

PRE-GREGG COUNTY
COMMUNITY OF POINT PLEASANT, TEXAS
AND THE
DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHERN UPSHUR COUNTY
1848 - 1870

By

Edward W. "Eddy" Phillips
P.O. Box 2411
Waco, Texas 76703

and

Murle K. Phillips Rhodes
P.O. Box 121
Columbus, Texas 78934

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This copy recieved from Eddie
Phillips 4-19-90. NWB

GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602
214-757-2261

On 18 January 1848, Isaac R. Vannoy, a veteran of Sam Houston's army, and William Welborn agreed to "bind themselves in good faith." Vannoy was to bring into trade a good new steamboat on the Sabine River. One month later, on 9 February 1848, William Welborn became the first postmaster at Pine Tree, Upshur County, Texas, not far from Hawkins Creek and the Cherokee Trace in present day Gregg County, Texas.

Upstream on the Sabine River past Glade Creek in Upshur County, Isaac R. Vannoy established a post office called Red Rock, Texas, and was appointed first postmaster 20 July 1849. The last postmaster there was C. C. Halbert who served from 3 February 1860 until 4 August 1860.

Down the Sabine from the Cherokee Trace, the Fredonia Post Office was established on 22 February 1849 on the Rusk County side of the Sabine River. James H. Thompson was the first postmaster and the last postmaster was James N. Waide in 1859.

No doubt, Vannoy's "good new steamboat" made trips from Fredonia to Red Rock - and even farther.

Between the Cherokee Trace and Glade Creek is Moody Creek which was named for Isaac Moody, who settled early near West Mountain in Upshur County. West of Moody Creek, near where Glade Creek empties into the Sabine River, Little Berry Camp (also a veteran of Sam Houston's army) established a ferry crossing the

Sabine River, probably adjoining the Martha Dillard Survey in present day Gregg County. Little Berry Camp was appointed first and only postmaster of Gilead on 14 January 1850.

On 9 December 1852, this post office name was changed to Point Pleasant, with John K. Armstrong as postmaster until 24 August 1858. John K. Armstrong lived just west of Moody Creek on what is now called Old Highway 80. He died in 1860 and is buried in his family cemetery (now called Rosedale Cemetery) east of present day downtown Gladewater, Gregg County, Texas.

William W. Walters was appointed postmaster of Point Pleasant, Texas, 24 August 1858, and served until 30 January 1860. William W. Walters was awarded his land east of Moody Creek by the State of Texas, and on 1 March 1850, he was appointed "Overseer of Roads" by the County of Upshur for the district between Camp's Ferry and Hawkins Creek. Some of his neighbors in the general area were L. B. Camp, Jarret Dean (farmer), John K. Armstrong (farmer), James Hendrick (merchant), Mason Mosley (farmer-merchant), August Mosley (farmer), A. H. Abney (teacher), A. C. Williams (miller), Jacob M. Lacy (blacksmith) and J. W. Monk (wheelright). William W. Walters' first house still stands within the barn now owned by Jackie Earp. His postoffice and stage coach stop stood just across the road (Old Highway 80) from where Mrs. George Clark now lives in present day Clarksville City, Gregg County, Texas, in the G.A. Thompson Survey. William W. Walters died in 1885 and is buried

in Mosley Cemetery along with his first wife, Marietta Swift, and some of their children.

Claiborn D. Halbert was appointed postmaster 30 January 1860 and resigned 12 July 1861. C. D. Halbert was a clerk for George Potts, a hatter in 1860 (census). He died in 1875 and is buried at Red Rock, west of Gladewater.

Joshua W. Monk, a wheelright, was postmaster, C.S.A. appointed 23 November 1861, and served until after the Civil War, 5 November 1866.

Elisha A. Mackey, a teacher, was the last official postmaster of Point Pleasant, Texas. He was appointed 27 March 1867, and the post office was demized 17 October 1870.

After the Civil War and during Reconstruction, it became necessary to re-establish many records. Under date 22 June 1869, Postmaster Elisha A. Mackey filed with the Post Office Department their Form 40 which gave the location of Point Pleasant, Texas, post office as "3½ miles from the Sabine River on it's N.E. side and 1/2 mile on the east side of Moody Creekin Upshur County, Texas". Such location was undoubtedly that of the Walters stage-coach stop.

Unofficially, the Point Pleasant post office changed names but continued to operate for a short while. William Walters sold his stage stop to Warren P. Victory about 1868. When the railroad

came through about 1873, it established a water stop on Campbell Creek which was called St. Clair, and W. P. Victory distributed mail from the old Walters trading post/stage stop now known as St. Clair. No official post office records show St. Clair as having been a post office.

About forty-eight families received their mail at Point Pleasant, and almost all of them lived within the lower watershed of Moody Creek - from near West Mountain and old Union Grove (still in Upshur County), south to the Sabine River.

The area was in a prime location for progress since it lay near the Cherokee Trace and at the gateway from populated Marshall to the capitol at Austin. A school was built at Point Pleasant, approximately one-half mile slightly northeast of the stagecoach stop (the school was called "Possom Trot"). The Mosley Cemetery served as a nearby burial site. Both the school site and the now abandoned cemetery location are in present day Clarksville City, Gregg County, Texas.

Available transportation played a major role in the settling of all of America. People settled near creeks and rivers to avail themselves of their offer of transportation. Railroads marked a turning point for the entire country. The very earliest records of efforts to extend the railroad west from Marshall, Texas, are lost in history. The Fourth Texas Legislature of the State of Texas on 7 February 1853 added seven names to the Commission to an Act to Incorporate the Vicksburg and El Paso Railway. Three of

these men should be noted: C. D. Holbert, a postmaster of Point Pleasant; Mason Mosley, a veteran of Sam Houston's Army and a resident of Point Pleasant, Texas; and Jacob Fisher, second postmaster at Pine Tree.

When the railroad began operation in 1873 in Point Pleasant, Texas, area, it's effect was dramatic, and the area changed rapidly. Railroad people named new towns called Longview and Gladewater, and erased forever Point Pleasant, Earpville and others. Only the event of the discovery of oil in 1931 could compare to the railroad's impact on the community formerly called Point Pleasant, Texas.

Today the only hint there was a Point Pleasant in the area is the name of a county road. Beginning off George Ritchie Road just west of Bozeman Corner (Warren City, Gregg County, Texas), North Point Pleasant Road meanders north, across Moody Creek into Upshur County, past Union Grove Cemetery and well known O'Byrne Mill, to the Gladewater-Gilmer Highway.

REFERENCES

1. 1850 Upshur County Census
2. 1860 Upshur County Census
3. 1870 Upshur County Census
4. 1850 Upshur County Slave Census
5. 1860 Upshur County Slave Census
6. Tax Records for Upshur County 1845 forward, Texas State Archives, Austin, Texas.
7. Newspaper: Gilmer Mirror, L.B. Johnson Library, Austin, Texas.
8. Maps of Texas, Texas Land Office and L.B. Johnson Library, Austin, Texas.
9. Quarterly: Records of East Texas by John W. Wilkins, Waco, McLennan County, Texas, Library.
10. History of Upshur County, Texas, by D. T. Loyd
11. Baylor University, "Texas Collection", Waco, Texas, "POSTMASTERS OF TEXAS" and miscellaneous early Texas Records and Maps.
12. Upshur County Records, County Clerk's office, Gilmer, Texas.
13. Gregg County Records, Longview, Gregg County, Texas Courthouse
14. Waco, Texas, Library: Early tax records, marriage records, and land deeds for Upshur, Gregg, Rusk, Harrison and Nacogdoches Counties, Texas.
15. Private Family Records and family tradition (Walters, Clements, Phillips).
16. H.P.N. Gammel, THE LAWS OF TEXAS 1822 - 1897, Vol. 1 thru 10, Texas Collection, Baylor University, Waco, Texas.
17. Texana Map, Lee Library, Gladewater, Gregg County, Texas.
18. 1854 School Census, Upshur County, Texas.

Texas Historical Commission Staff (FR), 11/15/83, revised 1/24/84

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Gregg County (Order #7429)

Location: Municipal Building grounds, Clarksville City

POINT PLEASANT*

FROM ABOUT 1850 UNTIL 1871, A POST OFFICE, WHICH SERVED
THE POINT PLEASANT COMMUNITY, OPERATED NEAR THIS SITE.
THE AREA WAS KNOWN AS GILEAD UNDER THE FIRST POST-
MASTER, L. B. CAMP, WHO EARLIER HAD ESTABLISHED A FERRY
CROSSING THE SABINE RIVER (2 MI. W). WHEN THE NAME POINT
PLEASANT WAS ADOPTED IN 1852, J. K. ARMSTRONG (d. 1860) WAS
NAMED POSTMASTER. OTHER POSTMASTERS WHO SERVED
POINT PLEASANT WERE WILLIAM W. WALTERS (d. 1885), WHO
OPERATED THE STAGE STOP WHERE THE POST OFFICE WAS
LOCATED, CLAIBORN HALBERT, AND JOSHUA W. MONK. ELISHA A.
MACKAY WAS POINT PLEASANT'S LAST OFFICIAL POSTMASTER.

DURING ITS 21 YEARS OF EXISTENCE THE POINT PLEASANT
POST OFFICE SERVED APPROXIMATELY 48 FAMILIES INCLUDING
THOSE OF JARRET DEAN, JAMES HENDRICK, MASON MOSELEY,
AUGUSTUS MOSELEY, A. H. ABNEY, A. C. WILLIAMS, JACOB M. LACY,
A. G. ROGERS, AND A. T. WRIGHT. THE POINT PLEASANT SCHOOL
(CALLED POSSOM TROT AND STILL OPERATING IN 1908 WITH
TRUSTEES R. A. HENDRIX, E. W. CLEMENTS, AND MR. PHILLIPS) AND
MOSELEY CEMETERY ALSO SERVED THESE PIONEERS.

WHEN THE RAILROAD CAME THROUGH IN 1873, THE NEW
TOWNS OF GLADEWATER AND LONGVIEW DREW RESIDENTS
AWAY FROM THE POINT PLEASANT AREA. CLARKSVILLE CITY,
CREATED BY THE 1931 EAST TEXAS OIL BOOM, LATER DE-
VELOPED AT THE SITE OF THE POINT PLEASANT COMMUNITY.**

(1984)***

*3/4 inch lettering
**1/2 inch lettering
***1/4 inch lettering

Incise on back: IN MEMORY OF OUR MOTHER
MINNIE CLEMENTS PHILLIPS
1892-1973

POINT PLEASANT
UPSHUR COUNTY, TEXAS*
1850 - 1871

Point Pleasant, Upshur County, Texas was located near the Cherokee Trace and at the gateway from the populated East to the capitol at Austin. Two miles to the west, L. B. Camp had established a ferry crossing the Sabine River. On 14 January 1850 he was named first and only postmaster of the United States Post Office called Gilead. After 1858 he moved to Refugio County, Texas, and he died in 1880.

On 9 December 1852 the post office name was changed to Point Pleasant. Official U.S. Post Office records show Point Pleasant post office to have been "3¼ miles from the Sabine River on its northeast side and ½ mile from Moody Creek on its east side". J. K. Armstrong was first postmaster. He lived just west of Moody Creek, died in 1860, and is buried in his family cemetery, Rosedale, in Gladewater.

William W. Walters was appointed postmaster of Point Pleasant 24 August 1858 and served until 30 January 1860. He was in Texas as early as 1832 and settled east of Moody Creek, building his first log home in 1849. It still stands as part of a barn on his homesite 3/4ths mile west of this marker. On 1 March 1850 he was appointed Overseer of Roads by the County of Upshur for the district between Camps Ferry and Hawkins Creek. His stagecoach

^{IN}
* Now GREGG COUNTY

stop which served as Point Pleasant post office was on old Highway 80 one-half mile northwest of this marker. He died in 1885 and is buried with his first wife, Marietta, and some of their children at Moseley Cemetery.

Claiborn D. Halbert was appointed postmaster 30 January 1860 and resigned 12 July 1861. He was a clerk for George Potts, a hatter, died in 1875 and is buried at Red Rock, west of Gladewater.

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About forty-eight families received mail at Point Pleasant, and almost all of them lived within the lower watershed of Moody Creek - from near West Mountain and old Union Grove (still in Upshur County) south to the Sabine River. Some of the heads of household were L. B. Camp, Jarret Dean (farmer), John K. Armstrong (farmer, James Hendrick (merchant), Mason ^{Moseley} ~~Mosley~~ (farmer-merchant), Augustus ^{Moseley} ~~Mosley~~ (farmer), A. H. Abney (teacher), A. C. Williams (miller), Jacob M. Lacy (blacksmith), A. G. Rogers (farmer), and J. W. Monk (wheelright).

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* correction made per telephone conversation with Eddy Phillips
9/6/83

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The Point Pleasant School (nicknamed "Possom Trot") was built half mile northeast of the stagecoach stop. (Still operating in 1908, Trustees were R. A. Hendrix, E. W. Clements and a Mr. Phillips). Moseley Cemetery served as the area burial site. Both the school site and the now abandoned cemetery location are in present day Clarksville City, Gregg County, Texas.

When the railroad began operation in 1873 here, it's effect was dramatic and the area changed rapidly. Railroad people named new towns called Longview and Gladewater and erased forever Point Pleasant, Earpville and others. Only the event of the discovery of oil in 1931 could compare to the railroad's impact on the community formerly called Point Pleasant.

Clarksville City did not formally begin until the East Texas oil boom. It was named for George Clark, who owned the sites of several early oil company camps.

DKU

REFERENCES

1. Postmasters and Post Offices of Texas 1846-1930: Compiled by Jim Wheat; Texas Collection, Baylor University
2. 1850 United States Census of Upshur County, Texas
3. 1860 United States Census of Upshur County, Texas
4. Founders and Patriots of the Republic of Texas, Vol. I; Waco, McLennan County Library
5. Grave Markers in Rosedale Cemetery, Gladewater: Red Rock Cemetery, Gladewater: Moseley Cemetery, Clarksville City: Union Grove Cemetery, Gladewater.
6. Texana Map, Lee Library, Gladewater, Gregg County, Texas.
7. Document: Historical marker for Rosedale Cemetery, Gladewater, Gregg County, Texas.
8. Document: Upshur County Overseer of Roads
Bill of Lading, Port Caddo, Texas
Private Family Records, Walters - Phillips
9. 1854 School Census of Upshur County, Texas
10. Warranty Deed dated April 25, 1908, Gregg County Deed Records, County Courthouse, Logview, Texas
11. U.S. Post Office Department Form 40 dated June 22, 1869