

AN EARLY HISTORY OF MADISON COUNTY, TEXAS

by

Cecil N. Neely

A THESIS

Approved:

John W. Payne, Chairman

Milford F. Allen

Approved:

William T. Haynes

Bascom Barry Hayes
Dean of the Graduate School

AN EARLY HISTORY OF MADISON COUNTY, TEXAS

A Thesis

Presented to

The Faculty of the Department of History

Sam Houston State University

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Arts

by

Cecil N. Neely

August, 1971

DEDICATION

To the memory of Mrs. Sam W. Jackson, who for many years,
was the historian of Madison County.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author of this study wishes to acknowledge those people who assisted him during his research on the history of Madison County, for without their help, much of the material in the thesis could not have been included. A special note of thanks is given to Mrs. Mary Nolley Jackson Brewster of Temple, Texas, who, for the first time, permitted the scrapbook of her mother, Mrs. Sam W. Jackson, to be researched. The scrapbook provided a basis for further study.

Others who provided scrapbooks on the history of Madison County were Mrs. J. H. Frossard and Mrs. Lewis Gibbs. A scrapbook on the history of North Zulch was furnished by Mrs. Robbie G. Allphin. Mrs. Lockie Parten Thompson made available a rare old copy of the Madisonville Meteor, and her Master's thesis on John Hodges Allen. Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Crossley, the owners and publishers of the Madisonville Meteor, provided immeasurable assistance.

Mrs. R. F. Synwolt, Jr., librarian of the Madison County Library, and Mrs. Josephine Bush, librarian of the Thomason Room at the Sam Houston State University Library, were always cheerful and helpful while assisting the author in locating material for research. To Dr. John W. Payne, Professor of History at Sam Houston State University, goes a special thanks, for without his encouragement, the study

might never have been made; further, the author expresses his gratitude to Mrs. Forrest Leeper, who typed the thesis on an unbelievable schedule, and never once complained.

Finally, the author wishes to express his appreciation to all of the others who assisted him in the research. To his wife, Lynn, and to his children, Michael, Russell and Susan, who were forced into the background while the thesis was being prepared, the greatest thanks of all.

ABSTRACT

Neely, Cecil N., An Early History of Madison County, Texas.
Master of Arts (History), August, 1971, Sam Houston
State University, Huntsville, Texas. 108 pp.

Purpose

The purpose of this study has been to trace the early history of Madison County, Texas, from the days of its first Indian inhabitants, through its creation and organization in the 1850's, to approximately the turn of the twentieth century. Presently, only limited literary efforts have been made to record the county's history. As the older citizens of the county fade away and county documents of historical value are lost or destroyed by fire, it becomes more difficult to uncover the facts as they occurred. This thesis was an effort to preserve highlights of the history of Madison County in writing.

Methods

The methods used to obtain material for this study were: (1) examination of Madison County newspapers; (2) examination of several old scrapbooks on the history of Madison County; (3) examination of records at the Texas Archives, Austin, Texas; (4) examination of Texas history books, periodicals and journals; (5) personal interviews with descendants of the early settlers of Madison County; (6) examination of various secondary sources.

Findings

The evidence presented in this study suggests the following conclusions:

1. The area that later became known as Madison County was inhabited by Indians, probably as early as 500 A.D. The Bidai Indians, a branch of the Atakapans, lived beside Bedias Creek in what is now Madison County. Because of disease and Spanish intervention, the Bidai dwindled away, and in 1854 the remnants were moved to the Brazos Reservation.

2. Early explorers of the Madison County area were Luis de Moscoso, a Spaniard who had been an original member of the Hernando de Soto expedition, and Cavelier Sieur de La Salle, the famous French explorer, who according to one source was killed just south of the present site of Madisonville. In 1774, the first Spanish settlement was made along the Trinity River at a site called Bucareli. The settlers were later forced to flee from the Indians and, consequently, they established the town of Nacogdoches on April 30, 1779. Trinidad, a Spanish garrison, was established in 1805 on the Trinity River, about three miles below the old Bucareli settlement. Later, it was the site where a small force of the Magee-Gutierrez expedition was murdered by the Spaniards.

3. Two historic old roads run through Madison County. The northern road that traversed the county east to west was known by three different names: Old San Antonio Road, El Camino Real and the King's Highway. The lower road through the area broke away from the Old San Antonio Road somewhere

between the Trinity River and the present town of Midway and continued in a southwesterly direction. It was known as the La Bahia Road. Each of the roads began as an east-west Indian trail. Today, the Old San Antonio Road is a modern highway that runs through Madison County. The La Bahia Road can be traced on old maps, but no physical trace remains in present-day Madison County.

4. Madison County, like its northern neighbor, Leon County, was settled as a result of the western movement of 1840, although a few white settlers arrived in the early 1800's. Probably the first permanent white settler was Major W. C. (Billy) Young from South Carolina. With a gun and a bag of belongings, Young settled at the site of present-day Midway. After Texas gained its independence, settlers, in large numbers, moved to the area.

5. Madison County was created as a "judicial county" by an act of the Texas Congress in 1842; however, the act was later held to be unconstitutional because the county was not authorized at least one representative. Madison County was officially created by an act of the Texas Legislature on January 27, 1853. Later, it was organized on August 7, 1854, when Madisonville was established as the county seat.

6. Many small communities were settled in Madison County, but only three--Midway, Madisonville and North Zulch--continued to grow. By the late 1800's, schools and

churches were established throughout the county. The railroad came to Madison County after the turn of the twentieth century.

John W. Payne
Supervising Professor

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
List of Maps	xi
Chapter	
I. THE LAND AND ITS EARLY INDIAN INHABITANTS . .	1
II. EARLY EXPLORATIONS AND HISTORIC ROADS	13
III. CREATION AND ORGANIZATION	26
IV. EARLY SETTLERS AND RELATED INCIDENTS	41
V. MADISONVILLE	58
VI. OTHER MADISON COUNTY SETTLEMENTS AND IMPORTANT EVENTS	81
VII. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION	98
BIBLIOGRAPHY	103
VITA	108

LIST OF MAPS

Page

Map of Early Madison County 25

CHAPTER I

THE LAND AND ITS EARLY INDIAN INHABITANTS

Madison County is located in the timberlands of the East Texas Plains, which is found in the western edge of the Atlantic Gulf Coastal Plains.¹ It resides upon the 31st parallel of latitude and nineteen degrees of longitude in rolling terrain.² Madison County is bounded on the south by Walker and Grimes Counties, on the west by Brazos County, on the east by Houston County and the north by Leon County.³

Several natural and man-made areas make up the boundaries for the county. The Trinity River forms the boundary on the east and the Bedias Creek on the south. The Navasota River determines the western boundary and the Old San Antonio Road marks a major portion of the boundary on the north.⁴

¹Rupert Norval Richardson, Texas: The Lone Star State (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1958), 3-4.

²James L. Rock and W. I. Smith, Southern and Western Texas Guide for 1878 (St. Louis, Missouri: A. H. Granger Publisher, 1878), 97.

³General Highway Map, prepared by the Texas State Highway Department, 1962.

⁴Ibid.

In 1882 A. W. Spaight, the Texas Commissioner of Statistics, reported that the general surface of the county was undulating, with only a few hills and valleys. The land was divided into timber and prairie, with timber comprising two-thirds of the area. An abundance of post oak was available for fencing purposes. Bédias, Caney, Poole, Iron, Larrison and other streams and lakes were reported capable of affording sufficient water for stock needs. Spaight records that all of the creeks mentioned were to some degree dry in the summer. However, pools of water stood the year round in some of the deep holes in the streams. Drinking water was obtained from several springs located in the county and wells dug at a depth of from fifteen to one hundred feet.

The Trinity River washes the eastern end of the county for about thirty miles and, in 1882, was navigable from three to nine months of the year.⁵ In later years the Trinity Water-shed comprised thirty-seven counties. Buddy Wakefield, President of the Mid-Trinity Valley Association, commented that "It holds a quarter of the natural wealth of the state" Its natural resources are beyond estimation, and the river has often been referred to as the

⁵A. W. Spaight, Resources, Soil and Climate of Texas (Galveston: A. H. Belo and Company, Printers, 1882), 201.

"state treasury."⁶

Spaight reported in 1882 that the soil was a "deep black waxey" along the river, a light alluvial in the creek areas, a gray sandy over a subsoil of clay in the timbered uplands and a dark chocolate mixed with sand on the prairie. Cotton was the major crop, producing about 500 to 1200 pounds in the seeds per acre. Corn produced from twenty to forty bushels and oats thirty bushels. Many superior orchards were yielding fine peaches, plums and grapes. Blackberries and dewberries grew wild in the county and were found in abundance in all areas.⁷ Wild berry crops are still found in some parts of the county.

Present-day soil analysts divide the county into two land area descriptions, Texas Blackland Prairie and Texas Claypan Area. The Texas Blackland Prairie is the least common and is found along the Trinity and Navasota Rivers, Bedias Creek and several isolated spots in the northern portion of the county. In those areas the soils are primarily clay and clay loam. The soil reaction runs from slightly acid to alkaline and calcareous and has a tendency to shrink and swell. Crockett, Wilson, Houston Black and Heiden are names of the soils found in the uplands, and Miller, Trinity,

⁶Buddy Wakefield, "Trinity River Rich with Possibilities for Madison County," Madisonville Meteor, August 24, 1944.

⁷Spaight, Resources, Soil and Climate, 201.

Norwood, Kaufman, Yahola and Gowen are principal bottomland soils.⁸

Soils of the Texas Claypan area are more numerous in the county and developed from a Post oak Savannah type vegetation. The surface texture is sandy, over a heavy dense clay subsoil, and acts both as a wet and dry soil. Tabor, Actell, and Lufkin are the names of soils that abound in the uplands, and Kosse, Iuka, Ochlockonee and Tuscumbia are the main soils of the bottomlands.⁹

Old-time citizens of Madison County tell of running a horse unimpeded by brush through the tall grasses. The grass was said to reach to their stirrups. Later, settlers began to plow up the tall grass and brush moved in to take its place. Since that time the county has been plagued with the effort to improve its soil by planting old fields in grass, removing brush, and re-establishing pine in certain locations.¹⁰

In 1880, the stand of loblolly pine was estimated to exceed 200 million board feet in the southern part of Madison County. Post Oak and associated deciduous trees were found

⁸Soil Conservation Service, Madison County Conservation Needs Report, 1967, Madisonville, Texas 1967, 22.

⁹Ibid.

¹⁰Bedias Creek Soil Conservation District, Program and Plan, Revised January, 1965, 4.

in the uplands, and pecan, pine, oak and other hardwoods in the river valleys.¹¹ Today, there is very little marketable timber remaining in the county; however, some timber is still cut for use as fence posts and railroad ties. In 1971, about twenty per cent of the area is timbered.¹²

D. E. E. Braman, in his book on the middle counties of Texas in 1857, wrote that the climate in Madison County is "generally healthy." He continued:

The winters are short, and colder than on the sea-board, the spring seasons mild and glowing with budding life; and the summers are long, dry and sultry, the autumns are pleasant and agreeable, neither too hot nor too cold. . . .¹³

The Bédias Creek Soil Conservation District reports that the climate of the county is characterized by mild winters and long summers, with a gradual transition from one to the other. During the winter months, pleasant days alternate with periods of cloudy weather or slow rain of several days' duration. Sudden cold spells, known as northers, usually occur between November and April. The summer months are hot and unfavorable to the growth of grass. Rainfall is

¹¹T. C. Richardson, East Texas Its History and Its Makers, ed. Dabney White, III (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1940), 1143-1144.

¹²Personal Interview, L. B. Piboin, District Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service, April 2, 1971.

¹³D. E. E. Braman, Braman's Information About Texas (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1857), 12.

slight and scattered during July, August and September. The growing season is about 261 days. For fifty-four years prior to 1963, the average rainfall was 43.4 inches. The lowest official temperature ever recorded in the county was minus 2 degrees F. and the highest temperature 107 degrees F.¹⁴

There has always been an abundance of wild game in Madison County. Spaight recorded in 1882 that deer, turkey, squirrel and water fowl were found in large numbers in the county.¹⁵ T. C. Richardson reported in his book, East Texas Its History and Its Makers, that Madison County was a buffalo range long after it had been established.¹⁶ Although deer and squirrel remain plentiful in present-day Madison County, the buffalo and turkey have long since disappeared.

In the 1880's, the general health of the people was reported as good. The only sickness indigenous to the area was malaria and that was found along the river bottoms where mosquitos were numerous. In those days, it was reported that the Trinity River had several springs, a few of them possessing "valuable medicinal properties." The springs

¹⁴Bedias Creek Soil Conservation Service, Program and Plan, 6.

¹⁵Spaight, Resources, Soil and Climate, 202.

¹⁶Richardson, East Texas, 1144.

were said to produce a mineral water called "Chalybeate."¹⁷

The Texas Department of Agriculture in 1909 listed the staple crops in the county as cotton, corn, sugar cane, oats, sorghum, and both sweet and Irish potatoes. Beef raising was listed as the principal interest.¹⁸

In 1971, the Texas Almanac shows that Madison County has an agriculture-business economy. Corn, cotton, peanuts and vegetables are listed as the main crops and raising beef cattle remains the chief industry. Presently, 40,000 beef cattle and 2000 dairy cattle are found in the county. The annual farm income is about \$4,426,000. Limited oil and gas minerals are also found in the local area.¹⁹

Madison County is composed of 478 square miles and in 1969 had a population of 8,149 people. The altitude of the area varies from 200 to 370 feet. January is the coldest month with an average temperature of approximately 40 degrees and July has the hottest temperature, averaging about 94 degrees.²⁰

A map of present day Madison County shows an elaborate network of roads leading from the main cities in the

¹⁷Spaight, Resources, Soil and Climate, 202.

¹⁸Texas Department of Agriculture, Bulletin (Austin, Texas: Published bimonthly by Texas Department of Agriculture, May-June, 1910), 702.

¹⁹Texas Almanac, 1970-1971, 314.

²⁰Ibid., 314.

county with many modern interconnecting farm-to-market highways. A recently constructed interstate highway which connects the two major Texas cities of Houston and Dallas runs north and south through the county. Madisonville, the county seat, is the junction for two U. S. highways, 75 and 190, and two Texas highways, 21 and 90. Numerous creeks and their tributaries wind throughout the county. Major creeks are Caney, Iron, Kickapoo, Shepherd, Brushy, Larri-son, Bedias and Young.²¹ Many of the tribes of the early inhabitants of the area camped beside these creeks after migrating from the Gulf coast.

Probably as early as 500 A.D., an advanced people established themselves along the Gulf Coast. They multiplied and spread to the east and west. After a period of time, these people reached the Trinity River area in Texas. They then occupied an area from the Atlantic coast to the eastern part of Texas. Archeologists have called this cultural development the Mississippi Pattern. The people were productive agriculturally and well-developed into mutual group-ings. The Indians of East Texas became known as the Caddo Confederacies.

The largest tribal member of the Caddoes was the Cenís (Hasinsais). They occupied the upper portions of the Neches and Angelina River Valleys and stretched into

²¹Texas Highway Map, 1962.

present-day Madison County.²² The Ceniz were easily distinguished from other tribes because of their "hospitality and gentleness of disposition." A large number of the people lived on the banks of the Trinity River and they called the area Arcokisa, which meant prairiedom. Their land was densely settled and the people lived in extremely large villages. Their homes were built in the shape of a bee-hive, rising some forty feet in the air. The Ceniz primarily raised corn and were considered a wealthy tribe. The Comanches from the north, as their allies, assisted them in trading with the Spanish for horses, money, silver and clothing.²³ When La Salle first set eyes on the Ceniz in 1686, he was prompted to write,

The village of the Ceniz is one of the largest and most populous I have seen in America. It is at least twenty leagues long . . . , in hamlets of ten or twelve cabins. . . . Their cabins are fine, forty or fifty feet high, of the shape of bee-hives. . . . The fire is in the middle, each cabin holding two families.²⁴

The Comanches were located in the northern and northwestern part of Texas and along the Rio Grande as far as the mouth of the Salado.²⁵ They were nomadic and warlike and often wandered into southeast Texas hunting game and raiding

²²W. W. Newcomb, Jr., The Indians of Texas (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1967), 280-84.

²³Henderson Yoakum, History of Texas (New York: Redfield, 1855), I, 28.

²⁴Ibid., 28.

²⁵Ibid., 27.

weaker Indian tribes. The Bidai Indians, the principal residents of the area now called Madison County, often fell victims to these incursions. The Comanches in the area also raided the first Spanish settlement, known as Bucareli.²⁶

Below the Caddoes, in an area which includes present-day Madison County, lived a little-known people called the Atakapans. They belonged to the southeast culture, and their name meant "man-eaters" or cannibals. The language of the tribe stemmed from the Tunican language stock that originated in the area of the coast of Louisiana and Mississippi.²⁷

Located in the northern reaches of the Atakapan territories was a branch of their grouping called the Bidais Indians. In the Caddoan language, Bidai meant "brushwood." The Bidai--along with the Deadoses, who were probably a family outgrowth of the Bidai--occupied the Trinity River Valley. These people lived in what is now the heart of Madison County.²⁸

The Bidai Indians established their camps along Bedias Creek, and their main village was located at the confluence of the Trinity River and Bedias Creek. These people were considered to be a backward tribe in relation to the

²⁶Herbert Eugene Bolton, Texas in the Middle Eighteenth Century (New York: Russell and Russell, Inc., 1962) 17, 119.

²⁷Newcomb, Indians of Texas, 315-16.

²⁸Ibid., 316.

other Indians in the area. Their existence was meager, at best, and they dwelled in "wretched huts." The Bidai were never a large tribe and their numbers were constantly reduced by epidemics and frequent raids by hostile Indian groups.²⁹ Although the Atakapans were known to be cannibals, the Bidai were never reported to be human flesh eaters.³⁰

The French and Spanish had different opinions about the Bidai Indians. The French referred to the Bidai as "ferocious savages, vagrant miseries who begged for subsistence," while the Spanish considered them "friendly, peaceful, poor, wanting Christian attention." The Spanish were found later to be more correct in their estimation of the Bidai. In 1778, De Mezieres reported that "The Bidai Indians are almost extinct from the recent malady; they are given to drunkenness; they raise no crops, lead miserable vagabond lives and do not heed the advice of the Spaniards."³¹ The Bidai Indians were friendly to the Spanish before 1770 but later joined forces with the enemies of the Spanish. They were known to acquire firearms from the French and sell them to the Lipan Apaches. In that period the Comanches and

²⁹Rex Strickland, "Moscoso's Journey Through Texas," Southwestern Historical Quarterly, XLVI, 135.

³⁰Newcomb, Indians of Texas, 327.

³¹Wallace Davis, My Home Town: The Bedias Story (Houston, Texas: The Gulfcoast Publishing Co., 1953), 27-29.

the Spanish were allied against the Apaches.³²

As the French settled Louisiana, the Indian tribes in that area were pushed westward. In one great battle, those tribes met the Ceniz and probably the Bidai on the left banks of the Trinity and almost destroyed them in 1781.³³ Disease and Spanish intervention caused the Bidai to dwindle. As the Bidai wasted away, many of them joined tribes located to the north and south. In 1830, the Bidai numbered only about one hundred men and they were known to be peaceful and honest, good growers of corn and good hunters of deer. Those Bidai, joining the Caddo remnants in the north, were subsequently moved to the Brazos Reservation in 1854 and later to the Oklahoma reservation.³⁴

W. W. Newcomb writes in his book, The Indians of Texas, that the Bidai were reported to have had deformed heads, but no one knows if the Indians caused the deformity on purpose or if it was done unknowingly. When an Indian mother had a new baby, she would strap him to a piece of bark which had been bent to fit his body. Consequently, the bark's pressure caused the head of the baby to become elongated and deformed.³⁵ The early Spanish explorers were the first white men to observe the Bidai deformity.

³²Newcomb, Indians of Texas, 319.

³³Yoakum, History of Texas, 36.

³⁴Newcomb, Indians of Texas, 319.

³⁵Ibid., 320-327.

CHAPTER II

EARLY EXPLORATIONS AND HISTORIC ROADS

The exact routes of early explorers are difficult to locate; however, the Spanish and the French who explored East Texas kept travel journals that are presently available for various interpretations.

One of the earlier explorers visiting the area that is present-day Madison County was the Spaniard Luis de Moscoso. Originally a member of the Hernando de Soto expedition, Moscoso continued the journey in 1542 after de Soto's death. Dr. Rex Strickland writes in the Southwestern Historical Quarterly about the expedition and concludes that Moscoso reached the Trinity River and crossed to its west bank. The expedition apparently crossed the Trinity just below a site that later became known as Robbins Ferry and was above the mouth of Bedia Creek.¹ A copy of the original map of Moscoso's journey shows that his party entered the southeastern portion of present-day Madison County and traveled along what later became known as the La Bahia Road.²

¹Strickland, "Moscoso's Journey," Southwestern Quarterly, XLVI, 113.

²Ibid., 158.

Before crossing the Trinity, Moscoso camped on the east side of the river and ten scouts were sent across the river search for food. The scouts captured several Indians and, from their description, Strickland surmises that they were the lowly Bidais. A Hasinai (Cenis) guide could not understand their dialect, and the crossing appears to have taken place at the site of the Bidai camp located at the mouth of the Bedias Creek on the Trinity. The scouts were unable to determine what lay ahead in their journey and consequently the Spaniards, now on the west bank of the river, remained for a few days and, being apprehensive about continuing, returned along the route from which they came.³

Another famous traveler to Texas was La Salle. Historians have disagreed for years over the site where Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, was killed on March 20, 1687. Many historians agree that La Salle was killed on the Navasota River near present-day Navasota, Texas. The debate stems from the fact that the path that La Salle followed is difficult to pinpoint.⁴

Francis Parkman, the noted historian, believed that La Salle was murdered on one of the Trinity River tributaries.

³Ibid., 134-135.

⁴Bill Walraven, "Old Map Shows La Salle was Killed S. E. of Madisonville," Madisonville Meteor, December 6, 1962.

Recently, an historical collector came into possession of an old map that tends to corroborate Parkman's information. The map was published in 1773 and bears a scribbled note which is positioned on the map just below the site of what is now Madisonville. The note is written in Spanish: "Aqui fue muerta M. de la Salle en el ano 1687." "Here is where Monsieur De La Salle was killed in the year 1687." The map was acquired from the Spanish Archives. Apparently, the map was prepared in 1749 during the Spanish colonization program by Jose de Escandon. Bill Walraven, in his article about the death site, states that the Alonzo de Leon expedition to East Texas in 1609 probably provided the information for the map concerning the site of La Salle's murder.⁵

E. W. Cole studied the official diary of Henri Joutel⁴, the La Salle expedition historian, and personally traced the journey across Walker County from its southwest edge to its northwest corner.⁶ Although prior to 1853 the area now known as southeastern Madison County was part of Walker County, Madison County receives at least part of the fame from the Walraven article.

As explorations continued in East Texas and the Spanish gained influence throughout Texas, a Spanish

⁵Ibid.

⁶E. W. Cole, "La Salle in Texas," Southwestern Historical Quarterly, XLIX, 482-500.

settlement was established on the west bank of the Trinity River about two leagues above the Bidai Indian encampment. In 1774 the Spanish Governor, Ripperda, exiled a group of families from Los Adaes, located in the vicinity of what is now Nacogdoches, because of contraband trade with the Indians. These families received permission to settle on the Trinity in September, 1774. The families were to set up the community as an outpost against the French. Gil Ybarbo is given credit for organizing the settlement.⁷ The community was named Nuestra Senora del Pilar de Bucareli (also known as Paso Tomas) and called Bucareli. Within a short period of time Bucareli had a "plaza, church, guard house, twenty houses of hewn wood, and numerous huts." The settlers were made to pay no taxes or church tithes for a period of ten years. Although it was a prosperous community because of illicit trade with the French, an epidemic in 1777 and Comanche raids in 1778 caused the Spanish to consider deserting the settlement.⁸

Father Batello, a Spanish priest, became disheartened and left Bucareli, and in a letter he wrote on December 23, 1778, bemoaned the life of the settlement. He concluded that Bucareli "should be abandoned; that besides being

⁷Bolton, Texas in Eighteenth Century, 116-118.

⁸Walter Prescott Webb and H. Bailey Carroll (eds.), The Handbook of Texas, I (Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1952), 235.

threatened with destruction by the Comanches, it was incapable of irrigation and had proved unhealthful because of heavy rains. . . ."⁹

To add to the misery of the people, a flood on February 14, 1779, caused the Trinity River to overflow its banks, drowning about half of the live stock in the community. The river rose halfway up the walls of the village houses. Almost simultaneously, the Comanches struck Bucareli again. The people, completely disenchanted, fled toward the east and settled in the vicinity of the old mission at Nacogdoches. Thus, the beginning of the modern city of Nacogdoches, Texas, can be traced from the Bucareli settlement which dates from April 30, 1779.¹⁰ Later, Robbins Ferry was established at the old site of Bucareli and a modern steel bridge spans the river at that location today. The bridge is located about fifteen miles east of Madisonville on Texas Highway 21.

In 1805, the Spanish governor of Texas, Manuel Antonio Cordero, sent three companies of troops to an area called Spanish Bluff (Trinidad), located a short distance below the old Bucareli settlement. The purpose of the settlement was to regain possession of territory claimed by the United States.¹¹

⁹Bolton, Texas in Eighteenth Century, 436.

¹⁰Ibid., 437-39.

¹¹Texas Almanac, 1857, 150.

Several years later, in 1812, Lieutenant Augustus Magee, a young officer in the United States Army, turned to ideas of empire when he failed to receive a promotion to captain. Feeling that the republican cause in Texas needed competent soldiers, he appointed himself colonel in the "Republican Army of the North" and began to organize an army. The revolution was continuing in Texas and Magee joined with Bernado Gutierrez de Lara, a wealthy man of Nuevo Santander, to invade Texas.¹²

The Spanish soldiers fled from Nacogdoches as the Magee-Gutierrez expedition approached in 1812. The descendants of Gil Ybarbo welcomed the invaders. Moving quickly, they struck Spanish Bluff and San Antonio, and won great victories. Twelve hundred Spanish soldiers surrendered at San Antonio after one of Magee's officers promised them safety. At that point, Gutierrez plotted with one of his officers, a Captain Delgado, to take political control of Texas. Delgado was to take the Spanish Governor and a group of prisoners to Louisiana to remove them from the contested area. Along the march, embittered over his father's death at the hands of the Spanish, he slaughtered the Spanish governor and a large number of the prisoners from San Antonio. Consequently, Gutierrez was forced to resign and Magee died, leaving his command to Henry Perry. After several disastrous

¹²T. R. Fehrenbach, Lone Star: A History of Texas and Texans (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1968), 120-126.

fights, the remnants of the Magee-Gutierrez expedition were forced to flee toward the east. Elisondo, the Spanish commander, pursued and caught up with about eighty of the survivors of the expedition at Spanish Bluff (Trinidad). Remembering the atrocities of Delgado earlier, the Spaniards tied the men in groups of ten and paraded them to an old cypress tree where they were massacred. Captain Delgado was among those slain.¹³ Spanish Bluff later had a ferry crossing the Trinity at its site. Presently, nothing remains of the old settlement.

Major W. C. Young, from South Carolina, was the first permanent settler in what was to become Madison County. He later earned fame at the Battle of San Jacinto. Major Young reported in 1831 that the massacre of the Magee-Gutierrez expedition had taken place at "Bull Hill," located near the present city of Midway in Madison County. He was quoted as saying, "their bleaching bones were still to be seen in 1831."¹⁴

Although several forts were established in East Texas, only one was located close to the Madison County area. In 1840, a company of minute men under the command of Thomas N. B. Greer established Fort Boggy as headquarters for the Boggy-Trinity Rangers. The fort was located just to the

¹³Ibid., 120-126.

¹⁴Richardson, East Texas, 1144.

northeast of present-day Madison County in what later became Leon County. The fort served as protection for the frontier in the area and later a community sprang up in the vicinity by the same name.¹⁵

The old roads running through Madison County are even more famous than the early settlements, for along those trails history was made in early Texas. William Hogan in his book, The Texas Republic, shows that the principal roads in Madison County in 1845 both converged near the old Robbins ferry on the Trinity River. The northern road that ran east to west through the area was known by three different names: Old San Antonio Road, El Camino Real, and the King's Highway. The lower road through the area broke away from the Old San Antonio Road somewhere between the Trinity River and what is now Midway and continued in a southwesterly direction. It was named the La Bahia Road.¹⁶ It is sometimes called the Opelousas, or Lower Road, and early settlers referred to it as Labadee Road.¹⁷ The La Bahia Road began as an east-west Indian trail on the border between Texas and Louisiana and continued west, crossing the old Robbins Ferry location on

¹⁵Webb and Carroll (eds.), Handbook of Texas, I, 621.

¹⁶William Ransom Hogan, The Texas Republic (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1946), 59, map.

¹⁷W. D. Wood, "Origin of Names of Madison County and Madisonville," Quarterly of The Texas State Historical Association, VI-4, April, 1903, 335.

the Trinity and running on through Washington on the Brazos and Goliad. The Spaniards laid out the western portion of the trail, which became known then as the Atascosito Road.¹⁸

A map of old Spanish Texas shows that in 1689 Alfonso de Leon laid out the La Bahia Road while on an expedition looking for the survivors of La Salle's party.¹⁹ His one-hundred-man force apparently never found any of the French in the area.²⁰ Today, the La Bahia is traceable on old maps but no trace of it physically exists in Madison County.

The Camino Real (Old San Antonio Road) is, according to one source, the "oldest regularly traveled highway of civilization in Texas."²¹ The Old San Antonio Road had its beginning as an early Indian and buffalo trail. It was first traced in 1691 by the provincial governor of Texas, Domingo Teran de las Rios, between Monclova, the capitol of the province, and a Spanish mission in east Texas. Early travelers on the road were the French trader, Louis Juchereau de St. Denis, in 1714, and Moses Austin, in 1820. Many early Anglo-Americans traveled the road to the interior of Texas. The route was reconstructed by V. N. Zivley in 1915 from a 1778 diary of Juan Agustin Morfi. The Old San Antonio Road

¹⁸Webb and Carroll (eds.), Handbook of Texas, I, 2.

¹⁹Yoakum, History of Texas, 380, map.

²⁰Ibid., 44.

²¹Richardson, East Texas, 1144.

is presently a modern highway which runs through the county and establishes a portion of the boundary between Leon and Madison Counties. Normangee, located just outside Madison County in the northwest, has the distinction of being the home for the Old San Antonio Road Association.²²

Many legends have been told about the Old San Antonio Road. One that is particularly interesting concerns early Spanish travelers on a section of road that now borders Madison County. Sometime in the early days, a Spanish caravan of pack mules laden with silver stopped to camp for the night. After dark, Indians attacked the sleeping men. The Spaniards, fearing for their lives, dumped the silver in a lake and fled. Only three escaped and, years later, one returned to search for the silver. He never found the treasure, although coins, called Spanish sovereigns, have been found along the road. One coin was dated 1775, which predates the American Declaration of Independence.²³

The La Bahia and the Old San Antonio Road were used by early settlers of Texas in February, 1836, when Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna began his conquest of Texas. The term "Runaway Scrape" was first used during the settlers' flight. Hard pressed by Santa Anna, the settlers from Refugio, San Patricio, San Antonio, Washington-on-the-Brazos and other

²²Webb and Carroll (eds.), Handbook of Texas, II, 309-10.

²³J. Y. Gates and H. B. Fox, A History of Leon County (Centerville, Texas: Leon County News: 1936), 2.

south central areas began their move toward east Texas.²⁴ Many of the fleeing settlers gathered at Robbins Ferry to cross the Trinity on the one ferry boat that was available. The refugees were scattered all over the Trinity bottom from Young's Creek (now Midway) to the ferry. White settlers and their slaves, travelling in all types of conveyances, were there. Wagons, hacks, and slides drawn by oxen, mules, and horses dotted the countryside. The group probably numbered as many as 200 people. When only a few people had crossed the river, word was received that Santa Anna had been defeated at San Jacinto. The settlers turned back on the old roads and returned to their homes.²⁵

The Robbins Ferry that has been mentioned several times was first established on the Trinity River by Joel Leahey at Paso Tomas (old Bucareli) in 1829. Several years later Nathaniel Robbins built a ferry to cross the ford and named it for himself. In 1852, Elisha Clapp acquired the ferry and his descendants continued its operation until 1928, when a steel highway bridge was built. From 1852 on, the site was known as Clapp's Ferry and Madison County citizens still refer to it by that name.²⁶

The early roads leading from the ferries and across

²⁴Webb and Carroll (eds.), Handbook of Texas, II, 514-15.

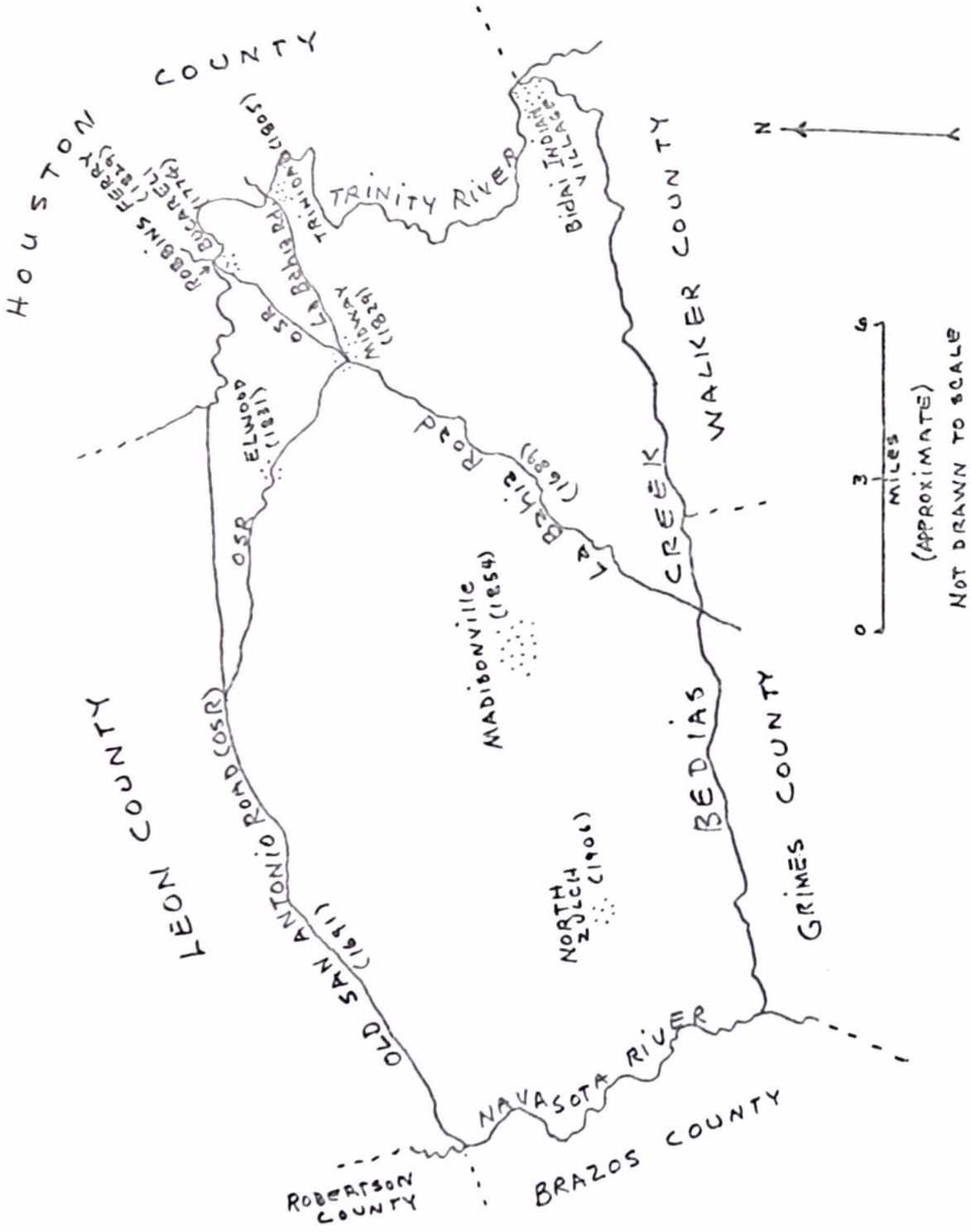
²⁵Sue Corley, "Early Day History of Madison County," Madisonville Meteor, January 28, 1932.

²⁶Webb and Carroll (eds.), Handbook of Texas, II, 483.

Texas were nothing but trails. William Ransom Hogan states in The Texas Republic that the roads most heavily traveled were no more than dusty trails during dry weather and marshy ruts in wet weather. In early 1831, Sam Houston wrote of the roads in the general vicinity of later-day Madison County: "At this time the roads are most terrible and impossible in this section of the country."²⁷

²⁷Hogan, Texas Republic, 52.

HISTORIC MAP OF MADISON COUNTY



CHAPTER III

CREATION AND ORGANIZATION

Mexico had gained its independence from Spain in 1821 and Texas became part of the new Empire of Mexico. Moses Austin, a Missouri banker, saw great promise in the land called Texas and consequently in 1820 had requested permission from the Spanish government to establish a colony there. Although his request was granted, Austin died before he could organize the colony. His son, Stephen F. Austin, continued plans for the colony and in 1821 established the first American settlement in Texas along the Brazos and Colorado Rivers. The site was in an area later to be called Washington-on-the-Brazos.¹

In 1831, while still under Mexican control, Texas was organized into three departments, called Bexar, Brazos, and Nacogdoches. The northern portion of Austin's colony was located in Brazos Department. The people of that department submitted a petition to the San Felipe political chief, James B. Miller, requesting that a municipality be

¹"Texas," Encyclopedia Britannica. 27th ed., XXI, 993-94.

organized at Washington-on-the-Brazos. The petition was granted and on July 16, 1835, an election determined the officials for the municipality.² Later, after Texas gained its independence, the Congress of the Republic of Texas made Washington a county. The boundaries were delineated by an act of Congress:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Texas, in Congress assembled, That all the districts of the country within the following described boundary be, and compose the county of Washington, (to wit:) beginning at the mouth of Caney Creek on the west bank of the Brazos river, then up the said creek to its northwestern source, thence in a western direction, to the southeast corner of the league of land granted to Harmon Hensley on Mill creek; thence west to the ridge dividing the waters of New Year's and Yegua creeks of the Brazos, thence north along said ridge with the eastern boundary of the counties of Fayette and Mina (later called Bastrop) to the Old San Antonio Road; thence east with said river to its mouth; thence down the river Brazos to the place of beginning.³

Subsequently, Burleson, Brazos, Lee, Montgomery, Grimes, Madison, Walker, and San Jacinto counties were carved out of Washington County.⁴

Madison County, like its northern neighbor, Leon County, was settled as a result of the Westward Movement of 1840, although a few permanent settlers arrived in the early

²Charles F. Schmidt, A History of Washington County (San Antonio: Naylor Company, 1949), 7-8.

³H. P. N. Gammel (ed.), Laws of Texas (Austin: Gammel Book Co., 1898), II, 748.

⁴Schmidt, History of Washington County, 8.

1800's. The main reason for their settlement of Texas was economic. People desired cheap lands and many had "get-rich-quick" plans. Most migrated to better their lot in life and a few to escape punishment for some wrong-doing. The development of new cotton land, high cotton prices, and the cheap economic system of slavery were incentives to continue the migration. Probably, as in Leon County, the desire for new cotton lands was the primary incentive of the early settlers moving to Madison County.⁵ As the area now called Madison County grew with the influx of settlers, Texas legislators were in the process of constituting new counties.

From the county of Washington, the Congress of the Republic of Texas made several smaller counties. One of those counties created in 1837 was Montgomery.⁶ Although an attempt would be made to carve Madison County from Montgomery County in 1842, it would be another eleven years before Madison County would be officially created. When the Fifth and Sixth Congresses of Texas met in 1841 and 1842, several counties were organized as "judicial counties." The term "judicial counties" was applied to those counties which were not given representation in Congress. The judicial

⁵Gates and Fox, History of Leon County, 4.

⁶John W. Baldwin, An Early History of Walker County, Texas. Unpublished Master's Thesis, Sam Houston State Teachers College, 1957, 25.

county of Madison was created February 2, 1842, and included the "western half of present Montgomery County, part of present Walker County and a slice of San Jacinto County."⁷ The act read:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Texas in Congress assembled, That all that portion of Montgomery County bounded as follows, to wit: Beginning on the San Jacinto, where the line of Harris county crosses the same; thence eastward, with the line of said county to the line of Trinity county, thence northward, with the line of said county; to the north-west corner thereof; thence, westward, a direct line, to the north-east corner of a league of land granted to John Shannon, on the San Jacinto, thence down the San Jacinto to the place of beginning, shall constitute a new county to be called the county of Madison.⁸

By the act of 1842, Congress required Madison County to mark its boundaries, to pay for the cost of such action and to hold county elections. It was also directed that Madison County constitute a Board of Commissioners who were to locate the county seat on a tract of land to be purchased that did not exceed 160 acres. The commissioners were to sell lots from the 160 acres and with the proceeds build a "court house, jail and other public buildings."⁹

Later that same year the judicial counties were held to be unconstitutional in violation of Article I, Section 5, of the Constitution. The article stated that "each county

128. ⁷Webb and Carroll (eds.), Handbook of Texas, II,

⁸Gammel (ed.), Laws of Texas, II, 91.

⁹Ibid., 92.

shall be entitled to at least one representative,"¹⁰ and at that time Madison County was not represented in Congress.

In 1837, Robertson County was created from Milano County and organized in 1838. Subsequently, Leon County was formed from Robertson County on March 17, 1846.¹¹ Almost one month later, on April 6, 1846, Grimes and Walker Counties were created out of Montgomery County.¹² From the counties of Grimes, Walker and Leon, Madison County was created officially on January 27, 1853.¹³ The act of the legislators stated that the new county of Madison would be defined as follows:

Beginning at the mouth of Bedias Creek on the Trinity river, and running up the main Bedias to a point where the line between the counties of Grimes and Walker crosses the same; thence by a direct line to the northwest corner of a tract of land in the name of B. Q. Hadley, on the Navasota river; thence up said stream to where the San Antonio road crosses the same; thence running with the south boundary of Leon County to the southwest corner of Alce Garrett's survey; thence on a direct line to the north-east corner of Hiram Walker's survey on the west bank of the Trinity River, and thence down the river to the place of beginning.¹⁴

¹⁰R. L. Batts, "Defunct Counties of Texas," Southwestern Historical Quarterly, I, 87.

¹¹Jane Francis Leathers, Through the Years: A Historical Sketch of Leon County and the Town of Oakwood, published by the author, 1946, 12.

¹²Gammel (ed.), Laws of Texas, II, 8-9.

¹³Batts, "Defunct Counties," Southwestern Quarterly, I, 88.

¹⁴Gammel (ed.), Laws of Texas, III, 10-11.

Congress declared that after elections were held, all courts for the county would meet in the home of James Mitchell, Jr., until the county seat was established. The county seat was to be selected by a simple majority of the people voting. Congress declared that the county would be known as Madison and the county seat Madisonville; and further gave the approximate location of the county seat. In part, the act read, "the said county seat to be located shall, in no event, be more than five miles from the centre of the said county."¹⁵

Madison County was named for President James Madison, who was born in Orange County, Virginia, on March 16, 1751.¹⁶ His political career brought him fame and in 1808 he was elected President of the United States, where he served for two terms. Because of his fine work in writing the Constitution of the United States, he became known as the "Father of the Constitution." The man responsible for recommending that Madison County be created was Dr. Pleasant Williams Kittrell. He was also given the privilege of naming it and later came to be known as the "Father of Madison County."¹⁷ Dr. Kittrell was born in Kittrell Springs,

¹⁵Ibid., 10-11.

¹⁶Z. T. Fulmore, The History and Geography of Texas as Told in County Names. Published by the author, 1915, 62-63.

¹⁷Mrs. Sam W. Jackson, Scrapbook on History of Madison County. (Unpublished).

North Carolina, in 1805. He subsequently graduated from Chapel Hill and received his medical training from the University of Pennsylvania. W. H. Kittrell, Jr., in later years said of his grandfather that he served in the Legislatures of North Carolina, Alabama, and Texas.¹⁸ After the county was organized on August 7, 1854,¹⁹ Dr. Kittrell served in the Sixth Texas Legislature and became the first representative for the official county.²⁰ Dr. Kittrell was the personal physician of General Sam Houston and was at his bedside at the Steamboat House in Huntsville when the General died. Subsequently, Dr. Kittrell purchased the famous Steamboat House and died there in 1867 during a yellow fever epidemic in Walker County.²¹

Madisonville, the county seat of Madison County, is located on a league of land granted by the Mexican Government to Job Starks Collard on May 28, 1835. Collard was a member of the Austin colony. When the county began its organization attempts in 1853 and 1854, Collard donated

¹⁸Based on correspondence between W. H. Kittrell, Jr., grandson of Dr. P. W. Kittrell and Mr. Ray Moore Stelle, Superintendent for Texas School for the Deaf, December 7, 1953.

¹⁹Webb and Carroll (eds.), Handbook of Texas, 128.

²⁰Members of the Legislature of the State of Texas from 1846 to 1939. Published by State of Texas, January 15, 1939.

²¹Mrs. Sam W. Jackson, Scrapbook on History of Madison County (unpublished).

approximately two hundred acres to the people of the county "for the purpose of establishing a town site." Although records are not available to define the exact original boundaries, a study of the records of the area surrounding Madisonville revealed that the town site was located on a narrow tract of land running from present day U. S. Highway 75 to the western boundary of the two city cemeteries on the west side of town.²²

W. D. Wood, a distinguished resident of the Madison County and Leon County area, was in Madisonville during the summer of 1853 when town lots were being sold. He wrote that the town square or courthouse square was located about two hundred yards from the Job Collard residence. Wood referred to Collard as a "most useful and exemplary citizen," from a respected family, who was active in matters "civil and military."²³

T. C. Richardson says that there was no way to determine the number of residents in 1854 when the county was organized; however, the number must have been considerable, for in 1856 Braman's list of Post Offices shows that Madisonville and Elwood were both listed as "county towns." No explanation is given why there were two county towns, but

²²William Ray Malone, "Early History of Madisonville," Madisonville Meteor, June 3, 1954.

²³W. D. Wood, "Origin of Names of Madison County and Madisonville," Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association, VI-4 (April, 1903), 334.

often in those early days it took several elections to determine where the county seat would be located. Richardson conjectures that courts were probably held in both locations between 1854 and 1856 prior to the establishment of Madisonville as the permanent county seat.²⁴ It now appears that Madisonville was selected as the county seat over Elwood because of the requirement to locate the county administration within five miles of the center of the county. In addition, the town site of Madisonville was donated to the people of the county. Madisonville was also situated close to a supply of fresh drinking water that was available in a stream-fed lake located on the northeast side of the town site.

W. H. Kittrell, Sr., the son of the famous doctor, related in an article in the county newspaper that Madisonville was known as "a wild and wooly burg" before the Civil War and after, and the county was referred to as the "Free State of Madison."²⁵ In Mrs. Sam W. Jackson's scrapbook is an article by Ed Kilman taken from the Houston Post. Mr. Kilman, reporting on the journal of Dr. P. W. Kittrell, the founder of Madison County, quoted one of the notes in the journal. It read:

Madison county, apart from its range advantages is a poor place to live, and especially to raise a family.

²⁴Richardson, East Texas, 1144.

²⁵Mrs. Sam W. Jackson, Scrapbook on History of Madison County (unpublished).

Whilst there are several families of good, plain, excellent people there for whom I formed a sincere attachment, yet there is quite a number of lowminded, lowflung creatures among whom persons of sensibility & refinement cannot live with any satisfaction.²⁶

Madison County in the late 1840's and early 1850's was not always a quiet and peaceful place and the people were not necessarily law-abiding. Several incidents of misconduct took place in the late 1840's that required the administration of justice. A judge from Montgomery County, whose name cannot be determined, arrived and held the first official court in the northern part of Madison County. Although the details of the trial are not available, it is known that two men were convicted and sentenced to terms in the state penitentiary. Crime continued on the increase and additional courts were held in and around the town site of Madisonville. One trial was conducted under a stand of trees located in the vicinity of the present-day First Baptist Church.²⁷

In 1854, the first courthouse in Madisonville was constructed of rough logs. Several years later it was destroyed by fire and quickly reconstructed. The second courthouse burned in 1867. Lumber was hauled from sawmills in adjacent counties on ox carts and a more modern courthouse

²⁶Ibid.

²⁷W. N. Coleman, County Judge, "Courthouse History From Shade Tree Justice to Present," Madisonville Meteor, August 24, 1944.

was built the same year. On January 2, 1873, the courthouse burned for the third time and with it went all the records of Madison County. Several days later, the courthouse was re-established in an old Masonic building and it remained there until 1878. On April 2, 1878, the Commissioners Court met to discuss the construction of a new courthouse.²⁸

W. C. Gibbs, County Judge, P. K. Goree, R. S. Page and H. B. Cobb, Commissioners, and William W. Viser, County Clerk, were the members present. The court determined that a tax of one-half of one per cent would be levied on all the assessed property of the county to pay for the construction of a new brick courthouse. Thomas and Warner, a firm of contractors, was given the building contract. In January, 1879, the building was completed. It was forty feet square, two stories tall and divided by a ten-foot hall. The second floor had three rooms which included the court room, jury room and judge's office. The bottom floor was divided into four office rooms. That building stood for only a few years before the Commissioners Court rendered it unsafe for use. At that time, the commissioners decided to build a spectacular building, one that would draw attention in the eastern part of Texas.²⁹

²⁸Ibid.

²⁹Ibid.

The Houston architectural firm of F. S. Glover drafted the plans for the new building in mixed Gothic and Flemish design. Myer Brothers and Risk of Houston was awarded the building contract for the sum of \$25,300 on February 17, 1894. The old courthouse was demolished and construction began. A tax of twenty-five cents on each one-hundred-dollar valuation of property in the county was levied to pay for the building. Bonds in the amount of \$25,000, to mature in forty years, were also issued. Two kilns of brick were burned in the vicinity of the old Perry Ashley home. B. S. Malone worked as the consultant engineer for the Commissioners Court. When the courthouse was completed, it gave the appearance of a large stately castle standing in the middle of the town square.³⁰ Mrs. Ben H. Park, a long-time resident of the county, recalled that her husband hauled the clock, that adorned the top of the courthouse for seventy-three years, by ox wagon from Huntsville. The trip took over four days. The clock was so large that nothing else could be brought in the wagon with it.³¹

On May 14, 1967, the picturesque old Madison County Courthouse burned to the ground. When the red sandstone corner block was removed from the debris of the burned-out building, a small metal box was found in a carved-out

³⁰Ibid.

³¹"Courthouse Clock Brought in by Oxen," Madisonville Meteor, May 18, 1967.

recess of the stone. In the box was an old copy of the Madisonville Meteor, badly faded and damaged by rye whiskey that had leaked from a half-pint bottle also found in the container. Another old paper printed in characters that was thought to be Yiddish was found in the box. Several coins--including one half dollar, a half dime, three V nickels (one dated 1883), one 1876 dime, and three Indian-head pennies--were also found in the container. The county records survived the fire in a fireproof vault and were moved to the old Madisonville High School building, which served as a temporary courthouse until the new one was completed in 1970.³²

A new modern fire-proof courthouse made of brick and stone and trimmed with marble panels was formally dedicated on May 31, 1970. Including a basement and two floors, the total area of the building is 23,118 square feet. J. H. Sprill Construction Company of Jasper, Texas, erected the building at a cost of \$628,000.³³

In a Newsletter, "The Texas Good Roads Association," is a short paragraph written about the many courthouse fires in Madison County. Although none of the material can be substantiated, the article provides a touch of humor to the cause of the fires:

³²"Cornerstone of Courthouse Yields Interesting Relics," Madisonville Meteor, May 18, 1967.

³³"New Courthouse Dedicated Sunday," Madisonville Meteor, June 4, 1970.

Another reason, according to rumor, was convenient disposal of land abstracts and titles, court evidence and other interesting legal minutia. At least one courthouse was torched by an overenthusiastic lynch mob. That same county (Madison), oddly, lost one seat of government over a gray goose. A bet was made as to whether the goose was nesting under the floor, and the only way to settle it was to tear down the courthouse.³⁴

The names of the earliest known Madison County officials are listed in the 1857 Texas Almanac. They include: R. S. Rayburn, Chief Justice; Francis W. Harnes, County Clerk; George S. Harrison, Sheriff; John McIver, Assessor and Collector; and L. D. Collins, District Clerk.³⁵ In that period, Madisonville was characterized as a small town with all wooden buildings.³⁶ No statistics are given in 1850 for the county but for 1855 the Texas Almanac shows that there were 429 Negroes (slaves), 1190 horses and 10,436 cattle; 365,321 acres valued at \$676,960 were assessed in the county. The 429 Negroes were valued at \$229,800, which made the average value of a slave in Madison County approximately \$535.³⁷

In 1857 the white population of the county was about 1015. That figure was determined from the number of people

³⁴Texas Good Roads Association, Newsletter No. 67-7, Austin, Texas, July 1967, 3.

³⁵Texas Almanac, 1857, 95.

³⁶Texas Almanac, 1858, 76.

³⁷Texas Almanac, 1857, 55, 70.

voting in the last election, multiplied by a figure of seven which was called "the official average to the voter."³⁸

Just prior to the Civil War, in 1859, the county had 609 Negroes valued at \$431,350, 2130 horses valued at \$115,065 and 29,800 cattle valued at \$182,318. The slaves were more valuable than the horses and cattle combined.³⁹ The Texas Almanac also shows that in 1856 the county had post offices in Madisonville, Midway and Elwood.⁴⁰ Although some evidence can be found to support the contention that other post offices were in existence at that same time, official records give only the three named above.

³⁸Texas Almanac, 1858, 41-43.

³⁹Texas Almanac, 1860, 206.

⁴⁰Texas Almanac, 1857, 30-31.

CHAPTER IV

EARLY SETTLERS AND RELATED INCIDENTS

Madison County is located on the site where three empresario grants of the Mexican Government joined. The grants went to Austin, Vehlein and Burnet. Don Jose Miguel Musquiz received the first land for settlement in the Madison County area when he was granted 101,852.6 acres of land, 48,712 of which were located in the Vehlein colony. It is not known whether Musquiz ever lived on the land given him. By 1830 Musquiz's land had changed hands several times. Additional land grants were made during the early 1830's; however, deeds were not recorded by Texas before 1835, and the earliest owners of property cannot be determined. Even after 1835 recorded deeds were scarce. The county seat of Madison County was not established until 1854, and subsequently the courthouse burned several times resulting in the destruction of valuable records.¹

With few exceptions, the early pioneers of Madison County entered the area in the east end of the county at

¹William Ray Malone, "The Beginning of Anglo-American Settlement of County," Madisonville Meteor, June 3, 1954.

the Trinity River. The river had received its name more than one hundred and fifty years before the earliest Anglo-American settlers crossed it. When Captain Ponce DeLeon and Padre Massanet marched into Texas from Mexico in 1689, they came upon a large, clear, swift-moving stream. The Padre, known for kindness and wisdom, "raised his crucifix to the skies, knelt down in prayer, and named the pretty stream Rio Trinidad." Thus, the river that borders Madison County on the east became known as "the Trinity."²

It is difficult to establish the exact date that the first white settler arrived in Madison County; however, it is generally accepted by the descendants of the early pioneers that Major W. C. (Billy) Young was the first permanent white settler. In 1829, after the death of his wife, Major Young left South Carolina and moved to Texas, settling in the vicinity of present-day Midway, Texas. He left a son and three daughters with his brother in South Carolina. With a rifle and a small bag of belongings, Young established a homesite and lived by himself in the wilderness for a number of years. Later in the struggle to liberate Texas from Mexico, he fought with distinction at San Jacinto. It is recorded that Major Young was the first to utter the words "Remember the Alamo," "Remember Goliad," which have gone down in history as famous rallying cries.

²Mrs. Sam W. Jackson, "History of County from Indian Days to Now Traced," Madisonville Meteor, August 24, 1944.

After Texas gained its independence, Young wrote his children in South Carolina and promised to return for them.³

While hunting one day, Young came upon an Indian hut where two Indian men and a tall handsome white boy were sitting. To his amazement, he saw that the white boy was his own son, William Foster Young, whom he had left in South Carolina. Young and the Indians exchanged crude sign language and Young was able to determine that the Indians had found the boy wandering lost in the wilderness and had taken him as one of their own. After much debate, Young was able to barter for the boy. Later, the son told his father that he had taken a horse from his uncle in South Carolina, joined a Texas-bound wagon train, and headed for Texas to join up with his father. After leaving the wagon train, the boy became lost in the vicinity of the Trinity River and was found by the Indians. Fearing his father's disapproval of his conduct, the boy decided to remain with the Indians and not try to escape. When the boy grew to manhood, he married Mary Hayes, daughter of Dr. James Patrick Hayes, Midway's first Irish immigrant.⁴

One of the most prominent of the first settlers was Jimmy Mitchell. The Mitchell family owned considerable land that stretched from Mitchell Prairie, located just

³Ibid.

⁴Ibid.

east of present-day Midway, to Larrison Creek. The Mitchells built their home, "the most substantial and spacious log house in the community," at the edge of the prairie on the La Bahia road. The house later served as a traveler's inn and was frequented by wayfarers from far and wide. Musical entertainment was provided by the Mitchell family and southern-style cooking became a great attraction. The Mitchells established the first post office in Madison County. It existed for a few years until Midway took over the postal duties in the east end of the county.⁵

The early settlers used hand-sawed logs to build their homes. Apertures or small port holes were cut in the walls to allow hand-held weapons to be fired from within the house. One of the first cabins of this type was built by Dr. George Washington Robinson in what is now the Elwood community. He was one of the founders of the settlement and one of the first doctors in the area. He braved the dangers of the Indians to administer care to the widely scattered settlers. As late as the 1890's, a portion of Dr. Robinson's old log house remained, and as evidence of the hostility of the Indians, arrowheads could be seen buried in the timbers of the house. Several of the descendants of Dr. Robinson still reside in the county today.⁶

⁵Ibid.

⁶Ibid.

Another early settler, Thomas B. Bozeman, for whom the Bozeman Ferry on the Trinity River was named, built his home several miles up-river from the old Bucareli site. His descendants tell of the harrowing experiences Bozeman suffered at the hands of the Indians. Bozeman constantly fought off the Indians and kept them from pillaging his property. As a result, the Indians fostered deep resentment against the Bozeman family. One day Bozeman placed the wheels of his wagon in a shallow spot on the Trinity River to swell the spokes. Bozeman, with his small son accompanying him, later went to retrieve the wagon. Upon reaching the site, the Bozemans were met with a flurry of arrows fired by the Indians from a concealed position. One of the arrows struck the Bozeman boy in a vital organ, killing him instantly. Holding the lifeless form of his son in his arms, Bozeman swore to live to see the savages driven from the land. He lived to see his promise come true.⁷

Before Madison County was created, only a few settlers resided in the area between present-day Madisonville and Midway. In addition to the Mitchells, a man named Kellet lived on Pools Creek, John Barrett on the north side of Larrison's Prairie and the Larrisons and Tarpleys in the same general area.⁸

⁷Mrs. Sam W. Jackson, Scrapbook on History of Madison County (unpublished).

⁸Ibid.

Joel M. Jenkins writes about his great-grandfather, Daniel M. Larrison, in a 1954 Madisonville Meteor. Daniel Larrison settled the Larrison Creek area where it crossed an old trail (later Highway 21) in 1829. He built a log cabin and lived there all his life, except for a brief period when hostile Indians forced him to move to Grimes County, where settlers had banded together against the Indians. Jenkins tells that his great-grandfather "once killed seven panthers one morning within three hundred yards of his home." Jenkins also relates the story of how his great-grandfather once killed a 400-pound bear. When Daniel Larrison died, his obituary read, "He was a celebrated marksman. His gun always took the meat. He was a great hunter, killed many bear, panther and deer." There was a fort built on what is now Joe Tinkle's land for protection against the Indians. Larrison is buried close to the old fort site.⁹

About 1851, Dr. L. J. Goree moved his family into an area along the Trinity River where Indians still lived in tents. He died in 1853 and it became Mrs. Goree's responsibility to raise the family. P. K. Goree, her son, later told of his mother's feelings about the Indians:

Mother's policy was to leave them alone. Lose property rather than human life. We dared not leave livestock penned [unpenned] or hen houses unlocked,

⁹Mrs. Lewis Gibbs, Scrapbook on History of Madison County (unpublished).

however, if they came up at night to pilfer, they were never driven away. Mother could use a weapon, and early taught her sons to use theirs, but it seemed wise to leave them alone to avoid retaliation from them.¹⁰

In 1834 Robert and Steven Rogers settled Rogers Prairie located in the northwestern corner of Madison County. For a number of years they were the only settlers in that area. The Indians frequently robbed them of their horses. In 1840, the Indians attacked a family named Gregg who were moving west over the Old San Antonio Road, a few miles from the Rogers' homesite. The account follows:

The Indians killed all but a Negro man and woman who escaped with two or three of the children and one young man who was shot in the back. The survivors fled toward Rogers Prairie and took refuge there. The Indians plundered the wagons and stole the horses. The dead settlers were buried in the Rogers Prairie Cemetery.¹¹

Another early family, the McIvors, witnessed similar accounts of Indian brutality. Their son, J. E. McIver, later related the gruesome incident as it affected the Rogers family:

The first grave in old Rogers Prairie Cemetery was for a Mrs. Rogers. One evening at dusk while her cows were penned for milking, Indian bucks rode up, opened the gate and drove them away. In her anxiety and excitement, the widow attempted to follow them begging them to leave them alone as it was her children's only

¹⁰Jackson, "History of County," Madisonville Meteor, August 24, 1944; and Mrs. Herman Randolph, Madisonville, Texas, August 5, 1971.

¹¹W. M. Hollis, "Early History by Hollis," Madisonville Meteor, May 4, 1951.

milk source of supply. Looking back as they galloped away, they let fly their arrows and left her body where she fell.¹²

The Indians were a constant menace to the early settlers. Roy Jackson wrote about the settler's fear of Indians that continued into the 1870's. Jackson recalled that his grandfather, Joshua Ford, purchased about 360 acres of land in the vicinity of Rock Prairie in 1853 and settled there. Rock Prairie is located about five miles northeast of North Zulch. Jackson commented:

My father told me that he could remember the men taking their guns to church on Sundays and stacking them in the corner of the church because of the fear of an Indian raid. This must have been about the year 1870.¹³

H. C. Hollis, one of the first pioneer settlers in the west end of Madison County, placed a record of some of the hardships his family endured in a Baptist chronicle. W. M. Hollis, his son, wrote about those hardships many years later. W. M. Hollis tells of coming to Madison County in 1837 with his parents. The Hollis family crossed the Trinity River at Robbins Ferry and proceeded west along the Old San Antonio Road, and eventually settled near old Rogers Prairie. Because of the Indians, the family was forced to move twelve times within a few years. An interesting account as told by Hollis follows:

¹²Jackson, "History of County," Madisonville Meteor, August 24, 1944.

¹³Roy Jackson, "As I Remember The Early Days in Madison County," Madisonville Meteor, June 3, 1954.

Our nearest neighbor were wild Indians. We were surrounded by the war whoop, howling of wolves and bellowing buffalo. We formed our settlement (some five families came over with us and we remain to this time close together). Myself, only nine years of age, stood guard with my gun while my father chopped wood. A number of our settlers, the Bartons and Mr. Taylor had been killed by the savages. That scattered the settlement. Our horses all save one had been stolen. The only neighbor remaining was a Mr. Tidwell and family, his wife and four children. Late in the afternoon of July 18, Indians rode by our house and stole the last horse we had. We did not protest as we knew we could not make a fight. Mr. Tidwell had slipped out to his garden to work when they rode up and he was cut off from the house. He was killed and scalped. They went into the house, captured the wife and four children, the youngest six weeks of age, placed the woman astride of a horse with her legs tied under the horse's belly, took the children and sped away. While this attack was being made my father hid us children in the fire place, three of us with the nine-day old baby, while he and a man who lived with us, stood guard over my mother, who was sick in bed. When my little sister began crying for fear, the man tried to put a rag into her mouth to drown the cries as the Indians galloped by without stopping. They had taken our only horse and father said that was what they wanted most. The next day we buried Mr. Tidwell's body. In a few days, the white settlers further up the Brazos rescued Mrs. Tidwell and three of the children. The baby was killed the second day after the capture, Mrs. Tidwell said.¹⁴

W. M. Hollis, in a later article, told of how his father raised his first corn crop:

There my father built a cabin and in the spring of '41 planted some corn, and in the spring burned it off, made holes in the ground with a hand spike, dropped the corn and covered it with his foot for we had no plows nor horse: he kept the mutton cane knocked down with a stick, which was the cultivation it got. After the bears and coons got their share, for that was not a little, we had enough left for bread the next year.¹⁵

¹⁴Mrs. Sam W. Jackson, History of Madison County, Writers Project District Number 5 (unpublished).

¹⁵W. M. Hollis, "Early Local History by Hollis," Madisonville Meteor, April 13, 1951.

Another prominent settler was Julius Zulch. He was born in Hassel Castle, Germany, in 1831 and subsequently ran away from home and came to the New World to settle in the west end of Madison County. He settled in an area which was later called Old Zulch. The story of the establishment of North Zulch is recorded in a following chapter.¹⁶ Willowhole, located about two miles south of North Zulch, was first settled by the Robert Mosleys in the late 1830's. Two underground cisterns, encircled by rock walls, still remain where Mosley dug them. The Indians of the area were apparently friendly to the Mosleys and they lived in relatively peaceful surroundings. The first post office in the west end of Madison County was established at Willowhole. The mail was taken by horseback to Bryan for a number of years until the post office was relocated at North Zulch.¹⁷

Along Bedias Creek, in a location later to be named Bethel, several families of Austin's original colony huddled together for protection against the Indians. The exact date that the community was settled is not known. There the settlers began a church and buried their dead in the now-famous old Bethel Cemetery. Families of Antonio Rivers, A. B. Dodson, Ignatious Simes, Chester Corbett and Zoraster

¹⁶"North Zulch Named for Julius Zulch," Madisonville Meteor, June 3, 1954.

¹⁷Mrs. W. T. Taylor, "History of North Zulch and Surrounding Area," North Zulch Challenger, January 3, 1959.

Robinson, along with Edward Ariola, W. Kennard and Roderick Monair, were there. Andrew McWhorters, W. B. Byers, Daniel S. Files, T. P. Plaster and Alexander McBride lived out a few miles. The site of old Bethol is located just across Bedias Creek in present-day Grimes County; however, in the early days, the settlers lived on land that extended into Madison County.¹⁸

Other early settlers in the west end of the county were Wooley, Batson, McMillian, Cobb and Greer. Tom Greer, of the Greer community, which borders the Madison County-Leon County line, was one of the last settlers to be killed by Indians in Madison County. In the late 1850's Greer, together with a group of Madison County citizens, attempted to track down an Indian raiding party that had been stealing cattle from him. Greer was mortally wounded by an Indian arrow.¹⁹

The first large landowners along the Trinity River bottom were W. M. Forrest, Harvey Randolph, Major W. C. Young, W. M. Harbuck, Elisha Clapp, and Dr. Patrick Hayes. Other early settlers of the east end of the county were the Mersfelders, Partens, Petitts, Rileys, Burtis', Hennessys, Iveys, Melvins, Fords, Westmorelands, Lamberts, Allens,

¹⁸Mrs. W. T. Taylor, Sr., "Early History of Madison County," North Zulch Challenger, January 10, 1959.

¹⁹Jackson, "History of Madison County," Writer's Project (unpublished).

Brooks', Wingards, Bonhams, Holcombs and Thompsons. In addition, the Wallaces, Sloans, Campbells, Rhodes', Gilberts, Sowell, McCorquodales, Rogers', Burroughs', Fraileys, Wisemans, Hydes, Bettis', Marshs, Gillespies and McGarys were also early settlers of Madison County. Mounds in the Midway Cemetery mark the final resting place for many of these pioneers.²⁰

Judge W. D. Wood, an early resident of the Leon County-Madison County area, wrote an article in the Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association, of April, 1903, in which he listed the most prominent pioneers who were instrumental in organizing the County of Madison. He listed the names of Job Collard, George Floyd, Nathaniel Robbins, John and Doctor McKeever, the Mannings, the Batsons, the Gorees, the Youngs, the McGarys, Pat Hays and Dr. P. W. Kittrell. Judge Wood remarked that "they were all enterprising citizens, and took an active part in the organization of the new county." These people requested that the area in which they lived be made a county because of the great distance to the county seats of Walker and Grimes Counties. This great inconvenience was overcome by the state legislature which answered their petition, by creating Madison County. Dr. P. W. Kittrell is acknowledged

²⁰ Jackson, "History of County," Madisonville Meteor, August 24, 1944.

as the "Father of Madison County," and became the county's first state representative.²¹

General Sam Houston was always closely attached to the P. W. Kittrell family and the Mrs. L. J. Goree family who lived in Midway. When General Houston married Margaret Lea, Mrs. Goree was matron of honor. Later, Mrs. Houston wrote to Mrs. Goree concerning a trip to Independence to attend the commencement exercises where Thomas J. Goree and her son were graduating from Baylor College. The letter is in the possession of one of Mrs. Goree's descendants, Mrs. Mary Nolley Jackson Brewster, of Temple, Texas. It reads:

My dear sister Goree,

On yesterday I received your note by the servant, and last night yours by the mail. I am busily preparing for Independence, but as we have sold our jersey, I do not know yet, how we are to go. Hope to get a conveyance in the neighborhood, and if I can do so, I will let Sam go up on horse-back as you mentioned. If I can't get a vehicle, I expect to go in stage. I shall be much disappointed if we can not go up together, and I will do everything in my power to arrange it. So in the meantime, I will go on with my preparations and write to you again this week, and let you know the result of my effort.

Capt. Rogers, one of the orators on the 20th and a relative of mine will expect you to stop with me at his house in Washington. Indeed I have so many agreeable plans for the journey that I can not give them up without an effort. I think too that we ought to leave here someday before the examinations. I would name the 19th or 20th. Of course as I intend to write again this week, I will then be more explicit. I hope you will not decide coming by Huntsville, until you find

²¹W. D. Wood, "Origin of Names of Madison County and Madisonville," Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association, VI-4 (April, 1903), 334-35.

that I have failed in getting a conveyance.

I regret to hear of your mother's feeble health.
Love to her and Mrs. Kittrell.

Thine ever,
M. M. Houston²²

Hidden away in the files of the descendants of early Madison County pioneers are many items of historical interest. Several old land deeds and bills of sale have recently come to light. In 1954, Mrs. George Crank of Midway, Texas, had in her possession several valuable old landgrants. The grants were written on parchment with black ink. They conveyed landgrants to her grandfather, George W. Robinson, for his actions during the war of Texas independence. The oldest was signed by Sam Houston and issued by the Republic of Texas on December 1, 1844. The second grant was signed by Anson Jones, the last president of the Republic of Texas and dated August 11, 1845. The third grant was recorded on December 8, 1847, and signed by J. Pinckney Henderson, Governor of the State of Texas. The land was marked by trees, designated by size and affixed with seals.²³

The W. T. Barrett family has in its possession a bill of sale for a Negro girl dated January 8, 1855. The

²²Personal Interview, Mrs. Mary Nolley Jackson Brewster, Temple, Texas. March 8, 1971. Mrs. Brewster has the original letter.

²³"Land Grants More than 100 years old Prized Possessions of Mrs. George Crank," Madisonville Meteor, June 3, 1954.

bill stipulates that John A. Currie sold to William Shannon "a Negro girl named Mary about twenty-one years old and a slave for life." It also contains the following information:

Also said Negro's two children, slaves for life . . . , in consideration of said three slaves said Shannon has this day paid me fourteen hundred dollars . . . , and I warrant them to be at this date of sound body and mind.²⁴

In 1851, two years before Madison County was created, one hundred and fifty acres of land sold for \$90.91. In a hand-written deed, filed for record on March 27, 1851, in Walker County, the land was sold by Isaac McGary to John A. Ray. The land was "a part of the Fulcher league of land granted to Francis Fulcher." Mr. W. L. Goree, who has the deed in his possession, remarked that the buyer, Isaac McGary, was the father of Austin McGary, who was sheriff of Madison County around 1880. Austin McGary was the law officer who eliminated an outlaw gang that had caused considerable trouble throughout Madison County. Later, McGary became a Church of Christ preacher. P. K. Goree, Jr., presently owns the land.²⁵

The hardships experienced by early settlers of Madison County were typical of frontier life. One of the

²⁴Personal Interview, Buddy Barrett, son of W. T. Barrett, Madisonville, Texas. May 5, 1971.

²⁵Jackson, "Old Deed Records Land for 60 $\frac{1}{2}$ acre in Madison County," Scrapbook (unpublished).

most perplexing problems encountered was trying to find a doctor to care for the sick. Doctors were a rare breed in the wilderness, and it was often days or even weeks before one could be located. As a result the settlers fashioned their own home-remedies to administer to the sick. It is interesting to note some of the old time remedies used by the pioneers of Madison County. J. Frank Dobie, in his book Coyote Wisdom, includes a list of remedies that were written by Gabe Lewis:

My grandmother recalls the following home remedies, current in Madison County fifty years ago.

For stomach-ache. Chew liveoak leaves.

For night-sweats. Place a pan of water under the bed.

For crick in the neck. Rub your neck against a post that hogs have rubbed against.

For infant colic. (1) Give nicotine from pipe stem in breast milk. (2) Give poke root tea in whisky. (3) Split an onion, put sugar in it, and roast; give the juice.

For sore throat. Wrap around the neck a stocking or sock that has been worn and is still damp with perspiration. Leave on all night.

To prevent lock-jaw. Place brown sugar on a shovel of coals; smoke the wound well with this; and then apply a poultice of turpentine and brown sugar.

To settle stomach. Give broth made from the lining of a chicken gizzard.

For caked breast. Apply hot molasses and cover with a flannel rag.

To remove splinters. Poultice with fat bacon or flaxseed meal.

To prevent rheumatism. Carry a buckeye in your pocket.

To prevent asthma. Wear amber beads.

For croup. Give ten drops of coal oil on a tea-spoon of sugar.

For colds. (1) Give equal parts of hot vinegar and water, to which has been added sugar and butter to taste. (2) Place on the chest a flannel rag soaked in equal parts of coal oil and turpentine.

To make a spring tonic. Boil the roots of queen's

delight in water, mix this tea with whisky and take three big doses a day.²⁶

After Texas became a state, a large wave of settlers began migrating into East Texas. By 1853 Madison County had been officially created by the Texas Legislature. In 1854 the county seat was established at Madisonville.

²⁶J. Frank Dobie (ed.), "Old Time Remedies From Madison County," Coyote Wisdom, Gabe Lewis (Austin, Texas: Texas Folk-Lore Society Publication, 1938), 267-68.

CHAPTER V

MADISONVILLE

Madisonville, the county seat, is the largest town in Madison County. It was founded when the county began its organizational attempts in 1853 and 1854. The town site, approximately two hundred acres, was donated by Job Starks Collard, a member of the Austin colony. The exact date that Collard settled the area is not known; however, the Mexican Government granted him the land on May 28, 1835, eight years before Madison County was officially created. Madisonville was chosen as the county seat primarily because it was located in the center of the county.¹

The 1858 Texas Almanac reports that Madisonville had several small wooden buildings in 1856, a pretty good water supply--although strong with minerals--and a limited mail service. Houston and Galveston were the main markets and transportation was mainly by wagons pulled by oxen. Little had been accomplished at that time in establishing schools and churches.²

¹Malone, "Early History of Madisonville," Madisonville Meteor, June 3, 1954.

²Texas Almanac, 1858, 76.

In 1913, W. H. Kittrell, son of Dr. P. W. Kittrell, wrote of his experiences in Madisonville in 1857. Kittrell lived with his parents approximately three miles east of Madisonville on what later became the John McIver place. He remembered Madisonville in 1857 as being a very small village. Kittrell spent his first school days in a school building on the west side of the town. His classes were taught by a Professor McAshan. He recalled that he saw his first silver dollar at the school and he was astonished because money was scarce. Business in the early days was conducted by bartering. Kittrell remembered that Green and Fox were the big merchants in Madisonville. Isaac Green owned a general store before the Civil War and after the war he operated a hotel on the north side of the town. The land surrounding Madisonville was all open prairie and Kittrell remembered that only a few trees dotted the countryside. He recalled that a hard freeze occurred in April, 1857, that severely affected the town. Madison County, known for its hot, dry weather, did not expect what happened. Kittrell remarked:

The Spring was early and all vegetation and crops were well advanced. The foliage on the trees was full grown in this month. Corn was waist high and cotton chopped out, when on this date, April 11, 1857, a norther blew up, or down, rather, and the ground was covered with three inches of snow. A hard freeze that night killed everything; all crops had to be planted over and the year's yield was very light.³

³Gibbs, Scrapbook (unpublished).

The businessmen of the community were forced to travel great distances to replenish supplies that normally would have been produced around Madisonville. Meat was extremely scarce that year. About four-fifths of the deer in the county died from what Kittrell called "black tongue," which probably resulted from the deer eating the frost-bitten foliage.⁴

In 1936, Mrs. Lizzie Leonard interviewed two of the senior citizens of Madisonville, John R. McIver (age 87) and John James (age 84), to obtain information on the early history of Madisonville. The two men related to Mrs. Leonard how they remembered Madisonville in 1857. They recalled that each of the four sides of the townsquare had at least one building. There was one two-story building on the north side that was owned by a Jew, Isaac Green. On the east side of the square, there was the Monk and Tyler Mercantile Co., which was located on the site where the old Parten building now stands. In the middle of that block, the "Little Green Door Saloon" was in full operation. The old Rutherford Hotel was located just off the south side of the square. On the south side there were two buildings, one a drug store owned by Dr. Collins and the other a store owned by Sam Alphin and managed for Wilson and Yarbrough of Navasota. The jailhouse stood on the southwest corner of

⁴Ibid.

the square and was built of logs, two stories high. There was no door for the first floor. The prisoners were taken upstairs to the second floor by a ladder leaning against the building, and then let down to the first floor through a scuttle hole. On the west side of town, Job S. Collard operated a general store. It was located on the site of the old First National Bank building. In the middle of that block, another building stood which was later used for the first elections after the Civil War. Mrs. Leonard wrote about the election as it was told to her:

Ropes and chains formed an isle from the shack to the grove of trees in the square. Armed Negroes guarded the entrance. It took four days to hold the election. It was the only voting place in the county and polled about 250 votes. The election was held by a Negro sent down from New York by the Republicans. The town was under Marshal [sic] Law with a standing army of Negroes.⁵

In 1954, Joel M. Jenkins wrote about his great-grandfather, Daniel M. Larrison, in the Madisonville Meteor. Jenkins said that he was told by his great-grandfather that the courthouse in 1857 was located on the present site of Ormand's Dry Goods Store on the east side of the square. There were only a few small stores, a jail and two saloons.⁶ The information concerning the site of the courthouse may have been correct; however, most of the other sources place

⁵Mrs. Lizzie Leonard, "As I Remember the Early Days in Madison County," Madisonville Meteor, April 16, 1954.

⁶Madisonville Meteor, April 23, 1954.

the courthouse site in the center of the townsquare.

It has been previously noted that Madisonville was a "wild and wooly burg" in the 1850's, and Norman G. Kittrell remarked that he even feared the town's sheriff. He recalled that as a child accompanying his father through Madisonville, prior to the Civil War, he shied away from the sheriff. "I think he had two pistols, and he needed them in that county at that time. I was afraid of him as if he had been a bear, and I clung tenaciously to my father's side."⁷

As Madisonville grew in the late 1850's, politics took on an added interest. The earliest political rally of significance was held in Madisonville in 1859. A brush arbor was erected one block south of the townsquare and General Sam Houston spoke to a gathering of people about his candidacy for Governor. Approximately 250 people, drawn from a ten-mile radius around Madisonville, "came on foot, on horseback and in wagons" to get a glimpse of their idol. General Houston was highly applauded and, later, the people of Madison County voted heavily for his election.⁸

The trouble between the North and South erupted into a Civil War, and for a brief time, the people of Madisonville thought Texas might not become involved. Although the

⁷Norman G. Kittrell, Governors Who Have Been and Other Public Men of Texas (Houston, Texas: Dealy-Adey-Elgin Co., 1921), 184-85.

⁸Jackson, Scrapbook (unpublished).

war did not physically come to Madison County, many of its citizens marched off to fight for their cause, whatever it may have been. Not much was written about Madisonville during that period, but it was recorded later that the post-war reconstruction period caused severe hardships to the citizens of Madison County. Most of the people of Madison County sympathized with the Confederacy and the reconstruction attempts were considered to be Northern punishment for losing the war.⁹

Late in 1870, a gang of desperadoes moved into Madisonville to eliminate a State Police Captain named Patrick, who lived in the town. Patrick was accused of using undue authority over criminal and civil matters pertaining to the residents of Madisonville. It was believed that the state police used excessive force without thoroughly investigating a situation and Patrick had been branded the culprit. Instead of finding Patrick, the gang found a man named Tinsley, who they thought was a member of Governor Davis' state police. It was initially reported that Tinsley was tied to a tree and shot, and that two other state policemen were also killed. Captain Patrick's wife, hearing of the report and fearing for her husband's life, dashed off a letter to him about the desperadoes. Patrick was apparently in Austin at the time of the incident. Mrs.

⁹Ibid.

Patrick wrote that the desperadoes "have sworn that they intended to kill every G__d___d Radical in Madison County and then go down and clean out Grimes County."¹⁰

Governor Davis, after hearing the erroneous reports, sent fifty state policemen and 300 state guardsmen to Madisonville, along with Adjutant General James Davidson. When Davidson arrived in Madisonville, he found that the reports had been exaggerated. Actually the desperadoes were only seven men: S. Baston, Elisha Baston, John Jamison, Jack Rogers, Seeley Singleton, Tider McIvor and Mat Burney. The men were seen chasing Tinsley on November 4, 1870, across the prairie on horseback and it was never determined if Tinsley was caught. The gang returned to Madisonville the following morning and found John Copeland and four other freedmen milling around in front of Captain Patrick's home. The gang opened fire on the freedmen, but were soon stopped by Mrs. Patrick's pleas. The freedmen had taken refuge in the Patrick home when the firing started. Moments later, John Copeland tried to escape from the house and was killed instantly by a hail of bullets. The other four freedmen escaped. Once the actual story came out, the police were recalled by Governor Davis and the town became relatively peaceful once again.¹¹ Things began to return

¹⁰W. C. Nunn, Texas Under the Carpetbaggers (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1962), 53-4.

¹¹Ibid., 54.

to normal and Joe Westmoreland felt the future of the town secure enough to build the first brick home in Madisonville. The year was 1870.¹²

The growth of the early business community in Madisonville is difficult to document; however, it is known that in the 1880's Major William W. Viser and Dr. Reuben Westmoreland had a drug dispensary located on the east side of the townsquare; also, Joseph Westmoreland owned a general merchandise store on the south side of town. At that same time, Abraham Lewis opened a blacksmith shop just off the west end of town. Several saloons were in full swing during that period. The old Blue Front saloon was located on the west side of the townsquare where Hicks Barber Shop now stands. The Brizzolara saloon was established on the south side of the townsquare where Montgomery's TV shop is presently located. These saloons were not the only ones in the history of the town, as has been previously noted; however, they were two of the oldest and most disreputable which contributed to the bad reputation of early Madisonville.¹³

In 1901, when the Madisonville School Board voted in prohibition, E. B. Evans opened the Rough Edge saloon two miles east of Madisonville along Highway 21, just outside the school's jurisdiction. Farther out the highway to the

¹²Jackson, Scrapbook (unpublished).

¹³Malone, "History of Courthouse," Madisonville Meteor, June 3, 1954.

east, Bill Camel operated the Last Chance Saloon.. By 1903, prohibition came to the entire county and all local saloons were forced to close. In 1903, when the first train came to Madisonville, one of the main items shipped from Navasota was liquor.¹⁴

The south side of the townsquare of Madisonville in 1882 was the most prosperous, but a fire that year destroyed the entire block and set the town back for a number of years.¹⁵ At that time, Madisonville was described as having about 400 people, a brick courthouse, two church buildings and "one block of four two-story brick stores."¹⁶

To Job S. Collard goes the distinction of owning and operating the town's first business--a combination general store and hotel. The business was located at his home, north of the town site, where the old Madisonville High School building now stands.¹⁷ A crude cotton gin, begun in 1868, was the county's first industrial establishment. It was located seven miles northeast of Madisonville on Larrison Creek. The gin was powered by a horse-driven treadmill, and was a great help to the people who had previously been forced to ship their cotton to Walker or

¹⁴Ibid.

¹⁵Ibid.

¹⁶Eugene C. Barker, (ed.), A History of Texas and Texans, vol. II (Chicago and New York: The American Historical Society, 1914), 737.

¹⁷Malone, "History of Madisonville," Madisonville Meteor, June 3, 1954.

Grimes County for processing. Prior to the Civil War, "southern style" cotton plantations did not exist in Madison County, but after the war cotton growers began to compete with the large cattle industry.¹⁸

Several Madisonville businesses were established in the late 1800's and continued in operation for a considerable length of time. John R. Burtis Drugs is the oldest continuous business in Madisonville. Burtis was born in Tennessee and moved to Madisonville in 1872, when he began work in a grocery store. In 1886, he bought the drug store from Judge Roscoe Wiley. The store has operated as a drug dispensary from 1886 to the present. Sam Houston once stopped in the Green Hotel, which was located on the second floor of the building. That occurred about twenty-five years before Burtis bought the store. The first telephone switchboard was established in the store and news of the Spanish-American War was telephoned from Navasota and posted on a bulletin board outside the store. Burtis used a drug mill resembling a coffee grinder to reduce drugs to powder form. The mill was later given to the San Jacinto Museum. J. W. Burtis, the son of John R. Burtis, currently owns and operates the drug store. In 1944, Burtis claimed that over

¹⁸Ibid.

one million prescriptions had been filled during the store's existence.¹⁹

Another old business was the T. M. Kellett barber shop that began its operations in 1890 and continued until Kellett's death in 1958. The first building that Kellett owned was located on the east side of the square. When it burned, he moved the shop to the west side, where it remained for some time before it burned once again. Kellett then built a brick building which stands today. He was twenty years old when he opened his shop and almost ninety when he died. W. P. Hicks, a long time associate of Kellett's, bought the shop from Kellett's heirs in 1958 and has continued the barbershop operation.²⁰

The J. L. Cleere Grocery is another of the long lasting businesses in Madisonville. In 1894, Cleere bought what was then a livery stable, located on the southeast corner of the townsquare. Later, he went into the grocery business on the same site. Cleere provided the people of Madison County with excellent produce and service for about fifty years. In 1948, his son, J. R. Cleere, took over the grocery store and continued its successful operation until

¹⁹"John R. Burtis, Founder of Drug Store Has Had Colorful Career in Madisonville," Madisonville Meteor, August 24, 1944.

²⁰T. M. Kellett Has Oldest Business in Madisonville," Madisonville Meteor, August 24, 1944; and Personal Interview, W. P. Hicks, Madisonville, Texas, July 21, 1971.

his retirement in 1969, when the grocery store was sold. It is presently Bill's Dollar Store.²¹

The Day Furniture Company began its operations in Madisonville in 1903. It was initially located on the north side of the square, but has been in its present location on the east side nearly sixty-seven years. Jim Day, one of the most widely-known men in East Texas, had the reputation of being a good man and a philanthropist. When he died in 1935, his son, J. M. Day, assumed the management of the store. Besides the furniture business, the firm maintained a funeral home. In 1938, Day formed the Day Burial Association, and both businesses continue under the same management today.²²

Although there were several early-day banks in Madison County, only two became permanent establishments and both are located in Madisonville. The First National Bank of Madisonville was organized in May, 1902, the original articles of association being signed by H. F. Moore, Dan McLean, E. B. Seay, Dave H. Shapiro and J. R. McIver. The first board of directors was composed of these men along with A. H. Wootters, T. W. Oliphant and M. T. Randolph. E. B. Seay became the first president of the bank

²¹Personal Interview, J. R. Cleere, Madisonville, Texas, July 14, 1971.

²²"Day Furniture in Madisonville Since Turn of Century," Madisonville Meteor, August 24, 1944.

and Dave H. Shapiro the first cashier. Later, Shapiro followed Seay as president. Through the years J. N. Heath, Henry A. Turner and Datus Sharp, Sr., were presidents. Datus Sharp, Jr., is currently the president of the First National Bank. The bank has shown steady growth since its organization and its present assets are about eleven million dollars.²³

The Farmers State Bank of Madisonville was organized on March 25, 1907, with W. A. Berry, J. M. Brownlee, Jr., E. E. Day, William Harbuck, J. J. Jopling, E. M. Thomason and A. Viser as its first directors. E. M. Thomason became the first president and J. J. Jopling the first cashier. Presidents through the years have been E. M. Thomason, J. L. Cleere, Dan Connel, E. Whitmire, J. W. Viser, J. E. Viser, T. B. Viser, R. M. Henderson and Tom Thorn, who is currently the president. The bank had \$198,086 on deposit in 1907 and presently has assets in excess of ten million dollars.²⁴

Madisonville was slow to establish a school system. It is certain that some schooling was available in the 1850's, as W. H. Kittrell has already stated; however,

²³Personal Interview, Datus Sharp, Jr., President, First National Bank of Madisonville. July 21, 1971.

²⁴"Farmer State Bank Was Established in Madisonville, 1907," Madisonville Meteor, August 24, 1944, and Personal Interview, Joe Drew, Farmer State Bank of Madisonville. July 21, 1971.

records are not available to determine the locations of schools and early teachers. Midway was probably the first town in Madison County to organize a school. Reverend Joseph A. Clark was its first teacher and the school was conducted in his home. During the Civil War, Miss Clara Steele (later Mrs. B. S. Malone) taught "the alphabet, reading, spelling and simple arithmetic" in the community of Elwood. The small community of Jenkins had a Mr. Williamson, who taught in one of the first "state supported field schools" organized there in 1877. The students ranged in age from five to twelve and studied from the Blue-Back Speller. Williamson was paid thirty-five dollars a month for teaching three months out of the year.²⁵

The first schools on record in Madisonville were operated by George Hubbard and William W. Viser in 1870. Each of the men had his own private school. It is not known where Hubbard's school was located in the town but Viser's small school building stood where the First Methodist Church building presently stands. Subsequently, a Reverend Wilmer, who had been professor of mathematics at the University of Florida, consolidated the two schools. After his death in 1879, Misses Julia and Susan Smithers and Lilliam Otie of Huntsville formed a new school on the site where the garment factory is now located. Some of the first teachers who

²⁵Malone, "History of County's First Schools Traced," Madisonville Meteor, June 3, 1954.

taught in Madisonville were Mrs. Eberhardt, Mrs. Florence, Mrs. Standard, Mrs. Walker and the Allen brothers, John and Rivers. In 1890, Miss Loula Malone began teaching in Madisonville. She and her sister, Miss Amanda Malone, were instrumental in organizing the Parent-Teacher Association in Madisonville in 1911.²⁶

Madisonville got one of the finest schools in East Texas in the late 1880's when the Allen brothers formed their Madison Academy. John Hodges Allen had been born in 1859 in Mississippi and reared under a strong religious influence. After studying at the Verome Male Academy in Mississippi, he moved to Texas, where he intended to organize his own boys' academy. He conducted his first school at Bedias, Texas, in 1887. The following summer he taught school at Sand Prairie in Madison County and it was there that a group of interested citizens of Madisonville found him and asked him to teach in Madisonville.

Several Madisonville businessmen--Mr. Florence, Dr. Westmoreland and Dr. John Morris--built a two-story school house and rented it to Allen. The remains of the old Madisonville school building were added to the back of the new schoolhouse and the students referred to it as "the kitchen." John Allen, with his brother Rivers, promoted an excellent school. It was named the Madison Academy and

²⁶Ibid.

students came from great distances to attend. For four years, Allen tried to persuade businessmen of Madisonville to back him in an effort to establish a private school for boys. In 1899, after exhausting all of his resources, he was compelled to move to Bryan, Texas, where he was provided with financial assistance. He organized the boys school that became known as Allen Academy, and within a few years, it was one of the finest preparatory schools in the state.²⁷ The Madisonville school lost its two fine educators and it was not until 1919 that it was able to recover. In that year, John Conn became Madison County's first County Superintendent. Through his efforts the school system began a steady growth.²⁸

The social institutions of the home, the school and the church were uppermost in the minds of the early settlers, with the church being the most important. The first organized church effort in Madisonville was probably made by the Methodists. One source says that "the Madisonville Methodists were active as early as 1847." Circuit riders moved throughout the state preaching the gospel. Reverend Robert Crawford was one of the earliest of those circuit riders. The first Methodist Church building was a one-room structure

²⁷Lockie Parten Thompson, An Early Administrator: John Hodges Allen, unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Texas, 1948, 21-9.

²⁸Malone, "History of Schools," Madisonville Meteor, June 3, 1954.

that was probably built in the 1870's. It was on the site where Roy Fannin's home is presently located. In 1904, the building was sold to the Missionary Baptists, who had split with the Madisonville Baptist Church, and a new church was constructed on the corner of Main and McIver. Before 1900, the Madisonville Methodist Church served as the head of a circuit which included Midway, Elwood and Oxford. In 1897, the parsonage burned and was rebuilt on the same site. The church that was built in 1904 served the community for forty-seven years, until it was replaced by a beautiful red brick church and educational center in 1951.²⁹

Among the early-day pastors were T. B. Graves, 1881; J. B. Adair, 1884-1886; J. A. Savage, 1890; and Jim Adams, 1894. Other early-day pastors were D. W. Gardner, W. W. Horner, G. S. Sandel and Reverend Powledge. Early members of the First Methodist Church were Mr. and Mrs. Mark Robinson, Major and Mrs. W. W. Viser, Dr. and Mrs. John Morris, Sr., and Mr. and Mrs. M. Y. Randolph. Mrs. Thomas H. Ward joined the Methodist Church in 1881, T. W. Byers in 1883, Mrs. Ida Viser in 1884 and Mrs. Minnie Ford in 1886. In 1890, Mrs. Erin Burtis, Dr. J. E. Morris, Mrs. Betty Crutchfield and Mrs. Jim Brownlee became active members.³⁰

²⁹"First Methodist Church on Circuit 100 Years Ago," Madisonville Meteor, June 3, 1954.

³⁰Ibid.

The exact date of the first Baptist organization is not known; however, on April 17, 1856, J. W. D. Creath presented a land deed to Thomas Flood, Charles Claubaugh, C. F. Claubaugh and Thomas J. Goree, who were Trustees for the Baptist Church of Madisonville. Reverend George Green and Dr. J. V. Wright were the first organizers of the Church. Mrs. J. R. Steele was one of the first members baptized by Dr. Wright. Apparently no church building was constructed for a number of years. One source says that during the Civil War, the Baptist Church failed to function regularly.³¹

The first written record of the Baptist Church was found in an old book owned by Mrs. W. D. Morgan. The book records that in 1877 or 1878, a Mr. T. P. Williams settled about four miles west of Madisonville. Williams invited Brother G. H. M. Wilson of the Mount Zion Church of Walker County to hold a religious meeting in Williams community. As a result of that meeting, the Liberty Baptist Church was organized. The first meetings were conducted in a brush arbor. Later in 1878, A. T. Farrar became the pastor and served the community for several years. In 1879, Reverend John Wilmer, a school teacher at Madisonville, was instrumental in moving the church to Madisonville. On January 4, 1880, the church was renamed the Madisonville Baptist

³¹Personal Interview, Reverend T. R. Wagstaff, Pastor, First Baptist Church of Madisonville, July 19, 1971.

Church. Initially, a large group of people joined the church and for a brief period the organization grew, but between the years 1861 to 1888, interest in the church waned.³²

In 1888, during a revival meeting, the church members asked for a permanent minister. A preacher named Barclay accepted the invitation and from that time on, except for a few months, the church has had a regular minister. Mrs. Francis Matterson took it upon herself to work for the construction of a church building. Her efforts resulted in the start of construction in the late 1880's, but the problems were just beginning. The lumber bought for the building lay on the ground until it almost rotted, the blocks for the foundation were too short, and the church seats were made of three-inch slats that were too hard to sit on. Finally, Jim Hensarling and John Womble went to Galveston and bought appropriate benches for the new building.³³

In 1902, the Baptist Church split over the distribution of Missionary funds and one group broke away to form the Missionary Baptist Church. Finally, in 1913 or 1914, the two churches were reunited under the pastorate of a man known only as Brother Page. The membership of the combined churches at that time was 213 members. The First Baptist

³²Ibid.

³³Ibid.

Church of Madisonville continues today in the brick church building that was built in 1931. It is located just south of the townsquare.³⁴

As early as 1854, Midway had established a Christian Church. Although there may have been a Church of Christ organization in Madisonville at that time, the records show that it was not until 1883 that the Church of Christ was formed. In 1884, the first meeting house was built on a site southwest of the townsquare. J. B. Lee and Jim Gillespie were the Church's first elders. John R. Burtis, E. E. Day, and S. D. Nichols also served as early elders of the church. In 1883, Harry Hamilton, an early evangelist, was instrumental in organizing the first congregation. The first church building served the congregation sixteen years until 1903. At that time, a new building and preacher's home were built at the place where the Humble Service Station now stands at the intersection of Highways 75 and 21. In 1930, the old church building was no longer adequate to meet the growing attendance and a new building was constructed. A brick building was erected for its members. It is the same building that remains today.³⁵ Some of the evangelists of the Church of Christ who assisted the growth

³⁴Ibid.

³⁵Mack Stirman, "Madisonville Church of Christ Has Had Interesting History Since 1883," Madisonville Meteor, August 24, 1944.

and development of the local congregation were Harry Hamilton, A. J. McCarty, T. W. Phillips, O. E. Phillips, W. D. Bills and Cled Wallace.³⁶

In many towns in Texas, the newspaper is one of the oldest continuous businesses; the first Madisonville newspaper, however, was founded two years after the oldest business. It was printed in 1888 by J. B. Hall, a Baptist minister. He called the paper The Texas Watchman and, unfortunately, it was short-lived.³⁷ One of the earliest copies of the paper dated April 21, 1888, carried a headline in bold type that read, "SENTENCED TO BE HANGED. W. H. ROC, THE WIFE POISONER, DOOMED." The article that followed reported that Judge Norman G. Kittrell passed the death sentence and set the execution for May 26, 1888.³⁸

In 1894, Thomas J. Stevens established a newspaper called The Messenger. William F. Bookman assisted Stevens in publishing the paper. Stevens once wrote, "While I furnished the money . . . \$500 . . . to start my Madisonville sheet, I know that my deceased bosom friend, Wm. F. Bookman, did more to keep it alive than ever I did." Stevens sold the paper to a school teacher, W. W. Sharp, and the name was changed to the Madisonville Meteor. In 1936, James T. Denton, while working as a printer for the

³⁶Ibid.

³⁷"Meteor Established in 1884," Madisonville Meteor, June 3, 1954.

paper, claimed the credit for naming the newspaper. Back before the turn of the century, Denton had worked briefly as a printer for Sharp and supposedly he changed the name of the newspaper to the Madisonville Meteor.³⁹

Some of the editors of the newspaper were Gus A. Newman, J. A. Palmer, W. F. Bookman, W. L. Turner, Reverend T. B. Anderson and J. A. Knight. Knight in 1920 was the first to set type with a linotype machine. In 1938, H. B. Fox bought the newspaper from Knight and in 1939 the Madisonville Meteor "was acclaimed the best all-round weekly newspaper in the nation" by the Crowell Collier Publishing Co., of New York. D. H. Reeves purchased the newspaper in 1945 and sold it to the present publisher, W. B. Crossley, on March 15, 1948.⁴⁰ The Crossleys have continued the business as a family operation and have won numerous awards for their excellent paper.

Madisonville was incorporated in 1912 and since that time has shown steady growth as a community. Many small communities were settled in Madison County, but only three--Madisonville, Midway and North Zulch--continued to grow. By the late 1800's, schools and churches were established throughout the county. The railroad came to Madison

³⁹"Meteor Established in 1884," Madisonville Meteor, June 3, 1954.

⁴⁰Ibid.; and Interview with H. B. Fox, Circleville, Texas, August 5, 1971.

County after the turn of the twentieth century, and shortly thereafter automobiles, telephones, electricity and natural gas followed.

CHAPTER VI

OTHER MADISON COUNTY SETTLEMENTS AND IMPORTANT EVENTS

Madison County is dotted with communities that were once early settlements. Although each has a history dating back to the early years of the county, no attempt will be made to record the history of all of the settlements. The communities of Midway, North Zulch, Elwood, and Willowhole will be briefly considered. The following is a list of early communities of Madison County:

Albert Lee	Falva	Laceola
Antioch	Fellowship	Madisonville
Buckaults	Farris	Mecca
Bullard	George	Midway
Bundic	Greenbrier	Mitchell Prairie
Canary	Greer	Mt. Tabor
Center	Hennesy	North Zulch
Chapel Hill	High Prairie	Oak Grove
Cobbs Creek	Hollis	Oxford
Concord	Island	Pee Dee
Connor	Jenkins	Plainview
Cottonwood	Jozye	Pleasant Grove
Dingerville	Keefer	Randolph
Elwood	Kickapoo	Rock Prairie

Rogers Prairie	Shiloh	Union
Sand Prairie	Sweet Home	Williamson
Shady Grove	Ten Mile	Willowhole ¹

Midway is the oldest settlement in Madison County, although it was not known by that name until 1855. It is located in the eastern end of the county, approximately three miles from the Trinity River. Major William C. (Billy) Young was the first white settler in the Midway area. Major Young, a South Carolinian, moved to the site of present-day Midway in 1829. Many years later, in 1935, Young's granddaughters, Mrs. A. Y. Rogers, Mrs. M. Y. Riley, Margaret Young and his grandson, J. H. Young, related the experiences of their grandfather to Mrs. Sam W. Jackson. They told of Major Young's arrival in the area where he found Indians encamped along the lakes of the Trinity River. The raids against cattle and horses of the early settlers and the consequent deaths of many of the early pioneers were vividly described. As settlers moved into the locale, the Indians were slowly driven from the territory. By 1855, Midway had become a thriving little community. It had a school, a general merchandise store and a post office.²

Professor Joseph A. Clark moved from Midway, Kentucky, to the growing community in 1855. He was a minister,

¹Personal Interviews, Mr. Lewis Gibbs, Retired Mail Carrier, Madison County; and Texas Highway Map, Madison County, June 3, 1971.

²Jackson, Scrapbook (unpublished).

an educator and a man of great character. Clark was permitted to name the settlement. Many local residents have always considered that Midway received its name because it was located between two specific places, which is not the case. Clark named the community for his home town in Kentucky. He became one of Midway's first pastors and taught school in his home. During Clark's first year at Midway he established the First Christian Church at Huntsville. Clark's sons, Addison and Randolph, studied under their father, and later, after returning from the Civil War, founded a private school at Thorp Springs, Hood County, known as Add-Ran College. It later became the property of the Christian Church and, after several moves, it was located at Fort Worth. The name was changed to Texas Christian University.³

One of Clark's early students was John T. Browne, who went on to become Mayor of Houston. In 1935, at the age of ninety, Browne recalled that his happiest years were in 1855 and 1856 when he was studying under Professor Clark. Some of the students who attended Clark's school with Browne were Austin McGary, who later became a minister of note, Poly Finney, Tom and Jack Robbins, Tex Page, the two Viser boys and Mary Hennessey. Browne remembered the old settlers of Midway as being John Harris, Isaac Wycough, the Allens,

³Ibid.

the Clapps, the Brooks, the Randolphs, the Burtis', the Kittrolls, the Forrests, the Hayes, the Youngs, and the Wakefields.⁴

Among the famous educators and teachers who served the Midway school was Mrs. Tommie Nolley Goree, wife of Major Thomas J. Goree, who headed the Texas state penal institution for a number of years. Other members of the school faculty were Major William W. Viser, Dr. John Masterson and Mrs. Francis Riley Masterson. Mrs. Masterson's son later became Dean of the Law School at the University of Missouri. James F. Cox also taught at Midway and subsequently became the President of Abilene Christian College. John W. Thomason, a grandson of Major T. J. Goree, became a famous artist and author. The Thomason Room in the library of Sam Houston State University is named in his honor. John and River Allen also taught at Midway and later founded the preparatory institution of Allen Academy at Bryan, Texas.⁵

When the town site of Midway was laid off in 1854, S. C. Wakefield, one of the early pioneers, built a small drug dispensary. Later, he added a general merchandise department to his store. His sons, Wilson F. and Ira L., carried on the business after his death under the name of Wakefield Bros. They were the first postmasters of Midway

⁴Ibid.

⁵Ibid.

and also the first gin owners. Thomas Taylor and P. K. Goree owned the first grange store, which dealt with farm supplies. A man named Harris, always referred to as "Grandpa" Harris, was the first blacksmith of Midway. He remained in operation for over half of a century.⁶

The Midway Cemetery is crowded with the graves of the early settlers. Major W. C. Young, the first permanent white settler of the county, is buried there under a stand of cedar trees. His grave marker, badly worn by time, is barely readable; but, the inscription "Wounded at Battle of San Jacinto--April 21, 1836" is discernible. The town of Midway had 217 residents in 1904.⁷

North Zulch, one of the three major communities in Madison County, is located in the west end, approximately six miles from the Navasota River. The town was named for Julius Zulch. When Zulch was a seventeen-year-old boy in Germany, he became upset over a present given him by his father. Zulch thought that his brother had received a better gift and consequently he decided to run away from home. Zulch worked his way across the Atlantic on a ship that landed at Galveston in 1848. He became a peddler of tinware while he moved toward the interior of Texas. In 1849, Julius Zulch settled in an area which was later called Old

⁶Ibid.

⁷Texas Almanac, 1904, 42.

Zulch He built a one-room log house and continued to peddle his tinware and whiskey. In those days Zulch traveled to Galveston by ox wagon to buy his supplies. Later, he married Martha Martin and opened a small general store. His old home place is located about two miles south of the present town of North Zulch.⁸

Julius Zulch donated the land for the first church and school in the area. Later, the first post office was named in his honor. When Julius died, his son, Will Zulch, inherited the estate. The town of North Zulch was built on that land. In 1906, Will Zulch donated alternate lots in forty-six blocks located on the west side of the Springfield Road to a branch of the Houston and Texas Central Railroad called the Mexia Cut-off. The town of North Zulch was created astride the tracks. Two lakes were made to water the engines that came through the town. They became known as the North Zulch and South Zulch reservoirs. Tom Ware became the first section foreman and married the daughter of Jonah Shannon. Horace Cobb was the first Houston and Texas Central agent and made his residence in the freight room at the depot. Dr. Julius Zulch, another son of Julius Zulch, owned the land east of the Springfield Road. Jim C. Parker was the first merchant to build and stock a general store in North Zulch.⁹

⁸North Zulch High School, Scrapbook on History of North Zulch.

⁹Mrs. W. T. Taylor, "History of North Zulch and West End of Madison County," Madisonville Meteor, August 24, 1944.

The history of North Zulch and Willowhole are closely related. Willowhole is a community that is located about two miles south of North Zulch. Early travelers would stop at Willowhole to water their animals in a deep depression running beside the Springfield Road. The watering place was guarded by a thick willow grove. Consequently, the place became known as Willowhole. Many of the early Willowhole settlers moved to North Zulch around 1908, when the railroad came to the area. Julius Zulch is buried at the Willowhole Cemetery.¹⁰

Early schools in the North Zulch area were held in private homes and later in the Free Will Baptist Church. The earliest teachers of record were W. S. Barron, Irene Morgan and Mrs. George Mabry. In 1908, the citizens of North Zulch organized the first public school. A two-story frame building was constructed for the schoolhouse. It had four rooms on the first floor and an auditorium on the second. Subsequently, in 1924, a modern two-story brick school building was constructed at the site of the old building. In the years that followed, Oak Grove, Bundic and Willowhole consolidated their schools with North Zulch. In 1904, the area that later came to be known as North Zulch had less than one hundred residents.¹¹

¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹Personal Interview, Mrs. Lewis Gibbs, Madisonville, Texas, June 3, 1971; and, Texas Almanac, 1904, 42.

Elwood, located in the northeast corner of Madison County, was one of the early thriving communities. Dr. George Washington Robinson was probably the first permanent settler in that location. Although by 1854 Elwood was one of the largest communities in the county, it failed to grow and keep pace with other communities such as Midway and Madisonville. In 1854, Elwood was competing with Madisonville to become the county seat of Madison County and as early as 1856 the community had its own post office. Elwood lost out to Madisonville because the act of the Texas Legislature stated that the county seat had to be located within five miles of the center of the county.¹²

Only one general store remains in the vicinity of present-day Elwood. It is owned and operated by Mrs. Sam Wilson. Mrs. Wilson related to the author of this study how Elwood came to be named. In the early days before Madison County was created, the community was growing as settlers moved into the area. A beautiful clear spring, surrounded by a thick stand of elm trees, was located close to the community. Several of the most enterprising of the settlers found that the water from the spring was an excellent source from which corn whiskey could be made. The community learned of the clandestine operation at the spring and began referring to the spot as elm-wood. Over a period of years the community refined the name and the settlement

¹²Jackson, Scrapbook (unpublished).

became known as Elwood.¹³ It is not known if the present-day inhabitants of Elwood would all agree on how the community was named; however, the story as told by Mrs. Wilson certainly seems likely. Dr. George Washington Robinson, the founder of the community, is buried close to his beloved community in the Allphin Cemetery. The inscription on his marker reads: "Dr. G. W. Robinson. Born Jan. 23, 1814. Died Nov. 6, 1887. Wounded at the Battle of San Jacinto April 21, 1836."

The old cemeteries that abound in the county are mute evidence of the hardships of the early settlers. One of the most interesting aspects of this study has been the survey of the county's old cemeteries. The cemeteries are full of graves with markers that record the early history of entire families. Some of the pioneers lived to be ninety years old, and buried beside them are their children, usually in large numbers. Many of the children died at birth or shortly thereafter.

The old Bethel Cemetery, located on the Madison County-Grimes County line, has been maintained as a memorial to the early pioneers of that area. The cemetery, on land owned by Mrs. Ola Garrett of Madisonville, is all that remains of the once proud community of Bethel. Probably in the early 1830's, the settlers banded together at Bethel for mutual protection against the Indians. The families of

¹³Personal Interview, Mrs. Sam Wilson, Elwood Community, July 20, 1971.

Antonio Rivers, A. B. Dodson, Edward Ariola, Ignatious Simes, Zoraster Robinson and many others are buried there. Mrs. A. B. Dodson, one of the most famous of the old settlers buried at Bethel, made the first Texas flag in 1835. She was buried in the cemetery in 1848. Another old cemetery is found at Willowhole, which is located only a few miles from the old Bethel Cemetery. Julius Zulch, the founder of the "Zulch" community, is buried there. The grave of the first man buried in the cemetery, a Mr. Pruitt, can still be seen.

During the period of the Republic and, even more, during the Civil War, times were hard in Madison County. Land and cattle could not be converted to cash. Trade was mostly conducted in barter and credit was later paid for in property. D. E. E. Braman, in his book, Braman's Information About Texas, writes about the money system in early Texas. He says, "Credit, in Texas, is the universal rule, and prompt payment the exception; the system runs through all businesses, from the smallest account to the most important contract."¹⁴

During the Civil War, Madison County, like many other Texas counties, issued script, "shin plasters," to be used as money. It is not known how the "shin plaster" was backed, but it was probably with land. Madison County may have issued the script in varying denominations such as

¹⁴Braman, Information About Texas, 80.

five dollars, ten dollars, and so on; however, the only reference to the script that can be found pertains to the two-dollar "shin plaster."¹⁵

When the war broke out between the states, many of the Madison County residents took up arms and went to war. Although most of the men fought on the side of the Confederacy, some fought for the Union. Mrs. Jessie Steele Divine reports that her grandfather fought for the South, but that one of his brothers fought for the North.¹⁶

Mrs. Sarah Goree of Madison County had five sons who fought for the Confederacy. Her youngest son, P. K. (Scrap) Goree, the father of Mrs. Sam W. Jackson, was the courier for General Robert E. Lee. General Lee referred to Scrap as "my little messenger in gray." Dr. P. W. Kittrell, who married a Goree, alluded to the Civil War in his journal in 1864. He wrote:

While a cruel and unnatural war has now for more than three years been desolating our fair and beauteous land and spreading woe and misery broadcast, we in this section have been comparatively free from its ravages, and may God in his infinite mercy still spare us and bring to an end this cruel internecine war.¹⁷

Twenty-three years after the Civil War ended, the

¹⁵H. Bailey Carroll, "Texas Collection," Southwestern Historical Quarterly, XLIX, 153.

¹⁶Mrs. Jessie Steele Divine, "As I Remember the Early Days in Madison County," Madisonville Meteor, May 21, 1954.

¹⁷Jackson, Scrapbook (unpublished).

Confederate veterans of Madison County assembled at Madisonville to organize The Association of Confederate Veterans of Madison County, Texas. In that year, 1888, the following officers were elected: Major W. W. Viser, President; Col. J. C. Webb, Vice-President; James B. Lee, Secretary; and Samuel T. Allphin, Treasurer. From that meeting an association called the Camp John G. Walker No. 128 was formed. The purpose of the association was as follows:

To refute all charges against us as Confederates of want of patriotic devotion to the principles of that free constitutional government handed down to us by our fathers, and for the further purpose of caring for our comrades who are in indigent circumstances.¹⁸

The following is a list of the surviving Confederate veterans of Madison County in 1888: J. C. Webb, G. H. Hubbard, J. C. Morris, J. E. Morris, F. M. Connor, R. Wiley, J. D. Jordan, J. C. Denton, W. A. Price, J. W. Towns, J. S. Wallace, J. S. Thomason, Jr., J. H. Robinson, M. B. Neighbors, S. H. Lindsey, G. M. Robinson, N. H. Park, J. H. Newland, J. F. Dunn, E. B. Seay, T. F. Paulsel, Joe Adams, J. M. Brownlee, Sr., B. F. Bard, Boon Anderson, W. W. Viser, Al Byers, W. D. McDonald, J. M. McDonald, E. E. Day, J. G. Conn, A. P. Burrows, J. A. Sowell, P. J. Mersfelder, N. A. Glover, P. K. Goree, Wiley Sowell, W. F. Wakefield, Wayne Mitchell, Joe Williams, T. D. Hennessey, J. L. Connor, R. L. Brooks, M. H. Ford, A. J. McBride, F. R. Madole, F. M.

¹⁸Madisonville Meteor, August 27, 1897.

Chambless, O. L. Pigford, J. G. Heath and R. G. Barber.¹⁹

Colonel J. C. Webb wrote an article in 1897 on his definition of a Confederate soldier. It is quoted in part:

I would have every ex-Confederate soldier living within the bounds of Madison County What I mean by an ex-Confederate soldier--is one who performed the duties of an ex-Confederate soldier and who stood up to the rack when the fodder gave out, and bless God stands there yet, or in other words, has never yet degraded himself by claiming that he was either fool enough, or scoundrel enough to have taken up arms and fought in a cause that he believed then, or that he believes now, was not altogether and in every particular just, right and patriotic.²⁰

Roy Jackson was born at Willowhole in Madison County on November 24, 1880. He recalls that when he was a small boy Madison County had "no railroad, nor even a bank and I can't remember a graded dirt road."²¹ The earliest means of transportation in Madison County were the ox wagon and double-mule teams that carried cotton, the county's only surplus commodity, to markets in Galveston and Houston. These trips often took three to four weeks. Later, Navasota and Huntsville became the principle markets for the county.²²

Early Texas commerce was usually handled by freight wagons pulled by "three to eight yoke of oxen." Using oxen

¹⁹Ibid.

²⁰Ibid.

²¹Roy Jackson, "As I Remember The Early Days in Madison County," Madisonville Meteor, May 28, 1954.

²²Jackson, Scrapbook (unpublished).

instead of horses had its advantages. The large feet of the ox did not sink into the soft Texas mud, the price was one-fourth less than that for draft horses, and oxen could live off the prairie grass better than horses.²³

In the early days, small bateau and steam boats plied the Trinity River and provided a limited form of transportation when the river was navigable. Stage lines were late in coming to Madison County, and it is not known if any regularly-scheduled runs were made in the county. Old records reflect that a stagecoach often ran through Midway on its way to Huntsville from Nacogdoches; however, it was not a scheduled run. Willowhole and later North Zulch had some form of stagecoach travel to Bryan about the turn of the century.²⁴ As the Old San Antonio Road is the oldest regularly traveled highway across Texas, it is assumed that stage lines did move along this northern road in Madison County. The transportation problem appeared to be solved when the first railroad came to the county.

Early in 1902, three prominent Madisonville businessmen--Judge J. M. Brownlee, C. C. Hayes and J. J. Jopling--somewhat in jest, formed the Madisonville-Navasota Southwestern Railroad Company. The International and Great Northern Railway Co. (I&GN), with headquarters in Palestine,

²³Hogan, Texas Republic, 66-7.

²⁴Jackson, Scrapbook (unpublished).

Texas, heard of the new venture and called for a Madisonville commission to meet with them and discuss placing a branch line from Navasota to Madisonville. The negotiations were successful and, in 1903, Madison County got its first railroad, which terminated at Madisonville. C. D. Donaldson became the first station agent for I&GN. For a brief time, the railroad business was prosperous. Later, three modern highways were built through the county and the railroad began to lose money. In 1944 the railroad went into receivership and was taken over by the Missouri Pacific Company, which discontinued the line.²⁵ Several railroad branch lines were laid across the western end of Madison County in the early 1900's. The Mexia and Navasota Division of the Houston and Texas Central was completed in 1906. In 1907, the Trinity and Brazos Valley Railway Line, which later became the Rock Island Line, was laid.²⁶

One rumor in Madison County that continues to this day concerns the location of an old "lost-lead mine." Reverend W. H. Kittrell, son of the famous doctor, wrote several letters to his friends in Madison County to persuade them to look for a lead mine that was used during the Civil War. The following is a part of one of those letters:

²⁵Jackson, "History of Madison County," Writers Project (unpublished).

²⁶Johnson, Texas and Texans, 738.

John A. Durst, Wayne Mitchell and John A. Jackson told me of a lead mine about seven or eight miles northeast of Madisonville at the bottom of a branch or creek where they got lead for bullets during the Civil War.²⁷

Various engineer concerns have searched periodically for the old lead mine without any success. Some traces of lead have been found, but only in insignificant quantities.

After the turn of the twentieth century, modern conveniences began to arrive in Madison County. The first telephone service came to the county in 1904. H. B. Houston was granted a franchise by the commissioner's court to establish a line from Huntsville to Madisonville. Today, in 1971, telephone service reaches practically every home and business in Madison County.²⁸

Although automobiles had been in existence for a number of years, the first car in Madison County was bought in 1913 by Dr. Acie Spear and Sherman McAfee. It was a chain-driven Ford. The "horseless carriage," as it was called, excited the Madison County residents and soon a number of Fords, Chevrolets and Maxwells were bought by the citizens. By World War I, a respectable number of automobiles were owned and operated in the county.²⁹

²⁷Jackson, "History of Madison County," Writers Project (unpublished).

²⁸Malone, "First Telephone Service," Madisonville Meteor, June 3, 1954.

²⁹Malone, "Earliest Cars in 1913," Madisonville Meteor, June 3, 1954.

The same year that the automobile came to Madison County, electric service was established. In 1913, Gulf States Utilities set up its first electric dynamo on a location north of the town site of Madisonville. Over a period of years, electrical lines were extended throughout the county. Later, several rural electrification companies provided electricity to the most remote spots in the county, but it was not until 1940 that Madison County had its first natural gas service. In that year, the Lone Star Gas Company moved to Madisonville and began to pipe gas to the homes and businesses of the county.³⁰

In 1908, the first county agricultural extension work began in Madison County. J. W. Waltman was appointed by Texas A & M College to serve both Leon and Madison Counties. Extension work was just becoming known at that time and demonstration trains toured the counties of Texas.³¹ There have been many organizations in Madison County that have assisted it in its growth. Not all of them can be included in this study and no slight has been intended.

³⁰Malone, "Electric Service in 1913," Madisonville Meteor, June 3, 1954.

³¹"History of Extension Service and County Agent Work Here Reviewed," Madisonville Meteor, August 24, 1944.

CHAPTER VII

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

This study has traced the early history of Madison County, Texas, from the days of its first Indian inhabitants to about the turn of the twentieth century. Previously, only limited literary efforts had been made to record its growth, and consequently, old records of early events were almost non-existent. From the available material, an attempt was made in this study to preserve the highlights of the history of Madison County.

Madison County is located in East Texas on the western edge of the Atlantic Gulf Coastal Plains. The general surface of the county is undulating with only a few hills and valleys. The mild climate permits a long growing season of about 261 days, which results primarily in an agricultural economy. Early Indian tribes of the county were the Ceniz and the Bidai Indians, although other tribes, such as the Apaches and Comanches, frequently raided the area.

Early explorers of the Madison County area were Luis de Moscoso, a Spaniard, who had been an original member of the Hernando de Soto expedition, and Cavelier, Sieur

de La Salle, the famous French explorer who, according to one source, was killed just south of the present site of Madisonville. As a result of the Spanish expeditions, the settlements of Bucareli (1774) and Trinidad (1805) were established along the banks of the Trinity River in what later became Madison County. Both of the settlements were short-lived.

The early roads through Madison County began as east-west Indian and buffalo trails. With the coming of the Spanish, the routes were recorded on maps and given names. The northern road, that traversed the county east to west, was known by three different names: Old San Antonio Road, El Camino Real and the King's Highway. The lower road through the area broke away from the Old San Antonio Road somewhere between the Trinity River and the present town of Midway, and continued in a southwesterly direction. It was known as the La Bahia Road.

By 1821, Stephen F. Austin established the first American settlement in Texas along the Brazos and Colorado Rivers, on a site called Washington-on-the-Brazos. After Texas gained its independence, the surrounding area became known as Washington County. Subsequently, Burleson, Brazos, Lee, Montgomery, Grimes, Walker, San Jacinto and Madison Counties were carved out of Washington County.

As early as 1842, the Congress of the Republic of Texas attempted to create the "judicial county" of Madison,

but the act was declared unconstitutional as the county was not represented in Congress. Eleven years later, on January 27, 1853, Madison County was officially created, being drawn from the counties of Walker, Grimes and Leon. Dr. Pleasant Williams Kittrell was responsible for recommending the creation of Madison County, and he had the privilege of giving it a name. The county was named for James Madison, who was the fourth President of the United States, and was organized on August 7, 1854, when Madisonville was selected as the county seat.

It is difficult to establish the exact date that the first white settler arrived in Madison County, but it is generally accepted that Major W. C. (Billy) Young was the first permanent white settler. After Young moved to the vicinity of present-day Midway in 1829, other settlers migrated into the area. It is recorded by Mrs. Sam W. Jackson that Major Young, while fighting for Texas at the Battle of San Jacinto, was the first to utter the famous rallying cries, "Remember the Alamo," "Remember Goliad." The early settlers of the county suffered the hardships typical of frontier life and only the strongest remained to assist in the organization of Madison County.

Many small communities were settled throughout Madison County, but only three--Madisonville, Midway and North Zulch--continued to grow. In 1853, Job S. Collard donated about 200 acres of land to establish the town site

of Madisonville, and in 1854, Madisonville was selected as the county seat of Madison County. In 1856, it was reported that Madisonville had several wooden buildings, a good water supply and a limited mail service. By the late 1800's, schools and churches had been organized and several small businesses were in operation. Madisonville was incorporated in 1912, and since that time has shown steady growth as a community.

Midway, located in the eastern end of the county, is the oldest settlement in Madison County. As settlers moved into the locale, Indians were driven from the territory, and by 1855 Midway had become a thriving little community, consisting of a school, a church, a general merchandise store and a post office. By 1904, it had a population of 217.

North Zulch is located in the west end of the county, and is named for Julius Zulch, a peddler of tin ware, who moved into the area in 1849. Zulch built a small house two miles south of the present site of North Zulch, married Martha Martin and raised a family. In 1906, when the railroad moved through the western end of the county, the town of North Zulch was established astride the tracks. By 1908, schools, churches and small businesses had been established in the town.

The railroad came to Madison County in 1903, and shortly thereafter automobiles, telephones, electricity, and

natural gas followed. The first telephone service came to the county in 1904, when a line was established from Huntsville to Madisonville. The first car, a chain-driven Ford, was bought in 1913 by Dr. Acie Spear and Sherman McAfee. That same year, Gulf States Utilities established the first electrical service in Madison County. It was not until 1940 that Madison County had its first natural gas service. Thus, somewhat late, it became a modern Texas county.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

A. Primary Sources

1. Books

Braman, D. E. E. Braman's Information about Texas.
Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1857.

Rock, James L. and W. I. Smith. Southern and Western Texas Guide for 1878. St. Louis, Missouri: A. H. Granger Publisher, 1878.

Spaight, A. W. Resources, Soil and Climate of Texas.
Galveston: A. H. Belo and Company, Printer, 1882.

Yoakum, Henderson. History of Texas. 2 vols. New York: Redfield, 1855.

2. Periodicals

Texas Almanac. 1857, 1858, 1860, 1904, 1970-1971.

Texas Department of Agriculture. Bulletin. Austin, Texas: Texas Department of Agriculture (Bi-monthly) May-June, 1910, 702.

Wood, W. D. "Origin of Names of Madison County and Madisonville," Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association, VI-4 (April, 1903), 334-336.

3. Reports, Plans and Maps

Soil Conservation Service. Madison County Conservation Needs Report, 1967. Madisonville, Texas: Published by a Community Project Group, 1967.

Bedias Creek Soil Conservation District. Program and Plan. January, 1965.

General Highway Map of Madison County, Texas. Prepared by Texas State Highway Department, Planning Survey Division, 1962.

4. Collected Documents

Gammel, H. P. N. (ed.) Laws of Texas. 10 Vols. Austin: Gammel Book Company, 1898.

5. Letters

Correspondence between W. H. Kittrell, grandson of Dr. P. W. Kittrell, and Mr. Roy Moore Stelle, Supt., Texas School for the Deaf, December 7, 1953.

B. SECONDARY SOURCES

1. Books

- Bolton, Herbert Eugene. Texas in the Middle Eighteenth Century. New York: Russell and Russell, Inc., 1962.
- Davis, Wallace. My Home Town, The Bedias Story. Houston, Texas: The Gulf Publishing Co., (MCMMLIII), 1953.
- Fehrenbach, T. R. Lone Star: A History of Texas and Texans. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1968.
- Fulmore, Z. T. The History and Geography of Texas as Told in County Names. Published by the author, 1915.
- Gates, J. Y. and H. B. Fox. A History of Leon County. Centerville, Texas: The Leon County News, 1936.
- Hogan, William Ransom. The Texas Republic. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1946.
- Johnson, Frank W. A History of Texas and Texans, ed. Eugene C. Barker. 4 vols. Chicago & New York: The American Historical Society, 1914.
- Kittrell, Norman B. Governors Who Have Been and Other Public Men of Texas. Houston, Texas: Dealy-Adey-Elgin Co., 1921.
- Leathers, Francis Jane. Through the Years: A Historical Sketch of Leon County and the Town of Oakwood. Published by the author, 1946.
- Lewis, Gabe. "Queries and Answers," Coyote Wisdom, ed. J. Frank Dobie. Austin, Texas: Texas Folk-Lore Society, 1938.

- Newcomb, W. W., Jr. The Indians of Texas. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1967.
- Nunn, W. C. Texas Under the Carpetbaggers. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1962.
- Richardson, Rupert Norval. Texas: The Lone Star State. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1958.
- Richardson, T. C. East Texas, Its History and Its Makers. ed. Dabney White. 4 vols. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1940.
- Schmidt, Charles F. A History of Washington County. San Antonio: Naylor Company, 1949.
- "Texas," Encyclopedia Britannica. XXI, 27th Ed.
- Webb, Walter Prescott and H. Bailey Carroll (eds.). The Handbook of Texas. 2 vols. Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1952.

2. Periodicals

- Batts, R. L. "Defunct Counties of Texas," Southwestern Historical Quarterly, I, 88.
- Carroll, H. Bailey. "Texas Collection," Southwestern Historical Quarterly, XLIX, 153.
- Cole, E. W. "La Salle in Texas," Southwestern Historical Quarterly, XLIX, 473-500.
- Strickland, Rex. "Moscoso's Journey through Texas," Southwestern Historical Quarterly, XLVI, 109-137.
- Texas Good Roads Association. Newsletter No. 67-7. Austin, Texas: State of Texas, July, 1967, 3.

3. Newspapers

- Madisonville Meteor. August 27, 1897, January 28, 1932, August 24, 1944, April 13, 1951, May 4, 1951, April 16, 1954, April 23, 1954, May 21, 1954, May 28, 1954, June 3, 1954, December 6, 1962, May 18, 1967, June 4, 1970.
- North Zulch Challenger. January 3, 1959, January 10, 1954.

4. Official Documents

Members of the Legislature of the State of Texas From 1846 to 1939. Austin: State of Texas, June 15, 1939, 24.

5. Unpublished Materials

Baldwin, John W. An Early History of Walker County, Texas. Unpublished Master's Thesis, Sam Houston State Teachers College, 1957.

Gibbs, Mrs. Lewis. Scrapbook on History of Madison County. Unpublished.

Jackson, Mrs. Sam W. Scrapbook on History of Madison County. Unpublished.

Jackson, Mrs. Sam W. "History of Madison County," Writer's Project District Number 5, Palestine, Texas. Unpublished. Material located in Mrs. Sam W. Jackson's Scrapbook; and University of Texas Archives, Austin, Texas.

Thompson, Mrs. Lockie Parten. An Early Administrator John Hodges Allen. Unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Texas (Austin), 1948.

North Zulch High School. Scrapbook on History of North Zulch.

6. Personal Interviews

Barrett, Buddy, Madisonville, Texas. May 5, 1971.

Brewster, Mrs. Mary Nolley Jackson, Temple, Texas. March 8, 1971.

Cleere, J. R., Madisonville, Texas. July 14, 1971.

Drew, Joe H., Madisonville, Texas. July 21, 1971.

Fox, H. B., Circleville, Texas. August 5, 1971.

Gibbs, Mrs. Lewis, Madisonville, Texas. June 3, 1971.

Gibbs, Lewis, Madisonville, Texas. June 3, 1971.

Goree, P. K., Midway, Texas. March 31, 1971.

Goree, Judge William L., Midway, Texas. March 31, 1971.

Hicks, W. P., Madisonville, Texas. July 21, 1971.

Piboin, L. B., District Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service, Madisonville, Texas. April 2, 1971.

Randolph, Mrs. Herman, Madisonville, Texas. August 5, 1971.

Sharp, Datus, Jr., Madisonville, Texas. July 21, 1971.

Wagstaff, Reverend T. R., Madisonville, Texas. July 19, 1971.

Wilson, Mrs. Sam, Elwood Community, Madison County, Texas. July 20, 1971.

Vita was removed during scanning