

LOST WORLDS

HISTORIC IMAGES FROM FORT HOOD LANDS



Photograph No. 33-SC-15754C, National Archives and Records Administration

They all had names, even though most of them have disappeared from the map. Perhaps this should begin with calling out the names.

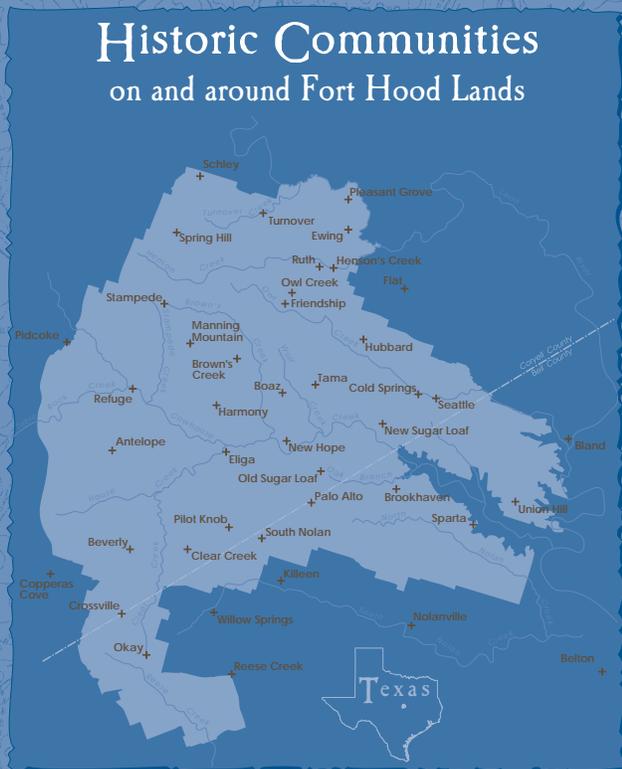
The lost settlements that became part of Fort Hood include Antelope, Beverly, Bland, Boaz, Brookhaven, Brown's Creek, Clear Creek, Cold Springs, Crossville, Eliga, Ewing, Friendship, Harmony, Henson's Creek, Hubbard, Manning Mountain, New Hope, New Sugar Loaf, Okay, Old Sugar Loaf, Owl Creek, Palo Alto, Pidcoke, Pilot Knob, Pleasant Grove, Reese Creek, Refuge, Ruth, Schley, Seattle, South Nolan, Sparta, Spring Hill, Stampede, Tama, Turnover, Union Hill, and Willow Springs.

Each of these lost settlements was once a unique rural community in which generations of Texans lived and died. Although most of these settlements have long since disappeared from the map, each one deserves to be remembered. As windows into time, these photographs offer fleeting glimpses into the lost worlds of the Fort Hood settlements.

LOST WORLDS

THE FORT HOOD ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Historic Communities on and around Fort Hood Lands



More than 40 small rural communities once existed on the 339 square miles of land that now make up Fort Hood. Many of these communities began in the 1850s; some lasted only a few years, but others lived on for nearly a century. Most of the communities ceased to exist rather suddenly in 1942 and 1943 as the government acquired the lands for Camp Hood after the United States entered World War II. More communities disappeared as additional lands were purchased to expand Fort Hood in the 1950s. The U.S. Army conceived of the Fort Hood Oral History Project as a means of capturing memories and images of those bygone days to save them for future generations. The project was sponsored by the Fort Hood Cultural Resources Management Program, Environmental Division, Department of Public Works. Under contract with the army from 1995 to 2002, historians from Prewitt and Associates, Inc., of Austin, Texas, attended various family and community reunions, photocopied more than 1,000 historic photographs from private collections, and conducted more than 100 hours of audiotaped and videotaped oral history interviews with former residents. The full collection of historic images, oral history tapes and transcriptions, and videotaped interviews are available at the Texas Collection, Baylor University and at the Cultural Resource Management Office on Fort Hood.

In addition to this photographic exhibit, the full transcriptions of all of the audiotaped interviews are published separately, and a popular book is being published through the University of Texas Press.

This exhibit is dedicated to those who lived on the Fort Hood lands before the U.S. Army came.

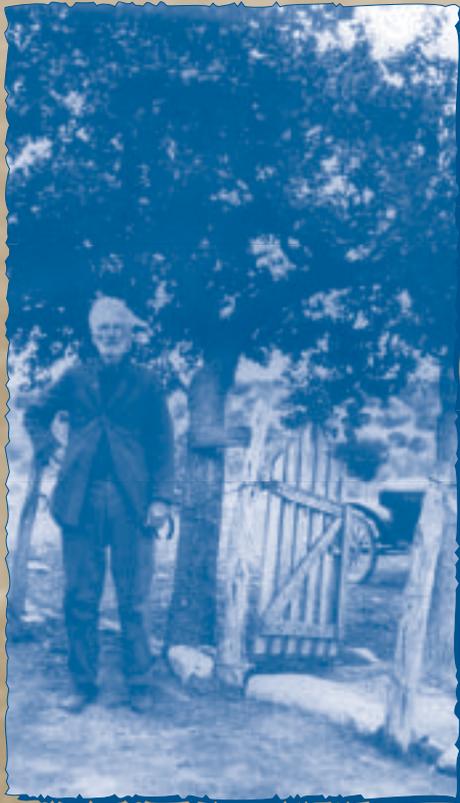


Special thanks go to those people who provided photographs used in this exhibit:

Roma Scott Bates
Melba Goodwin Bennett
Frank Aubrey Black
Don K. Blanchard and Nathan Cooper
Grace Irene Bratton
Martha P. Brewer
Zell Kinsey Copeland
Josie Amelia Kinsey Cummings
John Gail Edwards
Wilma Earl Colvin Edwards
Onella Williamson Griffin

Tommie L. Shults Haferkamp
Doris Nichols
Jean Odom
Mark Gray Philliber
William Ake Powell
Billie Smith Reavis
Jack Rehm and Jim Cazares
Letha Sheldon
Margaret Ann Brown Smith
Nelda Blackwell Teakell
Naoma Bell Worthington Williams

PIONEER LIFE



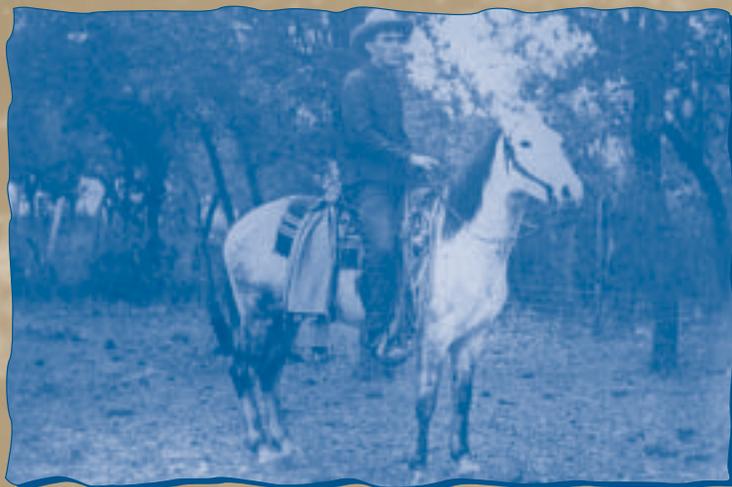
Courtesy of Nelda Blackwell Teakell

Amos Blackwell of the Eliga community poses near a gate counterweighted with worn-out horseshoes sometime around World War I. A farmer and sheep rancher, Blackwell was born in Rusk County in 1841 and died in the Fort Hood area in 1926. Some pioneers, like Blackwell, wore their nineteenth-century-style chin whiskers to the end, and not all of his horse-and-mule generation learned to operate automobiles, such as the Model T Ford visible inside the open gate.

A pioneer economy of herding and subsistence farming dominated the area in Blackwell's youth before the coming of the railroads during the 1880s. After their arrival, cotton became king, and the area became more southern than western in economy and culture. However, when the sons of Jimmie and Jane Powell rode into town to pose for the photographer sometime before 1900, they did not choose to present themselves as dirt farmers or town dudes, but as well-armed cowboys. Likewise, in 1906 young Frank "Noog" Black had himself photographed in full cowman tack on a good horse.



Courtesy of William Ake Powell and Mary Lou "Honey" Powell



Courtesy of Frank Aubrey Black

RURAL HOMES



Courtesy of Nelda Blackwell Teakell

Joel and Sarah Blackwell's original home was at Blackwell Mountain in 1906. Like other pioneer families, the Blackwells left their names on the landscape. The Blackwells' home was a log cabin with a central dog-run and an added board-and-batten kitchen, complete with iron cook stove. Originally, the stone fireplace would have been both oven and stove top. Only the lightning rod on the roof suggests the arrival of twentieth-century technology.

This well-built farmhouse at the Tama community, around 1900, belonged to John Taylor and Carrie Belle Maddux Brashear. Although such homes might end up in the hands of rent farmers over time, landowners normally built for their own use. Like so many others, the Brashear's home shows several



Courtesy of Wilma Earl Colvin Edwards

adaptations to the hot Texas climate, including a partially detached kitchen to the right, tall windows, and a deep three-sided porch. During summer, people spent much of the little leisure time they had and often slept on shaded, wind-cooled porches. Picket fences were functional, as they kept domestic animals like dogs and chickens at a yard's distance from the house. The roof shows that the lightning rod peddler also passed through Tama.

Milton Graham and his second wife, Clara, stand outside their first home. The planted vines shaded the narrow porch on this roughly constructed, board-and-batten farmhouse. Board-and-batten construction featured vertical one-by-twelve boards with two-inch batten boards nailed over the gaps. Board-and-batten was an inexpensive mode of construction often used for farmhouses built for cotton tenants "on thirds and fourths." Such families furnished their own work stock and equipment and paid landlords with one third of their corn and one fourth of their cotton.



Courtesy of Doris Nichols

CITY LIFE



Courtesy of Mark Gray Philliber

The Hotel Simpson, in Copperas Cove, is featured on the back of a postcard sent to Mrs. W. P. Gray in 1908. The “electric light towns,” as one countryman termed them, of Copperas Cove, Belton, Killeen, and Gatesville served the isolated settlements that preceded Fort Hood. Despite their dirt streets, rural people regarded such places as fascinating centers of twentieth-century innovation and amusement.

AT-HOME PORTRAITS

Christy "Chris" Gentry and Katherine Brashear, their seven children, and Katherine's mother-in-law pose for a visiting town photographer in 1884. As was the custom, the empty chair to the right memorializes a deceased relative, and the family's most prized possession, a parlor foot organ, has been laboriously brought outside to join them in the formal photograph. The house was near the New Hope Baptist Church, where Mr. Brashear pastored for many years. During the era before snapshot cameras, professional photographers from nearby market towns often hauled cumbersome cameras to remote farms and rural schools for portraits of farm families and graduating classes.



Courtesy of Wilma Earl Colvin Edwards

PRIZED POSSESSIONS



Courtesy of Wilma Earl Colvin Edwards

After the visiting photographer had taken pictures of a family standing in front of their home, they often asked him to photograph fine work teams, horse and buggies, early automobiles, and other possessions of which they were most proud. Here, after a formal portrait at their door, the John Taylor Brashear family (with son driving) immortalizes their fine horse and covered buggy with leather seat. This buggy closely resembles the most expensive buggy offered in the Sears and Roebuck catalog of 1897. This elite buggy is outfitted with a shade canopy but could also be completely enclosed with a separate cover to protect its occupants during the coldest and wettest weather.

STUDIO PORTRAITS



Courtesy of Jean Robertson Odom

Country people made appointments with town photographers, dressed in their finest clothes, and traveled to Gatesville, Killeen, Belton, and Copperas Cove for formal portraits at the photographers' studios. The impassive—even doleful—facial expressions in such photographs were partly formal and traditional, partly a response to the photographer's customary order to "relax your face." Smiles tended to blur over the long exposure times required by late-nineteenth-century cameras. In these four fine examples of studio portraits are the William and Lila Maude Carter family, photographed at White's Studio in Killeen in 1905; Leila "Dutch" Louer, reclined pensively on a wicker chair; apprehensive young Barney Colvin, standing barefooted; and a dapper Frank Smith, who managed a half smile and posed for the camera in his fine suit with vest chains, pocket watch, leather gloves, cigar, and cigar trimmer.



Courtesy of Wilma Earl Colvin Edwards



Courtesy of Wilma Earl Colvin Edwards



Courtesy of John Gail Edwards



EVERYDAY LIFE

As inexpensive Kodak and Brownie snapshot cameras became available to amateur photographers, images of daily life become much more common in the photographic record. Here, young Thomas Adolph Gray feeds assorted barnyard fowl on his family's farm south of Eliga. Besides the money crops of cotton and livestock, family farms were complicated subsistence operations, requiring many daily chores. Children's chores often involved feeding field corn to chickens, turkeys, geese, swine, and other domestic animals.



Courtesy of Mark Gray Philliber



Courtesy of Wilma Earl Colvin Edwards

Although everyone helped, housewives masterminded the subsistence side of farms, and sometimes excesses were sold for cash or bartered at the store, as was the case with chickens and eggs. These farm products often were exchanged for minor luxuries to passing peddlers, such as sellers of Watkins and Rawleigh proprietary medicines. In this photograph, a farm wife feeds her large flock. The photographer's shadow is in the foreground.

Coleman Golden and Frank Williams briefly pose while haying along the House Creek bottom. Even after many people owned snapshot cameras, they seldom photographed common events of everyday farming life. This was the oldest method of harvesting hay, harking back to medieval times. Farmers cut hay in the field with a mule-powered mower or even a hand scythe, allowed it to dry, forked it into a wagon as seen here, then stacked it around a central pole in a conical tepee shape.



Courtesy of Letha Sheldon

KING COTTON

Cotton farming was a family enterprise, as these two photographs attest. When the bolls opened and the fields changed from green to white, the exposed cotton needed to be picked and wagoned to the gin as quickly as possible before rain fell on it or thunderstorm winds blew it to the ground. In the first

photograph, the Colvin family pauses to face the camera in heavy cotton during late summer 1908. The two women wear typical large bonnets and long-sleeved blouses to completely protect them from the sun but not the heat. No lady wanted a tan in 1908! Even the Colvin children have their small pick sacks because every pound of cotton



Courtesy of Wilma Earl Colvin Edwards



Courtesy of Grace Irene Bratton

gathered made a difference. This upland field hardly looks like classic southern cotton country, though it is typical of the area. In the second photograph, taken during the 1930s near Pidcoke, Robert Porter, his two daughters, and dog, rest exhausted on a pile of seed cotton waiting for the wagon to return from the gin. A tripod and scale to weigh pick sacks is visible to the left. Roughly speaking, 1,500 pounds of seed cotton made one 500-pound bale.

Looking rather unhappy, little Nella Mae Colvin sits in a field of her family's special strain of cotton, Colvin Big Boll, sold as seed at Gatesville and Killeen for \$2.50 a bushel. Nella Mae's grandfather had developed this special strain of cotton by careful selection over many years. As a child, Nella Mae feared cotton, and her family occasionally placed branches of cotton across the floor at doorways where they did not wish her to pass.



Courtesy of Wilma Earl Colvin Edwards

FARM WORK



Courtesy of Billie Smith Reavis

Members of the Strickland family stand on bags of oats at their farm in 1915, the big oat threshing machine in the background. Often, small-grain threshing was an early form of custom work. The owner of the steam-powered thrasher struck a deal with the farmer for a cash fee or a toll of grain, slowly drove the ponderous machine to his farm, then set it in place at the field and brought the oat sheaves to it by wagon. Usually, the farm family or neighborhood cash employees of the thrasher man did the hand labor, which was considerable.



Courtesy of Margaret Ann Brown Smith

Horseman Carl Brown and W. L. Brown survey a scene rarely photographed—a large pen of Angora goats at shearing time. (Restless goats make poor photographic subjects.) During the first decades of the twentieth century, many locals converted their brushy uplands to the ranging of hair goats. However, little of the old time romance of cowboys and cattle transferred to the goat business.

COMMUNITY STORES



Courtesy of Wilma Earl Colvin Edwards

John Taylor Brashear stands (second from right) at his large country store at Tama in 1898. As in this case, such stores also functioned as community centers. The door for the Tama post office is at back left, and the second story served as a meeting place for the local chapter of the Woodmen of the World, which,

like the Masons and other organizations, needed an upstairs location to guard its secret rituals from the public eye. Often, the only two-story building in a community housed the lodge hall.

Another community store owner, Frank A. "Noog" Black stands in front of his Ruth store in 1930. A serious fox hunter like many other local men, Black had planned for his prize Walker hounds to join him in the photograph. Daughter Ara Mae slipped in unobserved. Serving gasoline from this early Texaco station required hand pumping the desired amount into the glass reservoir at the top of the machine, then opening the valve and letting gravity run the gasoline into the car.



Courtesy of Frank Aubrey Black

SCHOOL PORTRAITS

Teacher Charlie Autrey and students pose for the customary end-of-school photograph at Owl Creek School in Friendship, about 1900. Other adults, probably the three-man elected board of trustees of Owl Creek Common School District, also stand for the professional photographer. A one-room school like Owl Creek typically included seven grades, all taught by a single teacher in an instructional juggling act.



Courtesy of Roma Scott Bates



Courtesy of Naoma Bell Worthington Williams

The official portrait of the year for Ewing School, probably taken during the late 1920s or early 1930s. Ewing was a multiple classroom school with several

teachers, a Boy Scout troop (standing front and center), a basketball team (right), and a brass school bell (at the top of a long pole). Rural schools such as Ewing, Maple, and Antelope often were voluntary consolidations of several earlier one-and two-room schools.

SCHOOL DAYS



Courtesy of Zell Kay Kinsey Copeland

Students at the Owl Creek School of Friendship pose with their teacher in 1926. At more remote locations, one-room schools persisted until the coming of Camp Hood in 1942 forced all rural school districts to consolidate with Copperas Cove, Belton, Gatesville, and Killeen. Two older girls hold a first-place trophy from “county meet,” an award for “best display.” The prized basketball may well have been Owl Creek School’s only sports equipment.

In this rare photograph of a house interior, schoolteacher Miss Velma Brown grades papers on the arm of a chair in her rented room. Miss Brown was from Killeen and boarded with John Taylor and Carrie Belle Maddux Brashear while she taught at Maple School. Brashear probably was one of the school trustees for Maple. Male teachers had been common in earlier days, but by the 1910s most rural schoolteachers were young, unmarried women like Miss Brown.



Courtesy of Wilma Earl Colvin Edwards



Courtesy of Melba Goodwin Bennett

High jinks near the water fountains were part of the end-of-school activities at Antelope School in the early 1940s. Rural schools held major entertainment functions for their communities, and no event of the school year compared to the end-of-school picnic. End-of-school activities at Antelope often went on for several days and included dramatic productions, baseball games, foot races, equestrian events like ring jousts and gander pulls, picnics, and barbecues.

CHURCH LIFE



Courtesy of Martha P. Brewer

Well-dressed ladies pose for the camera near a nice buggy at Eliga Church of Christ. Sunday services had major social as well as spiritual value for people in the settlements that became Fort Hood. Sunday services, often held only once or twice a month, were occasions for dressing in your finest clothes and visiting with friends and family you might not see again for another month. Different denominations sometimes shared a church building.

Pastor Christy "Chris" Gentry Brashear pauses knee-deep in Cowhouse Creek during a baptizing service of New Hope Baptist Church, 1928. As at New Hope, summer revivals normally went on for one week, with the newly converted—the fruits of revival—baptized together at the end. At New Hope Baptist Church, baptism occurred on the afternoon of the last Sunday in July.



Courtesy of Wilma Earl Colvin Edwards



Courtesy of Mark Gray Philliber

Veteran preacher Brother Shouse from the Salem Church of Christ holds a bouquet of flowers during festivities at Eliga. He wears the long hair, full beard, and uncrimped Stetson of an earlier time. Preachers like Shouse normally farmed and ranched to make their family's living, with monthly or twice-monthly preaching as an important sideline. Still learning their trade, young preachers from Baylor University in Waco also ministered to area congregations.

SOCIAL LIFE



Courtesy of Onella Williamson Griffin



Courtesy of Wilma Earl Colvin Edwards

Social life at the Fort Hood settlements revolved around church affairs, school entertainments, occasional weekend parties at private homes, and—as so many snapshot photographs suggest—visits to scenic Cowhouse Creek. Picnickers, fishermen, bathers, and courting couples out for a lark on Sunday afternoons all favored the Cowhouse. Bridges and crossings, places where early roads forded the creek, were great attractions. The 1905 photograph above shows three courting couples, dressed in their finest on Pidcoke Bridge. Recorded on film about 1917, the second photograph shows a mixed social group posing at Potter's Crossing. Note how clothing styles changed in this short span of time. The last photograph shows a Chalk family picnic along the banks of the Cowhouse.



Courtesy of Mark Gray Philliber

PRECIOUS MEMORIES

Guitarist Charles Lee Straw and friend Wayne Blanchard pose at Straw's Mill near the Turnover community about 1942. Musicians were at a premium for house parties in private homes, where hosts would clear furniture from a room, spread cornmeal on the floor, and hold a dance. Stricter communities, like Sparta, held "musicals," where people just listened to the live band, clapped their hands, and stamped their feet. Those with musical talent for the guitar, fiddle, or mandolin found themselves encouraged and pushed to the fore. Occasionally the house party made do with only a harmonica player.



Courtesy of Tommie L. Shults Haferkamp

A lonely doll baby rests on the front steps of the Daugherty home in 1938. Christmas gifts ran strongly to fruits and nuts at many homes, with perhaps one significant toy for each child, such as this small doll. Children had few playthings, greatly treasured the ones they had, and used them until they virtually fell apart. A little girl's last doll of childhood evoked strong sentiment.



Courtesy of Don K. Blanchard and Nathan Cooper

Children of the Truss, Shults, and Powell families stand in front of a Model A Ford in 1942. Automobiles lessened rural isolation, although for decades local roads became so impassible during prolonged rainy periods that buggies and saddle horses came back into service. Purchased on the eve of the Great Depression, this 1929 Model A had been in use for over a decade. Because of hard economic times, a smaller percentage of Coryell County farm families owned cars in 1940 than in 1930.



Courtesy of Margaret Ann Brown Smith

PATRIOTISM



Courtesy of Wilma Earl Colvin Edwards

With flag flying during the last months of World War I, the John Fletcher Colvin family celebrates the Fourth of July, 1918, at their home in the Boaz community. The coming of a another world war would lead to acquisition of the family home and property for Camp Hood. Located within an impact area, the Colvin's fine farmhouse was destroyed soon after the takeover.

SACRIFICES FOR FREEDOM



Courtesy of Mark Gray Philliber

Della and Marvin Chalk sit on the front porch of their farmhouse near Eliga for the last photograph of their home before the acquisition of the property for Camp Hood. Although most local people patriotically

supported the war effort and sent their children off to fight, the loss of family farms proved a bitter blow, especially for the older generation.



Some area families made a double sacrifice to Allied victory in World War II. They lost their farms to Camp Hood—a military base desperately needed to train armored units to stop the German Panzers—and they lost their sons in combat. This is young First Lieutenant R. M. Cummings, who died in France on August 12, 1944, his birthday.

Courtesy of John Amos, Kansas Community

REUNIONS: REFLECTING ON THE PAST

Attendees at the 1998 Friendship community reunion gather for a group portrait on the cemetery grounds. Every year, former residents of the lost settlements hold family, church, and community reunions at Belton, Copperas Cove, Gatesville, Killeen, and other locations. Visits to cemeteries within the

base and to old home places can sometimes be arranged, although periods of heightened security make this more difficult. None of the families have forgotten where they came from. Until recently, the Hill family returned year after year to drink from its former home place spring.



Courtesy of Jack Rehm and Jim Cazares



Courtesy of Frank Aubrey Black

Former residents of the Fort Hood lands return to visit their forebears' graves. Memorial Day 1996 brought Colonel Frank Aubrey Black, his sister, Ara Mae Black Sheets, and Donald Barclay Sheets together at Ruth Cemetery, which is protected by fencing and maintained by Fort Hood.