of five hundred feet of hose and two nozzles which were carried on a two-wheel cart. The fire station was a small building about eight by ten feet which had a large bell hung on the outside to sound the fire alarms. In 1910 the fire department moved into a two-story building which was equipped with a steam whistle, two fire alarm boxes, a horse drawn ladder wagon, a horse drawn chemical wagon, and one thousand feet of hose. In 1927 bonds were voted for the purpose of building and equipping an adequate fire station. As a result of the bond issue the town now has a large two-story brick building equipped with a modern fire alarm system that has an air whistle mounted above the building, one Dodge chemical truck, one Ford chemical truck, one 350-gallon pumper, one 500-gallon pumper, one 750-gallon pumper, and one ladder truck that carries a thirty-five gallon chemical tank and ladders. The building and equipment of 1927 cost the city more than fifty-two thousand dollars.²⁷

²⁷Foster, W. M., (Mayor of Lufkin), Lufkin, Texas, Interview, 1934.

After tracing the growth of Lufkin from a railway depot to a modern industrial town, a study was made of some of the men who helped to bring about the development. There seem to be no available data on some of the families, while others have kept

a fair family record. Among the group we find lawyers, doctors, merchants, lumbermen, and mechanics. The lumbermen have been grouped with the lumbermen of the county.

Dr. James A. Abney

The Abneys of the United States descended from three Scotch-English brothers who emigrated from England to South Carolina during the early period of settlement of that state. The Abneys of Lufkin are descendants of those brothers. One member of the family, Joseph Duncan Abney, moved from South Carolina to Alabama and later to Mississippi and located near Jacksonville. /

On December 29, 1845, Paul C. Abney, the son of Joseph Duncan Abney, married Margaret E. Fullerton, whose father was an emigrant from Ireland. A son, James A., was born on November 6, 1846. In 1849 Paul C. Abney moved to St. Helena Parish, Louisiana, where he lived until 1853, at which time he moved to Texas and settled in Angelina County. Paul C. Abney, who was the father of nine sons and three daughters, took an active interest in the affairs of Angelina County. In 1858 he was elected to the office of assessor and collector of taxes. He held that office for eight years and was removed from office by the reconstruction officers who took over the county government after the Civil War.

The oldest son, James A. Abney, served in the Civil War. He enlisted in the Confederate Army in 1864, although he was

only eighteen years of age, and he served until the close of the war. In 1868 he married Susan Elizabeth Davis and enrolled in the Medical Branch of Soule University at Galveston in 1869. He was graduated from that university March 2, 1871, after which time he returned home and began the practice of medicine. Soon he built up a large practice over a large territory. Dr. Abney gave the following summary of his early work as a physician:

A large territory required me to keep two or three of the best horses available and a hostler in order to answer my calls. Long rides and strenuous day and night work was done at fifty cents a mile in the day time and one dollar at night. I carried an assortment of standard drugs in a huge pair of pill bags swung across my saddle and dispersed the medicine at the bedside at two dollars and fifty cents for a prescription and medicine. I also carried a pocket case of instruments and three or four pairs of forceps. I pulled teeth, lanced abscesses, and did minor surgery gratis. I was able to collect from fifty to seventy-five per cent of the amount charged on my books.

When Lufkin was established in 1882, Dr. Abney moved to Lufkin and bought an interest in a drug store. In 1891 he took a post graduate course at Tulane University ~~where~~ he made a special study of the eyes, ears, nose, and throat. In 1892 he moved to Lampasas and he now lives at Brownwood.²⁸

²⁸Abney, Dr. James A., Brownwood, Texas, to Effie Boon, August 14, 1936.

W. H. Bonner

W. H. Bonner, Jr., was born in Alexandria, Louisiana, in

1829. His parents, W. H. Bonner, Sr., and Nancy Bonner, made arrangements to move to Angelina County in 1841. They packed their household goods on wagons and started to Texas. Mr. Bonner had a money belt filled with gold buckled around him. When the family reached the crossing on the Sabine River, Mr. Bonner was murdered and robbed of his belt of gold by a Spaniard. After some delay Mrs. Bonner and the son, W. H. Jr., continued the journey to Texas. When Mrs. Bonner arrived in Angelina County, she located in what is now known as the Redland community, which is five miles north of Lufkin. Although W. H. Bonner, Jr., was an only child, he seems to have developed a great deal of business ability rather early in life. On December 16, 1848, he bought two town lots in Marion which was the county seat at that time. The lots are described as lots number one and two in block number twelve, for which he paid seventeen dollars cash. At that time he was only nineteen years of age. He had become interested in farming and cattle; therefore he purchased a large tract of land on the Neches River just north of Highway 94 and put in a large farm known as the Bonner Farm. He served as county commissioner from 1868-1870 and from 1878-1882. He married Malinda Blackburn. They reared ten children which were as follows: W. H. Bonner, J. J. Bonner, J. L. Bonner, T. J. Bonner, Mary Bonner Vinson, W. G. Bonner, B. Frank Bonner, J. S. Bonner, and Stella Bonner Means.

W. H. Bonner, the third, established a steam sawmill on

the Bonner Farm and sold rough lumber to the local market. He was the first member of the family to engage in lumber manufacturing. He established a mercantile business at Homer in 1878 and moved to Lufkin in 1882. In fact, he built one of the first business houses in Lufkin. Later he built one of the first brick buildings in Lufkin for his mercantile business. He continued in business in Lufkin until 1902. During the time he was engaged in the mercantile business he was also connected with lumbering within the county, and he managed his farm, and raised hogs and cattle. After he gave up the mercantile business, he devoted his time to the lumber industry and farming. He married Florence Mantooth. The children born to that union were Daisy Bonner Corley, Charles L. Bonner, W. H. Bonner, Florrie Bonner Phares, Linnie Bonner Martin, Hester Bonner Cotton.

J. J. Bonner is another member of the Bonner family that was interested in the lumber industry. He began work at a sawmill owned by his father, W. H. Bonner. Later he became manager of the sawmill at Clawson which was owned by T. R. Bonner & Company. He was also interested in the logging operations of the Southern Pine Lumber Company, Diboll, Texas. Mr. Bonner was connected with different lumber industries until 1934, at that time he retired because of illness. He married Mollie Trevathan and they reared the following children: Charles L. Bonner, Lela Bonner Alderson, Edna Bonner Mallard, J. J.

Bonner, Jr., Gordie Bonner, and Frankie Bonner Johnson. ²⁹

²⁹ Bonner, W. H., Lufkin, Texas, Interview, 1934.

Colonel W. L. Denman

Colonel W. L. Denman, who was born in Georgia, came to Texas and settled in Angelina County in 1853. Colonel Denman was a prominent lawyer as well as a successful business man and a large land holder of the county. He served as county commissioner from 1858 to 1870. In 1858, while serving as a commissioner, he was appointed on a committee with J. J. Aldridge and W. J. Largent to draft a plan for a jail which was to be erected at Homer. That was the first jail built in the county and it was certainly a tower of strength if it had no other commendable features. Colonel Denman served in the Confederate Army throughout the Civil War and after the war he served as a member of the Legislature of Texas. He married Algie Swaggerty.

Dr. Alexander Madison Denman, son of Colonel W. L. Denman, was born in Angelina County July 30, 1858. Dr. A. M. Denman was graduated from Roanoke College, Virginia. After graduating from Roanoke College he entered Tulane University at New Orleans for his medical training and was graduated in 1883. That same year he returned to Lufkin where he began his work as a physician. He was one of the first physicians to locate at Lufkin, which

had been established the preceding year. Dr. A. M. Denman established the first hospital at Lufkin and in partnership with E. J. Mantooth organized the first telephone system. He also served as mayor of Lufkin from 1903-1904. He married Caroline Walker, who was the daughter of Thomas R. Walker and Emily Briscoe Walker. The children of Dr. and Mrs. A. M. Denman are Dr. Peyton, Archie Lovell, Olive Lillian, Kester Walker, Dr. Linwood, Mary Nell, and Dr. Byford H. Three of the sons, Dr. Peyton R., Dr. Byford H., and Dr. Linwood, chose medicine as their profession and Kester Walker Denman chose to study law. Dr. Peyton R. and Dr. Byford H. are located at Houston.³⁰

³⁰ Denman, Kester W., Lufkin, Texas, Interview, 1934.
Minutes of the Commissioners Court, B, 185.

Thomas Mantooth

Thomas Mantooth was born February, 1811, in North Carolina. He brought his family from Tennessee and located on the Neches River in 1857 as a small farmer and ranchman. Although he was rather reserved and did not seek political service, he was persuaded to accept the office of probate judge in 1858. When Texas seceded from the Union, he joined the Confederate Army and served until the close of the war. He married Mary Sisk. Three children were born to that union; namely, Albert, John, and Calvin. Mr. Mantooth was married to a second wife, Lydia Dillon. To

that union were born Lafayette, Edwin J., W. Blackburn, Florence Mantooth Bonner, Hester Mantooth McPherson, and Thomas C.

Edwin J. Mantooth, the son of Thomas Mantooth, was born in Cooke County, Tennessee, April 10, 1852. Judge Mantooth was reared on the farm and educated in the rural schools. He began work as a clerk in a drygoods store at Homer when he was eighteen years of age. Later he attended an academy at Pennington, Trinity County, Texas, where he made preparation to enter the law school. After finishing at Pennington Academy he entered the school of Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tennessee, and was graduated from there in 1876. He returned to Homer and began the practice of law. In 1878 he was elected to the office of county attorney, but served only one term because he preferred to practice law. Judge Mantooth moved to Lufkin as soon as the town was established. Since the introduction of the large sawmills, his practice has been largely in lands and corporations. In addition to his law practice he has been interested in various enterprises. He was one of the chief organizers of the Lufkin National Bank. In partnership with Dr. A. M. Denman he organized the first telephone system in Lufkin. He has been a stockholder in several of the sawmills of the county and he owns considerable real estate. Judge Mantooth married Callie Watson on May 31, 1874. The children of Judge and Mrs. Mantooth and Louis P., Edwin Wood, Dell Mantooth Lanter, Winnie Mantooth Shotwell,

Milton, Chloe Mantooth Collins, and Cleo Mantooth Denman.³¹

³¹Mantooth, Judge E. J., Lufkin, Texas, Interview, 1934.

APPENDIX A.

SPANISH AND MEXICAN LAND TITLES

<u>Name of Grantee</u>	<u>Date Issued</u>	<u>Amount of Land</u>
1 Anderson, William B.	Sept. 26, 1835	1 league
2 Ashley, Aaron	Oct. 4, 1835	1 league
3 Barela, Anastasio	Oct. 20, 1835	1 league
4 Bouton, Jose	June 4, 1835	1 league
5 Burris, Samuel	July 24, 1835	1 league
6 Bush, John	May 13, 1835	1 league
7 Caro, Tomas	Nov. 22, 1834	1 league
8 Chavano, Antonio	Oct. 17, 1834	1 league
9 Chavano, Jose Ramon	Oct. 15, 1834	1 league
10 Duncan, Jacob	May 16, 1835	$\frac{1}{4}$ league
11 Erie, Santiago	Nov. 21, 1834	$1\frac{1}{4}$ league
12 Flores, Antonio	Oct. 17, 1834	1 league
13 Garza, Jesus	April 15, 1834	4 leagues
14 Graham, John	Nov. 7, 1835	1 league
15 Graham, William B.	July 2, 1835	$\frac{1}{4}$ league
16 Huffman, David	Oct. 25, 1834	1 league
17 Hunt, Charles	May 15, 1834	$\frac{1}{4}$ league
18 Johnson, Candler	June 24, 1835	1 league
19 Johnson, William	July 23, 1835	$\frac{1}{4}$ league
20 Labaume, Jose	Nov. 21, 1834	1 league
21 Lavigne, Bautista	July 25, 1835	1 league
22 Leone, Donate	Feb. 7, 1835	1 league

<u>Name of Grantee</u>	<u>Date Issued</u>	<u>Amount of Land</u>
23 Longoria, Juan Antonio	Feb. 9, 1835	1 league
24 Magano, Jacinto	Aug. 15, 1835	1 league
25 McCoy, David	Jan. 30, 1835	1 league
26 McFarland, Samuel P.	Oct. 16, 1835	$\frac{1}{2}$ league
27 McMullen, Patrick	Oct. 2, 1834	1 league
28 Micheli, Vicente	Oct. 21, 1797	8 l. 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ lab.*
29 Miller, Edward	Sept. 24, 1835	1 league
30 Morin, Jose	July 21, 1835	1 league
31 Mudd, Balthazar X.	Aug. 10, 1835	1 league
32 Nowlan, Daniel	May 11, 1835	$\frac{1}{2}$ league
33 Padilla, Vicente	Jan. 5, 1835	1 league
34 Pedro, Jose Anselmo	Oct. 17, 1834	1 league
35 Palpador, Juan B.	June 2, 1835	1 league
36 Parmer, Johnston	Sept. 16, 1835	1 league
37 Phares, William	May 12, 1835	1 league
38 Quinalty, John L.	April 17, 1835	1 league
39 Quevedo, Thomas	Sept. 23, 1835	1 league
40 Rablo, Pierre	Dec. 16, 1835	1 l. 1 lab.
41 Robertson, Edward	Sept. 23, 1835	1 league
42 Smith, Thomas	Aug. 12, 1835	1 league
43 Solis, Antonio	Feb. 7, 1835	1 league
44 Soto, Jose Maria	Feb. 9, 1835	1 league
45 Stagner, Henry	Oct. 20, 1835	1 league
46 Stanley, Stephen J.	June 27, 1835	1 league

<u>Name of Grantee</u>	<u>Date Issued</u>	<u>Amount of Land</u>
47 Stanley, Stephen J.	Aug. 14, 1835	1 league
48 Stanley, Willifred	June 15, 1835	1 league
49 Stockton, S.	Sept. 28, 1835	1 league
50 Walters, Lemuel	Mar. 10, 1835	1 league
51 Webb, William	July 16, 1835	1 league
52 Y'Barbo, Jose Damasco	May 4, 1835	1 league
53 Y'Barbo, Martin	Oct. 17, 1835	1 league

*Spanish titles

APPENDIX B.

Muster Roll of Company D

The 7th Texas Cavalry

Third Regiment of General Sibley's Brigade

Alexander, Burrel	Conner, Lewis
Alexander, John	Corley, Sam
Allen, Parks	Cornett, Wash
Allen, Ben	Courson, Sim
Baxter, Alex	Courtney, Robert
Bennett, _____	Courtney, Rube
Brashears, Berry	Courtney, Sol
Brashears, Walk	Courtney, Jeff
Brashears, Jack	Crane, Jerry
Brewer, _____	Crane, Nick
Brown, Sam, Sergeant.	Crane, Tom
Bruce, Scrap	Cushman, Mont, Lieut.
Burrows, Tom	Daniels, Dolph
Byrd, Robert	Davis, J. W.
Campbell, E. O.	Denton, Jim
Cherry, Duce	Duron, Frank
Cleaver, Wm. H., 1st Capt.	Eaton, G. W., Lieut.
Clayton, W. A.	Elliott, Johnathan
Cole, Tommy	Evans, Tillman
Collins, Geo. J.	Fairchild, Amos

Fairchild, George	Jones, James
Fairchild, Henry	Jordan, Lewis
Fenley, LaFayette	Kirkwood, Jim
Forest, James	Lattie, A.
Fuller, B. J., Lieut.	Lee, Marion
Grimes, Charles	Lindsey, W. H.
Grimes, John	Maldin, George
Grimes, Pleas	Marlow, George
Guinn, Lee	Martin, _____
Guinn, Gammon	Massengill, George
Guinn, Simon	Maulding, Haden
Haley, Thomas B.	Maulding, Napol
Hanchett, _____	McInnis, Sam P.
Harrison, _____	Middleton, John
Havard, Charles	Moore, Berry
Havard, Mayor	Nealan, Jim
Hearn, John	Nelson, Jim
Hearn, Levy	Nerren, Ben F.
Hudiburgh, Sam	Nerren, George
Hudiburgh, A. L., Lieut.	Norris, Fayette
Hutchinson, Aaron	Oats, John W.
Jones, Hamp	Osburn, Jim
Jones, Henry	Owens, Mack
Jones, Cal	Page, Charles
Jones, Tib	Page, Sam

Palton, _____	Squyres, Silas
Palton, _____	Squyres, Alph
Pardon, H. A., 2nd Capt.	Standard, Wm.
Perkins, Jim	Stanley, Stephen
Perkins, John	Stevens, Sol
Phillips, Sebe	Stringer, Jas.
Phillips, _____	Stringer, Peter
Pratt, Dave	Thompson, R. W., Lieut.
Renfro, Ben	Tubberville, Jack
Renfro, James	Tucker, Milton
Rush, C. A.	Vinson, Austin
Scott, John W.	Weeks, Boss
Smith, Wm. H.	Weeks, Jap
Spears, John	Weeks, Robert
Spears, Walter	Welch, Jesse
Spivey, George	

Rush, C. A., Newspaper Clipping in Kurth Memorial
Library, Lufkin, Texas.

APPENDIX C.

COUNTY OFFICERS

County Judges

Herrington, Joseph	1846-1848
Finley, Ephriam	1848-1850
Herrington, Joseph	1850-1852
Walker, Thomas R.	1852-1854
Bradshaw, Josiah	1854-1855
Herrington, Joseph	1855-1858
Mantooth, Thomas	1858-1860
Cleaver, William	1860-1862
McGowen, Samuel K.	1862-1864
Gann, J. D.	1864-1865
Borden, Robert E.	1865-1866
Herrington, Joseph	1866-1868
Wright, Isaac E.	1868-1870
Branton, Arnold	1870-1874
Granberry, John	1874-1878
Rush, Charles H.	1878-1880
Herrington, Joseph	1880-1884
Maroney, J. T.	1884-1890
Finley, Lafayette	1890-1894
Maroney, J. T.	1894-1896
Massengill, John M.	1896-1898

Maroney, J. T.	1898-1904
Townsend, W. J.	1904-1906
Jorden, T. W.	1906-1908
Maroney, J. T.	1908-1910
Robinson, John F.	1910-1912
Robb, E. B.	1912-1914
Robinson, John F.	1914-1916
Robb, E. B.	1916-1920
Robinson, John F.	1920-1922
Maroney, J. T.	1922-1924
Courtney, R. A.	1924-1928
Rolston, B.	1928-1932
Barge, W. D.	1932-1934
Rolston, Butler	1934-

County Clerks

Caldwell, A. C.	1846-1850
Brown, F. B.	1850-1854
Finley, E.	1854-1860
Statham, Charles W.	1860-1865
Mantooth, Albert	1865-1866
Statham, Charles W.	1866-1868
Gann, James D.	1868-1870
Burke, Caswell	1870-1871
Campbell, F. S.	1871-1872

Statham, Charles W.	1872-1876
McMullen, E. H. F.	1876-1880
Mantooth, W. B.	1880-1882
Everitt, J. C.	1882-1896
Albritton, E. M.	1896-1898
Singleton, J. J.	1898-1906
Bond, J. W.	1906-1910
Trevathan, Mrs. Brit	1910-1912
Dunn, T. L.	1912-1916
Jordan, R. C.	1916-1920
Brittain, Otto	1920-1924
Rolston, Butler	1924-1928
Brock, G. M.	1928-1930
Runnels, Jesse W.	1930-1934
Watts, Duncan	1934-

District Clerks

Gann, J. D.	1846-1850
Caldwell, A. C.	1850-1858
Martin, G. H.	1858-1865
Mantooth, Albert (appointed)	1865-1866
Campbell, F. S.	1866-1870
Burke, Caswell	1870-1872
Carrell, W. B. H.	1872-1873
McMullen, E. H. F.	1873-1876

Chestnutt, Alfred	1876-1882
Maroney, J. T.	1882-1884
Granberry, T. E.	1884-1886
Collins, G. W.	1886-1888
Collins, J. M.	1888-1890
Vinson, T. A.	1890-1892
Collins, G. W.	1892-1894
Singleton, J. J.	1894-1900
Gibson, J. H.	1900-1904
Trevathan, Brit	1904-1909
Trevathan, Mrs. Della	1909-1910
Evans, W. L.	1910-1914
Courtney, R. A.	1914-1918
Garrison, Homer	1918-

Sheriffs

Collins, G. W. T.	1846-1848
Walker, Thomas B.	1848-1852
Davis, J.	1852-1853
Finley,	1853-1854
Collins, G. W. T.	1854-1856
Walker, P. A.	1856-1858
Fairchilds, W. H.	1858-1860
Walker, Thomas B.	1860-1864
McMullen, W. R.	1864-1866

Walker, Thomas R.	1866-1870
Spears, James A.	1870-1873
Davis, H.	1873-1876
Davis, J. W.	1876-1880
Everitt, J. C.	1880-1882
Chancy, W. G.	1882-1888
Herren, B. F.	1888-1894
Ellis, A. W.	1894-1896
Jones, W. M.	1896-1900
Mantooth, T. C.	1900-1904
Watts, R. V.	1904-1914
Evans, W. L.	1914-1920
Watts, R. V.	1920-1924
Youngblood, A. B.	1924-1928
Evans, W. L.	1928-1932
Billingsley, Henry C.	1932-

County Attorneys

Weeks, J. A.	1876-1878
Mantooth, E. J.	1878-1882
Gann, James D.	1882-1886
Frost, J.	1886-1888
Davis, J. F.	1888-1890
Robb, E. B.	1890-1894
Jordan, T. W.	1894-1896

Robb, E. B.	1896-1898
Jordan, T. W.	1898-1900
Townsend, W. J.	1900-1904
Feagin, Martin M.	1904-1906
Townsend, Sam H.	1906-1912
Sayers, Sam R.	1912-1920
Brazil, C. E.	1920-1926
Fenley, Curtis W.	1926-1930
Trevathan, Marvin	1930-1934
Townsend, W. J.	1934-

County Treasurers

Hanks, B. L.	1846-1848
Aldridge, John	1848-1850
Holt, Benjamin	1850-1852
Shofner, L. L.	1852-1854
Brown, F. B.	1854-1858
Aldridge, J. J.	1858-1860
Lindsey, Thomas J.	1860-1862
Wilkinson, John	1862-1864
Lindsey, Mankin	1864-1866
York, J. T.	1866-1868
Mantooth, Albert	1868-1873
McCarty, O.	1873-1878
Mathews, H. J.	1878-1886

Traweek, S. T.	1886-1894
Stegall, H. L.	1894-1897
Everitt, W. H.	1897-1902
Rush, C. A.	1902-1912
Boykin, C. D.	1912-1926
Crawford, L. Y.	1926-1932
Stovall, Preston	1932-1934
George, W. F.	1934-

Assessors and Collectors of Taxes

Brown, Squire	1846-1850
Finley, Ephriam	1850-1854
Lee, Harris	1854-1856
Jones, C. T.	1856-1858
Abney, P. C.	1858-1870
Abney, James A.	1870-1876
Braden, M. F.	1934-

Assessors of Taxes

Cochran, J. B.	1876-1878
Stevens, D. P.	1878-1884
Haygood, G. W.	1884-1892
Denman, W. C.	1892-1902
McConico, J. B.	1902-1904
Sanders, E. G.	1904-1908

Mantooth, A. E.	1908-1912
Agee, Coe L.	1912-1918
Arrington, J. T.	1918-1922
Nerren, Jack	1922-1934

Collectors of Taxes

Treadwell, S. J.	1900-1910
Selman, J. C.	1910-1916
Renfro, P. D.	1916-1918
Mantooth, A. E.	1918-1924
Stinson, Roy P.	1924-1932
Braden, M. F.	1932-1934

County Surveyors

Lang, W. G.	1850-1860
Gann, George W.	1860-1862
Lang, W. G.	1862-1866
Gibson, James	1866-1872
Granberry, G. W.	1872-1873
Vinson, Calvin	1873-1876
Gibson, A.	1876-1882
Gibson, James	1882-1884
Adkinson, J. H.	1884-1886
Gibson, James	1886-1896
Gray, Walker	1896-1902

Gibson, C. I.	1902-1903
Gray, Walker	1903-1906
Gann, J. D.	1906-1908
Kirkland, E. O.	1908-1912
Burham, W. T.	1912-1920
Garrison, Homer M.	1924-1926
Johnson, D. H.	1926-1934
Weaver, John	1934-

County Commissioners

Windham, John D.	1846-1847
Crawford, Thomas	1846-1848
Evans, John	1846-1848
Hill, Francis	1846-1850
Fulcher, Joshua	1847-1848
Gann, Nathan D.	1848-1850
Sickenberger, Otto	1848-1852
Stringer, T. L.	1848-1850
Paschal, John	1850-1852
Gilliland, Samuel	1850-1852
Moses, William C.	1850-1852
Crawford, Thomas	1852-1854
Anderson, Wm.	1852-1854
Hill, Francis	1852-1854
Hill, Joel	1852-1854

Rabon, Levi	1854-1858
Walker, Thomas J.	1854-1856
Stanley, Wm. G.	1854-1856
Fulcher, Joshua	1854-1855
Ewing, James L.	1855-1858
Fairchild, Wm. H.	1856-1858
Hill, Joel	1856-1858
Havard, Jeremiah	1858-1862
Mantooth, Samuel	1858-1860
Largent, W. J.	1858-1860
Denman, W. L.	1858-1860
Stern, Charles A.	1860-1862
Oats, L. C.	1860-1864
Red, Ansel	1860-1862
Evans, Jubal	1862-1864
Aldridge, James J.	1862-1866
Wood, Henry M.	1862-1866
Havard, Charles	1864-1866
Allen, A. T.	1864-1866
Davis, Harrison	1864-1865
Perkins, John W.	1865-1866
Dunn, W. W.	1866-1868
Wilkerson, John	1866-1868
Johnson, George W.	1866-1868
Havard, Jeremiah	1866-1868

Bonner, W. H.	1868-1870
Perkins, J. W.	1868-1870
Richardson, John F.	1868-1870
Weaver, L. C.	1868-1870
Nesbert, Jas. No. 1	1876-1878
Finley, W. N. No. 2	1876-1878
Johnson, F. W. No. 3	1876-1878
Gilliland, J. P. No. 4	1876-1878
Kerr, Joseph, No. 1	1878-1880
Bonner, W. H. No. 2	1878-1882
Moore, T. C. No. 3	1878-1880
Cassels, W. H. No. 4	1878-1884
Fuller, B. J. No. 1	1880-1886
Russel, James E. No. 3	1880-1884
Tillery, G. W. No. 2	1882-1884
Collier, Henry, No. 2	1884-1886
Brewer, A. J. No.	1884-1886
Gilliland, Eli, No. 4	1886-1888
Brookshire, W. H. No. 1	1886-1890
Walker, R. P. No. 2	1886-1888
Russell, J. E. No. 3	1886-1888
Brewer, Guss, No. 2	1888-1890
Chestnutt, Joseph, No. 2	1888-1890
Cassells, W. H. No. 4	1888-1898
Brewer, J. A. No. 2	1890-1896

Fairchild, J. J. No. 1	1890-1892
Havard, W. F. No. 3	1890-1894
Brookshire, W. H. No. 1	1892-1894
Guinn, H. M. T. No. 2	1892-1894
Arnett, J. C. No. 3	1892-1898
Hill, J. F. No. 1	1894-1896
Sanders, E. G. No. 2	1896-1908
Guinn, H. M. T. No. 1	1896-1898
Havard, J. M. No. 4	1898-1900
Russell, L. C. No. 3	1898-1900
Treadwell, S. J. No. 1	1898-1900
Sumerall, J. A. No. 4	1900-1904
Smith, C. A. No. 1	1900-1902
Arnett, J. C. No. 3	1900-1904
Robb, E. B. No. 1	1902-1906
Richardson, T. F. No. 4	1904-1906
Jordan, Walter No. 2	1904-1908
Russell, A. B. No. 3	1904-1906
Mann, W. T. No. 1	1906-1908
Arnett, J. C. No. 3	1906-1908
Poland, W. F. No. 4	1906-1908
Hill, J. F. No. 1	1908-1910
Finley, R. E. No.	1908-1912
Ivy, R. M. No. 3	1908-1910
Hawkins, R. E. No. 4	1908-1912

Bynum, W. D. No. 1	1910-1914
Forrest, J. F. No. 3	1910-1914
Platt, L. No. 1	1912-1914
Jordan, W. J. No. 2	1912-1916
Bingham, W. E. No. 4	1912-1914
Fairchild, J. M. No. 1	1914-1916
Treadwell, J. L. No. 3	1914-1916
Jones, F. C. No. 4	1914-1918
Bynum, W. D. No. 1	1916-1918
Fenley, J. P. No. 2	1916-1918
Fairchild, J. M. No. 1	1918-1920
Fenley, T. P. No. 2	1918-1920
Ivy, R. M. No. 3	1918-1920
Barge, C. A. No.	1918-1920
Davis, J. F. No. 1	1920-1922
Sanders, E. G. No. 2	1920-1924
Scroggins, John H. No. 3	1920-1924
Richardson, T. F. No. 4	1920-1922
Bynum, W. D. No. 1	1922-1924
Locke, J. W. No. 4	1922-1926
Crocker, V. V. No. 1	1924-1926
Allen, J. W. No. 2	1924-1928
Treadwell, J. L. No. 3	1924-1926
Walker, J. E. No. 1	1926-1930
Scroggins, John H. No. 3	1926-1928

Borge, W. D. No. 4	1926-1932
Odum, L. C. No. 2	1928-1932
Conner, W. A. No. 3	1928-1930
Smith, B. M. No. 1	1930-1932
Sayers, L. C. No. 3	1930-1932
Cansler, Charles E. No. 1	1932-1934
Hinson, W. T. No. 2	1932-1934
Scroggins, John H. No. 3	1932-1934
Pickard, J. B. No. 4	1932-1934
Nerren, Jack, No. 1	1934-
Hinson, W. T. No. 2	1934-
Ivy, W. Dan, No. 3	1934-
Fridell, Graham, No. 4	1934-

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APPENDIX D.

POPULATION OF ANGELINA COUNTY

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>
1850	1,165
1860	4,271
1870	3,985
1880	5,239
1890	6,306
1900	13,481
1910	17,705
1920	22,287
1930	27,803

APPENDIX E.

SCHOOL REPORTS OF 1882 AND 1932

	<u>1882</u>	<u>1932</u>
Number of schools for white children	34	34
Number of schools for colored children	8	6
Enrollment of white children	812	4855
Enrollment of colored children	175	320
Total enrollment	987	5175
Number of schoolhouses belonging to the State	2	34
Average salary per month of white male teachers	\$ 38.72	\$ 112.15
Average salary per month of white female teachers	38.72	87.52
Average salary per month of colored male teachers	25.00	62.38
Average salary per month of colored female teachers	25.00	54.75
Total amount paid the teachers	\$ 4,474.91	\$ 91,270.75

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