

A HISTORY OF LAMPASAS COUNTY: 1882-1895

by

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A THESIS

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A HISTORY OF LAMPASAS COUNTY: 1882-1895

A Thesis

Presented to

The Faculty of the Department of History

Sam Houston State College

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Arts

by

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January, 1968

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ABSTRACT

Cole, James P., A History of Lampasas, Texas: 1882-1895.
Master of Arts (History), January, 1968, Sam Houston
State College, Huntsville, Texas. 122 pp.

Purpose

It was the purpose of this study to point out the influence of water upon the development of Lampasas County, and to investigate changes in the county upon the arrival of the railroad in 1882. Special attention was given to (1) the development of the city of Lampasas from a frontier village to a more modern city; (2) the change in political attitude which developed among the rural portion of the population as opposed to the political attitude of those who lived in the city; (3) the stability of the area in its reliance upon the presence of a water supply and a rural population for a continuing existence.

Methods

The data used for this study were (1) newspapers, magazines, and documents found in the Texas State Archives and University of Texas Newspaper Collection; (2) interviews with selected individuals; (3) the files of the Lampasas Historical Society; (4) the minutes of the Board of Trustees of the Methodist Church, a pamphlet on the Texas Bankers

Association, and the diaries and papers of Lampasas residents during the time period considered.

Findings

From the evidence presented in this study the following conclusions appear to be in order:

1. The first cause for settlement of Lampasas County was the existence of an abundant water supply.

2. The primary reason for the continued existence of the village of Lampasas was the farmers who settled near the numerous streams in the area, and those individuals who came to drink the sulphur water of the springs for medicinal purposes.

3. The arrival of the railroad in 1882 transformed Lampasas from a frontier village to a city with the conveniences of the late 1800's.

4. The railroad did not change the city of Lampasas but merely accelerated that which was already slowly developing.

5. The individuals who came to Lampasas after 1882 carried with them an attitude concerning government which did not agree with the attitude of the farmers who lived in the county.

6. The most important change of the period was the divergence of political attitude between those who lived in the country and those who lived in the town.

Approved:

Supervising Professor

Purpose of the Study

The primary cause of settlement in Lampasas, Texas, was the existence of numerous sulphur springs in the area. As the frontier population grew, two distinct pioneer types settled in Lampasas. One pioneer was the farmer, who settled close to the Lampasas River or its tributaries and used the water for stock-raising. The other pioneer was the city dweller, who aided the farmers and the individuals who came to Lampasas to drink the sulphur water for medicinal purposes.

In the 1880's there developed a divergence of political attitude between the farmer and the city dweller. However, the pattern of population growth in the county, based upon the presence of an abundant water supply, did not change. The arrival of the railroad merely served to accelerate the growth of the city and accentuate the difference of attitude between the rural and city inhabitants of the county.

The purpose of this study is to establish three points: first, that development of Lampasas County was originally dependent upon the existence of a permanent supply of water; second, that influence of the railroad in Lampasas County did not change the economic basis of the area, i.e., the water supply, but did accelerate social and political changes that were taking place in the city and countryside; and third, the two types of pioneer settlers

differed substantially in political attitude as a result of changes in business and society which extended to all parts of the nation in the late nineteenth century. This constituted the most important change during the period under consideration.

Limitations of the Study

The study is based upon the assumption that the changes which took place in Lampasas, Texas, were part of a process that was repeated in other villages and cities throughout the nation. Therefore, the first limitation of the study is to address itself only to those changes that took place within Lampasas County. Moreover, the study is limited in time to the most important period of change in Lampasas County. The period to be investigated will be limited to the years 1882 to 1895. These years, beginning with the arrival of the railroad, represent the period of the greatest growth and change within the area. It is necessary to include a survey of the history of the county from its beginning in 1854 to 1882 so that the extent of change and the importance of the water to the area might be better understood. As it is impossible to examine all of the changes that occurred, only the more important events can be examined. Following the survey of the early history of the county, the next three chapters will be

concerned with the important institutions and events as they developed within the city from 1882 to 1895. One chapter will describe the development of Lampasas as a resort, and the following chapter will investigate the founding of the Texas Bankers' Association in Lampasas. The following chapter will investigate the development of education in Lampasas, primarily the establishment of Centenary College in 1883. The final chapter will be concerned with the Farmers' Alliance, the activities of which will be confined to the county as much as possible. It should be understood that some of the activities of the local alliance may require some background information to understand the motives behind the local activity.

Methods of Investigation

The following sources of information were used to obtain data for this study: (1) newspapers and magazines in the Texas State Library and the University of Texas Newspaper Collection; (2) personal interviews with selected citizens from Lampasas County; (3) the files of the Lampasas Chapter of the Texas State Historical Society; (4) the minutes of the Board of Trustees of Centenary College; (5) a pamphlet dealing with the founding of the Texas Bankers' Association; and (6) the diaries and papers of three

Lampasas citizens of the period ~- Arron P. Aten, D. C. Thomas,
and Adolphus P. Hungate.

CHAPTER II

EARLY LIFE AND THE ARRIVAL OF THE RAILROAD IN LAMPASAS, TEXAS

Before going into detail concerning the life of Lampasas County, Texas, between 1882 and 1895, one must be provided with an overview of the county from 1854, when it was first settled, to 1882, when the railroad arrived in Lampasas. The immediate effect of the railroad on Lampasas will be examined in terms of increased economic activity. The summary of the development of the county will point out (1) the frontier nature of the area, (2) the importance of water to settlement, and (3) the catalytic effect of the railroad on the city and rural area. It is not intended to develop extensively the thesis of the paper, but only to point out in microcosm the trends within the county.

The Beginning of Lampasas

The first settler in the area of present Lampasas was Moses Hughes, a native of Talladega County, Alabama. Traveling with his family, he reached the Austin Colony, near the site of Brenham, Texas, in Washington County, by the summer of 1835. After surviving the "runaway scrape" in 1836, an event fostered by the Texas Revolution and the retreating army of Sam Houston, the family, in 1838, moved

to Burleson County. In 1840, Hughes married Miss Hannah Berry and lived in Williamson County from 1847 to 1853, when he moved to the frontier area now known as Lampasas County "for reasons of my health. Myself and brother Nimrod were the first families that settled in the county outside the jurisdiction of Coryell County."¹

By 1855 others had heard of the health-giving springs on the Sulphur Fork of the Lampasas River. A letter written to the True Issue, a La Grange, Texas, newspaper, on July 25, 1855, from Lampasas Springs, is witness to the increasing popularity of the area:

We were all agreeably surprised with the looks. . . of the Springs. They are not surrounded, as was supposed, by hills, and ravines, but the reverse. The scenery is rather picturesque and romantic, than grand or wild. The town of Burleson (as Lampasas was then named) is 'among the things that were' for the lots were sold last Friday, that is near \$2000 dollars worth. The town is south of the lower springs and near them. The lots are 128 feet by 69 feet, 60 foot streets, 18 blocks of 8 lots. This week a town has been laid off up here on the hills. . . but not so large as the lower . . . lots 100 by 50. There are at present about 75 tents, besides 8 or 10 dwelling cabins, which contain an average of about four inmates, I suppose. In all I presume there are about 600 persons, visitors and residents. We have some ten stores and shops, two Daguerrean rooms, and a hall for public exhibitions, balls, etc. There is a market open at all times with the

¹Moses Hughes, "The Life of Moses Hughes," Lampasas Historical Society files.

necessaries, and occasionally some luxuries. . . . for the camp. All in all a pretty fair village . . . resembling, I presume a 'big digging' in California. The drinking spring called the 'Box spring' [sic] is always surrounded by a crowd of persons 'drinking to their own health' late and early. In the morning the beautiful grove around is occupied by persons who require the gaseous sulphur.²

The sale of public lots was in response to a "Memorial" sent to the state legislature by the citizens asking that a county be created. The memorial stated that the celebrated Sulphur Springs were sufficiently near the center [of the area] and "superinducing, on account of their popularity as a watering place, a rapid settlement of the country around them" warranted the creation of the county.³ A condition included in the memorial stated:

The proprietor or owner of unsold lots in said Town [Burleson] will give for the use of said County such lots as may be required for all public buildings.⁴

The "proprietor or owner" was Elizabeth Scott, whose father, John Burleson, had fought in the Texas Revolution and had received for his services a certificate issued from

²True Issue, August 18, 1855, La Grange, Texas; Texas State Library, Miscellaneous Papers, 1028.

³Memorial to the Legislature for Making Lampasas the County Seat, (MSS in the Texas State Library, Austin, Texas), Documents Division.

⁴Ibid.

the Bastrop Board of Commissions, April 26, 1838, which entitled him to one league and one labor of land for his services. In 1854, sixteen years after receiving the deed, he deeded the land to his daughters, Martha Morse and Elizabeth Scott. By July 1855 Elizabeth Scott and her husband had surveyed a public square for the frontier village.⁵

By an act of the Sixth Legislature the County of Lampasas was created in 1856 from parts of Travis and Bell counties. Burleson, the principal community, was renamed Lampasas and designated the county seat.⁶

Early Life in Lampasas: 1856-1881

The village of Lampasas Springs grew and by 1859 boasted a hotel to care for its guests. The Scotts' Hotel offered lodging for a man and his horse at the rate of \$2.00 a day. The children and servants were accepted at half-price. The house rules were simple: "Gentlemen will occupy their own rooms and beds and no others," and "no card playing will be allowed unless Ladies are engaged in the game."⁷ The Star Hotel, or Gracy House, as it was

⁵"Scrapbook," Lampasas Historical Society files, p. 30; Lampasas County Records: Deeds, Volume X, p. 176.

⁶Moses Hughes, Lampasas, Historical Society files.

⁷The Lampasas Chronicle, October 1, 1859; University of Texas Newspaper Collection.

popularly called, was the principal hotel and stagestop in Lampasas. The owner, C. N. Gracy, was one of the first settlers in Lampasas. The hotel, built in 1856, was surrounded by a native limestone wall which served in part as protection from Indians. A bell which was in the rear of the hotel announced the arrival of the stage and other public alarms needed by a frontier town. A wagonyard was located across the street for the convenience of the guests.⁸

For the "sporting" citizens horseracing was available. The Lampasas Chronicle on October 1, 1859, announced:

Several races have been closed recently, some of them to be run on the Lampasas tracks and some at the Cow House. This week the race between 'Dove' and a celebrated horse from Eastern Texas runs on the Lampasas Tracks for one thousand dollars, \$500 a side. The Cow House boys had better come 'flush' for 'Dove' has many friends that will 'go their pile'.

The water of the Lampasas springs provided the first growth for the city, but farming and stock raising were equally important. An editorial read:

One of the most desirable features of this region for stock-raising purposes is its never failing supply of good clear spring water. While

⁸"Scrapbook," p. 29.

⁹The Lampasas Chronicle, October 1, 1959.

most of the streams in Texas are muddy and slow running, those in this vicinity are all clear and swift.¹⁰

Practically no farming was done in the 1860's except for small gardening and the growing of some wheat or corn for bread.

During the post-Civil War period in Lampasas County, there was an influx of settlers from other Southern states who took land by pre-emption under the Homestead Law of 1862. The Santa Fe railroad owned much land which was plowed and placed for sale at \$1.00 per acre, but little of the land was taken.¹¹ Before the arrival of the railroad, merchandise for Lampasas was freighted overland by wagons drawn by oxen and horses from the nearest railroad point, Round Rock, Texas.¹²

The post-Civil War period also witnessed the rise of the cattle industry, and of the trail drives in which several Lampasans participated. According to one source:

In the spring of 1868, Perry Townsen with his nephews John and Billie, together with Bob Mitchell, Pink Higgins, and Tom Straley, drove a herd of cattle to Wyoming. In 1872 Jasper Townsen, Pink Higgins, Bob Mitchell, 'Lonce'

¹⁰The Weekly Democratic Statesman, January 11, 1883; University of Texas Newspaper Collection.

¹¹"Kempner, Texas," Lampasas Historical Society files.

¹²The Lampasas Record, May 14, 1936.

Mitchell, and Joe Straley, left Lampasas County for Kansas with 2800 head of beef steers. They were a little more than four months on the trail.¹³

The Hancock and Hanna Springs were along the route of the early day cattle trail from Texas to Kansas, and many trail herds, consisting of thousands of Longhorn Texas Cattle, slaked their thirst on the long drive to their destination. Since this was one of the main arteries feeding the Chisholm Trail, the cattle were driven directly through town. Approaching from the southwest, the herds crossed the Sulphur at Hancock Park, passed along Western Avenue, and out of Lampasas heading northwest.¹⁴

Lampasas, like other frontier villages, had to contend with frequent Indian depredations. The Comanches, famous as horse-thieves, were the main offenders. Moses Hughes, one of the first settlers in the county, related this experience with the Indians:

In 1855 I settled seven miles west of Lampasas on the San Saba road. In 1857 the Indians became very troublesome and continued their depredations until 1866 or 1867. I have been chased by the redskins several times, and, once, had my horse shot from under me. I was

¹³Garrett Townsen, "A Brief History of the Townsen Family," paper read at the Townsen Reunion, Adamsville, Texas; Lampasas Historical Society files.

¹⁴The Lampasas Record, May 14, 1936.

surrounded by seven of them and run [sic] by working in the lead for a mile and a half. Then I thought a good thicket would beat a bad run, so I made for the thicket, and on stopping I found that my horse had an arrow in his flank ranging forward 18 inches. One Indian ran about 75 yards from me and I pulled him down with my rifle, and at the crack of the rifle I saw him straighten himself and he gave a yell. They all left and went on their way down the country.¹⁵

Another Indian story was told by Mrs. Sallie Leland Straley West and published in the Lampasas Record. The story concerns neighbors of the Straley's, a family named Jennings, in 1867. One night in the moonlight, an Indian was killed at the Jennings place as he attempted to make off with a horse tied just outside the front door. Jennings ran out of the door and scalped him. The dead Indian was left there for two days, and the event was celebrated by letting out school. Finally, Mrs. Jennings complained and the Indian was dragged with a rope and horse over to the next mountain and left to rot. It was recalled that "The buzzards never bothered him; he just lay there and dried up. After a while the wolves scattered his bones around a little." The absence of buzzards was partly attributed to the Indians' "filthy habits," causing an unpleasant odor which the horses often detected before their owners.¹⁶

¹⁵Moses Hughes, Lampasas Historical Society files.

¹⁶Lampasas Record, March 24, 1949.

To deal with Indian depredations, the Lampasas Guards were organized in 1859. The Constitution of the Guard declared:

[We]. . . seeing and feeling the necessity of the organization of a military company, for the better protection of the frontier, do hereby agree and pledge ourselves to form a military company, to be known as the 'Lampasas Guards'.¹⁷

The purpose of the Guards was to catch the Indians, if possible, or at least to keep them out of the immediate area. A minimum of 32 and a maximum of 100 men were authorized and elections for rank were held once a year. The company was divided into squads whose duty it was to make weekly scouting trips. In 1859 Hillary Ryan was elected Captain, Moses Hughes 1st Lieutenant, Asa Langford and R. N. Jackson 2nd Lieutenants, and Mark Bean First Sergeant.¹⁸

⁶⁰
In 1869, the year after the Lampasas Guards were organized, the citizens of Lampasas County organized against another enemy. The Civil War had begun. Lampasas sent one unit to serve in the 17th Texas Infantry, two units to the 27th Brigade, Texas Militia, and two units to the Texas

¹⁷The Lampasas Chronicle, October 1, 1859.

¹⁸The Lampasas Chronicle, October 1, 1859.

State Troops, 2nd Frontier District.¹⁹

In 1866-1867, Indian raids came unusually often. On July 15, 1866, the citizens of Lampasas County sent a petition to Governor Throckmorton which read as follows:

In obedience to the wishes of the frontier people we respectfully represent to your Excellency that for more than one year past the frontier has received no protection from the General Government Whole Settlements have been broken up, families reduced from affluence to want, the rewards of a lifetime of industry have passed off before their eyes, the scalping knife not infrequently used, and to the present time the cries of suffering humanity have not been heard by the Government. The frontier at this time is falling back, a stand-point must be made somewhere In conclusion, we submit . . . that you will feel it to be your duty and no less your pleasure to extend to us such protection as life, property, and the pursuits of happiness demand.²⁰

By 1875 the Indian problem in Lampasas County had subsided.

After the Civil War, people still came to Lampasas to visit the sulphur springs. From the older and more populous sections of Texas people journeyed in wagons, carriages, and on horseback to Hanna and Hancock Springs, "the principal pleasure and health resort in Texas at

¹⁹The Lampasas Record, January 27, 1966.

²⁰Petition number 70 from the citizens of Lampasas to Governor Throckmorton, July 15, 1866, James J. Day and Dorman Winfrey (eds.), Texas Indian Papers: 1860-1869, (Austin: Texas State Library, 1961), pp. 95-96.

the time."²¹ During the summers Lampasas became a populous tented city with hundreds of people encamping in the shade of the numerous pecan trees in the vicinity of the springs.

The Arrival of the Railroad in 1882

In 1882, with the arrival of the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railroad, the village of Lampasas experienced a period of rapid growth. Before this time cattle rustling and Indian depredations had marked the town's history. In the spring of 1882 the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railroad was building westward with its terminus to be in Lampasas.²² The Lampasas Dispatch spoke of the economic boost which the railroad would bring to the small village:

Grading will begin tomorrow on. . . the branch to this place. Col. Gresham of the Santa Fe was here today, and thinks his road will reach Lampasas inside of six weeks. Lampasas is promising to become the Baden of Texas.²³

The paper also declared that the approach of the railroad was "already beginning to have an invigorating effect" on

²¹The Lampasas Record, August 30, 1956.

²²The Lampasas Record, July, 1963.

²³The Lampasas Dispatch, April 6, 1882; Texas State Library Miscellaneous Papers, 1082.

the town.²⁴

The actual work of building the railroad was done by convicts, using picks, shovels, and mule teams. For entertainment some of the boys of the town would spend the day watching the workmen build the rail hump and lay the track.²⁵ The survey for the railroad was made by H. L. Higdon, who was the brother of John Higdon, a businessman in Lampasas. John Higdon, in his later years, was known as "The Father of Third Street," because of his foresight in believing correctly that the street would one day become the main thoroughfare.²⁶ In a letter from Effie Ozburn Greenwood, to the Lampasas Dispatch, dated August 23, 1931, Mrs. Greenwood said:

H. L. Higdon . . . made the survey, working day and night, and walking miles to get the road to Lampasas. It was considered an inaccessible point from the engineering angle. When his heart was so involved for brother John's interest, who was merchandising then, he solved the problem, proved the feasibility of the route convincing, and Lampasas went on the main route.²⁷

In May 1882 the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad arrived in Lampasas and created a wave of prosperity which

²⁴Ibid.

²⁵"Kempner, Texas."

²⁶"Scrapbook," p. 87.

²⁷The Lampasas Dispatch, August 23, 1931.

would continue for the next several years. On the day of arrival, school was suspended and preparations were made for the event. Some families with picnic baskets went to the depot, located about one mile east of town, to await the train. A chronicler of the day described the activities as follows:

A few families with picnic baskets went down to the bridge at Sulphur Creek to watch the train come in. They ate their lunches amid much merriment and anticipation of the special train. We cheered wildly and waved hands, handkerchiefs, and baskets frantically.²⁸

Elaborate preparation had been made by the local officials who accompanied the train. Speeches and a barbecue were the attractions. The ladies were expected to bring cakes and pies "and the men to furnish everything else."²⁹ The train was due at 10:00 a.m., but visitors from surrounding counties began arriving the day before. Miss Ettie Aurelia Adkins, whose father, Dr. J. N. Adkins, was one of the local officials, selected to be a part of the official greeting party, related in her book, One Texas Old Maid, her recollections of that day:

²⁸Ibid.

²⁹Ettie Aurelia Adkins, One Texas Old Maid, (Dallas: William T. Walker, 1938), p. 69.

When we arrived at the station there was such a crowd of people, mother said she thought that everyone on earth must be there. The crowd was so dense we could not get near the depot. Every tree, as far as one could see, was full of boys and they were standing on the roof of the station. Horses had been unhitched from all vehicles as a safety precaution, as very few, if any, of these animals had even seen a train.

Every little while someone would yell: 'Listen, I think I hear it coming!', and the few who heard his voice would pause a second. The train was due; then overdue; people became restless; some thought it might have jumped the track; while others thought it might not come at all.³⁰

The train did arrive and that summer the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railroad advertised special rates on round trip tickets to Lampasas from any point in Texas on the Santa Fe line.³¹

The Economic Effect of the Railroad in Lampasas:
1882-1883

Before the railroad arrived in Lampasas, merchandise was hauled from Round Rock by wagon and most of the buildings in Lampasas had been built with lumber brought from Round Rock. Now that the railroad had extended to Lampasas, it was possible to furnish supplies to points in West

³⁰Ibid.

³¹The Lampasas Record, May 14, 1963.

Texas.³² Limestone rock was replacing lumber as the chief building material. Limestone was abundant around Lampasas, and, in short time, the square was built up on all sides with two-story buildings which extended three blocks up Third Street and almost to Chestnut Street.³³ Third Street, later dubbed "Silk Stocking Street," was the main street of the town. The affluence of the city was demonstrated by the steadily rising value of assessed taxable property. In 1870, the figure stood at \$349,256; by 1881, the figure had risen to \$1,260,547; and by 1882, the value of taxable property had risen to \$1,654,348.³⁴ Property values had risen so rapidly that the Weekly Democratic Statesman in Austin, Texas, remarked:

It is said that property values have been put so high at Lampasas that a good many people have been deterred from settling there in consequence.³⁵

Business was on the upswing and optimism was in the air by the summer of 1882. The post office was located at Hannon's Drug Store on the north side of the square, and L. G. Lincsum advertised his services as a dentist and

³²Ibid.

³³Lampasas Record, August 4, 1966.

³⁴The Weekly Democratic Statesman, January 11, 1883.

³⁵Ibid.

surgeon. For legal work, W. B. Abney advertised in the Lampasas Dispatch as an attorney at law. He was also a real estate agent and notary public. He promised "prompt attention given to all business entrusted to him," and his office was located over Amos and Brothers Store. The Star Hotel, H. N. Gracy, proprietor, was serving guests. James De Hay was the local blacksmith. The Masonic Saratoga Lodge announced in the Dispatch that the "Masonic Saratoga Lodge meets at the hall in Lampasas on Saturday night on or before the full moon in each month." D. C. Thomas was the Worshipful Master of the Lodge and T. H. Haynie the Secretary.³⁶

In 1883 the cornerstone of the courthouse was laid by the Masonic Order and Governor Carl Hubbard was present to deliver the dedication address.³⁷ The city jail and courthouse were constructed at a total cost of \$40,000. Mr. John McCormick was contracted to do the rock work on the buildings.³⁸

Public improvements were prevalent in Lampasas in 1883. The Galveston News, in an article dated from

³⁶The Lampasas Dispatch, April 6, 1882.

³⁷The Galveston News, September 2, 1883, University of Texas Newspaper Collection.

³⁸The Democrat Journal Review, date unknown, (Privately held by Roy Dawson, Lampasas, Texas).

Lampasas, reported:

Travis B. Forrester, of Austin, has obtained the contract for water works in our city. The contract calls for four and one-half miles of pipe with a capacity for 1,000,000 gallons. Mr. Forrester means business, and is able to fulfill the contract both as to ability and capital, and no doubt will soon have our city well supplied with water.³⁹

The new waterworks would bring water to many homes, reduce fire hazard, provide for fireplugs, and be used to sprinkle the dusty unpaved streets of the city.⁴⁰ A streetcar line was built in 1883 which extended up Third Street from the railway station outside the city. On July 7, 1883, the Lampasas Dispatch, reviewing the achievements of the year, said:

There are two ice plants in operation. The telephone is underway. . . and electric lights are being very favorably considered.⁴¹

The Park Hotel was being constructed in 1883 and was near completion. The hotel was to be the main resort attraction in Lampasas and will be dealt with more extensively in later chapters. Lampasas was rising toward the crest of an

³⁹The Galveston News, August 28, 1883.

⁴⁰The Lampasas Dispatch, newspaper clipping in Lampasas Historical Society files.

⁴¹The Austin Weekly Statesman, July 12, 1883.

economic boom. On May 28, 1883, the Lampasas Dispatch noted:

Dirt was broken today for three two-story business houses. Three others have foundations laid and will begin soon. Over a hundred frame buildings are now in course of construction.⁴²

The arrival of the railroad affected agricultural trade in Lampasas. As the most western point on the Santa Fe line, Lampasas was the natural trade center of a large area of country "rich in agricultural and stockgrowing resources."⁴³ An area within a fifty-mile radius was served and in Lampasas "a high price could be had for cotton and wool and the stores for supplies were better."⁴⁴

The Austin Weekly Statesman, reporting the agricultural condition of Lampasas County in 1883, stated:

The mountain slopes and coves and the wide valleys afford fine pasturage. The tall sedge is the most abundant grass, but it is not so nutritious as the mesquite, which covers about 1/4 of the grazing lands. Stock cattle and horses are raised on the open range the year round, but work animals and sheep require some winter feed. Sheep increase annually about 50-75%, and are generally free of disease except the scab, which is easily cured by tobacco dip. They are generally of the common

⁴²The Weekly Democratic Statesman, May 31, 1883.

⁴³The Lampasas Dispatch, July 24, 1948.

⁴⁴Ibid.

breed and yield a fleece of about #3 weight. According to the assessment rolls of 1882 there are in the county 5649 horses and mules, 32,357 cattle, 20,062 sheep, 707 goats, and 5962 hogs. Work horses are worth from \$25-\$60; mules \$50-\$80; oxen \$40-\$60 a yoke. Beef and mutton retail at 4-5¢; pork 5-7¢; bacon 12-16¢ a pound, corn is 50¢-\$1.00 a bushel; flour \$3.50-\$5.00 a 100 lbs. A few deer are found in the bottoms, and the ordinary variety of fresh water fish are numerous in the streams. Water power is furnished by the Sulphur fork of the Lampasas, which is believed to be sufficient to run the heaviest machinery, but has as yet been utilized to only a limited extent.⁴⁵

A creamery was built in Lampasas, and this enabled the farmer to send his "creamery checks to the bank once a week and get gold for them." In 1883, the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad announced that the city had doubled in trade and that over one million pounds of wool had been shipped during the year.⁴⁶ The climate around Lampasas was considered to be mild with an average yearly rainfall of over twenty inches; therefore, one could work outdoors most of the year.⁴⁷ Farm land sold for from three to five dollars an acre and grazing land two to four dollars an acre. The land was productive during most of the year. In July and August small grains were harvested. In September

⁴⁵The Weekly Democratic Statesman, January 11, 1883.

⁴⁶The Austin Weekly Statesman, July 19, 1883.

⁴⁷The Lampasas Dispatch, June 24, 1948.

cotton and a fall wool clip were brought to market. In spring cattle shipments as well as a spring wool clip left Lampasas.⁴⁸

Two wool clips a year in comparison with the annual northern clip did much to encourage the sheep industry in Lampasas County. The quality and size of the Wittenburg clip enhanced the price of wool on the market. The improved clip was named after a German immigrant, William Mark Wittenburg, who came to the United States from Westphalia, Germany, in 1845. He was a sheepman in Tennessee until the Civil War. After the war he moved to Texas and Bell County and later to the western part of Lampasas County.⁴⁹

By 1883 the frontier village of Lampasas was being transformed into a modern and contemporary city. The Santa Fe Railroad ended the isolation of the village which previously had communicated with the world via the ox-cart or horse. A more settled and cultured individual was replacing the rough frontiersman. Electric lights, the telephone, a public water system, a streetcar, and permanent rock buildings were the mark of a progressive mid-nineteenth century town. However, new arrivals in Lampasas continued in the same lines of employment which had characterized the

⁴⁸The Weekly Democratic Statesman, January 11, 1883.

⁴⁹The Lampasas Record, February 27, 1964.

county before the arrival of the railroad. The individual in the city served the farmer and the guests visiting the sulphur springs. The farmer combined stock-raising with farming and depended upon the city of Lampasas for supplies. The railroad served to accelerate the development of Lampasas County and the pace of life for those living within.

CHAPTER III

DEVELOPMENT OF LAMPASAS AS AN INLAND RESORT

For years people had been coming to the Lampasas Springs to drink the curative sulphur water. At first, tents pitched beside the springs were the main shelter. It was remarked by an observer that in the spring and summer months Lampasas became "a tent city filled with hundreds of people."¹ However, the railroad transformed the frontier atmosphere of Lampasas to that of a modern and progressive city, and nowhere was that transformation more apparent than in the use of the sulphur springs. Practically overnight Lampasas became the most popular inland resort of Texas. The resort, which was financed by railroad men and interested local towns-people, attracted governors and other dignitaries for a number of years.² Several hotels and an opera house were built and social life was abundant. By 1885 the railroad moved farther west, and Lampasas began an economic decline that was to last for the next ten years. But for a while Lampasas was billed as the "Saratoga of the South," and visitors were invited to come there and "meet the socially correct,"³

¹Scrapbook," Lampasas Historical Society files, p. 46.

²The Lampasas Record, December 19, 1963.

³The Lampasas Record, December 19, 1963.

The Park Hotel

The Park Hotel was the finest hotel in Lampasas and featured the most modern facilities and entertainment. For several years it represented the best in Lampasas. The hotel was completed in the spring of 1883 and was backed financially by a group known popularly as the Galveston Syndicate, who had incorporated as The Lampasas Springs Company. The members of the Syndicate were wealthy railroad men employed by the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad.⁴ While the Lampasas hotel was being constructed, a hotel was being built in Galveston which was known as the Galveston Beach Hotel. The Galveston Syndicate probably planned to build an inland hotel in Lampasas in order to take advantage of the curative properties of the sulphur springs. Accordingly a hotel was built in Lampasas which closely resembled the Galveston Beach Hotel, and both hotels opened in the spring of 1883.⁵ The name of the Lampasas hotel was, of course, the Park Hotel.

The Park Hotel was built high on a hill overlooking all of Lampasas and the surrounding countryside. The comment of one local observer was as follows:

⁴The Lampasas Record, August 30, 1956.

⁵Howard Burnstone, The Galveston That Was (New York: McMillan Company, 1966), pp. 126-127.

One afternoon we took a carriage drive to the upper spring and to the new hotel. It will be magnificent and show off to a good advantage. It is wonderful how the town is building in that direction.⁶

The hotel was on a plot of ground containing more than 245 acres and was located in the 700 block of South Spring Street.⁷ Large windows ran from floor to ceiling and an American Gothic two-story porch shaded the lower story upon which rockers were placed. The building contained 80 guest rooms, broad stairways, a game room, a dining room, a spacious lobby and parlor, a ballroom, and was carpeted from wall to wall. The hotel was equipped with electric lights and call bells in each room.⁸ According to Mrs. W. H. Moses, a large chandelier imported from France hung from the ceiling of the ballroom.⁹ Mrs. Moses, a resident of Lampasas in the late 1880's and 1890's, recalled the dining room in the hotel:

The dining room was served by colored waiters, expert in balancing the large black trays on the flattened palm of the hand, with

⁶Arron P. Aten, "Diary of Arron P. Aten," privately held by James P. Cole, Lampasas, Texas, p. 8.

⁷The Lampasas Record, December 19, 1963.

⁸Ibid., May 14, 1936.

⁹Statement by W. H. Moses, personal interview.

never a slip or a tip over of tea or coffee. These waiters were very expert in serving guests and almost were listed among 'necessary equipment' in all the best hotels. Two names I recall were Jim Baker and Mose Starmes, who were among the best in town.¹⁰

A boardwalk, known as "the Lover's Promenade," ran from the front entrance of the hotel to the suspension bridge over Sulphur Creek at Hancock Springs. The boardwalk was one mile long. The bridge was a single span suspension bridge which rocked like a cradle when crowded and yet withstood several floods before it was finally washed away. Across the bridge were separate bath houses for ladies and gentlemen. The bath houses were covered and separated by a wall extending from front to back directly over the spring that supplied the pools with fresh water. Each pool was 40x60 feet wide and from three to five feet deep.

Below the main bath house was another bath house, a long enclosed building from which projected several compartments. Each compartment contained a dressing room and a small tub where hot baths could be obtained.¹¹

Near the baths was the office for the purchase of tickets and soda pop and candy. Those who did not own a

¹⁰The Lampasas Record, December 19, 1963.

¹¹"Scrapbook," p. 46.

bathing suit could rent one for a nominal sum. The women's suits were made of a heavy navy blue material and included bloomers, blouse, and sailor collars, with or without long black stockings. When soaked with water the suit was bulky and weighed several pounds. They were the same type of suits worn at the beaches in Galveston.¹²

In front of the hotel was a large pavilion. During the summer season an orchestra was employed to play for dancing and afternoon concerts. The pavilion was considered to be quite an achievement in that it was built without a centerpole. Contractors in Galveston and Houston declared that the pavilion could not be built; however, a local carpenter, Mr. Tom Looney, a veteran of Sabine Pass, agreed to construct the pavilion.

On certain nights the dress was informal, but on Friday and Saturday nights, during the summer season, tuxedos for the men and formal dresses for women were the rule. On these nights a uniformed orchestra played in the dining room and then moved out to the pavilion, where dancing continued until 11:00 o'clock.¹³

In back of the hotel running north and south on Spring Street were two rows of small cottages of three and

¹²The Lampasas Record, December 19, 1963.

¹³The Lampasas Record, December 19, 1963.

four rooms. The cottages on the south row were rented to bachelors.¹⁴

After the first summer season in Lampasas in 1883, a mule-driven street car was built to carry the guests from the railway station to the Park Hotel, a distance of about three miles. The Galveston News, in an article datelined Lampasas, August 21, 1883, said:

A company has been organized with G. M. Snodgrass of Austin; J. L. Jackson, of Sherman, and James D. Snodgrass, of Burnet, as incorporators, styled the Lampasas Street Railway and Transportation Company which has obtained the Lampasas Springs Company franchise, and will at once lay down a street railway from one to the other city, work to begin in thirty days.¹⁵

The track was built from the depot across the flat north of Burleson Creek to Third Street, then up Third Street to Western Avenue, then over to Fifth Street, and west to the entrance on South Spring Street, then south past Bachelor's Row to the hotel. The price of a fare was one nickel. However, if a guest preferred a carriage from the station, one was always available.¹⁶

When the train arrived, hack drivers representing other hotels in the city would put their foot on a previously agreed upon boundary line and yell for their respective

¹⁴Ibid.

¹⁵The Galveston News, August 22, 1883.

hotels. Some of the drivers, such as Cris Bletcher, Dude Brown, Arthur Frazier, and John Ernest, would yell for the Star, the Globe, the Geronimo, and the Frazier house or some other hotel in the city.¹⁷

Lampasas at the time was the most noted health resort in the state, due mainly to the reputation of its mineral waters that flowed from its several springs. Men and women came here on stretchers with stomach trouble and rheumatism and many of them would be on the streets walking around in just a few weeks after drinking and bathing in the health giving waters.¹⁸

The above statement by the Reverend Buren Sparks sums up the main attraction of Lampasas in the 1880's. The Sulphur Springs, predating the discovery of concentrated sulphur drugs, was no doubt an effective cure for some types of disease and, at least, provided a psychological boost for some of the visitors. Moreover, the curative water, together with the swank hotel accommodations, attracted a wealthy and cultured class of people to Lampasas.¹⁹

The first manager of the Park Hotel, Major Wheadon, provided much quality entertainment during the first year. On July 10, 1883, a hotel-sponsored dance was given in the main parlor. Music was furnished "by a pianist and an

¹⁷Statement by W. H. Moses, personal interview.

¹⁸"Scrapbook," p. 45.

¹⁹The Lampasas Record, March 11, 1965.

Italian boy-orchestra."²⁰ The Austin Weekly Statesman reported on July 12, 1883, that on the next Friday evening a dance was to be given in the parlor "under the management of the finished instructor Prof. R. G. Cheezeman of Galveston."²¹

The Park Hotel managment announced that a shooting tournament was to be held on July seventeenth. The local newspaper announced that since the "mammoth" hotel was just completed accommodations would be adequate. The Austin Weekly Statesman on July 12, 1883, predicted:

Four thousand wild pigeons, together
with clay pigeons and glass balls will make
this the finest tournament ever held in Texas.²²

The tournament was held on "the inner grounds of the Park race course in plain view of the Park Hotel balcony." The entrance fee was \$10.00 and the starting time was 9 a.m. It was reported that hundreds attended the shoot, and that two men named Porter and Dunn, of Houston, were the winners with the highest score ever made in the state: forty-seven out of forty-eight shots.²³

²⁰The Austin Weekly Statesman, July 12, 1883.

²¹Ibid.

²²Ibid.

²³Ibid., July 19, 1883.

A race track was built in Lampasas at the same time as the Park Hotel. It stood at the bottom of the hill from the hotel on flat and fertile ground. Races were held during the summer season and were an important part of the local entertainment. The following is taken from the Galveston News and is dated August 19, 1883:

Long before the hour of the races, the grounds surrounding the Park Hotel were thronged by an anxious multitude. The first race of 500 yards was for a purse of \$300 dollars. With the cheers they came down the track beautifully. The entries were J. J. Hale's Grey John, Jim Brown's Big Emma, and LeRoy Lee's black colt. At the tap of the drum the horses started in fine style The black colt finished a week ahead.

Pools sold before the races 3 to 1 for Big Emma. It is estimated that about \$8000 changed hands on the race.²⁴

Ex-Governor Elisha M. Pease visited the Park Hotel in August of 1883. While attending a dance at the hotel, he became ill and retired to his room. For the next ten days Governor Pease's condition became more critical and on August 27, 1883, the Galveston News reported that:

Governor Pease suffered last night and this morning very much, but is resting better this evening. Dr. Wooten of Austin is here attending the governor, in connection with Dr. Wells of our city.²⁵

²⁴The Galveston News, August 19, 1883.

²⁵Ibid., August 27, 1883.

Governor Pease died eight days later. His body was sent to Austin on a special train furnished by Santa Fe railroad officials.²⁶

In 1885 Lampasas was chosen as the site for the annual encampment of the State Militia. Thirty of the most prominent companies in the state were in attendance, and the activities attracted a large number of visitors. Governor John Ireland, the commander-in-chief of the State Militia, was in attendance. The Dallas Times Herald, in an advertisement sponsored by the Santa Fe railroad, announced:

Prizes will be given to the Best Drilled Companies [and] Best Drilled Soldiers, and a Grand Sham Battle will be among the many attractions. Railroads have offered special inducements which will give everyone an opportunity to not only see the fine drilling, but a change to visit the young Saratoga of the South--Lampasas.²⁷

The railroad sold special round trip tickets to Lampasas from "all stations on the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railroad."²⁸ The Dallas Times Herald in an article datelined from Temple, Texas, on June 24, 1885, said:

²⁶Ibid., September 5, 1883.

²⁷The Dallas Times Herald, June 4, 1885.

²⁸Ibid., June 22, 1885.

The immense travel between this place and Lampasas has not apparently diminished, though thousands of people have gone from here over the Santa Fe during the last week. We have three daily trains crowded, and from all appearances the State Drill is a big thing.²⁹

Rifle Companies from Dallas, Ft. Worth, Houston, Waco, Cleburne, Alvarado, Sealy, Orange, Austin, Navasota, Belknap, and Lampasas were represented-- over five hundred soldiers in all.³⁰

Governor John Ireland took time for some electioneering with the people of Lampasas. A part of his speech ran as follows:

If I see another legislature I shall see that they appropriate something from the people's money for the purpose of encouraging volunteer troops. I believe that there should be a permanent place for the state encampment. I am electioneering for no particular place, but if I were, I know of no more appropriate and beautiful place than this valley.³¹

After 1885 the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railroad moved farther west and the Park Hotel began to decline in popularity. Mr. Henry Holten managed the hotel for several years. By December 10, 1888, the Lampasas paper, in reply

²⁹Ibid., June 25, 1885.

³⁰The Dallas Times Herald, June 24, 1885.

³¹Ibid., June 26, 1885.

to an editorial comment in the Mason News, said,

Some people of this community are beginning to think of the editor of the Mason News as a prophet. A week ago he stated in his paper that 'all that keeps the Park Hotel at Lampasas from being crowded with people is the want of advertising.' This week the editor could state that the Park Hotel at Lampasas has closed its doors for the lack of patronage.³²

A Mr. Kneuth and W. A. Patterson were the last managers of the Park Hotel which was kept open during the summer season but was closed the rest of the time. In 1891 the Park Hotel was closed to customers and leased to the Keely Institute for alcoholic therapy for three years.³³ In 1894 it was leased to the Centenary College in Lampasas, and in December 1895 the hotel burned to the ground.³⁴ The burning of the hotel marked the end of a colorful era in the history of Lampasas County.

Hanna Park Springs

The Park Hotel was an expensive hotel which attracted guests with expensive tastes. The Hanna Park offered guests the opportunity to benefit from the curative sulphur water

³²Ralph W. Steen, The Texas News, (Austin: The Steck Company, 1955), p. 129.

³³The Lampasas Record, December 19, 1963.

³⁴Ibid.

at a lower cost. These guests, in the early days before the railroad, camped out near the spring; however, after the railroad was built, visitors who did not go to the Park Hotel, stayed in the Globe, the San Geronimo, the Star, the Frazier House or some other inexpensive hotel and commuted to the Hanna Springs. Some, no doubt, continued to camp outdoors.

Hanna Springs Before the Railroad

The Hanna Springs were first owned by John Hanna and Isabelle White. The first mention of the Hanna Springs is found in Lampasas County Records of 1879. Sara White sold all the "rights, interests, and all landed property of my husband J. S. White, relating to the estate of Isabelle White" for the sum of \$2000.00 on May 1, 1880, at 7% interest. The land was sold to Mr. Jacob Hanna, counselor for the estate and a member of the law firm of Ramsdell, White, and Hanna.³⁵ The mention of John Hanna in the county records was in March of 1881, at which time Mr. Green Hanna of Jersey Landing, California, sold to Mr. William Hanna "for the sum of \$4,695.40 gold coin, all personal property of John Hanna and Isabelle White

³⁵ The Lampasas Record, March 11, 1965.

(deceased)."³⁶ By 1881 the Hanna Springs property was owned by the Hanna family.

There were some improvements made in the Hanna Springs grounds after the arrival of the railroad; however, the improvements were not extensive. Mr. J. A. Valient, in a letter to Mrs. W. H. Moses of Lampasas, recalled his early impressions of the "old Hanna Springs":

The old Hanna Springs buildings were not impressive. The hot and cold baths were prepared by a portable boiler standing outside. I can remember seeing camps scattered all around in the wooded area, countless numbers of people taking the waters. It was said that many of them were from far away places. I can remember that when the old pool was enlarged that the diggers found big piles of buffalo bones and Mexican coins buried in the mud. I can remember that when the south wind was blowing that it would carry the odor of the sulphur water to our house a mile to the northeast.³⁷

The Hanna Springs pool was enclosed with a concrete well with an iron railing around the top. Some crude bath houses were built. The Park contained about seventy acres and "extended north of Hackberry Street, west to Pecan Street, and south again to Pecan Street in a wire fence."³⁸

³⁶Ibid.

³⁷J. A. Valient to Mrs. W. H. Moses, date unknown.

³⁸The Lampasas Record, March 11, 1965.

The Central Texas Town Company

On February 14, 1884, the Hanna Springs holdings were reorganized under a corporate charter with a capital stock of \$200,000 and "for the purpose of improving and promoting the Hanna Springs."³⁹ The corporation was chartered under the name of the Central Texas Town Company. Only three of the original members of the corporation are mentioned in the charter. Mr. George M. Snodgrass, a lawyer from Austin, who had a part in the streetcar franchise which was dealt with above, Mr. D. A. Dyer, who owned a drug store on the corner of Second Street and Western Avenue,⁴⁰ and Mr. Frank R. Malone, who was cashier of the First National Bank,⁴¹ were the three mentioned. When the Central Texas Town purchased the land, many improvements were made. Mrs. W. H. Moses, in an article in the Lampasas Record dated March 11, 1965, described some of the improvements:

Both the ladies and gentlemen's pools were enlarged and deepened from three to six feet. A hall running the full length of the pools with plenty of dressing rooms was added, also a spacious space for a small orchestra all on the first floor of the new building. A stairway

³⁹Lampasas County Records, Book V, p. 135.

⁴⁰The Lampasas Record, March 11, 1965.

⁴¹Texas Bankers Record, March 22, 1922; E. C. Barker Collection, University of Texas, Austin, Texas.

led up both sides of the north and south of the hall 60x120 feet built without any center-pole. This hall was used for conventions, dancing, entertainments or any occasion, which might arise.⁴²

The hall, mentioned above, was a large structure and was the highlight of the Hanna Springs. The Springs always had a share of patronage because they were on the main streetcar line from the railroad and because of their proximity to the center of town, which made the springs easily accessible.

To furnish lodging for the Hanna Springs patrons, a large stone hotel was built across the streetcar track from the entrance to the Hanna Springs enclosure.

At that time the streetcar tracks crossed Burleson Creek on a high trestle then ran on level ground as it reached Second Street. There was a plank platform which ran from the car line over to the entrance of the hotel for the convenience of the guests arriving on the streetcar.⁴³

The Hanna Springs continued in service until the turn of the century. It reached its zenith in the years 1884 through 1885, and, thereafter, declined rapidly. During the period the Springs were the scene of much social activity in Lampasas.

⁴²The Lampasas Record, March 11, 1965.

⁴³The Lampasas Record, March 11, 1965.

In 1884 the Hanna Springs were the scene of a revival held by an evangelist named Major Penn. Penn had served in the Civil War with the rank of Major. He was a large man with a long beard and bald forehead. The meetings, which were outdoors, were held just north of the open pool in the Hanna Springs enclosure. Major Penn, who styled himself as the "Texas Evangelist," related a tragic event of one night during the Lampasas service:

At Lampasas we had a large bush arbor which seated maybe a thousand people and it was full every night. One night while we were singing the last song, a lady in the choir struck one of the large tin lamps on a post. The lid flew off and she was covered with flaming oil. She ran some distance from the arbor and fell on her knees. Someone threw a wagon sheet over her and extinguished the flames, but she died at two o'clock the next day, and another who was badly burned died the following day.⁴⁴

Hanna Springs Open House

About 1892 the Central Texas Town Company converted the large hall into an opera house. When the Elks opera house burned downtown, there was a need for an opera house in Lampasas. A stage was built, complete with changes of scenery, ample stage and house lights, orchestra pits and dressing rooms.⁴⁵ Attractions at the Hanna Opera House

⁴⁴The Lampasas Record, March 11, 1965.

⁴⁵Ibid.

included the Chautauqua programs. Madam Yaw, one of the popular stars of the period, sang at the Hanna Opera House. She was the most outstanding artist ever to appear there.⁴⁶

A regular attraction in Lampasas for several years was the annual student-faculty picnic of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Belton, Texas. The picnickers came up on the Santa Fe Excursion for a few days' outing in the park. In the afternoon "the girls favored the people of Lampasas with a program of music and entertainment."⁴⁷

By the turn of the century, the Hanna Springs property had fallen into disrepair, and the popularity of the springs had diminished to such an extent that the Hanna Opera House was torn down and in its stead a smaller house was built over the pools. Finally, however, all of the property was sold, and the Hanna Springs were closed to the public.

Elks Opera House

The Park Hotel and Hanna Springs were the focal point for much of the entertainment in Lampasas during the 1880's; however, the Elks Opera House, a modern theater in its time, was also a place of entertainment for many of the visitors

⁴⁶The Lampasas Record, March 11, 1965.

⁴⁷Ibid.

and citizens in Lampasas. It is not certain when the Elks Opera House was built, but there is reference to a Rubenstein's Opera House as early as 1883.⁴⁸ The building was owned by A. H. Barnes of Lampasas, Texas. The opera house made up about half of the building, as may be judged by its description, with some offices upstairs and stores on the ground level.⁴⁹

The lower floor facing Third Street was occupied by a man's furnishing store owned by Mr. Fred Field on the left. On the right was a fruit and candy store owned by Mr. Zachary and Sons. Off the hall upstairs were some offices which were rented to Doctors and Lawyers.⁵⁰

The first reference to the Elks Opera House in the city records was made on April 11, 1890, at which time the Elks Opera House Corporation paid a Mr. J. B. Patterson \$4,000 for part of the building and the right entrance on Third Street.⁵¹

The main auditorium was built with the floors slanting from the second story down to the stage, which was

⁴⁸"Minutes of Centenary College, Board of Trustees," Privately held by the Methodist Church, Lampasas, Texas.

⁴⁹"Scrapbook," p. 70.

⁵⁰Ibid.

⁵¹The Lampasas Record, December 19, 1963.

on the ground floor. The seats, upholstered in brown leather, were built in tiers down to the orchestra pit. The ticket office and main entrance were located upstairs. The curtain was red and chandeliers hung from the ceiling.⁵²

On the drop curtain was painted a woodland scene with a background of bright red, in the middle of which stood an immense elk.⁵³

On stage, the popular dramas of the day were performed. The Lampasas Dispatch, on August 7, 1884, announced that the current play was "Love and Life of These Times," and that J. E. Hogen was manager, and C. E. Sivain, musical director.⁵⁴ Mrs. W. H. Moses, a resident of Lampasas in the 1880's and 1890's, recalled:

I remember one version of Faust on one occasion There were also political speeches, school entertainment, or local concerts, and, no doubt, for a time [the opera house] paid good dividends.⁵⁵

The Elks Opera House met an untimely end in the late 1890's. About three o'clock in the morning the bells were rung which sounded the alarm for fire. However, the

⁵²"Scrapbook," p. 70.

⁵³Ibid.

⁵⁴The Lampasas Dispatch, August 7, 1884.

⁵⁵"Scrapbook," p. 70.

brown leather seats, which smoked rather than blazed, made the fire difficult to locate. By the time the fire department, which was little more than a bucket brigade, located the fire, the building was too far gone to save.⁵⁶

The parks and hotels provided the social life in Lampasas and reflected the changes that had taken place within a short span of years. The luxurious hotels of the early 1880's were a far cry from the campsites which visitors used before the railroad arrived.

⁵⁶"Scrapbook," p. 70.

CHAPTER IV

TEXAS BANKERS' ASSOCIATION

As a part of the economic boom in Lampasas, a necessary feature of financial life in the city was the banks. The First National Bank was one of several, and one employee was to give it a distinctive honor above all other banks in the city or in the state.

The Texas Bankers' Association was founded in Lampasas on July 23, 1885. The main inspiration for the organization was the work of Frank R. Malone, cashier, of the First National Bank of Lampasas. In 1885 the First National Bank had been in operation for one year. The men who operated the bank and the organization conceived there are a credit to the city of Lampasas and the state of Texas.

The founder of the Texas Bankers' Association, Frank R. Malone, was born in Tennessee in 1853. At the age of one he moved with his parents to Texas. Nothing is known of his early life until he entered the old banking house of Mitchell and Glover in Dallas, where he gained valuable experience in banking. Later he opened a bank in San Marcos, Texas, under his own name. Malone left San Marcos, Texas, and took the position of manager of the private banking firm of T. C. Frost in San Antonio. Upon leaving

San Antonio in 1884, Malone moved to Lampasas where he was employed as cashier of the newly chartered First National Bank of Lampasas. It was while he was in Lampasas that he initiated the formal organization of the Texas Bankers' Association. However, in 1887 Malone left Lampasas with Colonel Henry Exall, one of the directors of the bank, who was interested in the organization of the North Texas National Bank in Dallas, Texas. After the bank failed in the panic of 1893, Malone engaged in private investment in the city of Dallas until his death in 1922 at the age of sixty-eight.¹

The preliminaries to the organization of the Association were carried on by way of letters to the Galveston News. The News was the most widely-read newspaper of the day and it allowed ample space for important news items from other Texas papers as well as for letters from readers. Frank Malone was apparently following a logical course of action when he wrote a letter to the Galveston News.

The Malone letter was written on May 26, 1885, in Lampasas and published in the News on May 28. Since the letter stands as the first word ever written on the subject

¹Texas Bankers Record, March 22, 1922; E. C. Barker Collection, University of Texas, Austin, Texas.

of a bankers' association in Texas, it should be quoted in full:

Lampasas, May 26, 1885--It has been suggested that, in view of the good resulting from the organization into state associations of tradesmen, professional men and members of other special interests, and of the eminently practical services offered by the American Bankers' Association, the banks and bankers of this state should meet together and organize permanently the Texas Bankers' Association. Why not this summer? It is almost idle to discuss the benefits to be derived. Every bank man in the state will admit the good to be accomplished.

The influence of such an association would be wide-extending, not only toward the development of the material resources of the state, but in the enlargement and expansion of the banking mind. The discussion of practical questions arising from the meetings of the association would be most profitable.

That the other varied interests of the country are greatly benefited by their state associations no one will deny; then surely the permanent organization of a Texas Bankers' Association, while of much interest to the banks themselves, could not but accomplish good to the State and people at large. The banding together of so much capital and enterprise in one body, and the united influence thereof rightly directed would bring forth good fruit to the Lone Star State.

If we may be permitted to suggest the time, July 9, 10, and 11; and the place Lampasas Springs.

The meetings of the American Bankers' Association have generally been held at some great watering place, free from the cares of business.

We offer our little city with pardonable pride as eminently suited to such a purpose. The hotel facilities are excellent, the bathing unexcelled, and the beautiful scenery is sure to inspire grand thoughts and purposes. Our handsome, newly-furnished and well-ventilated Opera House can be obtained for its meeting.

We shall immediately address a circular letter to each banker throughout the State, and earnestly request the cordial co-operation and attendance of all. In union there is strength.²

F. N. B.

Three days after the appearance of the Malone letter the News carried the first reply. It acknowledged the value of Malone's idea and called it a "move in the right direction." The News then took the liberty of nominating N. B. Sligh, cashier of the Texas Banking and Insurance Company of Galveston, as the first president of the organization. The letter was mysteriously signed "Ibex."³ Possibly to dispel any rumor that he had nominated himself for president, Sligh wrote a letter to the News on July 7, 1885. He thanked the writer of the "Ibex" letter for the "compliment paid" and then suggested that Colonel John Withers, cashier of the San Antonio National Bank, be president. Sligh endorsed the Bankers' Association idea by saying:

The successful banker is one who is working not against his fellow bankers, but with them; their interests are the same; they should understand each other. . . .⁴

²The Galveston News, May 28, 1885.

³Ibid., May 31, 1885.

⁴Ibid., June 7, 1885.

Frank Malone, after his initial letter to the News, began publicizing the organizational meeting to be held in Lampasas. Throughout the month of June and July the News carried the following advertisement:

To the Bankers of Texas:

You are most respectfully requested to convene at Lampasas, Texas, on July 23, 24, and 25, 1885, for the purpose of organizing a permanent State association of bankers. It is earnestly hoped that every bank in the State will be represented.⁵

There were newspaper items which referred to the number of letters received by Malone from bankers across the state. Malone reported the enthusiastic response from Texas bankers, and he declared that as many as 250 bankers were expected to attend. Only July 13, 1885, The News carried the following dispatch from Lampasas:

Lampasas, July 11--The News reporter met F. R. Malone, cashier of the First National Bank here, who stated that the bankers all over Texas have responded promptly to the call of the convention, and that at least 250 representatives of different banks will be present. The object of the meeting will be the following: 'a closer personal acquaintance and relationship, the exchange of practical experiences and suggestions, mutual protection against confidence men and other swindlers, attention to the law-making of the state. To demand changes and suggest new laws until money shall become as safe and abundant

⁵The Galveston News, June 12, 1885.

as in New England; and to urge that the water powers of Texas shall be utilized by manufacturers.' For these and many other reasons the bankers of Texas will take counsel together from the 23rd to the 25th of July. Banquets, balls and various other entertainment will be tendered, and with the other natural facilities of Lampasas Springs, the bankers cannot help having a delightful time.⁶

By mid-July of 1885 the delegates had assembled in Lampasas for the organization of the Texas Bankers' Association. The meeting was to extend from July twenty-third through the twenty-fifth. The Lampasas paper noted on July twenty-second:

[It is reported that] . . . a very large delegation is expected. The necessary arrangements have been perfected for the bankers' dress ball, which will be given at the Park Hotel, Friday evening, July 24.⁷

On July the twenty-third the banker delegates arrived in Lampasas. The Lampasas paper recorded their arrival:

Quite a number of prominent men from all over the state assembled in the concert room of the Park Hotel this morning at 10 o'clock for the purpose of organizing permanently the Texas Bankers' Association.⁸

⁶Quoted in The Galveston News, July 13, 1885.

⁷Ibid., July 24, 1885.

⁸Ibid., July 26, 1885.

The proceedings of the first convention show that thirty-one voting delegates were seated; total attendance, including the wives of four of the delegates and local Lampasas dignitaries, was sixty-six. Two days were spent in business, including the organization details and speeches. Of the twelve banks that signed the advertised call only six attended. The business meetings were held in the Park Hotel from 10:00 A. M. to 12:00 noon, and from 4 P.M. to 6 P.M.⁹ On the morning of July twenty-third Colonel Henry Exall delivered the introductory remarks for the Lampasas meeting. Exall had been a Colonel in the Civil War. He was born in Virginia and moved to Texas in 1877. He first operated a ranch near Ft. Worth, but in the early 1880's he settled in Lampasas Springs. He was on the board of directors when the First National Bank of Lampasas opened in 1884. Exall was a prominent civic leader in Lampasas. In 1887 he moved from Lampasas to Dallas and was active in the North Texas National Bank of Dallas.¹⁰ His remarks before the Lampasas gathering were in the popular rhetorical style of the day:

⁹William A. Philpott, "The Beginnings of the Texas Bankers' Association" (Dallas, Texas: Annual Texas Bankers' Association Convention, 1960. An unpublished pamphlet).

¹⁰Ibid.

We welcome you as representatives of the life blood of commerce of our great State, as conservators of the peace and protectors alike of the interests of every department of business. . . . We welcome you to our sweet South breezes; to our live oak shades; to our sulphur baths; to our rock-ribbed hills and grassy slopes; and at last, but not least, to the hearts and homes of our people.¹¹

At the conclusion of his speech Colonel Exall suggested that James F. Miller of Gonzales be selected as temporary chairman for the convention. The suggestion was accepted unanimously and Frank Malone was named temporary secretary of the convention.¹²

On the twenty-fifth the convention elected officers of the Texas Bankers' Association. James F. Miller of Gonzales was elected President, N. B. Sligh, of Gonzales, J. N. Rushing, of Baird, J. K. Rose, of Waco, were elected, first, second, and third vice-president respectively. Frank Malone of Lampasas, Corey Shaw, of Columbus, F. D. Ball of Galveston, and W. A. Kelsey, of Texarkana, were made secretaries of the Association.

After the election of officers several resolutions were offered: one to equalize gold and silver; one to submit to the people an amendment to the State Constitution

¹¹William A. Philpott, "The Beginnings of the Texas Bankers' Association" (Dallas, Texas: Annual Texas Bankers' Association Convention, 1960. An unpublished pamphlet).

¹²The Galveston News, July 26, 1885.

which provided for the chartering of State Banks similar to that of the National Banking System. The resolution "to equalize gold and silver" represented a conservative monetary position. It was tantamount to endorsing the use of the gold coin rather than paper money or silver coin. Other members were asked to prepare papers on the subject of the development of resources in Texas.¹³

A report from a Lampasas paper noted that few of the delegates to the convention were over thirty-five years of age. At one of the sessions a resolution was drafted which expressed grief at the death of President Ulysses S. Grant.

Suitable resolutions of respect and sympathy upon the death of the distinguished soldier, statesman and fellow being, General U. S. Grant, were passed without a dissenting vote.¹⁴

The convention adjourned on July 28, 1885, and it was agreed that the next meeting would be held in Lampasas Springs on the third Tuesday in July, 1886. The first executive meeting was held on October 28, 1885, in Galveston, Texas. Routine matters were discussed, with emphasis on the

¹³William A. Phillpott, "The Beginnings of the Texas Bankers' Association."

¹⁴The Galveston Daily News, July 28, 1885.

campaign of Secretary Malone to enroll all Texas banks as members of the Association.¹⁵ Thus ended the first meeting of the Texas Bankers' Association in Lampasas.

¹⁵The Galveston Daily News, July 28, 1885.

CHAPTER V

EARLY SCHOOLS IN LAMPASAS

There were several schools in Lampasas from 1882 to 1895. Many of them were private subscription schools operated in homes with a small number of pupils in attendance. They usually did not last long. These schools will not be dealt with in this chapter. Only the schools which seem to have made a lasting contribution in Lampasas, preceding the advent of the public school system, will be examined. Although some of the schools included in this chapter began before 1882, the bulk of the chapter will be concerned with the Lampasas schools from 1882 to 1895.

An Early Lampasas School

Major Martin White, veteran of the Civil War, moved to Lampasas in the late 1860's. Upon arriving in Lampasas, he let it be known that he had been a teacher before the war. Several families interviewed Major White and requested that he teach their children. Major White agreed to the request but he asked that a building be constructed for that purpose. It was described in the Lampasas Record by Mrs. W. H. Moses in an article entitled "First School in Lampasas is Described":

A two-room house with hallway between was built of logs, with a long table that served for desks, and long split logs that served as seats, and the first school became a reality.¹

The erection of the school stands as the first recorded instance of a building constructed for that specific purpose in Lampasas.²

Later additions were made to the building, such as a boxed-in annex and a front porch. Other additions were made and Major White and his family moved into the building.³ The original structure was not large enough to accommodate the growing number of students and Major White remarked:

The house was built in what is now known as the Cooper Spring Enclosure and was a very small unpainted building; so small that I had to have some rude benches made and seat about half the pupils outdoors.⁴

The school continued to grow and by 1869 some of the citizens of Lampasas, under the leadership of W. D. Quillan, obtained subscriptions to build a two-story rock

¹The Lampasas Record, August 17, 1964.

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

⁴Ibid., May 14, 1936.

house.

The school was built by public subscription on the street between Elm and Pecan Streets. It consisted of two large rooms, one above the other with the stairway leading up on the north side. It was built of stone with fireplaces in both the north and south ends, and was quite an asset to the town.⁵

Major White and a Mr. Richard Clark, who had joined him, closed their school, and taught at "The College", as it was popularly known, until 1879.⁶

Aten College

During the summer of 1879, the Reverend and Mrs. Arron Prince Aten visited Lampasas for a short vacation "living (as so many did then) in a tent beside the springs."⁷ While in Lampasas, the Atens became acquainted with the officials of the town and, for several reasons, they offered to sell him the school. Reverend Aten obtained a loan from a firm in Waco and by September 1, 1879, had moved to Lampasas and opened the school which was operated by the method of subscription.⁸

⁵The Lampasas Record, August 4, 1966.

⁶Ibid., May 14, 1936.

⁷Arron P. Aten, "Diary of Arron P. Aten," privately held by James P. Cole, p. 1.

⁸The Lampasas Record, August 4, 1966.

Both Reverend and Mrs. Aten were originally from Illinois, and both were graduates of Abington College in Abington, Illinois. The Reverend Aten had held pastorates in Austin, Taylor, and Salado before coming to Lampasas. In Lampasas, he was pastor of the Christian Church. The Reverend Aten was, for a time, a traveling representative of a religious periodical, The Christian Preacher. In the late 1880's, he became the Texas editor of the Apostolic Guide.⁹

Aten College offered instruction on the primary level, a preparatory school for college entrance, and, of course, a college degree. A student could receive a degree in science or business, but a classical education was encouraged.

After completing a primary school a student could enter a two-year preparatory school which offered arithmetic, English and grammar, elocution and composing, primary astronomy, primary algebra, physiology and primary Greek.

Upon graduation from the preparatory school, the college student could receive a classical education through the study of Greek and Roman writers and philosophers such as Cicero, Ovid, Horace, and Herodotus. Courses in logic

⁹Arron P. Aten, p. 10.

and aesthetics, philosophy and science were offered. Students who sought a scientific course of study omitted the language requirements and studied chemistry, philology, analytical geometry, and mineralogy.¹⁰

To meet the standards of discipline, the students had to follow these rules:

The deportment of the students must be ladylike and gentlemanly both about the college and the places bounding. Profane swearing, the use of intoxicating drinks, playing cards or other games of chance, writing on the walls or defacing the furniture or building are prohibited.¹¹

The several members of the faculty included Arron P. Aten, Professor of Ancient Languages and Belles Lettres, Virgil R. Stapp, Professor of Mathematics and Natural Science, J. N. Adkins, M. D., Professor of Anatomy, Physiology and Hygiene, Mrs. Emma Aten, Principal of the Primary Department, D. A. Beeman, Professor of Bookkeeping, Penmanship, and Drawing, Mrs. Bertha G. Cassell, Teacher of Instrumental Music, and Miss Madeline Fisher, Teacher of Portraiture and Flower Painting in Oil.¹²

¹⁰Catalogue of Lampasas College: 1882; E. C. Barker Collection, University of Texas, Austin, Texas.

¹¹Ibid.

¹²Catalogue of Lampasas College: 1882; E. C. Barker Collection, University of Texas, Austin, Texas.

The Aten College catalogue, printed in 1882, gave several reasons why the college was well located:

Lampasas College is situated in the suburbs of the most beautiful town of Lampasas, in the midst of one of the most delightful valleys in the world. The town is now the terminal of the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railroad. This road . . . brings Lampasas within easy communication with all parts of Texas, enabling health and pleasure seekers who desire to drink of its wonderful life-giving springs No place could be chosen with more pleasant and healthful surroundings at which to establish an Institution of Learning, and it shall be the constant aim of the faculty and of the college to surround the students committed to their care by such influences as will enable parents to know that the moral as well as physical atmosphere is life-giving and health-enduring.¹³

The year 1883 was a good year for the Aten family. In 1881 they had moved to Plattsmouth, Nebraska, where Reverend Aten held a pastorate. However, they returned to Lampasas by the opening of the fall term in 1882. In 1883 Reverend Aten built a new home near the college, and the Christian Church, of which he was pastor, dedicated a new church building.¹⁴ At this time, the city of Lampasas had begun a period of economic prosperity and was growing rapidly. Reverend Aten noted in his diary that on Tuesday, March 6, 1883, "the citizens voted to incorporate

¹³Ibid.

¹⁴Arron P. Aten, p. 5.

Lampasas We shall soon have a city government, and, of course, put on city airs."¹⁵

In 1885 the Reverend Aten terminated his tenure as pastor of the newly formed Christian Church, and at the close of the spring term of the college, he and Mrs. Aten returned to Illinois to visit Mrs. Aten's parents. The Atens returned to Lampasas in 1886. Upon returning to Lampasas, the Reverend Aten accepted the position as editor of the Texas Department of the Apostolic Guide.¹⁶ The Atens taught at the college in 1886; however, they sold the college building to a Mr. J. R. Jones on October 2, 1886, for the sum of \$4492.00.¹⁷

In 1886 the Reverend Aten seemed to be occupied with business and financial problems and politics. The prohibition movement was gaining momentum during these years, and he ran for State Superintendent of Public Instruction on the Prohibition ticket.¹⁸

Reverend and Mrs. Aten remained in Lampasas until 1888. The westward expansion of the Santa Fe Railroad and the accompanying economic decline caused him to exclaim

¹⁵Ibid.

¹⁶Ibid., p. 10.

¹⁷The Lampasas Record, August 4, 1966.

¹⁸Arron P. Aten, p. 11.

"they could not go on any longer."¹⁹ Reverend Aten also noted in his diary in 1888 that "Lampasas is largely deserted and there are large numbers of business houses and residences unoccupied."²⁰ The Atens moved to Austin in 1888 and to a pastorate in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, in 1889.²¹

"The College" continued in operation for several years, but the peak of its success had been with the Atens. The fortunes of the Aten College and the Aten family reflected the economic rise and decline in Lampasas that was related to the arrival of the Santa Fe Railroad and its subsequent expansion westward in 1885.

Centenary College

In 1884 the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, built a college in Lampasas which was known as the Centenary College. The school was highly successful for a time; but, by the late 1880's "hard times" had come to Lampasas, the college was in financial straits and the enrollment was low. Moreover, poor business management aggravated the situation,

¹⁹Ibid.

²⁰Ibid.

²¹Ibid.

and by 1895 Centenary College was closed. Although the college was revived for a while, it did not flourish.

The Centenary College Catalogue of 1883-1884 gives credit to the Reverend H. H. Burnett, the pastor of the First Methodist Church in Lampasas, for projecting the idea of the establishment of Centenary College in Lampasas. The catalogue read as follows:

Its projector, the Reverend H. H. Burnett, of the North Texas Conference, was appointed last fall to the Lampasas Station.

The wonderful beauty of the young city and of the country surrounding it; . . . its inevitable future prominence as a social center, because of its springs, and other attractions; the annual visitation of many thousands of the wealthiest and most cultured people of this state and of other states; . . . all had its part in suggesting to Mr. Burnett the idea of the establishment, at Lampasas, of a great Centenary College.²²

The Centenary College was built one mile north of Lampasas. The original plans for the construction of four buildings were abandoned because of lack of funds. The trustees compromised on a preparatory school located in Lampasas, and two three-story buildings, located one mile north of Lampasas. One of the buildings was to be used as a dormitory for girls and the other for boys. The lower

²²Centenary College Catalogue: 1883-1884, privately held by Mrs. Thomas B. Huling, Lampasas, Texas, p. 16.

floor of the boys dormitory was used for classrooms. The dining room was located on the lower floor of the girls dormitory.²³ The buildings were slow in being built, perhaps because of the lack of funds, and as late as July 25, 1884, the Board of Trustees of Centenary College had appointed "committees on securing buildings for temporary use during the coming year."²⁴ The Board found two immediate sources of funds. The minutes of the Board of Trustees reported on May 28, 1884:

It was resolved that the present Methodist Episcopal Church South be offered for sale subject to ratification of the Quarterly Conference and the proceeds merged into the Preparatory School Building.²⁵

The other source of funds was subscriptions from the citizens of Lampasas. A committee was appointed "to canvass the town and solicit subscriptions."²⁶

There were two buildings contracted for in 1884. The preparatory school was built by L. D. Nichols at a cost

²³The Lampasas Record, newspaper clipping in Lampasas Historical Society files.

²⁴"Minutes of Centenary College, Board of Trustees," owned by Methodist Church, Lampasas, Texas, July 25, 1884, p. 20.

²⁵Ibid., May 28, 1884, p. 5.

²⁶Ibid.

of \$13,000.²⁷ The land was donated by A. H. Barnes.²⁸

The college catalogue described the building as follows:

The contract for a . . . Preparatory School has been let, and work on the building is well underway. This house is to be of rock; and the architectural finish handsome; commodious in space and convenient in the arrangement of its vestibule, halls, and rooms. It is 81 x 53 feet and two stories high. It is situated on a beautiful plot in the heart of the city.²⁹

"A plan for a boarding hall to be erected on College Hill to be used temporarily for a Boys' School and Boarding School . . ." became a reality by September, 1884, at a cost of \$3,755.³⁰ The college catalogue dealt with the "Boys' School" as follows:

The great desire in our school arrangements in this country, is cheap boarding, especially for boys. A three-story house, seventy by forty feet now in process of construction, will be finished by the opening of the Fall term, and is to be used as a home for boys, where they can board themselves at just the cost of their living. The lower story of this house will be used for school purposes while the College building is in construction.³¹

²⁷Ibid., June 28, 1884, p.14.

²⁸Ibid., May 28, 1884, pp. 5-6.

²⁹Centenary College Catalogue: 1883-1884, p. 17.

³⁰"Board of Trustees," June 5, 1884, p. 8.

³¹Centenary College Catalogue: 1883-1884, p. 2.

By the fall of 1885 the girls' dormitory was completed. As early as July 1884 there had been some talk among the citizens of Lampasas and the Board of Trustees concerning the building of a dormitory for female students.³² Marshall McIlhaney, President of the Centenary College, and other members of the board were in favor of the idea but no action had been taken.³³

On June 13, 1885, the Board of Trustees took the low bid of E. D. Ennis to build a "boarding school for young girls" at a cost of \$3,108.³⁴ The new building was located on "College Hill" next to the boys' school. The girls' building was finished by September 1885. It was an exact duplicate of the boys' dormitory. With the completion of the girls' dormitory, all of the buildings which would house Centenary College were finished.

As in most schools of the period, the Centenary College emphasized a classical education. For the young ladies piano, organ, elocution, voice, and painting classes were available.³⁵

³²"Board of Trustees," July 25, 1884, p. 20.

³³Ibid., p. 21.

³⁴Ibid., p. 33.

³⁵Centenary College Catalogue: 1883-1884, p. 4.

The faculty of the college in 1884 included the Reverend Marshall McIlhaney, President and Professor of Mathematics, G. W. Bruce, A. M., Professor of Ancient Languages, Reverend J. Griffin, A. M., Professor of Moral and Mental Sciences, Robert S. Goss, B. D., Professor of Elocution and English Literature, C. M. Ramsdell, M. D., Professor of Hygiene and Physiology. The principals and teachers of the Preparatory School were Miss Fannie Rugley, Miss Emma Forbes, and Mrs. N. R. Currie.³⁶

The rules of the college were strict. Only a day and a half was allowed for Christmas vacation.³⁷ The rules on girls' dress read: "School girls ought to be saved from dissipations and follies of modern fashion." The girls were advised to dress inexpensively, neatly, and to "leave costly dresses and jewels at home."³⁸ The guidelines of dress for the boys were set forth in no uncertain terms:

So boys are at school not for the purpose of learning the extravagance and foppery of the dandy's toilet, but to get useful knowledge and to improve themselves in all noble and manly virtues. . . .³⁹

³⁶Ibid.

³⁷Ibid., p. 6.

³⁸Centenary College Catalogue: 1883-1884, p. 14.

³⁹Ibid.

Other rules directed toward the boys insisted that:

Students shall not indulge in . . .
 gambling dice or impure literature or pictures.
 A student should not quarrel, box, wrestle,
 . . . keep any pistol or other weapon of death
 . . . indulge in intoxicating drinks, be on
 streets after dark . . .[or] go into a saloon.⁴⁰

In all there were twenty-six specific rules which governed the students' dress, conduct, class attendance, visiting, study, and church attendance. Perhaps the most difficult rules to observe were those regarding the relationship between the sexes. Rule twenty-two prohibited any communication between the boys and girls "by writing, words, or signs."⁴¹ Rule twenty-three stated that boys could not "gallant" girls, nor girls the boys, "except at such times as the President shall suspend Rules twenty-two and twenty-three."⁴² At that time a party was given by the girls in their dormitory.

The Reverend H. H. Burnett was the financial agent for the college from 1884 to 1886. It was his responsibility to collect funds and to "appropriate so much of the

⁴⁰Ibid.

⁴¹Centenary College Catalogue: 1883-1884, p. 14.

⁴²Ibid.

funds collected to Centenary as may be necessary."⁴⁴ In June of 1885, the year the girls' dormitory was built, the Board of Trustees resolved that a loan of \$9,080 should be obtained through the Texas Loan Agency, of Corsicana, Texas. To guarantee the loan from the Texas Loan Agency, it was planned to "authorize the mortgaging [of] the lots donated to the Church."⁴⁵ Several local individuals had aided the college by giving land instead of cash subscriptions.⁴⁶ The financial agent was to arrange for the loan; however, it is not certain that the loan was completed. From June 8, 1885, until April 23, 1886, there are no accounts of the actions taken by the Board of Trustees of Centenary College. On April 23, 1886, the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees contained the following notation:

Reverend H. H. Burnett sent a communication to the Board tending his resignation. Resolved: that the Board of Trustees do not accept the resignation of Reverend H. H. Burnett until he wrote to the board a statement of the financial condition of the college.⁴⁷

⁴³Ettis Aurelia Adkins, One Texas Old Maid, (Dallas: William T. Walker, 1938), p. 175.

⁴⁴"Board of Trustees," March 12, 1885, p. 28.

⁴⁵Ibid., June 4, 1885, p. 31.

⁴⁶Ibid.

⁴⁷Ibid., April 23, 1886, p. 37.

Reverend Burnett, who had moved to Dallas, Texas, did not turn in the financial report that was requested by the Board. Marshall McIlhaney, President of Centenary College, accepted the financial management of the college.⁴⁸

It does not appear Reverend Burnett had stolen money from the college, but he had failed to collect the subscriptions given to the college. Moreover, where a land donation was made, he had failed to have the deed transferred to the Centenary College. There is no evidence of theft, but there is abundant evidence of financial incompetence. It seems that Reverend Burnett's problems stem from the decision of the Board of Trustees, on June 4, 1885, to obtain a loan from the Texas Loan Agency in Corsicana, Texas. It had been planned to mortgage the land given to the college in order to secure the loan; however, the Board discovered that certain deeds had not been transferred to the College. The problem was compounded when several of the land donors asked that they now be paid for the land which they, at first, had promised as gifts.⁴⁹

Other irregularities were discovered:

The following account is an offset against college indebtedness to H. H. Burnett: By 4 months

⁴⁸Ibid.

⁴⁹"Board of Trustees," April 23, 1886, p. 32.

spent on College Hill attending to laying off lots outside the duties of his agency.	
\$125 per month	\$500
To amount lost by neglecting to take the Baker deed to donation for which College afterwards had to pay.	\$500
To amount of Cooks land lost by failing to get deed--5 years.	\$500
To balance fund raised by private effort spent by Butterfield and approved by Burnett.	\$ 10
To amount collected at Big Valley not accounted for.	unknown
Amount of cash collected at Milligan's meeting.	unknown
To amount lost by mis-management.	unknown ⁵⁰

The extent that Burnett's mis-management affected the Centenary College is not known. However, the expansion of the Santa Fe Railroad westward in 1885, and the resulting economic hardship, made the eventual dissolution of the institution almost a certainty. In 1887 the Centenary College was incorporated and a charter was granted.⁵¹

The first President of Centenary College was Marshall McIlhaney. The Reverend McIlhaney, originally from Missouri, was President of a college in Dallas, Texas, at the time he accepted his position at Centenary College.⁵² McIlhaney was elected President of Centenary College from

⁵⁰Ibid., May 29, 1886, pp. 42-43.

⁵¹"Board of Trustees," May 13, 1887, p. 47.

⁵²The Lampasas Record, newspaper clipping in Lampasas Historical Society files.

1883 to 1885 and was then elected for another term of five years to terminate in 1890.⁵³ However, McIlhaney resigned as President in 1887. At that time the college was involved in financial difficulties. Moreover, McIlhaney had taken the position as State Agent for the Marble Falls Co-operative Manufacturing Alliance.⁵⁴ The Marble Falls Co-operative was part of the National Farmers' Alliance, which will be dealt with in the next chapter.

In 1891 Reverend McIlhaney returned to Centenary College but the financial problems that had plagued the first administration had not been resolved.⁵⁵ In a letter to the Board of Trustees dated August 17, 1891, McIlhaney issued a direct statement concerning his attitude toward the business manager of the College.

Gentlemen:

Professor J. Kilgore is not a suitable person to be the business manager of Centenary [College].

.

Second: I cannot agree that anyone shall [be] business manager, in the sense that Bro. Kilgore understands himself to be.⁵⁶

⁵³"Board of Trustees," March 13, 1885, p. 28.

⁵⁴The Southern Mercury, June 21, 1888, p. 5.

⁵⁵"Board of Trustees," June, 1891, p. 47.

⁵⁶Ibid., August 17, 1891, p. 51.

The letter to the Board also disclosed that Reverend McIlhaney was concerned that Professor Kilgore had disbursed funds without his knowledge. McIlhaney's attitude was understandable in view of his past experiences with the Reverend H. H. Burnett in 1886. In fact, in the fall of 1891, McIlhaney was sent to Dallas, Texas, to "see Reverend H. H. Burnett in regard to defraying the Expired Indebtedness of Centenary College."⁵⁷

In July 1892 McIlhaney resigned as President of the College, apparently over continued dissatisfaction with the business manager. However, he returned to his position the same year when his nephew, Professor Harry McIlhaney, was appointed business agent for the college.⁵⁸

On June 21, 1893, President McIlhaney sent a telegram to the Board of Trustees from Stephenville, Texas. The telegram was paraphrased in the minutes of the Board meeting:

If the trustees would not raise \$500 for repairs in Centenary College, he would accept proposition made here [Stephenville].⁵⁹

⁵⁷Ibid., October 12, 1891, p. 51.

⁵⁸"Board of Trustees," July 12, 1892, p. 77.

⁵⁹Ibid., June 21, 1893, p. 83.

The Board refused his proposal and President McIlhaney's resignation was accepted.

The Reverend M. D. Reynolds was elected to fill Marshall McIlhaney's contract for the years 1887-1891. Dr. Reynolds, formerly on the faculty as Professor of Latin and Greek, was President of Centenary College until he resigned in 1891.⁶⁰

The period of Reverend Reynold's tenure was one of gradual decline for the young school. In 1885, the local paper commented that "Centenary College has application for more pupils than can be accommodated."⁶¹ In June of 1892, the minutes of the Board of Trustees of Centenary College moved and seconded the motion that:

A proposition be made to W. H. Matthews to go out over the State of Texas as an agent to solicit students for Centenary College and to solicit money.⁶²

President Reynolds resigned as President of Centenary College in 1891, and Marshall McIlhaney returned to the college to begin his second administration.

Professor Hayes, head of the Mathematics Department of Denton State Normal, Denton, Texas, was elected

⁶⁰Ibid., June 16, 1892, p. 75.

⁶¹The Lampasas Record, newspaper clipping in Lampasas Historical Society files.

⁶²"Board of Trustees," June 30, 1892, p. 76.

President of Centenary College in July of 1893 to replace the Reverend McIlhaney, who had moved to Stephenville, Texas.⁶³ President Hayes' tenure from 1893 to 1895 marked "the beginning of the end" for Centenary College.

In September of 1893, the Centenary College opened its doors for the fall semester with few pupils and little money. One of the teachers during that year said: "They couldn't pay the teachers or the grocery bill in town."⁶⁴

In the fall of 1894, to cut expenses, the Centenary College moved to the Park Hotel, which had been closed for lack of patronage. The minutes of the Board of Trustees of Centenary College made the following notation on May 19, 1894.

Bro. Hayes stated that he had seen Mr. Cleveland in regards to leasing the Park Hotel and Grounds for 9 months from Sept. 5, 1894, for school purposes. Mr. Cleveland agreed to lease said hotel and grounds for the said 9 months for a guarantee of \$50 per month and \$1.25 per capita of scholars.⁶⁵

The first semester of 1894-1895 was completed without incident. Then, on February 27, 1895, the school burned. Mrs. W. H. Moses, in an article in the Lampasas Record

⁶³Statement by J. A. Harwell, personal interview.

⁶⁴Statement by J. A. Harwell, personal interview.

⁶⁵"Board of Trustees," May 19, 1894.

entitled "Centenary College: 1883-1885," described the tragedy:

On the night of February 27, 1895, a bitter cold night when everything was covered with ice, and waterpipes frozen, which rendered the Fire Department helpless in controlling the fire, the building burned to the ground, illuminated the town and countryside for miles around, thus destroying two of the most widely known institutions in Central Texas: Centenary College, after an existence of twelve years, and the famous Park Hotel after fourteen years.⁶⁶

⁶⁶The Lampasas Record, newspaper clipping in Lampasas Historical Society files.

CHAPTER VI

THE LAMPASAS FARMERS' ALLIANCE

In 1877 a small group of farmers met in a sparsely settled area northwest of Lampasas, Texas, to discuss their problems. They agreed to form an organization which was called the Farmers' Alliance. The purpose of the organization was to educate the farmers regarding the causes of their economic problems, and "to develop a higher state, politically and financially."¹ By the summer of 1878 a Grand State Alliance was organized in Lampasas, but by 1880 the local alliance had dissolved over the endorsement of the Greenback Party.² The Greenback Party, which was a nation-wide third party, was supported by the debtor classes who wished to pay their debts with inflated "paper" money issued during the Civil War. For a time the Lampasas alliance was inactive, but the purposes of the Lampasas organization had expanded to other parts of the state, and by 1885 the Alliance

¹The Galveston News, September 13, 1891.

²Benjamin Horace Hibbard, Marketing Agriculture Products, (D. Appleton and Company, New York, 1921), p. 21; Fred A. Shannon, American Farmers Movements, (Van Nostrand Company, Inc., New York, 1957), p. 64.

membership numbered 50,000 and 1200 lodges.³ Lampasas rejoined the Alliance in 1884. From 1880 to 1889 the Alliance tried to stay out of politics by emphasizing farmers' co-operative and educational programs, but by 1890 the organization began to take steps to join the Peoples' or Populist Party. John D. Hicks, in a chapter entitled "The Populist Revolt," from his book A Short History of American Democracy, presents his explanation why the farmers joined the third-party movement:

The . . . Southern Alliance made numerous and sometimes successful ventures into co-operative buying and selling, and . . . the order earnestly stimulated among their members a wide variety of social and educational activities. But in spite of all such efforts farm prosperity failed to put in its appearance. More and more the conviction grew that the real trouble with agriculture lay in the unfair discriminations from which it suffered. Some sinister forces restrained the farmers from the prosperity that their hard labor should have earned. The railroads, the bankers, the manufacturers, and the merchants were somehow robbing the farmers. Only through the power of government could these evil practices be brought to light and corrected, and to influence government, political action was necessary.⁴

³Benjamin Horace Hibbard, Marketing Agricultural Products, (D. Appleton and Company, New York, 1921), p. 21; Fred A. Shannon, American Farmers Movements, (Van Nostrand Company, Inc., New York, 1957), p. 64.

⁴John D. Hicks, A Short History of American Democracy, (Houghton-Mifflin Company, Boston, 1946), p. 561.

By 1892 the Farmers' Alliance was fully committed to the platform of the Populist Party. The platform will be dealt with later in the chapter. Hicks discussed the effects of the election of 1892 on the Southern Farmers' Alliance:

A casualty of the election was the Farmers' Alliance. In the South it was torn violently asunder and destroyed by the third-party issue. The smaller faction [in the Alliance], convinced that deliverance for the southern cotton-farmers was never to be found under the rule of Democrats, dared the derision of neighbors and the loss of friends to join hands with the Populists. The larger faction [after 1892] returned to the Democratic Party.⁵

After the 1892 election, the Alliance continued to support the Populist Party, and they endorsed, in 1896, William Jennings Bryan as the Populist candidate for President. Bryan had already been nominated by the Democratic Party; so both the Populists and Democrats had nominated the same man. The candidate lost the election, and after 1896 the Alliance as a political force was dead. The Democratic Party had sealed the doom of the third-party by appropriating its chief plank, the free-coinage of silver, and a number of other proposals which the Grange, the Greenback Party, the Farmers' Alliance, and the

⁵John D. Hicks, A Short History of American Democracy, (Houghton-Mifflin Company, Boston, 1949), p. 564.

Populist Party had advocated for years.⁶

The purpose of this chapter is (1) to explain the significance of the Lampasas chapter in the Farmers' Alliance; (2) to investigate the initial organization of the Alliance in Lampasas; and (3) to point out the different political attitudes of some of the early members and the effect of those attitudes on the Lampasas Alliance.

The Significance of the Lampasas Alliance

The Farmers' Alliance which began in 1877 in Lampasas had reached national proportions by the 1890's. By 1880, soon after the formation of the Lampasas Alliance, all control of the organization passed out of the county. The significance of the Alliance in Lampasas was that it had set the standards and objectives of the State and National Farmers' Alliance. A. P. Hungate, lecturer of the Lampasas Alliance, wrote in the Peoples' Journal, a local Alliance newspaper, in 1895 that the Lampasas Alliance "engrafted [features] in the beginning into an organization of a local nature that in an unobserved manner paved the way for features of a state and national character."⁷

⁶Rupert N. Richardson, Texas: The Lone Star State, (Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1958), p. 271.

⁷The People's Journal, August 16, 1895.

Although a State Alliance was organized in Parker County in north Texas, in 1880, the Lampasas Alliance founded a State Alliance in Lampasas County on May 4, 1878. On July 13, 1878, the State Alliance held its first meeting at Pleasant Valley Alliance Number One on Donaldson Creek, a tributary of the Lampasas River. John R. Allen, founder of the Lampasas Alliance, speaking in a Galveston News interview on September, 1891, said that the State Alliance was "represented by twenty-five 'subordinate' Alliances, fourteen in Lampasas County, and eleven in adjacent counties."⁸ Allen confirmed that the declaration of principles, as contained in the Constitution of Pleasant Valley Alliance was adopted by the County and State Alliances in Lampasas, were as follows:

Declaration of Purposes

1. Profoundly impressed with the truth that we, as a Farmers' Alliance, should set forth some declaration or purpose, united by the strong and faithful tie-- politically and home interest-- we mutually resolve to labor for the Alliance and its purposes.
- II. To endorse the MOTTO: In essential things, unity, liberty, and in all things, charity.

⁸The Galveston News, September 13, 1891.

- III. To endeavor to advance our cause by laboring to accomplish the following objects:
- a. To develop a higher state, politically and financially.
 - b. To strengthen our attachments to our cause.
 - c. A better mutual understanding to sustain our laws.
 - d. To constantly strive to secure harmony, good will, and vital brotherly love among ourselves.
 - e. And a faithful observance of the principles will insure one's mental, moral and political advancements.⁹

Allen stated that "The above purposes are essentially the same as today [1891]. Some changes have been made but most of the fundamental ideas of the organization are in this crude original."¹⁰ The "crude original" was carried to Poolville, in Parker County, in 1879 by W. T. Baggett, an ex-member of the Lampasas Alliance.¹¹ He had been elected "doorkeeper" at the State Alliance in Lampasas on May 4, 1878.¹² Baggett organized an Alliance in Parker

⁹The Galveston News, September 13, 1891.

¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹The People's Journal, August 16, 1896.

¹²The Lampasas Record, June 27, 1963.

County in July, 1879, and "the same was chartered July 12, 1880."¹³ The State Alliance organized in north Texas "was the place from which the growth of the Alliance was mainly ramified."¹⁴ The new State Alliance deleted the political elements which had been a part of the Lampasas plan.¹⁵

The founder of the Southern Farmers' Alliance, John R. Allen, was born 1831 in Hardeman County, Tennessee. His parents moved to Missouri in 1836 and to Texas in 1841. The family settled in Lamar County. John Allen's mother died in 1842, and he was sent to live with his grandfather in Louisiana. His grandfather, a doctor, promised to train his grandson for the medical profession. He did not keep his promise, however, and kept young Allen working in drugstores or collecting accounts. At this time John Allen was twelve years of age. It is not certain how long he lived with his grandfather, but he eventually bought a farm in Van Zandt County on the Sabine River. He entered the Confederate Army in Dallas in 1862. It is not certain that John Allen favored secession. According to his

¹³The People's Journal, August 16, 1895.

¹⁴The Galveston News, September 13, 1891.

¹⁵William L. Garvin and S. O. Daws, History of the National Farmers' Alliance and Co-operative Union, (Alliance Publishing Company, Washington D.C., 1887), p. 124.

daughter, Mrs. Pearrie Allen Stevenson, he served well in the army and was mustered out as a 2nd Lieutenant. After the war he returned to Van Zandt County and continued to farm. His first wife died in 1873. He remarried, and his second wife died within the year. In 1874 John R. Allen moved to Lampasas County and settled on Donaldson Creek. He was engaged in stock-raising and farming. Allen had married for the third time before coming to Lampasas. His wife, whose maiden name was Ellard, was the daughter of a French plantation owner who had lost his wealth after the Civil War. She was an educated woman. It was while farming on Donaldson Creek that John R. Allen initiated the organization of the Farmers' Alliance. John Allen lived the remainder of his life in Lampasas County and died in 1899 at the age of sixty-eight.¹⁶

The lecturer of the Alliance in Lampasas was Adolphus Philoneous Hungate. He was born May 19, 1842, on a farm near Centerville, Indiana. In the late 1700's, his grandfather had arrived in Kentucky from London, England, bringing with him a young bride. Hungate's father was also from Kentucky, and his mother was originally from Ireland. It is not known when his mother and father moved to Indiana. He received no formal education but his

¹⁶Statement by P. A. Stevenson, personal interview; The People's Journal, August 16, 1895, gave Allen's birth date as 1831.

mother taught him to read and to use the dictionary. As he approached manhood, Hungate studied medicine under a licensed physician in Terre Haute, Indiana. He passed the necessary examinations and became a physician. In 1869⁵⁴⁷ Hungate enlisted with the 85th Infantry of Indiana Volunteers as a private. He later received a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant, probably because of his medical training. After the war Hungate returned to Indiana but did not practice medicine. He had become disillusioned over the practices of physicians during the war and resolved that if he could not have formal training, he would not practice. Upon returning to Indiana he farmed for a few years and later opened a drugstore which burned in 1874. Having lost the accumulations of a lifetime and being plagued by a painful war injury which made physical labor difficult, Hungate moved to Texas in 1874. He arrived in Austin by train and traveled the last part of his trip to Lampasas by ox-cart. He and his family settled northwest of Lampasas near Donaldson Creek. Hungate left Lampasas in June 1896. He lived in Hannon, Oklahoma, until his death November 21, 1928, at the age of eighty-six.¹⁷

John Spears, Vice-President of the first Farmers' Alliance, was born in Lawrence County, Alabama, on

¹⁷Lula Hungate Riley, Abilene, Texas, to Mrs. L. H. Baldwin, Lampasas, Texas, March 2, 1968.

November 11, 1825. The family moved to Independence County, Arkansas, and then to Texas in 1841. Spears served in the Confederate Army in Colonel Sweet's regiment of Texas Cavalry, Johnson's Brigade. He moved to Lampasas County in 1875 and was engaged in farming and stock-raising.¹⁸

Organization of the Alliance

The conditions which prompted the organization of the Alliance in Lampasas are uncertain. Historians have pointed to a steady decline in the price of farm produce, the high rate of interest charged by banks and retail establishments, and the excessive freight rates charged by railroads. Moreover, control of the Democratic Party in the South by business, bankers, and railway owners had caused the farmers to lose a voice in politics and made it impossible for them to have desired legislation passed. For a time the National Grange movement was the main farmers' organization in the United States; but as conditions became more difficult, the more militant and politically-oriented Farmers' Alliance took over.

The first meeting of the Farmers' Alliance was in the fall of 1877 near Donaldson Creek "in a box house made of

¹⁸The People's Journal, August 16, 1895.

lumber cut from native timber commonly called 'rawhide' lumber."¹⁹ The building was erected by L. S. Chavose and John R. Allen, and had served as a school and as a meeting place for community activities.²⁰ Although there is some disagreement concerning who attended the first meeting, A. P. Hungate, in the Peoples' Journal, of August 1895, stated with certainty that John R. Allen, John Spears, L. S. Chavose, Allen Carter, and A. P. Hungate were in attendance.²¹ At the second meeting, possibly a few weeks later, Hungate mentions the names of three additional men: John Reeves, F. O. Yates, and Jacob Childress. Hungate includes these men as "the eight who were the virtual organizers of the Alliance."²² He acknowledges, however, that "from twelve to fourteen people were present." A photograph entitled "The Last Meeting of the First Farmers' Alliance," taken by John Weber of Lampasas in 1891, includes the following people not already mentioned: John Palmer, H. Lloyd, William Machen, William Palmer, Mrs. Mary Spears, Mrs. John Palmer, Mrs. Sarah Carter,

¹⁹The People's Journal, August 16, 1895.

²⁰Statement by P. A. Stevenson, personal interview; The Peoples' Journal, August 16, 1895.

²¹The People's Journal, August 16, 1895.

²²Ibid.

Mrs. Lou Carter, Mrs. T. R. Haynie, and Mrs. W. R. Haynie.²³ It should be appreciated that Hungate is making his recollections over a span of seventeen years, and it is possible that some of the original members have been excluded. Moreover, the young organization undoubtedly increased its membership with each meeting, but since Hungate represents the only available written source on the subject of original membership, his testimony is the best we have.

At the first meeting organization was "discussed and agreed upon."²⁴ L. S. Chavose was instructed to select an assistant and "put the objects of organization into some kind of methodical shape."²⁵ A. P. Hungate, reviewing the events of the first meeting in a lecture to the Donaldson Creek Alliance on January 9, 1895, stated: "Had you been at the first meeting, when the advisability of organization was discussed, you would of heard among that which was said, the following language:"²⁶

²³The Lampasas Record, June 27, 1963.

²⁴The People's Journal, August 16, 1895.

²⁵Ibid.

²⁶Adolphus P. Hungate Papers, MSS privately held by James P. Cole, Lampasas, Texas.

If there be need of maintaining our present state of civilization, to say nothing of advancing it, there is need of organization. If it is desirable to be permitted to enjoy the fruits of our own labor, it is desirable to organize. If it is our duty to exercise the franchise secured by our independence and vouchsafed by the Constitution of our Nation it is our duty to organize that we may better and more speedily educate ourselves in the science of free government, the only way to cast our votes intelligently. If we are contented with what we eat, drink and wear, and to see the day when all the balance of labor products become concentrated into the hands of a few, there to constitute a power that would enslave posterity, then no organization is necessary.²⁷

At the second meeting of the Alliance, an election of officers was held. John Spears served as chairman of the election proceedings and the following officers were selected:

L. S. Chavose, President; John Spears, Vice President; John Reeves, Secretary; F. O. Yates, Lecturer; A. P. Hungate, Assistant Lecturer; _____, Doorkeeper; Jacob Childress, Grand Smokey; _____, Assistant Grand Smokey.²⁸

The office of the Grand Smokey will be discussed later in the chapter. After the election of officers, "those present

²⁷Ibid.

²⁸The People's Journal, August 16, 1895.

subscribed their names to an instrument of writing that set forth objects of the organization and the obligations of the members." They were written and presented by L. S. Chavose and an undisclosed assistant.²⁹ Concluding the business of formal organization, "the first motion which was offered for the consideration of the newly formed body was one to destroy it."³⁰ The motion was made by F. O. Yates and was intended to merge the order into a Grange. Hungate, in an effort to thwart the motion, made a speech. The speech is quoted in full since it reflects the general attitude of many farmers toward the Grange and suggests the broader goals of the Alliance:

For the Grange I have respect; it has my well wishes. I believe that it has done some good and that it may do more, that it may be of further benefit to the agricultural classes, but it is my opinion that it will accomplish little more of actual or permanent benefit. They might discover such secrets of nature as would enable them to grow one hundred ears of corn where they now harvest fifty nubbins, but what benefit would that be if while engaged in that achievement their negligence as citizens had allowed laws to find a place on our statute books that would render the five ears worth less than the nubbins. As Knights of Reliance we stand upon a broader and stronger platform. We have undertaken the erection of a more commodious structure. We Propose to employ the whole foundation of the

²⁹The People's Journal, August 16, 1895.

³⁰Ibid.

Grange as a single cornerstone of grand social and political palace [italics not in the original] where liberty may dwell and where justice may be safely domiciled.³¹

The motion to merge the organization into a Grange was voted down, and Hungate records that "Yates never more affiliated with us."³²

In the above quotation the term "Knights of Reliance" was used rather than "Farmers' Alliance." In the beginning the name "Knights of Reliance" was chosen as the name for the order, but at the third meeting, "Knights of Reliance" was dropped and "Farmers' Alliance" adopted.³³ There is some question as to who was responsible for the change of the name. Hungate says that the change was made on the motion of L. S. Chavose, who discovered that a farmers' organization in New York State was called Farmers' Alliance and believed that "It would be more appropriate for us." However, Mrs. Pearrie Allen Stevenson, daughter of John R. Allen, advises that "Mr. William Gober suggested that as they were allied together . . . he would propose the name 'Alliance'."³⁴

³¹Hungate Papers.

³²Ibid.

³³The People's Journal, August 16, 1895.

³⁴Ibid.

During the third meeting John Reeves and A. P. Hungate were appointed to draft a constitution. It was agreed that each should write a constitution independently of the other so that "the alliance [could] make a choice thereof then presented." At the fourth meeting both constitutions were considered and John Reeves' draft adopted. L. S. Chavose then moved that the constitution be printed. The motion brought on a lengthy discussion between Chavose and Hungate. Hungate's opposition prevailed and the members decided to call a convention for the purpose of drafting a new constitution.³⁵ Chavose was chairman of the convention.³⁶ Hungate believed that the constitution first adopted was likely to incur public hostility. He warned the order of his fears:

Let us, I beseech you, proceed more cautiously, the eyes of those who will meet us more than half way with hostility will soon be upon us. If we give that constitution to the public in its present form, it will bring upon us a shower of criticisms such as you dream not of and to meet we are not prepared Print that constitution and it will be as a death warrant to our organization. Is it not safer to call a convention in which every part may be thoroughly discussed If we take the wrong road here, our people, little accustomed to organizations, would fall out

³⁵The People's Journal, August 16, 1895.

³⁶The Galveston News, September 13, 1891.

of ranks before we could return.³⁷

The constitution was also opposed by Hungate on the grounds that it had no Declaration of Objects, which his constitution had included.³⁸ Apparently the convention met and agreed upon a constitution and declaration of objects which was adopted by the members and printed. No copy of Reeves' or Hungate's constitutions has been discovered.

Within six months the Pleasant Valley Farmers' Alliance on Donaldson Creek "numbered forty or fifty members." Other Alliances were organized in the country, taking the name Farmers' Alliance and using as a model the constitution of the Pleasant Valley Alliance.³⁹ The first subordinate Alliance was organized on School Creek by A. P. Hungate and James Smith.⁴⁰ John R. Allen described the rapid growth of the Farmers' Alliance in the Galveston News:

[On] February 25, 1878 a County Alliance, and May 4, 1878, a State Alliance were organized at Pleasant Valley. They were confederations of

³⁷Hungate Papers.

³⁸Ibid.

³⁹The Galveston News, September 13, 1891.

⁴⁰The People's Journal, August 16, 1895.

the parent alliance and those which had sprung up under it. They adopted the declaration of purposes of the parent alliance, and its constitution was modified to suit their enlarged organizations. [On] July 13, 1871, the State Alliance met at Pleasant Valley, represented by twenty-five 'subordinate' alliances, fourteen in Lampasas County and eleven in adjacent counties.⁴¹

Pearrie Allen Stevenson, commenting in the Lampasas Record on June 27, 1963, said: "L. S. Chavose was elected President, J. W. Reeves, Secretary, W. T. Baggett, Doorkeeper, and W. W. Saylor, Treasurer, of the Grand State Alliance."⁴² Baggett, it will be recalled, soon left Lampasas and moved to Parker County, taking with him a copy of the Lampasas Constitution and Declaration of Purpose.

Politics and the Alliance

The farmers who organized or later joined the Farmers' Alliance reflected several different shades of political opinion. Hungate observes that there was some disagreement as to the object of the Alliance:

I would here remark that there were about as many objects in view for organization, as there were men participating. And I wish I

⁴¹The Galveston News, September 15, 1891.

⁴²The Lampasas Record, June 27, 1963.

could quote some who were after the lawyers, those who thought the merchants to be the cause of all our troubles, and he who believed that protection against horse and cattle thieves to be all that was necessary to be done.⁴³

At least one member of the original Alliance must have been a member of the Grange at one time. One historian reports: "In 1880, when the State Alliance was organized in North Texas, the Declaration of Purposes was a crude paraphrase of the declaration adopted by the earlier Grange in Saint Louis."⁴⁴ Since the north Texas Alliance had adopted its Constitution and Declaration of Purposes from the Lampasas Alliance, it is likely that someone in the local Alliance was a Granger. Y. O. Yates had tried to have the order merged with the Grange, and when his idea was rejected, he left the organization.

The original Alliance members are known to have been members of the Greenback Party. The diary of D. C. Thomas, County Clerk in Lampasas for several years, notes that F. O. Yates and John Reeves ran for Tax Assessor and District Clerk on the Greenback Party Ticket in 1880.⁴⁵

⁴³The People's Journal, August 16, 1895.

⁴⁴Solon J. Buck, The Agrarian Crusade, p. 112; For a copy of the Grange Declaration of Purposes see H. S. Commanger, Documents of American History, Seventh Edition, Document 287.

⁴⁵D. C. Thomas Diary, MSS privately held by Mrs. Thomas Huling, Lampasas, Texas.

The Greenback Party drew its support from individuals who had incurred a large debt and wished to pay it with inflated Greenback "paper" money issued during the Civil War.

L. S. Chavose sought to make the Alliance a political organization from its very beginning. Hungate says:

To L. S. Chavose the Alliance owes much for its first organization and rapid growth, but it must be said that he was mainly for its early decline and short sleep in the land of its nativity.⁴⁶

Chavose became leader of the Alliance and it was at this time that the "third degree" was passed. The third degree was part of the required initiation into the lodge. Each initiate went through three degrees which included ceremonies and an obligation to the Alliance pledged by the initiate. It seems that the inclusion of the degree, which Chavose had advocated, guaranteed his leadership.⁴⁷ The initiate was required to pledge as follows:

I . . . pledge to speak the truth and nothing but the truth . . . and . . . I will believe anything told me by a brother of this degree.⁴⁸

⁴⁶The People's Journal, August 16, 1895.

⁴⁷Ibid.

⁴⁸The Galveston News, September 13, 1891.

Hungate in 1895 speaks of Chavose and of his effect upon the Alliance.

Flanking his only active opponent he soon became leader of the Alliance and moved at once to the attack of the supposed enemy. After a partial victory had been gained, his followers discovered that the little lawyers, doctors, and merchants did not have anything that belonged to them in their possession, and that they were not directly [*italics not in the original*] responsible for that of which they complained.⁴⁹

After the followers of Chavose were, as Hungate said, "lead away from the educational features of the Alliance," the membership dwindled until "organized action had almost, if not entirely ceased."⁵⁰

It is possible that the early demise of the Lampasas Alliance was caused by their entry into politics via the Greenback Party. D. C. Thomas, discussing the Populist Party in Lampasas in 1896, says that "this third-party was headed, as a general rule, by the same classes as the old Greenback Party." In speaking of the class of people in the "third-party," Thomas observes that "A large portion of these were farmers."⁵¹

⁴⁹The People's Journal, August 16, 1895.

⁵⁰Ibid.

⁵¹D. C. Thomas.

Concerning the Greenbackers in the fall of 1880, Thomas said:

They ostracized and condemned all Democrats, and to think differently from their leaders and prime movers was to call down their wrath upon you.⁵²

Thomas used the words "uncompromising" and "demagogue" to describe the Greenbackers. Hungate described Chavose using these words:

Pursuing his ends with a reckless sternness and with not enough regard for his own welfare and still less for the welfare of others, hard to turn aside from his purpose, energy and perserverance were the means by which he obtained success. Great ambition and love of power and conquest were no dormant sentiments in his nature nor hidden in the manifestations of his character.⁵³

Thomas described the results of the election of 1880 and its effect upon the Greenback Party in his diary:

Both parties worked zealously, the excitement was high and fierce, but the election passed off without bloodshed in the country and the result was the overwhelming defeat of the Greenbackers. They are today the worst crestfallen set I have ever seen. Their nominees are defeated to a man, and badly defeated, too.⁵⁴

⁵²D. C. Thomas.

⁵³The People's Journal, August 16, 1895.

⁵⁴D. C. Thomas.

Although the proof is tenuous, the implication should be clear. Perhaps Chavose, through the Greenback Party, was responsible for the Alliance's "early decline . . . in the land of its nativity."⁵⁵

At the least it is likely that many of the early organizers of the Alliance were in sympathy with the Greenback Party. A letter from Lampasas County to the Southern Mercury in 1888 discloses that some of the Alliance members agreed with the doctrine of the Greenback Party.

Not all the Alliance men from Lampasas were third-party men [Greenback Party], although they were strongly tempered in 1888 by the fact that they often agreed with the doctrine of the Greenbackers Where they differed was in means to achieving these aims. The truth is we have too many political blatherskites in our order . . . who have a pungent desire for office, and . . . little or no qualifications to fill them. I once tried to be a Greenbacker, the doctrine was congenial to my views. I agreed with Weaver's diagnosis of the condition of the workingman financially and socially, and I agree with him as to remedy, but how to administer that remedy, I must confess, has baffled my mind.⁵⁶

A. P. Hungate's view of the Alliance extended to a higher and more sophisticated plane than his contemporaries. He wanted the Alliance to become a "grand social and

⁵⁵The People's Journal, August 16, 1895.

⁵⁶The Southern Mercury, May 17, 1888.

political palace." He believed that if the farmer would educate himself in the "science of political economy," then he would become a more articulate and powerful political force. With an esprit built upon education, cooperation, and brotherhood he hoped to reform the political structure, dislodge corruption in high places, and return to conditions as they were before the Civil War and the advent of unregulated giant corporations and mass production. In the beginning he sought to reform government by electing honest, well-qualified men who would represent all of the people rather than just big business. He was aware that the problem of the farmer extended beyond the small town lawyer, banker, or retail merchant, and focused his attention upon big business and large corporations which he believed dominated the Democratic Party. He knew, unlike Chavose, that "the little lawyers, doctors, and merchants . . . were not directly responsible for that of which they complained." In his later years, alienated from the Democratic Party and disappointed over the defeat of the Populist Party in 1896, his political ideas became more radical and he advocated a socialist economic system for the country. He was thoroughly democratic, however, and insisted upon a democratic form of government.⁵⁷

⁵⁷Hungate papers.

Of all the original Alliance men, Hungate comes closest to sensing the fact that the cause for the political-economic alienation of the agrarian class was that the system as a whole, indeed the nation, was in the process of changing the social, political and economic base which had existed prior to the Civil War. In short, Americans were becoming a nation of shopkeepers and businessmen rather than farmers. We were becoming an urban rather than an agrarian nation. The problem was that the farmers were caught in the shift of the economy.

There was one more feature of the early Alliance which reflected the desires of a few of the original members. The "stock feature" of the Lampasas Alliance is not found in any later Alliance organization. In 1877, when the Alliance was organized, there was not a wire fence in the county of Lampasas.⁵⁸ All cattle, horses, sheep, and hogs roamed freely on the "open range" or "commons." The "commons" was an area not legally owned by anyone, but it was used by all persons in the area for the grazing of stock. The stock were branded once a year, but on occasion unbranded stock were stolen to be eaten or sold. It was in 1877 that the Horrell-Higgins

⁵⁸The People's Journal, August 16, 1895.

feud had terminated in Lampasas. This feud had begun ostensibly over the theft of "estray" or stray and unbranded cattle. It was reasonable to suspect that the theft of stray cattle in Lampasas was a problem, although in other cases it did not reach the proportions of the Horrell-Higgins feud. The "stock feature" of the Lampasas Constitution provided that the president of the local or "sub-alliance" would appoint two men, called "Grand Smokeys," to make regular inquiries to determine whether any stray stock had been stolen, and if so, by whom. They were to report the information to the President. The Grand Smokeys were to be known only to the president and secretary of the local Alliance. Their duty was to "arrest, or cause the arrest of anyone found stealing, or in possession of stolen stock."⁵⁹ This feature of the Alliance did not last long.

By 1884 the Lampasas Alliance was revived and became an active member of the State organization. In 1886 the State Alliance reached a turning point which came close to disrupting the organization. The thrust of the problem was that some of the Alliance members wished to take a more adamant stand on opposition to the Democratic

⁵⁹ The Galveston News, September 14, 1891.

Party. Other members wished to remain Democrats and envisioned the State Alliance as a pressure group. The two factions were held to a compromise from 1886 to 1889 by Doctor C. W. Macune of Salado, Texas. His program of a cooperative Farmers' Exchange coupled with the enlistment of agricultural organizations in other states forming the Southern Farmers' Alliance and Cooperative Union, kept the two groups in abeyance temporarily. When Macune's Exchange failed, the control of the organization passed to Evan Jones, who called for active political participation by the Alliance. When Jones was elected President of the State Alliance in 1889, many Democrats left the organization and its enrollment in Texas decreased.⁶⁰

By 1892 the Southern Farmers' Alliance had joined the Populist Party. The Presidential nominee for the party was James B. Weaver, who had run for President on the Greenback ticket in 1880. Although Weaver was soundly defeated in 1892, the Populists were successful in the Texas election. A number of state representatives and local officials were

⁶⁰Roscoe C. Martin, The People's Party in Texas, (University of Texas Press, Bulletin Number, 3308, Austin Texas, 1933), p. 19; Ralph A. Smith, "Macuneism: or the Farmers of Texas in Business," Journal of Southern History, Volume XIII, (1947), pp. 223-225.

elected. Moreover, the presence of the Populist Party in Texas in 1892 had created a temporary rift in the Texas Democratic Party. In 1896 the Populist candidate, William Jennings Bryan, lost the national election, and the Populists made a poor showing in the state.

In an Alliance lecture, A. P. Hungate reviewed the decrease of membership from 1889 to 1895. He chose to ignore the fact that many Democrats had left the Alliance when Evan Jones was elected State President in 1889. He dismissed the issue by saying "let us take a retrospective view of our errors and failures, for the purpose of which I will not worry you with elaborate statistics."⁶¹ He noted that the Alliance membership had remained the same from 1889 to 1893. One hundred twenty-nine delegates had assembled for those two state conventions. There were only 177 delegates, however, at the Austin convention in 1892, and there were only 83 delegates to the Island Grove Convention in 1894. When the State Alliance Convention met in Lampsasas on August 20, 1895, there were only 60 delegates attending. The cause of the "decay of the Alliance," Hungate said, "has been ignorance, corruption and selfishness."⁶² Hungate believed that

⁶¹Hungate Papers.

⁶²Ibid.

Democrats who fled the Alliance were a corrupting influence and the cause of its decay. He viewed the tenure of C. W. Macune as a Democratic trick to pacify the political tendencies of the Alliance. To prove his point, he called attention "to a home incident that was in all probability duplicated in other counties." In the January meeting of the Lampasas County Alliance in 1893, a resolution was offered "for the purpose of eliminating partisan discussion" in all Alliance meetings.⁶³ Passage of the resolution would have kept the Lampasas Alliance out of politics and out of the Populist Party. The motion was tabled. In April 1893 the motion was made again, but it was tabled for a second time. Hungate said:

After the Alliance had adjourned and more than half the delegates had left the hall, the meeting was reconvened and the same motion introduced and passed by 13 votes with but three votes against it. How it happened that the few supporters of that resolution should have remained and its many opponents had departed may be an enigma to some. Whether or not it was matter of chance, they knew that it was not only illegal but directly opposite to the sentiment of the majority as demonstrated only a little while previous. Thus we behold an act of Alliance people as disgraceful as any of those of corrupt political parties. That incident was the capital letter of Alliance decline in Lampasas County.⁶⁴

⁶³Hungate Papers.

⁶⁴Ibid.

The passage of the resolution indicated a serious rift between the members of the Lampasas Alliance.

The election of 1892, the year preceding the passage of the "illegal" resolution, seems to have been a turning point in the destiny of the local order. Before 1892 the local Alliance appears to have committed itself to the platform of the Populist Party. In August of 1892 the Peoples' Journal carried a dispatch from the Alliance Liberator. The Liberator asked the Alliance to join the Populist Party and insisted that "one who believed in the demands of the Alliance and wants them enforced has no choice but the Populist Party."⁶⁵ Some of the "demands" of the Alliance were the following:

1. Abolition of the national banks.
2. Prevention of aliens and railroads from holding public lands.
3. A graduated income tax.
4. Popular election of Senators.
5. Abolition of the electoral college for President of the United States.
6. Government ownership of transportation, communications, and corporations.
7. The Australian or "secret" ballot.⁶⁶

⁶⁵The People's Journal, August 12, 1892.

⁶⁶Frank M. Drew, "The Present Farmers' Movement," Political Science Quarterly, Volume VI, (June, 1891).

Governor James S. Hogg, elected in 1890, had responded to the liberal farmers' demands by establishing the Railroad Commission in 1891 to regulate intrastate railway rates. But by 1892 the more conservative Democrats had exerted their power in the Democratic Party and Alliance members were excluded from the Party.⁶⁷ Of course, the Populists welcomed the Alliance men with open arms. Then, the conservative Democrats walked out of the State Democratic Convention held August, 1892, in Houston. They nominated George Clark, of Waco, a railroad attorney, as their gubernatorial candidate. The effect of the statewide political schism had its impact in Lampasas. The People's Journal, as early as August 5, 1892, said:

The Clark leaders at the primary meeting held here last week used the 'previous question' to shut-off debate by the Hogg men.⁶⁸

On August 26, after the Clark Democrats had walked out of the State Convention, the chairman of the Democratic Party in Lampasas endorsed the Clark Platform and made a motion that the local Democrats do the same. The motion apparently failed and the Clark men of Lampasas split the

⁶⁷Rupert N. Richardson, Texas: The Lone Star State, (Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1958), p. 270.

⁶⁸The People's Journal, August 5, 1892.

local Party by walking out.

The People's Journal reported on September 9 that the Clark Democrats had met and organized with "W. B. Abney, Chairman, and C. F. Greenwood, Secretary."⁶⁹ Judge D. C. Thomas and E. P. Maddox led the Hogg faction of the Democratic Party. On October 29, the Republican Party, led by a Doctor Carhart, "voted against forming a Clark Club to help elect Clark."⁷⁰ Only three votes out of twenty-five were in favor of the motion.

The Populists were, no doubt, elated by the Democratic split. The Journal said:

In the People's Party County Convention last Saturday that sure harmony, caution, and unanimity of desire to promote the success of the Party prevailed that have characterized all of our conventions, County, State, and National. We believe the result is entirely satisfactory; not a man was nominated on the ticket but is qualified to fill the office; If our ticket is elected Lampasas will have a good set of county officials.⁷¹

On September 29, Evan Jones, Ex-President of the State Alliance and candidate for Congress, spoke to a Peoples'

⁶⁹The People's Journal, September 9, 1892.

⁷⁰Ibid., October 29, 1892.

⁷¹Ibid., August 12, 1892.

Party Rally in Lampasas.⁷² The County Chairman of the Peoples' Party in Lampasas was J. M. Townsen.⁷³

In November the election was held in Lampasas County and the Populists defeated all of the Democratic nominees. Even in the Presidential race, the Populists' James B. Weaver and James Field defeated the Democrats' Grover Cleveland and Adlai Stevenson by a vote of 759 to 635. In the State election for Governor, the Populist candidate, T. L. Nugent, let the ticket with 890 votes. James Hogg and George Clark received 361 and 349 votes, respectively. It is interesting to note that the voting pattern in the city of Lampasas differed substantially from the county-wide total. In the city of Lampasas, the Cleveland-Stevenson ticket received 406 votes to 184 votes for Weaver and Field. In the State race, George Clark received 277 votes in Lampasas, James Hogg received 199 votes, and T. L. Nugent received 196 votes.⁷⁴ Perhaps the large vote given to Clark may be attributed to a reaction on the part of the Lampasas voters to the activities of the Alliance and Populist Party in the County. Although the Populists carried Lampasas County in 1892, the Democrats

⁷²The People's Journal, September 30, 1892.

⁷³Ibid., September 2, 1892.

⁷⁴D. C. Thomas.

August 16. Evan Jones, President of the State Alliance, delivered the annual presidential address. George Clark, the conservative Democrat, was invited to speak to the Convention as an advocate for "the sound money Democrats," and T. L. Nugent was invited to speak on August 22, "for the free silver faction." On the twenty-third, Mrs. M. L. Watson was slated to speak "in behalf of the Texas Equal Rights Association."⁷⁸

⁷⁸The People's Journal, August 16, 1895.

won most of the offices statewide and the incumbent Governor Hogg was returned to office. The disappointment of many of the Alliance men in Lampasas over the results of the election state and nationwide probably contributed to the rift that occurred in the County Alliance in April of 1893.

Regardless of the condition of the Alliance in 1893, the Lampasas County organization was honored by having the State Farmers' Alliance Convention meeting in Lampasas on August 20, 1895. The Convention was held in the Hanna Springs Opera House. The seating capacity was 2500.⁷⁵ The State Executive Committee secured control of the Hancock and Hanna Park grounds. It was reported in the People's Journal that "Hancock will be used to accomodate the immense crowd of campers expected."⁷⁶ According to D. C. Thomas, "Lampasas went wild and was denominated the banner third-party country."⁷⁷

The Convention convened on August 20, and ended on August 24. The Executive committee arrived on

⁷⁵The People's Journal, August 16, 1895.

⁷⁶Ibid.

⁷⁷D. C. Thomas.

CHAPTER VII

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

By 1895 the County of Lampasas had experienced several changes. In 1882 the town had been transformed by the arrival of the railroad: public improvements, the Park Hotel and Hanna Springs, the banks, and the Centenary College were all signs of a frontier village in transition. Gone were the Indians, the cattle drives, and the isolation of a village situated on the edge of the frontier. Also, with the material improvements which indicated change, a new kind of settler was attracted to the area. The bankers, the lawyers, the doctors, the railway owners, the college presidents, the merchants, and other owners of capital wealth were beginning to replace the farmer as the dominant individual in the community.

The fact that the railroad did cause change has been demonstrated, but the material changes that took place in the city do not accurately reflect the most important transformation of the period. The individual who lived directly from the land did not cease to exist. At first the farmer had been suspicious and then became alarmed by the changes which had taken place since the Civil War. The farmers were aware that something was wrong, but they were

not aware what was wrong. They did know that they were not sharing in the wealth and opportunities afforded the local townspeople. It is true that the Alliance was started before the arrival of the railroad in Lampasas, but it is also true that the Alliance experienced its most rapid growth and active participation in the county during the 1880's and early 1890's. The activity of the Alliance in politics indicated a difference in political opinion between rural and urban inhabitants of Lampasas County. The Alliance sought some government regulation of the economy, and businessmen, happy with their successes, wanted no government interference. The farmer desired a return to conditions as they had existed before the Civil War when they had played a more important role in politics. In Lampasas, the major change during the period was marked by a shift of political and economic power from the rural to the urban classes of the county.

Despite the changes that were influenced by the arrival of the railroad, everything did not change. The first settler came to Lampasas because of the sulphur springs. The springs were used as a curative for various diseases. Many people came to Lampasas just to drink the sulphur water. Many left the area, but some stayed to farm and raise stock. The village grew and those who lived in the frontier town served the needs of the farmers and the

guests. After the arrival of the railroad, people continued to come to Lampasas and drink the sulphur water, the farmer stayed on the farm, and those who lived in the city continued to serve the guests and the farmer. The arrival of the railroad only served to intensify and accelerate that which was already slowly developing. The pattern of population growth and the basic industries upon which Lampasas depended remained constant.

By 1895 much of the "boom town" that had marked the life of Lampasas in the 1880's was gone. The Centenary College and Park Hotel had burned in 1895, and the Hanna Springs was slowly reduced to a mere remnant of its former glory. The days when Governors and men of wealth graced the streets were over. There were no more militia encampments, horse races, or dancing in the Park Hotel pavilion. The students who attended the Centenary College were gone. The thousands of guests who visited Lampasas during the summer season were gone. All were gone except for the memories of that which had been. In 1895 the Farmers' Alliance held their State Convention in Lampasas in the Hanna Opera House, and, for a while, all of the old glories were relived. But even in 1896 the Alliance, as a political force, was dead. But everything was not gone. The sulphur springs were still there, although there were few people

who used them. For the most part they were used by the local population and by those people who returned every year out of habit. Also, the farmers had not gone, and the city dweller stayed to serve his needs.

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