



MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS
ITS EVOLUTION AND LEADERS

A NOTE TO THE READERS

Milam County, Texas.

I always add those three words to my writings and communications – I want people to know I live here. So, in 2019 when Milam County Judge Steve Young asked me if I would write a report about the history of the Milam County Commissioners Court – I did not hesitate to say “Of course I will.”

Soon after beginning the research for this report, I realized that a simple listing of the names of county judges and commissioners serving Milam County since the birth of the Republic of Texas in 1836 would not provide an adequate appreciation of Milam County’s rich history. Consequently, I decided to provide Readers a deeper dive into the birth of Milam County government by adding comprehensive facts about the geographical and legislative origins of Milam County, towns that served as ‘County Seat’ for Milam County, and courthouses that housed Milam County government for the last 184 years.

But the thread that ties together all of the following story’s facets is the people who came before: those who were frontier settlers – those who founded towns – those who risked their lives to protect others – those who died protecting others - those who simply lived their lives as best they could – and those who helped govern Milam County for the common good. I added a few biographical notes to acquaint you with some of these people.

In all cases, my goal was to share information gathered from credible sources which are cited. I take responsibility for any acts of omission or commission.

Curtis Chubb, Ph.D.

Milam County, Texas

TO HONOR THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE

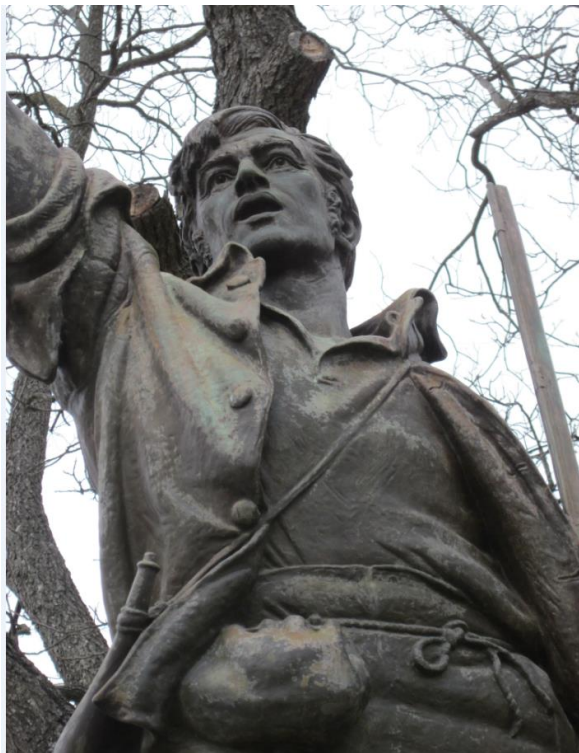
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MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS - ITS EVOLUTION AND LEADERS

*“From earliest of our martyrs to fall in freedom’s cause,
To spend the treasure of his blood for liberty and laws.
As bright as thy example, so bright shall be thy fame,
And Generations yet unborn shall honor Milam’s name.” ★*



Excerpt from a poem written by Erastus “Deaf” Smith to express his feelings about Benjamin Rush Milam – the namesake of Milam County.¹ Smith along with 299 other men followed Milam to victory during the Siege of Bexar (12 October 1835 – 9 December 1835) – one of the earliest military campaigns of the Texas Revolution. Smith was wounded at the same time and location that Milam was killed by a Mexican sniper: 3:30PM - 7 December 1835 - house on Soledad Street in San Antonio.² The tree in which the sniper perched, the “Ben Milam Cypress,” still stands on the San Antonio River Walk. Smith also served the Republic at the Alamo and San Jacinto; Deaf Smith County is named in his honor. The naming of Milam County in honor of Ben Milam ensured that Deaf Smith’s prophecy of “Generations yet unborn shall honor Milam’s name” will be fulfilled.



BEN MILAM STATUE – CAMERON, TEXAS

Louis Wiltz Kemp who was born and raised in Cameron, Texas, had significant influence on the selection of statues to commemorate the 1936 Texas Centennial since he was Chair of the 3-person Advisory Board of Texas Historians which selected people to be memorialized.

In August 1936, his brother, Milam County Judge Jeff T. Kemp, submitted a request for a *Ben Milam* statue. On 18 August 1938, the bronze statue of *Ben Milam* was unveiled at the Courthouse in Milam County, Texas.

NOTE: *For an excellent review of both Milam’s contributions to Texas and how two Ben Milam statues were approved for the Texas Centennial, see Reference 5.*

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PROLOGUE



SARAHVILLE - Where it all started ⁶

The following report tells the story about how an unnamed part of Spain's Province of Texas evolved into a sparsely-populated Mexican colony which then evolved into present-day Milam County, Texas.

The report features a list of the men and 'two women' who served on the governing board of Milam County from the birth of the Republic of Texas up to December 2020. The list contains their full names, positions, burial grounds *if deceased*, and years of service. In addition, the list is presented in two formats: alphabetically based on last names, while the other is arranged chronologically based on the first year of service.

The county seats and courthouses of Milam County are also discussed. Since some of the information differs from previous reports, the facts are carefully documented.

I claim author's prerogative in selecting a few individuals for biographical notes – some well-known, others just plain interesting. I name one of those people, Alexander Thomson, Jr., as *Father of Milam County*. Surprisingly, I only found one report that advanced a *Father of Milam County*: it was in the 1936 *Tiger Lair*.⁷ In that yearbook, the Rockdale High School Senior Class of 1936 named Sterling Clack Robertson as *Father of Milam County*. I explain my reasoning for naming Thomson as *Father of Milam County* on Page 28.

It is important to note that the 9 April 1874 fire that destroyed the Milam County Courthouse also consumed all of the county government's records. This disaster prevents a complete study of county government-related events prior to the fire.

The following story of Milam County, Texas, is told using a 'Time Line' for two primary reasons: 1) to allow Readers to understand the temporal relationship of events linked to the evolution of Milam County, and 2) to highlight selected events of the Texas Revolution that was raging concomitantly with the birth of Milam County.

To close this Introduction, I reference a letter written by William B. Travis on 3 March 1836.⁸ The delegates gathered at Washington-on-the-Brazos received his letter on 6 March 1836 – the day the Alamo fell and four days after the delegates had adopted the Texas Declaration of Independence. Travis closed his letter with a valediction which I believe continues to stir Texans' souls: *God and Texas – Victory or Death*.

THE BRAZOS

**“SLICES ACROSS TEXAS HISTORY AS IT DOES
ACROSS THE MAP OF THE STATE”**

In my mind, it is fitting to start the report with the Brazos River because of its singular importance in the history of the Republic of Texas - and its constant presence in the history of Milam County.

Originally the Brazos River was named *Brassos de Dios* as it is on the Page 20 map – *Brassos de Dios* translates as *Arms of God*. Although the origin of the original name is unknown, the origin of this section’s title *is* known - it is how John Graves describes the Brazos River in his book titled *Goodbye to a River*.⁹

The Brazos River has always been an important feature of Milam County:

- In 1836, 20,000 square miles of the Brazos River Valley represented the primary footprint of the original Milam County. (See Page 39 for discussion)
- In 2020, the Brazos marks the eastern boundary of present-day Milam County.

The fertile soil along the Brazos River has always attracted farmers. But looking at the Brazos River or even just saying its name triggers feelings deeper than its importance for soil fertility – and I believe that a primary reason for this visceral reaction is explained by Graves when he exclaims that the Brazos “*slices across Texas history.*”

Dr. David Anderson studied Graves’ writings and concluded that Graves had such reverence for the Brazos because “*a place acquires meaning for an individual or a collective through the actions and events that have occurred there over time.*”¹⁰ And the Brazos definitely has plenty of “actions and events that have occurred there over time” during its 820-mile run from Stonewall County, Texas, to the Gulf of Mexico.¹¹

Before rediscovering Graves’ quote that the Brazos “*slices across Texas history,*” I had made the following note to myself while doing research for this report: “*It is interesting to note the historical significance of the Brazos River to the development of Texas by looking at the towns along its course.*” I followed up on this idea by identifying several of the towns on the Brazos River that have impacted the history of Texas – and the history of Milam County specifically. These towns and their locations are identified on the next two pages.

As Graves described the Brazos, “The history was in it.”

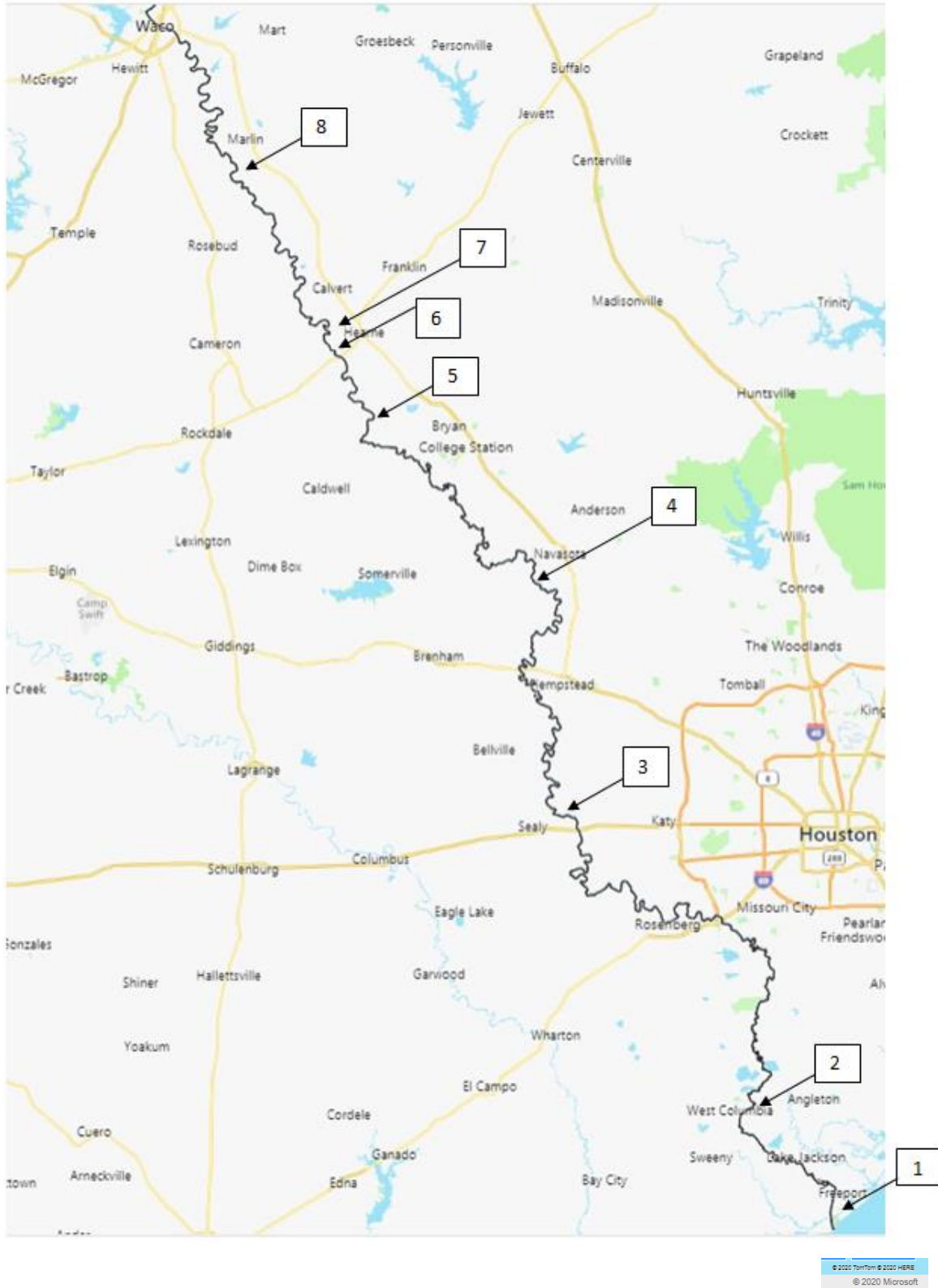
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TOWNS ALONG THE BRAZOS RIVER WITH HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

THE “MAP NUMBERS” IDENTIFY THE TOWNS’ LOCATIONS ON THE PAGE 14 MAP.

MAP NUMBER	TOWN NAME	NOTES
1	Velasco	Port that volunteers arrived at to help fight for Texas Independence (1835-1836); Temporary Capital of the Republic of Texas (1836)
2	Columbia	First Capital of the Republic of Texas (1836)
3	San Felipe de Austin	Capital of the Republic’s Provisional Government (1835-1836); Nominated to be the Republic’s Capital (1837)
4	Washington -on-the-Brazos	Site where the Texas Declaration of Independence and Republic of Texas Constitution were adopted (1836); Third Capital of the Republic of Texas (1842-1845)
5	Tenoxtitlan	First European settlement in Robertson’s Colony (1830); Nominated to be the Republic’s capital (1837)
6	Nashville	Temporary County Seat of Milam County; Nominated to be the Republic’s Capital (1837)
7	Port Sullivan	Furthest point regularly navigated by steamboats on the Brazos; Founded early 1851 on land owned by Augustin W. Sillevan; Originally named Port Sillevan
8	Sarahville de Viesca	First County Seat of Milam County; Capital of Robertson’s Colony (1834-1836); Nominated to be the Republic’s Capital (1837)

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The Brazos River and its towns that are part of Texas and Milam County history – “map numbers” are identified on the Page 13 Table .

TIME LINE



24 August 1821: Mexico gains independence from Spain

- The treaty signed on this day both proclaimed the independence of Mexico after three centuries of Spanish rule and ended 11+ years of the Mexican War of Independence; 'New Spain' became the 'Mexican Empire.'¹²
- Before 1821, Texas (*Tejas*) was part of New Spain and called the *Province of Texas*.
- After Mexico became an independent nation in 1821, the location and name of the *Province of Texas* did not change. (See the Page 17 map)
- Location of Milam County land = *Province of Texas, Mexican Empire*



18 August 1824: Mexico passes colonization law

- The General Colonization Law of 18 August 1824 was a Mexican statute allowing foreigners to immigrate to Mexico in order to increase the number of settlers. The Law enabled all heads of household, regardless of race, religion or immigrant status, to acquire land in Mexico.¹³



4 October 1824: Mexico adopts the Constitution of 1824

- On this day, Mexico adopted the Federal Constitution of the United Mexican States (also called the "Constitution of 1824") after the emperor of the Mexican Empire abdicated in 1823. In place of the Empire, a federal republic was formed with nineteen states and four territories.¹⁴
- Due to its sparse population, the Province of Texas was combined with the Province of Coahuila to form the new *State of Coahuila and Texas*.¹⁵ (See Page 17 map)
- The Constitution of 1824 gave each state the power to determine how they wanted to divide their state for governance; the land could be divided into "Departments" which then could be further divided into "Municipalities."
- Location of Milam County land = *State of Coahuila and Texas, United Mexican States*

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The locations of the 'Province of Texas' and 'Province of Coahuila' are depicted on this 1819 map of 'New Spain.' ¹⁶ *In 1824, the two provinces were combined to form the 'State of Coahuila and Texas.'*



11 March 1827: The new State of Coahuila and Texas adopts its first constitution; the Department of Bexar is formed to administer the original Province of Texas

- On this day, the first Constitution of the State of Coahuila and Texas was adopted. ¹⁷
- Article 7 of the State Constitution mandated that the original 'Province of Texas' be administered by the 'Department of Bexar.' ¹⁸
- The Department of Bexar's capital was San Antonio de Bexar. ¹⁹
- Location of Milam County land = *Department of Bexar, State of Coahuila and Texas, United Mexican States*



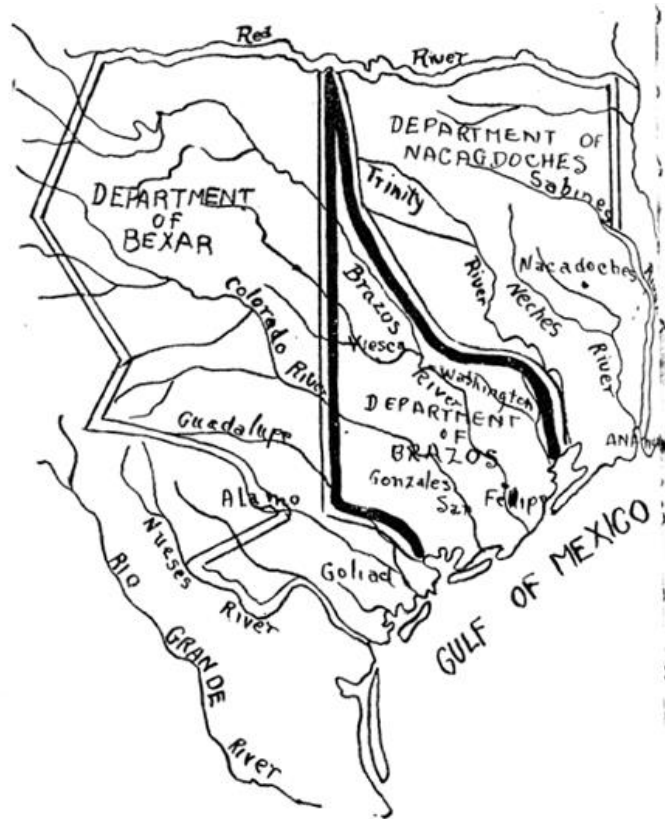
31 January 1831: The State of Coahuila and Texas creates the Department of Nacogdoches from the Department of Bexar

- On this day, the Congress of the State of Coahuila and Texas approved Decree No. 164 which divided the Department of Bexar into two departments: Department of Bexar and Department of Nacogdoches. ²⁰
- Location of Milam County land = Department of Bexar, State of Coahuila and Texas, United Mexican States



18 March 1834: The Department of Brazos is created from the Department of Bexar

- On this day, the Congress of the State of Coahuila and Texas approved Decree No. 270 which required the Department of Bexar to be divided into the Departments of Bexar and Brazos. ²¹
- The capital of the Department of the Brazos was San Felipe (de Austin).
- The 1835 boundaries of the original Province of Texas, Department of Bexar, Department of Brazos, and Department of Nacogdoches can be seen in the following sketch.
- Location of Milam County land = Department of Brazos, State of Coahuila and Texas, United Mexican States



TEXAS IN 1835

*A sketch depicting the 1835 boundaries of the three Departments (Bexar, Brazos, and Nacogdoches) of the Texas part of the State of Coahuila and Texas.*²²



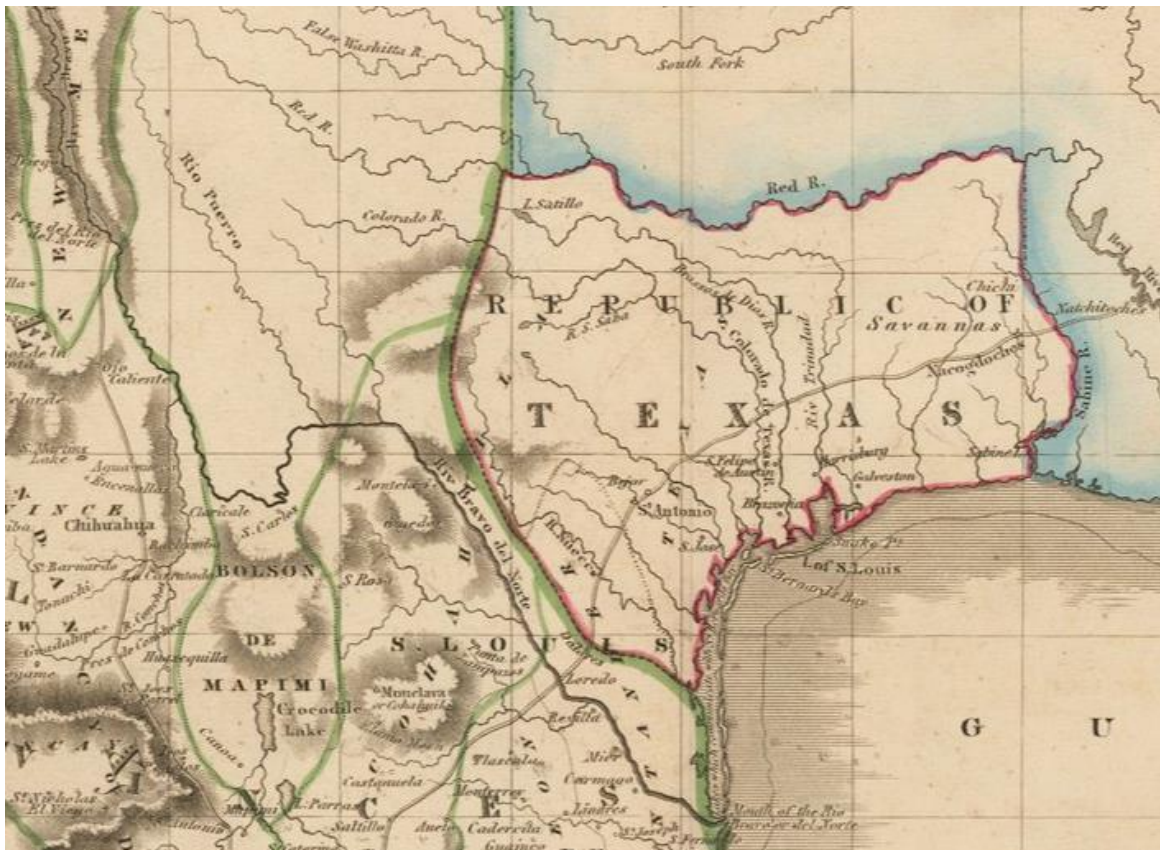
22 May 1834: Robertson's Colony in the Department of Brazos receives final approval

- On this day, Francisco Vidaurri y Villaseñor, Governor of the 'State of Coahuila and Texas,' approved Decree No. 285 of the Congress of the State of Coahuila and Texas that granted the colony to Empresario Sterling Clack Robertson.²³
- Location of Milam County land = Robertson's Colony, Department of Brazos, State of Coahuila and Texas, United Mexican States

BOUNDARIES OF ROBERTSON'S COLONY AND 'MUNICIPALITY OF VIESCA'

The goal of this section is to document that the boundaries of Robertson's Colony were identical to those of a Mexican governmental unit named 'Municipality of Viesca.' This is important to document since both Robertson's Colony and the 'Municipality of Viesca' are identified as precursors of the original Milam County.

Robertson's Colony was one of the colonies approved by Mexico to recruit settlers for the vast area that would become the Republic of Texas in 1836. (See map below)



This 1838 map highlights the 'Republic of Texas' boundaries with a red line. Although Mexico claimed possession of the land west of the western boundary of the Republic of Texas (or about ½ of present-day State of Texas), the Republic of Texas disputed that claim and argued that its southern boundary followed the Rio Bravo del Norte/Rio Grande while its western boundary encompassed part of present-day New Mexico.²⁴ In fact, the present boundaries of Texas weren't finalized until the signing of both the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ending the Mexican-American War (1846-1848) and the Compromise of 1850 which included the United States paying Texas \$10 million for land now part of New Mexico.²⁵ (Map courtesy of Barry Lawrence Ruderman – the same map can be viewed and magnified on his website at <https://www.raremaps.com/gallery/detail/48828/mexico-guatemala-with-the-republic-of-texas-lizars>)

The years-long road to the final approval of Robertson's Colony by Mexico was not easy. Mexico approved and revoked other colonization contracts claiming the same land. In addition, there was a long-running contentious legal dispute involving Empresario Stephen F. Austin.²⁶

On 22 May 1834, however, Francisco Vidaurri y Villaseñor, Governor of the 'State of Coahuila and Texas,' approved Decree No. 285 of the Congress of the State of Coahuila and Texas that granted the colony to Empresario Sterling Clack Robertson.²⁷ The President of the Congress at that time, Agustín Viesca, was instrumental in gaining the approval of Decree No. 285. Robertson expressed his recognition of Viesca's help by naming his colony's capital 'Sarahville de Viesca' in honor of Viesca and his mother Sarah.²⁸

Sarahville and Robertson's Colony were located in a Mexican administrative division named 'Municipality of Viesca' which was similar to a present-day county.

Though the exact creation date for the 'Municipality of Viesca' was not found, a report prepared by Mexican Colonel Juan Almonte in 1834 provides an approximate time. Almonte was commissioned by the Mexican Minister of Foreign Relations to travel through the original Province of Texas from April to September 1834 and make a report about what he saw.²⁹

The Municipality of Viesca was not on the list of thirteen municipalities in Almonte's final report. It must not have been existence at the time of his tour since he was aware of Robertson's Colony as he reported that "there is a new colony under the direction of Robertson..."³⁰ So, Almonte's report indicates that the Municipality of Viesca was created sometime after he concluded his tour in September 1834.

The following information was used to document that the boundaries of the Municipality of Viesca and Robertson's Colony were coterminous:

1. When the Consultation (one of the meetings leading up to Texas declaring independence) met in San Felipe de Austin during November 1835, six men were elected to represent the 'Municipality of Viesca': Samuel Tabor Allen, Joseph Livingston Hood, James William Parker, Albert George Perry, John

Goodloe Warren Pierson, and Alexander Thomson, Jr. All of these men were colonists of Robertson's Colony.³¹ (See 1 November 1835 on Time Line/Page 25 for more discussion about the Consultation)

2. Dr. Malcolm McLean, the acknowledged expert on Robertson's Colony, made the following two statements:
 - a. *"...the Municipality of Viesca, the official designation by which Robertson's Colony was known to the Mexican Government for political purposes..."*³²
 - b. *"...the area covered by [Robertson's] colony was called the Municipality of Viesca until December 27, 1835 when the name of the villa and municipality were changed to Milam in honor of Benjamin Rush Milam..."*³³



January 1835: Antonio López de Santa Anna repeals the federal Mexican Constitution of 1824 and establishes a central government

ROLE OF THE CONSTITUTION OF 1824'S ANNULMENT IN THE TEXAS REVOLUTION

- The following excerpts from the Texas Declaration of Independence forcibly state why Santa Anna's annulment of the Constitution of 1824 was a primary stimulus for seeking independence from Mexico:
 - *"When the Federal Republican Constitution [Constitution of 1824] of their country, which they have sworn to support, no longer has a substantial existence, and the whole nature of their government has been forcibly changed, without their consent, from a restricted federative republic, composed of sovereign states, to a consolidated central military despotism, in which every interest is disregarded but that of the army and the priesthood, both the eternal enemies of civil liberty, the everready minions of power, and the usual instruments of tyrants..."*

- *“The Mexican government, by its colonization laws, invited and induced the Anglo-American population of Texas to colonize its wilderness under the pledged faith of a written constitution, that they should continue to enjoy that constitutional liberty and republican government to which they had been habituated in the land of their birth, the United States of America...”*
- *“In this expectation they have been cruelly disappointed, inasmuch as the Mexican nation has acquiesced in the late changes made in the government by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, who having overturned the constitution of his country, now offers us the cruel alternative, either to abandon our homes, acquired by so many privations, or submit to the most intolerable of all tyranny, the combined despotism of the sword and the priesthood...”*
- *“The necessity of self-preservation, therefore, now decrees our eternal political separation...”* ³⁴
- Stephen F. Austin explained how the Mexican Constitution of 1824 was repealed in the following excerpts from an address he made at Louisville, Kentucky, on 7 March 1836:

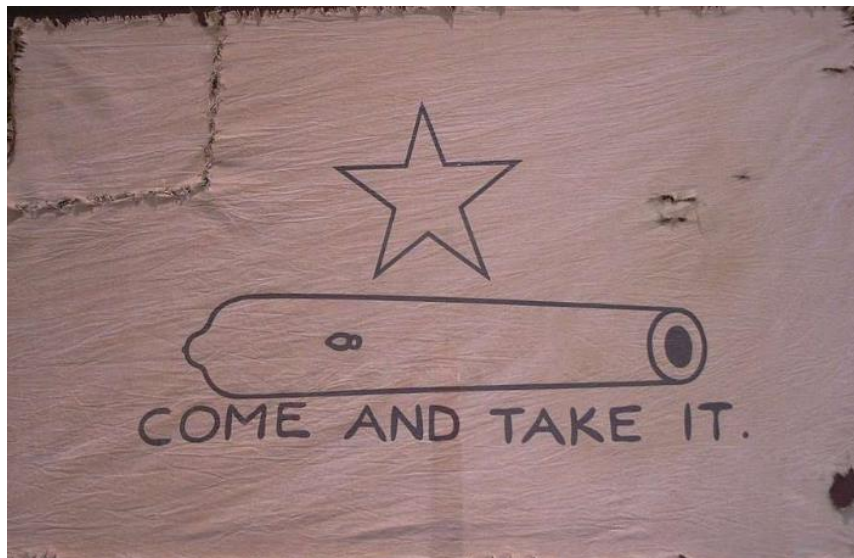
“In 1834, the President of the Republic, Gen. Santa Anna, who heretofore was the leader and champion of the republican party and system, became the head and leader of his former antagonists - the aristocratic and church party. With this accession of strength, this party triumphed. The constitutional general Congress of 1834, which was decidedly republican and federal, was dissolved in May of that year by a military order of the President before its constitutional term had expired. The council of government composed of half the Senate which, agreeably to the constitution, ought to have been installed the day after closing the session of Congress, was also dissolved; and a new, revolutionary, and unconstitutional Congress was convened by another military order of the President. This Congress met on the 1st of January, 1835. It was decidedly aristocratic, ecclesiastical and central in its politics. A number of petitions

were presented to it from several towns and villages, praying that it would change the federal form of government and establish a central form. These petitions were all of a revolutionary character, and were called "pronunciamientos," or pronouncements for centralism.... By another decree it united the Senate with the House of Representatives in one chamber, and thus constituted, it declared itself invested with full powers as a national convention. In accordance with these usurped powers, **it proceeded to annul the federal constitution and system, and to establish a central or consolidated government...**" ³⁵



2 October 1835: The first battle of the Texas Revolution takes place at Gonzales

- On this day, the Texas Revolution began with the "Battle of Gonzales." The Texans were victorious. ³⁶ (See battle flag below)
- James Clinton Neill fired the cannon – the first shot of the Texas Revolution. (See Page 126 for more information about Neill)



Replica of the battle flag flown at the Battle of Gonzales as displayed in the Texas State Capitol.



12 October 1835: *The “Siege of Bexar” begins*

- On this day, the newly-organized Texas Army under the command of Stephen F. Austin starts the campaign to remove the Mexican Army from San Antonio de Bexar – the campaign is called the “Siege of Bexar.”³⁷
- The Mexican Army under the command of General Martín Perfecto de Cos had arrived at San Antonio de Bexar on 9 October 1835 to quell the rising protests by Texan colonists caused by Santa Anna’s decision to change Mexico from a federalist republic to a centralist government.



23 October 1835: *The State of Coahuila and Texas is dissolved and divided into the Department of Coahuila and the Department of Texas*

- After Santa Anna had been elected president of Mexico in 1833, he dissolved Congress in 1834 and created a “centralist government” by eliminating the independent Mexican states and replacing them with ‘Departments’ under the control of the national government now called the “Mexican Republic.”³⁸
- Location of Milam County land = Robertson’s Colony, Municipality of Viesca, Department of Texas, Mexican Republic



1 November 1835: *The Consultation begins its meeting at San Felipe de Austin*

- On 3 November 1835, Consultation President Branch Tanner Archer listed the three main goals of the Consultation: 1) *“a declaration in which we will set forth to the world the causes which have impelled us to take up arms, and the objects for which we fight;”* 2) *“the propriety of establishing a provisional government...This measure I conceive absolutely necessary to prevent Texas from falling into the labyrinth of anarchy;”* and 3) *“The organization of the military.”*³⁹

- Three days later on 6 November 1835, the delegates addressed Archer's first goal by voting **against** declaring independence from Mexico and **voting to establish** a provisional government based on the Constitution of 1824. ⁴⁰
 - The decision to remain a part of Mexico and fight for the restoration of the 'Constitution of 1824' was included in the Consultation's "Declaration of the People of Texas in General Convention Assembled" with the following words in the 5th article:

"...that they will continue faithful to the Mexican government so long as that nation is governed by the constitution and laws that were formed for the government of the political association..." ⁴¹
- On 13 November 1835, the Consultation's second goal as advanced by Archer was achieved: all of the delegates signed an ordinance (called the Organic Law) creating a "Provisional Government" for Texas which would commence on 14 November 1835. ⁴²
 - The ordinance dictated that each municipality's delegates attending the Consultation would elect one delegate to serve on the the Provisional Government's legislative body named the General Council.
 - The delegates representing the 'Municipality of Viesca' at the Consultation were: Samuel Tabor Allen, Joseph Livingston Hood, James William Parker, Albert George Perry, John Goodloe Warren Pierson, and Alexander Thomson, Jr. ⁴³
 - These six delegates elected Albert George Perry to represent the 'Municipality of Viesca' on the General Council. ⁴⁴
- **NOTE:** *The "Journals of the Consultation" can be accessed online.* ⁴⁵



14 November 1835: *The Consultation ends AND the General Council/Provisional Government begin their meeting at San Felipe de Austin*

- The General Council was the legislative body of the Provisional Government.
- The Provisional Government governed Texas from 14 November 1835 to 1 March 1836 – which accounts for most of the Texas Revolution.
- NOTES: See the *Handbook of Texas Online* for more information about the General Council. ⁴⁶ Also, the “*Journals of the Proceedings of the General Council*” can be accessed online. ⁴⁷



7 December 1835: *Benjamin Rush Milam is killed during the “Siege of Bexar”*

- Colonel Benjamin Rush Milam, Milam County’s namesake, was an officer in the army of Texan volunteers fighting the Mexican Army occupying San Antonio de Bexar during the “Siege of Bexar.” About two months after the campaign started, the Texan leadership considered withdrawing for the winter but Milam and another officer, Colonel Frank W. Johnson, were against the withdrawal and 300 soldiers volunteered to follow them. The forces under Milam and Johnson attacked the Mexican Army on 5 December 1835 and the Mexican General Cos surrendered on 9 December 1835. ⁴⁸ (See Landmark below)



Texas Historic Landmark located at 513 Paseo de la Villita, San Antonio, Texas, marking the location of the surrender of General Cos to the Texan Army.



20 December 1835: The first Texas Declaration of Independence is signed at Goliad

- On this day, the Goliad Declaration of Independence was signed by 92 men at Goliad on the altar of Our Lady of Loreto Chapel at Presidio La Bahia. ⁴⁹
- When presented to the General Council on 29 December 1835, ⁵⁰ the Goliad Declaration was not accepted because it was considered premature and not signed by elected delegates of the municipalities. ⁵¹



26 December 1835: The name of Viesca (also called Sarahville de Viesca) is changed to 'Milam' and the name of Municipality of Viesca is changed to 'Municipality of Milam' in honor of Benjamin Rush Milam

- On this day, Alexander S. Thomson, Jr., Municipality of Viesca's sole representative on the General Council, offered the following resolution which was immediately adopted:

"Resolved, that the town at the falls of the Brazos river in the Nashville colony [also known as Robertson's Colony] heretofore known by the name of Viesca [also known as Sarahville de Viesca], be altered to that of Milam and that the municipality in which it is situated [Municipality of Viesca] be known by the name of the jurisdiction of Milam." ⁵²

- On 27 December 1835, Thomson's resolution was approved by Governor Henry Smith as "A resolution changing the name of the municipality and town of Viesca, to Milam." ⁵³
- Location of Milam County land = Robertson's Colony, Municipality of Milam, Department of Texas, Mexican Republic

THE FATHER OF MILAM COUNTY

At first, I thought that Sterling Clack Robertson should be identified as "Father of Milam County." My reasoning was that without the tenacity and intelligence he exhibited as Empresario of Robertson's Colony and without his vision of how the

natural attributes of the land could benefit humankind, there would not be a Milam County. As Empresario, he helped over 600 families move to Texas. (*See Page 128 for more information about Robertson*)

Then I considered that although Robertson's actions were important to the evolution of Milam County, they were not "unique" to Milam County since other counties were created due to his work.

In contrast, Robertson's partner, Alexander S. Thomson, Jr., is credited with an action that had a direct AND "unique" impact on the evolution of Milam County: he named Milam County.

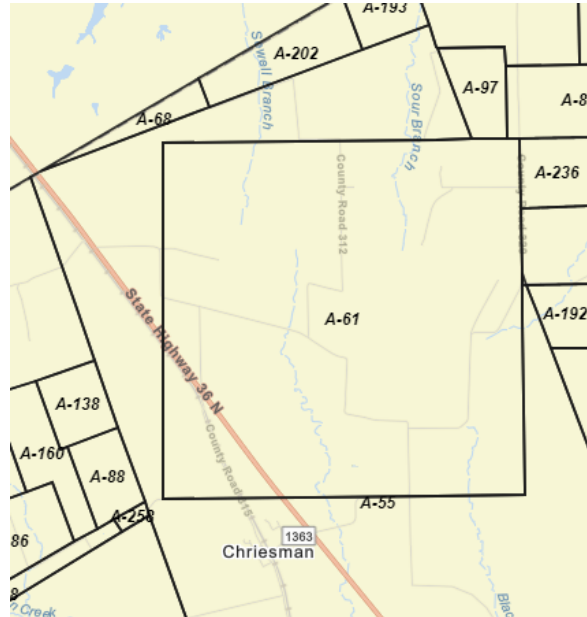
In my opinion, Thomson has earned the right to be recognized as "Father of Milam County;" my reasoning is discussed in the following paragraphs.

Thomson was described as "a gentleman of great respectability and influence and considerable fortune" in a 4 June 1830 letter written by Robertson.⁵⁴ In that same letter, Robertson revealed that he and Thomson had become partners in a project dedicated to establishing a colony in Texas.

Thomson was a fully-engaged partner in Robertson's Texas colonization project. For example, he first arrived in Texas on 30 August 1830 while conducting 50 families to what would be known as Robertson's Colony (frequently called Nashville Colony). He also helped finance the colonization project by investing at least \$20,000.⁵⁵

In another important role that helped emigrating families settle on their land, Thomson worked as the Deputy Surveyor of Robertson's Colony. Although he owned other properties in Robertson's Colony, he lived on his League of land (4,428 acres) called 'Yellow Prairie League' granted to him by Mexico.⁵⁶ (*See survey map below*)

He died in June 1863 and is buried next to his first wife Elizabeth in an unmarked grave in the Thomson Family Cemetery near Chriesman.⁵⁷ In 2020, the Texas Historical Commission certified the Thomson Family Cemetery as a Texas Historic Cemetery.⁵⁸



“A-61” identifies the League of land called ‘Yellow Prairie League’ granted to Alexander Thomson, Jr., on 28 October 1834 by Mexico following his application to Robertson’s Colony. The land is located north of present-day Chriesman (named Yellow Prairie in 1834) in present-day Burleson County, Texas.⁵⁹

Although a Texas Historical Marker stands in downtown Chriesman to honor Thomson’s service to Texas, the Marker omits the important fact that Thomson was one of the six men elected to represent the Municipality of Viesca at the Consultation in San Felipe de Austin from 1 November to 14 November 1835. *(See Time Line 1 November 1835/Page 25 for more information about the Consultation)*

More importantly, the Texas Historical Marker in Chriesman omits that Thomson was Municipality of Viesca’s sole representative on the General Council when he made his historical motion that resulted in ‘Milam County’ being named in honor of Benjamin Rush Milam. *(See Time Line 14 November 1835/Page 27 for more information about the General Council)*

Thomson became a member of the General Council by fate. As required by the Consultation’s Provisional Government Ordinance, each municipality’s delegates at the Consultation elected one of their own to represent their municipality on the General Council. Albert George Perry was elected by the six delegates representing

the Municipality of Viesca at the Consultation and Perry took his seat on the General Council on 14 November 1835.⁶⁰

However on 2 December 1835, the General Council voted to remove Perry from his seat because he *“has abandoned his seat in this Council”* and appointed Thomson to fill the vacancy and represent the Municipality of Viesca - there was no explanation for how Thomson was chosen.⁶¹ Apparently, Thomson had left San Felipe after the Consultation because it wasn't until 16 December 1835 that he took his seat on the General Council.⁶²

Although many members of the General Council and Provisional Government knew Milam personally, it was only Thomson who made the proposal to name a 20,000 square-mile section of Texas in his honor. In fact, on 15 December 1835 (one day before Thomson took his seat on the General Council), the General Council had honored Milam by passing the following resolution:

*“Resolved, That this council sensibly feel the great loss that Texas has sustained in the death of the brave Colonel Benjamin R. Milam, who fell while leading his heroic countrymen to victory, and that the President and members of the General Council, in testimony of their heart-felt sorrow, and mourning for his death, will wear crape on the left arm for thirty days; and request that the Governor and all the officers of the Provisional Government, do in like manner unite with us in wearing this badge of mourning.”*⁶³

On 26 December 1835, Thomson's “resolution changing the name of the municipality and town of Viesca, to Milam” was passed by the General Council.⁶⁴ The ultimate result of Thomson's action was that the “County of Milam” became one of the original 23 counties of the Republic of Texas.

Thomson not only worked hard to help frontier families who wanted to settle on the land that became the “County of Milam,” he also made the insightful proposal to honor Milam by renaming 20,000 square miles of Texas in his name. There is no one more worthy of being named “Father of Milam County” than Alexander S. Thomson, Jr.



1 February 1836: *The municipalities of Texas hold meetings to elect their delegates for the Convention of 1836* ⁶⁵

- Also on this very same day, Santa Anna left Saltillo to take command of his army at Monclova en route to quell the unrest of the colonists in the Department of Texas. ⁶⁶



23 February 1836: *The Battle of the Alamo begins*



1 March 1836: *The General Council/Provisional Government ends AND the Convention of 1836 begins at Washington-on-the Brazos*

- On this day, fifty-nine delegates elected by the citizens of the municipalities met at Washington-on-the-Brazos to begin the “Convention of 1836.” ⁶⁷
- Washington-on-the-Brazos was about 150 miles east from where the Alamo was under siege by the Mexican Army.



2 March 1836: *The Convention of 1836 adopts the Texas Declaration of Independence*

GEORGE CAMPBELL CHILDRESS: THE MILAM MAN WHO WROTE THE TEXAS DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

The two main facts that motivated me to include a section dedicated to George Campbell Childress in this report are:

1. My epiphany that Childress was the ‘*sole author*’ of the Texas Declaration of Independence; he arrived at the Convention of 1836 with the Declaration in his saddlebags. His brilliant writing led directly to the genesis of the Republic of Texas and the laws founding Milam County government. Just as Thomas Jefferson’s Declaration of Independence was a rallying cry for America, George Campbell Childress’ Declaration of Independence was a rallying cry for Texas.

2. *He was one of us.* He was living in Nashville on the Brazos when elected to represent the Municipality of Milam at the Convention of 1836 where the delegates adopted both the Texas Declaration of Independence and Texas Constitution.⁶⁸ Not only was Nashville located in the Municipality of Milam, it was located within the boundaries of present-day Milam County. Childress' short stay in Nashville in 1836 acts as a beacon drawing attention to Milam County's rich history.

The Thomas Jefferson of Texas

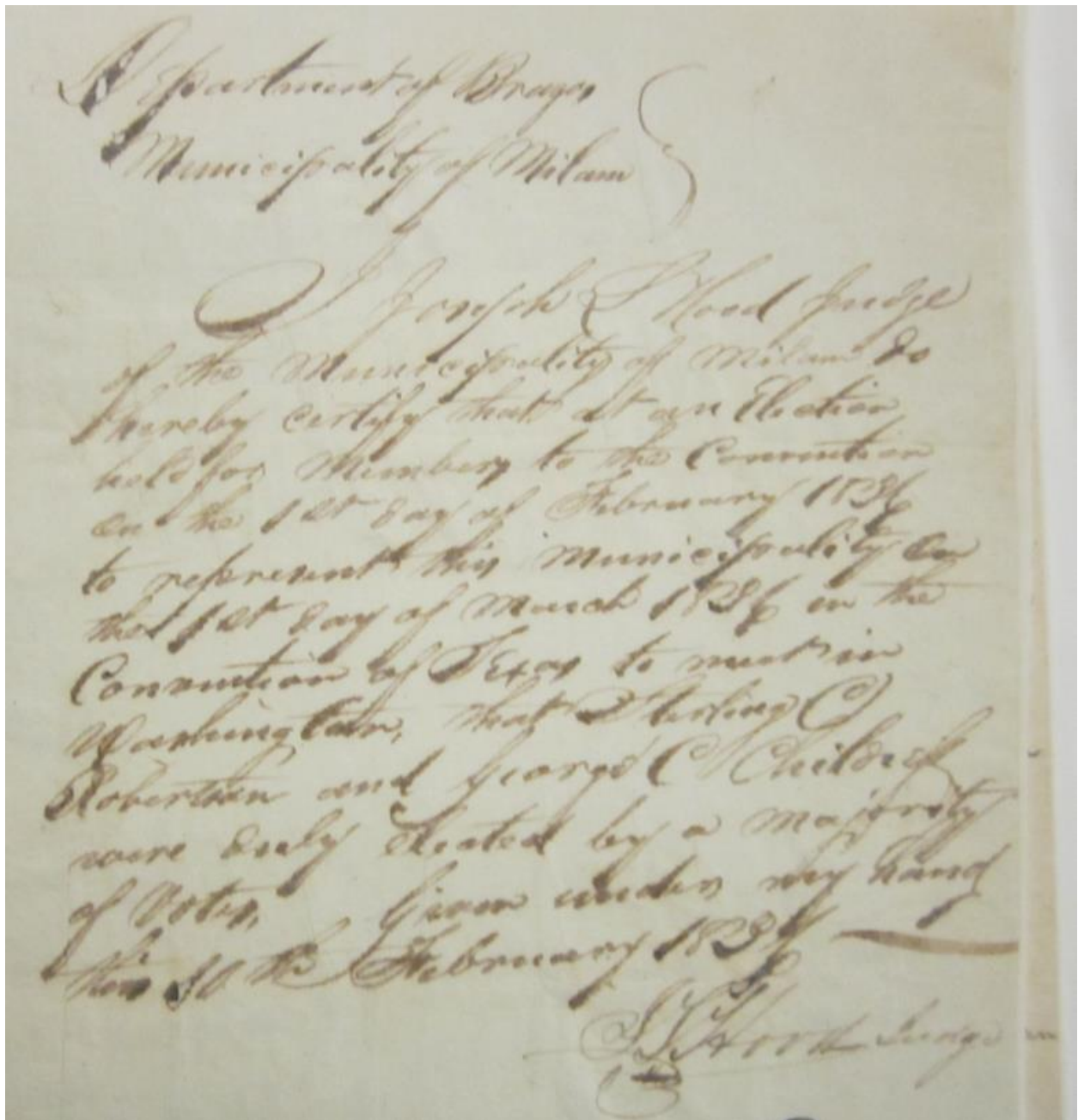
Uniquely among the 50 states of the United States, Texas celebrates its own *Independence Day* on the second of March. On 2 March 1836, the Republic of Texas declared its independence from Mexico by adopting the Texas Declaration of Independence which reads in part:

*"...our political connection with the Mexican nation has forever ended, and that the people of Texas do now constitute a free, Sovereign, and independent republic"*⁶⁹

The man who wrote these compelling words was George Campbell Childress.

Childress represented the Municipality of Milam which included present-day Milam County at the 'Convention of 1836' – the meeting as mentioned above where the Texas Declaration of Independence was adopted.

Childress and his uncle, Empresario Stanley Clack Robertson, were elected on 1 February 1836 by the Municipality of Milam to be their delegates at the Convention. (*See certification letter below*) Childress and Robertson received 209 and 194 votes, respectively; the third highest vote-getter with 73 votes was Alexander Thomson, Jr. (my candidate for "Father of Milam County").⁷⁰



Department of Prayers
Municipality of Milam

Joseph L. Hood Judge
of the Municipality of Milam do
hereby certify that at an Election
held for Members to the Convention
on the 1st day of February 1836
to represent this Municipality on
the 1st day of March 1836 in the
Convention of Texas to meet in
Washington, that Sterling C.
Robertson and George C. Childress
were duly elected by a majority
of votes. Given under my hand
the 10th February 1836

J. L. Hood Judge

The 10 February 1836 letter from Joseph L. Hood, Judge of the Municipality of Milam, certifying that Sterling C. Robertson and George C. Childress were “elected to represent the Municipality on the first day of March 1836 in the Convention of Texas to meet in Washington, Texas...”⁷¹

The Convention was held from 1 March to 17 March 1836 at Washington-on-the-Brazos. During the night prior to the first day of the meeting, a norther had arrived

and the temperature had dropped to 33 degrees when the 59 delegates gathered at the building now named "Independence Hall." ⁷²

Childress arrived at the Convention on 1 March 1836 - on the next day, Childress read aloud the Declaration to the delegates. After the reading, Sam Houston's motion to adopt the Declaration was unanimously approved after only one hour of discussion – there were no motions to amend the document. ⁷³ *Texas had declared its independence from Mexico.*

The delegates to the Convention knew adoption of the Declaration would be met with a Mexican military onslaught. In fact, a courier delivered a letter on 3 March 1836 written by Alamo Commander William Barret Travis appealing for aid. In the letter, he wrote: "*A blood red banner waves from the church of Bexar, and in the camp above us, in token that the war is one of vengeance against rebels; they have declared us as such; demanded, that we should surrender at discretion, or that this garrison should be put to the sword.*" The Convention received Travis' letter on 6 March 1836 – the day that the Alamo fell. ⁷⁴

Some question if Childress wrote the Declaration by himself. Indeed, some historical markers including the one for his namesake county (Childress County, Texas) specify that he was the "co-author of the Texas Declaration of Independence." ⁷⁵ These descriptions obscure his groundbreaking contribution to Texas by suggesting that he was just a 'member of a committee.' Some historians speculate that beliefs similar to the above explain why Childress was a forgotten man for two generations following his death in Galveston on 6 October 1841. ⁷⁶

My understanding/epiphany that Childress wrote the Declaration by himself began with reading the following statement made by the Convention's Assistant Secretary, Elisha M. Pease (later Governor of Texas): "*It was generally understood that Mr. Childress brought the draft of the Declaration of Independence with him to the convention and that it was submitted to and received the approval of several leaders of the convention. There is little doubt, but that this is correct because very soon after the committee met it was rumored a declaration of independence had been agreed upon.*" ⁷⁷ Then I found that Childress' uncle and signer of the Declaration,

Empresario Sterling C. Robertson, often said: “George C. Childress, Chairman, wrote the Declaration with his own pen, without assistance.”⁷⁸ But both of these statements are anecdotal and easily questioned.

It wasn't until I read about Cornelia Hood and her 1938 University of Texas Master's Thesis titled “*The Life and Career of George Campbell Childress*” that I found documentation that support assigning full authorship of the Declaration to Childress. Her dissertation provided the following definitive evidence: 1) the Declaration was in Childress' handwriting and 2) the Declaration featured the same phrasing, ideas, and style used by Childress in both an 1835 speech recruiting Tennessee volunteers to help fight for Texas independence and his 13 February 1836 letter to Sam Houston.⁷⁹ These facts combined with the above-mentioned anecdotal evidence support the conclusion that Childress ALONE wrote the Texas Declaration of Independence.

Childress' words solidified the support for declaring independence from Mexico. This was a major policy change from the Consultation's “Declaration of the People of Texas in General Convention Assembled” adopted on 7 November 1835 that advocated negotiation with Mexico to correct the policies promulgating unrest among the Texas colonists. (*See Time Line 1 November 1835/Page 25 for more information*)

In fact, there were two groups of people who wanted to be delegates to the Convention: those wanting to declare independence from Mexico and those asserting that Texas should remain part of Mexico. The colonists elected those like Childress who wanted independence from Mexico to represent them at the Convention - as William Kennedy wrote in 1841, “*In all the municipalities the choice of the people fell upon those candidates who were in favour of an absolute Declaration of Independence.*”⁸⁰

I believe that recognition of Childress' singular contribution to the birth of the Republic of Texas is the reason why there is only one statue at the Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site – a statue that has CHILDRESS chiseled in its granite base. (*See following photo*)



GEORGE CAMPBELL CHILDRESS – AT WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS



17 March 1836: *The Convention of 1836 adopts the Republic of Texas Constitution*

- The last paragraph of the Republic of Texas Constitution states:

*“The foregoing constitution was unanimously adopted by the delegates of Texas, in convention assembled, at the town of Washington, on the seventeenth day of March, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and thirty-six, and of the Independence of the Republic of Texas, the first year.”*⁸¹

- This was also the last day of the Convention of 1836.
- During their work, the Convention appointed an Ad Interim government which was in effect from the last day of the Convention to the inauguration of Sam Houston as the first President of the Republic of Texas on 22 October 1836.⁸²



27 March 1836: *The Goliad Massacre occurs on this day*

- A total of 369 Texan prisoners are killed by the Mexican Army both within and near the Presidio La Bahia under the direct order of Santa Anna.⁸³
- The enormity of this tragic event is brought into focus when one realizes that 58% of the Texans killed during the entire Texas Revolution died on this one day.



21 April 1836: *The Army of the Republic of Texas defeats the Mexican Army at San Jacinto, Texas, in 18 minutes*

- The Texas Revolution formally ends when the Treaty of Velasco is signed on 14 May 1836.⁸⁴



3 October 1836: *“County of Milam” recognized by the Republic of Texas*

- The official name of “County of Milam” was first recorded when taking roll call on the First Day of the First Session of the First Congress of the Republic of Texas in the House of Representatives on 3 October 1836.⁸⁵

- After the Republic of Texas Constitution was ratified on 5 September 1836, the 23 Mexican municipalities that had been represented at the Convention of 1836 were renamed as Counties using the names of the municipalities.⁸⁶ Historian Seymour Connor explained: *“The Constitution did not state specifically that existing municipalities were automatically to become counties, but it did say that the Republic was to be divided into convenient counties, and it provided that all laws then in force in Texas, and not inconsistent with the Constitution, would remain in force until declared void, repealed, altered, or expired.”*⁸⁷
- Location of Milam County land = County of Milam, Republic of Texas

BOUNDARIES OF MILAM COUNTY IN 1836

The original 1836 Milam County was extensive, encompassing about 20,000 square miles of land. From its southern boundary which followed the “Béxar to Nacogdoches Road”, the county extended northwesterly about 200 miles following the Brazos River Valley while averaging 100 miles in width.

- NOTE: The “Béxar to Nacogdoches Road” can be observed on the 1838 map displayed on Page 20. It was also called the “Old Spanish Road” – whose acronym “OSR” is the name of today’s road that traces the southern boundary of the 1836 Milam County.

A quick study of the following map allows both a full appreciation and grasp of the vastness of the original 1836 Milam County; 30 present-day counties embody land of the original 1836 Milam County.

Dr. Malcolm McLean, the acknowledged Robertson’s Colony expert, wrote:

*“When the Constitution of the Republic of Texas was adopted on March 17, 1836, the area which had been known successively as the Nashville Colony, the Upper Colony, Robertson’s Colony, the Municipality of Viesca, and the Municipality of Milam came into the Republic as the County of Milam.”*⁸⁸

MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS - ITS EVOLUTION AND LEADERS



A map showing the boundary line of the original 1836 Milam County (previously named Robertson’s Colony, Municipality of Viesca, and Municipality of Milam) superimposed on the boundaries of 30 present-day counties that encompass land from Milam County when it became one of the original 23 counties of the Republic of Texas in 1836. (Based on a map provided by Malcolm D. McLean⁸⁹)

Evidence supporting McLean’s conclusion that the boundaries of 1836 Milam County and Robertson’s Colony were the same is provided in the following two paragraphs:

- On 17 December 1836, the Republic’s First Congress passed a Joint Resolution requiring “Chief Justices of the County Courts to give information to the Secretary of State, concerning the boundaries of their respective counties.”⁹⁰

In response, Milam County Chief Justice Massillon Farley sent a letter dated 16 April 1837 to the Republic’s Secretary of State with the following description of Milam County’s boundaries:

“Beginning at the Rio Navasoto at the upper crossing on the road that leads from San Antonio de Bexar to Nacogdoches; thence following the said road westwardly until it reaches the extreme heights that divide the waters of the Brazos and Colorado; thence following the said heights northerly to a clump of live-oak trees in the cross timbers; thence eastwardly with the said cross timbers to the extreme heights that divide the waters of the Brazos and Trinity; thence on a south course to the Rio Navasoto. Thence with the said Navasoto to the point of beginning.” ⁹¹

- (NOTE: The “cross timbers” was “a thick forest of trees” used as a landmark by settlers.)
- Farley’s description of the 1836 Milam County boundaries closely approximates the following description of Robertson’s Colony boundaries:

“The decree of May 22, 1834, awarding the contract to Robertson, confirmed the boundaries as they had been defined in the Nashville Company's contract of October 15, 1827. Beginning at the point where the road from Bexar (San Antonio) to Nacogdoches, known as the Upper Road, crossed the Navasota River, a line was to be run west along that road to the heights that divided the waters of the Brazos and Colorado rivers; thence on a northwest course along that watershed to the northernmost headwaters of the San Andrés (Littler) River; from the said headwaters northeast on a straight line to the belt of oaks extending on the east side of the Brazos north from the Hueco (Waco) village, known as the Monte Grande (Great Forest) and in English as the Cross Timbers, and from the point where that line intersected the Cross Timbers southeast along the heights between the Brazos and Trinity rivers to the headwaters of the Navasota, and thence down the Navasota, on its right-hand or west bank, to the place of beginning.” ⁹²

The boundaries of present-day Milam County as depicted on the Page 40 map were finalized on 4 April 1861 when the last change in Milam County boundaries was approved. (See *Time Line 4 April 1861/Page 42 for more discussion*)

Today, Milam County encompasses 1,021 square miles. ⁹³



29 December 1845: The Congress of the United States of America legally accepts the Republic of Texas into the Union as the State of Texas ⁹⁴



19 February 1846: The Republic of Texas transfers power to the State of Texas

- Although the State of Texas was accepted as the 28th state of the Union on 29 December 1845, it wasn't until 19 February 1846 that the *Republic of Texas* formally transferred power to the *State of Texas*. As Texas Governor James Pinckney Henderson stated on that day: “...the Republic of Texas is no more.” ⁹⁵
- Location of Milam County land = *County of Milam, State of Texas, United States of America*



4 April 1846: Within two weeks of the beginning of the First Legislature of the new State of Texas, “An Act to Establish the County Seat of Milam County” is approved

- See Page 43 for a discussion of the four County Seats of Milam County.



4 April 1861: The last change in the boundaries of Milam County, Texas, is approved

- The 8th Legislature of the State of Texas approved the redrawing of the boundary line between Bell County and Milam County on this day. The change in the boundary line caused Milam County to lose land to Bell County. ⁹⁶
- The boundary changes of Milam County from 1834 to 1931 can be visualized using an interactive map produced by *Mycounties.com*. ⁹⁷



20 April 1892: The present-day Milam County Courthouse is completed

- See Page 59 for a discussion of seven Milam County Courthouses.

**THE FOUR COUNTY SEATS
OF MILAM COUNTY**

The County Seat has always been the central location of Texas county government.

The Start and End Dates for a town designated as the County Seat of Milam County are presented in this section. Each Start and End Date is followed by the documentation used to determine those dates.

The first County Seat of Milam County – Sarahville de Viesca - was established by the Republic of Texas Constitution. Afterwards, towns were designated as County Seats by legislation approved by the Congress of either the Republic of Texas or State of Texas. If the legal authority to establish a County Seat could not be identified, I provide the documentation I used to estimate the Start and End Dates.

Explanatory Notes:

1. The “seat of justice” is the “courthouse”.
2. The “courthouse” is located at the “county seat.”
 - Texas state law states: *“The commissioners court of a county shall: provide, as soon as practicable after a county seat is established or moved, a courthouse and offices for county officers at the county seat.”*⁹⁸

SARAHVILLE DE VIESCA (1836-1837):

- Also known as Sarahville, Villa de Viesca, Viesca, Town at Falls of the Brazos, and Milam. Mexican land grants called the town “del Rio de los Brazos contra las cascades.” Fort Milam was not a name for Sarahville de Viesca – instead, it was a fort built near Sarahville.⁹⁹
- Empresario Sterling C. Robertson founded Sarahville de Viesca on 12 October 1834.¹⁰⁰
- The importance of Sarahville de Viesca (aka Viesca) in 1836 is documented by the fact that of the first four mail routes established by the Republic of Texas on 20 December 1836, one went “from Velasco, via Brazoria, Columbia and Washington, to Viesca.”¹⁰¹

- START DATE AS COUNTY SEAT = 5 September 1836:
 - Sarahville de Viesca became the “Capital of Robertson’s Colony” on 20 October 1834.¹⁰⁶ As discussed in Time Line 26 December 1835/Page 28, Robertson’s Colony became the Municipality of Milam and sent delegates to the Convention of 1836.
 - Sarahville de Viesca (then also known as Milam) became the first County Seat of Milam County when the Republic of Texas Constitution was ratified on 5 September 1836. Seymour Connor succinctly explained why this happened with the following words:

*“The county units were those same municipalities that had sent representatives to the Consultation, the General Council, and later to the Convention... Essentially the counties drew existence from the Constitution, although they had actually existed earlier as municipalities. The Constitution did not state specifically that existing municipalities were automatically to become counties, but it did say that the Republic was to be divided into convenient counties, and it provided that all laws then in force in Texas, and not inconsistent with the Constitution, would remain in force until declared void, repealed, altered, or expired.”*¹⁰⁷
- END DATE AS COUNTY SEAT = Before 30 September 1837:
 - I based my conclusion that Sarahville ceased being the County Seat by 30 September 1837 on an article in the *Telegraph and Texas Register* newspaper published on that date.¹⁰⁸ The article reported:

“Sarahville, situated at the great falls of the Brazos, was the county seat fixed by congress; but the depredations of the Indians have compelled the inhabitants to abandon their homes.”

MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS - ITS EVOLUTION AND LEADERS

NASHVILLE (1837–1842/First Time as County Seat):

- Also known as Nashville-on-the-Brazos and New Nashville.
- Nashville was located on the Brazos' west bank just downstream from the mouth of the Little River. (See map below)



This 28 July 1856 map depicts the location of Nashville on the west bank of the Brazos River about 1.5 miles south of the Little River. ¹⁰⁹

- The above map also displays that Nashville was located on land granted to a person named T.J. Chambers (Thomas Jefferson Chambers). On 20 November 1837, Chambers submitted a 3-page proposal requesting the Republic of Texas to select either “Nashville” or “the town at the falls of the Brazos” (Sarahville) as the site for the Republic’s Seat of Government (the Capital). Empresario Robertson and Alexander Thomson sent accompanying letters supporting Chambers’ proposal and adding more land to the proposal.¹¹⁰ Other proposed Capital sites involving Milam County land were Tenoxtitlan, west bank of the Brazos at the mouth of Cow Bayou, and F. Niebling’s land.¹¹¹
 - NOTE: F. Niebling’s land is incorrectly identified in Winkler’s report;¹¹² it was not on the Colorado. Instead it was on the west bank of the Brazos in the San Antonio Prairie near Cooks Point.¹¹³
- Waterloo (renamed Austin) was selected as the permanent site of the Republic’s Capital on 13 April 1839.¹¹⁴
- Although the exact date that Nashville was founded could not be located, “field survey notes” confirm Nashville was in existence by 16 November 1834.¹¹⁵
- START DATE FOR FIRST TIME AS COUNTY SEAT = By September 1837:
 - The 30 September 1837 edition of the *Telegraph and Texas Register* newspaper reported: “Nashville, on the west of the Brazos...is now the county seat, and the principal town in the county. It contains about 400 souls, and is one of the most delightful situations in Texas.”¹¹⁶
 - Milam County Chief Justice Massillon Farley wrote a letter to the Republic of Texas Secretary of State on 4 August 1837 and identified his location as “Nashville, Milam County.”¹¹⁷

- A 23 January 1839 Joint Resolution of the Republic of Texas Congress both established Nashville as County Seat and confirmed that Nashville had been acting as County Seat:
 - *“That the town of Nashville shall be the county seat for the county of Milam, until an election shall have been holden by the qualified voters of said county, for its permanent location.”*
 - *“That all the Acts and doings of legal adjudication which have been done at the town of Nashville in Milam County, and are required to be done at the county seat, shall remain and be as legal and valid in law as though they had been transacted at the county seat of said county.”* ¹¹⁸
- END DATE FOR FIRST TIME AS COUNTY SEAT = 1842:
 - The 15 January 1842 Act ¹¹⁹ that organized Burleson County as a “judicial county” was voided by the Texas Supreme Court’s ruling that “judicial counties” were unconstitutional primarily because they were not allowed representation in the Republic of Texas Congress.
¹²⁰
 - Section 6 of the 15 January 1842 Act, however, is important for establishing that Nashville remained the County Seat up to 15 January 1842. The Act states that if Burleson County is organized, *“the district and inferior courts of Milam county shall continue to be held at Nashville...”*
 - After the Texas Supreme Court voided the 15 January 1842 Act organizing Burleson County, the Legislature passed a 5 February 1842 Act *“fixing the temporary seat of Justice of Milam County”* as Caldwell:
 - *“Section 1: Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Texas in Congress*

assembled: That in the event the Supreme Court should at their present Session decide Judicial Counties unconstitutional, then, and in that case, the town of "Caldwell" shall be the temporary seat of justice of Milam County, until otherwise removed by a vote of the citizens of said county, or by subsequent legislation enactment; and that all the proceedings of the probate and county courts, which have been heretofore held at the said town of Caldwell and which, otherwise, would have been legal, are, hereby, legalized, and made valid."

- *"Section 2: Be it further enacted, That all the records of said County of Milam which have not yet been removed to said town of Caldwell and which are required by law to be kept at the Seat of Justice shall forthwith, be removed to said town..."*

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CALDWELL (1842–1846):

- Caldwell remained part of Milam County until Burleson County was created in 1846.
- START DATE AS COUNTY SEAT = 1842:
 - After the Texas Supreme Court voided the *15 January 1842 Act* organizing Burleson County (discussed above), Caldwell became the "temporary seat of Justice of Milam County" as provided by the *5 February 1842 Act*. (NOTE: Sections 1 and 2 of the *5 February 1842 Act* are presented in the Nashville discussion above)
 - Evidence that the County Seat was established at Caldwell by 4 July 1842 is the following note signed by Milam County Chief Justice H.B. King which includes the phrase, "*Given under our hands at Caldwell this 4th day of July 1842.*" ¹²²

Republic of Texas No 10.
County of Milam Class 3rd.

Ambrose H. Bole is entitled to Six Hundred and forty acres of land he having Emigrated to this Republic in January 1838 as a married man he also having proved to us that he has resided in the Republic three years, and performed all the duties required of him as a Citizen

Attest Seal Given under our hands at Caldwell this 4th day of Auldredy July 1842.

J. W. Fitch

Note signed by Milam County Chief Justice and Clerk at Caldwell on 4 July 1842. At that time, the County Land Board consisted of the Chief Justice and Associate Justices.¹²³

- The following “Administrator’s Notice” confirms that Caldwell was “the county seat of Milam county” on 10 February 1844.¹²⁴

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.
ON the first Tuesday in March next, there will be sold in the Town of Caldwell, the county seat of Milam county, the head-right of Sterling C. Fitch, containing 320 acres: also the head-right of Benjamin F. Fitch, containing one-third of a league of land, both tracts being located on Little River; sold under an order from the Judge of Probate for said county.
Feb 10, 1844 3w25 CLAIRBORNE H. FITCH, Adm'r.

Notice published on 10 February 1844 confirming that Caldwell was the County Seat of Milam County on that date.

○ END DATE AS COUNTY SEAT = 1846:

- Burleson County was organized by a 24 March 1846 Act.¹²⁵
- Section 4 of a 4 April 1846 Act passed about two weeks later states:
“That from the time which, by an act organizing the county of Burleson, the officers of Milam county and the records of said county, shall have to be removed from Caldwell, the temporary county site of Milam, until the necessary buildings shall be erected in the county site created by this act, the county business shall be done at Nashville, and shall be valid.”
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- A 27 April 1846 Act describes Caldwell as “the former temporary county seat of Milam county, hereafter to be the county seat of Burleson County.”¹²⁷

NASHVILLE (1846/Second time as County Seat):

○ START DATE FOR SECOND TIME AS COUNTY SEAT = 1846:

- After Burleson County was organized and Caldwell became its County Seat in April 1846, the County Seat of Milam County returned to Nashville in accordance with the following section of the 4 April 1846 Act:
“That from the time which, by an act organizing the county of Burleson, the officers of Milam county and the records of said county, shall have to be removed from Caldwell, the temporary county site of Milam, until the necessary buildings shall be erected in the county site created by this act, the county business shall be done at Nashville, and shall be valid.”
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- END DATE FOR SECOND TIME AS COUNTY SEAT = 1846:
 - As highlighted in the excerpt in the preceding paragraph, the 4 April 1846 Act directed that Nashville would serve as the temporary County Seat of Milam County *“until the necessary buildings shall be erected in the county site created by this act”* – the county site created by this act would be named Cameron.
 - The permanent County Seat of Milam was located and the courthouse was constructed by the end of 1846 as discussed in the Cameron section below.

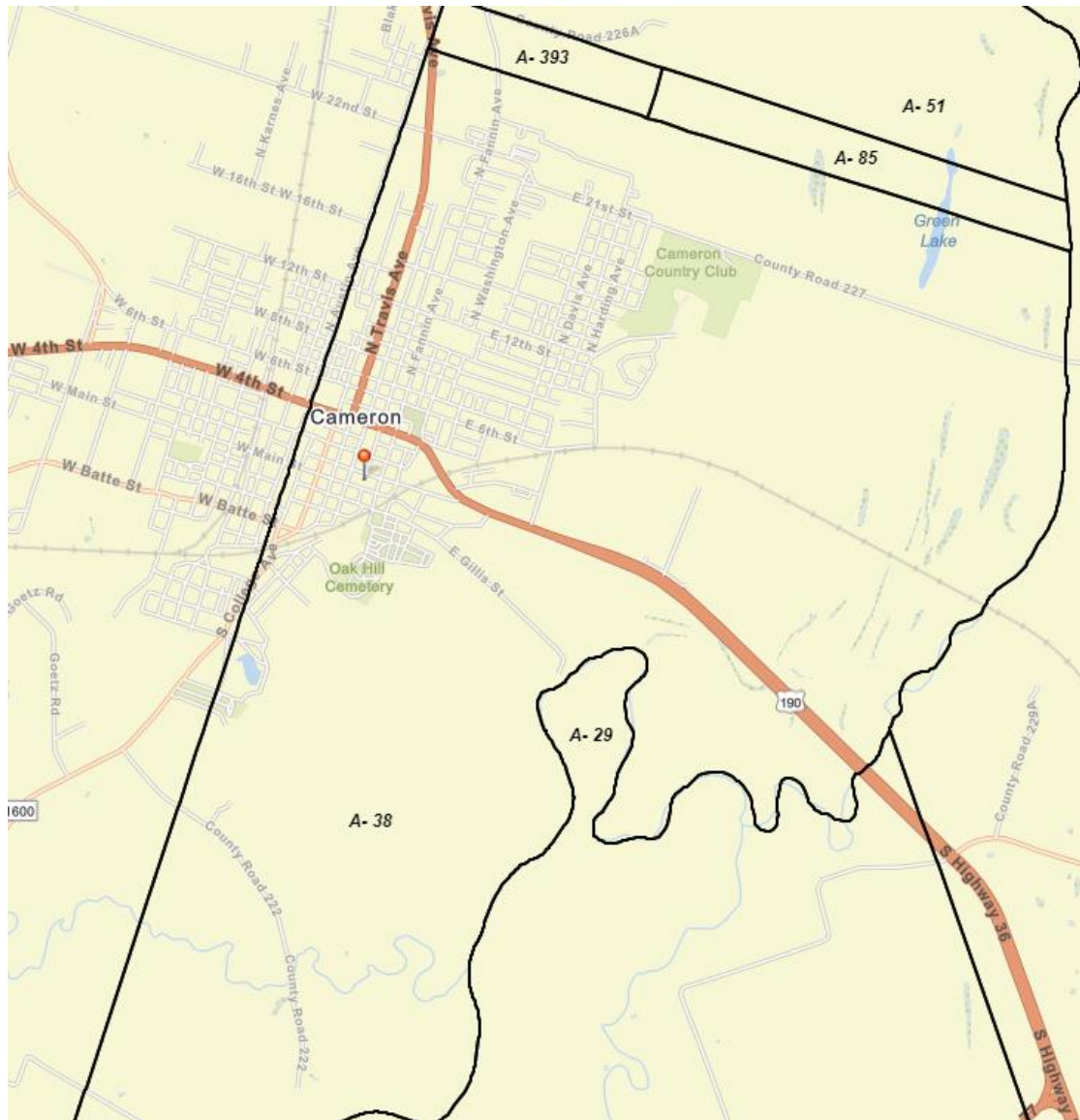
CAMERON (1846 – PRESENT):

The 4 April 1846 Act authorized the site for a “permanent” County Seat for Milam County to be located and the County Seat to be established.

- The Act authorized the following seven commissioners to locate the County Seat: Winford Bailey, Benjamin Bryant, Daniel Monroe, Augustin Sillaven, Isaac Standefer, William D. Thomson, and Josiah Turnham. (NOTE: I corrected the spelling of names) ¹²⁹
- Embedded in the 4 April 1846 Act which authorized the establishment of a permanent County Seat for Milam County is the only guideline required to be used in the site selection: *“...shall locate such county seat, at the nearest convenient and suitable point to the centre of a constitutional county...”* ¹³⁰
- In addition, the seven commissioners appointed to implement the 4 April 1846 Act were given the *“power to fix the name of such place, and to purchase not less than sixty, not more than three hundred and twenty acres of land...”*

MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS - ITS EVOLUTION AND LEADERS

The commissioners selected 60 acres owned by fellow-commissioner Daniel Monroe to establish the County Seat.¹³¹ Monroe had been granted 4,248 acres (24 labors) of land in Robertson's Colony west of the Little River on 20 March 1835.¹³² (See below survey map for the location of the 60 acres which included the Courthouse Square within Monroe's land grant)



Daniel Monroe's 4,248 acres of land is identified as A-38 - and its boundaries are marked with a black line which follows the Little River for its eastern boundary. The location of the 60 acres conveyed by Monroe to Milam County for the County Seat is marked by a red pin identifying the present-day Courthouse Square which has not been moved since 1846. (Milam Appraisal District Interactive Map, 2021)

MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS - ITS EVOLUTION AND LEADERS

- START DATE AS COUNTY SEAT = 1846:
 - The commissioners selected 60 acres near the Little River owned by Daniel Monroe to be the County Seat. The title for that land was not transferred to Milam County until 17 November 1846. ¹³³
 - NOTE: I have been unable to document if Monroe donated or sold the land to Milam County. In the reference cited, it is said that they “conveyed” the land to Milam County. Other references state the land was either sold or donated.
 - The 4 April 1846 Act dictated that the County Seat *would remain in Nashville until the “necessary public buildings” were built* at the site of the new County Seat for Milam County. ¹³⁴
 - Strong evidence that the “necessary public buildings” were built in late 1846 is provided by the following document signed by County Clerk Francis Duffau at the “County Court at Cameron” on 2 January 1847:

State of Texas
County of Milam
I certify that
the within Certificates Given in Number were
issued by the Board of Land Commissioners
of Milam County for the quarter ending Sept
2^d 1844
Given under my Hand and seal of
the County Court at Cameron this the
2^d January 1847
Francis J. Duffau
Clerk Ex Offi Clerk P. L. a
Commissioner

A certificate signed by the Milam County Clerk at the “County Seat at Cameron” on 2 January 1847.” ¹³⁵

- END DATE AS COUNTY SEAT = ?
 - Although Cameron remains as the County Seat, an END DATE for Cameron being the County Seat could have been either 1874 or 1880 when elections were held to determine if the County Seat should have been moved from Cameron.
 - *First Election to move County Seat = 3 November 1874:*
 - The first election was ordered with the following entry in the Milam County Commissioners Court Minutes dated 9 October 1874:

*“The petitions of a majority of the registered voters of Milam County being presented to the Court praying the Court to order an Election for the purpose of removing the site of the County Seat of said county. It is ordered by the Court that an election for that purpose be holden at the different voting precincts of said County on the first Tuesday and third day of November 1874 being the same time fixed for the general election in this District, said election to be holden in the manner provided by Law: voters to specify “Against removal of County seat” or “For removal of the County seat” and in the latter case to name the place of their choice for said County seat.”*¹³⁶
 - Interestingly, I could not find the vote tally for the 3 November 1874 election. There were, however, two newspaper reports that addressed the election results. One was in the 4 November 1874 *Galveston Daily News* stating that the Rockdale Voting Precinct had 340 people vote “for removal of county seat from Cameron to Rockdale” and 10

people were “against removal.”¹³⁷ Another newspaper report was in the 11 March 1880 *Rockdale Messenger* stating:

*“Five years ago this same county seat question was submitted to the people and they voted by over a 2/3 majority for removal from Cameron. But an odious radical law required 2/3 of the registered vote.”*¹³⁸

- The first concrete fact that the 3 November 1874 election did not remove the County Seat from Cameron can be found in the County Commissioners Court Minutes for 25 December 1874; the Court ordered architects to start planning to build a county jail in Cameron.¹³⁹
- *Second election – 16 March 1880:*
 - The second election was ordered with the following entry in the Milam County Commissioners Court Minutes dated 13 February 1880:

*“At Chambers – February 13th AD 1880. Written application having been made to me to remove the County seat of Milam County from its present location at Cameron to some other point in said County, and it appearing to me that said written application is signed by at least two hundred freeholders and resident citizens of said County: It is hereby ordered that an election be held at the various voting precincts in said County on Tuesday, the sixteenth (16th) day of March A.D. 1880, for the purpose of submitting the question of said removal of the County seat to the electors of said County.” R. J. Boykin County Judge, Milam County”*¹⁴⁰

- Over 50% of the 11 March 1880 *Rockdale Messenger* focused on reasons why the County Seat should be moved to Rockdale – interesting reading.¹⁴¹
- The results of the election were included in the Milam County Commissioners Court Minutes dated 27 March 1880:

*“At Chambers March 27th 1880. I, R. J. Boykin County Judge of Milam County hereby declare the following as the result of the Election precincts in said County on the 16th day of March 1880, on the question of the removal of the County seat from Cameron to some other point in said County. Total number of votes for County Seat remaining at Cameron – 1861. Total Number of votes for removal of county seat to Rockdale – 1618. Majority for county seat remaining at Cameron – 243. Witness, my hand this the 27th day of March AD 1880. R. J. Boykin County Judge Milam County”*¹⁴²

THE SEVEN MILAM COUNTY COURTHOUSES

The symbolic importance of Texas Courthouses was colorfully described by Texas Attorney Bill Kroger:

*“Texas wasn’t settled by gunmen. It was settled in large part by developing, county by county, a system of laws, with due process, an independent judiciary, and a functioning bar of lawyers. It’s why the center of every county seat is not a church but a courthouse.”*¹⁴³

The Courthouses in each of the four County Seats are discussed below.

- *In Sarahville:*
 - I could not identify a Courthouse in Sarahville.

- *In Nashville:*
 - **FIRST MILAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE** – Constructed ?:
 - I found one document that confirmed a Courthouse was in Nashville. It was a newspaper that had two “Sheriff’s Sale” notices dated 9 September 1840. Both identified Philip Bruce Scott as Milam County Sheriff – and both alerted people that the Sheriff’s Sales would be “at the Court-house door in the town of Nashville.”¹⁴⁴ (See notice below)

SHERIFF'S SALE.

BY virtue of divers executions, to me directed by the Hon. the District Court, I have levied upon and will expose to public sale at the Court-house door in the town of Nashville, on the first Tuesday in October next, all the right of Winford Bailey in and to the lower half of one league of land, granted to A. Bailey by Commissioners of Robinson's Colony, and lies on Little River at the Raft, and number 24. P. B. SCOTT, Sheriff.

September 9, 1840, 44:tds

A Sheriff’s Sale notice dated 9 September 1840 that advertises a land sale will be held at the “Court-house door in the town of Nashville.”

- *In Caldwell:*
 - **SECOND MILAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE** – Constructed by November 1841:
 - On 4 February 1840, the Fourth Congress of the Republic of Texas approved “An Act to Annex Part of Washington County to the County of Milam and for other Purposes.” This Act authorized eight appointed commissioners to “*select a temporary seat of justice; and also select a suitable place for the county seat of a new county...*” ¹⁴⁵
 - NOTE: That county seat would be Caldwell and the new county would be Burleson – see Page 50 for more discussion.
 - The following provision of the 4 February 1840 Act focuses on the building of a Courthouse:
 - “*...so soon after the selection of said county seat as practicable, to have the same surveyed into lots of convenient sizes; and after advertising the sale in some public newspaper, for at least sixty days, to sell at public auction any number thereof, not exceeding one-half of the whole number of lots; and the said commissioners are hereby required to appropriate the proceeds arising from the sale of said lots...to the erection of a court house, jail, and such other public buildings as they may deem necessary and proper.*”
 - A petition filed with the Republic of Texas Congress documents that a Milam County Courthouse in Caldwell was constructed by November 1841. When the commissioners appointed to obtain land for the county seat encountered difficulty in purchasing the land as authorized by the 4 February 1840 Act, a 21 January 1841 Act was passed that authorized the commissioners to take the desired land by condemnation. ¹⁴⁶ The commissioners then purchased the land for the new County Seat, sold some of the lots, and used the lot-sale proceeds to build “a good and substantial Court House” in Caldwell

as stated in the 20 November 1841 petition submitted by 79 Milam County citizens to the Republic of Texas Congress.¹⁴⁷

- The Courthouse was located on the “Public Square” which was identified on the original plat of Caldwell and described as one block “located on the highest point in the new town site and was intended for a future courthouse.”¹⁴⁸
- The Courthouse in Caldwell has been described as an “old frame court house which then ornamented Caldwell’s public square...”¹⁴⁹ and “a rude affair made of cedar lumber, whipsawed by hand.”¹⁵⁰
- The Milam County Courthouse in Caldwell was highlighted in a newspaper article titled “Annexation Meeting At Caldwell, Milam County” published 8 May 1845. The article reported “*The citizens of the county of Milam, upon previous notice, met in mass at the court house, on the 30th April...*”¹⁵¹

- *In Cameron:*

- **THIRD MILAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE** – Constructed in 1846:

- William Wilson Oxsheer who served as District Clerk for Milam County in 1846¹⁵² described the 1846 Courthouse as follows:

*“It was thirty feet east and west by twenty feet north and south, about nine feet high to the eaves, built of upright studding mortised into sills and plates, weatherboarded on the outside, floored with plank cut out by hand with a whipsaw, and covered with boards ripped and shaved. There was a door on the north side and one on the south side and a window in each end. On the south side two shed rooms about ten feet square were added, which were used as clerk’s offices, there being a passageway between leading to the courtroom.”*¹⁵³

- Two undocumented statements indicate that before the next Courthouse was built in 1856, the 1846 Courthouse was moved southeast of the Courthouse Square and remodeled into the Phillips Hotel.¹⁵⁴ The Phillips Hotel is of interest to me. There is almost no information about this hotel – no photos or maps showing its location in Cameron were found. I was only able to determine that Zack Phillips owned the Phillips Hotel in 1870 since he was described as a “Hotel Keeper” in the 1870 U.S. Census and his widowed wife was identified as the caretaker of the Phillips Hotel in 1872.¹⁵⁵

- **FOURTH MILAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE** – Constructed in 1856:
 - Constructed with a central hallway and a brick veneer exterior.¹⁵⁶
 - The 1861 Texas Almanac described it as a “neat and handsome brick court-house.”¹⁵⁷

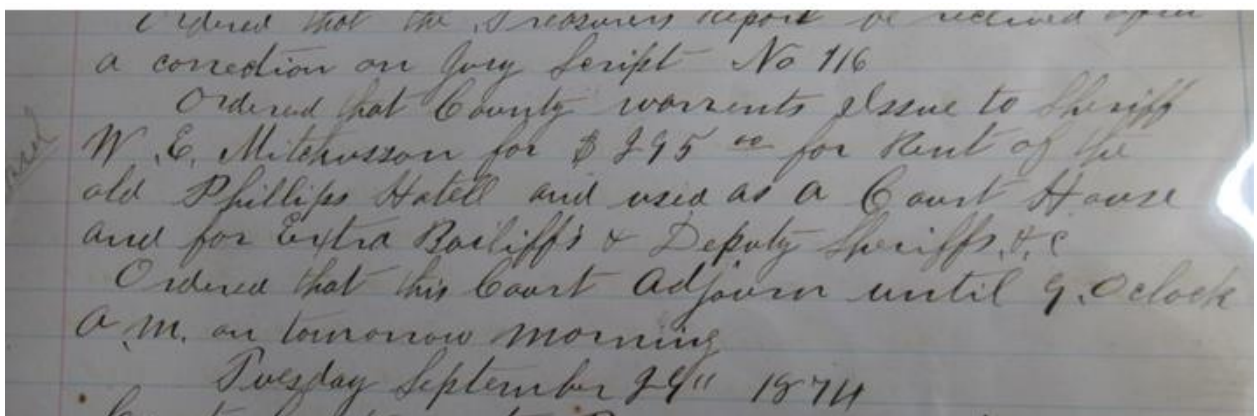
- **FIFTH MILAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE** – Constructed in 1871/1872:
 - The need for a new Courthouse was documented in the following two petitions filed in 1870 and 1871:
 - Petition 1: On 22 September 1870, 39 Milam County citizens including County Commissioner Peter Jackson and Sheriff J.T. Torney sent a petition to Texas Governor Edmund Jackson Davis that stated in part: “*We the undersigned Citizens of Milam County, State of Texas, would respectfully represent that the Courthouse at Cameron is in a dilapidated condition and unfit to be occupied, making it necessary to build a new Courthouse...*”¹⁵⁸
 - Petition 2: An undated petition sent before 8 May 1871 to the Texas House of Representatives and signed by 34 Milam

MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS - ITS EVOLUTION AND LEADERS

County citizens including the Sheriff, County Treasurer, and District Clerk stated in part: *“Milam County is now without a building in which to hold its Courts. The county is at the expense of renting a room at an exorbitant rate for the use of the Courts – an office each for the Sheriff and District Clerk...”*

159

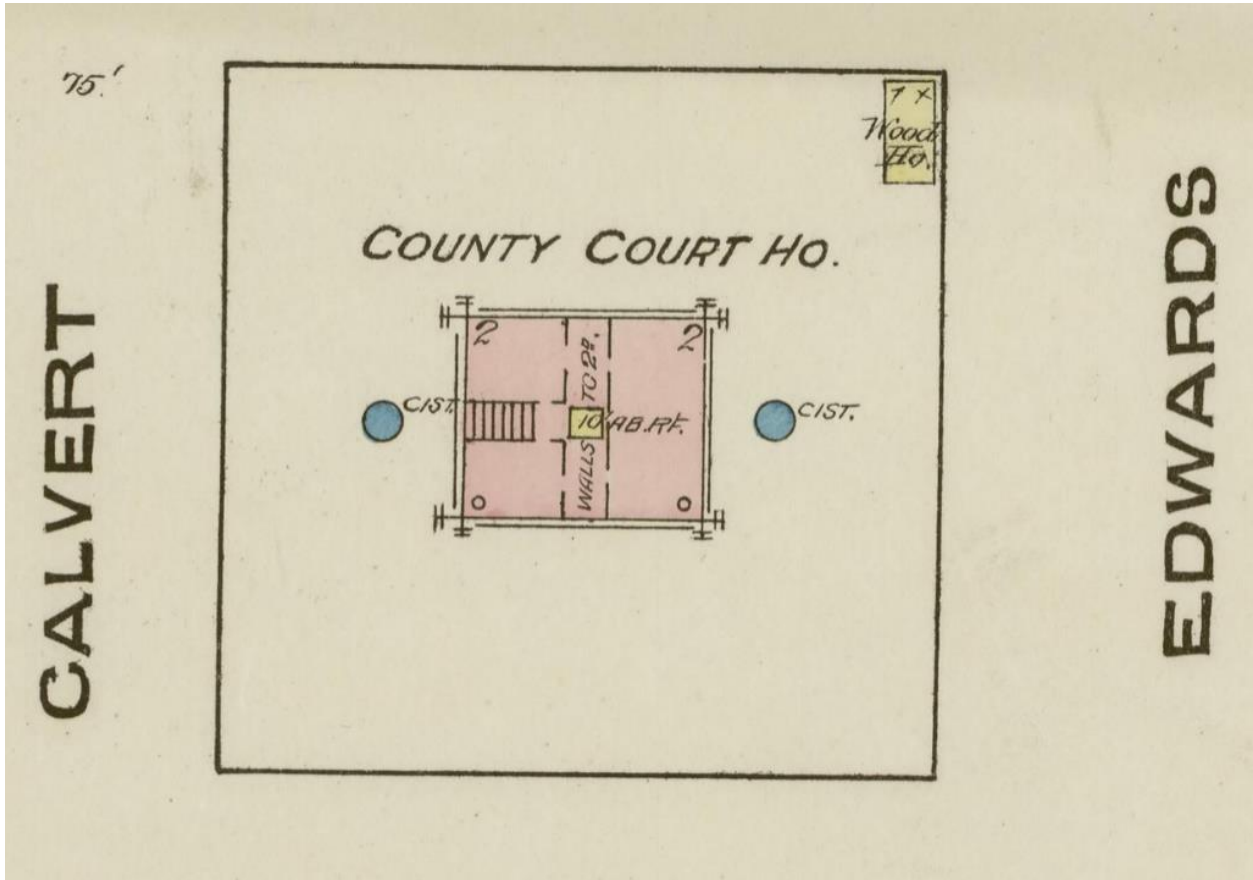
- On 8 May 1871, the Twelfth Legislature of the State of Texas authorized the County Court of Milam County to levy and collect a special ad valorem tax for “the purpose of erecting a court house at the county site thereof, in the town of Cameron...”¹⁶⁰
- The Courthouse had brick chimneys and foundation.¹⁶¹
- On 9 April 1874, fire totally destroyed the Courthouse.¹⁶²
- On 28 September 1874, the Milam County Commissioners Court (J.C. Rogers Presiding Justice) approved the rental of the Phillips Hotel (originally the 1846 Courthouse) to be used as the Courthouse and county offices until a new Courthouse was constructed.¹⁶³ (See Minutes below)



Ordered that the Treasurer report be received upon a correction on Jury List No 116
Ordered that County warrants issue to Sheriff W. E. Mitchinson for \$295.00 for Rent of the old Phillips Hotel and used as a Court House and for Extra Bailiffs & Deputy Sheriffs, &c.
Ordered that this Court Adjourn until 9 o'clock A.M. on tomorrow morning
Tuesday September 29th 1874

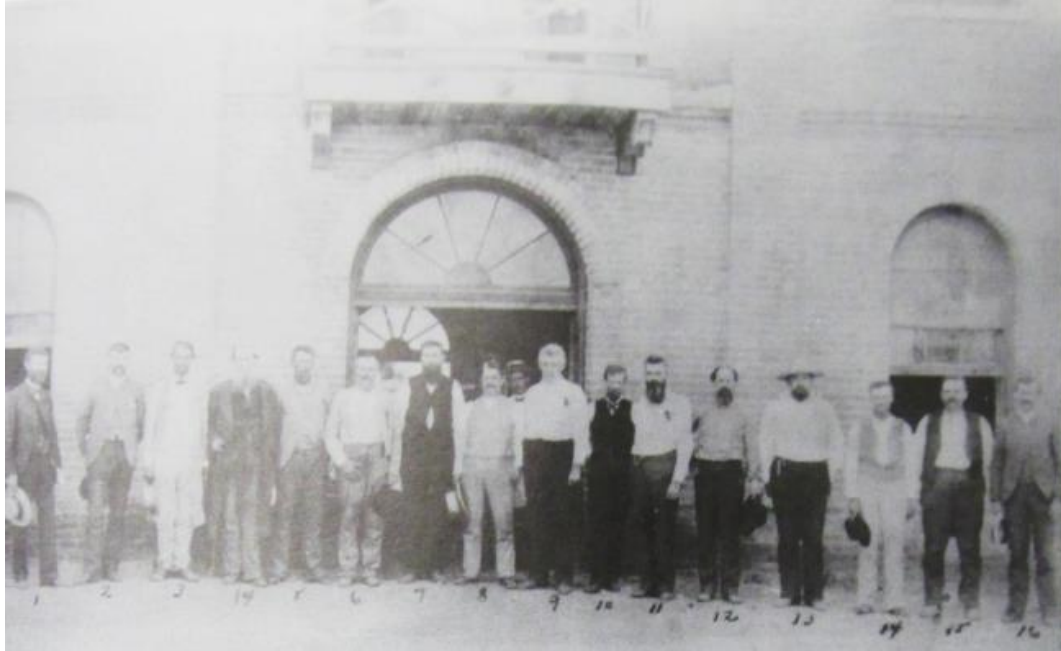
An excerpt of the Milam County Commissioners Court Minutes dated 28 September 1874.

- **SIXTH MILAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE** – Constructed in 1876:
 - The plans required that the new Courthouse be 50 by 60 feet. ¹⁶⁴
 - On 5 July 1875, the contracts to build the new Courthouse were awarded. ¹⁶⁵
 - On 14 April 1876, the final bills for the new Courthouse were paid. ¹⁶⁶
 - Interestingly, the philanthropist and benefactor of Cameron High School, Charles H. Yoe, was paid \$130 to build a cistern for the Courthouse in August 1882. ¹⁶⁷
 - A report given to the Milam County Commissioners Court concerning the problems with the Courthouse can be used to determine that the Courthouse was two stories, had brick work on the outside, and had fireplaces. ¹⁶⁸
 - The most complete description of the 1876 Courthouse was provided by the Sanborn Map and Publishing Company in September 1885 and included the following details: two-story, brick, slate on the roof, 50 by 60 feet. In addition, the document pinpoints the Courthouse's location on a map along with a drawing of the Courthouse. ¹⁶⁹ (*See drawing below*)



A sketch of the 1876 Milam County Courthouse and its two cisterns drawn in 1885. Edwards Street has been renamed Fannin – and Calvert Street no longer exists west of the Courthouse but has been renamed Central. The structure in yellow is labeled Wood House.

- The 1876 Courthouse can be seen in the photograph below.
- On 12 November 1889, it was reported that the Grand Jury of Milam County concluded “that the present Courthouse was and is unsafe and recommended the building of a new Courthouse.”¹⁷⁰



The 1876 Milam County Courthouse (photo taken in 1884). The person identified as Number 2 is Pinckney Shaw Ford Sr. (Milam County Judge: 1883–1886).¹⁷¹

- **SEVENTH MILAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE** – Constructed in 1892:
 - On 12 November, 1889, the County Commissioners Court “*adjudged and decreed, that this Court proceed forth with to build, contract and erect a New Courthouse for said County and that the County Judge of Milam County Hon. E.Y. Terral do at once advertise for one week in the Galveston Daily News for plans and specifications for said Court House to be submitted to this Court on the third Monday in December 1889 ...*”¹⁷²
 - On 23 February 1891 after much dissension among the Court members and legal action by others, the Court restarted on the path to a new Courthouse with the following words: “*It is ordered and adjudged by the Court Commissioners Ruby, Little and Phipps voting aye and Commissioner Snively voting No that the present Court House of Milam County be taken down and removed, and a new*

ignorance to knowledge...The stone, when deposited in its appropriate place, is carefully examined with the necessary implements of Operative Masonry – the square, the level, and the plumb, themselves all symbolic in meaning – and is thus declared to be well formed, true, and trusty.” ¹⁷⁵

- On 20 April 1892, the architects reported to the Court that work on the new Courthouse had been completed and recommended that the building be received by the Court. The Court voted unanimously to receive and approve the new Courthouse. ¹⁷⁶ (See photo below)
- The 1892 Courthouse with modifications stands in the Courthouse Square today.



Photograph of the present Milam County Courthouse taken in 1895 – three years after it was completed. ¹⁷⁷

**THE EVOLUTION OF THE MILAM COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS COURT**

THE HISTORY AND DUTIES OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURTS:

NOTE: This section is based entirely on one reference:

George D. Braden et al. *The Constitution of the State of Texas: an Annotated and Comparative Analysis*¹⁷⁸

Page 365:

The commissioners court's duties are administrative and legislative, not judicial.

Page 445:

Current Constitution: Article V, Section 18:

..."Each county shall in like manner be divided into four commissioners precincts in each of which there shall be elected by the qualified voters thereof one County Commissioner, who shall hold his office for four years and until his successor shall be elected and qualified. The County Commissioners so chosen, with the County Judge as presiding officer, shall compose the County Commissioners Court, which shall exercise such powers and jurisdiction over all county business, as is conferred by this Constitution and the laws of the State, or as may be hereafter prescribed."

Page 446:

"The Constitution of the Republic provided that the "Republic shall be divided into a convenient number of counties" (Art. IV, Sec. 11). That constitution also provided that each county should have "a convenient number of Justices of the Peace, one Sheriff, one Coroner, and a sufficient number of Constables, who shall hold their offices for two years, to be elected by the qualified voters of the district or county, as the Legislature may direct." (Art. IV, Sec. 12.) This was carried over into the Constitution of 1845 (Art. IV, Sec. 13). No change was made in 1861. "

“The 1866 Constitution was the first to provide constitutionally for county government: There shall be elected in each county in the State, by the persons qualified to vote for members of the Legislature, four County Commissioners, whose term of office shall be four years, who, with the Judge of the County Court, shall constitute, and be styled, the Police Court for the County; whose powers, duties and mode of action, in regulating, promoting, and protecting the public interest relating to the county, shall be the same as that now prescribed by law for the Commissioners Court of Roads and Revenue, until otherwise provided for and regulated by the Legislature. (Art. IV, Sec. 17.)”

“In the early days of the Republic each county had a chief justice elected by congress and two associate justices elected by the justices of the peace. ”This trio acted as the governing body of the county and 'was responsible for the superintendence and control of public roads, bridges and ferries, and for the care of the indigent, lame, blind, and poor-persons who were unable to support themselves.' “

“This body was changed on February 3, 1845, to the county commissioners consisting of four commissioners and one chief justice, all elected for two year terms.” “

Page 447:

Current Constitution: Article V, Section 18:

Section 18 was amended in 1954 to change terms of office from two years to four years.

Composition of Court. “Section 18 sets forth four propositions concerning the composition of the commissioners court. First, the county judge is the presiding officer. Second, there are four commissioners, each elected from one of four precincts into which the county must be divided... Third, the commissioners court has the power to draw the lines of the four precincts...

Fourth, the only guideline for precinct line drawing is "for the convenience of the people."

Page 448:

Powers. "Notwithstanding several constitutional provisions concerning powers of counties... numerous statutes spelling out county powers, and a great many court cases, it is easy to explain the constitutional powers of counties: there are hardly any."

"As of 1876, only Section 9 of Article VIII could even be argued to be a direct grant of power to counties. The original wording was ambiguous. It could be read as a direct grant to levy property taxes. The better reading would be as a limitation on the legislature's power to authorize county property taxes."

"The grants of power now in the constitution got there by amendments." This is followed by a discussion of those amendments.

"In essence a county is an administrative convenience for the state. In *Bexar County v. Linden*, Chief Justice Phillips, after describing the nature of a municipal corporation, described counties thusly: They are essentially instrumentalities of the State. They are the means whereby the powers of the State are exerted through a form and agency of local government for the performance of those obligations which the State owes the people at large. They are created by the sovereign will without any special regard to the will of those who reside within their limits. Their chief purpose is to make effective the civil administration of the State government. The policy which they execute is the general policy of the State. Through them the powers of government operate upon the people and are controlled by the people. They are made use of by the State for the collection of taxes, for the diffusion of education, for the construction and maintenance of public highways, and ...for the care of the poor. All of these things are matters of

State, as distinguished from municipal, concern. They intimately affect all the people. The counties are availed of as efficient and convenient means for the discharge of the State's duty in their regard to all the people..."

Page 449 - 451:

"In sum, then, a county has only whatever powers of government are given to it by the legislature."

Acting as a Court. "One of the minor confusions is that the commissioners court is a "court." It does not try cases. But when it acts it does so in a format not unlike that used by a court - "Now, therefore, the commissioners court orders and decrees. . . " "

"There are a number of cases that speak of the commissioners court as a court and suggest that the designation is important. These cases fall into three broad categories.

(1) Immunity from Civil Liability. Judges usually are held to be absolutely immune from civil liability for damages resulting from acts or statements made while discharging their judicial duties. ... Local administrative officials, however, sometimes have only a "qualified" or "conditional" immunity; this means they can be held liable if it can be shown that they acted with "malice." ...Thus, a commissioner might have absolute immunity if considered a judge, but only qualified immunity if considered an administrative or legislative officer. The immunity of a commissioner in Texas is not always absolute, however. A commissioner generally does have immunity when acting within his jurisdiction and in good faith. ... A statute ... requires county commissioners to post bond. A court of civil appeals has stated that "this article must be strictly construed as a limitation on the immunity accorded a judge in the exercise of his judicial discretion. In voting 'to pay out county funds,' a county

commissioner is not liable when actuated by pure motives, but only when he acts maliciously or corruptly, or under circumstances imputing malice or corrupt motives." ... Thus, despite the designation of the commissioners court as a "court," its members do not have true judicial immunity. It is possible, however, that their immunity is absolute except in connection with the payment of claims, but this has not been established.

(2) Powers of Commissioners Court. The commissioners court has many powers that are characteristic of courts. It may issue notices, citations, writs and process and has the power to punish contempt. ... Administrative bodies, however, can also be given most of these powers, including the power to punish contempt. ... Administrative agencies normally do not have power to issue writs, however; that is a true judicial function, and since the commissioners court has some limited power to issue writs, it might be argued that it must be a true court. The extent or constitutionality of this statutory writ power of the commissioners court is not clear, however; the courts apparently have never been asked to decide whether it is constitutional. Moreover, the power seems to be very rarely - if ever - used. In most instances, commissioners courts obtain compliance with their orders by suing in a regular court for an injunction or a writ of mandamus, rather than issuing their own writs. ..."

(3) Review of Decisions of Commissioners Court. Higher courts often say that since the commissioners court is a "court," its orders are entitled to the same consideration as those of other courts. ... This language usually is a predicate for holding that the order of the commissioners court is not subject to collateral attack (i.e., it must be challenged by appeal or some other direct method, rather than by bringing another proceeding before a different tribunal).

Again, the same result probably would be reached even if the commissioners court were not considered a court. Orders of administrative agencies, as well as courts, usually are protected against collateral attack unless the agency is not legally constituted or has acted outside its jurisdiction. ... This is essentially the same rule that is applied to judgments of courts.

Page 452:

“The counties in the Southern states are the principal government for any portion of a geographical area that does not get set aside by incorporation as a village, town, or city. Except in a county that is so urban that all the area becomes incorporated, a county will always remain the only local government for some people.”

Page 453:

Above “it was noted that a county is an administrative convenience for the state and that the county government depends on the legislature for power. But the structure of county government is minutely spelled out in the constitution. There are a great many elected county officials but they have to depend on the legislature for their power. This results in mixed-up democracy. The people elect their rulers, but the people have to turn to their legislators for new powers if the rulers are unable to give the people what they want. This helps to preserve the practice of passing local laws. This situation also encourages county officials to look more to the legislature than to their constituents.”

GUIDE TO THE DIFFERENT POSITION TITLES FOR COUNTY COURT OFFICIALS AND OTHER DETAILS INCLUDING TERMS AND PRECINCT ASSIGNMENTS:

- Initially, the county was led by a board consisting of a Chief Justice and Justices of the Peace.
 - The Chief Justice was originally elected by Congress until 1842 when the citizens elected the Chief Justice for a term of four years.¹⁷⁹
 - In addition, the Justices of the Peace would elect two of their own to be Associate Justices – I only found names of Associate Justices up to 1843 for Milam County.
- From 1841 to 1846, the administrative divisions of the county were called “beats” instead of “precincts.”
 - During these years, each “beat” was represented by two “Justices of the Peace.”
 - “Beats” were actually the parts of the county assigned to “captains of militia.” The Republic’s militia act required that all “free, able-bodied male citizen between the ages of seventeen and fifty would be enrolled in the militia...” After this enrollment, the county was divided into militia precincts called “beats.”¹⁸⁰
- In 1845 when Texas was accepted into the Union, new laws assigned county governance to a Chief Justice and four Commissioners elected by the entire county.
 - In Milam County, the officials served two-year terms until 1956 when the terms were extended to four years with half of the commissioners elected every two years.
- In Milam County, Beats or Precincts were not identified for the Commissioners from 1846 to 1870.

- Milam County was divided into four precincts in 1876. Although I did not find the boundary descriptions for Precincts/Beats 1 and 2 – the boundaries for Precincts 3 and 4 were recorded in the Minutes for the 10 January 1876 Commissioners Court Meeting as follows:

*“It is ordered by the Court that this County be divided into Four Commissioners Precincts to be designated as follows. Commissioners Precinct No. one to be the same as Beat No. one now is. Precinct No. two shall remain as it now is. Precinct No. three shall be contained within the following limits: Beginning at J.H. Holtzclaws Bridge on the San Gabriel and from there along the Old Bryan Road to the Burleson County Line and thence with said County Line in an easterly direction to the Brazos River and thence up said River to the mouth of Little River thence up Little River to the mouth of the San Gabriel. Thence up the San Gabriel to the Place of Beginning. Precinct No. four to be contained within the following limits. Beginning at J.H. Holtzclaws Bridge on the San Gabriel from thence along the old Bryan Road to where it crosses the line between Milam and Burleson County from then in a westwardly direction along the line of Milam County to corner. Continuing with the line of Milam County to where it crosses Little River thence down Little River to the mouth of the San Gabriel. Thence up the San Gabriel to the place of Beginning.”*¹⁸¹

- During the Reconstruction period following the Civil War (August 1865 to December 1870), county officials were appointed by Special Order of the Fifth Military District.
 - These appointments in Milam County are identified in the “Notes Column” of Table A. (See Page 84)
 - On 30 March 1870, President Grant signed the act that readmitted Texas to the Union and ended Congressional Reconstruction.¹⁸²

MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS - ITS EVOLUTION AND LEADERS

- In 1870, the composition of the county court changed to four Justices of the Peace and a Presiding Justice:
 - *"Each county was to elect five justices of the peace, not more than one of whom could "be a resident of the same justice's precinct." One of the justices was to "reside, after his election, at the county seat." Five justices were to "constitute a court, having such jurisdiction, similar to that heretofore exercised by county commissioners and police courts, as may be prescribed by law. And when sitting as such court the justice who resides at the county seat shall be the presiding justice."* ¹⁸³
- The first election for County Judge and four County Commissioners representing four defined precincts occurred on 15 February 1876 in Milam County. This change corresponded to the adoption of the 1876 Constitution of Texas.
- Election dates and swearing into office dates have varied. In 1887, the present protocol of elections being held in November and swearing-in ceremonies being held in January was initiated in Milam County.

DIFFERENT NAMES OF THE COUNTY COURT/BOARD GOVERNING MILAM COUNTY SINCE 1836:

- *Honorable Police Court of Milam County*
- *County Court of Milam County*
- *Commissioners Court of Milam County*
 - This name was first recorded on 5 August 1876 in the Milam County Commissioners Court Minutes. ¹⁸⁴ The name change resulted from the adoption of the 1876 Texas Constitution: the 1876 Constitution is the present Texas Constitution.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS CONCERNING THE MILAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT:

LONGEST-SERVING:

- Person serving longest in the position now titled Commissioner:
 - *LaVert Chamberlain McKinney (27 years/1959-1985)*
- Person serving longest in the position now titled County Judge:
 - *Jeff Thompson Kemp Sr. (25 years/1922-1946)*

WOMEN COMMISSIONERS:

- Of the 182 officials recorded in the following Tables A and B, only TWO have been women:
 - *Eva Burke Locklin (1954)*
 - *Dora Elnora McCasland (1967-1970)*

**TABLES A AND B:
LISTING OF ALL THOSE KNOWN TO HAVE
SERVED ON THE MILAM COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS COURT AND ITS
PRECURSORS (1836 – 2020)**

EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR TABLE A and TABLE B:

1. Contents of both TABLES:

- Complete Name
 - Five names appear on two lines because they served as commissioner and county judge: Edward A. Martin, Lafayette Robinson, Isaac Skelton Standefer, Edward Young Terral, and William Henry Walker.
- Position Title
- Burial Ground
- Years in Office:
 - The “Years in Office” are based on the years that they held office – not when they were elected. If their service is less than 6 months for a year, that year is not listed on the spreadsheet as a “Year in Office.” For example, if they started their service on August 1852, 1852 is not listed as a year served because it is less than 6 months. In contrast, if a person served up to August 1852, 1852 is listed as a year of service. The exception to this protocol is for a year in which a person either leaves or takes office for reasons other than an election such as resignation, death, appointment; in those cases, the year is included as a “year served” in the Table for both people involved.

2. Unique for TABLE A:

- Officials are listed alphabetically according to last name.
- There is a “Notes” column that has information about a person leaving office unexpectedly and who replaced that person. Also, familial connections are noted if known.

3. Unique for TABLE B:

- The officials are listed according to the first year that they served. This chronological listing will assist Readers identify those serving during specific years.

PRIMARY SOURCES FOR INFORMATION USED TO CONSTRUCT THE TABLES:

1. Election Registers archived at the Milam County Clerk's Office
2. Texas Secretary of State Election Registers (Elected/Appointed Officials) archived at the Texas State Archives: Microfilm Reels EL-1 through EL-12
3. Texas Department of State Election Returns archived at the Texas State Archives: Box 2016/132-1
4. Archived newspapers at various websites including Newspaper.com, NewspaperArchive.com, and the University of North Texas Portal to Texas History
5. Genealogical websites including Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org
6. Milam County Commissioners Court Minutes archived at the Milam County Clerk's Office
7. Burial ground information from multiple sources including FindAGrave.com Memorials

**TABLE A:
ALPHABETICAL LISTING OF LEADERS**

MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS - ITS EVOLUTION AND LEADERS

Last Name	First and Middle Names	Position	Burial Ground	Years In Office	Notes
<i>Allcorn</i>	<i>William Allen</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Thorndale Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1915</u> , 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920	
<i>Arnett</i>	<i>Cullen Curlee</i>	Commissioner	Unable to locate	<u>1851</u> , 1852	
<i>Bailey</i>	<i>John</i>	Justice of the Peace, District 2	Unable to locate	<u>1837</u> , 1838, 1839, 1840	
<i>Balch</i>	<i>Charlie Gene Sr.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Still alive - 2020	<u>2013</u> , 2014	Appointed to replace Tomek 2013; Resigned 30 June 2014 - Watkins Appointed
<i>Baldrige</i>	<i>John W.</i>	Chief Justice	Unable to locate	<u>1855</u> , 1856	
<i>Barkemeyer</i>	<i>David Lester</i>	County Judge	Still alive - 2020	<u>2011</u> , 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018	
<i>Barrett</i>	<i>John Walter</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	North Elm Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1911</u> , 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918	
<i>Bauerschlag</i>	<i>Burke Allen</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Still alive - 2020	<u>1995</u> , 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010	
<i>Bean</i>	<i>Elwood Morris.</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct 3	Unable to locate	<u>1871</u>	Position vacated in June 1871- Replaced by Ferguson
<i>Bell</i>	<i>William W.</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct/Beat 1	Unable to locate	<u>1838</u> , 1839, 1840	
<i>Blackburn</i>	<i>John Wesley</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1887</u> , 1888, 1889, 1890	Resigned 28 March 1890 - Replaced by Snively
<i>Blake</i>	<i>Gene Frederick</i>	County Judge	Norwood Cemetery, Robertson County, Texas	<u>1985</u> , 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990	
<i>Blakely</i>	<i>Mardies</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Gause Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1899</u>	Deceased 22 Feb 1899 - Ditto appointed
<i>Bodiford</i>	<i>Peter Vincent</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Milano Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1901</u> , 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906	
<i>Boles</i>	<i>Ambrose Henderson</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct/Beat 4	Norwood Cemetery, Robertson County, Texas	<u>1874</u> , 1875	
<i>Bowen</i>	<i>Gideon B.</i>	Commissioner	Unable to locate	<u>1847</u> , 1848	
<i>Boykin</i>	<i>Robert James</i>	County Judge	Oakwood Cemetery, Tarrant County, Texas	<u>1879</u> , 1880	
<i>Brenan</i>	<i>Thomas H.</i>	County Judge	Early Chapel Cemetery, Lee County, Texas	<u>1876</u> , 1877, 1878	Appointed to replace J.S. Perry 1876
<i>Bryant</i>	<i>Benjamin Franklin</i>	Commissioner	Texas State Cemetery, Travis County, Texas	<u>1849</u> , 1850 + <u>1853</u> , 1854	

MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS - ITS EVOLUTION AND LEADERS

Last Name	First and Middle Names	Position	Burial Ground	Years In Office	Notes
<i>Butts</i>	<i>Nathaniel Hunter</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Little River Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1919</u> , 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932	
<i>Caffey</i>	<i>Charles Dalton</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Salty Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1971</u> , 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976 + <u>1987</u> , 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994	Resigned 15 Jul 1976 - Hines Appointed
<i>Cage</i>	<i>Richard Wilson</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Walkers Creek Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1909</u> , 1910	
<i>Caldwell</i>	<i>L.W.</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct 5	Unable to locate	<u>1871</u>	Resigned 1 Dec 1871 - Replaced by Lopez
<i>Chalmers</i>	<i>John</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct 1	Unable to locate	<u>1844</u>	
<i>Clark</i>	<i>Alexander Evans</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1893</u> , 1894	
<i>Clark</i>	<i>Wilburn B.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Locklin Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1909</u> , 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914	
<i>Cloud</i>	<i>Robert Samuel</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Sandy Creek Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1935</u> , 1936	
<i>Connelly</i>	<i>William</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct/Beat 3	Unable to locate	<u>1841</u> , 1842 + <u>1845</u> , 1846	Title changed during these years: 1841, 1842 (Justice of the Peace/Precinct 3); 1845, 1846 (Justice of the Peace/Precinct 2)
<i>Cox</i>	<i>Moses Grey</i>	County Judge	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1946</u>	On 30 Dec 1946, appointed to replace deceased Kemp who had been re-elected in Nov 1946 - on 1 Jan 1947, the newly-sworn commissioners appointed S. Tyson to be County Judge for the new 2-year term.
<i>Cox</i>	<i>Richard Shackelford</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Gause Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1879</u> , 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884	
<i>Crawford</i>	<i>J.A.</i>	Commissioner	Unable to locate	<u>1866</u> , 1867	Position vacated - Replaced by Terry in Feb 1867
<i>Crunk</i>	<i>John C.</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct/Beat 5	Davilla Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1874</u> , 1875	
<i>Davis</i>	<i>Lee Roy Sr.</i>	Commissioner	Davis Cemetery, McLennan County, Texas	<u>1847</u> , 1848	
<i>Ditto</i>	<i>William L.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Liberty Community Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1899</u> , 1900	Appointed on 14 March 1899 to replace Blakely

MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS - ITS EVOLUTION AND LEADERS

Last Name	First and Middle Names	Position	Burial Ground	Years In Office	Notes
<i>DuBose</i>	<i>Elias</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct/Beat 2	Unable to locate	<u>1841</u> , 1842	
<i>English</i>	<i>Edward Flynn</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1885</u> , 1886 + <u>1895</u> , 1896	
<i>Farley</i>	<i>Massillon</i>	Chief Justice	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1837</u> , 1838, 1839	
<i>Ferguson</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct 3	Unable to locate	<u>1871</u> , 1872, 1873	Elected on 6 Oct 1871 to replace Bean
<i>Fisher</i>	<i>John Lane</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Still alive - 2020	<u>2013</u> , 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020	
<i>Ford</i>	<i>Pinckney Shaw Sr.</i>	County Judge	Oakwood Cemetery, McLennan County, Texas	<u>1883</u> , 1884, 1885, 1886	
<i>Fowler</i>	<i>T.C.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Unable to locate	<u>1885</u> , 1886	Appointed on 11 May 1885 to replace W.T. Walker; Replaced by E. Martin by 10 May 1886
<i>Fuchs</i>	<i>Herman August</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Hope Lutheran Memorial Park, Milam County, Texas	<u>1924</u> , 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933	Appointed to replace Reaves 1924; Deceased 15 Jul 1933 - his son, Walter Fuchs, was appointed to complete his father's unexpired term
<i>Fuchs</i>	<i>Walter Henry</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Elmwood Memorial Park, Taylor County, Texas	<u>1933</u> , 1934, 1935, 1936	Appointed to complete the unexpired term of his father, Herman Fuchs 1933
<i>Gilliland</i>	<i>James Berry</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Salem-Wilson Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1881</u> , 1882	
<i>Gillis</i>	<i>William Graham Sr.</i>	County Judge	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1917</u> , 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922	Resigned 1 Feb 1922 - Kemp Appointed
<i>Givens</i>	<i>James Monroe</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Talpa Cemetery, Coleman County, Texas	<u>1876</u> , 1877, 1878	
<i>Graves</i>	<i>John Herndon</i>	Commissioner	Lilac Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1863</u> , 1864, 1865	Elected 12 Dec 1863 to replace Heiskill
<i>Gregg</i>	<i>John</i>	Chief Justice	Brazos Bottom Baptist Church Cemetery, Burleson County, Texas	<u>1844</u> , 1845, 1846	
<i>Gresak</i>	<i>Adolph</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Hope Lutheran Memorial Park, Milam County, Texas	<u>1965</u> , 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984	

MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS - ITS EVOLUTION AND LEADERS

Last Name	First and Middle Names	Position	Burial Ground	Years In Office	Notes
<i>Gross</i>	<i>Jacob</i>	Commissioner	Unable to locate	<u>1851</u> , 1852	
<i>Hairston</i>	<i>Richard Allen</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Oak Lawn Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1923</u> , 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934 + <u>1937</u> , 1938	
<i>Hale</i>	<i>Hazard Perry</i>	Commissioner	Old City Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1855</u>	Resigned August 1855 - Replaced by Jackson
<i>Hamblen</i>	<i>William Koger</i>	Commissioner	Hamblen-Aiken Cemetery, Bell County, Texas	<u>1857</u> , 1858	
<i>Harden</i>	<i>Oscar Burford</i>	County Judge	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1966</u> , 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978 + <u>1984</u>	Appointed to replace Humble 1966; Appointed to replace P. Smith 1984
<i>Hargrove</i>	<i>J.A.</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct 4	Unable to locate	<u>1871</u>	Resigned Oct 1871 - Replaced by Winston
<i>Harrell</i>	<i>Thomas Washington</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Harrell Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1887</u> , 1888	
<i>Hashem</i>	<i>Roger H. Jr.</i>	County Judge	Still alive - 2020	<u>1991</u> , 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998	
<i>Hauk</i>	<i>Victor Walker</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Clarkson Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1985</u> , 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000	
<i>Haynes</i>	<i>James J.</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct 2	Unable to locate	<u>1843</u> , 1844, 1845, 1846	
<i>Heiskill</i>	<i>John H.</i>	Commissioner	Unable to locate	<u>1863</u>	Resigned Nov/Dec 1863 - Replaced by Graves
<i>Henry</i>	<i>Robert Hugh</i>	Justice of the Peace, District 1	Henry Cemetery, Brazos County, Texas	<u>1837</u>	
<i>Hill</i>	<i>William D.</i>	Justice of the Peace - Beat 3; Commissioner, Precinct 3	Liberty Community Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1863</u> , 1864, 1865 + <u>1874</u> , 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878	Title changed during these years: 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865 (Commissioner); 1874, 1875 (Justice of the Peace, Beat 3); 1876, 1877, 1878 (Commissioner, Precinct 3)
<i>Hill</i>	<i>William Warner</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct/Beat 2	Unable to locate	<u>1841</u> , 1842	
<i>Hine</i>	<i>Washington J.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Bartlett City Cemetery, Williamson County, Texas	<u>1893</u> , 1894	
<i>Hines</i>	<i>Frank Curtis</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Davilla Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1976</u>	Appointed to replace Caffey 1976
<i>Hobson</i>	<i>John H.</i>	Commissioner	Hobson Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1849</u> , 1850, 1851, 1852 + <u>1855</u> , 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859	
<i>Hollas</i>	<i>Kenneth Joseph</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Still alive - 2020	<u>2003</u> , 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014	
<i>Holt</i>	<i>John Oscar</i>	Commissioner	Fairview Cemetery, Midland County, Texas	<u>1866</u> , 1867, 1868, 1869	Position declared vacant in April 1869 - Replaced by Jackson

MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS - ITS EVOLUTION AND LEADERS

Last Name	First and Middle Names	Position	Burial Ground	Years In Office	Notes
<i>Hood</i>	<i>Joseph Livingston</i>	First Judge	Unable to locate	<u>1836</u>	
<i>Hooker</i>	<i>James Daniel</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Milano Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1885</u> , 1886	
<i>Humble</i>	<i>Donald Garfield</i>	County Judge	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1959</u> , 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966	Resigned in Aug 1966 - Harden Appointed
<i>Jackson</i>	<i>Peter</i>	Commissioner	Salem-Wilson Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1855</u> , 1856, 1857 + <u>1869</u> , 1870	Elected 6 Aug 1855 to replace Hale; Appointed by Reconstruction Provisional Government on 30 April 1869 to replace Holt
<i>Jaacks</i>	<i>Clarence Dale</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Still alive - 2020	<u>1989</u> , 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012	
<i>Jones</i>	<i>Aquilla</i>	Commissioner	Harris Creek Cemetery, McLennan County, Texas	<u>1853</u>	Resigned March/April 1853 - Standefer appointed
<i>Joynes</i>	<i>Solon</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Old City Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1879</u> , 1880	Appointed to replace Wiley in May/June 1879
<i>Kemp</i>	<i>Jeff Thompson Sr.</i>	County Judge	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1922</u> , 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946	Deceased 3 Nov 1946; On 30 Dec 1946, M. Cox appointed to replace deceased Kemp who had been re-elected in Nov 1946 - on 1 Jan 1947, the newly-sworn commissioners appointed S. Tyson to be County Judge for the new 2-year term.
<i>Killough</i>	<i>Isaac</i>	Commissioner	Unable to locate	<u>1869</u> , 1870	Appointed by Reconstruction Provisional Government on 30 April 1869 to replace Terry
<i>King</i>	<i>Hugh Brevard</i>	Chief Justice	Old City Cemetery, Burleson County, Texas	<u>1840</u> , 1841, 1842, 1843	H.B. King was the grandfather of W.J. King
<i>King</i>	<i>Kenneth Andrew Sr.</i>	Commissioner	Odd Fellows Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1863</u> , 1864, 1865	
<i>King</i>	<i>Willis Justin</i>	County Judge	Land Cemetery, Williamson County, Texas	<u>1881</u> , 1882	W.J. King was the grandson of H.B. King
<i>Kuzel</i>	<i>William Edward Sr.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Corinth Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1943</u> , 1944, 1945, 1946	
<i>Lamkin</i>	<i>William</i>	Commissioner	Unable to locate	<u>1847</u> , 1848	
<i>Lane</i>	<i>Walter J.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Arlington Cemetery, Tarrant County, Texas	<u>1905</u> , 1906, 1907, 1908	
<i>Lantrip</i>	<i>Thomas Wesley Sr.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Liberty Community Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1897</u> , 1898	

MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS - ITS EVOLUTION AND LEADERS

Last Name	First and Middle Names	Position	Burial Ground	Years In Office	Notes
<i>Laywell</i>	<i>Cecil Denson</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Walkers Creek Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1985</u> , 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989	Appointed to replace L. McKinney 4 October 1985; Resigned on 30 June 1989 and replaced by Troy Mode on same day
<i>Ledbetter</i>	<i>Isaac H.</i>	Commissioner	Ledbetter Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1861</u> , 1862	
<i>LeSueur</i>	<i>Charles Marion</i>	Commissioner	Presbyterian Cemetery, Williamson County, Texas	<u>1861</u> , 1862 + <u>1866</u> , 1867, 1868, 1869	Disqualified in May 1869 - Replaced by Spencer; C.M. LeSueur was the uncle of C.K. Robinson
<i>Little</i>	<i>James McKinney</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Milano Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1887</u> , 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892	
<i>Locklin</i>	<i>Eva Burke</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Locklin Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1954</u>	Appointed to replace T. Locklin 17 June 1954; Resigns 30 September 1954 - replaced by Yount)
<i>Locklin</i>	<i>Theodore Francis</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Locklin Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1947</u> , 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954	Deceased 18 May 1954 - E. Locklin appointed; T.F. Locklin was the great-grandson of W.L. Locklin
<i>Locklin</i>	<i>William Lawson Sr.</i>	Commissioner	Locklin Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1849</u> , 1850 + <u>1853</u> , 1854	W.L. Lawson was the great-grandfather of T.F. Locklin
<i>Looney</i>	<i>John Pryor</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Friendship United Methodist Church Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1901</u> , 1902	
<i>Lopez</i>	<i>J.P.</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct 5	Unable to locate	<u>1872</u> , 1873	Elected 13 Jan 1872 to replace Caldwell
<i>Malory</i>	<i>Patrick</i>	Associate Justice and Justice of the Peace - Precinct 3	Unable to locate	<u>1843</u> , 1844	
<i>Markham</i>	<i>Walter William</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Holland Cemetery, Bell County, Texas	<u>1949</u> , 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958	
<i>Martin</i>	<i>Edward A.</i>	County Judge	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1866</u> , 1867	Removed in Oct/Nov 1867 by Reconstruction Provisional Government - Sybert appointed
<i>Martin</i>	<i>Edward A.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1886</u>	Appointed to replace Fowler 1886
<i>Martin</i>	<i>R.M.</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct 2	Unable to locate	<u>1871</u> , 1872	Resigned 22 Feb 1872 - Replaced by J. McKinney
<i>McCasland</i>	<i>Dora Elnora</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Saint John Lutheran Church Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1967</u> , 1968, 1969, 1970	Appointed to replace R. McCasland on 14 August 1967
<i>McCasland</i>	<i>Richard Huelon Sr.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Davilla Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1959</u> , 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967	Deceased 15 Jul 1967 - replaced by Dora McCasland on 14 August 1967

MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS - ITS EVOLUTION AND LEADERS

Last Name	First and Middle Names	Position	Burial Ground	Years In Office	Notes
<i>McDonald</i>	<i>Luther Nip</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Sharp Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1925</u> , 1926	
<i>McGregor</i>	<i>William Morrell</i>	County Judge	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1897</u> , 1898, 1899, 1900	
<i>McGuyer</i>	<i>Edgar Leander</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Odd Fellows Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1939</u> , 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946	
<i>McKean</i>	<i>Hugh</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct/Beat 4	Unable to locate	<u>1841</u> , 1842, 1843, 1844	
<i>McKinney</i>	<i>Jasper P.</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct/Beat 2	Little River Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1872</u> , 1873, 1874, 1875	Elected on 5 Sep 1872 to replace R. Martin
<i>McKinney</i>	<i>LaVert Chamberlain</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Little River Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1959</u> , 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985	Deceased 20 Sep 1985 - Replaced by Laywell on 4 Oct 1985
<i>McLennan</i>	<i>Neill Love Sr.</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct/Beat 1	Oakwood Cemetery, McLennan County, Texas	<u>1838</u> , 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842	
<i>McMillion</i>	<i>Buford Macy</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Bellwood Memorial Park, Bell County, Texas	<u>1937</u> , 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942	
<i>Mode</i>	<i>Troy Clinton</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Still alive - 2020	<u>1989</u> , 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002	Appointed to replace Laywell on 30 June 1989; Appointed to replace Weathers in 1991
<i>Moore</i>	<i>Albert W.</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct/Beat 1	Unable to locate	<u>1841</u> , 1842	
<i>Moore</i>	<i>Henry Hamblen</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Thorndale Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1921</u> , 1922, 1923, 1924 + <u>1927</u> , 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932	
<i>Moore</i>	<i>James Benjamin</i>	Presiding Justice	Unable to locate	<u>1871</u> , 1872, 1873	
<i>Moore</i>	<i>Joel Perry</i>	Justice of the Peace, District 2	Val Verde Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1837</u> , 1838, 1839, 1840	
<i>Moore</i>	<i>Marion Clyde</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Davilla Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1933</u> , 1934	
<i>Moss</i>	<i>Anderson Hughes</i>	Chief Justice	Little River Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1857</u> , 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862	
<i>Muegge</i>	<i>Jeffrey Daune</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Still alive - 2020	<u>2011</u> , 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020	

MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS - ITS EVOLUTION AND LEADERS

Last Name	First and Middle Names	Position	Burial Ground	Years In Office	Notes
<i>Muse</i>	<i>Eugene Burt</i>	County Judge	Prairie Lea Cemetery, Washington County, Texas	<u>1893</u> , 1894	
<i>Neal</i>	<i>John Byron</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Odd Fellows Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1947</u> , 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964	
<i>Perry</i>	<i>James Samuel</i>	County Judge	Odd Fellows Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1876</u>	Resigned 5 Aug 1876 - Brenan Appointed
<i>Phillips</i>	<i>Oscar Kelly</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Oak Lawn Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1917</u> , 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922	Appointed to replace Reese
<i>Phipps</i>	<i>Addison Dwight</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Pebble Grove Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1891</u> , 1892	
<i>Pool</i>	<i>Robert Benjamin</i>	County Judge	Cleburne Memorial Cemetery, Johnson County, Texas	<u>1901</u> , 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906	
<i>Porter</i>	<i>John Wilson</i>	Associate Justice and Justice of the Peace - Precinct/Beat 4	Elizabeth Chapel Cemetery, Burleson County, Texas	<u>1841</u> , 1842, 1843, 1844	In addition to being Justice of the Peace for all four years, he was also Associate Justice for 1843 and 1844; Grand-uncle of W. Porter
<i>Porter</i>	<i>William Benjamin</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Hix Cemetery, Burleson County, Texas	<u>1913</u> , 1914	Grand-nephew of J. Porter
<i>Prewitt</i>	<i>James A.</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct 3	Providence Cemetery, Burleson County, Texas	<u>1843</u> , 1844, 1845, 1846	
<i>Raney</i>	<i>Clarence Stacy</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Hope Lutheran Memorial Park, Milam County, Texas	<u>1947</u> , 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964	
<i>Raymond</i>	<i>Nathaniel Charles</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct 3	Oakwood Cemetery, Travis County, Texas	<u>1845</u> , 1846	
<i>Reaves</i>	<i>John Henry</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Ben Arnold Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1919</u> , 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924	Resigned Sept 1924 - H. Fuchs appointed
<i>Reese</i>	<i>Edwin Harvin</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1907</u> , 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912 + <u>1915</u> , 1916, 1917	Deceased 4 Jun 1917 - Phillips appointed
<i>Rice</i>	<i>Joseph</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct 4	Unable to locate	<u>1845</u> , 1846	

MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS - ITS EVOLUTION AND LEADERS

Last Name	First and Middle Names	Position	Burial Ground	Years In Office	Notes
<i>Robinson</i>	<i>Charles King</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Unable to locate	<u>1876</u> , 1877, 1878	C.K. Robinson was the son of L. Robinson and the nephew of C.M. LeSueur
<i>Robinson</i>	<i>LaFayette</i>	Commissioner	Unable to locate	<u>1855</u> , 1856	L. Robinson was the father of C.K. Robinson and brother-in-law of C.M. LeSueur
<i>Robinson</i>	<i>LaFayette</i>	Chief Justice	Unable to locate	<u>1863</u>	Resigned 13 June 1863 - replaced by Tarver; L. Robinson was the father of C.K. Robinson and brother-in-law of C.M. LeSueur
<i>Rogers</i>	<i>Armstead</i>	Commissioner	Little River Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1855</u> , 1856 + <u>1865</u>	
<i>Rogers</i>	<i>Jefferson Carrol Sr.</i>	Presiding Justice	Cameron Pioneer Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1874</u> , 1875	
<i>Ross</i>	<i>William Carrol</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1899</u> , 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908	
<i>Ruby</i>	<i>Asa Sam</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1887</u> , 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892 + <u>1897</u> , 1898	
<i>Scott</i>	<i>Robert</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct 4	Unable to locate	<u>1845</u> , 1846	
<i>Shuffield</i>	<i>Donald Ray</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Still alive - 2020	<u>2015</u> , 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020	
<i>Sillaven</i>	<i>Augustin W.</i>	Commissioner	Unable to locate	<u>1851</u> , 1852, 1853, 1854	
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Charles Cecil Jr.</i>	County Judge	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1952</u> , 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958	Appointed to replace S. Tyson in February 1952
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Philip N.</i>	County Judge	Still alive - 2020	<u>1979</u> , 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984	Resigned 31 Mar 1984 - Harden appointed
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Reuben Anderson Sr.</i>	Commissioner	Port Sullivan Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1860</u> , 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867	Removed in Nov 1867 by Reconstruction Provisional Government - Replaced by Whitley
<i>Snively</i>	<i>Henry Fall</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Odd Fellows Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1890</u> , 1891, 1892	Appointed to replace Blackburn on 9 May 1890
<i>Spencer</i>	<i>Augustus F.</i>	Commissioner	Holtzclaw Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1869</u> , 1870	Appointed on 15 May 1869 by Reconstruction Provisional Government to replace LeSueur
<i>Spinks</i>	<i>William Hilliard</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Liberty Community Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1893</u> , 1894, 1895, 1896	
<i>Standefer</i>	<i>Isaac Skelton</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct 1; Commissioner	Unable to locate	<u>1843</u> , 1844, 1845, 1846 + <u>1853</u> , 1854	Title changed during these years: 1843, 1844, 1845, 1846 (Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1); 1853, 1854 (Commissioner) - Appointed to replace A. Jones on 9 April 1853
<i>Standefer</i>	<i>Isaac Skelton</i>	County Judge	Unable to locate	<u>1847</u> , 1848, 1849, 1850, 1851, 1852	

MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS - ITS EVOLUTION AND LEADERS

Last Name	First and Middle Names	Position	Burial Ground	Years In Office	Notes
<i>Stevens</i>	<i>Milton Porter</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Woodland Cemetery, Falls County, Texas	<u>1903</u> , 1904	
<i>Stidham</i>	<i>Robert Grady Sr.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1933</u> , 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946	
<i>Stiles</i>	<i>Erwin Graves</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Thorndale Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1935</u> , 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946	
<i>Stolte</i>	<i>Walter Emil</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Pleasant Retreat Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1977</u> , 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986	
<i>Streetman</i>	<i>Blanton C.</i>	Commissioner	Unable to locate	<u>1857</u> , 1858, 1859	
<i>Streetman</i>	<i>Samuel</i>	County Judge	Glenwood Cemetery, Harris County, Texas	<u>1895</u> , 1896	
<i>Summers</i>	<i>Frank Randolph Jr.</i>	County Judge	Still alive - 2020	<u>1999</u> , 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010	
<i>Swanzy</i>	<i>Thomas Alexander</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Sharp Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1895</u> , 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900	
<i>Sypert</i>	<i>William Carroll</i>	County Judge	Davilla Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1867</u> , 1868, 1869, 1870	Appointed on 17 Nov 1867 to replace E. Martin by Reconstruction Provisional Government
<i>Tarver</i>	<i>William Henry</i>	Chief Justice	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1863</u> , 1864, 1865	Elected 29 Aug 1863 to replace Robinson
<i>Taylor</i>	<i>Charlie A.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Little River Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1893</u> , 1894	
<i>Terral</i>	<i>Edward Young</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Brewer-Slocomb Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1878</u> , 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886	
<i>Terral</i>	<i>Edward Young</i>	County Judge	Brewer-Slocomb Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1887</u> , 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892	
<i>Terry</i>	<i>Joshua Stone</i>	Commissioner	Winston Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1867</u> , 1868, 1869	Elected 11 Feb 1867 to replace Crawford; Disqualified in April 1869 - Replaced by Killough
<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Elijah Teague</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Port Sullivan Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1895</u> , 1896	
<i>Timmerman</i>	<i>Albert John Sr.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Odd Fellows Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1965</u> , 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972	
<i>Tomek</i>	<i>George Paul</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Still alive - 2020	<u>2009</u> , 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013	Resigned 30 Jan 2013- Balch Appointed
<i>Tracy</i>	<i>Nathaniel Hardcastle</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Old City Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1881</u> , 1882, 1883, 1884	

MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS - ITS EVOLUTION AND LEADERS

Last Name	First and Middle Names	Position	Burial Ground	Years In Office	Notes
<i>Tyson</i>	<i>John Ewing</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Little River Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1876</u> , 1877, 1878	John Tyson was Martin Tyson's uncle and Samuel Tyson's grand-uncle.
<i>Tyson</i>	<i>Martin Van Buren Jr.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Travis County, Texas	<u>1915</u> , 1916, 1917, 1918	Martin Tyson was John Tyson's nephew and Samuel Tyson's uncle.
<i>Tyson</i>	<i>Samuel Wright "Dan" Jr.</i>	County Judge	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1947</u> , 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952	Appointed to replace deceased Kemp on 1 Jan 1947; Deceased 11 Feb 1952 - C. Smith appointed; Samuel Tyson was Martin Tyson's nephew and John Ewing's grand-nephew.
<i>Vaughan</i>	<i>Thomas Robert</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Restwood Memorial Park, Brazoria County, Texas	<u>1911</u> , 1912	
<i>Vinton</i>	<i>Gerald</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Oak Lawn Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1973</u> , 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988	
<i>Walker</i>	<i>William Henry</i>	Justice of the Peace, District 1; Commissioner	Salem-Wilson Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1837</u> + <u>1849</u> , 1850 + <u>1859</u> , 1860, 1861, 1862	Title changed during these years: 1837 (Justice of the Peace, District 1); 1849, 1850, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862 (Commissioner) - Resigned before September 1837 to serve as Representative in Second Congress of the Republic of Texas; W.H. Walker is the great-great-great-great grandfather of L.S. Young
<i>Walker</i>	<i>William Henry</i>	County Judge	Salem-Wilson Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1853</u> , 1854	W.H. Walker is the great-great-great-great grandfather of L.S. Young
<i>Walker</i>	<i>William Turner</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Friendship United Methodist Church Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1885</u>	Resigned 11 May 1885 - Replaced by Fowler
<i>Watkins</i>	<i>Richard Andrew</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Still alive - 2020	<u>2014</u> , 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020	Appointed on 30 June 2014 to replace Balch
<i>Watson</i>	<i>John Scott</i>	County Judge	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1907</u> , 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916	
<i>Weathers</i>	<i>Jesse Curtis Sr.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Pebble Grove Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1991</u>	Deceased 7 April 1991 - Mode appointed
<i>Weise</i>	<i>William Carl</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	String Prairie Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1889</u> , 1890 + <u>1897</u> , 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910	

MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS - ITS EVOLUTION AND LEADERS

Last Name	First and Middle Names	Position	Burial Ground	Years In Office	Notes
<i>Whiteley</i>	<i>Clifford Larry</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Still alive - 2020	<u>2001</u> , 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008	
<i>Whitley</i>	<i>Simon D.</i>	Commissioner	Unable to locate	<u>1867</u> , 1868, 1869, 1870	Appointed by Reconstruction Provisional Government on 25 Nov 1867 to replace R. Smith
<i>Wiley</i>	<i>Robert M.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Unable to locate	<u>1879</u>	Resigned 16 May 1879 - Replaced by Joynes
<i>Wilson</i>	<i>John G.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Salem-Wilson Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1879</u> , 1880 + <u>1883</u> , 1884	
<i>Wilson</i>	<i>William Sewell Goodhue</i>	Commissioner	Salem-Wilson Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1847</u> , 1848	
<i>Winston</i>	<i>John Lewis</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct 4	Winston Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1872</u> , 1873	Elected on 13 Jan 1872 to replace Hargrove
<i>Young</i>	<i>Larry Steven</i>	County Judge	Still alive - 2020	<u>2019</u> , 2020	Young is the great-great-great-great grandson of W.H. Walker
<i>Yount</i>	<i>Charlie Leonard</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1954</u> , 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958	Appointed on 30 September 1954 to replace E. Locklin

**TABLE B:
CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING OF LEADERS**

MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS - ITS EVOLUTION AND LEADERS

Last Name	First and Middle Names	Position	Burial Ground	Years In Office
<i>Hood</i>	<i>Joseph Livingston</i>	First Judge	Unable to locate	<u>1836</u>
<i>Henry</i>	<i>Robert Hugh</i>	Justice of the Peace, District 1	Henry Cemetery, Brazos County, Texas	<u>1837</u>
<i>Walker</i>	<i>William Henry</i>	Justice of the Peace, District 1; Commissioner	Salem-Wilson Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1837</u> + <u>1849</u> , 1850 + <u>1859</u> , 1860, 1861, 1862
<i>Farley</i>	<i>Massillon</i>	Chief Justice	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1837</u> , 1838, 1839
<i>Bailey</i>	<i>John</i>	Justice of the Peace, District 2	Unable to locate	<u>1837</u> , 1838, 1839, 1840
<i>Moore</i>	<i>Joel Perry</i>	Justice of the Peace, District 2	Val Verde Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1837</u> , 1838, 1839, 1840
<i>Bell</i>	<i>William W.</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct/Beat 1	Unable to locate	<u>1838</u> , 1839, 1840
<i>McLennan</i>	<i>Neill Love Sr.</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct/Beat 1	Oakwood Cemetery, McLennan County, Texas	<u>1838</u> , 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842
<i>King</i>	<i>Hugh Brevard</i>	Chief Justice	Old City Cemetery, Burleson County, Texas	<u>1840</u> , 1841, 1842, 1843
<i>DuBose</i>	<i>Elias</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct/Beat 2	Unable to locate	<u>1841</u> , 1842
<i>Hill</i>	<i>William Warner</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct/Beat 2	Unable to locate	<u>1841</u> , 1842
<i>Moore</i>	<i>Albert W.</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct/Beat 1	Unable to locate	<u>1841</u> , 1842
<i>Connelly</i>	<i>William</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct/Beat 3	Unable to locate	<u>1841</u> , 1842 + <u>1845</u> , 1846
<i>McKean</i>	<i>Hugh</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct/Beat 4	Unable to locate	<u>1841</u> , 1842, 1843, 1844

MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS - ITS EVOLUTION AND LEADERS

Last Name	First and Middle Names	Position	Burial Ground	Years In Office
<i>Porter</i>	<i>John Wilson</i>	Associate Justice and Justice of the Peace - Precinct/Beat 4	Elizabeth Chapel Cemetery, Burleson County, Texas	<u>1841</u> , 1842, 1843, 1844
<i>Malory</i>	<i>Patrick</i>	Associate Justice and Justice of the Peace - Precinct 3	Unable to locate	<u>1843</u> , 1844
<i>Haynes</i>	<i>James J.</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct 2	Unable to locate	<u>1843</u> , 1844, 1845, 1846
<i>Prewitt</i>	<i>James A.</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct 3	Providence Cemetery, Burleson County, Texas	<u>1843</u> , 1844, 1845, 1846
<i>Standefer</i>	<i>Isaac Skelton</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct 1; Commissioner	Unable to locate	<u>1843</u> , 1844, 1845, 1846 + <u>1853</u> , 1854
<i>Chalmers</i>	<i>John</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct 1	Unable to locate	<u>1844</u>
<i>Gregg</i>	<i>John</i>	Chief Justice	Brazos Bottom Baptist Church Cemetery, Burleson County, Texas	<u>1844</u> , 1845, 1846
<i>Raymond</i>	<i>Nathaniel Charles</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct 3	Oakwood Cemetery, Travis County, Texas	<u>1845</u> , 1846
<i>Rice</i>	<i>Joseph</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct 4	Unable to locate	<u>1845</u> , 1846
<i>Scott</i>	<i>Robert</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct 4	Unable to locate	<u>1845</u> , 1846
<i>Bowen</i>	<i>Gideon B.</i>	Commissioner	Unable to locate	<u>1847</u> , 1848
<i>Davis</i>	<i>Lee Roy Sr.</i>	Commissioner	Davis Cemetery, McLennan County, Texas	<u>1847</u> , 1848
<i>Lamkin</i>	<i>William</i>	Commissioner	Unable to locate	<u>1847</u> , 1848
<i>Wilson</i>	<i>William Sewell Goodhue</i>	Commissioner	Salem-Wilson Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1847</u> , 1848
<i>Standefer</i>	<i>Isaac Skelton</i>	County Judge	Unable to locate	<u>1847</u> , 1848, 1849, 1850, 1851, 1852

MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS - ITS EVOLUTION AND LEADERS

Last Name	First and Middle Names	Position	Burial Ground	Years In Office
<i>Bryant</i>	<i>Benjamin Franklin</i>	Commissioner	Texas State Cemetery, Travis County, Texas	<u>1849</u> , 1850 + <u>1853</u> , 1854
<i>Locklin</i>	<i>William Lawson Sr.</i>	Commissioner	Locklin Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1849</u> , 1850 + <u>1853</u> , 1854
<i>Hobson</i>	<i>John H.</i>	Commissioner	Hobson Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1849</u> , 1850, 1851, 1852 + <u>1855</u> , 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859
<i>Arnett</i>	<i>Cullen Curlee</i>	Commissioner	Unable to locate	<u>1851</u> , 1852
<i>Gross</i>	<i>Jacob</i>	Commissioner	Unable to locate	<u>1851</u> , 1852
<i>Sillaven</i>	<i>Augustin W.</i>	Commissioner	Unable to locate	<u>1851</u> , 1852, 1853, 1854
<i>Jones</i>	<i>Aquilla</i>	Commissioner	Harris Creek Cemetery, McLennan County, Texas	<u>1853</u>
<i>Walker</i>	<i>William Henry</i>	County Judge	Salem-Wilson Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1853</u> , 1854
<i>Hale</i>	<i>Hazard Perry</i>	Commissioner	Old City Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1855</u>
<i>Baldrige</i>	<i>John W.</i>	Chief Justice	Unable to locate	<u>1855</u> , 1856
<i>Robinson</i>	<i>LaFayette</i>	Commissioner	Unable to locate	<u>1855</u> , 1856
<i>Rogers</i>	<i>Armstead</i>	Commissioner	Little River Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1855</u> , 1856 + <u>1865</u>
<i>Jackson</i>	<i>Peter</i>	Commissioner	Salem-Wilson Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1855</u> , 1856, 1857 + <u>1869</u> , 1870
<i>Hamblen</i>	<i>William Koger</i>	Commissioner	Hamblen-Aiken Cemetery, Bell County, Texas	<u>1857</u> , 1858
<i>Streetman</i>	<i>Blanton C.</i>	Commissioner	Unable to locate	<u>1857</u> , 1858, 1859
<i>Moss</i>	<i>Anderson Hughes</i>	Chief Justice	Little River Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1857</u> , 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Reuben Anderson Sr.</i>	Commissioner	Port Sullivan Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1860</u> , 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867
<i>Ledbetter</i>	<i>Isaac H.</i>	Commissioner	Ledbetter Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1861</u> , 1862

MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS - ITS EVOLUTION AND LEADERS

Last Name	First and Middle Names	Position	Burial Ground	Years In Office
<i>LeSueur</i>	<i>Charles Marion</i>	Commissioner	Presbyterian Cemetery, Williamson County, Texas	<u>1861</u> , 1862 + <u>1866</u> , 1867, 1868, 1869
<i>Heiskill</i>	<i>John H.</i>	Commissioner	Unable to locate	<u>1863</u>
<i>Robinson</i>	<i>LaFayette</i>	Chief Justice	Unable to locate	<u>1863</u>
<i>Graves</i>	<i>John Herndon</i>	Commissioner	Lilac Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1863</u> , 1864, 1865
<i>King</i>	<i>Kenneth Andrew Sr.</i>	Commissioner	Odd Fellows Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1863</u> , 1864, 1865
<i>Tarver</i>	<i>William Henry</i>	Chief Justice	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1863</u> , 1864, 1865
<i>Hill</i>	<i>William D.</i>	Justice of the Peace - Beat 3; Commissioner, Precinct 3	Liberty Community Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1863</u> , 1864, 1865 + <u>1874</u> , 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878
<i>Crawford</i>	<i>J.A.</i>	Commissioner	Unable to locate	<u>1866</u> , 1867
<i>Martin</i>	<i>Edward A.</i>	County Judge	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1866</u> , 1867
<i>Holt</i>	<i>John Oscar</i>	Commissioner	Fairview Cemetery, Midland County, Texas	<u>1866</u> , 1867, 1868, 1869
<i>Terry</i>	<i>Joshua Stone</i>	Commissioner	Winston Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1867</u> , 1868, 1869
<i>Sypert</i>	<i>William Carroll</i>	County Judge	Davilla Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1867</u> , 1868, 1869, 1870
<i>Whitley</i>	<i>Simon D.</i>	Commissioner	Unable to locate	<u>1867</u> , 1868, 1869, 1870
<i>Killough</i>	<i>Isaac</i>	Commissioner	Unable to locate	<u>1869</u> , 1870
<i>Spencer</i>	<i>Augustus F.</i>	Commissioner	Holtzclaw Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1869</u> , 1870
<i>Bean</i>	<i>Elwood Morris.</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct 3	Unable to locate	<u>1871</u>
<i>Caldwell</i>	<i>L.W.</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct 5	Unable to locate	<u>1871</u>
<i>Hargrove</i>	<i>J.A.</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct 4	Unable to locate	<u>1871</u>
<i>Martin</i>	<i>R.M.</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct 2	Unable to locate	<u>1871</u> , 1872

MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS - ITS EVOLUTION AND LEADERS

Last Name	First and Middle Names	Position	Burial Ground	Years In Office
<i>Ferguson</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct 3	Unable to locate	<u>1871</u> , 1872, 1873
<i>Moore</i>	<i>James Benjamin</i>	Presiding Justice	Unable to locate	<u>1871</u> , 1872, 1873
<i>Lopez</i>	<i>J.P.</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct 5	Unable to locate	<u>1872</u> , 1873
<i>Winston</i>	<i>John Lewis</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct 4	Winston Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1872</u> , 1873
<i>McKinney</i>	<i>Jasper P.</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct/Beat 2	Little River Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1872</u> , 1873, 1874, 1875
<i>Boles</i>	<i>Ambrose Henderson</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct/Beat 4	Norwood Cemetery, Robertson County, Texas	<u>1874</u> , 1875
<i>Crunk</i>	<i>John C.</i>	Justice of the Peace - Precinct/Beat 5	Davilla Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1874</u> , 1875
<i>Rogers</i>	<i>Jefferson Carrol Sr.</i>	Presiding Justice	Cameron Pioneer Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1874</u> , 1875
<i>Perry</i>	<i>James Samuel</i>	County Judge	Odd Fellows Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1876</u>
<i>Brenan</i>	<i>Thomas H.</i>	County Judge	Early Chapel Cemetery, Lee County, Texas	<u>1876</u> , 1877, 1878
<i>Givens</i>	<i>James Monroe</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Talpa Cemetery, Coleman County, Texas	<u>1876</u> , 1877, 1878
<i>Robinson</i>	<i>Charles King</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Unable to locate	<u>1876</u> , 1877, 1878
<i>Tyson</i>	<i>John Ewing</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Little River Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1876</u> , 1877, 1878
<i>Terral</i>	<i>Edward Young</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Brewer-Slocumb Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1878</u> , 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886

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Last Name	First and Middle Names	Position	Burial Ground	Years In Office
<i>Wiley</i>	<i>Robert M.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Unable to locate	<u>1879</u>
<i>Boykin</i>	<i>Robert James</i>	County Judge	Oakwood Cemetery, Tarrant County, Texas	<u>1879</u> , 1880
<i>Joynes</i>	<i>Solon</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Old City Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1879</u> , 1880
<i>Wilson</i>	<i>John G.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Salem-Wilson Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1879</u> , 1880 + <u>1883</u> , 1884
<i>Cox</i>	<i>Richard Shackelford</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Gause Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1879</u> , 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884
<i>Gilliland</i>	<i>James Berry</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Salem-Wilson Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1881</u> , 1882
<i>King</i>	<i>Willis Justin</i>	County Judge	Land Cemetery, Williamson County, Texas	<u>1881</u> , 1882
<i>Tracy</i>	<i>Nathaniel Hardcastle</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Old City Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1881</u> , 1882, 1883, 1884
<i>Ford</i>	<i>Pinckney Shaw Sr.</i>	County Judge	Oakwood Cemetery, McLennan County, Texas	<u>1883</u> , 1884, 1885, 1886
<i>Walker</i>	<i>William Turner</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Friendship United Methodist Church Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1885</u>
<i>Fowler</i>	<i>T.C.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Unable to locate	<u>1885</u> , 1886
<i>Hooker</i>	<i>James Daniel</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Milano Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1885</u> , 1886
<i>English</i>	<i>Edward Flynn</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1885</u> , 1886 + <u>1895</u> , 1896
<i>Martin</i>	<i>Edward A.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1886</u>
<i>Harrell</i>	<i>Thomas Washington</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Harrell Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1887</u> , 1888

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Last Name	First and Middle Names	Position	Burial Ground	Years In Office
<i>Blackburn</i>	<i>John Wesley</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1887</u> , 1888, 1889, 1890
<i>Little</i>	<i>James McKinney</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Milano Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1887</u> , 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892
<i>Terral</i>	<i>Edward Young</i>	County Judge	Brewer-Slocomb Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1887</u> , 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892
<i>Ruby</i>	<i>Asa Sam</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1887</u> , 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892 + <u>1897</u> , 1898
<i>Weise</i>	<i>William Carl</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	String Prairie Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1889</u> , 1890 + <u>1897</u> , 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910
<i>Snively</i>	<i>Henry Fall</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Odd Fellows Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1890</u> , 1891, 1892
<i>Phipps</i>	<i>Addison Dwight</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Pebble Grove Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1891</u> , 1892
<i>Clark</i>	<i>Alexander Evans</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1893</u> , 1894
<i>Hine</i>	<i>Washington J.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Bartlett City Cemetery, Williamson County, Texas	<u>1893</u> , 1894
<i>Muse</i>	<i>Eugene Burt</i>	County Judge	Prairie Lea Cemetery, Washington County, Texas	<u>1893</u> , 1894
<i>Taylor</i>	<i>Charlie A.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Little River Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1893</u> , 1894
<i>Spinks</i>	<i>William Hilliard</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Liberty Community Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1893</u> , 1894, 1895, 1896
<i>Streetman</i>	<i>Samuel</i>	County Judge	Glenwood Cemetery, Harris County, Texas	<u>1895</u> , 1896

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Last Name	First and Middle Names	Position	Burial Ground	Years In Office
<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Elijah Teague</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Port Sullivan Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1895</u> , 1896
<i>Swanzy</i>	<i>Thomas Alexander</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Sharp Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1895</u> , 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900
<i>Lantrip</i>	<i>Thomas Wesley Sr.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Liberty Community Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1897</u> , 1898
<i>McGregor</i>	<i>William Morrell</i>	County Judge	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1897</u> , 1898, 1899, 1900
<i>Blakely</i>	<i>Mardies</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Gause Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1899</u>
<i>Ditto</i>	<i>William L.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Liberty Community Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1899</u> , 1900
<i>Ross</i>	<i>William Carrol</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1899</u> , 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908
<i>Looney</i>	<i>John Pryor</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Friendship United Methodist Church Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1901</u> , 1902
<i>Bodiford</i>	<i>Peter Vincent</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Milano Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1901</u> , 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906
<i>Pool</i>	<i>Robert Benjamin</i>	County Judge	Cleburne Memorial Cemetery, Johnson County, Texas	<u>1901</u> , 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906
<i>Stevens</i>	<i>Milton Porter</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Woodland Cemetery, Falls County, Texas	<u>1903</u> , 1904
<i>Lane</i>	<i>Walter J.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Arlington Cemetery, Tarrant County, Texas	<u>1905</u> , 1906, 1907, 1908
<i>Reese</i>	<i>Edwin Harvin</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1907</u> , 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912 + <u>1915</u> , 1916, 1917
<i>Watson</i>	<i>John Scott</i>	County Judge	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1907</u> , 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916

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Last Name	First and Middle Names	Position	Burial Ground	Years In Office
<i>Cage</i>	<i>Richard Wilson</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Walkers Creek Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1909</u> , 1910
<i>Clark</i>	<i>Wilburn B.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Locklin Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1909</u> , 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914
<i>Vaughan</i>	<i>Thomas Robert</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Restwood Memorial Park, Brazoria County, Texas	<u>1911</u> , 1912
<i>Barrett</i>	<i>John Walter</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	North Elm Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1911</u> , 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918
<i>Porter</i>	<i>William Benjamin</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Hix Cemetery, Burleson County, Texas	<u>1913</u> , 1914
<i>Tyson</i>	<i>Martin Van Buren Jr.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Travis County, Texas	<u>1915</u> , 1916, 1917, 1918
<i>Allcorn</i>	<i>William Allen</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Thorndale Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1915</u> , 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920
<i>Gillis</i>	<i>William Graham Sr.</i>	County Judge	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1917</u> , 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922
<i>Phillips</i>	<i>Oscar Kelly</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Oak Lawn Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1917</u> , 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922
<i>Reaves</i>	<i>John Henry</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Ben Arnold Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1919</u> , 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924
<i>Butts</i>	<i>Nathaniel Hunter</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Little River Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1919</u> , 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932
<i>Moore</i>	<i>Henry Hamblen</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Thorndale Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1921</u> , 1922, 1923, 1924 + <u>1927</u> , 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932
<i>Kemp</i>	<i>Jeff Thompson Sr.</i>	County Judge	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1922</u> , 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946
<i>Hairston</i>	<i>Richard Allen</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Oak Lawn Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1923</u> , 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934 + <u>1937</u> , 1938

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Last Name	First and Middle Names	Position	Burial Ground	Years In Office
<i>Fuchs</i>	<i>Herman August</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Hope Lutheran Memorial Park, Milam County, Texas	<u>1924</u> , 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933
<i>McDonald</i>	<i>Luther Nip</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Sharp Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1925</u> , 1926
<i>Moore</i>	<i>Marion Clyde</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Davilla Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1933</u> , 1934
<i>Fuchs</i>	<i>Walter Henry</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Elmwood Memorial Park, Taylor County, Texas	<u>1933</u> , 1934, 1935, 1936
<i>Stidham</i>	<i>Robert Grady Sr.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1933</u> , 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946
<i>Cloud</i>	<i>Robert Samuel</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Sandy Creek Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1935</u> , 1936
<i>Stiles</i>	<i>Erwin Graves</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Thorndale Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1935</u> , 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946
<i>McMillion</i>	<i>Buford Macy</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Bellwood Memorial Park, Bell County, Texas	<u>1937</u> , 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942
<i>McGuyer</i>	<i>Edgar Leander</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Odd Fellows Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1939</u> , 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946
<i>Kuzel</i>	<i>William Edward Sr.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Corinth Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1943</u> , 1944, 1945, 1946
<i>Cox</i>	<i>Moses Grey</i>	County Judge	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1946</u>
<i>Tyson</i>	<i>Samuel Wright "Dan" Jr.</i>	County Judge	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1947</u> , 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952
<i>Locklin</i>	<i>Theodore Francis</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Locklin Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1947</u> , 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954
<i>Neal</i>	<i>John Byron</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Odd Fellows Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1947</u> , 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964

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Last Name	First and Middle Names	Position	Burial Ground	Years In Office
<i>Raney</i>	<i>Clarence Stacy</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Hope Lutheran Memorial Park, Milam County, Texas	<u>1947</u> , 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964
<i>Markham</i>	<i>Walter William</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Holland Cemetery, Bell County, Texas	<u>1949</u> , 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Charles Cecil Jr.</i>	County Judge	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1952</u> , 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958
<i>Locklin</i>	<i>Eva Burke</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Locklin Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1954</u>
<i>Yount</i>	<i>Charlie Leonard</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1954</u> , 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958
<i>Humble</i>	<i>Donald Garfield</i>	County Judge	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1959</u> , 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966
<i>McCasland</i>	<i>Richard Huelon Sr.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Davilla Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1959</u> , 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967
<i>McKinney</i>	<i>LaVert Chamberlain</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Little River Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1959</u> , 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985
<i>Timmerman</i>	<i>Albert John Sr.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Odd Fellows Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1965</u> , 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972
<i>Gresak</i>	<i>Adolph</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Hope Lutheran Memorial Park, Milam County, Texas	<u>1965</u> , 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984
<i>Harden</i>	<i>Oscar Burford</i>	County Judge	Oak Hill Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1966</u> , 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978 + <u>1984</u>
<i>McCasland</i>	<i>Dora Elnora</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Saint John Lutheran Church Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1967</u> , 1968, 1969, 1970
<i>Caffey</i>	<i>Charles Dalton</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Salty Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1971</u> , 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976 + <u>1987</u> , 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994
<i>Vinton</i>	<i>Gerald</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Oak Lawn Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1973</u> , 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988

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<i>Hines</i>	<i>Frank Curtis</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Davilla Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1976</u>
<i>Stolte</i>	<i>Walter Emil</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Pleasant Retreat Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1977</u> , 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Philip N.</i>	County Judge	Still alive - 2020	<u>1979</u> , 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984
<i>Laywell</i>	<i>Cecil Denson</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Walkers Creek Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1985</u> , 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989
<i>Blake</i>	<i>Gene Frederick</i>	County Judge	Norwood Cemetery, Robertson County, Texas	<u>1985</u> , 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990
<i>Hauk</i>	<i>Victor Walker</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Clarkson Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1985</u> , 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000
<i>Jaecks</i>	<i>Clarence Dale</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Still alive - 2020	<u>1989</u> , 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012
<i>Mode</i>	<i>Troy Clinton</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Still alive - 2020	<u>1989</u> , 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002
<i>Weathers</i>	<i>Jesse Curtis Sr.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Pebble Grove Cemetery, Milam County, Texas	<u>1991</u>
<i>Hashem</i>	<i>Roger H. Jr.</i>	County Judge	Still alive - 2020	<u>1991</u> , 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998
<i>Bauerschlag</i>	<i>Burke Allen</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Still alive - 2020	<u>1995</u> , 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010
<i>Summers</i>	<i>Frank Randolph Jr.</i>	County Judge	Still alive - 2020	<u>1999</u> , 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010
<i>Whiteley</i>	<i>Clifford Larry</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Still alive - 2020	<u>2001</u> , 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
<i>Hollas</i>	<i>Kenneth Joseph</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Still alive - 2020	<u>2003</u> , 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014
<i>Tomek</i>	<i>George Paul</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Still alive - 2020	<u>2009</u> , 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013
<i>Barkemeyer</i>	<i>David Lester</i>	County Judge	Still alive - 2020	<u>2011</u> , 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

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<i>Muegge</i>	<i>Jeffrey Daune</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 4	Still alive - 2020	<u>2011</u> , 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
<i>Balch</i>	<i>Charlie Gene Sr.</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Still alive - 2020	<u>2013</u> , 2014
<i>Fisher</i>	<i>John Lane</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 3	Still alive - 2020	<u>2013</u> , 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
<i>Watkins</i>	<i>Richard Andrew</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 1	Still alive - 2020	<u>2014</u> , 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
<i>Shuffield</i>	<i>Donald Ray</i>	Commissioner, Precinct 2	Still alive - 2020	<u>2015</u> , 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
<i>Young</i>	<i>Larry Steven</i>	County Judge	Still alive - 2020	<u>2019</u> , 2020

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

It is hoped that the "biographical notes" will stimulate further research by the Reader .

BRYANT, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN:

In 1836, Benjamin Franklin Bryant and his wife Roxana Price Bryant moved to Milam County where Benjamin Bryant was recognized as the “first permanent settler in his neighborhood on this frontier.”¹⁸⁵ They lived in Bryant Station on the Little River located 4.5 miles southwest of Buckholts. (*See Texas Historical Marker below*)



State of Texas Historical Marker for “Bryant Station” located at the rest area 4.5 miles west of Buckholts on US 190.

I doubt very much that Bryant ever thought that 74 years after his death in 1857, his remains would lie in honor at the Capitol of the state for which he risked his life at San Jacinto. However, that happened on 10 March 1931 when his remains lied alongside the remains of his wife with Governor Pat Morris Neff giving the memorial speech including the following words:

“They were buried in what was then known as the “flower garden” of his farm, now owned by a highly respected Bohemian family. From this primitive burial place, the sacred dust of Mr. and Mrs. Bryant, in the dual casket now before us, has been brought here to this Legislative Hall, to be placed by legislative enactment in the State Cemetery.”¹⁸⁶

To the best of my knowledge, Benjamin and Roxana Bryant are the only Milam County citizens who have been afforded this honor. Both bodies had been

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accompanied to Austin by “a large delegation of the citizenship of Milam County, including school children from the cities of Cameron, Rockdale, and Buckholts.” ¹⁸⁷

In his memorial speech, Governor Neff also talked about how Bryant organized a company of Texan volunteers (Seventh Company, Second Regiment of Texas Volunteers, Colonel Sidney Sherman’s Command – see *Muster Roll below*) to fight alongside Sam Houston at San Jacinto and how he continued to lead military units after San Jacinto to guard the Mexican border and protect his fellow Texans from Indian depredations. ¹⁸⁸

Col Sherman's Command, 2 nd Reg: Texas Volunteers. cont:		Capt. Kinsler's Co. cont:	
B. Bryant	Captain	R. Stevenson	
John C. Hale	1 st Lieut	G. H. Jones	
A. J. Lewis	2 ^d	W. B. Bennett	
Wm. B. Seales	Private	B. Green	
Wm. Eagle		J. Hunt	
J. S. C. Spruill		Cuddell	
Wm. Roberts		R. Hotchkiss	
John P. Parks		A. C. Manuel	
C. Rockwell		Thos. McHughes	
R. B. Russell		A. Buffington	
S. H. White		James Burch	
A. McKeuzie		Ro. Burch	
A. Cobble			
John S. Gilbert			
D. Roberts			
J. R. Johnson		Ironis N. Seguin	Captain
W. Sate		Manuel Flores	Private
B. Lindsey		Antonio Mauchara	2 ^d
James Clarke		Kept Flores	1 st Capt.
Robert Low		Ambr. Rodriguez	2 ^d do

Muster Roll: Benjamin Bryant’s Company – Battle of San Jacinto – 21 April 1836. ¹⁸⁹

Besides the Bryants, Governor Neff honored another Milam County citizen during his speech, Louis W. Kemp, for initiating the Texas Centennial-related project to locate Texas patriots’ graves and either erect stone markers at their found graves or reinter them in the Texas State Cemetery located one mile east of the State Capitol.

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Kemp was responsible for locating the unmarked graves of Bryant and his wife in the rose garden next to their home. Kemp also arranged for their reinterment in the Texas State Cemetery. ¹⁹⁰

Bryant's service as Milam County Commissioner and at San Jacinto is highlighted on a marker at his Texas State Cemetery grave. (*See marker below*)



A marker at Benjamin Bryant's grave at the Texas State Cemetery.

CHAMBERS, THOMAS JEFFERSON:

Thomas Jefferson Chambers was mentioned in the discussion about Nashville as a County Seat for Milam County. (*See Page 48*) When the Republic of Texas was searching for the location of its Capital, Chambers tried to interest the Republic to designate either Nashville or Sarahville as the Republic's Capital. Instead, Austin (*then named Waterloo*) was selected on 13 April 1839. ¹⁹¹

His story is amazing. Chambers was an attorney born in Virginia – decided to go to Mexico in 1826 alone when he was 24 – taught English to businessmen to make a living – became friends with some of the power elite of Mexico – became a Mexican citizen in 1830. In 1834, Chambers was appointed Chief Justice of the Province of Texas Superior Court and instead of being paid in money, he was granted 30 Leagues of land in Texas (30 Leagues = 133,000 acres). He ran into problems with the validity of the Mexican land grants after Texas won its

independence; some of the letters suggested that he had become poor because of all the money spent on litigation.

The reason I started delving into Chambers' history was that Milam County Judge William Graham Gillis had married a woman named "Lulu Chambers" and I was trying to determine if she was related to Thomas Jefferson Chambers - she wasn't. But during that research, I found that Chambers' family had filed a "petition for relief" with the State of Texas in 1870 (Chambers had been killed by an unknown assassin at his home in Anahuac while on furlough from the Civil War in 1865). I wanted to know more about the petition.

I found that all of the 'petitions and memorials to Texas from 1834 to 1929' are available on the Internet. The "petition for relief" asked Texas to pay Chambers' family for the land on which the CITY OF AUSTIN was built BECAUSE all of the land had actually belonged to Chambers since it was part of 5,004 acres granted him by Mexico in 1834. (*See the sketch below that was part of the 1870 proceedings*)

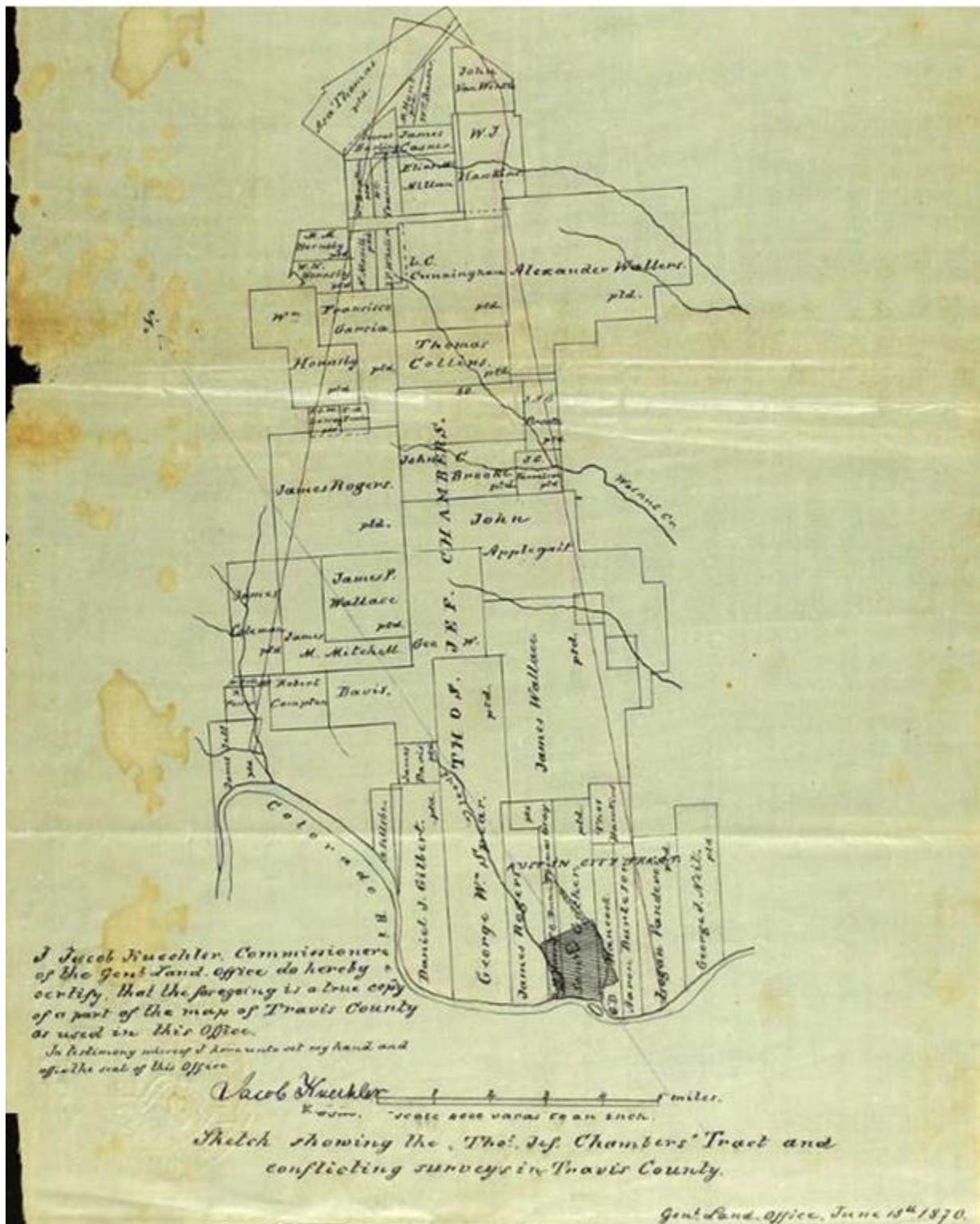
It took Chambers 20 years of litigation before the Texas Supreme Court ruled that the grant was valid: by that time the Republic had taken the land and sold it to others to raise money to construct public buildings such as the Capitol.

The family mounted good arguments in the "petition for relief" + all of the people who were given deeds to Chambers' land by the Republic supported the family's petition because of the whole mess making others question the validity of their deeds. The family was requesting \$3/acre which was what people had paid the Republic to buy the land.

But the 1870 Congress did not approve the family's request primarily because one of the State Representatives believed that the administrator of Chambers' estate had squandered Chambers' fortune and that if the State granted the petition, the administrator would simply squander that money too. That State Representative was a nephew of Thomas Jefferson Chambers named Thomas Jefferson Chambers.

In 1925, however, the Texas Legislature paid Chambers' family \$20,000.

An unexpected and amazing story.¹⁹²



The sketch drawn by the Texas General Land Office depicting the Thomas Jefferson Chambers Tract encompassing the City of Austin (Shoal Creek can be seen) and the tracts of it sold by the Republic to build the Capitol and other public buildings for the Republic's Seat of Government.

COX, MOSES GREY

See "KEMP, JEFF THOMPSON SR. AND MOSES GREY COX."

FORD, PINCKNEY SHAW SR.

Pinckney S. Ford was 25 years old when elected Milam County Judge in 1883. He served two terms. (See Table A/Page 84) In 1889, Ford was District Attorney with his office in Cameron.¹⁹³

He married Eula V. McLennan in January 1883. She was the daughter of John McLennan who served as Milam County Sheriff (1846-1850).¹⁹⁴ Ms. Ford was also the granddaughter of Neill Love McLennan who served as Milam County Commissioner (1838-1842) and is the namesake of McLennan County.¹⁹⁵

Pinckney Ford's father, Spencer Ford, was a highly-regarded District Court Judge living in Bryan. In 1871, he was one of three commissioners chosen by Brazos County to lobby for the establishment of Texas A&M University in Brazos County.¹⁹⁶

When he was only 35 years old, Ford died of consumption (tuberculosis) in 1893 and was buried in Waco, Texas.¹⁹⁷

GILLIS, WILLIAM GRAHAM SR.

William Graham Gillis wore many hats: Milam County Judge for six years, attorney-at-law, 20th District Court Judge for 12 years, Milam County Superintendent of Schools, and the first Scoutmaster of a Boy Scout Troop in Central Texas (he continued his work with the Boy Scouts until his death). He was Milam County born and raised: born in Conoley (about 4 miles southeast of Thorndale) and lived in Cameron most of his life.¹⁹⁸

As an indication of how much things have changed in Milam County since Judge Gillis' lifetime, his 1942 World War II Draft Registration Card lists his telephone number as: *139/Cameron Exchange*. The Registration Card also displays his age as

“61 years, 9 months, 20 days” and his place of employment as “Courthouse, Cameron, Milam, Texas” (he was District Court Judge at that time).¹⁹⁹

Although Judge Gillis and his wife Lulu Chambers had three children, only one survived infancy: his name was William Graham Gillis Jr. And this biographical sketch will focus primarily on him because Judge Gillis did not live long enough to know what his son did for our country - I felt it important to include some of Major Gillis’ story in this sketch about his father.

Judge Gillis died on 24 April 1944 in Cameron and his son, Major Gillis, died on 1 October 1944 fighting the Germans in France – both are now buried in the Oak Hill Cemetery although it wasn’t until almost four years after his death (18 December 1948) that Major Gillis’ body was moved from a burial ground in Europe and reinterred in the Oak Hill Cemetery.²⁰⁰

Major Gillis attended Cameron High School and then graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1941. During his time at West Point, his fellow Cadets chose Gillis to be Captain of the 1940 Army football team – in fact, West Point named their Field House in his honor.²⁰¹ Upon graduation from West Point, he married Lenore Riley; they had one child named Georgia.²⁰²

I believe the following citation that accompanied the awarding of the Distinguished Service Cross to Major Gillis shines a bright light on what he did for our country:

“The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, takes pride in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) to Major (Infantry) William Graham Gillis, Jr. (ASN: 0-23909), United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving as Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 320th Infantry Regiment, 35th Infantry Division. On 15 September 1944, Major Gillis commanded the 1st Battalion, 320th Infantry, during the crossing of the Rhine-Marne Canal and the Sanon River. The enemy stubbornly opposed the crossing with strong forces of infantry which were dug in at close range, and by mortar and machine-gun fire from

commanding positions on the hills. During the crossing, which was made by direct assault over improvised bridging constructed under intense direct enemy fire, Major Gillis was regularly present with the leading elements of his troops, moving freely among them to direct the attack. Disregarding his own safety he waded and swam across the river and canal several times under heavy enemy fire. His courageous leadership and exemplary conduct under fire so inspired his men that they were able to force the crossing successfully against heavy odds. His heroic accomplishment and zealous devotion to duty reflect the highest credit upon himself and the military forces of the United States.” ²⁰³

When Major Gillis died on the battlefield; he was Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 320th Infantry Regiment, 35th Infantry Division "Santa Fe", United States Army. In addition to the Distinguished Service Cross, Major Gillis was awarded the following for his service in World War II: Silver Star Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 3 Bronze Stars, World War II Victory Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Combat Infantryman Badge, Distinguished Service Order by the British Government, and the Croix de Guerre with Silver Gilt Star and the Croix de Guerre with Vermillion Star by France. ²⁰⁴

Major Gillis embodied what General Douglas MacArthur emphasized in his speech to the Corps at West Point on 12 May 1962: **“Duty, Honor, Country.”** ²⁰⁵

HOOD, JOSEPH LIVINGSTON:

Joseph Livingston Hood’s role in Milam County history was an unexpected finding. Although most reports state that Massillon Farley was the first chief executive of Milam County, it was actually Hood.

While the other Milam County chief executives were identified as Chief Justice, Presiding Justice, or County Judge, Hood’s title was *“First Judge.”* On 16

November 1835, the General Council at San Felipe de Austin appointed Hood as First Judge of the Municipality of Viesca (name changed to Municipality of Milam on 26 December 1835).²⁰⁶ Hood's position as chief executive of Milam County did not change after the Republic of Texas Constitution was adopted on 17 March 1836 because the framers included the following in the Constitution:

- Schedule - Section 1: *"That no inconvenience may arise from the adoption of this Constitution, it is declared by this Convention that all laws now in force in Texas, and not inconsistent with this Constitution, shall remain in full force until declared void, repealed, altered, or expire by their own limitations."*
- Schedule - Section 8: *"All judges, sheriffs, commissioners, and other civil officers shall remain in office, and in the discharge of the powers and duties of their respective offices, until there shall be others appointed or elected under the Constitution."*²⁰⁷

Hood served as First Judge of Milam County to 16 December 1836 when the Republic of Texas' First Congress appointed Massillon Farley as "*Chief Justice*" of Milam County.²⁰⁸

The first mention I found of Hood being in Milam County was that he lived in Tenoxtitlan in 1832.²⁰⁹ On 23 December 1834, he was granted a League of land in Robertson's Colony on Elm Creek.²¹⁰ Then in 1835, Hood attended the Consultation at San Felipe de Austin as an elected delegate from the Municipality of Viesca.²¹¹ (*See Time Line 1 Nov 1835/Page 25 for information about the Consultation*)

By May 1837, Hood had left Milam County and was Sheriff of Bexar County; a position he held until he was killed at the Council House Fight in San Antonio on 19 March 1840 – his burial place is unknown.²¹² His brother, Jeremiah Adams Hood, was elected Milam County Sheriff on 22 October 1843 and as Milam County Clerk on 3 February 1845.²¹³

KEMP, JEFF THOMPSON SR. AND MOSES GREY COX:

This is an interesting juxtaposition: the Milam County Judge with the longest tenure in office (Jeff T. Kemp = 25 years) was succeeded by the Milam County Judge with the shortest tenure in office (Moses G. Cox = 2 ½ days). What happened?

According to *The Cameron Herald*, Kemp was not only well-liked in Milam County, he was recognized as a leader statewide.²¹⁴ He was 12 years old when he arrived in Milam County in 1881. In 1894, Kemp married Emeline Rogers who was the daughter of Jefferson Carrol Rogers Sr. (Milam County Judge in 1874 and 1875).

In contrast to Kemp, Cox had never held elected office. Instead, he used his talents to succeed in the world of law as evidenced by his integral roles in the Milam County Bar Association and leadership in statewide organizations such as the Texas Law Review where he served as President for several years. He arrived in Cameron around 1904 and practiced law there for almost 50 years before his death in 1951.²¹⁵

Kemp became seriously ill and was hospitalized at the end of 1946. On 1 November 1946 in an effort to help the county, the Milam County Bar Association chose Cox to perform Kemp's judicial tasks (not his administrative tasks which included presiding over the Commissioners Court) until Kemp recovered.²¹⁶

Kemp died on 3 November 1946, two days before the scheduled Election Day where his name was on the ballot as candidate for County Judge; Kemp was re-elected.

The election also resulted in four new commissioners being elected (at that time, a commissioner's term was two years). These new commissioners were scheduled to take the oath of office at 10 AM on 1 January 1947. The historic precedent for the swearing-in ceremony was for the county judge to swear in the county clerk who would then administer the oath of office to the newly-elected county officials.²¹⁷ But there was no county judge since Kemp died two months earlier but had been re-elected two days after he died.

MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS - ITS EVOLUTION AND LEADERS

The incumbent commissioners corrected that situation by appointing Cox as “County Judge” on 30 December 1946.²¹⁸ Then on the morning of 1 January 1947, Cox administered the oath of office to the county clerk who then swore-in the other officials. Later on that same day, the newly-elected commissioners appointed Samuel Wright “Dan” Tyson as county judge to replace the deceased Kemp who had been re-elected in the November election.²¹⁹

So, Cox helped Milam County after Kemp died by performing judicial duties and then helped solve the swearing-in ceremony problem by his acceptance of being appointed Milam County Judge for 2 ½ days. Cox died in 1951.²²⁰



Moses Grey Cox



Jeff Thompson Kemp Sr.

LOCKLIN, EVA BURKE:

While constructing and documenting the spreadsheet of the people who have served Milam County as county judges and county commissioners, I discovered that there have been TWO women who served as Milam County Commissioner over the last 184 years – their names are *Eva Burke Locklin* (1954) and *Dora Elnora McCasland* (1967-1970). Their names are missing in all published lists of county officials that I found.

I am focusing these Biographical Notes on Eva Burke Locklin because she was the first woman serving on the Milam County Commissioners Court and its precursors.

I accidentally found her name while searching for her husband's name (*T.F. Locklin*) in newspaper reports. In one of the reports, I found "Mrs. T.F. Locklin." I initially thought that it was a typographical error – but I quickly found it wasn't an error since the article reported that she was appointed as Milam County Commissioner to complete the last seven months of her husband's term after he died in 1954. County Judge Charles C. Smith Jr. is quoted as saying: "I am very pleased and gratified that Mrs. Locklin has seen fit to accept this appointment."²²¹

These are the types of discoveries that make history research so exciting: **Eva Burke Locklin** will now receive the recognition she deserves for being the 'first' woman Milam County Commissioner.

The following photo suggests that she was a strong woman. She lived and worked in an area encompassing San Gabriel, Lilac, Thorndale, and Detmold. Her burial place is near all of those towns – in the pastoral and well-maintained Locklin Cemetery just south of San Gabriel.²²²



Eva Burke Locklin

Based on her FindAGrave Memorial, Eva Locklin engendered respect and affection. FindAGrave Memorials usually have less than five “flowers” which are posted tributes. But Eva Burke Locklin’s Memorial has 111 “flowers” - the most recent flower being posted in 2020 even though she died in 1970.²²³ She had a positive impact on people.

MONROE, DANIEL:

Serious students of Milam County’s history will always discover Daniel Monroe’s name because the 4 April 1846 *Act to Establish the County Seat of Milam County* identifies him as one of seven commissioners appointed by the State of Texas Legislature to “locate the county seat of Milam county...at the nearest convenient and suitable point to the centre of a constitutional county...”²²⁴ And if they dig a little deeper, they will find that he provided the 60 acres to establish the County Seat now named Cameron.²²⁵

Monroe and his wife Elizabeth “Sallie” arrived in Robertson’s Colony in October 1830 with two children. When they registered at the Colony, Daniel was listed as 27 years old and Sallie as 22 years old. ²²⁶ However, an 1850 Census listed Daniel as 45 years old and born in North Carolina while Sallie was listed as 32 and born in Missouri. ²²⁷ Together, these documents indicate that Daniel Monroe was born 1803-1805 and Sallie Monroe was born 1808.

Other details of Monroe’s life include his service as the Alcalde (mayor) of Robertson’s Colony in 1836. ²²⁸ A Bounty Land Certificate revealed that Monroe served in the Republic of Texas Army from 14 Dec 1836 to 6 August 1837. ²²⁹

The following excerpt from a 15 October 1842 newspaper article involving “the settlement of Captain Daniel Monroe on Little River” provides an example of life on the Milam County frontier and how neighbors helped one another:

“About three weeks since, there were a few horses stolen from the settlement of Captain Daniel Monroe on Little River, twenty-five miles above its confluence with the Brazos...The whites immediately took the trail, and pursued it at a brisk gait until they arrived at the residence of Mr. Bryant, the upper settlement on Little River, and about fifteen miles above Monroe’s...After traveling fifteen miles above Bryant’s, through a tremendous rain, they unexpectedly came upon the Indians, who had stolen their horses the previous night...The whites recovered all the stolen horses but one, and took a fine mule, the Indians probably stole elsewhere. The names of the individuals, who participated, successfully, in the fight, were Capt. Monroe, Mr. Ross, Mr. Bryant, and Mr. Woolfalk.” ²³⁰

I could not determine when the Monroes died. However, according to one newspaper report Monroe and his wife Sallie are buried in a cemetery located east of Cameron on US 77 across from the Budget Host Inn on land granted to Daniel Monroe in 1835. ²³¹ This information may be incorrect since the report indicates that they are buried in an unmarked grave but does not provide documentation supporting the statement. The cemetery is called the Old Cemetery, Cameron Pioneer Cemetery, and Old Pioneer Cemetery.

NEILL, JAMES CLINTON:

I started my research for James C. Neill's biographical notes because I believed that he lived in Milam County between 1831 and 1834. For example, the *Handbook of Texas Online* states: "In 1831 he moved his wife and three children from Alabama to Texas and settled in what is now Milam County."²³²

Surprisingly, I was unable to find any evidence that Neill ever lived in Milam County. It is possible that people believe that Neill lived in Milam County because they concluded that the "James Neill" who had a land grant in Milam County located east of Cameron on the north side of Little River was James C. Neill. A review of the "James Neill" land grant revealed, however, that James Neill died in May 1837.²³³ "James C. Neill" died in 1848.²³⁴

Another possible reason for people thinking Neill lived in Milam County is that he represented the District of Viesca at the Convention of 1833.²³⁵ As discussed on Page 39, Milam County was originally the "Municipality of Viesca" – *not* the "District of Viesca." They were not the same entities. I have been unable to find either a description or a map of the "District of Viesca." Other delegates representing the "District of Viesca" at the Convention of 1833 including the Groces, lived in areas south of the "Municipality of Viesca."²³⁶

There is, however, documentation supporting the conclusion that Neill lived in the original Washington and Mina/Bastrop Counties. For example, he and his family (wife Harriet and nine children) registered in Austin's Colony (not Robertson's Colony) in February 1831.²³⁷ Neill's first land grant dated 10 Nov 1832 was for land on the Yegua Creek in Washington County.²³⁸ (NOTE: I could not locate Neill's League of land along the Yegua Creek on 2020 survey maps published by Washington and Burleson Counties which suggests that something happened to the land transaction.)

On 1 June 1835, Mexico granted Neill another League of land - this time in Empresario Benjamin R. Milam's Colony; this land was on the Colorado River that was originally in the Municipality of Mina (later named Bastrop) but later became part of Travis County.²³⁹ This new land grant correlates with the records

discussed below indicating that by 1836 Neill had moved his family to the Municipality of Mina (name changed to Municipality of Bastrop in 1837).

Although I could not find any evidence that he lived in Milam County, his contributions to the Republic of Texas are too important not to be mentioned:

1. Neill is credited as firing the first shot of the Texas Revolution - he fired the cannon at the Battle of Gonzales (the first battle of the Texas Revolution - 2 October 1835).²⁴⁰ A photo of the cannon Neill fired is below.



The actual cannon fired by Neill at the Battle of Gonzales. It is housed in the Gonzales Memorial Museum at Gonzales, Texas. (Texas Historical Commission)

2. Neill also led an artillery company at the Siege of Bexar (12 October 1835 – 9 December 1835) – one of the earliest military campaigns of the Texas Revolution.²⁴¹
3. After the Siege of Bexar, Neill was appointed as the commander of the Texan garrison at the Alamo. On 14 February 1836, he requested a furlough in order to aid his family in Mina/Bastrop – the severity of the medical emergency is marked by his wife Harriet dying that same month.²⁴² When he left the Alamo, Neill appointed William B. Travis as acting post commander; he was on his way back to the Alamo when it fell on 6 March 1836.²⁴³

4. On 13 March 1836, Neill joined Sam Houston's forces as commander of the "Artillery Corps." During a battle on the day before the Battle of San Jacinto, he was severely wounded by a cannon shell.²⁴⁴ The wound rendered Neill "permanently disabled."²⁴⁵

ROBERTSON, STERLING CLACK:

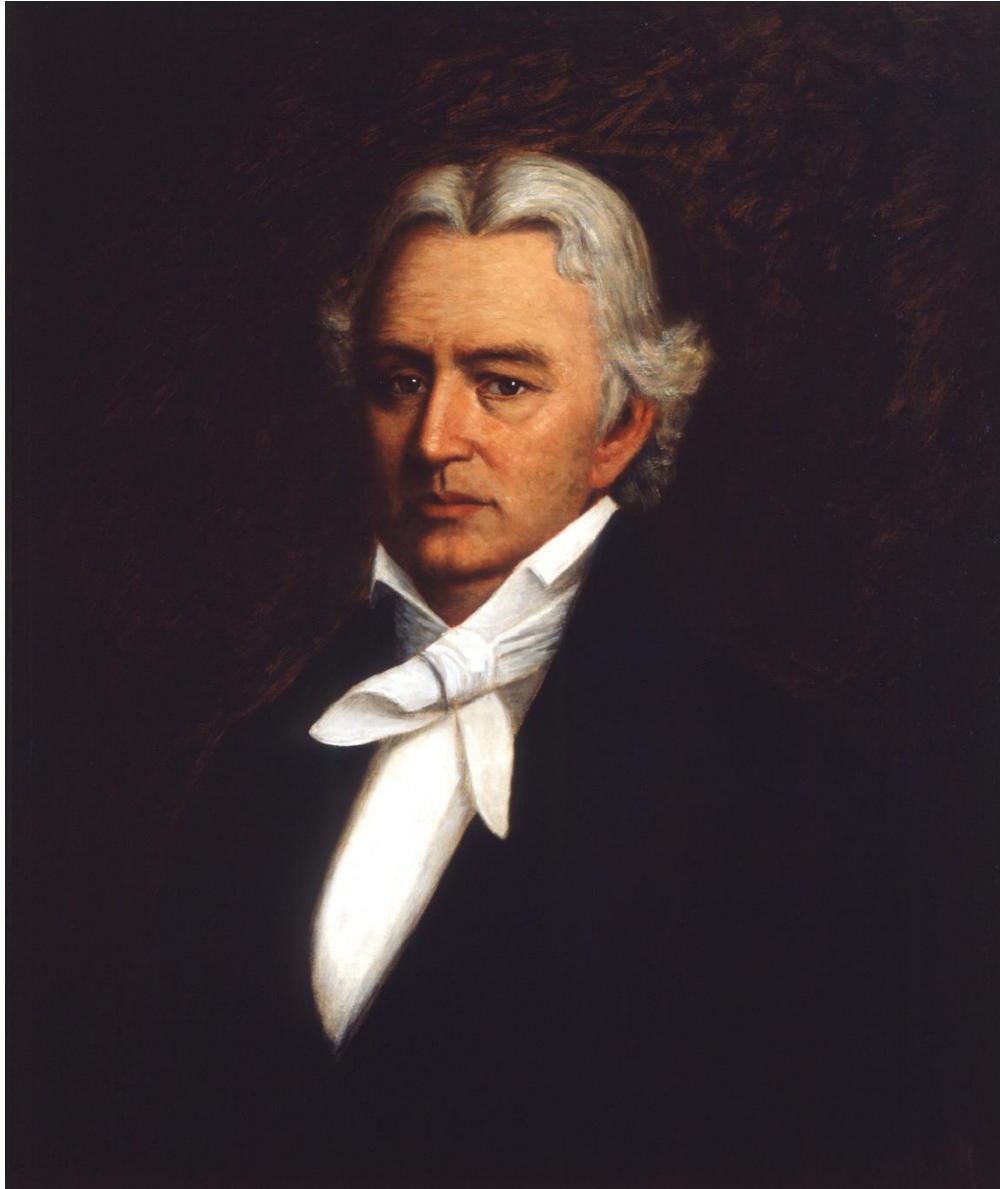
Sterling C. Robertson became interested in developing a colony in the Mexican Province of Texas in 1823. It wasn't until 1834 that Robertson was able to surmount a series of obstacles and be approved as Empresario of Robertson's Colony by the Mexican government.²⁴⁶

Robertson was well-rewarded for his work as Empresario. In fact, Merriam-Webster defines Empresario as "one who before Texas became part of the U.S. entered into a contract with the Spanish or Mexican government to settle a certain number of families in Texas in exchange for sizable grants of land." To fulfill Robertson's contract, Mexico granted him 23,027.5 acres of premium lands for each 100 families introduced into his colony.²⁴⁷ Robertson introduced 600 settlers into Texas.²⁴⁸

However, there is considerable evidence that Robertson regarded Texas as more than a vehicle for financial rewards. For example, he represented the Municipality of Viesca (which covered the same land as Robertson's Colony) at the Convention of 1836 where he signed the Texas Declaration of Independence and the Republic of Texas Constitution. Although being 50 years old, he participated in the Battle of San Jacinto on 21 April 1836. He also organized a company of Rangers in Milam County in 1836. Robertson also represented the citizens of Milam County as their Senator in the Republic's First and Second Congresses.²⁴⁹

His contributions to Texas have been recognized several ways including the following:

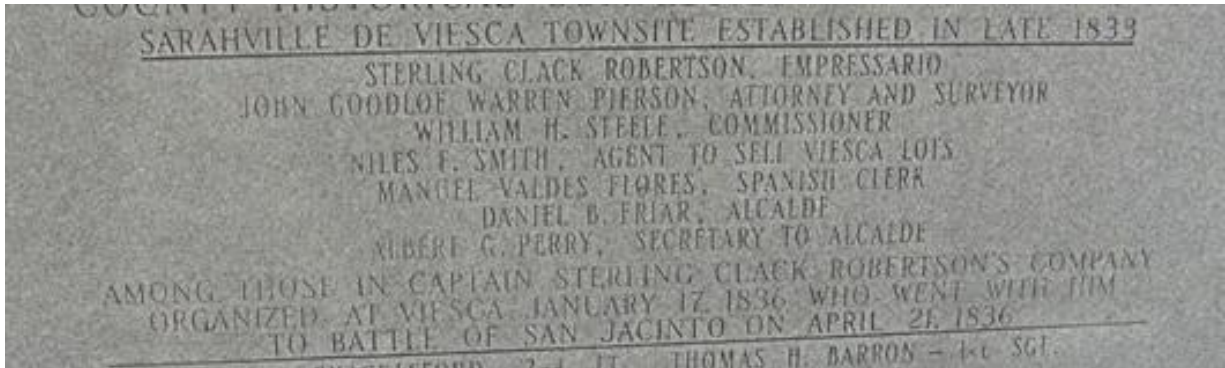
- His portrait hangs on a wall in the House Chamber of the Texas State Capitol. (*See portrait below*)



Sterling Clack Robertson's portrait as displayed in the Texas State Capitol. (Courtesy of the State Preservation Board, Austin, Texas)

- Robertson County was named in his honor. ²⁵⁰
- His service to the Republic of Texas is emblazoned on the Texas Revolutionary and Pioneer Memorial located at the Falls County Courthouse. On 2 March 1986, the Falls County Historical Commission unveiled the Memorial that honors *“those early settlers and patriots who significantly influenced the establishment and development of the Republic of Texas and Falls County.”* The names of Robertson, other people involved

with administering Robertson's Colony, and Robertson's company of Texans he led to the Battle of San Jacinto are inscribed on the Memorial.²⁵¹
(See inscription from Memorial below)

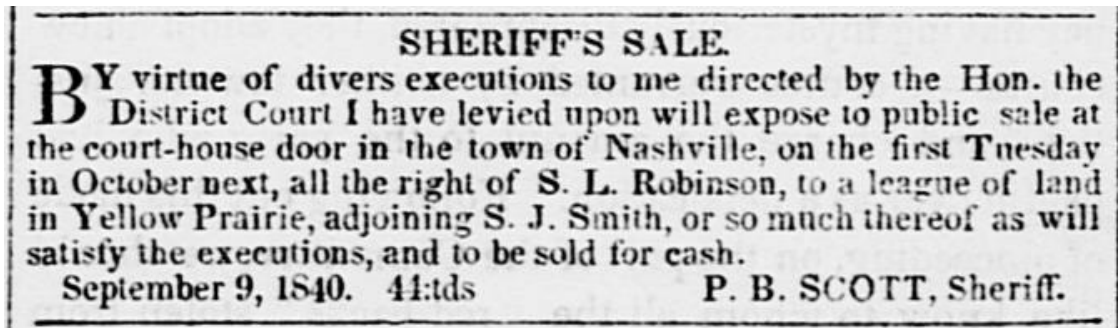


An inscription from the Texas Revolutionary and Pioneer Memorial located at the Falls County Courthouse in Marlin, Texas.

- When he died in 1842, he was living in Robertson County across the Brazos from Nashville, Texas. He was initially buried in the Nashville Cemetery (Nashville, Texas). But in 1935 as part of a Centennial Celebration-related project to honor Texas patriots, his remains were reinterred in the Texas State Cemetery on 28 December 1935.²⁵² His grave marker records his accomplishments - but what catches your eye are the following three words: **Virtutis Gloria Merces**. These three words are the motto of the Robertson Clan which translates to “*Glory is the reward of valour.*”

SCOTT, PHILIP BRUCE SR.:

I became interested in Philip B. Scott when I read that he had been a Milam County Sheriff but was unable to find his name on any published list of Milam County Sheriffs.²⁵³ This prompted further research which not only documented his service as Milam County Sheriff in 1840 but uncovered a rich history of service to both the Republic and his faith.²⁵⁴ (See *Sheriff's Sale notice below*)

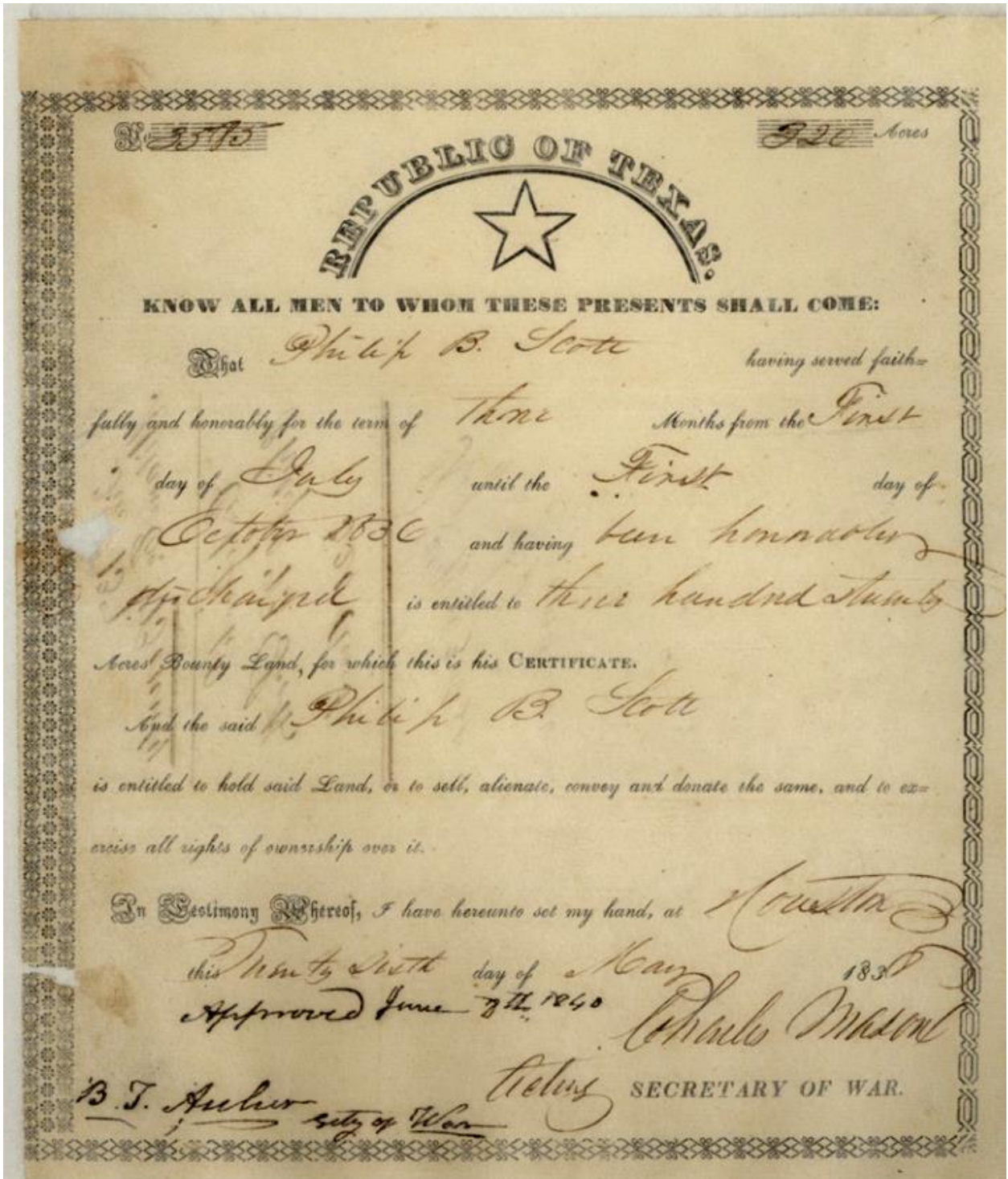


Sheriff's Sale notice published in 1840 with Philip Bruce Scott identified as Sheriff of Milam County.

Frank White Johnson was co-commander with Ben Milam at the Siege of Bexar and Scott served under both Johnson and Milam. Johnson wrote the following about Scott in his classic *History of Texas and Texans* book:

"His record of achievement justifies the position of his name among the greatest of Texas fighters and frontiersmen. He took part in three wars, the War for Texan Independence, the war between the United States and Mexico and the war between the North and the South. In 1835 he enlisted in the Texas cause, and went with the army at first under the command of Stephen Austin in the expedition against San Antonio in the fall of 1835. Arriving in the vicinity of San Antonio he took part in those historic engagements known as the Grass Fight, the capture of the Mission Concepcion, the assault on Bexar, and the fight at the Veramendi Palace where Ben Milam was killed and was near Milam when he fell....His achievements as a fighter seem more remarkable in view of his physical size, since he never weighed over 100 pounds." ²⁵⁵

Among the several land grants Scott received is 320 acres granted him for his service in the Republic of Texas Army from 1 July to 1 October 1836. ²⁵⁶ (See the land grant certificate below)



The Bounty Land Grant issued to Philip B. Scott for his service to the Republic of Texas. The 320 acres of land is located northeast of Caldwell which was originally in Milam County until the creation of Burleson County in 1846. Interestingly, he and two of his brothers (James and John) were part of the surveying crew.

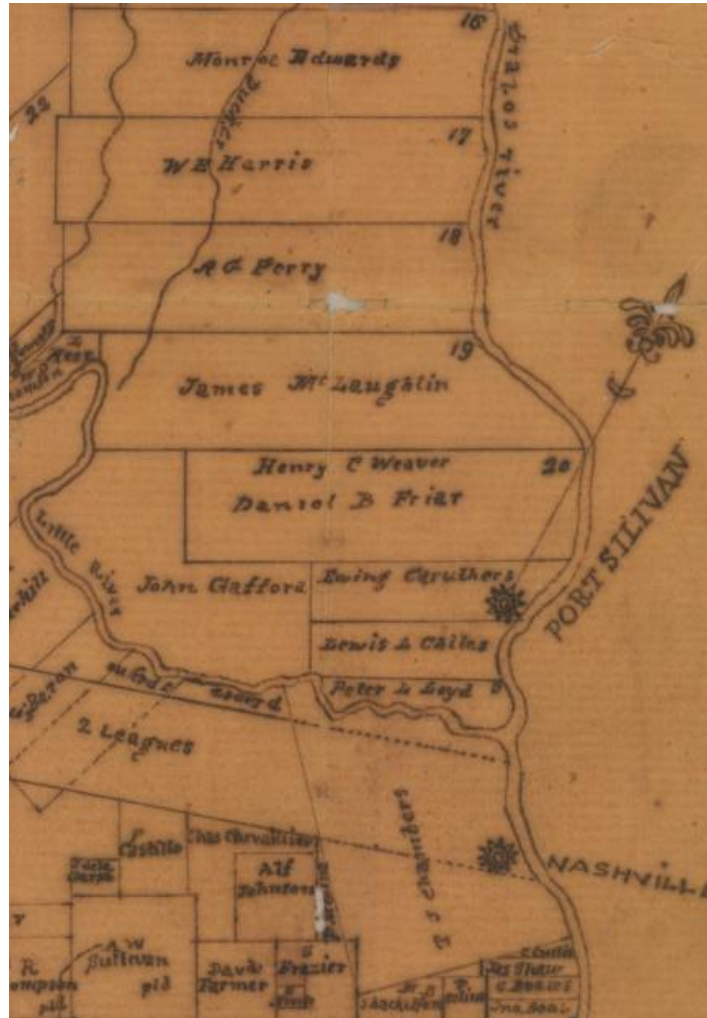
Scott's parents were devout Methodists. His father, Joseph, was a deacon of the Methodist Church in Tennessee. His mother, Elizabeth, had an uncle who was one of the first circuit riders for the Methodist Church and he traveled from 1781 to 1817 to minister to settlers and help organize congregations in North Carolina, Virginia, and Tennessee; his name was Philip Bruce.²⁵⁷

The Scotts arrived in Texas in 1831 and began introducing Methodism to people in Milam County and surrounding land. In fact, the first Methodist Church in Robertson's Colony was formed by twelve people including Philip Scott, his mother (Elizabeth), and two of his brothers (James and Learner).²⁵⁸ The church was organized about 1839 and named the Elizabeth Chapel Methodist Church in honor of Scott's mother.

According to the Texas Historical Marker for the Elizabeth Chapel Methodist Church (located 4.5 miles east of Caldwell on State Highway 21), the church was "a small, hand-hewn frame building." The church and adjacent Elizabeth Chapel Cemetery were established about one mile north of the Historical Marker on land donated by Philip Scott. The church was merged with the Cooks Point Methodist Church and is no more. But the Elizabeth Chapel Cemetery still exists – and that is where Philip Bruce Scott lies.²⁵⁹

SILLEVAN, AUGUSTIN W.:

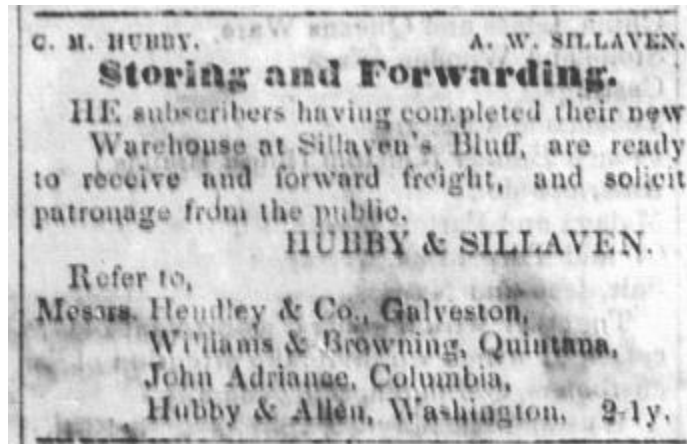
Augustin Sillevan's name has been misspelled frequently over the last 190 years. The Brazos River port named for him has suffered the same fate. An 1856 sketch which identifies the location of "Port Sillivan" - which is closer to the original spelling than the present "Port Sullivan."²⁶⁰ (*See sketch below*) I could not determine the reasons for why the name was changed to "Port Sullivan."



The above 1856 “sketch of surveys” identifies the locations of “Port Sullivan” and Nashville on the west bank of the Brazos near the mouth of the Little River. A land grant issued to “A.W. Sullivan” can be seen near the lower left-hand corner of the sketch.

Close inspection of the sketch above discloses that Port Sullivan was located on land originally granted to “Ewing Caruthers” – not Sillevan. The Mexican Government granted Caruthers one League of land on 2 July 1835.²⁶¹ On 12 December 1835, Sillevan purchased 25% of Caruthers’ land – the land nearest the Brazos which became Port Sillevan in 1851.²⁶² Ewing Caruthers died on 27 March 1836 with Fannin in the Goliad Massacre.²⁶³

Port Sillevan/Sullivan came into existence in 1851.²⁶⁴ This founding date correlates with the following advertisement that was published in July 1851; the advertisement announces Sillaven's new warehouse at "Sillaven's Bluff."²⁶⁵ A good first-hand description of Port Sillaven/Sullivan was published in 1852.²⁶⁶



An 1851 newspaper advertisement announcing the opening of Sillaven's new warehouse at Sillaven's Bluff.

In addition to his work with Port Sillevan/Sullivan, Sillevan was elected Milam County Sheriff on 28 Jun 1838; the end date of his service is not known but was definitely before 1 Feb 1841 when a new Sheriff was elected.²⁶⁷ The evidence that Sillaven did not serve as Milam County Sheriff up to 1 February 1841 is presented in the above notes for Philip Scott that document Scott served as Milam County Sheriff in 1840. (See Page 131)

Sillevan's prominence in Milam County is reflected by the State Legislature appointing him as one of seven people "to locate the county seat of Milam county" in 1846.²⁶⁸ (Note: His name was spelled Augustus Sullivan in the Act)

I found a limited amount of information about Sillevan. He arrived in Texas about 18 October 1835 and registered at Robertson's Colony. His registration entry included the following information: unmarried, 30 years old, emigrated from Mississippi, and accompanied by a "family servant." His registration also noted that he "proceeded to San Antonio and joined the Army" (this would be during the Siege of Bexar).²⁶⁹

In the 1850 Census, Sillevan is listed as living in Milam County and his birth state was recorded as South Carolina.²⁷⁰ In the 1860 Census, Sillevan was living in Des Arc, Arkansas, with two people named Mary Sillevan.²⁷¹ I speculate that the 22-year-old Mary is his wife and the 4-year-old Mary listed as being born in Texas is his daughter. Confirmation that this is “our” Augustin Sillevan originates from a deed he signed in Milam County on 22 December 1858; on that deed, he listed his residence as Prairie County, Arkansas (Des Arc is in Prairie County).²⁷² Together, the preceding information can be used to estimate that Sillevan moved from Milam County between 1856 and 1858.

I could not determine when Sillevan died. I did find that his 14-year-old daughter (Mary A. Silivan) was living with a different family in 1870 – which could indicate Sillevan either was divorced or had died.²⁷³

SPINKS, WILLIAM HILLIARD:

W.H. Spinks served as the Precinct 3 Milam County Commissioner from 1893 to 1896. He died 98 years ago - on 18 February 1923.²⁷⁴ (*See grave marker below*)

The following inspirational obituary was published in *The Cameron Herald* on 1 March 1923:

“W.H. Spinks, a resident of the Liberty community for over thirty years died at the sanitarium at Cameron, Saturday about 4:30 a.m. Interment was in the Liberty cemetery Monday at 3:00 p.m. Rev. Angel officiating.

Mr. Spinks was 79 years old and had lived in the Milano country over half of that time. He was county commissioner for this district several years ago and was said to be one of the best we have ever had. One hundred and forty children, grand children, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren were present. Mr. Spinks was head of five generations. Among the bereaved are five children living in this county, and others in other parts of the state.

The Gazette joins the many friends of the Spinks family in sympathizing with them during this sad hour.” Milano Gazette ²⁷⁵



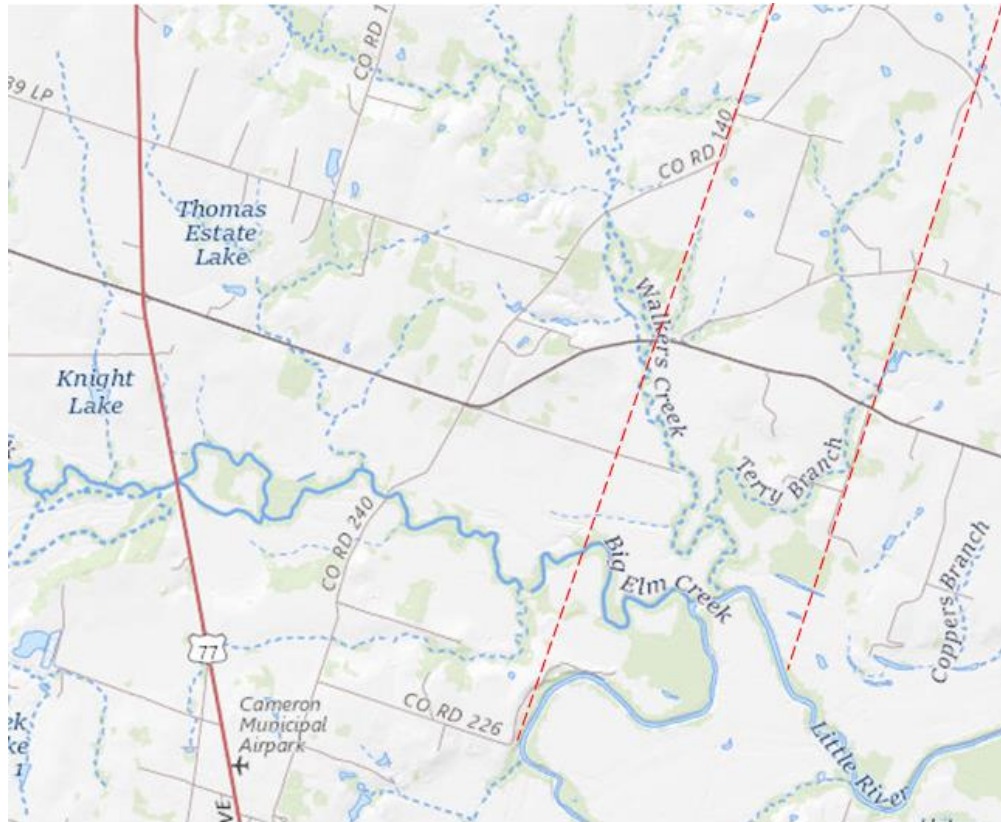
The grave marker for W.H. Spinks at the Liberty Cemetery located in Liberty, Milam County, Texas.

WALKER, WILLIAM HENRY:

Many creeks in Milam County are named after pioneers who led the way. The Walkers Creek that empties into the Little River about four miles northeast of Cameron is no exception. It is named after William Henry Walker – a man who emigrated from Alabama to Texas in January 1831. ²⁷⁶

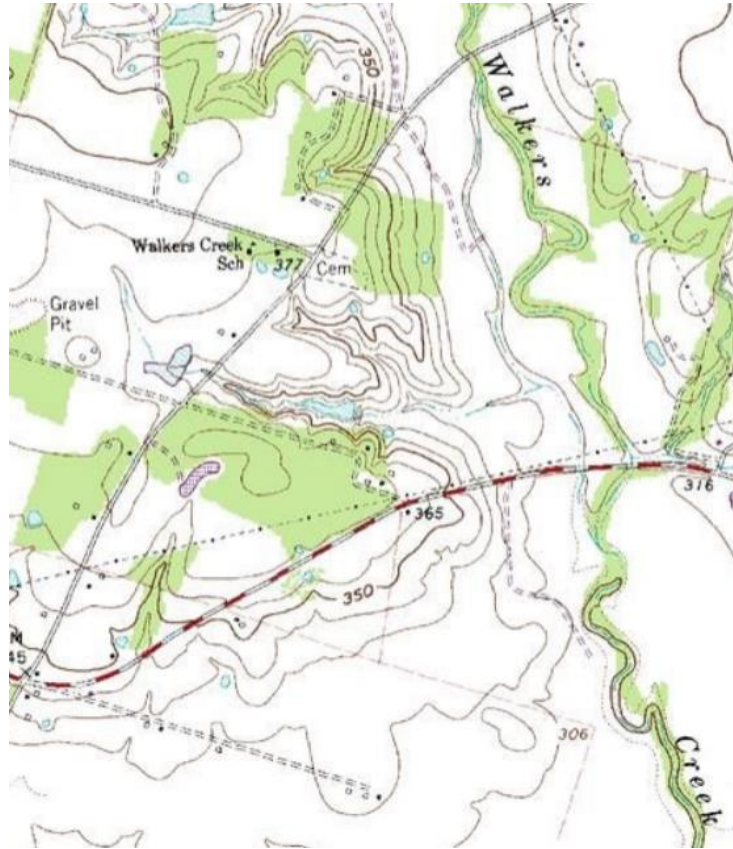
In 1834, the Mexican government granted him “One League of land upon the waters of San Andres” – the San Andres became the Little River, the land became

part of Milam County, and the land encompassed the lower reaches of a stream that would be named Walkers Creek.²⁷⁷ (See map below)



A map displaying the location of Walkers Creek in Milam County, Texas. The creek's lower reaches and its connection with the Little River are within Walker's land grant. The dashed red lines follow the boundaries of Walker's land grant. While the southern boundary of the land grant is the Little River, the northern boundary would be reached if the dashed-red lines were extended a distance equal to about 5.7 miles. Walker's land grant encompassed 4,428 acres of land (one League) granted to him on 11 December 1834 by the Mexican government as part of their agreement with Robertson's Colony.

A community named Walkers Creek was also established. (See map below)



The location of the Walkers Creek community is marked by Walkers Creek School and the adjoining Walkers Creek Cemetery.

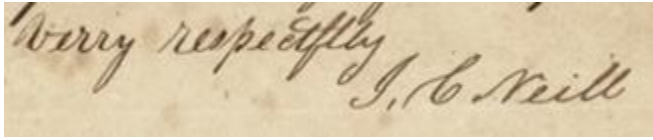
I could not document where he lived from when he arrived in Texas (January 1831) to when he was granted his land in Robertson's Colony/Milam County (December 1834). He married Sarah Elizabeth Wilhelm in 1833 and they had the first of five children in December 1834.

His service to Milam County began when elected as Justice of the Peace (a position equivalent to county commissioner) on 23 February 1837. (See Table A – Page 84) He served as Justice of the Peace/Commissioner for six of the next 25 years. Walker was also elected as Milam County's sixth Chief Executive (County Judge at that time) on 2 August 1852 for a two-year term – and one of his descendants, Steve Young, was elected Milam County Judge 167 years later. Walker was also elected to represent Milam County in the Second Congress of the Republic of Texas (1837-1838).²⁷⁸

During the 1830s to 1850s, Milam County was considered “frontier” and there were many battles/confrontations between colonists/Texans and Indians. In fact, the hostilities encouraged Walker to take his family further south to Grimes County from 1838 to 1848 – when he returned to Milam County, he was elected Justice of the Peace on 7 August 1848. His time in Grimes County is documented by Texas Poll Lists and birthplaces for his children.²⁷⁹

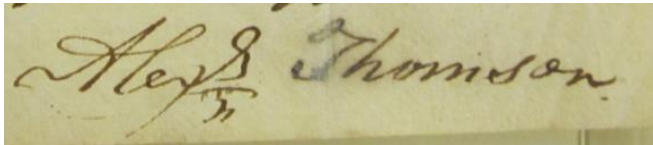
William Henry Walker’s burial place is marked by a simple tombstone in the Salem-Wilson Cemetery – his place in history is marked by Walkers Creek.²⁸⁰

SIGNATURES OF THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE



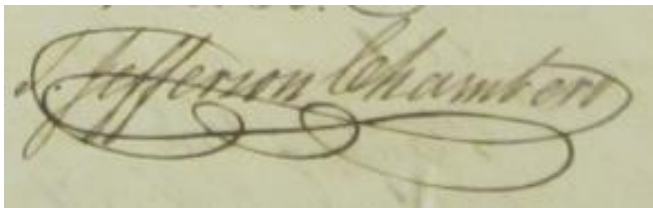
Worry respectfully
J. C. Neill

1827 - James Clinton Neill



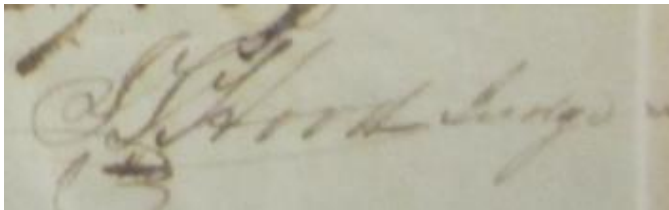
Alex^r Thomson

1832 - Alexander S. Thomson



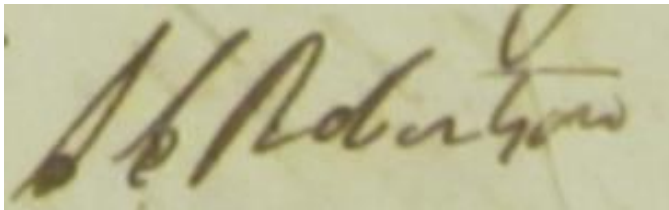
Jefferson Chambers

1834 - Thomas Jefferson Chambers



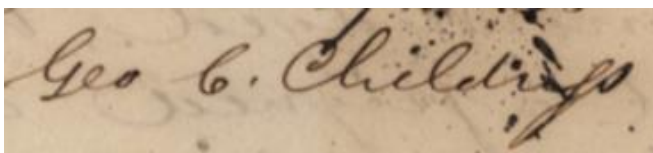
J. Livingston Hood

1836 - Joseph Livingston Hood



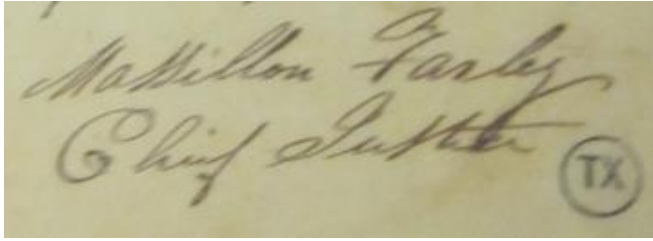
Stanley Clack Robertson

1837 - Stanley Clack Robertson



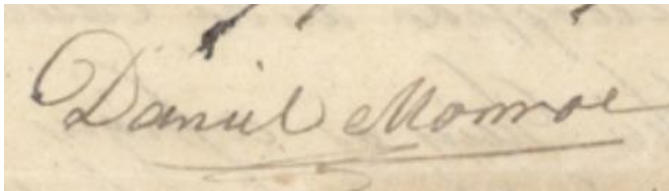
Geo. C. Childress

1838 - George Campbell Childress



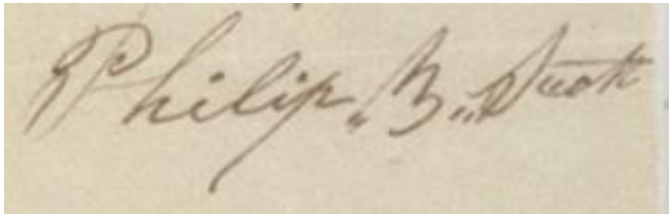
Massillon Farley
Chief Justice

1838 - Massillon Farley



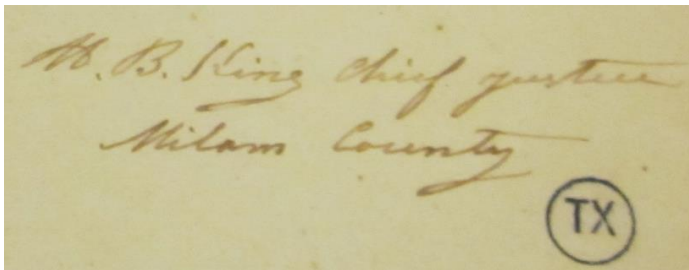
Daniel Monroe

1839 - Daniel Monroe



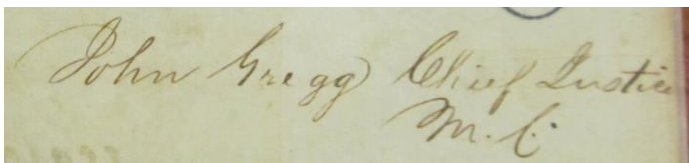
Philip Bruce Scott

1839 - Philip Bruce Scott



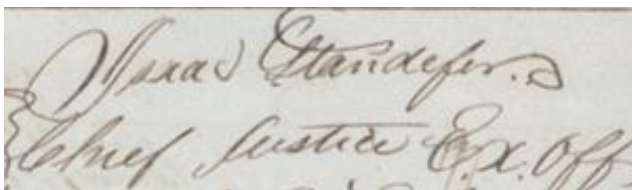
H. B. King Chief Justice
Milam County

1843 - Hugh Brevard King



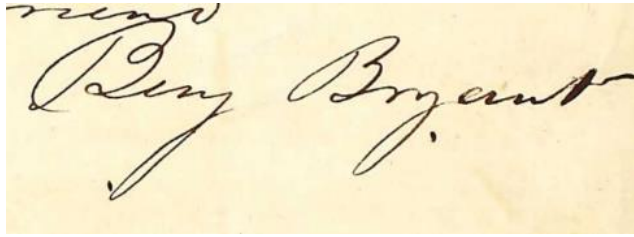
John Gregg Chief Justice
M.C.

1845 - John Gregg



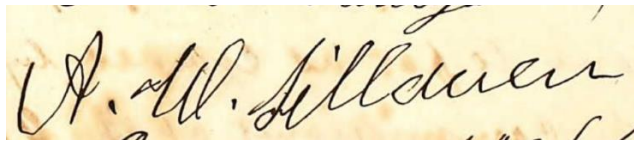
Isaac Skelton Standefer
Chief Justice Ex. Off.

1846 - Isaac Skelton Standefer



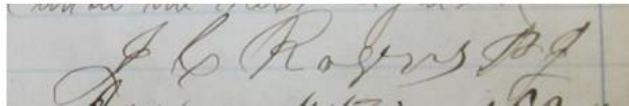
Handwritten signature of Benjamin Franklin Bryant in cursive script on aged paper.

1849 - Benjamin Franklin Bryant



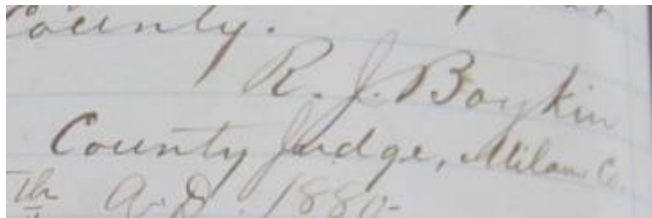
Handwritten signature of Augustin W. Sillaven in cursive script on aged paper.

1849 - Augustin W. Sillaven



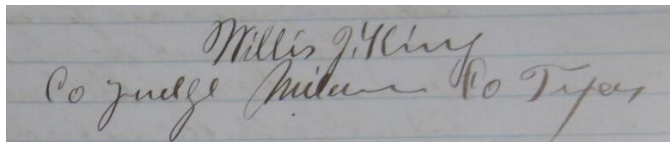
Handwritten signature of Jefferson Carrol Rogers in cursive script on aged paper.

1874 - Jefferson Carrol Rogers



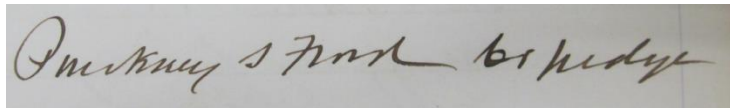
Handwritten signature of Robert James Boykin in cursive script on aged paper. The text includes "County Judge, Milam Co. the 9th 1880".

1880 - Robert James Boykin



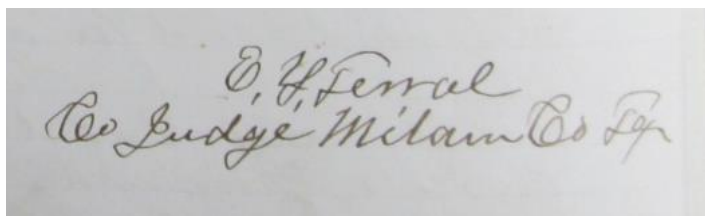
Handwritten signature of Willis Justin King in cursive script on aged paper. The text includes "Co Judge Milam Co Texas".

1881 - Willis Justin King



Handwritten signature of Pinckney Shaw Ford in cursive script on aged paper. The text includes "Pinckney S Ford Co Judge".

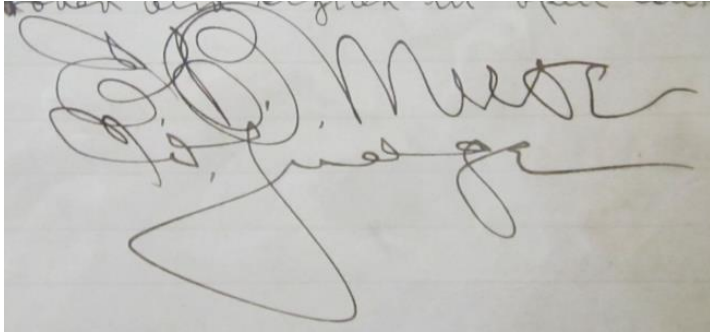
1885 - Pinckney Shaw Ford



Handwritten signature of Edward Young Terral in cursive script on aged paper. The text includes "E. Y. Terral Co Judge Milam Co Tex".

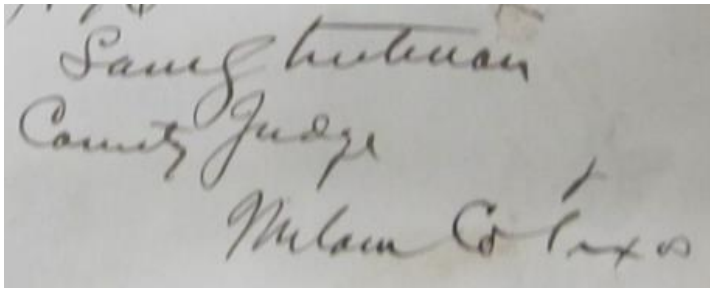
1886 - Edward Young Terral

MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS - ITS EVOLUTION AND LEADERS



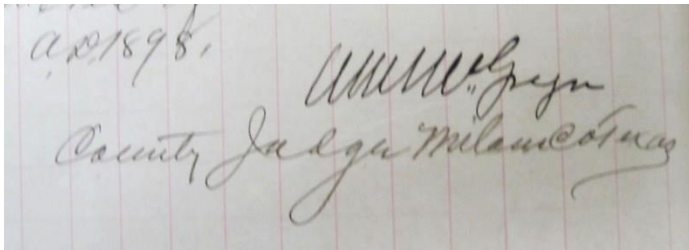
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "E. B. Muse".

1894 - Eugene Burt Muse



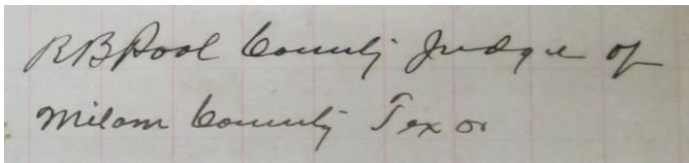
Samuel Streetman
County Judge
Milam Co Texas

1896 - Samuel Streetman



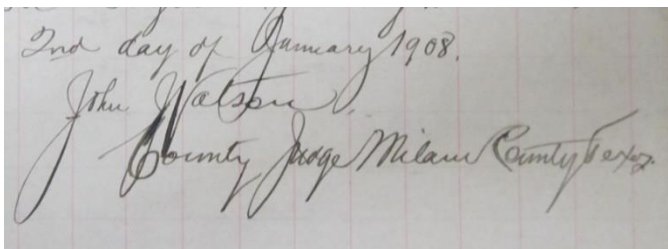
W. M. W. J.
County Judge Milam Co Texas

1898 - William Morrell McGregor



R. B. Pool County Judge of
Milam County Texas

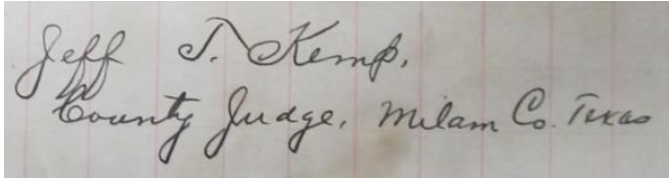
1904 - Robert Benjamin Pool



2nd day of January 1908.
John Watson
County Judge Milam County Texas

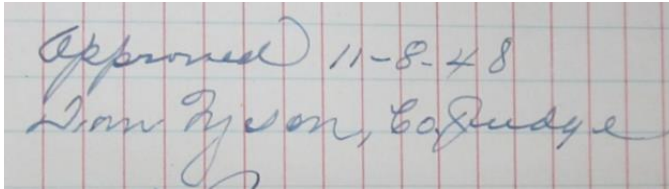
1908 - John Scott Watson

MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS - ITS EVOLUTION AND LEADERS



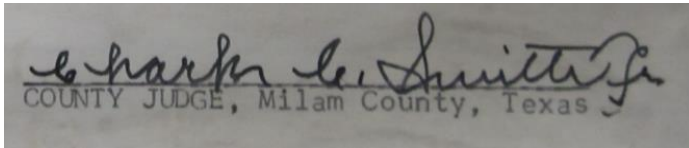
Jeff T. Kemp,
County Judge, Milam Co. Texas

1924 - Jeff Thompson Kemp



Approved 11-8-48
Dan Tyson, Co. Judge

1948 - Samuel Wright "Dan" Tyson



Charles Cecil Smith Jr.
COUNTY JUDGE, Milam County, Texas

1956 - Charles Cecil Smith Jr.

EPILOGUE



The history is in it.

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<https://www.thc.texas.gov/public/upload/San%20Antonio%2C%20Ben%20Milam%20Statue%20SBR%20NR%20Draft.pdf>

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<https://www.thc.texas.gov/public/upload/San%20Antonio%2C%20Ben%20Milam%20Statue%20SBR%20NR%20Draft.pdf>

⁶ *My sincere thanks to The Summerlee Foundation of Dallas, Texas, for allowing my 2021 visit to the land where Sarahville thrived in the 1830s: access is limited and visits must be arranged in advance.*

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https://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/texind01.asp
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