

# SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MASON COUNTY HISTORY

Compiled by Scott Zesch

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NOTE: In addition to the sources listed in this Bibliography, researchers should consult the vertical files in the Mason County Historical Commission's archives room at the M. Beven Eckert Memorial Library.

This Bibliography is divided into the following sections:

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## MASON COUNTY HISTORY GENERALLY

### A. MAJOR SOURCES

Bierschwale, Margaret. *A History of Mason County, Texas Through 1964*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 1998.

Bierschwale's manuscript "Mason County History" was still incomplete at the time of her death in 1973. Twenty-five years later, it was published with Julius DeVos's annotations in a single volume that also included Bierschwale's "Fort Mason History." This is the most scholarly and thoroughly documented history of the county.

Biggers, Don Hampton. *History of Mason County*. Unpublished manuscript. See excerpts in *Frontier Times*, 6 (Nov. 1928): 65-78, 6 (Dec. 1928): 113-34, 6 (Jan. 1929): 153-66, 6 (Feb. 1929): 185-91, 6 (Mar. 1929): 225-59.

In 1928, Roscoe Runge and the Mason Chamber of Commerce commissioned Texas newspaperman Don H. Biggers to compile the first history of Mason County and the region. See Don Hampton Biggers and Seymour V. Connor, *Buffalo Guns and Barbed Wire: Two Frontier Accounts by Don Hampton Biggers* (Lubbock: Texas Tech University Press, 1991), 215-16. Biggers interviewed some of Mason County's oldest residents as part of his research. According to local lore, some members of the Chamber were displeased by Biggers' account of the Hoo Doo War (or perhaps thought that any discussion of it was too sensitive), so they halted publication. However, the Chamber permitted J. Marvin Hunter to publish part of this material under his own name. In a letter to Margaret Bierschwale dated December 18, 1929, Roscoe Runge stated that Hunter "used such portions of Biggers' manuscript as he considered authentic or which he thought he could not improve on." Hunter explained that he serialized "a greater portion of [Biggers'] material . . . with some changes, corrections and additions" in five consecutive issues of *Frontier Times* (see Nov. 1928, 73). The PDFs of Hunter's article are searchable for research purposes. Kathryn Eilers cited the Biggers papers in her 1939 thesis on Mason County, as did C. L. Sonnichsen in his 1957 book *Ten Texas Feuds*. No copies of the Biggers manuscript have surfaced in recent decades, although a copy was known to have circulated at the time of the county's centennial in 1958. To date, attempts to locate a copy of the elusive Biggers manuscript in the Biggers collection at Texas Tech, the J. Marvin Hunter collection at UT/Austin, the Frontier Times Museum in Bandera, and the local Chamber's files have all proven fruitless.

Eilers, Kathryn Burford. "A History of Mason County, Texas." M.A. thesis, The University of Texas at Austin, 1939.

This thesis by Kathryn Eilers (1908-1975), a native of Weimar who later taught school in San Angelo, was the second attempt (after Biggers) to compile the county's history. It contains much information from local government records that does not appear in other histories. Eilers also interviewed many Mason residents in the late 1930s. Copies can be found in the archives room at the library. The thesis is also available online at <https://repositories.lib.utexas.edu/handle/2152/78195>.

#### *Frontier Times*.

J. Marvin Hunter's *Frontier Times* magazine, which his family published from 1923 until 1954, is a treasure trove of information about Mason County. Beware, however, that Hunter did little fact-checking, so most articles contain some inaccuracies. Nonetheless, *Frontier Times* is the closest thing we have to an early oral history of the region, as it contains reminiscences of some of the oldest residents who were living here in the 1920s and 1930s. Only a handful of the many articles pertaining to Mason are cited in this Bibliography. However, Jane Hoerster compiled a complete list of the magazine's Mason-related items, which is kept with the collection of *Frontier Times* in the archives room. See also James A. Browning and Janice B. McCravy, *A Complete Guide to Hunter's Frontier Times* (Eakin, 2000). Shortly before his death in 1957, J. Marvin Hunter was working on a full-length history of Mason County. As of 2014, that

manuscript was being edited for publication by Lou Varner of Comanche (familyinfo13@yahoo.com).

#### *Mason County News.*

The earliest surviving issue of the *Mason News* is dated May 1, 1886. There is no index to the newspaper. Although the *News* is available in PDF format, it is not possible to use Adobe Acrobat's "Find" feature with these files, so researchers need to know an approximate date when searching.

Polk, Stella Gipson. *Mason and Mason County: A History*. Austin: The Pemberton Press, 1966; revised edition, Burnet: Eakin Press, 1980.

Polk's popular history, an expansion of the script she wrote for the county's centennial pageant in 1958, makes a very enjoyable introduction to Mason County's past. It was also the first full-length history of the county to be published. The revised edition contains additional chapters on ranchers and local lodges as well as some useful appendices.

#### B. SUPPLEMENTARY SOURCES AND ARTICLES

Beach, Alva Catherine. "History of Events of Mason County, Texas." *Mason County Scrapbook and Obituary*. Archives and Manuscripts Collection, Center for American History, UT/Austin.

This undated manuscript contains some oral history collected during the author's interviews with local residents.

Bierschwale, Margaret. "Mason County, Texas, 1845-1870." *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, 52 (Apr. 1949): 379-97.

"Centennial Celebration 1958." *Mason County News*, June 19, 1958.

The articles, photo captions and advertisements in the centennial edition contain some information that is not available elsewhere. Also includes articles on elections concerning liquor (sec. 2, p. 4) and hogs (sec. 2, p. 10).

Donop, Mary. "Historical Facts Relating to the Colonization and Settlement of Mason County." M.A. thesis, Southwest Texas State College, 1956.

Donop, Mary. "Two Mason County Sheriffs Murdered." *The Edwards Plateau Historian*, 7 (1978-1982): 29-41.

Grinstead, J. E. "Mason County, Texas." *Grinstead's Graphic* (Aug. 1923).

Available online at <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph498503>. This magazine of the Texas Hill Country devoted its August 1923 issue to Mason County. It contains many good photographs of businesses and residences at the time.

#### *The Handbook of Texas Online.*

The online version of the Texas State Historical Association's encyclopedia of Texas history is easily searchable for articles pertaining to Mason County:

<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online>.

Hoerster, Fran. "Stagecoach Travel to and from Fort McKavett: Riding with Lucia Homes of Mason, Texas (1875 and 1876)." *The Edwards Plateau Historian*, 13 (2008-2010): 95-109.

Library of Congress. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*.

This online database, available at <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>, allows for advanced, tailored searches of select historic newspapers that have been digitized.

*Mason County Historical Book*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission and Mason County Historical Society, 1976.

This book contains an essay on the development of Mason County (294-300).

Mason Writers Group. *Mason County Perspectives*. Mason, Tex.: Mason Writers Group, 2004.

"Old Newspaper Articles from Mason County, Texas, 1886-1887." In *Mason County Historical Book Supplement V*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 2011.

Polk, Stella Gipson. "Mason and Mason County: A History." *The Edwards Plateau Historian*, 3-4 (1967-1968): 54-57.

Ranck, James E. "Mason County in 1866." *Frontier Times* (Nov. 1926), 4-5.

*San Antonio Herald*.

This newspaper, which was published from 1855 until 1880, covered many events in Mason County, especially during the 1870s. The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/SANHHD/>, has searchable PDFs of 121 issues online, ranging from 1855 until 1863. Otherwise, the *Herald* has not been indexed or digitized. The microfilm is available at the San Antonio Central Library.

Todd, Mrs. G. W. "Brief Sketch of Mason History." *Mason County News*, May 11, 1900, 2; reprinted, June 19, 1958, sec. 2, p. 9.

Waldon, Lewis. *A Dog Called Friday & Other True Tales from Pontotoc*. Austin: Woodburner Press, 1998.

Zesch, Kurt. "Early Pioneers Faced Many Hardships to Bring Civilization to Mason County." *Mason County News*, Feb. 23, 1939, 2.

## BUILDINGS AND HOUSES

Eilers, Kathryn Burford. "A History of Mason County, Texas." M.A. thesis, The University of Texas at Austin, 1939.

Information on the courthouses and jails (81-94, 121-26) and some early houses and stores in town (53-54, 158-68).

*Mason County Communities*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Sesquicentennial Committee, 1986.  
This book contains the most complete histories of the buildings around the courthouse square (94-127). It also contains detailed information on the pre-1900 houses of Mason (130-69) and many houses in the Grossville (35-41), Hedwig's Hill (49) and Hilda (54-82) Communities.

*Mason National Register Application for Historic District*.

The original 1974 application to create Mason's historic district contains an overview of historic buildings and architecture in Mason, along with many good photographs taken in 1972. The 1991 extension application updates and expands this information and includes photographs taken in 1987. Both applications may be accessed online:

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/40972936> (1974)

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/40972942> (1991)

Parvin, Bob. "The Pride of Mason." *Texas Highways*, March 1975, 14-19.

Article on the Seaquist house, with many excellent photos.

Schoenfeld, Judy. "Driving Tour of Mason's Historic Post Hill Street." Mason, Tex.: Mason County Chamber of Commerce, n.d.

Victor, Sally S. and Larry D. Hodge. *Mason, Texas Historic Site Survey*. 3 Vols. Mason, Tex.: n.p., 1987.

This report, commissioned by the Texas Historical Commission and the City of Mason, catalogs 613 historic buildings within the city limits, providing information such as the date of construction, original use, description and significance. The introductory volume discusses the history and architectural development of the town.

"Walking Tour of Mason's Historic Courthouse Square."

This guide to the buildings on the courthouse square, originally compiled by Larry Hodge and Sally Victor and updated periodically, is available on the Chamber of Commerce's website, <http://masontxcoc.com/attractions-recreation/walking-tour/>.

## BUSINESSES

NOTE: See also the vertical files about specific businesses in the archives room.

Bierschwale, Margaret. *A History of Mason County, Texas Through 1964*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 1998.

Information on banks, industrial activity, hotels, motels, restaurants, power, stage lines, newspapers and telephone (161-77).

*Branding Iron*.

The back section of the Mason High School yearbook contains advertisements and some photographs of sponsoring businesses.

“Centennial Celebration 1958.” *Mason County News*, June 19, 1958.

The advertisements in the centennial edition contain some information on Mason businesses that is not available elsewhere. Also includes a short article on newspapers in Mason (sec. 1, p. 7).

Davenport, Grace Heyman. *The Forgotten*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County News, 1989.  
Information on early pharmacists.

Eilers, Kathryn Burford. “A History of Mason County, Texas.” M.A. thesis, The University of Texas at Austin, 1939.

Information on newspapers (97-103), some of the earliest businesses in town (158-68), banks (186-87) and public utilities (190-93).

Ellebracht, Pat. “A True Texas Legend: Anna Mebus Martin and The Commercial Bank.” *Financial History: The Magazine of the Museum of American Financial History*, issue 61 (Winter 1998): 24-29, 33, 37.

*The History of the Commercial Bank*. Mason, Tex.: The Commercial Bank, 2001.

“Industrial Edition.” *Mason County News*, Nov. 17, 1927.

Histories and descriptions of the businesses that existed at that time.

*Mason County Historical Book*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission and Mason County Historical Society, 1976.

Information on the Commercial Bank, R. Grosse and Sons, Hofmann Dry Goods Co., and Mason Drug Co. (314-19).

*Mason County Historical Book Supplement V*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 2011.

Articles on businessmen Harry Gartrell, John Sterling King, James Ranck and C. S. Vedder.

Polk, Stella Gipson. *Mason and Mason County: A History*. Revised edition, Burnet: Eakin Press, 1980.

Information on E. Lemburg & Son, H. J. Hofmann & Son, R. Grosse & Sons, E. Henrich & Son, Hofmann Dry Goods Co. and Mason Drug Co. taken from the centennial newspaper (158-61).

## CEMETERIES

DeVos, Ruby E. and Julius with Jane B. Hoerster and Fran Hoerster. *Mason County Graves and Cemeteries*. Monograph, 1975.

This monograph lists all known burials in Mason County. The most recent version is contained in two Word files on the computer in the archives room. The first volume

covers the period 1854 through 2011. The second volume, which is updated periodically, begins with burials in 2012.

*Mason County Communities*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Sesquicentennial Committee, 1986.  
Information on cemeteries in Grossville (46-47), Hilda (51) and Pontotoc (170-71).

Moneyhon, Della Hofmann. "The Crosby Cemetery." In *Mason County Historical Book Supplement II*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 1994.

Polk, Stella Gipson. *Mason and Mason County: A History*. Revised edition, Burnet: Eakin Press, 1980.

Map of Mason County cemeteries (186).

## CHURCHES

Bierschwale, Margaret. *A History of Mason County, Texas Through 1964*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 1998.

Information on the Methodist, Baptist, Catholic, Christian, Episcopal, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Church of Christ, and "other" churches (178-91).

"Centennial Celebration 1958." *Mason County News*, June 19, 1958.

Articles on Catholic (sec. 1, p. 3), Tabernacle (sec. 1, p. 5), Episcopal (sec. 1, p. 7), Methodist (sec. 1, p. 7; sec. 2, p. 12), Christian (sec. 2, p. 6), Presbyterian (sec. 2, p. 6), Baptist (sec. 2, p. 6) and Lutheran (sec. 2, p. 7) Churches.

*A Century of Celebration with Christ: The United Methodist Church, Fredonia, Texas, 1887-1994*. No publisher, no date.

DeVos, Julius, ed. *One Hundred Years of the Hilda (Bethel) Methodist Church and Parent Organizations, 1856-1955*. Mason, Tex.: Hilda United Methodist Church, 1973.

Eilers, Kathryn Burford. "A History of Mason County, Texas." M.A. thesis, The University of Texas at Austin, 1939.

Information on the Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, Christian, Church of Christ, Presbyterian, Episcopal and Baptist Churches (175-82).

Fuege, Robert Lamar. *The Life and Times of a German Methodist Circuit Rider on the Frontier of Texas: Conrad Pluenneke (1819-1897)*. Privately published, 2014.

Hoerster, Fran. *150 Years of Methodism in Mason County, Texas*. Mason, Texas: no publisher, 2008.

Historical Committee, Hilda United Methodist Church. *The Hilda United Methodist Church through 125 Years, 1862-1987*. Mason, Tex.: Hilda United Methodist Church, 1987.

*Mason County Communities.* Mason, Tex.: Mason County Sesquicentennial Committee, 1986.  
Information on churches and camp meetings in Art (3-7), Hoersterville (12), Fly Gap (31), Hilda (50-51), Lower Willow Creek (86-87) and Pontotoc (171-73, 178-79).

*Mason County Historical Book.* Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission and Mason County Historical Society, 1976.

Information on St. Joseph's Catholic, First Christian, Episcopal, Hoersterville Methodist Episcopal, St. Paul Lutheran, Methodist and Spring Street Gospel Churches (334-39).

Mason County News, comp. and ed. *One Hundred Years of Christian Witness: A History of the First Baptist Church of Mason, Texas, 1872-1972.* Mason, Tex.: Mason County News, 1972.

*The Next 25 Years: Companion to "The Story of a Century."* Mason, Tex.: St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1997.

*150 Years of God's Grace: Hilda United Methodist Church Sesquicentennial, 1856-2006.* Mason, Tex.: Hilda United Methodist Church, 2006.

Polk, Stella Gipson. *Mason and Mason County: A History.* Revised edition, Burnet: Eakin Press, 1980.

Information on the First United Methodist, Catholic, Lutheran, First Christian, Church of Christ, Baptist, Art, Hilda and "later" churches (75-87).

Radetzky, F. W., comp. *A Century of German Methodism.* 1952.

*The Story of a Century.* Mason, Tex.: St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1972.

## COMMUNITIES

NOTE: See also the vertical files about specific communities in the archives room.

*Art Community Homecoming: 110th Anniversary.* No publisher. 1968.

Bierschwale, Margaret. *A History of Mason County, Texas Through 1964.* Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 1998.

Information on Art, Camp Air, Fredonia, Grit, Hedwig's Hill, Hilda, Katemcy, Koocksville, Loyal Valley, Pontotoc, Streeter and Wagram (103-12).

Byler, H.C., Jr. *Bluebonnets and Rattlesnakes: Historic Pontotoc, Texas: The Rebirth of a Ghost Town.* Brady, Tex.: Bluebird Publishing, 2013.

"Centennial Celebration 1958." *Mason County News*, June 19, 1958.

Articles on Streeter (sec. 1, p. 7), Grossville (sec. 2, p. 6), Pontotoc (sec. 2, p. 6), Fredonia (sec. 2, p. 6), Loyal Valley (sec. 2, p. 7), Art (sec. 2, p. 8), Koocksville (sec. 2, p. 12), Fly Gap (sec. 3, p. 3), Hilda (sec. 3, p. 3) and Katemcy (sec. 3, p. 5).



DeVos, Julius E. "Loyal Valley—A Vision." *The Edwards Plateau Historian*, 10 (1997-2001): 12-16.

Eilers, Kathryn Burford. "A History of Mason County, Texas." M.A. thesis, The University of Texas at Austin, 1939.

Information on Willow Creek, Simonsville/Grossville, Beaver Creek (50-52), Hedwig's Hill, Art, Hilda, Grossville, Kooockville [sic; Kooocksville], Loyal Valley, Pontotoc, Fredonia, Wagram, Katemcy, Peter's Prairie, Streeter and Grit (197-217).

Jordan, Gilbert J. *Yesterday in the Texas Hill Country*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1979.

Dr. Jordan's book contains a wealth of anecdotal information about growing up in the Art community in the early 1900s.

Lehmberg, Larry. "History of the Blue Mountain Community." In *Mason County Historical Book Supplement IV*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 2002.

*Mason County Communities*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Sesquicentennial Committee, 1986.

This book contains the most complete information on the rural communities, including anecdotes submitted by longtime residents and detailed information on particular buildings and houses.

*Mason County Historical Book*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission and Mason County Historical Society, 1976.

Articles on the Art, Fly Gap, Fredonia, Grit, Grossville, Hedwig's Hill, Hilda, Katemcy, Kooocksville, Long Mountain, Loyal Valley, Peter's Prairie, Pontotoc, Streeter and Wagram Communities (301-10).

Moneyhon, Della Hofmann. "Grit." In *Mason County Historical Book Supplement II*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 1994.

Polk, Stella Gipson. *Mason and Mason County: A History*. Revised edition, Burnet: Eakin Press, 1980.

Information on the Art, Fly Gap, Fredonia, Hedwig's Hill, Hilda, Katemcy, Long Mountain, Loyal Valley, Peters Prairie, Pontotoc, Wagram and Honey Creek Communities (123-36).

Schulze, R. Clinton. "San Fernando Academy, Pontotoc, Texas." *The Edwards Plateau Historian*, 10 (1997-2001): 8-11.

Waldon, Lewis. *A Dog Called Friday & Other True Tales from Pontotoc*. Austin: Woodburner Press, 1998.

Zesch, Kurt. "Early Pioneers Faced Many Hardships to Bring Civilization to Mason County." *Mason County News*, Feb. 23, 1939, p. 2.

A history of Simonsville/Grossville.

## ETHNIC GROUPS

NOTE: See also the vertical files in the archives room.

### A. AFRICAN-AMERICANS

DeVos, Julius E. *Mason County Schools*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 2012.

Information on the Negro School (134-35).

[Hoerster, Fran.] *Information on the Black Families of Mason County*.

This notebook includes census data, obituaries and cemetery information.

Hoerster, Fran. "Information on the Mason and Jackson Families of Mason County, Texas." *Mason County News*, Nov. 9, 2016.

Johnson, Dave. "Only Negro Duelist in Mason County War." In *Mason County Historical Book Supplement II*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 1994.

Mahon, Marilyn Splittgerber. "Mason-Jackson Black Families of Mason." Photostat.

Oral history of the Charlie Mason family as told by descendant Sandy Miller between 1994 and 2004. Part of this manuscript was published in the *Mason County News Fall Hunters' & Visitors' Supplement*, Nov. 2, 2016, pp. 10-12, 14, 31-32, 46, 48-49.

*Mason County Historical Book*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission and Mason County Historical Society, 1976.

Information on the Mason and Peters families (300-01).

Mason County Historical Commission. *Images of America: Mason County*. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2010.

The captions contain some information on members of the Charlie Mason family and on the Mason All Stars, a black baseball team.

Polk, Stella Gipson. *Mason and Mason County: A History*. Revised edition, Burnet: Eakin Press, 1980.

Information on the Mason and Peters families (136-37).

Schoenfeld, Judy Cravens. *Mason County Schools: Drawings, Photos, Histories, and Stories*. [Mason, Tex.]: privately published, [2016].

Contains a section on early African-American schools and childhood recollections of Sandy Mason Miller (193-203).

### B. GERMAN-AMERICANS

Biesele, Rudolph Leopold. *The History of the German Settlements in Texas, 1831—1861*. 1930; reprint, Austin: Eakin Press, 1987.

Boeck, Brian J. “‘They Contributed Very Much to the Success of Our Colony’: A New Source on Early Relations between Germans and Indians at Fredericksburg, Texas.” *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, 105 (July 2001): 81-91.

Bowman, Hazel Oatman Bowman. “Quaint Castell, Outpost of German Pioneers.” *San Antonio Express*, July 26, 1936, D1, D3.

Gelo, Daniel J. and Christopher J. Wickham. *Comanches and Germans on the Texas Frontier: The Ethnology of Heinrich Berghaus*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2018.

Geue, Chester William and Ethel Hander Geue. *A New Land Beckoned: German Immigration to Texas, 1844-1847*. Waco: Texian Press, 1966.

Includes indexed lists of 4,200 German immigrants and 75 immigrant ships.

Geue, Ethel Hander. *New Homes in a New Land: German Immigration to Texas, 1847-1861*. Waco: Texian Press, 1970.

Includes list of immigrants, 1847-1861.

Goyne, Minetta Altgelt. *Lone Star and Double Eagle: Civil War Letters of a German-Texas Family*. Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1982.

Hertzberg, H. T. Edward, trans. “A Letter from Friedrich Schenck in Texas to His Mother in Germany, 1847.” *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, 92 (July 1988): 145-65.

Hoerig, Karl A. “The Relationship between German Immigrants and the Native Peoples in Western Texas.” *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, 97 (Jan. 1994): 423-51.

Jordan, Gilbert J. *German Texana*. Burnet, Tex.: Eakin Press, 1980.

Jordan, Gilbert J. *Yesterday in the Texas Hill Country*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1979.

Jordan, Terry G. *German Seed in Texas Soil: Immigrant Farmers in Nineteenth-Century Texas*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1966.

Jordan, Terry G. and Marlis Anderson Jordan, eds. and trans. “Letters of a German Pioneer in Texas [Franz Kettner].” *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, 69 (Apr. 1966): 463-72.

Kettner, Charles A., ed. *Die Kettner Briefe: The Kettner Letters: A Firsthand Account of a German Immigrant in the Texas Hill Country (1850-1875)*. Wilmington, Del.: Comanche Creek Press, 2008.

Lich, Glen E. *The German Texans*. San Antonio: The University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures at San Antonio, 1981.

Reinhardt, Louis. "The Communistic Colony of Bettina." *Texas Historical Association Quarterly*, 3 (July 1899): 33-40.

Roemer, Ferdinand. *Texas, with Particular Reference to German Immigration and the Physical Appearance of the Country*. Oswald Mueller, trans. 1849; English ed., 1935; reprint, Austin: Eakin Press, 1983.

Tiling, Moritz. *History of the German Element in Texas from 1820—1850*. Houston: Moritz Tiling, 1913.

### C. MEXICAN-AMERICANS

Hunter, John Warren. "Old Amy, the Seminole Squaw." *Frontier Times*, 3 No. 8 (May 1926), 14-15.

Article on Amy Perryman, a laundress for Fort Mason and an ancestor of the Menchaca family.

Mason County Historical Commission. *Images of America: Mason County*. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2010.

The captions in this book contain some information on the Avalos, Castillo, Florez, Hernandez, Menchaca and Orozpe families. It is searchable by using Amazon.com's "Look Inside" feature or by using a Word file entitled "Arcadia Text" in the "Arcadia" folder on the Commission's computer in the archives room.

Moneyhon, Della Hofmann. "The Crosby Cemetery." In *Mason County Historical Book Supplement II*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 1994.

This article contains some information on the Benavides, Flores, Hernandez and Menchaca families.

Schoenfeld, Judy Cravens. *Mason County Schools: Drawings, Photos, Histories, and Stories*. [Mason, Tex.]: privately published, [2016].

Contains a section on the Mexican school and early Mexican-American history (207-09).

## FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS

### A. MAJOR SOURCES

*The Anthology of the Hoo Doo War: The Participants in the Mason County, Texas Cattle War, 1874-1877*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 2006.

Biographies of many people who lived in Mason County in the 1870s.

Bierschwale, Margaret. *A History of Mason County, Texas Through 1964*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 1998.

Mason County censuses for 1860 (527-49) and 1870 (563-81).

Capps, Joyce, comp. *Mason County Census for 1900*. No publisher, no date.

DeVos, Julius, comp. "Residents of Mason County—1858-1900." Typescript, M. Beven Eckert Memorial Library, Mason, Texas.

This underused resource, which is alphabetized and collected in 15 gray binders in the archives room, contains a wealth of information on individuals who lived in Mason County in the nineteenth century.

*Mason County Historical Book*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission and Mason County Historical Society, 1976.

This book is the starting point for researching individuals and families who lived in Mason County from 1846 through 1976. It contains an alphabetical collection of short family histories submitted by relatives and descendants. The latter section features informative essays on the county (294-300), black families (300-01), communities (301-10), the Blockhouse (310-11), Indian incidents (311), businesses (314-19), organizations (324-25), schools (325-31) and churches (334-39). It also contains many excellent photos.

*Mason County Historical Book Supplements*. 1986-2011.

To date, the Historical Commission has published five supplements to the book described above. They contain articles on the following individuals or families:

*Supplement I* (1986): George Freeman Hurley, James Wright Butler, Henry Julius Behrens, Conrad Pluenneke, Henry Marcus Holmes, Albert Lee McGehee, William James Bolt, Friedrich Albrecht Ellebracht, Jr., Ludewig (Louis) Martin and August Wilhelm Hofmann.

*Supplement II* (1994): Alf and Charlcie Blair Reeves, Hamilton and James Bidy, "Wild Bill" Hoerster, Fritz Thumm and Anna Henriette Mebus Martin.

*Supplement III* (1999): Robert and Mary (Hamby) Cavaness, John W. Light, Zack Light, Alfred McWilliams, Allie McWilliams Burton, Mary Barbara Fink Mueller, William W. Parker, John Warren Hunter, Whitmill M. Holland and Margaret Brotherton Bierschwale.

*Supplement IV* (2002): Adolph Bartruff Korn, Johanna Heinrich Gottfried Leifeste, Harry Bierschwale, the Hamiltons, Lee Gideon Smart, Kensing family, Titus James Buckbee, William Mogford, John Marvin Hunter and the Bogusch family.

*Supplement V* (2011): Allen Bolt, Harry Gartrell, Benjamin Gooch (Sr. & Jr.), William Greenwood, John and Clara (Sands) King, James Ranck, C. E. Reese, C. S. Vedder and Conrad Wissemann.

In addition to these family histories, the Supplements contain articles on other Mason topics and events, which are cited elsewhere in this Bibliography.

"Mason County Sesquicentennial" Supplement, *Mason County News*, July 9, 2008.

This supplement contains substantial biographies of the following individuals or families: the four Hofmann sisters (Gloria, Mary Maude, Jane and Della), the J.W. White family,

Thomas Orman Reardon, Vernon and Myrtle Hoerster Fritze, Sally Taylor, the Capps family, the Zesch family, and the Looney (O'Looney) family. It also includes shorter entries on other families.

Ponder, Jerry, comp. *Mason County's First Settlers, 1840-1900*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 1997.

Includes censuses of 1850 through 1900.

Rose, Peter R. and Elizabeth E. Sherry, eds. *The Hoo Doo War: Portraits of a Lawless Time*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 2003.

Detailed biographies of several people who lived in Mason County in the 1870s.

B. SUPPLEMENTARY SOURCES AND ARTICLES (including works on specific families and individuals)

NOTE: This list contains only a selection of the most frequently cited works about specific families and individuals. Researchers should consult the library catalog, as well as the locked case, the vertical files and the Commission's computer in the archives room, to determine what other family resources are available.

Bode, Matt. "Richard Grosse." *The Edwards Plateau Historian*, 7 (1978-1982): 26-28.

Bublik, Wanda McDougall, comp. *Germans with a Scottish Name: The Alexander McDougall & Johanna Rahe Family Story*. No publisher, no date; revised and expanded, 2018.

Capps, Joyce. *Family History of John A. Jones and Mahala Capps*. No publisher, no date.

Cox, Mike. *Fred Gipson: Texas Storyteller*. Austin: Shoal Creek Publishers, Inc., 1980.

Davenport, Grace Heyman. *The Forgotten*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County News, 1989.

Information on Sue Bridges, Jonathan Ranck, Marguerite Scott and John Calvin Butler.

DeVos, Julius. *The Eckert's Golden Opportunity*. Mason, Tex.: no publisher, 1977.

DeVos, Ruby E. and Julius E., comp. and ed. *Look unto the Hills: The Leifeste Family in the United States*. 1985.

DeVos, Julius E. "The Two R. A. Howards of Mason County." *The Edwards Plateau Historian*, 10 (1997-2001): 1-7.

Ellebracht, Pat. "A True Texas Legend: Anna Mebus Martin and The Commercial Bank." *Financial History: The Magazine of the Museum of American Financial History*, issue 61 (Winter 1998): 24-29, 33, 37.

Fuege, Robert Lamar. *The Life and Times of a German Methodist Circuit Rider on the Frontier of Texas: Conrad Pluenneke (1819-1897)*. Privately published, 2014.

Gamel, Thomas W. *The Life of Thomas W. Gamel*. Dave Johnson, ed. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Society, 1994; second edition, 2003.

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Grote, Mrs. Walton. "Fritz Adolph Grote Sr." *The Edwards Plateau Historian*, 8 (1983-1989): 57-69.

Hoerster, Fran. *The Girl Who Loved to Dance: The Story of Mina James of Gillespie, Mason and Menard Counties, 1864—1949*. [Mason, Tex.:] privately published, 2018.

Hoerster, Fran. "Land, Cattle, and Dreams: The Crosbys, Wheelers and Affiliated Families of Mason County, Texas." In *Mason County Historical Book Supplement V*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 2011.

Hoke, Ethel M. Bridges. *Bridges Family: Some Descendants of Joseph Bridges and His Wife, Mrs. Mary Dillon*. Manuscript, 1983.

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Jordan, Terry G. and Marlis Anderson Jordan, eds. and trans. "Letters of a German Pioneer in Texas [Franz Kettner]." *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, 69 (Apr. 1966): 463-72.

Kettner, Charles A., ed. *Die Kettner Briefe: The Kettner Letters: A Firsthand Account of a German Immigrant in the Texas Hill Country (1850-1875)*. Wilmington, Del.: Comanche Creek Press, 2008.

King, Irene Marschall. "John O. Meusebach: Frontier Naturalist." *The Edwards Plateau Historian*, 3-4 (1967-1968): 5-11.

King, Irene Marschall. *John O. Meusebach: German Colonizer in Texas*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1967.

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Two volumes. Vol. 1: Family Histories; Vol. 2: Genealogy.

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Paddock, Buckley B. *A History of Central and Western Texas*. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1911.

Biographies of Ben Hey, Wilson Hey, Fritz Hoerster, Jacob Schuessler, John Lemburg Sr., Will Ellebracht, Max Martin, John Gamel, J. J. White and David Doole Sr. and Jr.  
Full text available online:

[http://archive.org/stream/historyofcentral01padd/historyofcentral01padd\\_djvu.txt](http://archive.org/stream/historyofcentral01padd/historyofcentral01padd_djvu.txt)

Polk, Stella Gipson. *Someone Like You: Ranch Life in the Texas Hill Country*. Burnet: Eakin Press, 1981.

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Family of Frederick J. G. Schmidt and Katherine Simon Schmidt.

Wilbert, Hulda C. *Kernels of Korn: The Historical Events of a Pioneer Family*. Burnet, Tex.: Nortex Press, 1982.

Williams, John. "Lost Gold in Mason." *Lower Colorado River Review*, Fourth Quarter 1978, 29-31.

## FORT MASON

### A. MAJOR SOURCES

Bierschwale, Margaret. *A History of Mason County, Texas Through 1964*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 1998.

Part Two of Bierschwale's volume is devoted to "Fort Mason History."

Ponder, Jerry. *Fort Mason, Texas: Training Ground for Generals*. Mason, Tex.: Ponder Books, 1997.

### B. SUPPLEMENTARY SOURCES AND ARTICLES

Bierschwale, Margaret. *Fort Mason, Texas*. Kerrville: Herring Printing, 1968.

Chapter 5 from Bierschwale's "Mason County History."

Daniel, Don O. "Hood's Devil River Scout Revisited: A Modern Day Staff Ride." *The Edwards Plateau Historian*, 10 (1997-2001): 17-20.



DeVos, Julius E. "Some Fort Mason Personnel." In *Mason County Historical Book Supplement II*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 1994.

Eilers, Kathryn Burford. "A History of Mason County, Texas." M.A. thesis, The University of Texas at Austin, 1939: 28-45, 63-67.

*Frontier Forts of Texas*. Waco: Texian Press, 1966.

Hunter, John Warren. "Old Amy, the Seminole Squaw." *Frontier Times*, 3 No. 8 (May 1926), 14-15.

Article on Amy Perryman, a laundress for Fort Mason and an ancestor of the Menchaca family.

Kenner, Charles. "Guardians in Blue: The United States Cavalry and the Growth of the Texas Range Cattle Industry." *Journal of the West*, 34 (Jan. 1995): 46-53.

Lee, Fitzhugh. *General Lee*. New York: D. Appleton Co., 1894.

Contains some letters that Robert E. Lee wrote from Fort Mason.

McConnell, Joseph Carroll. *The West Texas Frontier, or a Descriptive History of Early Times in Western Texas*. 2 Vols. Palo Pinto, Tex.: Texas Legal Bank and Book Co., 1939.

Polk, Stella Gipson. *Mason and Mason County: A History*. Revised edition, Burnet: Eakin Press, 1980.

Ponder, Jerry. "Fort Mason, Texas." *The Edwards Plateau Historian*, 11 (2001-2004): 91-95.

Roland, Charles P. and Richard C. Robbins, eds. "The Diary of Eliza Johnston." *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, 60 (Apr. 1957): 463-500.

Simpson, Harold B. "Fort Mason: 1851-1861." *The Edwards Plateau Historian*, 3-4 (1967-1968): 43-53.

Zesch, Kurt. *Krazy Kurt's Kolumn and Kurt's Krazy Kolumn*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Society, 2007.

This collection of newspaper columns chronicles the reconstruction of the officers' quarters at Fort Mason in 1975.

## GOVERNMENT (COUNTY AND CITY)

Bierschwale, Margaret. *A History of Mason County, Texas Through 1964*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 1998.

Discussion of the formation of Mason County (98-103). Also includes information on the courthouse (148-49), fire department, library and hospitals (155-58).

“Centennial Celebration 1958.” *Mason County News*, June 19, 1958.

Articles on the formation of the county (sec. 2, pp. 1-2), local option elections (sec. 2, p. 4), hospitals (sec. 2, p. 4), county officials (sec. 2, p. 5), jail (sec. 2, p. 9), hog election (sec. 2, p. 10), incorporation of the city in 1945 (sec. 3, p. 4), and drought relief (sec. 3, p. 4).

Eilers, Kathryn Burford. “A History of Mason County, Texas.” M.A. thesis, The University of Texas at Austin, 1939.

The Eilers thesis contains the most comprehensive information on matters pertaining to county government, starting with the formation of the county in 1858 (45-49). Chapters III and IV cover developments from 1877 through 1939 such as the construction of the courthouses and jails, county ordinances, roads and bridges, taxes, salaries, assessments, elections, efforts to obtain a railroad, the county board of health, prohibition, county agent, home demonstration agent, war measures, relief measures, the fair association, and rural electrification (81-156). It also contains a list of county officers, 1858-1938 (243-59).

*Mason County Commissioners Court Minutes.*

Although Mason County was established in 1858, these records in the county clerk’s office only go back to 1877. The earlier minutes were lost in the courthouse fire of January 21, 1877.

Polk, Stella Gipson. *Mason and Mason County: A History*. Revised edition, Burnet: Eakin Press, 1980.

Contains limited information on the formation of the county (19-20) and the incorporation of the city (151), plus a list from the Eilers thesis of county officers, 1858-1938 (166-84).

## HOO DOO WAR

### A. MAJOR SOURCES

Gamel, Thomas W. *The Life of Thomas W. Gamel*. Dave Johnson, ed. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Society, 1994; second edition, 2003.

Holmes, Lucia. *The Lucia Holmes Diary, 1875-1876: The Hoo Doo War Years*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 1985.

Perhaps the most significant contemporaneous record of the feud.

Johnson, David. *The Mason County “Hoo Doo” War, 1874-1902*. Denton: University of North Texas Press, 2006.

While some historians may be reluctant to use the word “definitive,” Johnson’s study, the product of more than two decades of research on primary sources and careful analysis, is by far the most comprehensive and thoroughly documented account of the feud.

Sonnichsen, C. L. *Ten Texas Feuds*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1957.  
Sonnichsen interviewed some of Mason's oldest residents in the summer of 1944 for his gripping chapter on the feud, which, until the release of Johnson's book, was the most complete published account.

## B. SUPPLEMENTARY SOURCES AND ARTICLES

*The Anthology of the Hoo Doo War: The Participants in the Mason County, Texas Cattle War, 1874-1877*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 2006.

Brief biographies of the people involved.

Bierschwale, Margaret. *A History of Mason County, Texas Through 1964*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 1998.

Browning, James A. and Dave Johnson. "A Feudist by Any Other Name." In *Mason County Historical Book Supplement III*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 1999.

DeVos, Julius E. "The Mason County or Hoodoo War." In *Mason County Historical Book Supplement III*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 1999.

DeVos, Julius E. "Mason County's Unsettled Years 1860-1880." *The Edwards Plateau Historian*, 7 (1978-1982): 18-25.

Eilers, Kathryn Burford. "A History of Mason County, Texas." M.A. thesis, The University of Texas at Austin, 1939: 71-80.

Gillett, James B. *Six Years with the Texas Rangers, 1875 to 1881*. 1921; reprint, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1976.

Hadeler, Glenn. "Terror in the Hills: The Mason County 'Hoo Doo' War." In *Mason County Historical Book Supplement IV*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 2002.

Hatley, Allen G. "The Mason County War: Top Texas Feud." *Wild West*, Aug. 2005, 24-30.

Hunter, J. Marvin. "The Hoo-Doo War in Mason County." *Frontier Times*, 14 (Jan. 1938): 171-75.

Johnson, David. "Alias Joe Hill." In *Revenge! And Other True Tales of the Old West*, edited by Sharon Cunningham and Mark Boardman, 115-29. Lafayette, Ind.: ScarletMask, 2004.

Johnson, Dave. "Daniel Hoerster and the 'Mason County War.'" In *Mason County Historical Book Supplement I*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 1986.

Johnson, Dave. "The Doell Killing: Feudal Vengeance or Private Murder?" In *Mason County Historical Book Supplement II*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 1994.

Johnson, Dave. "G. W. Gladden: Hard Luck Warrior." *NOLA Quarterly*, 15 no. 3 (July-Sept. 1991): 1, 3-6.

Johnson, Dave. "Only Negro Duelist in Mason County War." In *Mason County Historical Book Supplement II*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 1994.

Johnson, Dave. "Revenge in Mason County, Texas." *NOLA Quarterly*, 10 no. 1 (Summer 1985): 7-8, 12.

Johnson, David. *John Ringo: King of the Cowboys*. Denton: University of North Texas Press, 2008.

Polk, Stella Gipson. *Mason and Mason County: A History*. Revised edition, Burnet: Eakin Press, 1980.

Polk, candidly admitting that she was "too close to this war," wrote: "I know too much, and yet, I must tell too little" (62). Her account consists entirely of excerpts from other sources.

Ponder, Jerry. *A Tour of Sites Significant to the Mason County or Hoo Doo War*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 2003.

Roberts, Dan W. *Rangers and Sovereignty*. 1914; reprint, Austin: State House Press, 1987.

The 1987 reprint also includes Mrs. Dan W. Roberts' "A Woman's Reminiscences of Six Years in Camp with the Texas Rangers" (1928), which contains Hoo Doo War stories.

Rose, Peter R. *Essays on the Mason County War (Hoo-Doo War) 1874-1876*. No publisher, no date.

Rose, Peter R. and Elizabeth E. Sherry, eds. *The Hoo Doo War: Portraits of a Lawless Time*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 2003.

Essays and full biographies of the major figures.

## INDIANS

### A. MAJOR SOURCES

Gamel, Thomas W. *The Life of Thomas W. Gamel*. Dave Johnson, ed. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Society, 1994; second edition, 2003.

Greene, A. C. *The Last Captive*. Austin: The Encino Press, 1972.

A synthesis of Herman Lehmann's two memoirs.

*Indian Depredations Claims, Federal Court of Claims*. Record Group 123, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

In the late 1800s, many Mason County residents filed federal claims for losses caused by Indian raids. Their informative depositions and affidavits have been preserved by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in Record Group 123, which has not been microfilmed and can only be viewed at NARA's headquarters in Washington, D.C. Alternatively, NARA's archivists can consult an alphabetized index to determine whether a particular individual filed a claim and, if so, have the entire case file copied on request. (Scott's note: The last time I used this resource, the archivist in charge was George Briscoe.) The Mason County Clerk's office also houses a few documents related to Indian depredations claims.

Jones, Jonathan H. *A Condensed History of the Apache and Comanche Indian Tribes* [*Indianology*]. 1899; reprint, New York: Garland Publishing, Inc., 1976.  
Herman Lehmann's first memoir.

Kavanagh, Thomas W. *The Comanches: A History, 1706—1875*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1996.

While there are many available sources on the Comanches, Kavanagh's study contains the most detailed information on the southern division known as the Penatekas, who hunted in present-day Mason County in the 1840s and made a peace agreement with the German immigrants in 1847.

Lehmann, Herman. *Nine Years Among the Indians, 1870—1879*. J. Marvin Hunter, ed. 1927; reprint, Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1993.  
Herman Lehmann's second memoir.

Winfrey, Dorman H., and James M. Day, eds. *The Indian Papers of Texas and the Southwest, 1825—1916*. 5 Vols. Austin: The Pemberton Press, 1966.  
An often overlooked primary source on Indian activities statewide, including Mason.

Zesch, Scott. *The Captured: A True Story of Abduction by Indians on the Texas Frontier*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2004.

## B. SUPPLEMENTARY SOURCES AND ARTICLES

Banta, S. E. *Buckelew, the Indian Captive*. Mason, Tex.: The Mason Herald, 1911.

Bierschwale, Margaret. *A History of Mason County, Texas Through 1964*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 1998.

Donop, Mary. "Two Mason County Sheriffs Murdered." *The Edwards Plateau Historian*, 7 (1978-1982): 29-41.

Eilers, Kathryn Burford. "A History of Mason County, Texas." M.A. thesis, The University of Texas at Austin, 1939: 67-71.

Fisher, O. C. *It Occurred in Kimble*. 1937; reprint, San Angelo: The Talley Press, 1984.

- Includes information on Alice Todd's capture and the search for her (132-33).
- Gelo, Daniel J. and Christopher J. Wickham. *Comanches and Germans on the Texas Frontier: The Ethnology of Heinrich Berghaus*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2018.
- Gelo, Daniel J. and Wayne J. Pate. *Texas Indian Trails*. Dallas: Republic of Texas Press, 2003.
- Gillett, James B. *Six Years with the Texas Rangers, 1875 to 1881*. 1921; reprint, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1976.
- Hoerig, Karl A. "The Relationship between German Immigrants and the Native Peoples in Western Texas." *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, 97 (Jan. 1994): 423-51.
- Hunter, John Warren. "Nine Years with the Apaches and Comanches." *Frontier Times*, 31 (July, Aug., Sept. 1954): 251-77.
- Luther, Joseph. *Fort Martin Scott: Guardian of the Treaty*. Charleston: The History Press, 2013.  
Includes information on relations between the Penateka Comanches and the earliest settlers in the northern Hill Country.
- Mason County Historical Book*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission and Mason County Historical Society, 1976.  
Information on the Kensing and Todd Mountain incidents (311).
- McConnell, Joseph Carroll. *The West Texas Frontier, or a Descriptive History of Early Times in Western Texas*. 2 Vols. Palo Pinto, Tex.: Texas Legal Bank and Book Co., 1939.
- Meusebach, John O. *Answer to Interrogatories in Case No. 396, Mary C. Paschal et al., vs. Theodore Evans, District Court of McCulloch County, Texas* (1894; reprint, Austin: Pemberton Press, 1964).  
The only account Meusebach gave of his peace council with the Comanches in 1847.
- Penniger, Robert. *Fredericksburg, Texas: The First Fifty Years*. Charles L. Wisseman Sr., trans. 1896; English ed., Fredericksburg: Fredericksburg Publishing Co., Inc., 1971.  
Includes some events relevant to Mason County, such as the German expedition and Comanche peace council of 1847 (37-45) and the murder of the Kensing (76-77).
- Roberts, Dan W. *Rangers and Sovereignty*. 1914; reprint, Austin: State House Press, 1987.
- Wilbarger, J. W. *Indian Depredations in Texas*. 1889; reprint, Austin: Eakin Press, 1985.
- Zesch, Scott. "The Search for Alice Todd." *Journal of the West*, 44 (Spring 2005): 73-80.
- Zesch, Scott. "The Two Captivities of Adolph Korn." *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, 104 (Apr. 2001): 515-40.

## MAPS AND ROADS

Bierschwale, Margaret. *A History of Mason County, Texas Through 1964*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 1998.

Maps of Mason County 1859 (263), Fort Mason (264) and Mason County Mineral Section 1890 (265).

Eilers, Kathryn Burford. "A History of Mason County, Texas." M.A. thesis, The University of Texas at Austin, 1939.

Information on early road precincts (87-89) and the later development of the principal highways (126-30).

Grinstead, J. E. "Mason County, Texas." *Grinstead's Graphic* (Aug. 1923).

This article contains some information on the major highways in the county in the early 1920s (8-9, 11, 13, 25).

Hoerster, Fran. "Stagecoach Travel to and from Fort McKavett: Riding with Lucia Homes of Mason, Texas (1875 and 1876)." *The Edwards Plateau Historian*, 13 (2008-2010): 95-109.

Johnson, David. *The Mason County "Hoo Doo" War, 1874-1902*. Denton: University of North Texas Press, 2006.

Map of the town of Mason in 1874-76 (photo section).

*Mason County Commissioners Court Minutes.*

These records in the county clerk's office contain information on the establishment, routes, route changes and closure of county and neighborhood roads from 1877 to the present. They also contain the early county roadwork assignments, which were made in February of each year. Consult the entry "Roads" in the index to the minutes.

*Mason County Road Minutes.*

These five volumes in the county clerk's office cover the period 1886 through 1935. They contain more detailed information on specific county roads than the commissioners court minutes.

Polk, Stella Gipson. *Mason and Mason County: A History*. Revised edition, Burnet: Eakin Press, 1980.

Map of the town of Mason in 1873 (ix), Mason County cemeteries (186).

Rose, Peter R. and Elizabeth E. Sherry, eds. *The Hoo Doo War: Portraits of a Lawless Time*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 2003.

Map of the town of Mason in 1874-76 (3).

*Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.*

Sanborn maps of American cities were created to estimate fire insurance risks. They helped insurance companies determine the replacement costs of specific facilities. They

provided a great amount of detail on the locations and functions of particular buildings and the construction materials used. Sanborn mapped the town of Mason in January 1936, and the digitalized images are available at <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/sanborn/m.html>.

*Texas General Land Office.*

The Archive Map Store (<http://www.glo.texas.gov/history/archives/map-store/#search>) features historical maps (mostly land survey maps) for online viewing or purchase. The General Highway Map of 1940 (Map #79186) is the oldest map showing the major roads in the county. The General Highway Map of 1961 (Map #79584) is the earliest map showing all the county roads.

*U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service Aerial Photos.*

The earliest aerial photos of Mason County were taken in 1939-40. Prints are available for viewing at the local Farm Services Agency office, which has a grid for locating specific areas. The print collection at the Mason office is incomplete. Other aerial photos of Mason County were taken by the U.S.D.A. in 1948, 1955, 1963, 1971, 1983 and 1995. Digitalized individual photos of specific areas are also available for purchase through two federal agencies. The National Archives and Records Administration in Maryland has photos prior to 1955 in Record Group 145 (<http://www.archives.gov/research/order/maps.html>), and the Farm Services Agency in Utah has photos from 1955 and afterward ([www.apfo.usda.gov](http://www.apfo.usda.gov)).

*U.S.G.S. Historical Topographic Maps.*

These maps may be downloaded at <http://viewer.nationalmap.gov/basic>.

## NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Bierschwale, Margaret. *A History of Mason County, Texas Through 1964*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 1998: 17-27.

Includes a chapter on the land and the landscape.

Eilers, Kathryn Burford. "A History of Mason County, Texas." M.A. thesis, The University of Texas at Austin, 1939.

Information on Mason's location, surface, streams, soils, geology, climate, rainfall, plant life, animal life, fishes, birds, snakes and insects (1-24).

Hertzberg, H. T. Edward, trans. "A Letter from Friedrich Schenck in Texas to His Mother in Germany, 1847." *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, 92 (July 1988): 145-65.

A vivid description of the Llano River as it appeared in 1847.

Hillis, David M. *Armadillos to Ziziphus: A Naturalist in the Texas Hill Country*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2023.



Jordan, Terry G. and Marlis Anderson Jordan, eds. and trans. "Letters of a German Pioneer in Texas [Franz Kettner]." *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, 69 (Apr. 1966): 463-72.  
A description of the area around Castell in 1853.

King, Irene Marschall. "John O. Meusebach: Frontier Naturalist." *The Edwards Plateau Historian*, 3-4 (1967-1968): 5-11.

Polk, Stella Gipson. *Mason and Mason County: A History*. Revised edition, Burnet: Eakin Press, 1980: 143-48.  
Includes a chapter on wildflowers.

Roemer, Ferdinand. *Texas, with Particular Reference to German Immigration and the Physical Appearance of the Country*. Oswald Mueller, trans. 1849; English ed., 1935; reprint, Austin: Eakin Press, 1983.  
A naturalist's detailed description of the Mason area as it appeared in 1847.

## ORGANIZATIONS

NOTE: See also the vertical files and locked case in the archives room.

Bierschwale, Margaret. *A History of Mason County, Texas Through 1964*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 1998.

Information on the Masonic Lodge, Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, gun clubs, Men's Athletic Club, singfest, Women's Literary Club, Etude Club, Mason Garden Club, Pedal Pushers Garden Club, Mason Study Club, Riata Literary Club, PTA, band, Mason Historical Society, 4-H Clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Peters Prairie Quilting Club, Home Demonstration Club, Sewing Club and "other" clubs (210-28). Also includes information on the fire department, library, hospitals, nursing homes, funeral homes and PTA (155-60).

"Centennial Celebration 1958." *Mason County News*, June 19, 1958.

Articles on the Soil Conservation District (sec. 1, p. 5) and hospitals (sec. 2, p. 4).

Eilers, Kathryn Burford. "A History of Mason County, Texas." M.A. thesis, The University of Texas at Austin, 1939.

Information on Mason County Fair Association (155), the Mason Sacred Fund, Sons of Hermann Lodge, IOOF, Woodmen of the World, Macabees, Masonic Lodge (182-86), fire department (187-89), bands (189-90), Business Men's Club, Chamber of Commerce and Junior Chamber of Commerce (193-97).

"Mason Has a Most Active Chamber of Commerce." *Mason County News*, May 23, 1929, Special Hotel Booster Edition, Sec. One, 3.

*Mason County Historical Book*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission and Mason County Historical Society, 1976.

Information on the American Legion and Masonic Lodge (324-25).

Polk, Stella Gipson. *Mason and Mason County: A History*. Revised edition, Burnet: Eakin Press, 1980.

Information on the Masonic Lodge and American Legion (139-41, 185).

Tippette, Giles. "Tennis Is Home on the Range." *Sports Illustrated*, Nov. 22, 1976, 52-54, 56, 59-60.

Discusses the origins of the Mason Tennis Association.

## PHOTOGRAPHS

"Centennial Celebration 1958." *Mason County News*, June 19, 1958.

The photo captions in the centennial edition contain some information that is not available elsewhere.

*Mason County Historical Book*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission and Mason County Historical Society, 1976.

Contains many excellent photos that were loaned by families for this book and are not in the Historical Commission's collection. Given the high quality of the reproductions in the book, the Commission was able to successfully scan a few of them for the Arcadia book cited below.

Mason County Historical Commission. *Images of America: Mason County*. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2010.

The captions contain some information on twentieth-century Mason businesses, organizations and residents that does not appear elsewhere. NOTE: In compiling this book, the Historical Commission scanned 704 photos, which are available in digital format on the computer in the archives room. The folder is titled "Arcadia," and the Word file with the information on the photos is titled "MCHC Photo Book." The photos were scanned at a very high resolution, so they can be greatly enlarged for study.

*Mason County Historical Commission Photograph Collection*.

Twelve red binders of prints in the archives room. There are also photographs in some vertical files.

*Mason County Historical Museum Photograph Collection*.

The museum in the Historical Building houses a good collection of original prints, some of which were scanned for the Arcadia book cited above.

## POST OFFICES

"Centennial Celebration 1958." *Mason County News*, June 19, 1958, sec. 2, p. 3.

DeVos, Julius E. *Mail's Up! The Mason County Post Offices*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 2008.

*Mason County Communities*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Sesquicentennial Committee, 1986.  
Information on post offices in Art (2), Fredonia (20), Hilda (52-53) and Pontotoc (173).

Polk, Stella Gipson. *Mason and Mason County: A History*. Revised edition, Burnet: Eakin Press, 1980.

## RANCHING AND FARMING

Banta, Eugene Mardell. *20 Years a Buckaroo*. Mason, Tex.: privately published, 2007.

Bierschwale, Margaret. *A History of Mason County, Texas Through 1964*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 1998.

In addition to general information on ranching, there are specific histories of the Block House, Jeffers, Mill Creek and Premier Ranches (202-06). Also lists Mason County brands (586-91).

“Centennial Celebration 1958.” *Mason County News*, June 19, 1958.

Articles on the establishment of the Soil Conservation District (sec. 1, p. 5) and the cattle industry (sec. 1, p. 6).

Davenport, Grace Heyman. “Fences in Mason County.” *The Edwards Plateau Historian*, 8 (1983-1989): 77-79.

DeVos, Julius E. “The Cattle Industry—Mason County Style.” In *Mason County Historical Book Supplement II*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 1994.

Eilers, Kathryn Burford. “A History of Mason County, Texas.” M.A. thesis, The University of Texas at Austin, 1939.

Information on the cattle business (108-14) and farming and ranching (143-53).

Hoerster, Fran. “Land, Cattle, and Dreams: The Crosbys, Wheelers and Affiliated Families of Mason County, Texas.” In *Mason County Historical Book Supplement V*. Mason, Tex.: Mason County Historical Commission, 2011.

Polk, Stella Gipson. “Cowboys from Voca.” *Old West*, June 1971, 28-31.

Polk, Stella Gipson. *Mason and Mason County: A History*. Revised edition, Burnet: Eakin Press, 1980.

Includes a chapter on the cattle drives (39-47) and information on ranchers Anna Martin, George Freeman Hurley, Allen Thomas Murray, John W. Gamel, John J. White, Elgin Otto Kothmann, William Geistweidt and Hugo O. Schulze (48-61). Appendix D lists the brands of Mason County pioneers (193-95).

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