THE HISTORY OF HARDEMAN COUNTY, TEXAS

THESIS

Presented to the Graduate Council of the North Texas State College in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements For the Degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

By

J. Paul Jones, B. S.

168189
Quanah, Texas

August, 1949
TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES ........................................... v

Chapter

I. THE BACKGROUND AND EARLY HISTORY, 1835-1860 ........................ 1

Creation of Red River Municipality
Creation of Fannin County
Creation and Naming of Hardeman County
Physiographical Description
Early Indians of the County
Recapture of Cynthia Ann Parker

II. FIRST PERIOD OF EXPANSION, 1860-1890 ........................... 26

Last Indian Raid and Indian Remains in the County
County Organized
The Founding of Towns: Chillicothe, Quanah, and Others
Old Trails and Roads
Railroads and Railway Passenger Service .... 57
Spread of the Cattle Industry

III. AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, 1890-1918 .............. 69

Removal of County Seat
Separation of Foard County from Hardeman, 1891
Disastrous Flood and Fire of 1891
Beginning of Wheat Farming
Expansion of Cotton over the County
Damsite Irrigation Project Attempted
Agricultural Experiment Station Built
Extension and Improvement of Railways

IV. GROWTH OF COUNTY FROM 1918 TO 1949 ............................... 88

Improvement of Highways
Mechanization of Farms

iii
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction of a Power Plant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of Quanah Airport</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. CULTURAL PROGRESS</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspapers of the County</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public School Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clubs and Organizations Founded</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONCLUSION</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIBLIOGRAPHY</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## LIST OF TABLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Data on Cotton in Hardeman County, 1899-1947</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER I

THE BACKGROUND AND EARLY HISTORY, 1835-1860

Creation of Red River Municipality

Hardeman County as a political subdivision did not exist until it was created as such by the Texas Legislature on February 21, 1858. The first specific political unit of which it was a part was the Red River Municipality.

Prior to the revolution of Texas against Mexico there was no such political subdivision as the county. The area of the State was subdivided into various departments and municipalities. When the revolution began there were three departments: Bexar, Brazos and Nacogdoches; and eighteen municipalities, viz.: Austin, Bexar, Brazoria, Goliad, Gonzales, Harrisburg, Jasper, Liberty, Matagorda, Milam, Mina, Nacogdoches, Refugio, San Augustine, San Patricio, Shelby, Victoria and Washington. Five additional municipalities were created by the provisional council in 1835, viz.: Colorado, Jackson, Jefferson, Red River, and Sabine.1

The period of the Texas Republic was one of uncertain and unstable government, and the Red River Municipality thus created in 1835 remained as such for only two years. It was realized by the government that such large political subdivisions would not be easily administered, and by 1837 these municipalities were further divided into counties.

---

1Z. T. Fulmore, The History and Geography of Texas as Told in County Names, p. 207.
The vast territory encompassed by the original boundaries of the Red River Municipality yielded thirty-five counties between 1837 and 1891, including Hardeman.

Creation of Fannin County

An act was passed by the congress in 1837 which subdivided the territory of Red River Municipality into Fannin and Bowie counties. These were extremely large counties in comparison to the size of the average counties today. Between 1837 and 1891 twenty-five counties were carved from the 2,400 square miles of the original Fannin County.

The twenty-five counties once a part of Fannin are: Baylor, Childress, Collin, Grayson, Wise, Wichita, Young, Wilberger, Throckmorton, Foard, Collingsworth, Archer, Hardeman, Cooke, Clay, Jack, Montague, Knox, Haskell, Stonewall, King, Cottle, Hunt, Denton, and the present Fannin as we know it.2

Fannin County was one of the earliest to organize a county government. It became an organized county in January of 1838, only one month after it was created a county. In comparison to this speed of organizing a county government, it is interesting to note that Hardeman County did not become organized and self-governing until twenty-six years after its creation.

Creation and Naming of Hardeman County

Hardeman County was created by the legislature on

---

February 21, 1858, from land which formerly made up Fannin County. The metes and bounds as it was originally created, were as follows:

Beginning at the Northwest corner of Baylor County, being also the corner of Knox and Wilbarger counties, thence due West with the North line of Knox County, to its Northwest corner; thence due North to the Prairie Dog Fork of Red River; thence down said river with its meanders, to the Northwest corner of Wilbarger County; thence due South with the West line of the last named county to the beginning, shall constitute the County of Hardeman, (named in honor of the deceased brothers Bailey and Thomas J. Hardeman), the county seat thereof shall bear the same name.\(^3\)

The population of the newly created county was made up entirely of transient pioneers and roving bands of cowboys and cattlemen. The official census did not list a record of any population until 1880, when fifty people were shown as residents.

Hardeman County received its name from the Hardeman brothers, Bailey and Thomas Jones, who came to Texas from Tennessee in 1835. Their father was a man of some importance, since he was a delegate from his county to a Tennessee convention in 1788 which met to consider separation from North Carolina and ratification of the United States Constitution, and was a member of the convention which framed the first Tennessee State Constitution in 1796. He moved his family to a county in southwest Tennessee which was later

---

\(^3\) *Laws of the State of Texas 1854 to 1861*, Vol. IV, Sec. 19, pp. 90-91.
named "Hardeman" in his honor. Bailey Hardeman studied law in Nashville and was practicing when the Texas Revolution began. He and his brother Thomas J. Hardeman moved to Texas during the revolution and located in Matagorda, and both entered active service for Texas. Bailey Hardeman was elected delegate to the Convention of Washington on the Brazos which met in 1836 and he helped to form the government ad interim. He was secretary of the treasury in President Burnet's Cabinet but died after three months in that office.

Thomas J. Hardeman represented Matagorda County in the Congress of Texas in 1837 and 1838 and was the first person to suggest that the new capital be named in honor of the great Stephen F. Austin. He later moved to Bastrop County and represented that county in the legislature.

The act which created Hardeman County in 1858 specified that the county seat should bear the same name as the county. However, it was not until twenty-six years later, in 1884, that the county was organized for purposes of government, and evidently the citizens who had moved into the county did not know of the legislative instructions, for no town has ever been named "Hardeman." The little town of Margaret, now in Foard County, was selected as the first county seat of Hardeman County.
Physiographical Description

Perhaps the earliest recorded description of Hardeman County in relation to its physical geography was given in the 1860 edition of the *Texas Almanac*. It gave the following account:

Hardeman County is the most north-western of all the created counties in Texas, and located on the east border of the Llano Estacado, in one of the most inhospitable regions of the state. Prairie-Dog River forms the north boundary of it, Pease River passes through its centre from west to east, whilst the south and south-east portions of the county is watered by Beaver Creek and tributaries of the Big Wichita River. The surface of the county is very broken, and with the exception of some valleys along the Prairie-Dog, Pease River and Beaver Creek, the lands of the county are unfit for farming purposes. The water in the county -- a few spring branches only excepted -- is most disagreeable to the taste, and unfit for the use of man, as it contains a large proportion of salt, and has the brackish taste peculiar to all the streams that issue from the gypsum regions.

The soil of Hardeman County is a red loam, in places more or less sandy. It sustains a luxuriant growth of gamme and mesquite grass, even during the dry seasons of 1856 and '7. The timber is scanty, and consists, along the watercourses, of elm, hackberry, cottonwood, wild chine, and on the hills of mountain ceder.

If less favorable as a farming country, the county will do very well for stock-raising, as cattle and horses are fond of the salty river water; and I have no doubt but that good water for the use of man can be obtained, by digging through the stratum of gypsum.

The description of Hardeman County given in 1860 was not one which would encourage pioneers to migrate to this

---

part of the state very rapidly. The writer of the above
description has been proved to have been very erratic in
his prediction or assertion that the county was unfit for
farming purposes, since it now produces an abundance of
wheat, cotton, and the smaller grains. He also erred in
his statement that the water was unfit for the use of man.
Most of the water in Hardeman County is still strongly im-
pregnated with the bountiful deposits of gypsum, but it is
very healthful and not altogether too disagreeable to the
taste.

Another brief description of this county was given in
the Texas Almanac of 1867, and it is likewise pessimistic:

Hardeman County is diversified with hills and val-
leys; the hills being large and the valleys small. Pecan
river, running from west to east, passes nearly
through the centre of the county; but at this point
is but little more than a branch. Prairie-dog-town
river bounds it on the north. These two streams
afford nearly all the water that is in the county.
There are some smaller branches, but they are mostly
so strongly impregnated with gypsum as to be unpalate-
ble. This county is not settled, and probably never
will be to any great extent.5

The author of the above account mentions Pecan River, but
there has never been a river so named in this vicinity. He
probably meant Pease River, which at that time did pass al-
most through the center of the county. It now forms most of
the southern boundary of the county. At that time, Harde-
man County as it was originally created, included practically

5Texas Almanac, 1867, p. 122.
all of the territory which is now Foard County. The original boundaries existed until 1891, when Foard County was created from the south part of Hardeman and smaller portions of other contiguous counties. The Beaver Creek which was mentioned in the 1860 description was in the section now included in Foard County.

The highest point of land in the county is on one of the four large hills situated in the southeast part of the county and which are known as the Medicine Mounds. In an account published in 1879, a land locater wrote this description of these mounds:

A few miles west of Wanderer's creek are four high mounds or peaks, from which we could see the surrounding country for miles. The tops of these mounds are covered with juniper cedar, and none of them more than fifty yards in circumference, the tops being a bed of gypsum, perfectly white, and in many places made smooth by the Indians, who call these hills their medicine mounds, and the sick ones sleep on top of them and use water from a gypsum or mineral spring near one of them. These hills are called by the whites in their vicinity Prairie Dog Mountains. We found Groesbeck Creek, the first above Wanderer's Creek, filled with fine fish. It is a bold, running stream, there had been no rain here for two months.

. . . We found two caves near the head of the creek, and explored them for some distance. We found a natural bridge, 100 feet in thickness, across a creek running into Pease River on the north side. The top of the bridge was about 100 feet wide, and the bottom 300 feet, making a natural bridge for the buffalo to pass over. 6

The small community of Medicine Mound is located approximately one mile east of the four Medicine Mounds and it

6H. S. Thrall, A Pictorial History of Texas, p. 711.
was named after these hills.

The description of Groesbeck Creek does not compare very favorably with the creek as it is today. It is not now a bold running stream, but does have a fair supply of water and some fish are caught from it. The natural bridge is still in existence, near the town of Lazare, but it has diminished in size from the proportions given in 1879.

Hardeman County is in the northern part of Texas and is the last county in this section of the state with the Red River as its north boundary. The Texas Panhandle begins with the adjacent county to the west, Childress.

Hardeman County lies within the Rolling Plains area of Texas. It, therefore, lies near the eastern border of the Great Plains and between the High Plains on the west and the Grand Prairie on the east. The Rolling Plains consist of a comparatively smooth, somewhat dissected and elevated plain which is cut by severely eroded belts along the main rivers. The land slopes to the southeast, and the soils are developed on unconsolidated beds which dip to the northwest.

In 1932 a soil survey of the county was made which brought out the following description:

The local topographic areas comprise a strip of rough land about three miles wide on the south side of the county along the north side of Pease River, a broad central east-west belt of comparatively smooth country, and a high broad sand ridge about three miles wide on the south side of Prairie Dog Town Fork of Red River. The central belt of smooth country slopes eastward and is cut into three minor plains by two
north-south escarpments. The lowest of these plains is inextensive in Hardeman County and includes the section in the southeastern corner, locally known as Farmers Valley. The escarpment along the western limit of this lowest plain is formed by sandstone and is about 40 feet high. It crosses United States Highway No. 370 about four miles east of Chillicothe and extends southwestward from that point. The next higher plain, the Chillicothe plain, is about six miles wide and extends from a point north of Chillicothe past the village of Medicine Mound to the vicinity of Star Valley School where it terminates at the edge of the breaks of Pease River. It includes a minor sand ridge, which is higher than the plain farther west, along the eastern rim south of Chillicothe. The escarpment or belt of sloping country bounding the Chillicothe plain on the west is a prominent topographic feature, constitutes a change in elevation of more than 100 feet, and is especially prominent in the bluff north of Lake Pauline, where it is narrow. The third and highest plain, the Quanah plain, extends westward from Quanah beyond the western edge of the county. The high land surrounding Berg and the mesa southeast of Lazare are outlying remnants of a still higher plain. The sand ridge along Prairie Dog Town Fork Red River is higher than the land in the interior of the county, and, although it has been modified by wind action, it is primarily a fresh-water deposit as is shown by the extensive deposits of water-worn gravel. ... These physiographic and topographic subdivisions are readily apparent in the small-scale map showing the approximate distribution of soil groups in this county. The Quanah plain is divided into two soil groups and the Chillicothe plain into three.

The elevation of the county ranges from about 1,200 feet at the points where Prairie Dog Town Fork Red River and Pease River cross the eastern county line to 1,825 feet at a high point on the sand ridge along Prairie Dog Town Fork Red River about two miles south of Hooleyann. The elevation above sea level at Quanah is 1,563 feet.7

Drainage in the county is dominantly eastward through two main creeks, Groesbeck and Wanderer's. Very little

---

territory drains directly into either Red River or Pease River. All sections, with the exception of a few small depressions on the plain west of Quanah, are reached by regional drainage lines. In most places well water can be obtained at a depth ranging from fifty to one hundred feet, and the supply in general is enough for domestic and livestock use but not for extensive irrigation. In several of the communities the water from wells is of poor quality and has the bad taste noticeable in all gypsum impregnated water. The well water can be obtained at less depth and is more abundant in the eastern part of the county, especially around the lower edges of the sand belts. East of Goodlett, Groesbeck creek has considerable flow of water and is being utilized in a small measure for irrigation purposes. Wanderer's creek is a permanent stream east of the seeps and spring about two miles southwest of Chillicothe.

With the exception of the very rough and very sandy sections, Hardeman County was originally covered with a dense sod of short grasses and much of the growth remains on the virgin soil. Buffalo grass grows in an almost pure stand associated with small amounts of blue gamma, needlegrasses, snakeweed, and a few other miscellaneous plants.

For the purposes of description and to set forth their value for agricultural use, the soils of the county can be placed in five groups:
Group one consists of smooth heavy soils which are excellent for wheat, good for cotton and sorghums, and, with the exception of Randall clay, well adapted to utilization as crop land. These soils cover a total area of 216.1 square miles, or 31.2 percent of the area of the county. Group two consists of moderately heavy sandy soils which are excellent for cotton and the sorghums but not so well suited to wheat. These soils occupy a total space of 120.2 square miles, or 17.5 percent of the county. The soils in these two groups include all the land which is well suited to crop production.

Group three includes the very loose sandy soils which produce rather low yields of crops. Their productivity declines after a few years' cultivation, and the cultivated areas should be planted to sorghums or some crop which reduces soil blowing. These very sandy soils include a considerable acreage of soils which are so loose that they are entirely unsuitable for the production of crops. These soils cover a total area of 81.1 square miles, or 11.7 percent of the county. Group four includes sloping shallow soils which are marginal for wheat. Most of such land should be used for grazing. These soils cover a total area of 87.5 square miles, or 12.5 percent of the county. Nearly one-half of the land is well suited for crop production, one-fourth is normally marginal land, and slightly more than one-fourth is land entirely unsuitable for cultivation. According to the census, approximately 190,000 acres, or 297 square miles, were in crops in 1929.8

Hardeman County lies in the southern part of the Great Plains region within the belt of black-earth soils. The soils occupying the smooth areas have very dark brown or dark brown surface horizons. The soils of this county have been developed under a warm subhumid climate which favored a rather heavy growth of plains short grasses and rather rapid decomposition of all organic matter. The smooth heavy soils of the county are neutral in reaction, and have an

---

8Ibid., p. 11.
underlying zone of carbonate accumulation.

Early Indians of the County

No record has been discovered which showed that any Indian inhabitants of Hardeman County were ever more than migrating tribes or seasonal residents. The lack of an abundant supply of water and the fact that most of the supply available was strong in gypsum content were probably the greatest deterrents against permanent residence.

During the early mission period apparently the Comanches, who were an offshoot of the Shoshoni, occupied no more of Texas than the upper Panhandle.

They advanced rapidly southward, however, in sharp conflict with the Apaches, as well as eastward against the Wichitas. By 1750 they had established themselves as far east as the Blackland Prairies and as far south as San Antonio, driving the Lipan Apaches southwestward. These fierce, nomadic Indians, who early became expert horsemen, were destined to play the leading role in the long conflict between red and white man in the territory lying between Red River and Rio Grande. With a culture somewhat like that of the Apaches, they were a people of fine physique and great courage, but sustained a relatively low culture, and never yielded to civilizing influences.9

There is little doubt that the Comanches roamed the area which now includes Hardeman County, during their migration southward, before the white men had ever seen this region. They made frequent forays during the early days of settlement, and were a scourge until they were placed in

---

reservations in the Indian Territory.

In the neighboring county of Wilbarger, considerable archaeological research has been carried out, and evidence of Indian life has been discovered in relative abundance. The fact that the land in that county is very fertile and that springs flowed in numerous places made it an ideal location for Indian habitation. J. H. Ray and his wife have made several discoveries in Wilbarger County and they give the following account:

The discovery of Manos, or grinding stones, indicates the production of maize. Numerous hearthstones give evidence that Indian villages existed. The discovery of a crystal arrow-point gave evidence that there had been a line of communication with the Indians in the territory about Hot Springs, Arkansas. Various other stone tools such as hoes, axes, and scrapers have also been found.10

The Kiowas must have made pilgrimages throughout this vicinity, but the Comanches were the dominant tribes of this area. Some estimates place the number of Comanches as high as two thirds of the entire Indian population at the time of the colonization of Texas by the Anglo-Americans.

Sam Houston sent out a treaty expedition in 1843 to attempt a peace between the Comanches and the Republic of Texas. The Comanches were divided into separate tribes, with one main village for the head chieftain. The exact location of this main village was unknown to the members of the expedition, and they wandered the prairies of Northwest

10Mr. and Mrs. J. Henry Ray, Archaeological Research in Wilbarger County, Texas, a pamphlet.
Texas for days. They had several Indian guides with them as interpreters, and finally contacted some of the small villages. They travelled with these migrating villages in hopes of locating the village of the head chief, Pa-hu-yu-co. General H. P. Lee, a member of the expedition, gave a vivid story of their life with the Comanches, and in it we learn much of the Indian customs and habits:

As the Comanches lived entirely upon meat, we moved camp twice during the week we were with them, and the system and regularity which marked the striking of the tent (all made of buffalo skins) and the precision with which each family took up the line of march, the tent poles attached to the pommels of their saddles trees, and dragging behind, whilst the pack mules carried the women and children and dogs -- and the coming into position in the new camp -- the magic, as it were, by which at a signal, all the tents on all the streets went up in their proper places, would not have disgraced the tactics of Scott or Hardee. On one occasion I accompanied some of the braves on a buffalo hunt, and noticed the skill and dexterity with which they sent the quivering arrow into the sides of the ponderous animals. Their aim was very accurate -- rarely failing with the first arrow -- and they always pursued a wounded buffalo until he was dispatched. . . . They follow the immense herds of buffalo north in summer and south in winter, as the instinct of the animal teaches it to change its pastureage. The women always accompany the warriors on their hunts, and as the buffalos are dispatched, they follow on behind to butcher the slaughtered animals, cutting the meat up into long strings, which they hang on the bushes to dry in the wind and sun. The women also dress the skins, some of which they ornament on the inside with figures and devices in paint. Indian women perform all the drudgery. They saddle and unsaddle the horses of their lords -- do not have much cooking, washing or darning to do, but they are always busy dressing buckskins, of which their clothing is made, or in ornamenting their robes. Every warrior has more or less captives, generally Mexicans, to wait upon him, and his squaws also generally have one or more captives (girls or women) to
aid them in their work.

The Comanches owned immense herds of horses, requiring a strong guard constantly with them, as they graze them frequently miles from their camp, and this, with the necessity of obtaining meat, is the reason why they move camp so often. When buffalos are scarce, they sometimes live upon horse meat, which I have eaten myself on several occasions.

At this time the Comanche Nation was divided into ten tribes, each with their own chief and government, and once a year delegates from all the tribes met in a general council, when one of the ten chiefs was selected as head chief of the nation until the next general assembly. Pa-ha-yu-co was the last chosen -- hence the necessity of meeting him before anything definite could be done in the way of a treaty.11

Several early writers have given accounts of buffalo herds in Hardeman County, and it is certain that the Comanches must have made their raids on the herds in this county. One early writer gave a description of a natural bridge, which the buffalo used to cross Pease River.

Another interesting description of Indian life during the same period is related by C. H. Sommer:

Slightly less than one hundred years ago the Comanche country was virtually free from the domination of the white men, the band living at peace with the Arapahoes and Kiowas, and the peaceful Wichites, a tribe very slight in number. There was little to disturb the good relations on the plains. There were buffalo in abundance for all -- elk, deer, antelope and wild turkey in unending numbers. There were no major Indian wars in progress, though an occasional band of Utes would invade the Comanche country in search of conquest, or a band of young Comanches would journey into Colorado, returning with much plunder and scalps for trophies.

Many peculiarities were existent among the Comanches that historians have failed to record, facts obtainable only from the older members of the tribe. The Comanches divided themselves into villages, each of which was presided over by a chief. They worshipped their god "Nistpol," meaning "My Father," and had the utmost faith in the teachings of their medicine men. Chieftains were chosen by their bravery and skill exhibited in battle, and in some instances the descendants of an outstanding chief succeeded him in leadership of his band. The Indians abided by traditions handed down through generations, and an outstanding characteristic was truthfulness in all dealings. They generally selected a high bluff for the burial of their dead, covering their graves with large rocks and stones; a dead warrior was buried with all his bows, arrows and war regalia.

The Comanches were great riders, hunters and fighters, and while they were great bowmen, they believed it to be cowardly to use a long range weapon on an enemy, preferring hand-to-hand combat and the use of spears or tomahawks rather than arrows or guns. In later years their people were so massacred in conflict with the Utes that they forsook their old customs and availed themselves of the use of carbines and rifles. They gave the white settlers an endless amount of trouble because of their bent for warfare.

The carefree life of the Comanches was interrupted when the pioneers and their wagon trains penetrated into the frontier and the hardy white settlers began to establish homes in the land which, by treaty, had been guaranteed free from invasion by the Indians.\(^\text{12}\)

The wars and raids of the Comanches were finally broken by a decisive defeat in 1860 in the battle in which Cynthia Ann Parker was recaptured. This defeat took place on Mule Creek, a small outlet of Pease River, about eight miles south of the Medicine Mounds. Many arrow-heads have been found in this southern part of the county, especially around the four hills. No doubt the Indians made good use of this

\(^{12}\) C. H. Sommer, Quanah Parker, Last Chief of the Comanches, pp. 9-13.
excellent vantage point, because it gave them an outlook for miles in each direction. They also attributed medicinal powers to the mounds and the nearby springs, and must have spent some time there on each trip through the vicinity.

Recapture of Cynthia Ann Parker

The most widely publicized and most well-known event in Texas history which occurred in Hardeman County was the re-capture of Cynthia Ann Parker from the Comanches in 1860.

The site of Cynthia Ann Parker's capture by the Indians was Parker's Fort, which was located on the Navasota River, about two miles from the present town of Groesbeck, in Limestone County. The fort was located near a fine spring of water, and the colony at this time consisted of only eight or nine families. These rugged pioneers tilled the soil, hunted the wild game, and lived peacefully until 1835. Then the invading Mexican armies forced them to abandon their homes. After learning the news of Santa Anna's defeat by the Texans at San Jacinto, they returned to the fort and resumed their peaceful occupations. Their regained peace was not to be for long, because in less than a year tragedy struck. The massacre was described by J. W. Wilberger in these words:

On the nineteenth of May, 1836, several hundred Indians, probably around five hundred, Comanches and Kiowas, made their appearance about three hundred yards from the fort. . . . the whole force, their savage instinct aroused, charged upon the fort, uttering the most terrific and unearthly yells that
ever greeted the ears of mortals. The sickening and bloody tragedy was soon enacted.

The result summed up as follows: Killed -- Elder John Parker aged seventy-nine; Silas M. and Benjamin F. Parker; Samuel M. and his son Robert Frost. Wounded dangerously -- Mrs. John Parker, old Granny Parker, and Mrs. Duty. Captured -- Mrs. Rachel Plummer, daughter of James W. Parker, and her son, James Pratt Plummer, two years of age; Mrs. Elizabeth Kellogg; Cynthia Ann Parker, nine years old, and her little brother, John Parker, aged six years, children of Silas M. Parker.13

Cynthia Ann Parker and her younger brother John were held captive by separate Comanche tribes. They gradually forgot their native language and became thorough Comanches as the years went by.

In 1840 Colonel Len Williams took an expedition of private trade to the Indians in northwestern Texas. His group found the band of Comanches holding Cynthia Ann Parker, who was then fourteen years of age. Colonel Williams attempted to redeem her but was unsuccessful. Later, it was discovered that she had become the wife of Peta Nocona, a Comanche chief.

Doubtless the heart of more than one warrior was pierced by the Ulyssian darts from her laughing eyes. Among the number whom her budding charms brought to her shrine was Peta Nocona, a Comanche war chief, in prowess and renown the peer of the famous and redoubtable Big Foot.

Cynthia Ann, stranger now to every word of her mother tongue save her own name, became the bride of Peta Nocona, performing for her imperious lord all the slavish offices which savageism and Indian custom assigns as the duty of a wife. She bore him children, and, we are assured, loved him with a species of fierce passion and wifely devotion.14

In 1858 Peta Nocona commanded a group of Comanches in the famous battle of Antelope Hills, and no doubt Cynthia Ann was by his side. The Indians were defeated decisively and for some time did not penetrate far into the scattered settlements of the border counties of Texas. In 1859 and 1860 the condition began to get worse and the settlers lived in continual fear. Small bodies of the Indians would strike and surprise their enemy before their presence was known, and could escape with swiftness and cunning due to superior knowledge of the country.

The condition became so deplorable that a decision was reached to send troops and Rangers to attempt a final battle and wipe out the red menace forever. The honor of this command was given to Texas Ranger Captain L. S. Ross, in later years a popular governor of the state. He had under his command forty Texas Rangers, twenty-one soldiers from the Second Cavalry of Texas, and seventy volunteer citizens who were anxious to rid the plains of Texas from the uncertainty and danger ever present due to Indian raids.

The battle which took place between these gallant Texans and the wary Comanches has been called the "Battle of Pease River" or the "Battle of Mule Creek." This small creek was an outlet of the Pease River, near the present town of Margaret in Foard County. The land was at that time a part of Hardeman County.
Captain Ross narrated the campaign as follows:

On the eighteenth of December, 1860, while marching up Pease river, I had suspicions that Indians were in the vicinity, by reason of the buffalo that came running in great numbers from the north towards us, and while my command moved in the low ground, I visited all neighboring high points to make discoveries. On one of these sand hills I found four fresh pony tracks, and, being satisfied that Indian videttes had just gone, I galloped forward about a mile to a higher point, and, riding to the top, to my inexpressible surprise, found myself within two hundred yards of a Comanche village, located on a small stream winding around the base of the hill. It was a most happy circumstance that a piercing north wind was blowing, bearing with it clouds of sand, and my presence was unobserved and the surprise complete. By signaling my men as I stood concealed, they reached me without being discovered by the Indians, who were busy packing, preparatory to a move. By this time the Indians mounted and moved off north across the level plain. My command, with the detachment of the Second Cavalry, had outmarched and become separated from the citizen command, which left me about sixty men. In making disposition for attack, the sergeant and his twenty men were sent at a gallop, behind a chain of sand hills, to encompass them in and cut off their retreat, while with forty men I charged. The attack was so sudden that a considerable number were killed before they could prepare for defense. They fled precipitately right into the presence of the sergeant and his men. Here they met with a warm reception, and finding themselves completely encompassed, every one fled his own way, and was hotly pursued and hard pressed.

The chief of the party, Pete Nocona, a noted warrior of great repute, with a young girl about fifteen years of age mounted on his horse behind him, and Cynthia Ann Parker, with a girl child about two years of age in her arms, and mounted on a fleet pony, fled together, while Lieutenant Tom Kelliheir and I pursued them. After running about a mile Kelliheir ran up by the side of Cynthia's horse, and I was in the act of shooting when she held up her child and stopped. I kept on after the chief, and about half a mile further, when in about twenty yards of him I fired my pistol, striking the girl near the heart, killing her instantly, and the same ball would have killed both but for the shield of the chief, which hung down, covering his back. When the girl
fell from the horse she pulled him off also, but he caught on his feet, and before steadying himself, my horse, running at full speed, was very nearly upon top of him, when he was struck with an arrow, which caused him to fall to pitching, and it was with great difficulty that I kept my saddle, and in the meantime, narrowly escaped several arrows coming in quick succession from the chief's bow. Being at such disadvantage he would have killed me in a few minutes but for a random shot from my pistol which broke his right arm at the elbow, completely disabling him. My horse then became quiet, and I shot the chief twice through the body, whereupon he deliberately walked to a small tree, the only one in sight, and leaning against it, began to sing a wild, weird song. At this time my Mexican servant, who had once been a captive with the Comanches and spoke their language fluently as his mother tongue, came up, in company with two of my men. I then summoned the chief to surrender, but he promptly treated every overture with contempt, and signalized this declaration with a savage attempt to thrust me with his lance which he held in his left hand. As he seemed to prefer death to life, I directed the Mexican to end his misery by a charge of buckshot from the gun which he carried. We rode back to Cynthia Ann and Kelliheir, and found him bitterly cursing himself for having run his pet horse so hard after a squaw. She was very dirty, both in her scanty garments and person. But as soon as I looked on her face, I said: "Why, Tom, this is a white woman, Indians do not have blue eyes." We went back to the village where my men were assembling with the spoils, and a large caballada of Indian ponies.

After camping for the night, Cynthia Ann kept crying, and thinking it was caused from fear of death at our hands, I had the Mexican tell her that we recognized her as one of our own people, and would not harm her. She said two of her boys were with her when the fight began, and she was distressed by the fear that they had been killed. It so happened, however, both escaped, and one of them, Quanah, is now a chief. The other died some years ago on the plains. Returning to my post, I sent her and the child to the ladies at Cooper, where she could receive the attention her situation demanded, and at the same time dispatched a messenger to Colonel Parker, her uncle, near Weatherford.15

15 Ibid., pp. 335-338.
Such a signal victory had never before been gained over the Comanches and never again did they make war as they had done in the past. The great Comanche confederacy was broken forever and the incessant war which had been waged for over thirty years was virtually ended.

The immediate fruits of the great victory were about 450 horses and their supply of food for the winter. But the greatest result was the fact that the proud spirit of the Comanche was broken, and that this defeat resulted in the measureably peaceful conduct of these foes of the white race during the course of the Civil War. The fighters of Texas were able to concentrate on the battles with the Union forces instead of battles with the Indians.

Cynthia Ann Parker and her baby daughter "Prairie Flower" were returned to her uncle's home in Weatherford. She grieved continually for her husband who was killed, and for her two sons, who escaped at the time she was recaptured. She died in 1864, only four years after her return to civilization, and was preceded in death a short time by her small daughter.

C. H. Sommer told the story of Cynthia Ann's children:

Cynthia Ann Parker had three children by Chief Nocona, two sons and a daughter, "Prairie Flower." It has been said that when she gave birth to a son in 1852 the Indians asked her what name she wished to give him. She called him "Quanah," which signifies "Sweet Odor" or "Bed of Flowers," and this has been the accepted interpretation of the name. When Quanah
grew older he adopted his mother's name of Parker and Quanah Parker became the name by which he was generally known.16

This son of Cynthia Ann Parker, Quanah Parker, became a great chief of the Comanches and was instrumental in bringing peaceful relations between white and red men in his lifetime. The city of Quanah, the county seat of Hardeman County, was named in his honor.

In a letter written in 1932, John Wesley of Margaret, who was then ninety-one years of age, described the Cynthia Ann Parker incident:

I met Ross while he was Gov. of Texas and he told me he had never been able to locate the battle ground. When he began to describe the place I described the Creek where the fight occurred and he said the Medicine Mounds were about eight miles North of the battle ground. A row of tepees tumbled down, were still there when I came here in 1880. I became acquainted with Quanah Parker and we were fast friends but he refused to visit me at Mule Creek for he said his father was killed there and his mother and little brothers taken captive there.17

Wesley owned the land on which the battle took place. He was the first county clerk of Hardeman County, and was instrumental in obtaining the first county seat at Margaret, which was named for his daughter who was the first white child born in the county.

Much discussion and doubt have arisen over the question

16Sommer, op. cit., pp. 16-17.

17John Wesley, letter written to J. C. Ferguson, February 22, 1932, in the personal files of J. C. Ferguson at Quanah, Texas.
of whether or not Peta Nocona was killed in the Battle of Pease River. In Captain Ross's account of the battle, he told of shooting the chief several times, and of having his Mexican servant finally kill him. However, Quanah Parker denied that his father was killed by Ross. In a speech which Quanah Parker made in 1910 at the state fair in Dallas (which was holding a special celebration in honor of the Quanah, Acme and Pacific Railway, only recently having completed construction westward), he said:

Well, ladies and gentlemen, that is one matter I want to make straight up. My friend, Colonel Elbert, a little while ago told you that Governor Ross did not capture my mother but Colonel Goodnight did. The Texas history says General Ross killed my father. The old Indian tell me that no so. He no kill my father. I want to get that in Texas history straight up. My friend, Colonel Elbert, Colonel Goodnight and Mr. Daniels find out and make it straight up. No kill my father; he not there. I want to get it straight here in Texas history. After that -- two year, three year maybe -- my father sick. I see him die.18

It is doubtful if the truth will ever be known definitely whether Peta Nocona died in Hardeman County at the hands of Captain L. S. Ross, or whether he died from natural causes, as Quanah Parker stated. However, since Cynthia Ann Parker was known to be his wife, it is reasonable to assume that Peta Nocona was in the vicinity where she was recaptured. There was little likelihood that more than one chief

18Sommer, op. cit., pp. 40-41.
was in the village, and it seems highly improbable that the slain chief could be other than Nocona. Quanah Parker made contradictory statements by first stating that an old Indian told him that Ross did not kill his father, and then stating that he saw him die two or three years after the battle.
CHAPTER II

FIRST PERIOD OF EXPANSION, 1860-1890

Last Indian Raid and Indian Remains in the County

From the decisive defeat of the Comanches in 1860 at the Battle of Pease River until 1874, when the Indians were placed on reservations in the Indian Territory, the settlers or travellers in this region of Texas suffered only sporadic raids by the redskins. After 1874 the people probably thought their troubles and worries were over for all time from Indian attacks. However, the Indians seemed to delight in escaping from their reservations to prey upon some helpless victim from time to time. It was on such an escapade in 1879 that a band of renegade Kiowas made the last known Indian raid and killing in Hardeman County.

In 1879 the town of Leadville, Colorado, was the storm center of silver-mining excitement, and many men were going there in hopes of acquiring a quick fortune. This was the reason that J. H. and Fred Estes left Cooke County and started for Colorado. It was for the same reason that Joseph Earle, a former Confederate soldier, joined the Estes brothers to start their ill-fated journey. The story of what happened is dramatically recorded in a letter by J. H.
Estes written to the Quanah Tribune-Chief:

Fred Estes (my brother) and I left Cooke county in 1879, to go to Leadville, Colorado, and fell in with Joe Earl at or near where Harrold is now. We were in a two-horse wagon and he on horse-back. He made the proposition that we let him go with us and he pay us if he made anything when he got to Leadville, as he had only about two or three dollars in money. We traveled along till we reached the R2 ranch at where Chillicothe now is. The ranch was then owned by Belcher and Easly, but was sold in a few days to Worsham & Co. We camped there on Wonders Creek, Thursday night, the 12th of April 1879, and got to where Quanah now has its cemetery the next day about 12 o'clock. Earl was some 300 or 400 yards ahead of us when we discovered the Indians. He saw them at the same time, dismounted and squatted down in the road. The chief of the band came up to us in the wagon and saw that we couldn't get away, so gave orders to rush on Earl and get him. As soon as they reached him, they secured his horse and proceeded to kill him by shooting him with pistols and bows and arrows. While this was taking place, Fred and myself got busy by getting our horses out from the wagon and mounting. We made in the direction of the mouth of Wonders creek, the Indians following and shooting at us for probably six or eight miles. My horse threw me before we had made the first mile, but Fred caught him and I mounted again and rode merrily away. When we got to the creek, we turned up to the R2 ranch, got four other men and returned to the wagon and dead body of Earl. We found that they had saturated his clothes with coal oil and burned him all that a gallon of oil would. His entire scalp, including both ears, was torn off, the head split open and the brains emptied from the skull; the forefingers of the right hand was cut off, an arrow shot through the hand and about ten inches long was left sticking there; five or six bullets and three or four arrows had penetrated the breast. We left him lying there till the next day, when he was wrapped in a blanket and buried as good as could be without tools to dig with. His grave is in the Quanah cemetery with a lot of rocks piled on it. I visited the cemetery after the town had built up and pointed his grave out to some parties.

The Indians were a roving band of Kiowas headed by a son of the old Chief, Sun Bow. I afterwards
met him at Fort Sill and we had a short talk about it. He, of course, denied it. 1

In April of 1880, J. H. Estes made a deposition stating his claim for property lost in the meeting with the Kiowas the year before. At that time the Articles of Property of Texas allowed a person to file claim for property lost in raids by the Indians from the reservations. This document stating Estes' claim for damages says in part:

J. H. Estes was the owner of the said property taken and destroyed by the Indians herein designated at the time and place therein mentioned in said schedule made a part of this instrument, that the Indians who took the said property by force from him the said Estes, were of the Kiowa Tribe from Fort Sill, Indian Territory, and the articles were respectively the quality, condition and just values in said Schedule to-wit:

Time property was taken, April 13th, 1879.
Place. About eight miles from the Mouth of Groesbeck Creek, a tributary of Red River, in Hardeman County, in the State of Texas, near what is called the Rock-house.

The property is as follows: April 13th, 1879.

1 Horse in good condition $50.
2 Saddles in good condition $30.
1 Set of harness in fair condition $10.
1 Gold watch and chain in good condition $150.
1 Set carpenter tools destroyed $25.
1 New hat, new overcoat, new pair shoes $30.
1 Saratoga trunk destroyed $15.
Contents said trunk in good condition $20.
4 Pairs of Blankets in good condition $20.
2 Quilts in good condition $10.
Provisions, ammunition and cooking utensils in good condition $25.
Delay and expense occasioned by the attack of the said Indians $200.

And this deponent on his said oath, says . . . that he was then traveling in said Hardeman County, in the State of Texas, that said Kiowa Indians to the number

1 Quanah Tribune-Chief, August 26, 1938, p. 7.
of 35, first attacked one Joseph Earle and killed him, then immediately started for me and my brother. . . . They, the said Indians then returned to my wagon and took and destroyed my property as herein described and then burned and scalped Joseph Earle.  

This document was notarized by John J. Mullen at Henrietta, the county seat of Clay County. J. H. Estes was at that time a resident of Wichita County, which was unorganized and attached to Clay County for judicial purposes.

In 1879, the year that Earle was killed, there was not an organized county within ninety-five miles of the present town of Quanah, the site of the scalping. The only legal forces with enough strength to cope with a situation such as this were the Army groups at Fort Elliott, some one hundred miles to the northwest and those at Fort Sill, about the same distance to the northeast.

When the soldiers learned that the Indians were absent from the reservations and that they had murdered Earle, they feared that the settlements in the region had been wiped out. They hurried to the Doane's crossing, on Red River in Wilbarger County, to investigate the situation, but all was well.

The grave of Earle was the beginning of the now beautiful Quanah cemetery. For many years a pile of rock was the only marking of his grave. However, a few years ago the citizens of the city placed a headstone at his grave and built a curb around the plot. The stone has the simple

---

2Katherine C. Douthitt, Romance and Dim Trails, pp. 161-163.

3Statement by Bertha Doan Ross, personal interview.
words, "Joe Earl, slain by Indians May 12, 1870." The facts on the stone are erroneous, since he was actually killed on April 13th, 1879. Someone has attempted to make a "9" out of the "0" in the date "1870" on the monument, but the month and day remain in error.

There is some doubt concerning the correct spelling of Earle's name. In the narrative of the raid, J. H. Estes calls him "Joe Earl," and as such it appears on his grave marker, but in the claim for property lost to the Kiowas, Estes calls him "Joseph Earle." Since the deposition making claim for property was of a legal nature, it was more than likely correct in the spelling of his name.

Little has been found in Hardeman County of Indian remains, outside of numerous arrow-heads and a few tomahawk blades. Perhaps the largest and most colorful Indian-life discovery was that of a skeleton found in 1900 by Steve Roberts of Crowell. He discovered the skeleton in this county, just north of Pease River and north of the battle ground where Captain Sul Ross routed the Comanches.

The skeleton seemed to have been buried, but the sand and gravel had been washed away leaving it exposed. There was about a gallon of beads, and other jewelry as well as silver and gold, which would indicate that he had been a chief of the Indians. There was some supposition that the skeleton might be that of Peta Nocona the Chief of the Comanches, and husband of the captured Cynthia Ann Parker.⁴

⁴Quanah Tribune-Chief, August 26, 1938, p. 9.
There has never been any archaeological research carried out in Hardeman County, as was conducted in Wilberger. In that county evidences of Indian village life were found somewhat in abundance, and it is possible that many similar remains would be found in this county if a comparable survey were conducted.

County Organized

Hardeman County was created in 1858 and remained an unorganized county for twenty-six years. It was attached to Wilbarger County for judicial purposes. An election was held on December 30, 1884, for the purpose of deciding upon a location for a county seat in order to place the machinery of county government in motion. The census of 1880 showed the county with a population of only fifty inhabitants. There were probably a few more residents by 1884 but it is doubtful if the population exceeded one hundred at the date of the organization of the county government.

The minutes of the Hardeman County commissioners court in 1884 reveal the facts of the organization election:

Certificate of J. P. Orr, County Judge of Wilbarger County, Texas, certifying that on December 30, 1884, an election was had locating the County Seat at Margaret, Texas upon Section No. 356, Block A, Hardeman County, Texas, at said election 40 votes were cast in favor of the location of said County Seat (and its name shall be called Margaret).5

According to notes in the collection of J. C. Ferguson, long-time abstractor of Quanah, the minutes showing the location of the county seat on Section 356 were in error, since it was located on Section 326. This could have been an error by the clerk in writing the minutes, due to the similarity of the section numbers.

The commissioners' court minutes showed the first county officers for Hardeman as:

- W. L. Gordon, County Judge
- H. J. Farnham, Comr. Prect. No. 1
- W. C. Black, Comr. Prect. No. 2
- T. C. Gibson, Comr. Prect. No. 3
- C. H. Scott, Comr. Prect. No. 4
- John Wesley, County Clerk
- John Bland, Sheriff and Tax Collector
- A. L. George, County Attorney
- W. T. Dann, County Treasurer
- John Steegald, County Tax Assessor
- W. J. Westmoreland, County Surveyor

John Bland was the combination Sheriff and Tax Collector for Hardeman County and was also Tax Collector for Cottle County, which at that time was an unorganized county.

At the first meeting of the commissioners' court on January 26, 1885, at Margaret, the location of the county seat was confirmed. The county clerk was ordered to transcribe all the deeds, mortgages, conveyances, encumbrances, and muniments of title affecting or relating to all land and real estate within Hardeman County or adjacent counties, from the records of Wilbarger County. The salary of the

6Ibid., p. 3.
county clerk was fixed at one hundred dollars a year.

At the February term in 1885, the commissioners ordered that Hardeman County build a courthouse, that the same be let by contract to the lowest and best bidder, and that the county issue bonds for that purpose. The specifications for the building were drawn up in great detail:

Said Court House to be of the following dimensions and material and structure: 20 feet wide and 44 feet long, and 12 feet high from the bottom sill to the top of the walls. The wall shall be of first class pine boxing clear of knot holes and splinters and to be weather-boarded with first class white pine weatherboarding lumber and painted white, with lead and Linseed oil shall be used to paint the walls, doors and windows. The rafters shall be two by fours, the plates two by six, ceiling joints shall be two by four scantling for Court rooms, the roof shall be of Star "A" white pine shingles, and only 4 inches of the shingle exposed to the weather. The Court house shall be partitioned and divided as follows: There shall be a court room 20 x 24 feet and cealed over head. The flooring shall be of first class pine flooring matched and clear of knots, the house shall be built on a rock foundation. There shall be 12 windows, 8 lights each, 10 x 14. There shall be 4 doors 6 1/2 x 3 feet.7

The commissioners were very specific in their orders regarding the construction of the courthouse, and no doubt they were very proud of the fact that their county was coming of age.

The lowest and best bidder for building the courthouse was evidently A. Schutz, since he was awarded the contract. He was ordered to give bond in the amount of $1,200 and to

7Ibid., pp. 5-7.
turn over the building to the commissioners' court by May 1, 1885. The court passed an order on March 19, 1885, wherein the county clerk was required to transfer $1,100 from the third class fund to the courthouse fund.

The building was completed and turned over to the county in the prescribed time. The court records show further that the county clerk and sheriff, who was also tax collector, had offices in the same room of the new courthouse. The county judge and county treasurer were in one room, and the county attorney and tax assessor were likewise situated in one office room. There was evidently still room to spare, and the commissioners' court passed an order which gave the county judge the authority to rent one room on the second floor for six dollars and another for eight dollars per month. The money from this rental enterprise was to be placed in a fund to purchase furniture and equipment for the county offices.

At a meeting of the commissioners' court on February 12, 1885, a busy session ensued and eleven orders were issued as follows:

Order 1. It is ordered by the court that a 1st class public road leading from the town of Margarett East in the direction of Vernon the county seat of Wilbarger county to the county line to connect with the 1st class public road surveyed and established by said Wilbarger county be laid out and established.

Order 2. It is ordered by the court that a 1st class public road be laid out and established leading North from the town of Margarett to intersect the stage road leading from the town of Vernon at Chillicothe.
Order 3. It is ordered by the court that a 1st class public road be laid out and established leading West from the town of Margeret to the Cottle county East line in the direction of the centre of said Cottle county on the most direct and practable route.

Order 4. It is further ordered that the county clerk issue all necessary notices and commissions for the above mentioned roads forthwith and place the same in the hands of John Bland Sheriff of Hardeman County.

Order 5. It is ordered by the court that W. T. Dann Treasurer of Hardeman County out the 1st moneys that come into his hands upon warrant issued by the county clerk to pay freight and expressage on all the books and stationery purchased by Hardeman County upon the 12th day of Feb. 1885.

Order 6. It is ordered by the court that W. J. Westmoreland surveyor of Hardeman County be and he is hereby allowed the sum of four hundred and fifty dollars to be paid out of the 3rd class fund for transcribing Hardeman land records.

Order 7. It is ordered by the court that John Bland Sheriff be and he is hereby allowed the sum of three hundred dollars per annum for ex officio services and the same to be paid monthly for which the county clerk shall issue scrip.

Order 8. It is ordered by the court that W. L. Gordon County Judge of Hardeman County be and he is hereby allowed a salary of Six hundred dollars per annum.

Order 9. It is ordered by the court that the sum of fifteen dollars each be and the sum is hereby allowed J. J. Farnham commissioner Prec No 1 and W. L. Gordon C. Judge for five days services.

The commissioners in these orders provided one of the necessities for any new county -- roads or suitable outlets for transportation to surrounding areas. At that time, in 1885, the county was divided almost in the center by Pease River, and this was a formidable barrier for the road mentioned in the first order. A bridge was never built for this road and fording was the only means of crossing. The

---

8Ibid., pp. 7-9.
road has long since been abandoned, but the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient railway bridge follows the approximate location of the old crossing now.

The commissioners' court issued an order on August 1, 1885, which gave the sheriff authority to contract for benches for use in the courtroom. On August 10th, an amendment was made to that order:

Ordered that the Sheriff be and is hereby instructed to have four windows put in the upper story of this court house one in each room, and to purchase one dozen chairs for the use of the court room, and to have a two room privy built with lock on doors.9

The first tax levy for Hardeman County was made May 11, 1885, and was apportioned as listed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State advalorem, per $100</td>
<td>$ .25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State School Poll Tax</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County advalorem</td>
<td>.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County School</td>
<td>.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road and Bridge</td>
<td>.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court house</td>
<td>.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jail</td>
<td>.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupation, one half as much as the state.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Money was a big problem with the commissioners at the beginning of the county organization, and in the minutes there are numerous references concerning the issuance of script.

The new county was in evident need of a jail since it had a sheriff and had begun operations as an organized county. Accordingly, the commissioners let a contract on September 10, 1885.

---

9Quanah Tribune-Chief, August 26, 1938, p. 12.
1885, to the Pauley Jail Building and Manufacturing Company for the construction of a county jail. The contract called for the sum of $9,946 in Hardeman County bonds at eight percent interest. The specifications were as exacting in detail as those drawn up for the courthouse.

The entire exterior of the jail is to be of brick, all floors shall be of concrete, ceilings of corrugated iron. The Pauley Jail Building & Manufacturing Co. shall put up bond in the amount of $10,000 and shall complete the structure on or before Jan. 15, 1886.10

The building was completed within the prescribed time limit and accepted by the county on January 9, 1886. From the records of the dates regarding the construction of the courthouse and jail, it is shown that it took only four months to complete each structure.

The sites of the first courthouse and jail were visited by the writer on April 17, 1949. All that remains of the buildings are the concrete foundations, piles of rusty corrugated iron sheeting, and bits of old shingles and rotted beams. The present town of Margaret, which is called "New Margaret" by its residents, is approximately three miles from the site of the original county seat of Margaret. The remains of the buildings are in a pasture some three hundred yards from a dirt road.

In 1886 rumors were being heard that the Fort Worth and Denver Railway Company planned to extend its line to Quanah,

10 Ibid., p. 8.
which would make it an important point for shipping in this area. The citizens near Margaret feared that an attempt would be made to move the county seat, and the commissioners must have had the same thought. They decided to establish an expensive courthouse in Margaret that would be of such great value that the county seat would virtually be forced to remain at that site. Thus on February 11, 1886, the following order was entered upon the records of the commissioners' court:

It is ordered by the court that a court house shall be built at the county seat, not to exceed a cost of $40,000. The building to be of rock or brick. Bids to be received at Margaret April 7th, 1886.

This action of the commissioners' court was soon known in Quanah, the word was rapidly spread over the county, and all who were against the building of such an elaborate courthouse at Margaret were urged to attend the meeting of the court there on April 7th and enter a protest.

As a matter of fact almost every man in the county went to Margaret -- cowboys with guns, Capt. Bill McDonald, Judge W. J. Jones and others active in the opposition to the court house scheme. The county judge was chesty at first, but he soon got down. Commissioner Black was the only man who voted against the order to rescind the prior action of the court. The court ordered the architect paid $1,000 for the plans and specifications.

At this meeting on April 7, 1886, petitions from citizens in different parts of the county were presented and

---

11 Ibid., p. 10.  
12 Ibid.
read in open court, suggesting that the commissioners rescind their order to build a new courthouse. Commissioners H. J. Farnham and C. H. Scott voted to accept the petitions and W. C. Black voted against such procedure.

There is little doubt that the county seat would have been moved from Margaret even if the $40,000 courthouse had been built. The poor location of Margaret made it inaccessible to the county residents north of Pease River except by fording that stream. It did not have a railroad during these early years, and Quanah greeted the Fort Worth and Denver line in 1887, which made it a more logical site for a county seat. The 1940 census showed a population of only one hundred for Margaret and Quanah had 3,767. The estimates for Quanah in 1949 place this figure over the 5,000 mark.

The Founding of Towns: Chillicothe, Quanah, and Others

Chillicothe was established as a town a few years earlier than Quanah, largely due to the fact that the Fort Worth and Denver Railroad reached that point first. The first post office in Hardeman County was established at Chillicothe on October 17, 1883, with Charles E. Jones as the first postmaster. There was little settlement of the town before it was surveyed and laid off in lots by the railroad in 1885.

The R2 Ranch was operated by W. H. Worsham in the 1870's over an area of approximately thirty-five square miles in
this county, with headquarters near Wanderer's Creek, about a mile from Chillicothe. The man regarded as the founder of Chillicothe was A. E. Jones, originally from Missouri.

Jones had worked for several years on the R2 Ranch but left it in 1886 to establish a grocery store. He is given credit for naming Chillicothe after his home town in Missouri. He kept supplies for the cowmen of the area and built the first box house in the town. He also had a stage coach stand, for the mail run.

In 1887 there was one restaurant operated by Holl-land White. J. H. and T. R. Nuckles built the first real grocery store in June, 1888, and put in $1,700 stock of goods. The first month's business amounted to twenty dollars. Will Jones had the first livery stable. There was also a shoe shop, saloon, and lumber yard in 1887. All of these establishments were north of the present railroad, where the town had been surveyed and laid off in twenty-five foot business lots and fifty foot residential lots by the Fort Worth and Denver Railroad. The first train reached Chillicothe in January of 1887.

In 1889 a half dozen residences were built and the railway station was completed. Four cars of wheat were shipped in 1888 and in 1892-93 wheat elevators were built. Two hundred wagons of wheat waited in line at elevators at some times. During the season of 1895-96 a little cotton was grown.13

The majority of business and residential houses in Chillicothe are located south of the railroad now. This migration across the tracks was largely due to a disastrous fire in 1890 which destroyed most of the buildings then on the north side of the rails.

Chillicothe is a thriving small city today and boasts many advantages enjoyed by cities much larger.

It was incorporated in 1907 with a population of 800 persons. It has aldermanic form of government with a mayor and five aldermen. There is

13Statement by Jasper Randle, personal interview.
approximately one square mile within the corporate limits and about the same area adjacent to it is eligible for incorporation. Present estimated population is 2,000.14

This city is located near the eastern boundary line of Hardeman County, approximately half way between Quanah and Vernon. It is on United States Highway 287, the main traffic artery for travel from southeastern Texas to the Panhandle and to northwestern states. Two railway lines, the Fort Worth and Denver City Railway Company and the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railway Company, intersect at Chillicothe.

The city has six churches, an accredited high school, and has a modern grade school building which was completed in 1948. The city has the only swimming pool in the county in 1949, which is near a small park. Due to the planting of many varieties of colorful iris, the city of Chillicothe has been called "The Iris Village."

Quanah is the county seat of Hardeman County and is its largest city. It received its name from the Comanche Indian chief, Quanah Parker, who was the son of Chief Peta Nocona and his white wife Cynthia Ann Parker. The name "Quanah" in the Comanche language means "Bed of Flowers" or "Sweet Odor."

At the time the town was founded Quanah had become a well known and influential figure among the Indians and a loyal friend of the whites. Thus it

---

14Facts about Chillicothe, Texas, a pamphlet issued by the Board of Community Development, Chillicothe, Texas, 1947.
seemed fitting that the historical significance of the locality be perpetuated by giving to the new town the name of Quanah. The old chief was greatly pleased with the honor, and ten years later in 1896, paid a state visit to the town.15

Until the railroad came to Quanah and before the settlers arrived with the idea of tilling the soil instead of raising cattle, there was little progress in settlement of the town. By 1884 the rails were nearby, and the nesters were fencing in the prairies, causing the decline of ranching. Quanah was not in existence in that year, but Elvin Watkins thus describes the arrival of the first permanent resident:

The year was 1884; one of the travelers was Judge W. J. Jones, first inhabitant of Quanah, and the camp ground was well within the limit of what is now its townsite. On reaching that point on the prairies which is now occupied by the town of Quanah he selected Section 166 for his home. Here among the cowboys, who constituted almost the entire population of that portion of Texas at that time, he established his residence.16

It is an odd fact and coincidence that this first settler of Quanah, like the founder of Chillicothe, had the name of Jones.

The first store and mail distribution center, a combination affair, was operated by G. H. Shaw in a tent. His small stock of groceries was hauled from Harrold by wagon. It was said that his supply of groceries sold so fast that

15Hardeman County, Agricultural and Industrial Edition, prepared by Quanah Chamber of Commerce and Quanah Tribune-Chief, 1928, p. 5.

he had to close business at times until more goods could be obtained.

During 1884 and 1885 Quanah was a struggling village, without railroads, telegraph, or telephone. Her buildings were of wood and were situated on Mercer Street, which was then the main artery of commerce. Her first two buildings were erected for J. A. Johnson and Doc Shaw.

On the 1st day of March, 1887, the Fort Worth & Denver City Railway was completed to Quanah, whereupon the town began to grow. The business shifted from Mercer to Johnson Street [now Main] because, it is said, of the advancing price of lots on Mercer and also because more substantial buildings were going up on Johnson Street.17

The J. A. Johnson mentioned in the above quotation was the first official postmaster for Quanah. The post office was established January 11, 1886.

The Fort Worth and Denver City Railway Company surveyed Quanah in 1885, but it was a year later before town lots were sold. "On December 1, 1886, the first sale of town lots was begun in Quanah. Title to lots was given by R. E. Montgomery, townsite agent, a son-in-law of Gen. G. M. Dodge, builder of the railroad."18

The chief reason for the shift of the business section from Mercer to Johnson Street, as previously mentioned, was the fact that speculators started buying lots on Mercer and tried to sell them at much higher prices.

17 Ibid., p. 24.
18 Hardeman County, Agricultural and Industrial Edition, p. 5.
Some speculators pushed the prices up to $1,500 per lot and even higher. Two lots did sell for $1,750 each. Such high prices of course brought building to a standstill. The facts being made known to General Dodge, he instructed his agent, Judge Jones, to act, and lots on Johnson street were sold to W. E. Johnson, Louis Simpson, Duncan G. Smith, S. W. Tenley, W. G. Lewis, J. A. Pardue and others at $600 for the lots on the corner of Third and Main, while inside lots on the West side of Main were sold at $200 each. The only stipulation made by Judge Jones was that the buyers should erect rock or brick buildings on the property.19

The four corner lots at the intersection of Main and Third streets in 1949 are the sites of the county courthouse, a theater, a motor company, and a drug store. These corner locations are also intersected by business routes of United States Highway 287 and State Highway 283.

Other early business houses of Quanah are described in the following quotation:

In 1886 Caldwell Brothers had established a dry goods store in Quanah, making two in the town, and there were also two grocery stores; one where the Q. A. & F. depot now stands, owned by Ed and Bob Dawson, located where the First State Bank now is situated. Other merchants were W. G. Lewis, who conducted a hardware store on the east side of Mercer, and Forest Ramsey, who conducted a drug store next door south of Bill Holly's saloon, which was next south of Lewis' hardware store. On the lot where the Swearingen building now stands stood a two-story wooden structure used as a hotel and saloon. Just south of this Tom Gibson had a butcher shop, and near this was the Carter Hotel, which stood where the Perkins-Watkins Co. now is.20

19Quanah Tribune-Chief, August 26, 1938, p. 13.
The show window or other means of advertisement as known today was not in existence in those pioneer business days. Most sales were for cash, except in instances where the buyer had something for trade which caught the fancy of the merchant. Many early businessmen of Quanah started their enterprises and remained for long periods in tents, due to scarcity of buildings and high rent in those that were constructed.

A school for Quanah opened in October of 1886 with Miss Edith McCann as the teacher. About a dozen pupils attended the first day, but the enrollment grew to around twenty-five in a month. General Dodge had deeded two lots for school purposes and a two-room frame school building was erected there. Sunday school and church services were held there also for some time. The first known church service, however, was held in Judge Jones' office by an itinerant Baptist preacher.

The Baptist and Methodist churches share the honor of being the first churches organized in Quanah, but the Baptists built the first church building. Both became active in 1888. Rev. J. H. C. Williams aided in organizing the Baptists and Rev. J. R. Henson organized the Methodists, and under his pastorate the first personage was built.

In the spring of 1890 the first rock buildings in Quanah were constructed. The grocery firm of Sanders, Clower and
Company was the first to begin operations, and the three-story Quanah Hotel was started. It was completed in 1891.

The city of Quanah in 1949 is a great improvement over the early town. It now has a population estimated at over 5,000, and has many wholesale and retail businesses. It has a weekly newspaper, a creamery, cotton oil mill, cotton compress, country club, city hall, county courthouse, county hospital, clinic, two banks, two depots, two grade schools and a high school, many fine churches, a roundhouse and headquarters of the Quanah, Acme and Pacific Railway Company. Within four miles it has a large plaster-board manufacturing industry and a huge electrical power plant.

The townsite of Lazare was established by the Quanah, Acme and Pacific Railway Company in 1909, when this railway line was being extended from Acme to Paducah, in Cottle County. It received its name from Lazare Baker, grandson of Sam Lazarus, who founded the Quanah, Acme and Pacific Railroad. The post office was established on July 12, 1909, with William A. Dorsey as the first postmaster. This town is divided by the Hardeman and Cottle boundary line. The combination store-service station-post office lies on the Cottle County side of the line, but the depot is in Hardeman. The 1940 census reports showed a population of only twenty-six.

Medicine Mound is located six miles southwest of Chillicothe and lies in the southeastern part of the county. It
was named for the four mounds which are approximately two miles west of the town. These four hills were called "medicine mounds" by the Indians, who thought that their sick people who bathed in a nearby spring and slept on top of one of the mounds would be cured of their ailments.

The townsite for Medicine Mound was established in 1908 by the Orient Land Company, a subsidiary of the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railway Company. On May 21, 1909, an addition was established which was called "Tidmore's First Addition to Medicine Mound." Another addition, the "Orient Addition to Medicine Mound," was filed on April 7, 1910, by the Orient Land Company. The post office was established November 3, 1908, with W. H. Bellamy as the first official postmaster.

In 1911 Medicine Mound was a thriving small town with great ambition, as evidenced in the ensuing article printed in the first newspaper published there:

Medicine Mound is the fastest growing little town in northwest Texas, for less than three years ago this was a town of prairie dogs and the home of the coyote. When the K. C. M. & O. railroad began laying steel across Red River, then this townsite was selected by the Orient Land Co., which was at that time inclosed in pastures, but they seeing the pretty location surrounded by a very fertile farming country, they decided this to be the ideal spot to locate their townsite.

The town built very slowly the first year, but has gradually built to be a nice little town. The writer is proud to say that it is still growing.

It has been less than a year since our depot was completed, but since that time the town has more than
doubled in business and population. Our bonds have been sold to build a $4,000 school building which we hope to be of great benefit to our town. Rent houses are in great demand; they can be rented for 20 per cent on the investment.\textsuperscript{21}


Whereas most towns boast of their growth and prosperity through the years, it is the opposite for Medicine Mound. It has suffered the fate of similar small towns. In 1949 it has only one store, a general merchandise establishment, a service station, post office, railway depot, schoolhouse, cotton gin, grain elevator, and three churches. The latest census figures showed a population of 210 residents.

The town of Goodlett was named in honor of J. B. Goodlett, who owned ranch lands and a bank there in the early 1900's. He later managed a bank in Quanah and was postmaster for several years in Quanah.

\textsuperscript{21}\textit{The Citizen}, March 24, 1911, p. 1.
When the site of Goodlett was first settled, it was known as Gypsum, due to the abundance of gypsum in the soil. The first buildings were constructed south of the Fort Worth and Denver Railroad tracks. The post office of Gypsum was established on May 20, 1889, with Henry J. Williams as the first postmaster. "The name was changed to Goodlett, officially on April 6, 1909."\(^{22}\)

The records in the office of the Hardeman County clerk show that J. W. Mastin platted and divided the town into blocks and lots in 1907, on a portion of the northeast part of Section 280 and southeast part of Section 279. It was dedicated to the public and filed for townsite purposes on February 4, 1907. The survey was made by R. G. Carroway, county surveyor from Childress, and filed March 30, 1907. A supplement to the townsite was made in October of 1908.

In 1909 a survey was made by J. J. Walker, Hardeman County surveyor, for H. J. Hooker and K. M. Wishart, which was known as the "Hooker and Wishart Survey of the Town of Goodlett." This located the town north of the railroad and along the site of the present route of United States Highway 287.

W. I. Thomas, an early resident of Goodlett, tells the following facts regarding the town's history:

In 1902 there were three buildings in the town, plus a half-dugout and a school house. The post

\(^{22}\)Records of Appointment of Postmasters, 1789-1930, National Archives, Washington, D. C.
office occupied one of the buildings and the other two were vacant. Around 1910, Hooker and Wishart constructed ten houses and two brick buildings on the new townsite. The two brick buildings are still in use.

A. J. Thompson was an early postmaster and grocerymen. G. W. Harris succeeded him as postmaster and I. B. Harper followed him.

Early church services were held in the schoolhouse with all denominations participating. The first church was built by the Methodists.

The first gin in Goodlett was built by G. A. Vestal and C. H. Malone.


In 1949 the town of Goodlett consists of a small bank, a post office, two cafes, three grocery stores, a lumber yard, cotton gin, two grain elevators, school building, several churches, and service stations. The Fort Worth and Denver City Railway passes near the town and United States Highway 287 forms the main thoroughfare. It is located approximately eight miles west of Quanah. Last census figures showed a population of 350 residents in Goodlett.

The town of Acme was largely the outgrowth of the cement and plaster manufacturing plants established there in the late 1890's and early 1900's. The need for housing and other accommodations for the workers led to the settlement of a

---

Statement by W. I. Thomas, personal interview.
town. No townsite was ever established for Acme.

"The post office at Acme was established January 17, 1898, and Thomas Flynn was first postmaster." Prior to this, mail had been distributed by the railway agent at the depot.

W. H. Norman, long-time employee of the Quanah, Acme and Pacific Railway, was an early resident of Acme and worked in the first mills there. He relates the following account of the town:

In 1898 Acme had five or six houses, a fine hotel, a post office, school house, two depots, the plaster mill and a company store which included hardware, furniture, groceries and a meat department. The hotel had two large dining rooms. The Fort Worth & Denver stopped there at 6 P. M. each day for the passengers and crew to eat the evening meal.

The plaster mill employed around eighty men who received fifteen cents an hour for their work. The supply of gypsum was dug from open pits, as contrasted with the mining operations employed now. In this open digging, several specimens of Mastodons were discovered, and sent to museums in St. Louis. Fred Brown was one of the early managers of the plant.

There are no records regarding the naming of the town of Acme. However, the cement and plaster mills were operating before the town had a post office established, and the products were known as "Acme" goods. Since the word means the height of perfection, it probably was from this source that the town received its name.

Acme is located four miles west of Quanah on Groesbeck

---

24 Records of Appointment of Postmasters, 1789-1930.
25 Statement by W. H. Norman, personal interview.
Creek. United States Highway 287 crosses the community and the Quanah, Acme, and Pacific Railway as well as the Fort Worth and Denver City Railway pass through the town and maintain depots there. The town now consists of one general store, post office and boarding house, three churches, schoolhouse, two depots, and the huge Certain-Teed Products Corporation manufacturing plant and its facilities. This industry manufactures plaster boards, and the other by-products of the gypsum industry. It is one of the largest such plants in the nation, and at one time was the largest. Its employees in the majority live in Quanah. The plant has had several hundred men employed for the plaster manufacture for many years, and is a vital asset to the industrial factor of Hardeman County. H. J. Zelms is the present head of the corporation at Acme.

Old Trails and Roads

In the late 70's and early 80's ranchmen were beginning to ride the range in Hardeman County and other surrounding areas. There were no railroads in the territory at that time and all cattle ready for the market had to be driven directly there by cattle trail or driven to some point that the railroad had reached. The largest cattle ranch in this county in that era was the R2, which covered some thirty-five square miles of Hardeman as its range. The first railroad to reach the county was the Fort Worth and Denver City Railway
Company, which arrived in 1887.

Prior to its arrival the R2 had driven its herds to Dodge City until the rails came to Denison. As the Denver came into West Texas they began to meet it with their drives at Decatur, Wichita Falls and Harrold, in Wilber County. They soon had 25,000 to 30,000 cattle in the R2 brand and were branding 15,000 calves per year. They had one or two trail outfits on the road each year taking steer herds to the Northwest.26

This description mentions that before the railroad arrived the R2 had driven its herds to Dodge City, Kansas.

The Dodge Trail, which began to be used in the early 70's had a principal branch in Texas extending through Mason, Brady, Coleman, and Fort Griffin to Doan's Store on Red River a few miles north of the present town of Vernon . . . and on to Dodge City.27

The crossing at Doan's Store near Vernon was the nearest point of any principal cattle trail to Hardeman County. None of the major trails crossed its boundaries.

The R2 ranch shipped cattle to Montana as well as to the Dodge City market. In 1878 an ill-fated trail drive was made to Montana.

They would drive as many as three trail herds every spring with 2,000 head in the herd, taking them to Montana. One trip Worsham put 3,000 yearling steers in Montana for the winter. The winter was very cold and the next spring they gathered 65 steers, the cattle having died and many of the saddle horses froze to death.28

26 J. M. Hendrix, "Texas Cow-towns, Quanah," The Cattleman, XXVII (October, 1940), 19.


28 Douthitt, op. cit., p. 269.
The Montana Trail did not go across Hardeman, but branched out from Doan's Crossing on Red River and cut across the eastern edge of the Panhandle. The drives to Montana from this county probably joined the main Montana Trail by fording the Red River north of Quanah, or by going through Childress County.

A mail stage route was operated through Hardeman in the late 80's, with two stops in the county for changing horses.

In 1886 a daily United States mail stage route ran from Harrold via Vernon and on up through the Red river counties of Hardeman, Childress, Collingsworth, and Donley to Old Clarendon on Salt Fork, and northeast from Clarendon to Mobeetie a total distance of 200 miles. After leaving Vernon there was a stage stand shanty where Chillicothe now stands, another at the Rock House on Groesbeck creek near the present town of Quanah.29

With the advent of the railroad era to the county in 1887, the county, and Quanah in particular, became a cattle-shipping point of some importance. The Fort Worth and Denver line extended to Quanah in that year and it was the western terminus for two years. Many ranches from adjacent counties and the disputed Greer County in Indian Territory drove their cattle to Quanah to be shipped by railroad to market. Other ranches in the southern part of the state shipped to Quanah and from here resumed the trail drives.

In this period many South and Southwest Texas herds, either enroute to the Northwestern ranges or scheduled for delivery to Panhandle ranches, were loaded into

---

29 Quanah Tribune-Chief, January 9, 1902, p. 1.
cars; cattle, horses, men, chuck wagon and all to be shipped to Quanah, where they were unloaded, outfitted, and resumed the trail. In this way they missed the East and North Texas areas which had been closed to trail driving by fencing and farming.30

To the north of Quanah and across Red River lay the huge disputed area of Greer County -- a virtual cowman's paradise with plenty of grass and water. Several large ranches in Clay and Archer counties had furnished thousands of head of cattle for the Greer County ranges.

These ranges were tributary to, and did their shipping and shopping in Quanah. ... Heretofore, incoming cattle had been shipped to Harrold in Wilbarger County, unloaded and trailed from there on to the Indian ranges. These herds passed almost wholly around the ranges of the Southwest Greer county cowmen. With the extension of the railroad, however, it was natural for the cowmen to want to ship the additional fifty or sixty miles to Quanah and drive almost directly to their ranges which would take them across the Greer county ranges.

To the south, J. G. and P. S. Witherspoon held big ranges, in the flats of what is now portions of Knox and Foard counties. J. G. gave the ULA brand and P. S. the 9. These cattle, as well as those of J. G. Witherspoon, drove to Quanah for shipping. There were several other smaller outfits in Foard, Knox and King counties who shipped from there. The OX outfit sprawled among the three forks of Pease River, drove from the east side, or Dripping Springs section of their outfit to Quanah to ship.

J. G. Witherspoon's HAT outfit, which lay in Foard and Cottle counties, along with his kinsmen, Frank and Ben Easley, shipped from Quanah and made it their banking and trading headquarters. Until the railroad pushed on west, the Moon's, 6666 and sometimes the Spurs brought their herds there to ship. The Richards brothers of Cottle county, T. J. with the Stripe brand and W. Q. with the 3D, also drove to Quanah until the railroad was extended to Childress.

Cowmen to the north and south of it liked the town as a shipping point. The Greer county men could

30 Hendrix, op. cit., p. 20.
throw their herds across Red River in the early morning and reach Groesbeck Creek, which lay about halfway of the seven miles from river to town, for noon and watering. It was open country from the creek into the wings of the shipping pens, which permitted them good country in which to shape up their herds before penning. From the south it was a straight shot from the Wichitas to Quanah, with Wanderer's Creek about equal distance on the south as Groesbeck was on the north, with open country again from watering to the pens.31

The trails used by the ranchers south of the county and by the Oklahoma cattlemen from the north in bringing their herds to Quanah for shipment were the foundation for State Highway 283, which crosses Quanah and the county almost in the center. The highway goes across the creeks at the approximate locations described in the cattle drives.

Among the first acts of the commissioners' court of Hardeman County were the orders issued, as quoted earlier, to establish public roads. All of the roads were to originate from the original county seat at Margaret. The commissioners ordered first-class public roads established from Margaret eastward in the direction of Vernon, to connect with the Wilbarger county road at the county line; from Margaret north to intersect the stage road leading from Vernon, at Chillicothe, and from the county seat westward to the Cottle county east line in the direction of the center of that county.

The earliest roads established were little more than

31 Ibid., pp. 21-22.
trails, but they served the purpose for the modes of transportation for that period.

Railroads and Railway Passenger Service

The railroads have played an instrumental part in the history of Hardeman County. There were few people in the county prior to 1887 when the first train arrived, and the towns of Margaret, Chillicothe and Quanah were in the early stages of growth. All travel was by stage, wagon, buggy, or horseback, and cattle were driven directly to market or to points that had been reached by railroads. Due to the surveys made by the railway companies and the townsites they established, permanent residents located in the county and the towns began to grow.

The county today boasts as many railway systems as do several other counties much larger in area and population. The Fort Worth and Denver City Railway Company crosses it from east to west; the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient goes across the southeastern part; the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad crosses the Red River from Oklahoma and has a terminus in Quanah; and the Quanah, Acme and Pacific line has headquarters in Quanah and crosses the southwestern side of the county.

The first of these railway companies to survey Hardeman County was the Fort Worth and Denver, which made its first survey in 1885. General Grenville M. Dodge was the contractor for the building of the line, which had been chartered
by the legislature in 1873 to build from Fort Worth to the New Mexico Territory-Texas line and connect with some railroad to Denver, Colorado. General Dodge had an agreement with the stockholders which is described below:

He proposed to the stockholders to build, furnish all material, and to equip the road to Denver, any point in Colorado, or into the Indian Territory for $20,000 a mile in stock and the same amount in bonds. The stockholders accepted his offer, and a contract was signed on April 29, 1881.

The railroad was completed and in service to Decatur on May 1st, to Bowie by July 1st, and to Henriette and Wichita Falls on July 24, 1882. Grading for construction beyond Wichita Falls did not begin until February 3, 1885.

By May 5, 1885 rails were laid and the line was put into operation as far as Harrold, and the work begun in earnest the next year.

Track was laid to Chillicothe, and operation to Vernon begun by October 31, 1886.  

The establishment of townsites for Chillicothe and Quanah in 1886 by the Fort Worth and Denver gave impetus to their growth and they had several business houses in operation before the trains arrived.

Early in January of 1887 the first train reached Chillicothe. It was not until March 1st of that year that the first passenger train of the Fort Worth and Denver steamed into Quanah, which was the terminus of the line at that time. This opened up a new era of prosperity for Hardeman County and it became the cattle-shipping center for the surrounding

The Fort Worth and Denver line built on from Quanah to Childress, Clarendon, Amarillo, and to its final goal, Denver City, Colorado. Connecting service between Texas and Colorado was opened on April 1, 1888.

The Fort Worth and Denver City Railway Company operates an efficient passenger and freight service at the present time. The streamline "Texas Zephyr" which was put into operation in 1940, offers overnight service between Dallas or Fort Worth and Denver, Colorado. It has connections with all major railway lines, and passengers can travel from Hardeman County to any point in the nation. New diesel-electric freight locomotives are now being used to some extent, to speed the flow of commerce for the system. There is approximately twenty-nine miles of Fort Worth and Denver rails in Hardeman County.

The shortest railway line in this county is that operated by the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad, commonly known as the "Frisco Line." This company has only approximately nine miles of track in Hardeman and enters the county from Oklahoma. It crosses Red River around nine miles north of Quanah and runs in an almost straight direction from that point to Quanah, which is its terminus for this immediate vicinity.

In the spring of 1903, the St. Louis and San Francisco
Railroad was completed from Oklahoma City to Quanah. Upon completion of this railway line, the citizens of Hardeman County had direct access to communication with St. Louis and points east, for both passenger and freight service. Prior to this service, those persons desiring to go to St. Louis or eastern points had to go several hundred miles to connecting points. The Frisco is the only railway service directly from Hardeman County to the state of Oklahoma.

The Quanah, Acme and Pacific Railway Company, generally known as the "Quanah Route" or the "Quanah Line," has its general offices in Quanah. Its origin dates back to 1903, when it was incorporated as the Acme, Red River, and Northern Railway Company and ran from Red River to Acme.

Although originally incorporated as a common carrier the old company functioned largely as a plant facility serving the large plaster producing plants located at Acme, Texas, and Agatite, Texas, performing however, a common carrier service. It connected with the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway Company at Quanah, Texas, and also with the Fort Worth & Denver City Railway at Acme and Quanah.

The first president and founder of the Quanah Route was Sam Lazarus, who came to the county as a peddler in the 90's and changed to the cattle business. While digging a dugout for living quarters on north Groesbeck creek about ten miles north of Quanah, he discovered an abundant supply of gypsum.

---

33 C. H. Sommer, *History of the Quanah, Acme & Pacific Railway Company*, prepared by the President of the company, St. Louis, December 8, 1934, p. 1.
He then started shipping the gypsum in raw form to eastern plants but decided the deposit was sufficient to support a plaster industry. Consequently, he formed a manufacturing plant. The need for a railroad to ship the products was the primary reason for the founding of the Quanah, Acme and Pacific line.

As originally chartered the construction contemplated a direct line from Sands via Acme in a north-easterly direction to the south bank of Red River, the plan being to make a connection at that point with Frisco Lines, whose rails at this time were being extended through Oklahoma to the Texas border at Red River. A final location was made, and grading operations commenced. Following negotiations, that route was abandoned and trackage arrangements made for operating as joint track that portion of the Fort Worth & Denver City Railway between Acme and Quanah, Frisco agreeing to build its own line into Quanah.

In 1905 preliminary lines were run from Acme, Texas, in a northwesterly direction via Hollis, Oklahoma, thence to Wellington, however this project was subsequently abandoned.

In 1906 the corporate name was changed to Quanah, Acme & Pacific Railway Company, and the line extended in a southwestwardly direction from Acme to Paducah, county seat of Cottle County, a distance of approximately forty-five miles. The line was further extended in 1914 to MacBein, Texas, a point in Motley County, forty miles west of Quanah, the new mileage traversing large cattle ranges owned by the Swenson Company and the Matador Land & Cattle Company. Its objective was El Paso, Texas, the projected line passing through the southeastern part of New Mexico. The World War and events immediately following prevented this undertaking.

The line eventually was constructed on its present location through the south part of Motley County, reaching the Staked Plains via Wolf Creek Point, following closely a wagon trail adopted by buffalo hunters during the early eighties.\(^3\)

\(^3\)Ibid., pp. 1-2.
The Quanah Route crosses the Hardeman County line into Cottle County at Lazare, which is situated on the dividing boundary line of the two counties.

The elevation of the land westward from Paducah increases rapidly, and this caused considerable expense in engineering study and construction of consistent lines of grading through the Cap Rock Escarpment region. The elevation above sea level at Quanah is 1,500 feet and is 3,300 feet at Floydada, the present western terminus of the Quanah Line. The thirty miles of extension from MacBain to Floydada was made in 1928.

As operated today the Quanah Line extends from Red River via Quanah to Floydada, with a branch line to Matador, operating a total of 130 miles. The property is of standard construction, with full section ballasted roadway, and has substituted for the original pile, trestle bridge construction, concrete culverts and concrete boxes over all small waterways. The investment in property is $3,545,654.18.

The principal manufacturing plants on the line, engaged in the manufacture of gypsum products, are located at Acme, Texas. The line west of Acme passes through agricultural and grazing lands, the tonnage from that region consisting principally of cotton, wheat, sorghum and other grains, also livestock. Interchange points with other carriers at Floydada, Acme, Quanah, and Red River afford the movement of passover traffic.\(^{35}\)

The four county seats served by the Quanah Line are Quanah, in Hardeman County; Paducah, in Cottle; Matador, in Motley; and Floydada, in Floyd County.

The present president of the Quanah, Acme and Pacific

---

\(^{35}\text{Ibid.}, \text{p. 3.}\)
Railway Company is C. H. Sommer, with offices in St. Louis, Missouri.

The Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railway Company constructed a route south from Wichita, Kansas, in the early years of this century. It surveyed a route through the southeastern section of Hardeman County in 1907, which crossed the Fort Worth and Denver tracks at Chillicothe, then went through the site of Medicine Mound and left the county at Pease River to enter Cottle. It entered Hardeman from Wilbarger County approximately three miles northeast of Chillicothe.

The Orient Land Company, an auxiliary of the railway company, established the townsite of Medicine Mound in 1908, and it was the only town they made in the county. The depot at Medicine Mound was completed in 1910 and regular passenger and freight service for the county began that year.

The Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railway Company is now owned by the Santa Fe and under lease to the Panhandle and Santa Fe Railway Company. The line was originally incorporated in Texas in 1899 as the Panhandle and Gulf Railway Company and changed its name to Kansas City, Mexico and Orient in 1905. "Since that time the charter has been changed from time to time, the last time being April 26, 1929, which was the date the line was acquired by the Santa Fe."36

At the present time the railway system is commonly known as the Santa Fe, although it renders and pays taxes as the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railway Company. It has nineteen miles of rails in Hardeman County and has stations at Chillicothe and Medicine Mound. It is the only railway passenger service for this county to the counties immediately southward.

Spread of the Cattle Industry

Between 1875 and 1900, Hardeman County was principally a ranching section. The population was very scattered and small in number until the advent of the railroad in 1887, when towns began to appear and start their growth. With this increase in population and growth of towns, the large ranches and ranges decreased, largely due to "nesters," as they were called by the cattlemen, moving in to make claim on the land for farming uses.

The largest and most widely known of the earliest ranches was the R2, which has been mentioned previously. Its headquarters was located near Chillicothe and its cattle roamed an area of thirty-five square miles surrounding. The R2 was founded prior to 1878 by the Belcher brothers of Gainesville, who sold the ranch in 1878 to W. B. Worsham and Joe Johnson of Henrietta. They had as many as 30,000 cattle in the R2 brand and branded 15,000 calves per year.

When the railroad came in 1887, Quanah became the cattle-
shipping center of the area. The town put on a tremendous boom of growth.

Quanah liked cowmen and they liked her. Men from the Haystack and Navajo Mountain countries would come in for their mail, tobacco and a change of clothes. In the early days Caldwell's store drew most of the patronage. It was he who sent their laundry by express to Fort Worth and received it for them on return. Headquarters for transient cowmen was the Quanah Hotel.

... Already the threat of the plow was being sensed. Back down the Denver some good wheat crops were being raised and the head of the long stream of covered wagons, with trailing plow, tools, and milk stock was in Clay, Wichita and Wilberger counties.

Worsham's had been steadily losing R2 range to smaller men who were coming into Hardeman County. By 1887 the country north of town to Red River and following the stream to the line of Childress county was occupied by the Nortons, Clements, Williams brothers, W. W. Howard and T. J. Peniston, all good cowmen and citizens. In the breaks south of town the Clisbee brothers, Lee and Frank, had established a good little ranch. Southwest of them Tom Hasket and Charley Neeley, both old R2 men, had established their Swinging H outfit. Bud Summers, veteran Moon man, had acquired a ranch on the north side of Pease River by working for wages, investing them in cattle which he ran on open range until he filed on and bought as much land as he needed. To the southwest, in the Medicine Mound area, W. O. Neal was establishing a good little ranch, and to the southeast of him Oscar Dodson, another R2 man, was building up an outfit from the old range on which he had worked as a hand.37

Many of these ranchers had married and had children ready for school, and a great number of them moved to Quanah to establish permanent homes. From Greer County came John Ledbetter, W. B. Tullis, Captain Good and sons John and Wallace, Ed Hawkins, Mart Byrd and T. J. Peniston. Others from


With so many cattle in the county, it was to be expected that cattle thieves operated regularly. One of their favorite methods was to drive the stolen cattle across Red River into the Indian Territory, where they had ranges in the mountain country. They had established regular routes from Mexico to the Kansas line, and gave the cattlemen plenty of trouble. One of the most famous representatives of the law, Ranger Captain Bill McDonald, moved to Quanah in 1885, and the cattle-rustling business dropped sharply after his arrival. At one time he held the combined titles of Deputy United States Marshal for two districts, Deputy Sheriff of Hardeman County, and Special Texas Ranger, prior to his appointment as a regular ranger. He would trace the thieves into the forbidden "No-Man's-Land" of the Territory, where no officers had dared penetrate before, and bring them back to face trial, usually working alone.

Some criticism has been given the cattlemen for the manner in which they handled the stock in the early days. Harry Koch, newspaper editor who came to Quanah in 1891, tells the story thus:
The whole cow business was run in a haphazard manner. Few men ever raised feed for their stock, relying upon the winter being mild enough not to starve and freeze too many of their cattle. If the percentage that survived was large enough they would make plenty of money anyway.

It certainly was an inhuman way of handling stock, and I remember visiting one small ranch house once, where the owner was drunk while over eighty head of stock were lying either dead or dying close to his house.

Want of water, too, was a serious drawback. When the water holes dried up or the windmill did not pump, cattle would die like flies at times.30

By the fall of 1900 the eastern half of Hardeman County was going to wheat and cotton. A cowboy reunion that year was a combination affair, reunion and county fair, for the farmers wished to show what the soil would produce. The cattle was of better grade by that time, and that year at the fair, one of the first, if not the first, auction sales of registered cattle in West Texas was held. The fair also featured horse races and a showing of fancy saddle horses.

The white caravan of prospective farmers continued to stream into the county by 1900, and the men would seek a land office or a cowman who wanted to sell a quarter section in one of his big ranches.

The old cowman, stiff, sore and tired of continually facing the setting sun in search of ranges to which the caravans could not or would not come accepted the new order. Some had fortunes and knew how to keep them, some were broke and knew it, still others were broke and didn't know it. The day of the range cowman was done.39

38Quanah Tribune-Chief, August 26, 1938, p. 1.
39Hendrix, op. cit., p. 29.
The day of the cattleman for use of the open range was over forever, but ranches still flourished within barbed wire enclosures, although fewer in number and smaller in size.

Several ranches of good size are still being operated in Hardeman County. One of the oldest is the Neal Ranch near Medicine Mound, operated by W. O. Neal and his son W. O. (Boots) Neal, Jr. In the southwestern part of the county is the Ross Hereford Ranch managed by E. G. Ross. A large ranch is operated by W. F. Williams in the northwestern area. The Tabor Ranch and Evans Ranch are also big cattle producers.

A census report of the Department of Agriculture made in 1945 listed a total of 23,475 cattle for Hardeman County. This is far below the early days when the R2 alone would have as many as 30,000 under its brand, but the county now is primarily agricultural while then it was open range. The ranches today use scientific feeding and breeding methods and produce a high grade of cattle.
CHAPTER III

AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, 1890-1918

Removal of County Seat

The year 1890 was one of great importance in the history of Hardeman County, and of Quanah in particular. This was the year that the county seat was removed from Margaret to Quanah by an overwhelming vote in an election held for that purpose.

In 1890 the county seat was at Margaret, some twenty miles to the south and across Pease River from Quanah. This was not as it should be for Quanah was a railroad town, a healthy, lusty youngster, and, so the Quanah people reasoned, was the logical county seat. Therefore in December, 1889, the county commissioners were petitioned and an election ordered to determine the people's preference between the two towns. Now there were not so many males of voting age in Quanah, but the law as construed along the new railroad, was that if a man "had his washing done" in a town for six successive weeks, he thereby became a citizen, with all the rights and privileges appertaining thereto. It is said the laundry business became the most important industry in Quanah for the six weeks immediately preceding the election, and that every employee of the Fort Worth and Denver from Fort Worth to Texline qualified as a citizen of Quanah on election day. The three saloons kept open house and if a man voted "right" he was welcome to free drinks, so long as he could take them standing.\(^1\)

There were repercussions in Margaret when the order for

\(^1\)Hardeman County, Agricultural and Industrial Edition, p. 5.
the election to be held February 7, 1890, was issued in January of that year by County Judge J. J. Combes:

Immediately the Margaret people got an order for the removal of Judge Combes from office, granted by District Judge G. A. Brown of Vernon, and also an order for Judge Combes' arrest, the plan being to arrest him, depose him in open court and appoint a successor who would be anti-Quanah. The men who went to make the arrest of Judge Combes came to Quanah and got drunk, giving the secret away. Quanah got busy, sent riders out and rounded up the county commissioners, and early on the morning of the 11th of January, the Commissioners Court convened in Margaret; Judge Combes tendered his resignation, which was accepted and T. H. Faulkner was immediately appointed by the court to fill the vacancy created by Judge Combes' resignation. Judge Faulkner immediately filed his bond which was approved and the election came off on schedule.

The records of the Commissioners Court of February 10, 1890, state that 688 votes were cast for Quanah, 164 votes were cast for Margaret and Chillicothe received one vote. Court then adjourned to meet two days later in Quanah, when J. M. Doolen, clerk, was ordered to place an advertisement in the Quanah Quirt asking for bids for moving two fireproof safes from Margaret. These safes were built into wooden frames like a lawn roller, and thus hauled to Quanah.2

Not without ill feeling between the factions of Margaret and Quanah was this transfer of the county seat made, and this animosity existed for many years. Quanah was charged with illegal voting procedure by the Margaret group, and no doubt not everything was as it should have been in so far as legal technicalities were concerned. However, the election was finally taken for granted by the residents south of the Pease River, and Quanah acquired new strength as a

2Quanah Tribune-Chief, August 26, 1938, p. 3.
growing town. The town of Margaret did not prosper after
the removal of the county seat, and there is nothing but
pasture on the site of the first county seat at this time.
The small community of Margaret, now in Foard County, is lo-
cated several miles from the first settlement by that name.

The people of Margaret did not long remain Hardeman
County residents after the removal of the county seat from
their town, for in 1891 the Texas legislature created a new
county for that area.

Separation of Foard County from
Hardeman, 1891

The ill feeling between the people on opposite sides of
Pease River in Hardeman County probably furthered the cause
for the creation of Foard County. An act was passed by the
legislature on March 3, 1891, to create this new county
from portions of Hardeman, King, Cottle, and Knox counties.
The act also provided for the organization of the county,
and it became organized the same year it was created.

The act gave the boundaries of Foard County as follows:

BEGINNING at the point on the east boundary line
of Hardeman County and the west boundary line of
Wilberger County where said line crosses Pease River,
thence up said river with its meanders to the mouth
of Canal Creek, thence north 60, west in a direct
line to the point where the east boundary line of
Cottle County crosses Pease river, thence up said
River with its meanders three miles, thence south
to the north line of King County, thence east three
miles to the northwest corner of Knox County, con-
tinuing east with the north line of Knox County to
the point where Wichita river crosses the north line
of Knox County, thence down the center of the channel of said Wichita river with its meanders to the west line of Baylor county, thence north with the west line of Baylor County and the east boundary line of Hardeman and the west boundary line of Wilbarger County to the place of beginning.3

In the creation of Foard County, Hardeman lost almost one half of its original territory. The land within the limits of Foard County is now a rich wheat-farming area and supports several large cattle ranches.

The south bank of Pease River is the north line of Foard County from the Wilbarger County line on its western side to Section 514 in Block A of the H. and T. C. R. R. Company survey, thus giving the river bed to Hardeman County.

Upon its organization Foard County immediately selected a site for the county seat which is now Crowell. The county governments of Foard and Hardeman were at odds over taxation matters for several years, but the dispute was finally settled in court.

Disastrous Flood and Fire of 1891

The same year that Hardeman County lost almost half its territory through the creation of Foard County, disaster struck the county in the forms of a minor flood and a devastating fire.

Oldtimers recall that on June 4, 1891, occurred the "June flood." This was a cloud-burst lasting for hours. Fourteen inches of rain fell in the first four hours of the storm. The water ran knee deep on Johnson street. All bridges were washed out and great damage was done to the wheat crop which was then ready for harvesting.\(^4\)

The rain fell over an area between Chillicothe in Hardeman County to Kirkland in Childress County. The creeks and rivers rose to unbelievable heights and for several days Quanah was surrounded by sizable lakes.

This sounds like exaggeration, still when we add that a man came very near drowning in front of the Quanah Hotel, and that the band house on Mercer street was washed away and the band instruments scattered all over the country, the bass drum being found two days afterwards in a tree on Groesbeck creek, it seems some water fell within a short time.\(^5\)

This deluge of water was the worst of its kind in the history of Hardeman County. No rain has fallen in such amounts since this flood in 1891.

In 1890 and 1891 Quanah was in the midst of a building program, largely due to the advent of the railroad a few years previous, and to the moving of the county seat from Margaret. All this building activity and most business enterprises came to a temporary halt because of a ravaging fire which occurred early in the morning August 28, 1891.

The Quanah Tribune tells the story thus:

\(^4\)Hardeman County, Agricultural and Industrial Edition, p. 5.

\(^5\)Quanah Tribune-Chief, August 26, 1938, p. 8.
The flames were readily located in the frame buildings on the east side of Johnson street, between Clark street and the railroad. Soon a great portion of the population was out and the work of saving goods began with great alacrity. There was no use and no effort made to save the buildings. It looked at one time like the block across the street would go, but heroic efforts rescued it from the flames. Men never worked harder or put forth more determined efforts than did those working to save the opposite block. From the frame buildings, the fire communicated to the two story stone buildings of R. R. Brown and J. T. Wiley occupied by Chas. Goldberg and Dr. Shaw, as dry goods houses; the second floor being occupied by various parties. In these buildings the flames spent their fury, and what ten hours before swarmed with life and activity was a bed of smouldering embers.

Some of the losses included: R. R. Brown, stone building, $7,000; Chas. Goldberg, dry goods, loss $16,000; J. T. Wiley, stone building, loss $4,000; E. Colther, printing office, loss $2,000; Johnson & Elbert, frame building, loss $750; Ramsey & Marrs, drugs, loss $7,000; G. H. Shaw, dry goods, loss $14,000. Besides the losses, all the buildings across the street, consisting of the Duncan G. Smith, Carter buildings and the First National Bank and those of W. G. Lewis and B. F. Franklin were more or less damaged. The houses will all be rebuilt with stone.6

For several weeks after the fire the damaged stores offered "fire sales" in the manner of present times. Most of the merchants placed notices of appreciation in the newspapers to the people who aided in saving some of their goods.

The only advantage of the fire was the fact that most of the business houses were rebuilt of more lasting material. Many of the buildings in Quanah today carry portions of the

6Quanah Tribune, September 3, 1891, p. 1.
original stone used in the rebuilding process after the disastrous fire of 1891.

Beginning of Wheat Farming

Hardeman County is now predominantly an agricultural county and the major crop is wheat. On the wide spaces which once were parts of the open range for cattle, hundreds of acres of wheat can now be seen.

Wheat was being sowed in small amounts by 1890 but the next year this type of farming greatly expanded.

During the wheat boom of 1891 immense stretches of raw prairies were plowed up and sowed in wheat. Hundreds of cars were shipped from Quanah that year and the Quanah country received a big boost. Unfortunately the price of wheat fell greatly the next year, and wheat raising became unprofitable.7

In the description of the founding of Chillicothe, it was narrated that four cars of wheat were shipped from that vicinity in 1888 and that wheat elevators were constructed in 1892-93. The Chillicothe territory boasts some of the richest wheat land in the county today.

Among the first to sow wheat in the county was the famous Texas Ranger Captain, Bill McDonald. His ranch was located south of Quanah near the mouth of Wanderer's Creek.

McDonald was one of the first to break land in that section and when he put in a sowing of wheat it was thought that he had gone deaf. But the following year when the plowed land turned off a crop of from

7Hardeman County, Agricultural and Industrial Edition, p. 47.
twenty to thirty bushels to the acre, those who had been first to scoff were likewise the earliest to imitate.8

The flood of 1891 almost ruined the wheat crop for that season. Disaster struck again two years later, for in 1893 the entire crop failed and "not a grain of wheat was made in the county."9 The early wheat farmers were faced with many difficulties and discouragements in attempting to make this county the rich wheat section that it is today.

Most farmers in the county follow the practice of grazing their wheat in the winter. This does little damage to the wheat and offers a valuable source of feed for cattle. There is a story regarding the beginning of winter wheat grazing, told by officials of the Fort Worth and Denver City Railway Company:

Characteristic of events which often change a country's history is an old story of winter grazing of wheat. It is said that a wreck near Quanah one fall resulted in a carload of wheat being spilled. Trainmen suggested that local citizens plant it. It did fine and the cattle that grazed on it that winter grew fat, and it still made a good yield at the time of harvest.10

A census of agriculture made in 1945 by the United States Department of Agriculture showed that in 1944 there were 66,854 acres of wheat in Hardeman County and 1,012,824

8William J. McDonald, Captain Bill McDonald, p. 149.
10Ibid., p. 5.
bushels were produced.

Expansion of Cotton over the County

The farming of cotton received little attention in Hardeman County until the wheat failure of 1893.

Some farmers turned their attention to cotton, and a gin was built in Quanah. The price was five cents per pound but living necessities were cheap and folks managed to exist despite the low prices.\textsuperscript{11}

It was said that four hundred bales of cotton were ginned in the county in 1893. Most of the acreage was in the eastern portion of the county while the western part was still predominantly in cattle.

Among the earliest cotton farmers in the Chillicothe area was J. L. Potts, who brought his family there in 1892.

After their arrival in Texas Mr. and Mrs. Potts homesteaded a half section of land North of Chillicothe. They were among the first farmers in this section of Texas to plant cotton. They received the princely price of 3\$ a pound for it.\textsuperscript{12}

The farming of cotton, like wheat, was handicapped in the early years by the lack of efficient farm tools and methods for harvesting the crops. Mules and horses were used until tractors became prevalent, and this limited the acreage a farmer could handle.

Through the years, the acreage of cotton and the number

\textsuperscript{11}Hardeman County, Agricultural and Industrial Edition, p. 47.

\textsuperscript{12}Chillicothe Valley News, January 20, 1936, p. 4.
of bales produced have fluctuated sharply according to seasons of droughts, favorable weather conditions, and to conditions of the nation. Table 1 gives a picture of the number of bales of cotton ginned in Hardeman County from 1899 to 1947, inclusive, and includes statistics on the number of gins in the county and the number of acres in cotton for many of the years.

TABLE 1
DATA ON COTTON IN HARDEMAN COUNTY, 1899-1947

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Gins in County</th>
<th>Bales Ginned</th>
<th>Acres in County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1899</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>1,335</td>
<td>1,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>3,848</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>2,138</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1902</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>1,715</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1903</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>3,819</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1904</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>2,859</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>7,732</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1906</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>10,385</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1907</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>9,263</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>10,195</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1909</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>10,409</td>
<td>34,686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>13,413</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>11,644</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Gins in County</td>
<td>Bales Ginned</td>
<td>Acres in County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>17,145</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4,705</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>30,025</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>21,118</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14,600</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10,647</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5,356</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>21,880</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>25,337</td>
<td>37,444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16,085</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>17,324</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15,636</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>40,821</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>33,786</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>53,092</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>52,106</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>25,858</td>
<td>114,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>31,676</td>
<td>120,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11,764</td>
<td>112,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>29,796</td>
<td>109,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>39,835</td>
<td>111,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TABLE 1 -- Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Gins in County</th>
<th>Bales Ginned</th>
<th>Acres in County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>44,631</td>
<td>111,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9,214</td>
<td>82,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>20,459</td>
<td>72,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4,394</td>
<td>69,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>27,700</td>
<td>72,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13,899</td>
<td>54,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12,448</td>
<td>55,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>16,858</td>
<td>51,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>22,306</td>
<td>48,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>27,149</td>
<td>55,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13,235</td>
<td>60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>18,170</td>
<td>61,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9,551</td>
<td>38,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7,876</td>
<td>38,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10,193</td>
<td>38,760</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Figures unavailable for these years.

Table 1 shows the increase in cotton production caused by World War I and the period of prosperity immediately following. In 1913 only 4,705 bales of cotton were ginned in Hardeman County, but the next year, in 1914, 30,025 bales
were ginned. Production was at a fairly high level through 1917 but dropped to 5,356 bales in 1918 when the United States entered the war. The shortage of labor on the farms of the county was largely the cause of this decline. In 1919 over four times as many bales were produced as in the previous year, and this increase was fairly general until the depression of 1928. Over 50,000 bales were ginned in 1926 and 1927, and then the figure dropped to almost half the amount in 1928 when only 25,858 bales were ginned.

The increase in wheat acreage in Hardeman County during the past decade has caused a decline in the amount of cotton produced. Wheat farming requires less labor and can be handled with mechanized farm equipment on a much greater scale than is possible with cotton farming.

In this county and this general region of Texas cotton is not picked from the burs as is done in other parts of the state, but the entire boll is pulled from the plant. This requires special machinery in the gins to remove the burs and trash collected in the gathering process.

Several Hardeman County farmers are now irrigating cotton but the practice is not yet general. The soils of the county vary greatly in composition and some portions of the county are unsuitable for irrigation.

Cotton gins in the county are located at Goodlett, Quanah, Chillicothe, and Medicine Mound.
Demsite Irrigation Project Attempted

One of the most grandiose plans ever conceived in this county was that of the Demsite irrigation project. This plan was to construct a dam across Wanderer's Creek to impound a water supply sufficient to irrigate thousands of acres of crops.

The Tribune-Chief became interested and urged the building of such a dam. J. L. Elbert, pioneer real estate man also took up the matter and got in touch with Col. Cecil A. Lyon of Sherman, who happened to take an interest in such ventures. Getting in touch with the Rice Bros. of Houston, the three capitalists bought several thousand acres of fertile valley land, laid off the town of Demsite in the center of their big farm, and put Engineer Fields of Wichita Falls to work on a big dam.

The project attracted much attention, and employed many men. Grubbing the mesquite and plowing up the prairie, sowing alfalfa and planting crops and trees; erecting homes, and several big barns, etc., made the irrigation farm very valuable, and the owners at one time expected to sell out for one million dollars.

The intention was to construct a dam whereby sufficient water could be impounded for irrigating 10,000 acres of growing crops. The watershed tributary to Wanderer's Creek was relied upon to catch sufficient water for making a lake of some 1,800 acres and of depths varying from 6 to 40 feet. The dam which holds the water back is something like 6,000 feet long, and cost approximately $75,000. Many people had fears that there never would fall enough rain to fill the lake. But so much rain did fall the first year the farm was in cultivation (1906) as to cause Mr. Rice to remark that it was the irony of fate, because when the lake was chuckfull and all the canals and laterals built, nature watered the crops just when needed and just in the right quantity, thereby insuring bountiful harvests without irrigation.

The first year's crops put in on sod land, including the grains was as follows: 100 acres in wheat, threshed to 10 to 34 bushels an acre. 700 acres in oats, threshed 20 to 40 bushels an acre. 800 acres
in cotton. 100 acres in kaffir corn. 100 acres in sorghum. 100 acres in Indian corn. 250 acres in alfalfa. 8 acres in Irish potatoes, averaged 80 bushels an acre and sold like hot cakes in Colorado Springs for $1.10 per bushel. 75 acres in orchard. One field in cow peas. One field in sugar beets.

After going through the next season and demonstrating that corn and alfalfa are the best money crops, cotton was eliminated from the farm, and that year's acreage in alfalfa was 1,500 acres which had six cuttings averaging a ton an acre per cutting and bringing $14.50 to $16. per ton.

Col. Lyon's intention was to put in 5,000 acres of alfalfa which, on the basis of six tons per acre would cut 30,000 tons annually. At $15. per ton gross this would be a total of $450,000 a year for the alfalfa.

However, alfalfa wasn't the only crop. The corn crop -- or 30,000 bushels of it was sold that season to a live Chillicothe grain buyer for the lump sum of $20,000. Besides those two crops, oats, wheat, potatoes, sugar beets and vegetables were grown at Damsite.

The farm of the Hardeman County Irrigation Co., including the houses, machinery, live stock etc., represented an investment of something like $500,000. The hay shed is the largest in Texas, it is stated, and will hold 5,000 bales of alfalfa. The product of the 5,000 acre alfalfa field would fill 3,000 cars of 10 tons capacity.

Col. Lyon died, and the irrigation project died with him. For years the 1,500 acre lake was rented to Arlie Berry as a pleasure resort.

The lake finally became the property of the West Texas Utilities Company who built a super-power plant there, big enough to supply a hundred West Texas towns with electricity.\(^{13}\)

The lake created in the irrigation project was called Damsite Lake until it was leased to Arlie Berry as a pleasure resort. He named it Lake Pauline in honor of his daughter Pauline, who was an excellent swimmer and could swim across the body of water with ease.

\(^{13}\)Quanah Tribune-Chief, August 26, 1938, p. 3.
The Damsite irrigation project was a tremendous undertaking and one of pioneer nature in this county and region of Texas. The scientific farming practices used in 1906 and the few years the project was in operation were far in advance of the methods of that day.

The project gradually was disbanded after the death of the founders, and the land was sold in portions to various buyers. In 1949 only three or four buildings remain of the Damsite irrigation project. The huge barns are gone, and the irrigation canals have long since been abandoned.

Agricultural Experiment Station Built

In the early years of the 1900's, Hardeman County farmers were having difficulties because of the shortage in feed grains. Corn was the principal feed crop grown and when a crop failed there was no grain until the next crop was produced. This lack of a dependable grain crop delayed the agricultural development of the county, and some farmers, led by W. W. Cole, requested the Department of Agriculture and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station to establish a field-crop testing station in the county.

A field crop testing station was established on ten acres of rented land north of Chillicothe in 1905, and the Station was operated cooperatively by the Division of Forage Crops, U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. A. B. Conner was the first Superintendent. Work in the early years consisted largely in trying to work out new crops and new varieties. The most notable success was achieved in sorghums, but
other crops from all over the world were grown, including legumes. Of course, most of the crops proved to be unadapted but it was established early in the work that alfalfa and the sorghums held most promise.

The first publication from the Chillicothe Station was on alfalfa and the results showed that this valuable crop was adapted to this area. The widespread use of alfalfa had to wait almost forty years, however, because farmers could not make good use of it in this territory until the crop became mechanized during the period of World War II.

Notable success with grain sorghums was achieved almost immediately and within four or five years after the start of the work, such important crops and varieties as Sudan grass, feterita, and hegari were introduced from Africa, and a dwarf variety of Yellow milo was found, increased, and distributed. This introduction of dwarf grain sorghums gave the farmers a dependable grain crop that could be harvested as easy as corn. Since it was more reliable than former crops of corn, a more stable agriculture developed in all of West Texas and allowed the development of a large cotton growing industry that would have not been possible otherwise.

By 1916 the citizens of Hardeman County were not satisfied with the facilities for work offered by ten acres of land and a number of farmers advanced enough money to purchase one hundred acres of land that comprises part of the present Station. The Legislature of 1917 reimbursed this group of men, and the land became the property of the state. The Station was then given the designation of Texas Substation No. 12. The Station was enlarged again in 1935 by the purchase of an additional 152 acres. This land was purchased with an appropriation from the State Legislature and with $3,000 advanced by the Commissioners' Court of Hardeman County. The next Legislature reimbursed Hardeman County, and the present station of 252 acres is all the property of the State of Texas.

Following the enlargement of the Station in 1916, work was expanded to include cotton and wheat and other crops, but the major work continues to be with sorghums, cotton, and wheat. The unique feature of the work at the Chillicothe Station is the work with sorghums where more work on the genetics of the crop is being done than at any other place in the world. At the present time a great deal of emphasis is being placed on the production of hybrid sorghum seed.

The accomplishments of the Station are largely in the field of plant breeding. The following crops...
or varieties have been produced or distributed from the Chillicothe Station: SORGHUMS -- Sudan grass, Sweet Sudan, Feterita, Hegari, Dwarf Yellow milo, Chiltex, Quadroon, Ajax, Bonita, Double Dwarf White Sooner milo and Double Dwarf Yellow Sooner milo. COTTONS -- Mebane 140, Mebane 141, Stormproof No. 1. WHEAT -- Comanche and Wichita.

Within the last year the work has been expanded to include work in the field of new oil crops and special emphasis is being placed on cucurbits.

Present personnel of the Chillicothe Station includes J. R. Quinby, Superintendent, J. C. Stephens, Associate Agronomist, and Lee Zabcik, Junior Agronomist.14

The present superintendent of the Chillicothe Station, J. R. Quinby, has been with the Station since 1925. His name is prominent in the world of agriculture due to his work on grain sorghums.

The work of this station within Hardeman County has been of invaluable benefit to the farmers of the vicinity. It has become well known all over the nation and world for the introduction of new crops and varieties. An example of this is Sudan grass, which was brought here from Africa in 1909 and grown for the first time in the nation. Ten years later it had become a ten-million-dollar crop in the nation.

Extension and Improvement of Railways

The four railway lines operating in Hardeman County were constructed in the period between 1887 and 1910. The Fort Worth and Denver City Railway Company, which began

---

14 Statement by J. R. Quinby, personal interview at Chillicothe, Texas, November 11, 1948.
service in 1887, has made no extension of its line in the county.

The St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad built its nine miles of rails into the county in 1903 and has not made further extension. This railway company has the least rail mileage of the four companies operating in the county.

The Quanah, Acme, and Pacific Railway Company, which was incorporated in 1903, has not been expanded within the county since 1906, but has made further expansion of its line to Floydada outside the county.

The Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railway Company, now known as the Santa Fe in this county, began freight and passenger service here in 1910. It has not been extended in Hardeman County since its original construction.

All of the four lines operating in the county have made substantial improvement in their construction of track and plant facilities since their origin. All of them are adding new equipment as available, and extending more efficient freight and passenger service each year. An example of this is the fact that the Fort Worth and Denver line has started within the past year to use diesel-electric freight locomotives. They have been operating a streamline diesel-electric passenger train since 1940.
CHAPTER IV

GROWTH OF COUNTY FROM 1918 TO 1949

Improvement of Highways

The modern highway system within Hardeman County in 1949 is a vast improvement over the trails and roads of earlier days. The first road mentioned in records of this county was the stage-coach line operating with the United States mail in the 1880's through the county to Mobeetie.

Hardeman County was organized in December of 1884 but the county government did not function until 1885. At one of the first meetings of the commissioners' court in 1885, orders were issued for the establishment of first-class public roads. These roads, and the cattle trails used during the time that Quanah was a booming cattle-shipping point, were the forerunners of the present-day highways.

Until the coming of automobiles, there was little done in the way of improvement or maintenance of roads in Hardeman County. All travel was done by horseback or by horse-drawn carriages of various types. The roads were narrow, crooked, poorly drained, and full of holes. Bridges were first built of logs, then of boards when lumber came into more general use.
The two principal roads of the county have always been those which are now United States Highway 287, running east and west, and State Highway 283, which crosses the county from north to south. These roads were not improved to any extent until the 1920's. In 1928, United States Highway 287, then known as the Colorado-Gulf Highway or Highway 5, underwent extensive improvement.

The grading of the Colorado-Gulf Highway between Quanah and Goodlett was let on Wednesday by the State Highway Department, to Tibbetts and Tibbetts Construction Company for $42,185.32. The firm announces they will be ready to begin grading by the 10th of May.¹

That same year the paving of the highway from Quanah to the Wilberger county line began in September, and was completed in June of 1929 at a cost of $192,179.07, according to figures in the office of the Texas Highway Department District Engineer at Childress.

One of the disadvantages for travel over the north-south road was the fact that a privately owned toll bridge was operated on the Red River crossing. Action was begun in 1928 by the county commissioners' court to alleviate this burden on traffic.

The Commissioners Court in special session yesterday decided to purchase Red River bridge from Frank E. Austin for $28,000. The cost of the bridge to Hardeman County will be only $7,000 since Jackson County, Oklahoma, will pay part of the cost and the State of Texas will pay a third.

¹Quanah Tribune-Chief, April 27, 1920, p. 1.
Jackson County, which is to pave from Altus to the bridge is more eager for the purchase of the bridge than Hardeman, since their Highway Commission refuses to extend aid at all until their highway is built to a free bridge.²

It is interesting to note that although the Red River bridge became free from toll, Jackson County, Oklahoma, did not immediately secure the pavement of their highway from Altus to the bridge. It is now over twenty years later, and the highway is still unpaved, but grading and drainage work are now in progress and the pavement should be completed by 1950.

The south part of State Highway 283, which was then known as Highway 51, had improvements made to it in 1928.

The State Highway Board on Tuesday gave one-third state and one-third federal aid for grading and drainage structures on Highway 51. This stretch of road is 21 miles from Quanah to Pease River bridge.³

The contract for construction work on this project was let in December of 1928.

On Monday afternoon the State Highway Commission let the contract from Quanah to Pease River, 13.3 miles in all, to J. P. Foty of Wichita Falls for $75,067. This includes grading and drainage structures.⁴

There is some discrepancy in the number of miles which were to be improved from Quanah to Pease River. One statement gave the number of miles as twenty-one, and the above

³Ibid., September 21, 1928, p. 1.
⁴Ibid., December 18, 1928, p. 1.
quotation listed the mileage as 13.3. Official highway department figures now show that it is 13.68 miles. It is probable that the mileage was shortened when the actual grading work began by eliminating some of the curves.

It was not until February of 1932 that pavement was laid on the stretch of highway running from Quanah to Pease River and it was a combination state and county enterprise.

In February of 1929 a contract was given to C. F. Lytle of Mexia to pave the highway from Quanah to the Childress county line at a cost of $378,548 for the 14.8 miles involved. By June of that year some concrete pavement had been laid.

A mile and a half of the concrete paving of the west end of Highway 5 had been laid on last Wednesday and by the end of the week with fair luck the contractor expects to have two miles and a half of the road completed.

The crew at work are averaging on days that they work, around a thousand feet a day of concrete poured. The contractor stated that as the work progressed, the crew should be able to pour as much as fourteen hundred feet a day.5

This portion of Highway 5, from Quanah to the Childress county line, was completed in September of 1929. This made a complete paved highway across Hardeman County from Childress County on the west to Wilbarger County on the east.

The new pavement from Quanah to Acme on Highway 5 will be opened to traffic this week.

5Ibid., June 7, 1929, p. 1.
Highway 5 will then be a complete pavement unbroken across the county.6

Between 1928 and 1932, Hardeman County acquired paved highways across the county from four directions. The highways crossed at Quanah. No major highway construction project was handled from 1932 until 1946.

Two farm-to-market highway projects were constructed between 1946 and 1948. Highway 104 was begun on October 10, 1946, and finished in 1947 at a cost of $170,954.29. This road connects with State Highway 283 at a point near the south city limits of Quanah and runs to the Cottle county line at Lazare.

Construction on the Farm-to-market Highway 91 was started June 23, 1947, and completed on August 26, 1948, at a total cost of $63,407.44. It goes from Chillicothe to the Wilbarger county line, a distance of only 5.19 miles.

Both of these farm-to-market highways were constructed of the macadam type material, whereas the other two main highways were built of concrete pavement.

Hardeman County now has a total of 73.99 miles of paved highways. United States Highway 287 has a total of 31.93 miles, State Highway 283 has 22.27 miles, Farm-to-market Highway 104 consists of 14.60 miles, and Farm-to-market Highway 91 comprises 5.19 miles in the county.

6Ibid., September 17, 1929, p. 1.
There is a definite need for more hard-surfaced roads leading from rural areas to the trading centers of the county, and to the schools. Many rural roads are impassable during wet seasons of the year.

Within the past year, 1948, extensive construction on the widening of highway shoulders has been carried on in the county. Gravel and asphalt have been used to make the roadways wider and allow more safety for traffic. The past year has also seen two highway bridges undergo improvements. The bridge across Wanderer's Creek, near Chillicothe on Highway 287 has been made wider and longer. The bridge across Groesbeck Creek, in Acme on the same highway, has also been widened. The approximate cost of improving these two bridges was $111,000.

The highways across Hardeman County handle hundreds of cars and vehicles of all types daily. United States Highway 287 is more heavily travelled since it is the entrance to the Panhandle and to Colorado from the other regions of the state.

In 1949, Hardeman County was assigned two members of the Texas Department of Public Safety to patrol this county. This has added to more safety on the highways of the county.

Mechanization of Farms

The mechanization of farms in Hardeman County has largely occurred in the period from 1925 to 1949. Prior to
1925 most farming was accomplished with animal-drawn vehicles and implements. In 1949 there were very few mules or horses in this county being used for farming purposes. "In 1909 Hardeman County had 6,554 horses and mules valued at $377,015." A census conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture in 1945 showed that the county had 939 farms, only 250 mules, and 1,055 horses.

This county lies in the large region of level to rolling plains known as the Northwestern Lowland of Texas, which reaches from the Cap Rock Escarpment to the Edwards Plateau. In the Northwestern Lowland the land is so level and the fields are so large that agricultural machinery can be used to advantage. One-row, horse-drawn equipment was used during the early agricultural development of this region, but two-row horse-drawn equipment was introduced about 1920 and came into general use during the succeeding ten years. This kind of equipment still is commonly used, but many farmers have four-row planters and cultivators.

About 1925 farmers began to buy "all-purpose" tractors. Since they move more rapidly than teams, they save the farmer's time and enable him to get the work done when it is more advantageous. Power equipment is more economical on large farms than on small ones.

Practically every farmer in Hardeman County has one or more tractors in use at the present time. Since their introduction around 1925, the farmers have been able to cultivate more land and this has had a tendency to force a

---

7 Texas Department of Agriculture, Yearbook, 1909, No. 13, p. 518.

decline in the number of farms and in the number of farm people.

In the early years of this century, the farmers of the county raised corn as a principal feed crop. This crop was not dependable and grain sorghums were introduced to the area through the efforts of the Chillicothe Experiment Station. This type of feed crop was found to be more adapted to this area and thus enabled a more stable era of agriculture to develop. It allowed the cotton-growing industry to increase and thus changed the entire agricultural field of the county. The grain sorghum seeds are dropped in rows and covered with soil by two- or four-row planters. The field is then cultivated with tractors to conserve moisture and to destroy weeds, but little chopping or hoeing is necessary. Harvesting of this valuable crop is done usually by row binder or broadcast binder. In the early years of production some farmers would cut the heads from the stalks with sharp knives and throw them in wagons, but the use of binders proved more efficient. The process of producing grain sorghums is almost totally mechanical now.

The production of cotton in Hardeman County has had little mechanical change since its origin, with the exception of the substitution of tractors for horses and mules. The cotton is planted with two- or four-row planters drawn by tractors. It is chopped by hand but wet weather seldom
prevents cultivation for long, and little hoeing is needed. Some farmers follow the practice of leaving every third row unplanted, and use tractor-drawn cultivators to plow two or four rows at a time. Mechanical cotton pickers have not been used in this county, but a device has been employed in emergencies known as "sledding." This implement is equipped with prongs or a slot. It is dragged along a row and the bolls are caught between the prongs or in the slot and thus are stripped from the plant. It is not used to any great extent, but has proven satisfactory when a shortage of labor has caused delay in gathering the crop. It is more effective when all the leaves of the cotton are dead and all bolls are mature, since the sled gathers much trash and pulls immature bolls. Gins with special machinery are required in this region of Texas, since the cotton is not picked from the boll as is done in eastern and central parts of the state, but is "pulled." The entire boll, bur and its contents, is pulled from the stalk.

The production of wheat has gained considerably over cotton with the increase in mechanical implements for harvesting. This grain is more easily farmed than is cotton, since it usually requires only sowing and harvesting, whereas cotton must be plowed several times and hoed, and the harvesting requires more time. Wheat is usually sowed early in October and the plants are grazed by cattle during the fall and winter. Livestock is generally removed from the
fields by the first of March. The wheat crop is ready for harvesting by the latter part of May or the first part of June. Combines are used to cut, thresh, and load the grain into trucks. Most combines are drawn by tractors but in the past decade the self-propelled type has gained wide usage. Trucks carry the wheat to grain elevators where it is stored or loaded into railroad cars for shipment to markets. Estimates placed the amount of wheat land in Hardeman County for 1948 at 125,000 acres as compared to 30,000 acres of cotton. According to the census of 1940, there were only 46,883 acres in wheat and 50,030 in cotton in 1939.

In 1949 most wheat was late in coming up, due to lack of sufficient moisture, but an abundance of rain fell after it was up. This caused weeds to grow with the crop, and many farmers were forced to spray their wheat fields with chemicals to destroy the weeds. This was done by tractors or by airplanes working out of the Quanah Municipal Airport. A few years ago these chemical sprays were not available and the mechanical devices for applying them were unknown. With this advance in agricultural mechanization, the wheat farmers can be assured of better chances in producing good wheat yields.

Mechanical devices are being used in other phases of farm life outside of the production of crops. Several small dairies are being operated in Hardeman County and most of
them are using mechanical milking machines, milk coolers, and cream separators. They sell their milk products to larger dairies in nearby towns and thereby have a source of income to supplement that made in producing field crops.

The majority of farmers in Hardeman County own a truck of some type or a trailer to be pulled by an automobile. The most popular type of truck is the "pick-up." It is excellent for hauling small loads and is widely used as a combination truck and automobile.

Many farm homes in the county have been improved in the past few years with additions of running water, electricity, and sewage-disposal units. Most rural areas are now served with telephone systems operating from the larger towns.

The census conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture in 1945 placed the value of implements and machinery in Hardeman County at $1,247,580. It showed 846 tractors on farms, and the value of farm land and buildings was placed at $11,886,447. The number of farms in the county was shown to be 939. A comparison of the number of farms with the number of tractors reveals a high percentage of these machines in use. This high mechanization on farms in Hardeman County is carried out in all types of implements being used. It has led to an increase in acreage that can be handled by a smaller number of farmers but has led to an over-all increase in the amount of products grown.
Construction of a Power Plant

The largest power plant in this section of Texas is located in Hardeman County, approximately five miles southeast of Quanah, on the shores of Lake Pauline.

When the problem of selecting a site for a centrally located power plant arose, the West Texas Utilities Company selected the Lake Pauline site as most suitable.

It was in 1927 that the pioneer service company constructed the huge station which since has proven to be the most thermally efficient steam plant in the south. Establishing itself among the region's largest consumers of West Texas' greatest natural resource, gas, its boilers now propel a 15,000 kilowatt turbine generating over 20,000 horse power of electrical energy which is distributed over hundreds of miles of transmission lines into homes, businesses, and factories.

The Quanah District is headed by Earl Morley as manager. The district includes 21 communities -- Benjamin, Chillicothe, Crowell, Goodlett, Goree, Harrold, Hillsop, Knox City, Lockett, Medicine Mound, Munday, O'Brien, Odell, Oklaunion, Quanah, Raeland, Rochester, Thalia, Truscott, Vernon and Weinert.

The plant regularly employs 22 men and gives extra work to 16 men at the present time. A score of men and women are employed in the district office and sales and service departments.

When Lake Pauline was taken over by West Texas Utilities, it was enlarged to impound its present 4,950 acre-feet of water -- 1,612,957,500 gallons. Its water is used in the plant's steam boilers.\(^9\)

Fuel for the plant is supplied by two gas lines, and fuel oil is also kept in the event of failure in the gas lines.

The transmission lines of the Lake Pauline plant are

\(^9\)Quanah Tribune-Chief, August 26, 1938, p. 4.
connected with virtually every major plant throughout the state, with several connections to the adjoining states of New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Louisiana.

During the construction of this plant, W. E. Huss was the chief engineer and served in that capacity until replaced by J. E. Skipper. C. M. Sample, the present chief engineer, replaced Skipper in 1941.

During the years of World War II, the Lake Pauline plant was considered a vital industry and was put under military protection. Armed guards patrolled the dam, grounds, and buildings day and night.

Adjacent to the plant is the colony of twelve stucco houses built for the employees of the plant. Near these homes a modern clubhouse furnishes a gathering place for the employees of the entire district and is available to employees at any time.

An expansion of the plant has recently been announced that will double the generating capacity for electrical power. This will make the Hardeman County plant one of the largest in the state.

A 27,000 horse turbo-generator is to be added to the present generating equipment making available more than 47,000 horse power for electric power generation. This generator will provide additional electric power for the industrial and agricultural development of the region. The Pauline plant expansion is a basic part of the West Texas Utilities Company's $20,000,000 construction program to provide more and better electric service for the area served.
The turbo-generator, which will require more than five freight cars to transport from the factory, was ordered in April, 1947, and company plans and work predated that order by many months. The manufacturer has promised delivery of the unit in the fall of 1950. When the unit goes into operation in April, 1951, it will have taken more than four years overall since the start to complete the project.

An addition, 75 feet by 63 feet, equivalent to the steel framed masonry and concrete building 4 stories high will be built to house the new unit. Thousands of cubic yards of concrete will be poured and millions of pounds of steel set in place to prepare the foundation for the generating unit alone. In addition, a huge boiler 40 feet by 59 feet by 39 feet, capable of generating 250,000 pounds of steam per hour, will be installed as a separate unit south of the present plant building.\textsuperscript{10}

The West Texas Utilities Company will construct before September, 1949, a warehouse and construction office for the building superintendent and his staff. The actual plant construction is to begin in October.

This expansion of the power plant will greatly increase the property valuation of the company properties in Hardeman County. It is already one of the largest tax-paying industries in the county.

An all-surface road connects the plant grounds to United States Highway 287, which runs approximately two miles from the plant. The Fort Worth and Denver Railway Company has a spur line running from its main tracks to the power plant.

Development of Quanah Airport

The only airport in Hardeman County is the Quanah

\textsuperscript{10}\textit{Ibid.}, May 12, 1949, p. 1.
Municipal Airport. This field is situated southwest of the Quanah city limits and is comprised of 325 acres of land.

The city government of Quanah saw the need for a municipal airport after the close of World War II. With many surplus war buildings available for the moving for such projects, and with the coming of the air age, such a field was thought to be of such practical nature and benefit to the city and the county that an election was called to issue bonds for an airport.

On July 23, 1946, the citizens of Quanah voted in favor of a $40,000 bond issue for the purpose of purchasing and improving land for use as a municipal airport.

Shortly after the bond election, 325 acres of land adjoining the southwest corner of the city limits were purchased from T. J. Ford at a cost of $85 per acre or total cost of $27,625.

In May of 1947, the city of Quanah entered into a sponsor's agreement with the Civil Aeronautics Administration for the purpose of developing the land into an airport. In the agreement, the federal government through the C. A. A. was to pay one-fourth the cost of the land.

On August 11, 1947, the C. A. A. made a grant agreement with the city of Quanah to cooperate with the city in preparing the airport site, the construction of access roads, the grading and drainage of north-south, northwest-southeast, and northeast-southwest landing strips and connecting taxi-ways. The C. A. A. agreed to finance fifty per cent of the contract costs.

On August 26, 1947, the city and the C. A. A. awarded a contract for grading and drainage of the airport site to A. L. Sheppard of Vernon in the amount of $19,083.72. The C. A. A. participated fifty per cent in this contract cost. Actual work was begun in September, 1947, and completed in February of 1948.

On February 18, 1948, the Mayor of Quanah was authorized to enter into an agreement with the War Assets Administration to procure surplus buildings
from the Childress Airfield, to be moved from Childress to Quanah airport for use as administration buildings and hangars. These buildings were obtained at no cost but that of having them moved. This amounted to $2,400. The administration building, which is twenty-five feet wide and one hundred-eight feet long, houses a class room, lobby, private office and two lounges. The two hangar buildings were remodelled for that use and the total cost of all remodelling was $9,000.

In October of 1948 a grant agreement was completed between the city of Quanah and the C. A. A. to hard-surface the north-south runway, which is sixty feet wide and 2,400 feet long, the taxi-way, which is thirty by 2,400 feet, and the aprons and access road leading to the field. The contract for this work was awarded to H. L. Stone of Ada, Oklahoma, for $26,755. The city agreed to drill a water well, but it was not in the agreement with the C. A. A. The work of surfacing started in March, 1949, and was completed in May of 1949.

In addition to the $40,000 bond issue, the airport account has income from land in the 325 acres not being used at present for the airport proper. This year there are one hundred acres of wheat, one hundred acres of cotton, and approximately thirty acres in feed crops. The rent from this goes into the airport account.

The airport account also receives income from the flying service being operated on the field. The account gets two per cent gross revenue from all operations, plus two cents per gallon on gasoline sold, and ten dollars per month rental per plane for use of the hangars.

The Quanah Municipal Airport now has an estimated value of approximately $125,000. The present manager is J. M. Sims.1

The Quanah Municipal Airport is now one that compares favorably with airports located in towns much larger. It has been completed and put into full operation.

All work of paving the Quanah Municipal Airport has been finished except for the final topping of a few of the lateral approaches.

The main runway, 2,400 feet in length, has been completed and is being used by all classes of planes. Twin-motored airplanes belonging to oil companies which have geophysical crews working in Hardeman County are using the airfield each week.

Plans are under way for a freight line to use the field. The air freight company originated in Amarillo and will serve this area into Fort Worth or Dallas. Overtures are being made to a passenger airline to land here upon being flagged to take on passengers for Dallas and Denver.\footnote{Quanah Tribune-Chief, May 12, 1949, p. 1.}

It is almost a certainty that in future years this airport will grow in value and will become a greater asset to its community and county. With the increase in air travel and all its implications, a city the size of Quanah may be far ahead of rival cities in future years, if they do not have such an airport available.
CHAPTER V

CULTURAL PROGRESS

Newspapers of the County

Hardeman County citizens have been served with many newspapers since the first one was published from a dugout in Quanah around 1887. Quanah, Chillicothe, and Medicine Mound are the only towns in the county which have had newspapers founded in their locality.

Quanah has had more newspapers than any other town in the county. The first one was known as The Eagle and was edited from a dugout in the north part of the city by W. W. West. It later became known as The Advance.

Then in September, 1889, the "Quanah Quirt" was launched, its editor being J. D. Bellerd. On April 4, 1890, "The Quanah Chief" began publication, fathered by B. F. Colther. These two new sheets for years voiced the ideals and ambitions of the Quanah pioneer days.¹

The Quanah Chief was the forerunner of the present weekly newspaper published in Quanah, the Quanah Tribune-Chief. Harry Koch and Fred Chase purchased The Quanah Chief from B. F. Colther in 1891.

¹Hardeman County, Agricultural and Industrial Edition, p. 4.
Newspaper conditions have changed somewhat since we first set foot in Quanah. During the latter part of August, 1891, Fred Chase and this writer [Harry Koch] arrived here from Galveston to buy the Quanah Chief from B. F. Colthar.

The Chief had burned out a few weeks before, and a new printing outfit was being assembled in the old court house, which stood on the corner of Mercer and Third streets, opposite the City Hall.

The Tribune, J. P. Marple editor, was published in a frame building next door to the court house.

Fred Chase soon returned to Galveston and The Chief was run by Colthar and Koch till June 1894, when their partnership ended and Koch bought the Tribune from W. D. Wagner, who had succeeded S. J. Osborne. In 1897 the Chief, which had been owned by M. A. Sevier of Vernon and Judge J. M. Standlee, has been published ever since as the Tribune-Chief. . . .

Wheat crops were a failure in 1892 and 1893 and the price went down to sixty cents. As wheat was the only money crop at that time, it worked great hardships on our people. . . . There was no advertising to be had in the regular channels, and to make both ends meet, the Tribune found it necessary to go after the cowmen, the only prosperous folks here, and advertise their cattle brands. Three pages of the paper were filled up with brands which proved a veritable godsend.

One of thelivest merchants in town was S. D. Blake, who managed the Baker-Hanna store, and had a great knack for bringing outsiders to town. He frequently bought one thousand copies of the Tribune-Chief, and to use his own words: "The Tribune-Chief helped me to make many a dollar." . . .

Meanwhile Miss Kate Perry had started the Quanah Observer, which was sold in 1898 to W. D. Bell of Childress. The latter sold it to J. B. Goodlett, who hired several men to run it, finally disposing of it to Dr. B. F. Hart, who died. His widow ran the Observer for several years and finally sold to Fred Chase, who sold out to C. T. Wilson.

The Observer had a rather checkered career and was run by several men who only remained with it a short time. After the war it became the property of Foster & Smith, who changed its name to the Times. C. C. Woodson ran it for a couple of years, finally selling out to the Tribune-Chief. . . .

In 1929 the Tribune-Chief sold out to the Howe-
Hawk chain of newspapers, which ran the paper for two years, Carl Gallagher being their Quanah manager.2

The Howe-Hawk newspaper chain operated the Tribune-Chief for only two years and it again became the property of Harry Koch. It is edited at the present time by J. A. Koch, son of the pioneer newspaper editor.

The front pages of the early Quanah newspapers were not reserved for the important news items which were printed in the papers. Most of them had from one third to one half of the front page in advertising. During the depression years of 1892 and 1893, a major portion of the newspaper was filled with cattle brands of the vicinity. The editors placed choice pieces of information in their editorial columns, which often would have made front-page reading.

There was little use of large type in the headings of front-page news items. The Quanah Tribune had the story of the 1891 fire in the town on the front page, but the heading was no different from the type used on less important items.

With several newspapers in Quanah operating simultaneously, a keen spirit of competition was fostered. There was considerable rivalry and often the editors would voice their personal attitudes toward the other editors in their editorial pages. There was also much rivalry between Quanah

2Quanah Tribune-Chief, August 26, 1938, p. 6.
newspapers and those operating in the surrounding towns. One editor in Quanah stated in his column in 1891, following the flood of that year, that a Vernon editor had gloated in the newspaper there over the fact that Hardeman County people had been almost ruined.

The smallest town in the county ever to operate a newspaper was Medicine Mound. In 1911, J. M. Fryar moved to that community from Merkel and established a weekly newspaper which he called The Citizen. The first edition was published on March 24, 1911, and consisted of only one section of four pages. The editor apologized in the first edition for his lack of news and voiced the desire to improve the newspaper as he became better acquainted and had more time to establish the plant. The editor had just moved to the town and knew practically no one. The Citizen had a short life and failed for lack of sufficient support in such a small locality.

There have been four newspapers published in Chillicothe, which were known as the Chillicothe Clipper, Chillicothe Hornet, The Telephone, and the present weekly edition known as The Chillicothe Valley News. This last mentioned paper was established in 1899 but files of it are available for only the last twenty-three years. No files have been located of any of the other publications. The Chillicothe Valley News is edited by Mrs. Eula A. Kennedy and is published each Thursday. This newspaper and the Quanah Tribune-
Chief are the only two newspapers printed in Hardeman County at present.

Public School Development

Most of the early schools in Hardeman County served as combination educational and religious centers. Such was the first school in Quanah, which opened in October of 1896. This was a two-room structure on two lots that had been deeded by General G. M. Dodge, builder of the Fort Worth and Denver Railway, to Miss Edith McCann for school purposes. There were only twelve pupils enrolled on the first day of school but this figure was doubled by the end of the first month.

Another of the early schools in the county was conducted in the Big Valley community, near Medicine Mound. It began around 1888 with Miss Tabby Phillips teaching classes from a wheel-chair. The Baptist congregation used the building for their church services.

Records are unavailable regarding the start of schools in Chillicothe, but it is probable that the first school in the county was taught there. Since the Chillicothe post office was established in 1883, three years before the Quanah post office was founded, it is likely that the town also had the first school.

County school records are available in the office of the County Superintendent of Public Instruction which date
back to the 1903-04 school term. These records show that in the 1903-04 term, 505 pupils were enrolled in schools of Hardeman County. For the 1904-05 term, 523 pupils were enrolled and 559 were listed for the 1905-06 school year. In 1903 the following schools were functioning: Forestburg with twenty pupils; Medicine Mound, Groesbeck Chapel, Elm Grove, Big Valley, and Prairie View with combined total of 162 pupils; Gypsum and Acme with sixty-four; Chillicothe with 173; Pleasant View with twenty-eight; Friendship with twenty-three; Plainview with sixteen; and from the suburbs of Quanah, nineteen pupils were transferred to the Quanah schools. Quanah students were not listed for that term.

In the 1903-04 school year, a total of $2,580.80 in state funds was apportioned to the schools listed above on the basis of five dollars per capita. The state per capita apportionment in the 1948-49 term was fifty-five dollars, or an increase of fifty dollars per student over that paid forty-six years ago.

In the 1906-07 school term, there were 887 pupils in the county schools and 398 in the Quanah Independent District, for a total of 1,285 pupils. The next year there were 889 pupils in rural schools, 560 in Quanah, and 240 in Chillicothe, making a grand total of 1,689. This showed an increase of 404 pupils in a year. In the 1908-09 term there were 1,134 scholestics in the rural schools, 283 in Chillicothe, and 611 in Quanah, making a total of 2,028.
The total scholastic population of the county during the 1909-10 term was 2,419.

The Hardeman County School Board was organized in 1911 on October 3. W. M. Harvey was the first president of the board and W. S. Bannister, then the county judge of Hardeman County, was selected as ex-officio county superintendent and secretary of the county board. Other members comprising the first Hardeman County School Board were F. L. Moffett, J. W. O'Banion, J. Y. Lane, and C. M. Jackson.

By 1915 there were thirty-two rural schools operating in addition to the schools in Quanah and Chillicothe. Twenty of the rural schools offered from one to three years of high school and the other twelve had only seven grades of school work. Those pupils who finished the highest grade in their home school were transferred to a school of higher standing if they applied for such action to the County School Board. They had to room and board in the town where their school was located, at their own expense, since transportation was at that time unsuitable for commuting.

The county judges of Hardeman County served as ex-officio county superintendents of public instruction until 1916, when Lon M. Davis was elected as the first regular county superintendent. He was succeeded by Frances E. Bone in 1920. Next in the office was Myrtle Porterfield, who assumed the office in 1926 and served until 1935, when
Parks P. Lewis was elected. He was in the office until 1939, when Mervin M. Sweatmon was elected. The next county superintendent was Wayne R. Terry, who was elected in 1942 and served until 1946, when he was succeeded by J. Paul Jones, the present county superintendent of Hardeman County.

For the school year of 1926-27, the census rolls for schools showed a total of 3,997 children with 2,260 of these in rural districts. There was a gain, especially in the rural districts, next year. There were 139 teachers in the Hardeman County schools in 1927, and of this number, seventy-three were in rural schools.

Between 1925 and 1940 an extensive program of school consolidation was carried out. The Medicine Mound School District was completed to its present size in 1939. It consists of the original districts of Old Mounds, which consolidated in 1925; Mount Olive, which was added in 1931; Big Valley, in 1938; and Clark, in 1939.

The Kings school district was formed from four original rural districts. In 1926, Truehart and Lamberton were combined, in 1928 Groesbeck Chapel was added, and in 1929 Whittles Chapel was added to the group.

The Williams High rural district was formed by grouping five rural districts -- Hooleyan, Robertson, Elba, Johnson, and Red River -- in 1927.

In 1929 the Prairie View and Tabor districts consolidated
to form Bailey High. The next year, in 1930, the Denver common school district and Goodlett Independent District were combined to form the Goodlett Rural High School District. In 1932 the Plainview and Willow Grove districts joined forces to create a new district known as Willowview.

In 1939 there were twenty-four school districts in Hardeman County. The Quanah, Chillicothe, and Acme schools were of independent status, whereas the others were common school districts. In that year, twenty schools were operated, of which seventeen were rural. Four districts were inactive and transferred all pupils to schools in other districts. High schools were held at Medicine Mound, Williams, Goodlett, Quanah, Chillicothe, and Kings. The other schools were of eight grades or less.

A further period of consolidation and annexation occurred between 1942 and 1948. In 1942 the Middleburg and Forestburg districts were combined to form a district named Burgs. It was not until 1946 that further consolidation was made. The Chillicothe Independent School District in that year became a Rural High School District, with status of an independent district, through the annexation of the Midway, Farmers' Valley, Jackson Springs, Center Point, Elm Grove, and Bailey High districts. This annexation action was performed by the county school boards of Hardeman and Wilbarger counties, since Chillicothe was a county-line school district.
On July 7, 1948, the Acme Independent School District was annexed to the Quanah Independent School District by action of the Hardeman County School Board. Then on August 2, 1948, the North Groesbeck and Marshall school districts were annexed to the Quanah district by the same process. On August 28, 1948, a favorable election united the Goodlett and Quanah districts, thus enlarging the Quanah district.

During the 1948-49 term, there were only five schools functioning in Hardeman County, out of a total of twelve school districts. These schools were located at Quanah, Chillicothe, Medicine Mound, Kings, and Williams. The other seven districts transferred their pupils to districts operating schools. For the 1948-49 term, the assessed valuation of the school districts in Hardeman County amounted to $9,583,433.

There were seventy teachers in Hardeman County schools in the 1948-49 school term and a total of 2,298 school children on the census rolls. Of this total census, Quanah had 1,331 scholastics, Chillicothe 701, and the common school districts a total of 266.

At the present time, in 1949, Quanah operates an accredited high school, two elementary schools, and a colored school. The school system of Chillicothe is composed of an accredited high school, a grade school, and a colored school. The Chillicothe grade school occupies a new building which was completed in 1948.
Hardeman County schools have kept pace with other schools in Texas in curriculum, plant facilities, trained teachers, lunchrooms, school buses, and parent-teacher organizations.

The trend in the school system within Hardeman County has been toward elimination of small, unequipped rural schools to bring pupils into better equipped, affiliated schools. The seven non-operating school districts will likely be consolidated with active districts soon.

Clubs and Organizations Founded

The founding of a variety of clubs and organizations in Hardeman County has been in keeping with the progressive spirit of its citizens throughout the years of the county's history. Since Quanah is the county seat, it is natural that more organizations have been founded there. Chillicothe, the next largest city in the county, is second in the number of organizations founded.

The oldest club in the county that is still active is the 1904 Club of Quanah. It was founded in January of 1904 and is one of the pioneer clubs in this district of the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs. It is an incorporated body with a board of directors. The membership comprises thirty active members, six associate members, and five honorary members.
From its early days the Club has sponsored civic work, and many things in that line have been accomplished. Tree planting has been promoted; clean-up campaigns brought to a successful end, and the school aided in many ways.

The latter part of 1927 the Club paved one hundred and forty feet on Mercer Street at a cost of almost $1,000.\textsuperscript{3}

Some of the early members of the 1904 Club were Mrs. W. B. Hampton, Mrs. Ralph Hughes, Mrs. W. O. Neal, Mrs. Elle Malone, Mrs. E. B. Caskey, Mrs. S. J. Bailey, Mrs. A. B. Thompson, and Mrs. T. D. Frizzell.

The decade beginning with 1920 saw a large number of clubs founded in Quanah. The Music Lovers' Club originated that year.

On December 18, 1920, a number of ladies met at the home of Mrs. C. T. Watkins in this city to form a club composed of lovers of music for the purpose of nurturing good music and sponsoring a similar movement among the young people.

The first officers were: President, Mrs. A. F. Sommer; Vice President, Mrs. Elven Watkins; Secretary, Mrs. C. T. Watkins; Treasurer, Mrs. Hayden Frizzell; Critic, Mrs. Harry Cole; Pianist, Mrs. Robert Willingham; Director, Mrs. Arthur Evans.\textsuperscript{4}

The Music Lovers' Club of Quanah is still active and in the past few years a Junior Music Lovers' Club has been sponsored by the original organization.

One of the greatest assets for entertainment and pleasure available to people in the vicinity of Quanah is the Quanah County Club which was organized on May 1, 1922, with

\textsuperscript{3}Hardeman County, Agricultural and Industrial Edition, p. 67.

\textsuperscript{4}Ibid.
First officers were R. R. Gilliland, President, D. T. Haden and G. A. Simmons, Vice Presidents, and J. D. Hughes, Secretary and Treasurer. The inspiration for the organization was a desire on the part of E. B. Caskey and R. R. Gilliland to play golf. The two having been severely, and painfully, bitten by a golf bug while sojourning in Colorado during the summer of 1921.

100 acres of land was purchased in fee and a 9-hole golf course 2,850 yards in length, was laid off under the supervision of Mr. E. A. Kendall of Wichita Falls. In June following the organization of the club, a dam was built on the property forming an artificial lake covering some 15 acres and ranging in depth from 5 to 24 feet.

It was not until March, 1924, that the building of a club house was undertaken and at a meeting held in April 9, 1924, the membership authorized the Directors to make necessary plans for a club building not to exceed $10,000. Building and Finance Committees were appointed, and on Monday evening, July 14th, the formal opening of the club building took place.

Extensive improvement was made in 1948 on the club building to give it approximately one-third more floor space than before, and the sand greens on the golf course were changed to grass greens during the year. The club is on a par with most clubs of this type throughout the state, and much better than many country clubs in towns the size of Quanah.

The Quanah Rotary Club is the oldest civic club for men in the city.

It was organized in 1924 with a membership of fifteen with Harry Koch as president. From the birth of this club, to the present date, it has been a big factor in the development of the city.

5Ibid.
Its effects are seen in the religious, business, educational and social life in this city. The present membership is about 40 in number, each member representing one particular business enterprise in the city.\(^6\)

The Rotary Club of Quanah is very active in civic affairs and has done much to aid the city since its origin. The same approximate membership is maintained as that stated in the above article in 1928.

The Quanah Lions Club was founded and chartered on April 19, 1941, with twenty-three charter members. The present membership is forty-five. The club is very active in civic and charitable work in the city. It has purchased two guide dogs for a blind man of Quanah and furnishes several pairs of glasses to needy children each year. The major project of the club in 1948 was the erection of a modern press box for the Quanah High School football stadium.

In November, 1927, the Little Theatre Club was organized at the home of Mrs. E. W. Watkins. The object of the club was to promote better acquaintance with worth-while plays, playwrights, and current topics in this field of art. This club does not function now.

Campfire Girl, Girl Scout, and Boy Scout groups were organized in Quanah during the 1920's. These organizations have fluctuated in activity, having been disbanded and reorganized at various times. At the present time there are

---

several Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops active in Quanah.

The Business and Professional Women's Club of Quanah was organized October 2, 1930. The particular objects for which the club was formed were to elevate the standards for women in business and the professions, to promote the interest of business and professional women, and to extend the opportunities to these women through education along lines of industrial, scientific, and vocational activities. Seventy-five per cent of the membership consists of women actively engaged in business or the professions. This club is very active at the present time. It founded and sponsors the "Teen-age Canteen" for high school students, gives scholarships to deserving girls, and enters into the civic enterprises of the community.

The Garden Club of Quanah was organized on October 1, 1941, with sixty-four charter members. Mrs. A. E. Kelley was the first president of the organization. The club has a four-fold purpose: first, the study of flower culture; second, the promotion of civic improvements; third, the development of beauty consciousness; and fourth, the protection of wild flowers and wild life. Besides promoting the above objects, the club promotes an annual flower show that is widely acclaimed.

The fraternal organizations of Quanah date back to 1891 when the Blue Ludge No. 689 of A. F. and A. M. was founded.
That same year the I. O. O. F. was organized. In 1892 the Quanah Chapter of the R. A. M. became active. The Woodmen of the World chapter was organized in 1899, the Eastern Star in 1902, the B. P. O. E. in 1909, and the Rainbow Girls in 1926.

Quanah has three veterans' organizations functioning at the present date. These are the American Legion, founded shortly after World War I; the Veterans of Foreign Wars, founded in 1946; and the Amvets, founded in 1948. All of these organizations are active and effective in their programs of work.

Chillicothe has had a number of clubs and organizations including the Lions Club, Garden Club, Bluebonnet Study Club, Delphian Club, American Legion, Board of Community Development, American Legion Auxiliary, Masonic Lodge, Eastern Star, and the Rebekah Lodge.

The Chillicothe Garden Club was founded in January of 1936 with Mrs. H. A. Nichols as first president. The club sponsored the Quanah Garden Club and has the same four-fold objectives. An annual Iris Week has been promoted by this club for the past eleven years, and through this field of activity in the culture of iris, Chillicothe has become known as "The Iris Village." It also has an annual flower show which is an attraction for the entire area. The Chillicothe Garden Club has won many honors with its work. It has
had two state iris chairmen, and Mrs. W. W. Bragg and Mrs. Ed Kenshalo have been elected national flower judges. This club won the third largest number of blue ribbons in the flower show at the Texas Centennial celebration in Dallas, and in 1937 their scrapbook won first place in the state.

The American Legion post at Chillicothe was chartered June 15, 1922, as the Luther McGee Post No. 320. It is the only veterans' organization in Chillicothe, outside its own auxiliary for women. It joined the Chillicothe Lions Club in financing a stone building for a meeting place which is available to the two organizations as well as to other groups in Chillicothe.

The Chillicothe Lions Club was established in June, 1928, with George Moffett as first president. G. W. Hays was the first secretary of the club and there were twenty-nine charter members. This club sponsored the Quanah Lions Club. It is the only civic club for men in Chillicothe and it assumes a responsibility in every civic enterprise.

The Bluebonnet Study Club of Chillicothe was founded in 1928. Among its activities has been the sponsorship of the local library. The club plays an important part in all civic affairs.

The Delphian Club was founded at Chillicothe in 1917 at the home of Mrs. Meeks Dodson. It had seventeen charter members and is the oldest civic club in the city.
In 1928, ten rural community clubs were organized in the county which were to serve as little chambers of commerce. They were founded within school districts of the county, for the residents in their particular areas.

They meet together at the community center, which may be a school house or church, once a month for a general good time.

The purpose of the club is to give the country people a larger social circle, get the farmers to know each other better and to like each other better.\(^7\)

These community clubs did not function long, but the general aims and ideals are carried out today through the work of the Home Demonstration Clubs and 4-H Clubs, promoted by the County Home Demonstration Agent and the County Agricultural Agent. The parent-teacher groups of the communities are also working along these lines.

The many clubs and organizations of Hardeman County have added and still add greatly to its progress and have aided through the years of their service the heritage and culture of the county.

\(^7\)Ibid., p. 81.
CONCLUSION

The Northwest Texas prairie encompassing the territory now included in Hardeman County, had only roving bands of Kiowa and Comanche Indians with an occasional white traveler to intrude upon its solitude prior to 1860. After that time, the white caravans of pioneer wagon trains rolled steadily into the territory to carve new fortunes and to notch new triumphs in the battle against the fury of the unsettled plains.

At first the cattle barons reigned supreme, and they viewed the intrusion of the "nesters," or tillers of the soil, with mingled pity and disgust. However, these hardy farmers, with the aid of barbed wire, created a new era, and the day of the cattleman was doomed. The last decade of the nineteenth century saw the advent of the twin ribbons of railroad steel into the county, to open up a period of rural and urban settlement. Then cotton and wheat farming gained a predominant place in agriculture that is still maintained, and industries grew, to add to the wealth of the county.

With its miles of sweeping wheat and cotton fields; with its important industries; with four railroad systems to serve its citizens; with creeks and a lake to furnish
pleasure sites; with good schools, churches, and a wide choice of intellectual and cultural organizations, Hardeman County offers a future full of promise, to carry on the traditions of culture produced in its romantic past.
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books and Pamphlets


Douthitt, Katherine C., Romance and Dim Trails, Dallas, W. T. Tardy Publishing Company, 1936.

Facts about Chillicothe, Texas, a pamphlet prepared by the Chillicothe Board of Community Development, Chillicothe, Texas, 1947.

Fulmore, Z. T., The History and Geography of Texas as Told in County Names, Austin, E. L. Steck, 1915.

Hardeman County, Agricultural and Industrial Edition, a pamphlet prepared by the Quanah Chamber of Commerce and the Quanah Tribune-Chief, Quanah, Texas, 1928.

McDonald, William J., Captain Bill McDonald, New York, J. J. Little and Ives Company, 1909.


Ray, J. Henry, and Ray, Mrs. J. Henry, Archaeological Research in Wilbarger County, Texas, a pamphlet, Vernon.


Sommer, C. H., Quanah Parker, Last Chief of the Comanches, a pamphlet, Quanah, Texas, 1945.


Threll, H. S., A Pictorial History of Texas, St. Louis, N. D. Thomas and Company, 1879.

Newspapers and Magazines


"East-West Highway Pavement Completed," *Quanah Tribune-Chief*, September 17, 1929.

"First Bank to Operate in Quanah," *Quanah Tribune-Chief*, August 26, 1938.

"Flames Sweep City," *Quanah Tribune*, September 3, 1891.

"Generating Plant at Lake Pauline," *Quanah Tribune-Chief*, August 26, 1938.


"Indian Skeleton Found on Old Indian Battleground," *Quanah Tribune-Chief*, August 26, 1938.

"Irrigated Farm of 10,000 Acres," *Quanah Tribune-Chief*, August 26, 1938.

Koch, Harry, "Quanah's Cemetery," *Quanah Tribune-Chief*, August 26, 1938.

Koch, Harry, "Reminiscences," *Quanah Tribune-Chief*, August 26, 1938.


"Paving Underway," *Quanah Tribune-Chief*, June 7, 1929.


"Runway at Airport Is Completed," *Quanah Tribune-Chief*, May 12, 1949.
"Stage Coach Mail Route," Quanah Tribune-Chief, January 9, 1902.


"Toll Bridge to Be Bought," Quanah Tribune-Chief, May 8, 1928.

"Town Growing Fast," The Citizen (Medicine Mound), March 24, 1911.

Miscellaneous Printed Material

Hardeman County Commissioners' Court Minutes, Vol. I.

Laws of the State of Texas, 1854 to 1861, Vol. IV.

Laws of the State of Texas, 1869-1897, Vol. IV.

Records of Appointments of Postmasters, 1789-1930, National Archives, Washington, D. C.

Owens, J. E., personal letter.


Texas Almanac, 1860, Galveston, W. and E. Richardson, 1860.

Texas Almanac, 1867, Galveston, W. Richardson and Company, 1867.


Texas Department of Agriculture, Yearbook, 1909, Austin, Von Boeckmann-Jones Company, 1909.


Wesley, John, letter to J. C. Ferguson at Quanah, Texas, 1932.
Personal Interviews

Darwood, J. M., personal interview.

Norman, W. H., personal interview.

Quinby, J. R., personal interview.

Randle, Jasper, personal interview.

Ross, Bertha Doan, personal interview.

Thomas, W. I., personal interview.