

White Switch Community
compiled by Bill Page
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White Switch was located on the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad, a few miles south of Millican. At various times, this community had a store, a gin, a saloon and a school. There was also a convict farm located there.

1887: February 14 – It is ordered by the Court that the Public Road from Millican to White's Switch on the Rail Road be opened thirty-feet through the Abbott and Knox Lane. Brazos County Commissioners Minutes, Book D, page 90

Millican ... News came here this afternoon of a killing on G.W. Harrington's plantation, in the Brazos bottom, near White's Switch. M.R. Millican summoned a jury, and with Justice Peyton went to the scene. Some little while after they left Deputy Sheriff A.H. Franklin came in leading Charlie Jones, colored, who did the killing, by the neck, and before he was jailed, he made a statement that he was going hunting, and borrowed Charlie Lewis' gun, and Lewis told him he should not load his gun so heavy, and out of this difference grew the shooting. Lewis was said to have been killed instantly. Dallas Morning News, 22 March 1887, page 2, col.2.

On 11 February 1889, D.W. Hardy petitioned the county commissioners for a new road from Allen Farm Depot to White Switch; A.J. Holliday, J.J. Cunningham, P.E. Layley (?), C.J. Ward and G.W. Dunlap were appointed as a jury of view to site the road. Brazos County Commissioners Minutes, Book D, page 263.

Millican ...The stocks of general merchandise belonging to the estate of C.J. Ward, deceased, at this place and White's Switch were sold here to-day at auction. C. Chinski purchased the stock here, paying \$1800, about 60 cents on the dollar. W.D. Ward bought the stock at White's Switch, paying \$405, the actual amount of invoice. Galveston Daily News, 10 May 1889, page 1.

At White's Switch, 6 miles from Millican, someone entered a store and secured \$50. San Antonio Daily Light, 6 November 1889, page 2

Dan Stevenson, a Negro who has for years resided on Dave Hardy's place near White's Switch, was taken ill Thursday and died Saturday. Nearly everyone in the county knew "Old Dan" especially the "electioneering bosses," and I suppose will regret to learn of his sudden demise. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 2 January 1890, page 1, col.3

Millican ... Andy Edwards is clerking for Mr. S. Steele at Whites Switch ... Mr. Steele Steele has purchased Mr. G.W. Dunlap's store house at White Switch, and will conduct a regular grocery business there. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 6 March 1890, page 1

White Switch Items – Having never had the pleasure of reading a letter from our little burg, thought we would write a few dots. We are all the Hogg. Whole Hogg or none. Crop prospects are flattering. All we need is a little rain and our cotton crop will be assured. Little Tommie Clampitt who has been visiting at the home of his aunt, Mrs. L.J. Dunlap, returned home last Tuesday. J.W. Thomas and B.F. Clampitt, of Millican, were pleasant visitors in our little town last week. We are always glad to see the boys. Our old bachelor friend, W.R. Cunningham, has sold his crop to G.W. Dunlap. After spending a few days in your city, he is now at Millican, visiting at the home of his cousin, B.H. Cunningham. He is not from Lampasas, as the Pilot had it, but from White Switch. We want it understood that he is one of our boys. Oh, the cane-carrying, high colored cigarette smoking dudes! For our part, we would like to see a wind come and blow ‘em all away. They do say that one of them met with very cool treatment at the hands of one of Eve’s fair daughters here some time since, for which we are truly glad. We won’t give the circumstances away this time, but let me tell you right here, Mr. Dude, you had best look sharp or the Eagle reporter will get you yet. Mrs. Cullie Knox’s children have about recovered from whooping cough. G.W. Dunlap and W.A. Millican were at White Switch last week. W.S. Knox still sets for the finny tribe. Hope he will present ye scribe with a pretty mess of fish. Ed Steele, of near Ella, was here on business last week. Andy Edwards, the popular clerk of Steele Bros. store, of this place, went to Millican last Sunday. As “Bill Sly” resides in our neighborhood, our sympathy has been aroused in his behalf. A “smart alec” was heard to remark that were his head to be jammed in an ink mill, when they got through with him there would be nothing left of him but his ears sticking out of his shirt collar. Best wishes and success to the Eagle. Long may she fly over this broad land. Jake Knockemstiff. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 3 July 1890, page 1

Bryan, Tex., March 7 – Stolen, at White’s Switch, Brazos County, March 1, one sorrel horse, star in face, right hind foot white, 12 years old, 15 hands high, branded thus, B; also, one dun pony, black mane and tail and black legs, little white spot on nose, branded half circle EG, natural pacer; \$10 reward for said horses. T. C. Nunn, sheriff. Galveston Daily News, 8 March 1892, page 4

Millican, Tex., April 22 – Last night at White’s Switch, six miles south of here, Ben Dixon and Sandy Pierce became involved in a difficulty just after leaving church. Dixon walked up to Pierce and asked him if he did not believe he would shoot him. He said no, and Dixon pulled his 41 and shot him four times, once in the heart, killing him instantly. After emptying his pistol he came direct to Millican and gave up to Constable Franklin and was carried to jail at Bryan. All parties are colored, and the affair was supposed to originate over a woman. Galveston Daily News, 24 April 1894, page 4, col.5;

Millican, Tex., April 28 – Ben Dixon, charged with killing Sandy Pierce last night at White’s Switch, an account of which appeared in the columns of The News had an examining trial here to-day, and was remanded to jail without bail. All of the parties charged as accessories were discharged. Galveston Daily News, 29 April 1894, page 8, col.2

Bryan, Tex., July 12 – Strayed or stolen on the night of July 7, one black horse mule, about 14 hands high, about 4 years old, branded R on the jaw, had on leather halter when taken. Was taken from my premises near White Switch, Brazos County, Tex. Five dollars reward will be paid for the recovery or information of the mule by the undersigned. T. C. Nunn, sheriff Brazos County, by A. M. Franklin. Galveston Daily News, 14 July 1894, page 6

Bryan, Tex. ... Ben Dixon is on trial today in the district court for the killing of Sandy Pearce at White Switch several months ago. Galveston Daily News, 18 Sept. 1894, page 5, col.3

Navasota, Grimes Co., Tex., Sept. 13 – Messrs. Robert Horlock, Joe Terrell and Captain Hicks have rented 1800 acres of the Harrington place, in the Brazos bottom, and will work state convicts next year. Galveston Daily News, 14 September 1895, page 3

Allenfarm ... Terrell & Co. of Navasota have opened a farm at White's Switch, which will be worked with convicts. They now have a force of fifty men and everything is in good running order. They have several hundred acres of land broke. Sargeant J. N. Smith is in charge of the men, with Mr. Joe Terrell as manager. Galveston Daily News, 8 January 1896, page 6

Bryan, Tex., Oct. 12 – W.A. Millican, dealer in groceries and liquors at White Switch, Brazos County, filed a deed of trust here yesterday, naming G.W. Dunlap as trustee. Preferred creditors are named as follows: Gust, Heye & Co. \$379.75; Hudson & Nee \$50; G.W. Dunlap \$159.80; Gust, Heye & Co. \$536.19; Joe Terrell \$263; Geo. S. Wood & Co. \$178.87; W.J. Lamp \$120; H.W. Kirkpatrick \$25; W.B. Wesson \$25; F.W. Frosig \$50. Dallas Morning News, 13 October 1898, page 4

The *Navasota Examiner* states that work has been resumed at the Dunlap quarry between Millican and White's Switch, and that a force of seventy-five or one hundred men will be employed. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 5 April 1899, page 6

“Latest Details from the Flood,” [of the Brazos and Navasota Rivers], Galveston Daily News, 3 July 1899, page 1. “Some funny tales are told. At white Switch a hole was cut in the top of a saloon and a man with a rope around his waist is kept busy diving through the roof bringing up bottles of whisky. The goods in barrels is not considered good. A large party of rescuers were kept hungry because he refused to bring up sardines.”

Rock Prairie ... H.A. Jolly left Sunday for Whites Switch to guard convicts. Bryan Weekly Eagle, 20 July 1899, page 3

J. Vance of White's Switch was in the city yesterday. Bryan Daily Eagle, 8 September 1903, page 3

Brenham, Tex., Oct. 1 – Penitentiary Agent Sisk was here today and carried off Henry Lee and John Cain, alias King, convicted at the recent term of the District Court, the former getting seven and the latter two years. They were carried to White's Switch. Galveston Daily News, 2 October 1904, page 5

Navasota, Tex., Oct. 23 – While a Santa Fe train out of Somerville was coming to Navasota, five oil tank cars were derailed near White Switch. The cars caught fire and were destroyed. The engine was cut loose from the cars and came into Navasota to notify Somerville to send an engine to save the other cars in the train, as the oil cars were on the front end. Traffic was delayed for several hours. Galveston Daily News, 24 October 1920, page 19

"Negro Rural Teachers Discuss Year's Work," Bryan Weekly Eagle, 25 September 1935, page 5. Mentions White Switch school