

The Rosprim Community

compiled by Bill Page

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The community of Rosprim was located between Providence Church and the Brazos River, near two African American churches: Brushy Church and St. Mark's Church. (See Road Map of Brazos County, Texas, 1916, as reprinted in Brazos County History: Rich Past – Bright Future, page 417). This community, named after the Rosprim family, has the unusual distinction of having been served by postmasters who were twin brothers, Matt M. Vitopil and S.J. Vitopil.

J.V. Rosprim of the Providence neighborhood called on the *Eagle* while in town yesterday, and exhibited a branch from one of his Japanese plum trees on which were forty-five fine plums about half ripe and very beautiful fruit indeed. Mr. Rosprim says he has fourteen plum trees bearing heavily. He has 350 fruit trees of different varieties in an orchard of one and three fourths acres which shows what can be done in this country with proper attention to the branch of diversified farming coming under the head of horticulture. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 29 June 1899, p.6, col.1.

Mr. J.V. Rosprim has the thanks of the *Eagle* for a basket of very fine Thurber peaches. Mr. Rosprim has done much this year to demonstrate the capacity of Brazos County for growing fruit. His fine large peaches have been the admiration of the town all the season, and have sold very readily. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 3 August 1899, p.6, col.1

Application from J.V. Rosprim, dated 3 October 1900, for a postoffice to be called Rosprim; nearest river is Brazos River, nearest creek is Turkey Creek; about 2 miles from Brazos River and one mile from Turkey Creek; about 300 people to be served by this postoffice; no village or town located there. From: Post Office Department Reports of Site Locations (National Archives microfilm)

Texas postoffices established ... Rosprim, Brazos County, Josef V. Rosprim, postmaster ... Dallas Morning News, 9 February 1901, page 3

Rosprim, Texas, May 19 – A good rain fell here last Sunday which was much needed. The boll weevil is the topic of the day, and we learn that many have quit their cotton already as it was being destroyed by them. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 23 May 1901, page 3

Rosprim, August 26 – We are needing rain very bad in this section to help the grass and for stock water. Cotton is about all open and the farmers are picking it as fast as they can. Mr. Geo. Echols has moved his gin out on the public road and has improved it considerable, with another gin stand and elevator, he is now prepared to do first class work. Miss Bettie Gandy of Rock Prairie spent several days last week with Misses Callie and Mattie Foster of this community. Mrs. G.A. Foster returned home last week after a month's visit to her parents in Grimes County. The young people enjoyed a social at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Boxley last Wednesday night. Mr. Geo. Echols and others attended the truck growers mass meeting at the court house last Saturday and believe this is a good move and will be a success. Mr. Walter Reynolds of Beaumont is visiting Mr. and Mrs. C.N. Simpson this week. Bryan Morning Eagle, 31 August 1901, p.2, col.5

Texas postmasters appointed ... Rosprim, Brazos County, M.F. Vitopil ... Dallas Morning News, 7 March 1904, page 1

Postmasters appointed ... Rosprim, Brazos County: Sidney J. Vitopil, vice M.F. Vitopil, resigned ... Dallas Morning News, 14 June 1904, page 7

Bryan, Tex., Sept.10 – Last night at a Negro festival near the iron bridge on the little Brazos River, Grant McGill was shot in the body and seriously wounded. Robert Mitchell was shot in the arm and is only slightly injured. Both men are Negroes and shotguns were used. Mitchell has been lodged in jail here. About 1 o'clock this morning, in another part of this county, below Rosprim, a Negro named Will Green was shot from ambush and killed. A few minutes later another Negro named Clarence McGown was shot at the same place, but not seriously injured. Justice A.G. Mitchell visited the scene of the shooting and held an inquest today. A festival had also been held at the house of a Negro in the locality where this killing occurred. Late this afternoon J.H. Suber brought in a Negro, giving his name as Babus Anderson, in connection with the killing of Green, and lodged him jail to await investigation of the Grand Jury, which meets again Tuesday. Dallas Morning News, 11 September 1905, p.7

Babus Anderson, colored, charged with the murder of another Negro named Will Green near Rospim about three weeks ago, was convicted in the district court yesterday and given twelve years in the penitentiary. Bryan Daily Eagle, 30 September 1905, p.3, col.3

“Rosprim,” Brazos Pilot, 15 February 1906, page 2

A.W. Shelton of Rosprim was in the city yesterday. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 10 May 1906, page 5

Will Higgins of Rospim was in the city yesterday. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 21 June 1906, page 2

Caldwell, Tex., June 25 – Saturday evening a Negro named Adam Nelson went into the store of J.V. Rosprim in the Brazos bottom. He got into an altercation with Mr. Rosprim. The darky was shot through the body and may die. Mr. Rosprim, who is charged with assault with intent to murder, has given bond pending the outcome of the Negro's injuries. Dallas Morning News, 28 June 1906, page 2

D.M. Clanton of Rosprim called on the Eagle while in the city yesterday. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 14 July 1906, page 7

Frank Echols wasin from Rosprim. He reached home a short time ago from San Francisco after being honorably discharged from the army. Brazos Pilot, 29 November 1906, page 7

“Rosprim,” Bryan Weekly Eagle, 10 October 1907, page 3

Texas postmasters appointed ... Rosprim, Brazos County, F. Rosprim vice S.J. Vitopil, resigned ... Dallas Morning News, 14 December 1907, page 12

Mr. and Mrs. Mat Vitopil will have the sympathy of many friends owing to the death of their baby last night. The Eagle was unable to learn the funeral arrangements. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 28 May 1908, p.2, col.3. Child of Mat Vitopil

A son of Mr. and Mrs. J.V. Rosprim was badly hurt by a kick from a horse yesterday afternoon. He was out on the Brazos River and the horse kicked him on the leg below the knee and a very serious and painful wound was inflicted. The flesh was torn loose from the bone and stripped down for several inches. He was brought to town at once and attended by Drs. Mondrick and Raysor, and is resting as well as could be expected. The nature of the wound is such that it will be some time before he is well again. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 5 August 1909, p.3, col.2.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanie Bukowski and their little daughter, Winnie, of Rosprim, were in the city today. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 20 January 1910, page 2

The hail that fell late Saturday afternoon and Saturday night did quite a lot of damage in this county. Out east of town the truck farms of W.C. Wilcox and F.W. Yeager were badly damaged. Mr. R.M. Nall who lives immediately between the two places was also badly damaged by having his corn badly beaten and split up. There was a heavy hail in the bottom in the neighborhood of Stone City, but reports from there today stated that the damage was not as great as at first thought and nothing will have to be planted over. The heaviest damage was in the Smetana and Rosprim communities. The *Eagle* is informed that much of both corn and cotton will have to be planted again in these communities. Bryan Daily Eagle, 9 May 1910, page 1

"Uncle" Dave Collier of Rosprim, one of the oldest and most highly respected colored men in the county, died on Monday, May 22. He was 75 years old and had lived at Rosprim for eighteen years. "Uncle" Dave had many friends among both white and black, who were very sorry indeed to hear of his death. Bryan Daily Eagle, 29 May 1911, p.2, col.2.

Bryan ... A girl 14 years of age was criminally assaulted while returning to her home from school at Rosprim, in this county, yesterday afternoon. Sheriff Conlee was notified at once of the crime and, after making an investigation, place a Negro under arrest. He was taken to the home of the young lady, who positively identified him as her assailant. He was brought to town and lodged in jail and a charge of criminal assault preferred against him. Dallas Morning News, 24 Dec.1911, p.11

"A Crime Most Foul," (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 28 Dec. 1911, p.6, col.4. Near Rosprim School.

Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Rosprim were visitors to the city today from Rosprim. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 16 April 1914, page 5

J.J. Rosprim of Rosprim was in the city today on business. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 14 May 1914, page 5

The following Texas postoffices become domestic money order offices, effective July 1 ... Rosprim Dallas Morning News, 12 June 1914, page 5

George Echols was in the city today from Rosprim. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 17 September 1914, page 5

J.V. Rosprim was in the city on business today from Rosprim. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 24 December 1914, page 5.

Bryan, Texas, March 30 – The general merchandize store of J.V. Rosprim and the Rosprim postoffice, located in same building, were completely destroyed by fire last night. Rosprim is eight miles southwest of Bryan. It is believed the store was first robbed and then set on fire. The loss was estimated at \$3,000 and partly covered by insurance. Sheriff Nunn is at the scene today. Dallas Morning News, 31 March 1915, page 14.

J.V. Rosprim was a visitor in the city from Rosprim today. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 10 June 1915, page 7

George Echols was in town today from Rosprim. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 24 June 1915, page 5

Steve Hudette of Rosprim was in the city today on business. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 16 September 1915, page 7

The post office at Rosprim was discontinued 14 December 1918.

Brazos County Alien Land Registrations, 1922: In 1921 Texas passed a law requiring aliens who owned land in Texas to register at the county court house. Although aliens were generally prohibited from owning real estate, many had nonetheless acquired land. These records provide information on immigrants which may not appear in other sources. p.2. Martin Berka, aged 64; about 5 ft. high; weight 130 lbs.; left leg been broken and shorter than right; complexion dark; face wrinkled; hair black, with sprinkling of gray; eyes black; mustache black and gray; place of birth Velenov, Moravia, Austria-Hungary (now Czechoslovakia); arrived in U.S. 23 Nov. 1899 at Galveston; present address Rosprim; lived 23 years in Brazos Co.; owns 53 acres of land in Brazos Co. which he bought from Fred Rosprim and his wife on 3 Dec. 1913. Statement given 8 Dec. 1922. [The Galveston Daily News of 24 November 1899 (p.8) has the following note: "The following is the passenger list of the North German Lloyd steamship Ellen Rickmers, due about November 27 ... Martin Berka and family, Bryan." The Galveston Daily News of 25 November 1899 (p.5) notes that the ship arrived on Nov. 24.]