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Swiss Alp Swiss Alp is one of the most picturesque and fertile sections of the county. The rolling prairie is studded with elegant residences surrounded by gardens and trees. The blackland is very rich and productive; the population well-to-do, substantial farmers; they are progressive Germans. It is a comparatively new country, situated on the Fayette county school lands, about eleven miles from La Grange and seven miles from Schulenburg. Bruns are popular young merchants of Swiss Alp; L. Melcher, the proprietor of one of the finest gins in the county. There is also a blacksmith shop. It was settled in the seventies. Among the first settlers are Chris Steinmann, A. At Swiss Alp there are large bone deposits, found especially in Mr. They have been described by Mr. Melcher in his essay on minerals of the county. Footprints of Fayette article by Sherie Knappe: Swiss Alp Church The community of Swiss Alp dates back to approximately , when a few Lutheran families settled in the area. Rudi, a teacher at Serbin, agreed to relocate to establish a school and church in Swiss Alp. On March 24, , a congregation was organized and named "The Philadelphia Evangelical Lutheran Church" with members meeting in private homes for services. On March 29, , Mr. The building contractors for the first church were J. Cedar logs were donated by George Knippa and J. Melcher and hauled many miles. On February 18, land was set aside behind the church for a cemetery. The first parsonage was built in In the church school was closed. The old log church was sold in and a new church was built. Melcher was the contractor for the church and it was dedicated January 12, In a church bell was given in honor of A. The first pastor of the church, C. Rudi left the congregation in Several pastors came and went until Pastor Carl Kern came in and stayed until Over the next 20 years many changes took place in the congregation: On January 26, , additions to the present church were made. A transept on the north and south sides and an extension to the back were completed, this making the church into the form of a cross. At the present time, to the north of the church is the Sunday school building that was formerly the Washington school. The old Salem Lutheran Church building serves as the church fellowship hall and houses the historical room. This room is fashioned from old ironwork from the Black Jack cemetery and contains relics as well as current church history. The congregation presently numbers around Footprints of Fayette article by Edward F. Along with purchasing the store, he also purchased the dance hall, which he enlarged that year. As the hall grew in popularity, people came from all around and bands would travel from all parts of the area. She met and fell in love with Egan Tietjen and they eventually got married. While Egan was on the banks of the English Channel aiming millimeter guns at German buzz bombs, Marian was back home milking cows, raising chickens and helping her father-in-law Henry run the business. After Egan came back from the war, they continued the dairy and the store but the dance hall took on more importance. There was an occasional altercation between Smithville and La Grange and Weimar and Schulenburg but the situation was always under control. The bands that played were some of the best with B. Tietjen remembers one New Years Eve when the Barons were playing. She said, "we had a crowd of over 1, people". Swiss Alp truly was a wonderful place to go and enjoy your youth. I can still remember those wonderful hot dogs and trying to make sure you found a girl to dance the last slow song before intermission. If you sometimes feel discouraged about the youth activities of today, it would be nice to go back into time and see the youth that were at Swiss Alp then. It would be hard to believe that most are now respected members of society. Some became doctors, bankers, lawyers, county judges, district judges, district attorneys, state representatives and senators and even a state comptroller. Footprints of Fayette article contributed by Stacy N. It is in rolling, cinnamon-colored rangelands. Neither could I find a single Swiss living in Swiss Alp. He lives down the road. Carby turned out to be a shrewd, kindly-looking, wiry fellow with a drooping, gray mustache. He was washing his hands in a tin pan out in the yard by his big, old frame ranch house on a hill a mile south of Swiss Alp. It was early morning and Mr. Carby was washing his hands before milking the cows. He is a little hard of hearing and I had to shout my question: Carby smiled behind his huge mustache and continued to soap his hands and he answered: My wife could tell you, if she was still alive. She was interested in Fayette County History, God bless her. Note that the obituary of Heinrich Seeburger on

this web site states that, as the first postmaster of Swiss Alp, he named the community for his homeland. He was appointed postmaster August 27,

Chapter 2 : Early County Officials of Fayette County, Texas

Excerpt. The author had labored all these months without money, but now he had come to that stage in his work where he must have money to procure engravings, binding and a hundred and one things which required money.

Frequently the election records are not dated; sometimes the office for the performance of the duties of which bonds have been given is not named therein as, for instance, in the bond of District Clerk T. Alexander the office to which he was elected was not named. Official writings were astonishingly simple in those old times. The following is a bid of one Wm. Nabors to assess the taxes of Fayette County in The bonds were generally written out in full; for a great many years the bond of assessor W. McClellan remained the only one written on a printed blank. Thus, all three of these records are very incomplete, but by using all three of them a nearly correct list of county officers may be compiled. Now a new generation has taken their place, new in every respect; the descendants of the early settlers have mostly moved away to other parts of the state, and now the very names of the old settlers are hardly ever heard in the county. The reader, looking over the official bonds, will find two of them besmeared with blood; an emphatic reminder that the men of the past were living beings of flesh and blood. Did a tragedy happen? Most likely not; for long after the filing of their bonds they were acting again in an official capacity; probably, nose bleeding. The size of this book prohibits to give of these county officers more than their names; space prohibits to represent them in flesh and blood, but people who knew them might recall their life pictures, their hopes and ambitions and reflect over their dead friends. After the close of the Confederate War in a great many county officers were appointed by A. Hamilton, Provisional Governor of Texas. From this time on the bonds of the county officers all bore U. This lasted to the year The internal revenue stamps were called U. During this period county officers were appointed and removed by military orders of Major General J. Resignations had to be mailed through the county judge to the post commandant at Brenham. During and several years thereafter the county was under the cattle inspection law; the cattle inspectors were appointed by the Governor; the first one appointed in Fayette County was R. It appears that in early times county judges were not required to give bonds. The first bond given by the county judge that is on record was the one given by Reinhardt Hillebrandt. It was the duty of county judges in conjunction with the commissioners to approve bonds, and from the signatures of the county judges on these approved bonds, a list of them may be compiled.

Chapter 3 : Fayette County Communities

History of Fayette County, Ohio: her people, industries and institutions / Catalog Record - Electronic Resource Available Also available in digital form on the Internet Archive Web site. Contributor: Allen, Frank M.

Ehlinger lying in Fayette County". Of this location, acres were privately owned by John H. Meyer and another by Henry Fordtran. Fordtran was a native of Galveston. Ellinger was located on a branch of this railroad, which allowed for its early success as a community. The northeast border of Ellinger, situated at East Tobias Road, reaches Past the border, the river plain continues around two more miles before it begins to rise again. There is a ridge northwest of the town, where elevation jumps to approximately meters and gains altitude in steps as it increases in distance from the river. To the southeast of the town, elevation remains constant around 98 meters save for a small east-west range of hills reaching to meters and stretching several miles east of Ellinger. Historical Development[edit] The Ellinger website [5] claims that Joseph Ehlinger, a French soldier born in Alsace [6] who served under Napoleon, received a portion of land for his services. He retrieved his family from Europe to bring them to this new home and, shortly after, died of drowning near Houston. His son, Charles Ehlinger, founded the town on this land as Live Oak Hill, a few miles north of where it sits today. Charles was an influential figure in the early town, as a farmer, bank board member First State Bank of Ellinger , and the first postmaster of the town. Ellinger is currently located along the Southern Pacific Railroad , which missed the original Live Oak Hill by two miles. The town moved to be closer to the railroad, which gave it business and travelers. Ehlinger, a descendant of Joseph and Charles Ehlinger, says this is because "it was easier for people to phonetically spell it". The oldest local businessmen at the time of writing were Messrs. Wacker, who owned a general store selling "staple and fancy groceries, hardware and crockery, and especially a fine assortment of pistols, guns, and ammunition". Further business owners included the Hotmann, Meyer, Rosenburg, and Hill families. The Lutheran church, called St. John, is still in operation. Communion and worship are held every Sunday at 8: Production of cotton carried the local economy in the early s, and in previous eras Ellinger was a commercial center for farmers of cotton within the region. The success of the railroad rerouted much business around Ellinger to Fayetteville, though its agricultural business, which shifted to ranching, grains, and pecans by midcentury, kept it afloat. Wacker , a lumber business, stocking such items as "a nail to a stump-pulling machine" [2] C. Steves , a drugstore run by E. Weber, who was also a notary public , a cotton gin W. Burow , a mechanic J. Machalek , and a barroom of the Scheel Brothers , a common meeting-place for farmers in the area. There was also a saloon on the original Live Oak Hill property, owned and run by Mr. Girndt and often used for dancing. As of , about people resided in the town. McLeod of the Austin Chronicle said in that Ellinger was a "speed trap" with three businesses.

Chapter 4 : Fayette County, Her History and Her People

Fayette County, her history and her people, Texas It is customary for a writer to have in the preface of his book a short address to the reader either to recommend his work, or tell of its aims, its history and the difficulties encountered in preparing it.

The great state and national questions which agitated the people of Texas found their reflex also in Fayette County. To treat of them more extensively would be to write their history, but not. They are limited to a short mention to explain the effects which they produced on Fayette County. A history of Fayette County will be a history of her development, a record of how a wilderness was changed into a prosperous commonwealth, a record that should fill a patriotic citizen with just pride and satisfaction and with hope for bright prospects in the future. To record these events in chronological order would be confusing and would give no clear conception of the several problems that were solved in the development of the county. To treat of the development of the several interests from beginning to end would ensure clearness to the subject, but would not give a clear picture of the times. The subjects therefore have been arranged with the view of giving a clear picture of the several periods and stages of development in Fayette County. Austin, who settled on the rich lands of the Brazos and Colorado Rivers. It is doubtful, if before their arrival the foot of a man ever crossed the boundaries of Fayette County. If it did, the record of a transitory stay of a hunter or trader would be of no import; it left no impression on the history of the county; the history begins with the arrival of the first settlers. They settled on the banks of the Colorado River, Indian Tribes Before that time, some Indian tribes inhabited the county, the Lipans east of the Colorado River and the Toncahuas west of it. Indian relics that have been found at LaGrange and in the neighborhood of Round Top point to the fact that the Indians had camps at these two places. The Indians lived principally from hunting and fishing; the cultivation of the soil was very primitive. Thus, the first settlers found the country nearly as God made it, a wilderness without roads, crossed only by some Indian trails. They had to share it with Indians and wild beasts. Character of the First Settlers The character of the first settlers was like that of all other men who undertake to wrest a country from a wilderness: No other men would undertake hard jobs like that. Men who look to friends, relatives and the government for support and comfort, or men who appreciate the bonds of friendship and affection higher than the excitement to risk, act and conquer, men who prefer peaceable pursuits to a life of toil and danger are not elements that undertake to settle anew country. They were not needed here, and they did not come. But from all parts of the United States, especially from the Southern States, there came an influx of a sturdy, self-reliant race. Either they had, according to their view, not enough elbow room in the older states, because the next neighbor lived hardly two miles from them, or they were dissatisfied with the progress of established government and order; in their opinion, they were in the older settlements already too much ruled and governed. A great many of the first settlers were well educated men and of high intelligence. To all new countries there comes with or soon follows this class of settlers a number of public spirited men and politicians who have been unsuccessful in public life in their home country or found no good chance for their abilities there and now they came here to offer their services in building up this country with a better chance for acceptance of their services. A class, by no means to be undervalued; a class that had experience in affairs of state and foresight in governing people. It should also not be forgotten that together with these good classes of people, there also came a lawless element, an element which found it too hot for themselves in their home country. As a boiling pot throws the scum and impurities to its rim, so civilization also throws the lawless elements to its borders. Troublesome as this class may have been, they soon had to submit to law and order. A large proportion of the first settlers were men of high intelligence, of great foresight and ability of governing and knew how to deal with these elements and even made use of them. Nativity of the First White Settlers The first settlers came mostly from the Southern States, a great many of them from the states of Tennessee and Alabama. Very few of the descendants of these old families still remain now in Fayette County; most of them have sold their property and moved further west; since the Civil War a new class of people has taken possession of the county. Almost simultaneously with the first settlers from the United States there came a

good sprinkling of Germans who settled in the county. Bohemian settlers came to the county in the early fifties. Municipalities Texas was at the time of the arrival of the first settlers in the year connected with the Mexican State Coagula for government purposes. The country was divided into municipalities for the purpose of local self-government. The head officer of a municipality was called arcade. Parts of Fayette County belonged to the municipality of Colorado the present Colorado County , parts of it belonged to the municipality of Mina the present Bastrop County. Indian Marauding Expeditions The Mexican government at first welcomed the American settlers; it was very liberal to them in its land grants, but it left them without protection, it left them to show what they could do. And soon they did show what they could do and made a pretty showing for themselves. As stated before, the country was a wilderness occupied by wild Indians. Especially the Comanche and Keechi tribes of Indians made depredating excursions into Fayette County which was then a frontier county. The life of the settlers on the frontier at that time was unsafe and remained so during the early days of the republic. In one Earthman was murdered by Indians near Nechanitz. A trapper by the name of Alexander was killed near the Ledbetter-LaGrange road in a branch which later was named after him Alexander Branch. Russell place near Schulenburg in the latter part of the thirties. The Indians attacked him about sundown, killed him and captured his boy Warren, then eight years old. They took the boy along, and the latter lived for twelve years amongst the Indians. He got leave from the Indians for forty days to see his mother. He found her sick, and as she entreated him to stay with her, he stayed beyond his stipulated time. At first, it had been his intention to return to the Indians; but getting accustomed again to the manner and habits of his race and having stayed beyond the stipulated time, he was afraid to return to them and, therefore, remained with his mother. In the father of Joel W. Robison, his son Walter and a negro servant were murdered by Indians on their return trip from business near the present Warrenton. Just half an hour before the killing, some men had passed them unharmed, with a large ox-wagon which had high side-boards. The Indians did not attack them, very probably for the reason that they supposed some men hidden behind the high side-boards of the wagon and that they feared to be outnumbered by them. Nearly all the old settlers of Fayette County with whom the writer has had the pleasure to talk characterize the Indians as cowardly and treacherous who would waylay an unsuspecting traveler, but who were afraid to light in the open with the least chances against them. Indian Fights Fights and punishing expeditions ensued. There was quite a galaxy of daring men in Fayette County who made reputations as great Indian fighters; the greatest of them were Jessie Burnham, Col. Moore who had come from Tennessee , and Capt. Russell from North Carolina. It followed what always happened in the colonization of a wild country: In a short time the frontier was moved further west. The writer quotes two of these Indian fights conducted by Fayette County men in both of which Col. II, pages , Moore at the head of fifty-five Texans, forty Lipan and twelve Toncahua Indians a total of a made a daylight attack on a large Comanche encampment on the San Saba River. He killed a large number, while the Lipans stampeded and drove in a thousand or more Comanche horses, safely reaching the settlements. But after a contest of an hour Colonel Moore found himself surrounded by such an overwhelming force, down from the villages extending five or six miles up the river that retreat became a necessity, which he affected with great coolness and caution. His horses, having been left a short distance in the rear, were all captured by the enemy. Six of his men wounded had to be borne in on litters. After fighting long on the defensive, the retreat was begun, and attended by much suffering, their route passing a hundred miles through mountains. They, however, safely reached the settlements. Moore was not a man to forget such a repulse. In the great invasion of August, , it has been shown that he lost, by several hours, an opportunity to balance accounts with the Comanches this refers to the interception of the Indians by General Felix Huston at Plum Creek in Gonzales County, Aug. To this end, about the first of October, he left Austin with two companies of citizen volunteers, commanded by Capts. Rabb and Nicholas Dawson, both of Fayette County , with an aggregate force of ninety men, besides twelve Lipans under their principal chief, Col. He bore directly up the Colorado about three hundred miles, to the region where now stands Colorado City. The Lipans, as scouts discovered in advance a considerable Comanche village, in a small bend on the east bank of the river, opposite a bluff on the west bank. Sending thirty men, under Lieutenant Clark L. Owen, to occupy the bluff across the river, he made an attack as soon as daylight fully appeared, charging directly into the camp. Though surprised, warriors and squaws fought with

desperation. Only two warriors escaped, on the only two horses immediately at hand. A hundred and thirty Indians were left dead on the field. Thirty-four squaws and children and several hundred horses were brought in. A few old men and women were released on the ground. Among the trophies were goods taken from Linnville. Moore doubtless felt that his ill success on the San Saba was counterbalanced by the terrible punishment inflicted by him on the Colorado. The Mexican government was unstable; that revolutionary country was in the throes of another revolution. Bustamento led a strong faction against Santa Anna, the head of the Mexican government who was in favor of the Constitution of 1824. The people of Texas declared in favor, of Santa Anna. The just demands of the settlers were refused by the Mexican government. Instead it attempted to suppress further American immigration and to oppress those settlers then living in Texas. War between Texas and Mexico ensued. The glorious achievements of the early settlers in this war, and the gain of independence for themselves and their posterity, are recorded in the annals of Texas History. Fayette County largely participated in these stirring events which achieved the independence of Texas. In the very first encounter between Americans and Mexicans at the battle of Velasco June 26, 1836, Fayette County people acted a conspicuous part. Russell of Fayette County commanded the schooner Brazoria, in that battle, attacking the Mexican garrison at Velasco. In the attack on land John G. Robison later member of the first Texas Congress in 1845, killed by Indians near Warrenton in 1842 and his son Joel W. Robison took a prominent part. Before the beginning of the battle, Father Miguel Muldoon, a resident of Mexico and grantee of four leagues of land in Fayette, popular with the Mexican government and esteemed by the settlers, tried to mediate between Col.

Chapter 5 : Fayette County: her history and her people - Frank Lotto - Google Books

From Fayette County, Her History and Her People by F. Lotto, Swiss Alp. Swiss Alp is one of the most picturesque and fertile sections of the county. The rolling prairie is studded with elegant residences surrounded by gardens and trees.

It contains also a great many gravel hills, covered with post oak. Of these latter lands only the better portions are used for fields, the balance remains as pasture land. The Bluff is the most picturesque section of the county; in fact, there is found nowhere in Southern Texas more beautiful scenery. First, there is the road leading up to the Bluff between hills and valleys, nicely graded and graveled. This excellent piece of road work was the first road work done in Fayette county; it was done under Judge A. From this place the best view of the city of La Grange may be had. Precipitately the bluff falls about two hundred feet. Its foot rests on the river bottom surrounded by trees that vainly try to reach its summit. On top of the Bluff is the vault that holds the bones of the Dawson men and the Mier prisoners who died for their country in expeditions against Mexico. Here is also the beautiful pavilion of the Bluff shooting club, and the residence of Mr. Kreische, a solid two story brick building. A fine building that at present is not used is the brewery built by Mr. Kreische, three stories, high, built of rock and picturesquely situated. In earlier times it was a popular resort of the La Grange people and perhaps in time it may be so again. If the traveler descends the sloping sides of the Bluff and walks along its base, he finds huge rocks that have solved themselves from the Bluff and fallen down. To notice their shapes and how they are piled upon each other is quite a pastime. On some of these rocks a little dirt and the seeds of trees have gathered, and good size tree have grown on them, their roots having split the rocks. There are a great many springs on the Bluff with the choicest water. The Bluff settlement is one of the oldest settlements in the county. It was settled in the thirties and named after the bluff. A great many of the old settlers are Germans who left their country on account of the revolution in Germany of They were a highly educated, intelligent class of immigrants, friends of liberty and democrats at heart. A superior class of immigrants has never reached the shores of this land from any European country. Loehr, Wildner and Hinke families. The population is German with a sprinkling of Bohemians and Americans. Two clubs which own fine halls take care of the social side of life, the Bluff Shooting Club at the Bluff pavilion and the Teutonia Club at Teutonia hall. Bluff is a voting box of the county and a post office. It has two stores, a blacksmith shop and a gin. The reader will find Mr. Joseph Hausmann, the proprietor of a store, a fine blacksmith shop and a first-class gin, a very accommodating gentleman. They first appeared in the weekly column, "Footprints of Fayette," which is published in local newspapers. The location was thought to be somewhere on the present-day Texas Coast. It is this expedition that would bring sweeping change to the territory that is now Fayette County, along with the counties that lie to the east across the Trinity River into deep East Texas. Eighty-five armed soldiers; a French-speaking interpreter; two Padres; twelve mule drivers; an unspecified number of Indian guides; over seven hundred horses; two hundred head of cattle and pack mules carrying eighty loads of flour, five hundred pounds of chocolate and three loads of tobacco, the latter to be used for trade with the Indians, accompanied De Leon on his trek northeast. The expedition, led by Indian guides, often followed old Indian trails, which were marked with distinctive crosses for expeditions to follow. At his first encounter with the Emet and Cava Tribes, however, tribal members immediately fled into the woods for fear of the Spanish, leaving only the dogs behind. Once assured that no harm was intended, the Indians extended to the Spanish a greeting that would become associated with the future name of the state: On May 2, , De Leon traversed 91 miles in three days and reached the Rio San Marcos Colorado River near present-day La Grange where he noted in his journal that thousands of buffalo were grazing west of the Colorado. De Leon was close to the site of a Toho Indian encampment where he had found two Frenchmen the year before. It was also here that De Leon found two other tribes, the Emet and the Tohaha, encamped near Buena vista, a site which De Leon documented, using an astrolabe. It has, of course, been a significant landmark throughout the centuries. On July 3, , the area was again revisited by the Spanish, who were led by Captain Martinez with a supply train comprised of twenty soldiers, fifty-six mules and almost three hundred horses to be used as mounts and pack animals to replenish those needed by explorer Captain Salinas. Jesus, Maria, y Joseph Buena vista served as

the campsite with Martinez confirming in his journal that he was familiar with the site, having passed it the year before with DeLeon. Numerous expeditions would follow well into the 18th century, led mainly by Catholic Padres spreading Christianity to the Indian tribes of Central and East Texas. All the expeditions followed the same roads explored in the 17th century, following the Indian trails which were crossed again by early Spanish explorers. The limestone bluff, previously known as Jesus Maria y Joseph Buena vista, and the chalk bluff and lower riffles Svrcek Riffles , both located upstream from La Grange, all served as reference points for multiple expeditions traveling inland along the river to find the low-water crossing that was first used by bison, then the Indians, followed by La Salle and the Spanish. Due to Indian attacks on several expeditions, part of the old El Camino Real Road that first ran north of Fayette County was re-routed south of the post oak belt, where it crossed the Colorado River at the low-water crossing. It was re-named the La Bahia Road in the late s and was again re-routed to cross the river somewhere between the Hwy 71 bypass and Business Hwy 71 bridge. Looking down from Jesus Maria y Joseph Buena vista the ft. Spanish Expeditions into Texas Portal to Texas History. It was named for the high limestone ridge that drops down feet from Monument Hill State Park to the river bottom. This is the most picturesque section of the county with panoramic views of the city of La Grange, the winding river and the beautiful valley below. The area was settled in the s, although Aylett C. Buckner was already living on the creek that bears his name by the mids. A great many of the old settlers were Germans who immigrated to Texas during the mid-to-late s, especially after the revolution in Germany. They were a highly-educated, intelligent group who built fine homes for the era and developed social organizations, shooting clubs and schools. There were also a few Americans of Anglo descent, as well as Moravian and Bohemian immigrants who began arriving in the s. Indians lived here before the white men took over their ideal habitat, which was well-suited for their native lifestyle. They utilized the large boulders below the bluff and the small caves in the cliffs for shelter. The bluff itself provided a vantage point for viewing the countryside to spot oncoming bison herds. The river not only gave them food and water, but also a means of transportation. The woods were filled with wild game, grapes, persimmons, berries, pecans and various roots, bark and leaves used for medicinal purposes. For many years, settlers found a prolific number of artifacts left by these early residents, evidence of their existence in this idyllic setting. There were also numerous springs, crystal-clear pools and waterfalls tumbling over the rocky ledges. The availability of good water influenced H. Kreische, a German stonemason, to build a brewery and his home on the bluff. The topography was perfect for his brewery needs, plus he had an endless source of sandstone rock which was essential for the construction of his three-story brewery that was nestled in a ravine. He took advantage of the downhill slope to collect rainwater in an underground cistern. A limestone kiln that he built was used to provide mortar for the brewery and his three-story home that sat on the very top of the bluff, affording him the best view of the countryside below. The old road and bridges that he built from his brewery down to his ferry across the river on the east side of the bend are still evident under a blanket of leaf mulch that has accumulated for years since the road was last used. Part of the upper road has been cleared by volunteers for a new walking trail within Monument Hill State Park. There was also a pavilion called the Schuetzen Verein shooting club , which was used for dances, club activities and other entertainment. It was adjacent to the vault that held the remains of the men of the Dawson and Mier expeditions, who were killed in conflict with the Mexicans. The burial vault, monument, brewery ruins and old home have all been incorporated into the state park. That road crossed the Colorado River to La Grange over an old wooden bridge built in It was replaced with a steel bridge in The winding Bluff Drive and Highway 77 river bridge were not built until Before the bridges were built, people had to cross the river on ferries. As early as , John Moore operated a ferry that crossed the river at the west end of Lafayette Street, which was known as Ferry Road until the late s. One of the early German schools in the Bluff community was housed in the Teutonia Hall. Bluff had its own post office for several years in the Engel Store, located about four miles south of La Grange on the old Schulenburg Road, and later a voting box, which was located in the general merchandise store owned by Joseph Hausmann. He also built a two-story home next to the store, as well as a blacksmith shop on the other side, and a gin and grist mill across the road. The old gin was disassembled in , and the ginning equipment was sold to a collector. The old abandoned home, store and blacksmith shop stood next to

Hausmann Gin Road for decades, waiting for their demise while resting in the solitude of a small community that died long ago. The property was eventually sold, and the home was re-oriented on the property and restored with a large addition. The store and blacksmith shop were rescued from their impending doom and moved to Marburger Farm, a venue for antique dealers, located between Warrenton and Round Top. Although no longer at their original site, they are now the last remaining vestiges of the old Bluff community, a reminder of times forgotten. Kreische, best known as the builder and brewmaster of the Kreische Brewery, which was operated from circa to Having been a stonemason before his brewing endeavors, he built a number of homes, stone bridges and commercial buildings in the area, as well as the second courthouse and an early jail. He also operated and coordinated the activities at the pavilion, which was located very near the tomb at Monument Hill and only about yards from the Kreische family home. The shooting club paid rent to the Kreisches for the use of the pavilion and the surrounding area for their tournaments. The pavilion was a popular destination for people of the area, who came dressed in their Sunday finery, not only for the shooting tournaments, but for dances, picnics and other celebrations as depicted in various old photographs. The trip, undoubtedly, was arduous, but worth the effort for a weekend outing. The members of the Verein were all from the La Grange and rural Bluff area, so attending an event was an all-day affair. In September , the La Grange Journal described one event: Music, dancing and target shooting being the amusements engaged in during the day. The Biegel company military company passed through town early in the morning, headed by their brass band, and joined the Bluff company Fayette Light Guard in the festivities of the day. All who went over report having had a splendid time.

Chapter 6 : Full text of "Fayette County, her history and her people"

From Fayette County, Her History and Her People by F. Lotto, The Bluff Drive Opposite La Grange, across the Colorado River and south of Buckner's Creek, begins the Bluff settlement, extending as far as Williams' Creek.

World Genealogy Fayette County, her history and her people, Texas It is customary for a writer to have in the preface of his book a short address to the reader either to recommend his work, or tell of its aims, its history and the difficulties encountered in preparing it. The writer of this book has chosen for his theme the description and history of the grand old county of Fayette. If works of fiction find the approval of an enlightened public, the writer hopes that his book, wherein he has shown, on the hand of public records, the development of a struggling community to a prosperous county, one of the proudest and foremost in the state, the home county of the reader, where the scenes of his childhood lie, where he has grown to manhood and of which he is a political factor, will appeal to his love of home and be a source of interest to him. History is nobler than fiction, a grand fact greater than a noble thought. The book contains a world of grand facts. If they have not been always treated with the dignity of critical exposition and embellished by philosophic thoughts, there is nothing to hinder the reader to improve these shortcomings and to recall, on hand of these furnished facts, a more vivid picture of the scenes and the life of the past. Some friends of the writer have asked him to place his biography in this book. This he does not feel inclined to do on account of his short residence in the county. But to a history of the preparation of this book the reader is entitled, the more so as it reflects the greatest credit on the people of Fayette County and is also in many other respects quite interesting. The intelligence of the writer had secured him the position as traveling agent of that great German weekly, "La Grange Deutsche Zeitung," in which position he became afflicted with rheumatic fever and landed in the Fayette County Hospital. Here, in his fever visions, the scenes of his childhood and the chronicle of his native place which he had read in his youth presented themselves before his mind so often that after he grew well, he considered the question of writing a book on Fayette County. Realizing that the people of this county are as enlightened and patriotic as those of his native land and realizing that his book would take in a wider scope, he talked the matter over with his friend Jake Wolters, who quite approved the idea. In January, , Mr. Steinmann, who both approved the idea, saw the writer in regard to his prospective book at the County Hospital, and Mr. King made a verbal agreement with him about printing it. The writer thought a book like that could be gotten out in about six months. But in this he was mistaken. He has worked at it for about fourteen months. It took him more than six months to procure data and notes and go over the records. As the progress of the work was rather slow, his practical friend "Jake," a leading lawyer of La Grange, whom the writer sometimes went to see, one day asked him: Lotto, on what are you going to live while writing this book? You have not a cent. I am just going to freeze it out. Thus, the writer accepted again the position as traveling agent of the great German weekly and gathered material and notes for his book whenever he could. A great many citizens of Fayette county welcomed the idea and gave the writer all possible assistance and encouragement. In a great many cases, or rather, to be truthful, in must cases, they went so far as to secure him patronage for his book and even bore the expenses of obtaining it. He received numerous invitations to come and see them and make his stay with them while engaged in his work. Where he had no invitation, he was a more or less welcome guest anyway. The writer can not thank them too much for their kindness. For, without their generous assistance and encouragement, he would have despaired of his work. If, on his canvass, he sometimes found a man who ridiculed the idea of writing a history of Fayette County and in his feeling of the superiority of his nothingness looked down on him and refused him his patronage, the thought of the generous friend ship of the majority of the people upheld him. The people "the generous, liberal, patriotic people of Fayette county" were on the side of the writer and this was the greatest source of pride and pleasure to him and on that account he could well afford to overlook the remarks of cutting sarcasm which wereintended to hinder the author in his work. The fact remains that the generosity of the people of Fayette county enabled the writer to get out his work without having a cent in his pocket, a fact which reflects still greater credit on them than on him. In fact, such could be accomplished only among people of the very highest intelligence, among people who judge a

man by his acts rather than by his money-purse. To have secured their friendship, or, at least, patronage and good will, will be a source of everlasting pride and gratification to the writer. The author had labored all these months without money, but now he had come to that stage in his work where he must have money to procure engravings, binding and a hundred and one things which required money. The author again turned to Jake Wolters and laid the matter before him. With him it was only a question: Hollo- way, the big-hearted and patriotic cashier of the First National bank, and the cashier and Jake fixed it up. Thus the writer found his Maecenas in Jake Wolters. To him he is indebted for financial aid as well as for his encouragement and influence. For the writer must confess that there were times when he felt discouraged and felt inclined to throw up the undertaking. But words of good cheer always roused him up to move forward.

Chapter 7 : Ellinger, Texas - Wikipedia

www.nxgvision.com Fayette County, her history and her people [database on-line]. Provo, UT: www.nxgvision.com Operations Inc,

Chapter 8 : Fayette County, her history and her people

Zebulon Montgomery Pike French was county surveyor from to and county clerk from to in Fayette County, Texas. French was also a member of the Dixie Grays, a volunteer company of infantry, organized at LaGrange, Texas, in

Chapter 9 : Swiss Alp, Fayette County, Texas

Source: Fayette County: Her History and Her People, by Frank Lotto, Transcribed by sd. PART II. HISTORY OF FAYETTE COUNTY. INTRODUCTION. The great state and national questions which agitated the people of Texas found their reflex also in Fayette County.