

Elections & Miscellaneous Notices – 1839-1844

By Bill Page

An election will be held on the first Monday in September next for two Representatives to represent this county in Congress ... Precinct of Sutherland, at the home of John Millican, presiding officer W.T. Millican, and at the house of --- Ferguson, Esq.; presiding officer --- Ferguson, Esq. ... Texas Emigrant (Washington) 31 Aug. 1839, p.4

1840-1843:

“Boating on the Brazos,” Dallas Morning News, 12 February 1893, p.14. “... My father moved to Texas and settled on the banks of the Brazos River in 1840, just above the town of Washington. Just previous to this time there had been one of the greatest overflows of the river that had ever been known. The water extended from the town of Washington to Ringold’s prairie, near the present city limits of Navasota ... After this rise for a succession of years the country was very drouthy. It was very hard to raise a crop. We had to plant corn in January in order to catch the very limited rains, which rarely ever wet the ground more than two inches; in fact this was considered a fine rain. In consequence of this drouthy condition the river got to be very low. It looked for a time that it would stop running. In 1840 or 1841 Mr. Tillotson Wood, now living at Hempstead, and myself rode from Washington to Hidalgo Falls, some seven miles by land, and perhaps double that distance by the river, along the bed of the river, never once having to leave it, but crossing from the point of one sand bar to the other. In some places it looked as if a ten foot rail would reach across the water. In 1842 or 1843 the second great rise came, but I do not think the water was quite so high as the previous one, although it extended from the bluff at Washington to near where now stands the city of Navasota. This was a peculiar rise, in as much that there had been no rain up the river so far as we knew. The rise came suddenly and unexpectedly late in June. After the river had left its banks and spread over its bottoms it rose steadily from one-half to three inches daily, and that, too, under a bright and cloudless sky. This regular daily rise continued two or three weeks, without intermission, and was attributed by the knowing ones to the melting of snow near the sources of the river ... There have been numerous floods since but none so great, according to my knowledge, as that of 1842. Of course, they have been much more destructive, “

Navosoto County Assessment 1841, \$1,120.94 ... Texas Centinel (Austin), 12 Aug. 1841, p.4

We publish below the probable vote of the different counties in the Republic ... Washington and Navosota, 200 for Burnett, 400 for Houston ... Texas Centinel (Austin), 26 Aug. 1841, p.2

A list of persons who have not paid their taxes due the Republic of Texas, for the year 1840, assessed upon property situated in the County of Washington ...

[lists several residents of what became Brazos County, including:]

Bonds, Geo ... Bradin, A G ... Boon, Mordecai ... Cooley, S ... Ellison, Jesse ... Evitts, Jas. ... Ferguson, Rob't ... Jones, Allen ... Jones, J H adm'r Wooton ... Millican, Jno ... Jno. Millican ag't for Cleveland ... Wm. T. Millican, agent for W Millican ... Wm. T. Millican, agent for J M White ... Wm. T. Millican, agent for Wm Best ... Middleton, Saml ... Pruitt, R A ... Reed, Jefferson ... Reed, Michael ... Splain, Thos ... Seal, Eli ... Violett, J T ... Vaughn, Jas L ... Wickson, Bryan ... Young, Wm. Texas Centinel (Austin), 9 Sept. 1841, p.3

Navasoto County

For President

Houston 120

Burnet 6

The votes for vice president not heard from.

Representatives elected Navasoto – James A. Head

Telegraph and Texas Register, (Houston), 6 Oct. 1841, p. 2

Journals of the House of Representatives, Monday, November 1. The House was called to order ... the following gentlemen presented their credentials, viz. ... Hon. J.A. Head, Navasoto

Texas Centinel (Austin), 11 Nov. 1841, p.2

House of Representatives, Monday Morning, January 17th, 1842 ...

Mr. Head introduced a Bill to change the name of Navasoto County, to that of Brazos.

Rules were suspended and Bill passed. Daily Bulletin (Austin), 18 Jan.1842, p.1

An act The Secretary of State be, and he is hereby authorized and required to contract for the carrying a weekly mail from Fanthorp's post office, in Montgomery County, by Boonville in Navasota County, to Dunn's post office in Robertson County. Telegraph and Texas Register (Houston), 16 March 1842, p.1

An act to change the name of Navasoto County

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Texas in Congress assembled, That the district of county before known as the county of Navosoto, shall be known and called by the name of Brazos.

Sec. 2 Be it further enacted that nothing in this act shall be constituted as to prejudice any judicial proceedings heretofore commenced in said county, until this act shall be generally propagated among the people of said county.

Sec 3 Be it further enacted, That this act shall take effect from and after its passage. Passed January 29th, 1842.

Telegraph and Texas Register (Houston), 16 March 1842, p.1

General Order No. 1. Navasota (Brazos) County, 64 infantry men required; place of inspection Boonville ... time of muster and inspection Tuesday, 5th July.

Telegraph and Texas Register (Houston), 1 June 1842, p.3

The House of Representatives met in the Presbyterian Church, and a quorum was formed in the afternoon. The following members appeared and answered to their names ... [J.A.] Head, Brazos ... Morning Star (Houston), 28 June 1842, p.2

Congress – The members of the House of Representatives in Washington met at 10 o'clock a.m. on the 14th inst. ... The following are the names of the members who presented their credentials ... Hanover, Brazos County Telegraph and Texas Register (Houston), 23 Nov. 1842, p.2

Lost, A Headright certificate for one league and one labor of land, issued by the board of land commissioners for the county of Navasoto, to Henry G. Hudson, (No. 1). If no intelligence of the said certificate is received at the War Department within sixty days, I shall apply to the proper authority for a duplicate of the same. Henry G. Hudson, January 7, 1843. Texian & Brazos Farmer (Washington), 28 Jan. 1843, p.4

List of Acts and Joint Resolutions, passed by the Seventh Congress ...
No. 54. An act for organizing the militia of the counties of Robertson and Brazos ...
Telegraph and Texas Register (Houston), 1 Feb. 1843, p.1

Brazos – This river has been higher during higher during the last five or six days, than it has been at any time since the great freshet of 1833. It has overflowed its banks in many places near Washington, and its current is so rapid, and so much driftwood floating that the ferrymen are unwilling to cross it, in consequence many of the members of Congress and other persons are detained at Washington. Telegraph and Texas Register (Houston), 1 Feb. 1843, p.2

The Brazos and Colorado Rivers have overflowed their banks to an unprecedented degree. The account of the loss of life and property are truly lamentable. The mail rider from Houston to Washington returned to Houston on the 7th inst., being unable to cross the Brazos. In consequence of the sudden inundation of the bottom lands, several thousand head of cattle have been drowned. The planters on the river above and below Washington estimate the damage from this freshet at ten thousand dollars per mile. In the bottom opposite Washington the water was fifteen to twenty feet deep, and extended out of the hills a distance of nine miles. The bodies of four men were discovered floating down the river six or eight miles below Washington. It was supposed that they had gone into the bottom to drive out their cattle, and were caught by the rapid rise of the river. Many other lives, it is feared, were lost in a similar way. Whole farms are inundated – houses and fences have been swept away, and large quantities of cotton and corn destroyed. The Southern Patriot (Charleston, South Carolina), 22 Feb. 1843, p.2

An act to amend the laws regulating the Post Office Department...mail routes, on which the public mail shall be transported...From Washington to Franklin, via Booneville....
Telegraph and Texas Register (Houston), 8 March 1843, p.2

The Brazos River has been navigated by steamboats, during the present season, as far as Washington, Texas. It is intended to push the navigation as high up as the falls. An iron steamboat, specially for the Brazos, has been ordered in England. Vermont Gazette, 3 May 1843, p.1

We are authorized to announce Hon. Jesse Grimes as a candidate for Senator, in the District composed of the counties of Washington, Montgomery and Brazos, at the ensuing election. National Vindicator (Washington), 1 July 1843, p.3

In Montgomery County, Judge Grimes received a majority of votes for Senator, and is undoubtedly elected – One of his competitors received a majority in Brazos County, and another in Washington ... In Brazos County, Mr. [J.A.] Head is elected representative. Telegraph and Texas Register (Houston), 13 Sept. 1843, p.2

The election returns in the Counties of Washington, Brazos and Montgomery have been made illegally in several of the precincts, owing to the ignorance or negligence of the judges, and in consequence the Chief Justice is unable to give a certificate to Judge Grimes, who is undoubtedly the successful candidate... Telegraph and Texas Register (Houston), 4 Oct. 1843, p.2

Administrator's Notice.

Letters of administration having been granted to the undersigned on the estate of Willis L. Ellis, deceased, by the Hon. the probate court, in and for the county of Brazos, Republic of Texas, this is therefore to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them, properly authenticated, within the time prescribed by law, or they will be barred; and persons indebted to the same are requested to make immediate payment.

J. H. Evetts, Adm'r

Elizabeth J. Evetts, Adm'x

National Vindicator (Washington on the Brazos), 25 Nov. 1843, p.4

Judge Grimes has been elected in the Senatorial District of Washington, Montgomery and Brazos, by a majority of about 300 votes over his competitor, Dr. Barnett (?). Telegraph and Texas Register (Houston), 31 Jan. 1844, p.2