

Weldon G. Cannon History Files

In this folder donated to the City of Euless, labeled **GRAPEVINE FARMERS**, are a few key documents and other materials from files donated to The University of Texas at Arlington for the Weldon Cannon Euless Collection in the Special Collections of the University Library. Following is a brief summary of materials in 1 folder under this subject that was donated to UTA.

Folder Contents

1. Grapevine Farmers-- Records of Grapevine Farmers Association organized in 1880 by about 32 farmers for self protection in absence of adequate law enforcement in northeastern Tarrant County, Texas. They lived on the "Grapevine Prairie," southeast of present Grapevine and northeast of present Euless, near the Dallas County line.

The following is copied from an old Ledger kept by GEORGE ROBERT JONES
OF TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS and after 1888 of Baylor County, Texas

Copied by Mrs. Jo Buck Jones, daughter-in-law of the above G. R. Jones,
and widow of his youngest child. Ledger is in her possession at
6928 Glen Hills Rd. , Fort Worth, Texas 76118 as of January 1973.

Member of SIX FLAGS CHAPTER DAR, Fort Worth

In this ledger, G. R. Jones kept a variety of accounts, the first entry
is herewith copied:

On the fly leaf of this 8" x 14" ledger is written:

"Record Book of the Grapevine farmers
association organized April the 20, 1880"

Beneath this in larger writing :

" The Chord
American Baptist Pub (or Puf ?)
Society "

Apparently there was little or no law enforcement , which resulted in
these residents of northeast Tarrant County forming their own local
protective organization.

On the back side of the fly leaf:

PLEDGE

" I, of my own free will and accord do solemnly pledge myself
in the presence of God and this association to sacredly
keep all the secrets of this association and not
communicate them to any one except members of this or a
kindred society and to them after due trial and I further
promise to obey all orders of the officers of this society
and to pay all dues assessed by the society as long as I
am a member therein and I further agree to abide by the
bylaws and constitution of this society. "

CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS

of the Grapevine Farmers Association for the protection
of property organized April 20, 1880

We the undersigned citizens of Tarrant County Texas do mutually agree and
pledge ourselves to submit to and carry out the following resolutions

first Be it resolved that whereas our county is suffering greatly on
account of horse thieves and all other manner of thieving we organize
ourselves into an association to be known as the Farmers Association
for the purpose of protecting our property

second Be it resolved that no person can become a member of this asso-
ciation without being recommended by two members of this association and
balloted for by private ballot one black ball rejecting

3d Be it resolved that it be our object to use every reasonable means
in our power to act in harmony with the laws of our country and assist
the authorities in the protection of the same

4th Be it resolved that the officers of this association shall consist
of a President, two Vice Presidents and one secretary Treasurer
Doorkeeper and stewart (note: later spelled correctly 'steward')

5th) Be it resolved that it shall be the duty of the president to pre-
side at all meeting direct all scouts and take general direction of all
business of the association as a majority of the members may direct and
in the absence of the President the Vice President shall act in his stead

6th) It shall be the duty of the secretary to keep a record of all meet-
ings and collect all moneys due the association and pay them over to the
treasurer taking his receipt for the same, and keep a correct account of
all money received by him

7th) The treasurer shall receive all money from the secretary receipt
for the same and pay it out by order of the association signed by the
President or presiding officer and secretary

8th) The doorkeeper shall attend the door while the association is in
session and suffer none to pass or repass only members of the same

9th) The stewart shall keep the house in order and attend lights etc

10th) When any member of this association shall loose any property by
theft he may report to the President and the President shall act promptly
by consulting with one or both of the Vice Presidents and devise the best
means in their judgment to recover the property

Constitution & Bylaws cont'd:

11th) This association Shall hold themselves responsible for all time and money expended by any scout or members of this association while on duty.

12) It shall be the duty of the secretary to levy a proratto tax on all the members to cover any and all just claims against the association by order of a majority of the members present at any meeting of the association

13th) All persons becoming members of the association shall pay an admittance fee of twenty five cents

14th) The president or either of the vice presidents in his absence shall call the house to order within 15 minutes of the time specified provided there are as many as five members present which number shall be considered a quorum and legally authorized to transact all business that may come before them

15th) The President or in his absence either of the vice presidents shall have the power to call a meeting of the association at any time haveing as many members notified as practicable

16th) It shall be the duty of all officers and members to attend all meetings of this association as promptly as possible

17th) If any member refuses to pay any assesment he stands cut off from all benefits of the association and may be excluded by a majority of the members present at any meeting

18th) The above may be amended at any time by a threefourths vote of the members present at a regular meeting

20th) We the undersigned subscribe to the above resolutions

James Edmonson pres	M. H. Forgey
M. A. Beall Vice pres	G. H. Winfrey
R. B. Merrell vice pres	G. T. Winfrey
G. R. Jones Secretary	James Cate
Wm J. Borah Treasurer	Wm Cate
Frank Deskin Doorkeeper	Thomas Newton
T. P. Goodfellow steward	Wm Kelley
T. B. McCallister	V. A. Cox
O. D. Beall	J. A. James
H. Goodfellow	H. J. Wallis
N. Little	W. A. Crowley
H. J. Wakeham	W. R. Terrill

Minutes of six weekly meetings follow on the next pages in the ledger, but obviously all of the names signed to the Constitution and Bylaws were not present at the first reading as some of the men were voted on after the first meeting. These meetings deal mainly with membership and money. The Constitution and Bylaws were adopted at the first meeting, with the following members present:

M. A. Beall, Chmn.	W. J. Borah	O. D. Beall
T. B. McAllister	M. Little	G. R. Jones
H. H. Forgey	T. P. Goodfellow	M. J. Wakeham
Frank Deskin		

The first officer elected was G. R. Jones, Secretary vice-J. Edmonson was both recommended for membership and elected president at this meeting, though he was later president. W. R. Terrell was the first elected president, also recommended that same meeting, but apparently did not choose to serve as Edmonson became president. However, M. A. Beall, the Chairman, presided over the first five meetings.

Names recommended for membership, in addition to those whose signatures are at the bottom of the Constitution and Bylaws:

Wm. Trigg	J. D. McCormic	J. Eichling
Jake Ferguson	J. Tompkins	G. W. Newton
J. W. Newton	W. B. Crump	T. Shelton
Henry Lipscomb	M. F. Milligan	W. J. Croxdale
G. W. Jones	J. J. Goodfellow	

After W. B. Crump was dropped from membership, it was resolved that all applicants for membership do so in writing by two sponsors for recommendations and names voted on at the next meeting. No reason given for name being dropped, but simple non-attendance could be sufficient reason. The president, James Edmonson was J. C. P. Edmonson.

Other Northeast Tarrant County residents mentioned in personal accounts:
Sr.

J. F. Jones (bro of G.R.J. & son of Joseph Fleming Jones, deceased 1878)

Mary Jones (widow of Joseph Fleming Jones, Sr.)

J. E. M. Crane & Judith R. Crane (dau of JF & Mary Leake Jones)

On another page, there is a list of members paying the admittance 25¢. On this page, off to the side of the name column, there appears an item with no related meaning: Written in large handwriting with flourishes

Nunekak

Chcashaw Nation

J F (or 'T' ?)

Perhaps an Indian from the Chickasaw Nation was in the area.

(Note: All spellings copied exactly as read. ddj)

I N D E X

Names of Persons

BEALL, M. A., O. D. 3,4
BORAH, W. J. 3,4
GATE, James, Wm., 3
COX, V. A. 3
GRANE, J. E. M., Judith R., 4
CROXDALE, W. J., 4
CROWLEY, W. A., 3
CRUMP, W. B., 4
DESKIN, Frank, 3,4
EDMONSON, James or J. O. P., 3,4
EICHLING, J., 4
FERGUSON, Jake, 4
FORGEY, M. H., 3,4
GOODFELLOW, T. P., M., 3,4
 J. J., 4
JAMES, J. A., 3
JONES, G. R. or George Robert 1,3,4
 G. W. 4, Jo Duck 1, 4,
 J. F. or Joseph Fleming 4,
 Mary Leake 4

KELLEY, Wm. 3
LITTLE, M. 3,4
LIPSCOMB, Henry 4
McALLISTER, T. B. 3,4
McCORMIC, J. D. 4
MERRELL, R. B. 3
MILLIGAN, M. F. 4
NEWTON, J. W. 4, Thomas 3
NUNCKAK 4
SHELTON, T. 4
TERRILL, W. R. 3
TOMPKINS, J. 4
TRIGG, Wm. 4
WAKENAN, M. J. 3
WALLIS, H. J. 3
WINFREY, G. H., C. T. 3

Names of Places

Baylor County, Texas 1
Chickasaw Nation 4
Port Worth, Texas 1
Grapevine, Texas 1, 2, 4
Tarrant County, Texas 1, 2

Names of Organizations

SIX FLAGS CHAPTER DAR 1
GRAPEVINE FARMERS ASSOCIATION 1, 2
CHICKASAW NATION 4