

Fountain Switch
compiled by Bill Page
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Fountain Switch (sometimes called simply “Fountain”) was located on the International and Great Northern Railroad, in the northwest corner of Brazos County. (Brazos County History – Rich Past, Bright Future, page 38). It apparently was named after members of the Fountain family, who owned land in the area. This community was home to a railroad section house and also a school. There are also at least two family cemeteries in this area, for the Blume and Smith families.

Smetana ... The C.W. & B.V.R.R. hands are camped at Fountain, and may be seen every day improving the road. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 4 April 1901, page 3

A Negro section hand on the I.& G.N. got his leg broken in a hand car accident at Fountain Saturday. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 23 April 1903, p.7, col.4

Brazos County notaries ... Fountain – S.S. Kennedy ... Bryan Weekly Eagle, 6 April 1905, page 5

S.S. Kennedy of Fountain was in the city yesterday. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 13 April 1905, page 6

Bryan, Tex., Nov. 13 – Joe Uhrick, 12-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Uhrich, a Bohemian family living near Fountain, west of Bryan, on the International and Great Northern Railroad, was the victim of a fatal accident yesterday afternoon. It is stated that the Uhrick boy and others were playing on the track when a freight train came along and the boys began jumping upon and off the train, and the lad fell between the cars and both legs were cut off at the thigh. Dallas Morning News, 14 November 1905, page 10

“Killed by the Train,” Brazos Pilot, 16 November 1905, page 2. Joe Uhrick.

Dendy Cahill of Fountain, returned today from Houston. Brazos Pilot, 23 November 1905, page 4

J.C. Blume of Fountain, was in the city today and left for a visit to the San Antonio fair. It will be his first visit to the Alamo city since 1861 when he as a soldier of the Confederacy assisted in capturing the Federal garrison at old Fort Sam Houston. Brazos Pilot, 23 November 1905, page 4

Miss Lucy Wilson, who is teaching at Fountain, came in to attend the Teachers’ Institute and to visit her father, Mrs. W.S. Wilson and family. Brazos Pilot, 21 December 1905, page 5

“Brazos County Teachers Institute,” Bryan Weekly Eagle, 25 January 1906, page 1. Teachers attending included Lucy Wilson, Fountain school.

B.F. Kennedy of Fountain was in the city yesterday and left for La Porte. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 25 January 1906, page 5.

Citizens of the Fountain community are making vigorous complaints regarding the lack of a depot at Fountain on the I.& G.N. S.S. Kennedy was in the city yesterday and stated that he would go to Austin to take the matter up with the railroad commission. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 1 March 1906, page 2

S.S. Kennedy of Fountain ... (continues) ... Brazos Pilot, 1 March 1906, page 5, col.3

Miss Lucy Wilson returned to her school at Fountain Sunday after attending the teacher's institute and visiting at home. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 1 March 1906, page 2

S.S. Kennedy of Fountain returned from Galveston yesterday. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 8 March 1906, page 2

Dendy Cahill of Fountain went to Smetana yesterday. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 22 March 1906, page 2

J.C. Blume was here yesterday from Fountain's Switch. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 5 April 1906, page 6

M.L. Vitopil and family and P.J. Vitopil visited Fountain Sunday. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 21 June 1906, page 2

Mrs. C.T. Conaway of Fountain was a visitor in the city yesterday. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 28 June 1906, page 1.

S.S. Kennedy of Fountain was in the city yesterday. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 5 July 1906, page 2.

B.F. Kennedy of Fountain was in the city yesterday. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 12 July 1906, page 8.

B.F. and S.S. Kennedy and Misses Lola and Fannie Kennedy of Fountain were in the city yesterday. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 19 July 1906, page 8

Justice nominee B.F. Kennedy of Fountain was in the city yesterday. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 2 August 1906, page 2.

B.F. Kennedy of Fountain was in the city yesterday. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 9 August 1906, page 2

Miss Albino Smith arrived yesterday from Union County, Ark., to visit her brother Peter Smith at Fountain. Brazos Pilot, 20 September 1906, page 5

Dr. Fountain returned yesterday to his ranch at Fountain after spending several days in the city. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 3 January 1907, page 5

Frank Zubik and family spent yesterday visiting at Fountain. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 3 January 1907, page 7

Dr. J.E. May of Fountain was in the city yesterday and called on the Eagle. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 21 March 1907, page 8

S.S. Kennedy and daughters, Misses Lola and Fannie, were visitors from fountain yesterday. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 11 April 1907, page 5

“Big Ranch Deal,” Brazos Pilot, 8 August 1907, page 2.

Mr. and Mrs. R.L. Smith were visitors from Fountain yesterday. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 17 October 1907, page 3

“Moore-May,” Brazos Pilot, 2 January 1908, page 6. Miss Ollie May of Fountain.

Wellborn ... Mrs. R.H. Brogdon and family of Fountain Switch were visitors here Saturday and Sunday. Brazos Pilot, 13 February 1908, page 1

Uncle Ran Smith of Fountain was in the city today. Brazos Pilot, 19 March 1908, page 5

Miss Fannie Kennedy of Fountain left today for Birmingham, Ala., to attend the Confederate reunion and visit relatives. Brazos Pilot, 11 June 1908, page 8

Prof. W.L. Powers returned to his school near Fountain Sunday after spending Saturday and Sunday in the city. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 18 March 1909, page 5

“Fountain Items,” (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 25 March 1909, page 2

“Fountain Facts,” (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 20 May 1909, page 8.

“Located at Fountain,” Bryan Weekly Eagle, 10 March 1910, page 8, col.2

R.L. Smith of Fountain was in the city today and carried out a fine organ. Bryan Daily Eagle, 6 May 1910, page 3

“Mr. J.C. Blume Dead,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 29 May 1910, page 3.

“Death of Mrs. Horak,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 24 December 1910, page 2. [Paper is incorrectly dated December 23].

“John Cooper Examining Trial,” (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 7 July 1913, p.5

“Charged with Beating His Wife to Death,” (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 17 July 1913, p.7

Albert Higgs was in the city from Fountain Switch today. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 6 August 1914, page 5

Rabb Higgs was in today from Fountain. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 4 November 1914, page 5.

Miss Wealthy Smith of Fountain was a visitor to the city today. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 19 November 1914, page 5

Miss Vina Smith of Fountain Switch died at her home at that place at 9 o'clock Thursday morning, after an illness of one month. Miss Smith was 62 years of age, and was a sister of Peter Smith, a well known resident of Fountain, with whom she was living at the time of her death. She had been in bad health for a number of years and was taken seriously ill about four weeks ago. Her condition grew worse steadily until death resulted at the time mentioned. She was a sweet Christian character and an earnest worker in the work of the Lord. She leaves a number of friends to mourn her loss and express deep sympathy for the relatives and members of the family in their bereavement. The funeral was held from the home yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Dr. M.E. Weaver, pastor of the First Baptist Church of this city, conducting the services. The remains were laid to rest in the family cemetery at Fountain. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 3 December 1914, page 5.

Mrs. Wiley Higgs has returned from a brief visit to Mrs. Ralph Higgs of Fountain. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 10 December 1914, page 12.

Rabb Higgs of Fountain was in town today. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 20 May 1915, page 5

Rabb Higgs was in town today from his plantation on the Little Brazos. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 19 August 1915, page 5

Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Higgs of Fountain Switch were visitors to Bryan today. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 2 September 1915, page 5

Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Higgs have moved to their farm near Fountain Switch. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 23 September 1915, page 5

Miss Nona Belle Jones of Harvey is visiting her sister, Mrs. Wiley Higgs, at Fountain Switch. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 21 October 1915, page 5

Mr. and Mrs. Wylie Higgs of Fountain were visitors to the city today. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 21 October 1915, page 5

Dove Hall, colored, was married Sunday night about eight o'clock and about nine, on the same evening, while the wedding festival was "on," he shot and killed Oscar Harrison, another Negro man, who was among the wedding guests. The two affairs took place at the home of the bride's father, Mose Johnson at Fountain Switch, four miles west of Bryan. Sheriff Jess Conlee of Brazos County soon appeared on the scene, and the bridegroom was transferred from the festival to the county jail where he awaits trial. The body of Oscar Harrison was brought to Bryan and is being prepared for burial at a colored undertaking establishment. No reason is given for the killing, and everybody seemed in a good humor, and the "boys were only hurrahing," one of those present explained. The shooting was done with an automatic pistol, in the possession of Hall. Bryan Daily Eagle, 4 October 1926, p.1, col.2.

Powell Harvey, well known Negro of the Fountain Switch community west of Bryan, died at his farm home in that community Tuesday at 6 o'clock after a brief illness. Funeral services will be held Friday at 2 p.m. with interment made at Canaan cemetery seven miles west of Bryan. Powell Harvey was one of the leading Negro citizens of Brazos County and owned his farm home and was always energetic and dependable. He was constable in Precinct No. 5 for a long period of years and held the confidence of all, both white and black, by being a faithful and efficient officer of the law. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 15 May 1930, p.2.

Bryan ... All local ministers filled their respective posts last Sunday ... Rev. Henry Hodge and Mrs. Ollie Scott of Fountain Switch, were united in marriage last Saturday. ... W.R. Ford, Reporter. Houston Informer, January 10, 1931, page 8

"Fountain Switch Man Dies; Lived There 50 Years," Bryan Weekly Eagle, 20 December 1933, page 1

"Popular Young Couple of Fountain Switch Are Married Monday," Bryan Weekly Eagle, 14 January 1936, p.3, col.4. John Habarta, Jr.