Photo of the Month

Richards Colored School
Sand Street, Richards, Texas

Meetings of the Grimes County Historical Commission are held on the Second Monday of the Month at 7:00 pm in the Courthouse Annex in Anderson, Texas

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ERWIN, TEXAS. Erwin is on Farm Road 149 near the headwaters of Turkey Creek four miles west of Anderson in west central Grimes County. The area was first settled in the early 1830s, although it was not until the late 1880s that a community was established by local cotton farmers and cattle raisers. The area was originally known as Fuqua’s Prairie, after the Ephraim Fuqua family, which settled there in 1832. A Methodist church known as Steele’s Chapel was built a mile west of what was to become the townsite, and a Baptist congregation, the Fuqua Prairie Baptist Church, was organized in the area in 1877. A black congregation known as the Green Valley Church was established south of the settlement. During the 1890s Will H. and Simon Fuqua each operated a cotton gin in Erwin, and Will Fuqua ran a general store. The community had a post office from 1896 to 1923. In 1900 Erwin reported a population of ten. In 1936 its population remained ten, and the community had one business. The last available population estimate is from the late 1940s, when Erwin reported twenty-five residents and one business. In 1990 the community had a cemetery and a few scattered dwellings.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:
Grimes County Historical Commission, History of Grimes County, Land of Heritage and Progress (Dallas: Taylor, 1982).

SALEM, TEXAS (Grimes County). Salem is a small rural community located off State Highway 90 about four miles northeast of Navasota in west central Grimes County. Settlement probably began by the early 1900s. In 1913 Rev. H. Y. Williams organized the Salem Missionary Baptist Church. During the first decades of the twentieth century the church and a nearby cemetery served the farmers of the area. Salem also had its own common school district. Sometime in the middle of the century the school closed, but the church continued to operate into the latter part of the twentieth century. In 1990 Salem reported a population of fifty, and the community maintained that number in 2000. Another common school district named Salem as well as a church by that name existed in northern Grimes County in the vicinity of Bedias in the late 1800s and early 1900s. No other information is available for that site.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:
Grimes County Historical Commission, History of Grimes County, Land of Heritage and Progress (Dallas: Taylor, 1982).

NORTHWOOD, TEXAS. Northwood, nine miles east of Anderson in extreme eastern Grimes County, was founded in 1907 as a station on the newly constructed line of the Trinity and Brazos Valley Railway. In 1910 the community reported a population of 100, and a post office operated there from 1913 to 1915. By 1941 the population had fallen to an estimated twenty, and Northwood had one business. In 1948, the last year for which estimates are available, the town had a population of twenty, a church, a rural school, and a store.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:
Grimes County Historical Commission, History of Grimes County, Land of Heritage and Progress (Dallas: Taylor, 1982).
HOLLAND, WILLIAM

William Holland, early settler, traveled to Texas from Louisiana in 1822 with William Burney and Francis Holland and settled with his brother on Holland Creek in what is now Grimes County. Holland voted in the election of April 1824, when the Baron de Bastrop was chosen Texas elector for the state convention of Coahuila and Texas. As one of Stephen F. Austin’s Old Three Hundred colonists, Holland received title to his Grimes County league on August 10, 1824. The census of March 1826 classified him as a farmer and stock raiser aged between forty and fifty. His household included his wife (a former Miss Buck and sister of Mrs. Francis Holland) and three sons. According to William P. Zuber, Holland died in 1833.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Richards Colored School

In the mid 1800’s area African American children attended school in nearby Longstreet. The first school in Richards began in St. Thomas Methodist Episcopal Church circa 1913. School moved to the Masonic Lodge Hall before a two-story schoolhouse with auditorium was built near the railroad tracks. Basketball was the primary sporting activity, and county fairs featured competition in agriculture, poetry, recital and spelling bees. Fire destroyed three separate school houses from 1920 to 1937. In the 1930’s Richard’s Colored School absorbed schools from Longstreet and Pineywoods. A new school was built in 1938 and renamed in 1962 for longtime principal teacher and coach W. E. Hall. It closed in 1966 when schools in Richards integrated.
News from the Past

The Dallas Daily Herald (Dallas, Texas)  
April 25, 1860

Houston’s Political Ethics.

We published in our last an extract from the Congressional debate when Col. Wigfall called in question the assertion of Mr. Wilson, of Massachusetts, that Gen. Houston has declared that Texas had no valid right to the land sold to the Federal Government for $10,000,000.

That Gen. Houston did make the declaration attributed to him by Mr. Wilson, there is no doubt, and we now have two other witnesses to the fact. The Galveston news gives its readers the following extract from the speech of Gen. Houston, made at San Jacinto, June 9th, 1855. We call attention to it:

He said “As annexed, Texas had unbounded resources. In her settlement of boundaries with the United States she had obtained ten million dollars for a strip of country that she had no more right to than he had to any man’s land within his hearing.”

The Crockett Argus of March 21st says: “The editors of this paper heard Gen. Houston say the same in a public speech, before at least five hundred people at Anderson in Grimes County, on the fourth of July 1855. He boasted of it as a great achievement in statesmanship, to sell for ten million dollars a territory to which we had no right. Of our seventy-five subscribers at Anderson, at least half were perhaps present and heard that speech. They are nearly all Houston men. Will any one of them deny his saying it? Laudable as was Mr. Wigfall’s effort to vindicate Gen. Houston, he was, nevertheless, in error as to the fact.”

It was right for Col. Wigfall to deny so foul a sin, until the proof was given. He turned to the speeches of Gen. Houston, and then gave plenty of quotations to show that he (Houston) had contended that we did own the ceded territory.

News from the Past

The Dallas Daily Herald (Dallas, Texas)  
March 2, 1860

During the last term of the District Court of Grimes County, eighteen free negroes went into voluntary servitude to different persons in the vicinity of Anderson. Two families to Wm. Berryman, two men to Angus Passmore, one man to Robert McIntyre, two James W. Barnes, and one woman to John R. Kennard.

Three convicts were sent to the penitentiary, one for horse stealing, seven years; one for two cases of obtaining goods on false pretenses, two years each, one for forgery, two years.

The Dallas Daily Herald (Dallas, Texas)  
July 3, 1861

We take pleasure in calling the attention of voters to the announcement in today’s paper of Hilliard J. Jones, Esq. as a candidate for Commissioner of the General Land Office. Mr. Jones is a resident of Grimes County, has been in Texas for the past 15 years, during the whole of the time, a practicing lawyer; and from the many favorable notices of the press as to his qualifications and merits, we do not hesitate to present his claims to the consideration of the voters of this section.

The Dallas Daily Herald (Dallas, Texas)  
December 6, 1862

We have been shown a donation of 31 pairs worsted socks, 50 flannel overshirts, 2 undershirts, and 6 pair flannel drawers, for the soldiers, made by a lady and her two daughters in Grimes County. The flannel was all of home manufacture, and the best article of the kind we have seen in many a long day. This donation is worth at least $75, probably $100. According to our calculations the above articles would bring not less than $450.
The Dallas Daily Herald (Dallas, Texas)  
July 10, 1861.

**Piedmont Springs  
Grimes County, Texas**

9 miles from Hollandale, where daily coaches connect with the Central Railroad and six miles from Millican, where daily hacks connect with the Central Railroad.

Will be opened for Visitors on First of July 1861.

This celebrated and most delightful summer resort has received such improvements as to render it the most agreeable retreat the whole Confederacy offers to the invalid or pleasure seeker. The new buildings are planned on the most liberal scale. In their construction, convenience, comfort and beauty are admirably combined. The dining saloon (124 feet long), ballroom (90 ft. long) parlors and billiard room are large and elegant. The bed chambers (single and double) are well arranged and neatly finished. The roomy and elegant galleries surrounding each of the four stories of the entire building render its comfort complete.

The acknowledged merit of the waters – their astonishing curative properties are familiar to all who have tested their relief. Nature in locating these springs sought to charm the grounds, gracefully sloping in every direction from the buildings are beautifully wooded with the shady oak. The entire face of the place is pleasure, ease and contentment.

We congratulate our visitors upon having secured the services of Mr. Wm. J. Reynolds as Steward. His long experience in many of the first hotels in the various large cities, places him at the head of his profession. He has engaged from New Orleans, experienced aid in the way of Housekeeper, Chamber Maids, Cooks, Waiters, etc. A most successful hunter and fisherman is engaged for the season. Our table shall be bountifully supplied with the best of everything the country affords. Good music will be in constant attendance. Our ten pin alleys, billiard tables, shooting gallery, the lake for fishing, and forest game will afford a diversity of amusement and recreation. New bath houses are now being constructed. Every arrangement will be thoroughly prepared for the comfort and enjoyment of our visitors.

**Terms:**
- Board and Lodging per day (payable weekly) $2.50
- Board and Lodging by the month (payable weekly) $2.00

Children and servants half price.

On no account, will we do any credit business. We shall endeavor to give entire satisfaction but without prompt payment we cannot defray our heavy expenses.

Leander Cannon, Proprietor  
June 2, 1861

The Galveston Daily News (Galveston, Texas)  
May 19, 1866

I observed in your local column of today an account of an outrage perpetrated by a man wearing the uniform of a Captain of the U.S. Army. The facts as stated are these – that a Captain Wilson of the 37th Illinois regiment, while enroute with his company to New Orleans, on board the steamer Silver Cloud, between Houston and this city, ordered a Mr. McDonald and a friend of his, both citizens of Grimes County, Texas to be tied up with a small cord by the thumbs for one hour, for using as he asserted, disloyal language. When these men were taken down the cords had cut through the flesh to the bone on their thumbs, causing the most excruciating pain. These facts should startle a thinking community and cause them to enquire if there is no remedy for outrages like this. Can it be that we have no law to punish
such atrocious acts of barbarity? Is it possible that we are at the mercy of such heartless, fiendish irresponsible officers as Wilson, who are governed neither by civil law or military rules and regulations? I trust that the proper steps have been taken by our officials here to have this Capt. Wilson arrested on his arrival in New Orleans, that he may meet that punishment he so richly deserves. I think there are few instances in the history of savage warfare that exceeds in heartless atrocity, the conduct of this man. He has not only branded himself as a heartless wretch, but has disgraced the uniform he wears.

There is no offence committed even by a soldier that will justify a subordinate officer in taking the law into his own hands, and inflicting such extreme punishment. There was not a shadow of excuse for the barbarous act perpetrated as it was upon unarmed, peaceable citizens, during a time of profound peace. I only wonder how it was possible for Capt. Wilson to find enough men in his company who were barbarous enough to assist him in his cowardly act. He certainly must be a lineal descendant of a certain class of people who once distinguished themselves by burning witches and hanging Quakers. An offense so aggravated and unjustifiable would have cause Capt. Wilson had he been an officer under Napoleon, to have not only lost his commission, but his head also. If those men committed an offense either against the military or civil authorities, there was a proper legal course for him to pursue, arrest them and on his arrival here, either turn them over to the military or civil authorities for punishment. If these acts are the natural results of military rule, I will say for one, that I am tired of it, and would prefer a change, having more confidence in civil law than I have in the bayonet. R. R. L.
Lengthy memorials were presented by both sides to the controversy. Hon. Haynes Shannon representing the side of the reorganizers, while Dr. J. F. King represented the side of what has been termed the white man’s union democrats. Mr. Shannon read the memorial from his side to the convention, which was supplemented by numerous exhibits, consisting of newspaper clippings, which tended to show the workings of the White Man’s Union, its constitution and bylaws and the like, also resolutions passed by that organization as well as the calls issued for the mass meeting during which the reorganization was given birth.

After the reading of these memorials Judge A. M. Campbell was placed on the stand to testify in behalf of the reorganization. The bulk of his testimony went to substantiate the allegations as set forth in the memorial read by Mr. Shannon. The two main points in contention were the basis of representation in the county convention and the matter of the succession of the democracy in the person of a chairman.

After the matter of the basis of representation was gone into a considerable length, and after it has been admitted that the same basis of representation had been maintained in the county for the past twenty years, upon motion of Mr. Hill, the committee decided to hear testimony bearing upon the succession of the county chairman since the year 1900, the year that the democrats decided to not put out a ticket but gave way to the White Man’s Union. In way of explanation it might be well to here state that the basis of precinct representation in Grimes County is territorial and not by population; that is, each precinct in the county, regardless of whether that precinct has ten or 500 votes is allowed ten votes in the county convention.

When the matter was narrowed down to the succession of the chairmanship of the democratic party of the county since the year 1900, Mr. Campbell was examined by Mr. Shannon on this point, and he stated that so far as he knew Smith was the last chairman, his tenure of office having expired in 1900. On cross-examination by Mr. King, Mr. Campbell admitted that Brigance called the county convention together which elected delegates to the congressional convention in the year 1903, when delegates were selected to the congressional convention which nominated John M. Pinckney to fill out the unexpired term of Hon. Thomas H. Ball. He also admitted that Brigance had called the judicial district convention which nominated him for district attorney. This was in 1902, and it was shown that Brigance had been appointed to the position of judicial chairman by the State chairman to fill a vacancy in other words, that Brigance held two chairmanships. Mr. Brown was the next witness to give testimony in behalf of the reorganizers. His testimony was on the succession of the democratic chairman. He stated that he never heard of Brigance being elected as chairman of the Grimes County executive committee and that it was his opinion that no convention had been called by the democratic executive committee since 1900, but that the White Man’s Union had been making the nominations. He admitted that the special county convention held in 1903 for the purpose of electing delegates to the congressional convention had been called by Brigance and that he himself had been selected as a delegate from the county convention to the congressional convention. He also stated that he had never been a member of the White Man’s Union. Mr. King then, for the White Man’s Union democracy, began presenting his testimony and produced newspapers from the files of the Examiner and Tablet. The Daily Examiner of June 11, 1900, showed that Brigance was elected chairman of the Grimes County democracy to succeed White for the ensuing two years. He then read numerous calls issued by him as county chairman calling the county democracy together from that time up until the present year. There was nothing to show that he had been elected to succeed himself in the year 1902 and when he was asked whether or not he had anything to show that such an election had taken place he stated that he did not have a record of such election, but that he would produce witnesses who would testify that he was elected that year.
In line with this he produced Judge W. W. Meacham, who stated that he had never been a member of the White Man’s Union, but that he attended a meeting of the democratic committee in 1902 at which time Judge Brigance was elected to the position of county chairman. Judge Brigance then gave testimony in support of that contention stating that while he did not remember the date of the election, that it was at the last meeting of the democracy of that year.

Mr. King then read a telegram signed by Chairman Wells of the State democracy, which stated in effect that upon the representations made to him by Judge Brigance that he (Wells) considered him to be the duly authorized chairman of Grimes County. When this point was reached, it was announced that all the testimony was in and Mr. King made the announcement that his side did not care to make any argument.

Mr. Shannon stated that while he did not care to make any argument especially, he desired to emphasize a few points. He held that the State convention should rule that if the majority of the democrats in Grimes County desired to nominate a ticket they should have the privilege of doing so. He held that the White Man’s Union dominated the ticket and contended that the majority of the democrats of the county did not belong to that organization. He stated that the White Man’s Union was a political party and, therefore, that members of that organization when the organization placed a ticket in the field could not act as democrats. He also desired that the basis of representation be changed, that the state convention should declare the territorial as against the population basis to be illegal, inasmuch as it was undemocratic. He claimed that because of such a basis of representation the majority is denied the right to control. Committee then adjourned until 1:30. This Grimes County contest has perhaps created more general interest than any other before the convention, and in view of the fact that the condition of affairs existing there is said to be to some extent at least applicable to about twenty counties in the State the memorials of each side to the subcommittees are given in full.

Plea of Reorganization

“To the State Democratic Convention and the Subcommittee of the Democratic Executive Committee of the State of Texas, We the democratic delegates from Grimes County, Texas to the State democratic convention and subcommittee, as aforesaid, being delegates elected by the convention called by R. A. Hollock, chairman of the democratic executive committee of Grimes County, Texas, represent and will hereby show that we are entitled to seats in this convention as representatives of the democratic party of said Grimes County. In support of our claim, we submit the following reasons: That on or about the year 1900 there existed a peculiar political condition in Grimes County, Texas, brought about by a fusion of republicans, populists and negroes in said county; that by reason of said fusion of said last named element the democrats of said county fell into disuse and to a certain extent were absorbed by the White Man’s Union association, in control of the politics of said Grimes County.

The Union Formed

That on or about the year 1900 the democratic party of said Grimes County, becoming dissatisfied with the methods pursued by said fusion element, in the matter of the control of the political affairs of said county determined, if possible, by some legal means to gain control of the county affairs and overthrow this populist and republican combination and in pursuance of said plan of ridding themselves of this obnoxious element, a number of the whites of said Grimes County organized what is known as the “White Man’s Union Association”. At the ensuing election that year, 1900, said White Man’s Union association of Grimes County nominated candidates for all of the county offices, which said candidates were elected, and thereby gained control of the political affairs of said county. This condition of political affairs in said Grimes County for a time appears to be satisfactory to the majority of democrats of said county, and it is generally admitted that a considerable number of the democrats of said county did not, and have never affiliated with said White Man’s Union association in said Grimes County.
During a term of four years, beginning in 1900, said White Man’s Union association had absolute control and dominated the political affairs of said county. The chairman of the democratic executive committee of said county, A. F. Brigance, having never called a democratic convention in said county from 1899 up to the year 1904, it will be contended that a necessity exists for the creation of said White Man’s Union association. Now, about the 28th day of May 1904, said White Man’s Union association, through its various lodges in said county, again nominated candidates for county offices.

About this time a great number of the members of said White Man’s Union association, believing that the purposes and objects and aims of said association had been accomplished, and that there was no longer a necessity for the continuance of said union, and acting upon this idea, certain members of said union urged upon said union the advisability of disbanding and of placing a straight democratic ticket in the field for the various county offices. W. L. Campbell and W. H. Brown called upon the so-called chairman of the democratic executive committee of Grimes County A. F. Brigance, and demanded and inquired of him if it was his intention to call a democratic convention in Grimes County for the purpose of nominating a democratic ticket. His answer was that he would do so if so ordered to do by the executive committee of the White Man’s Union association. Believing that the said Brigance had abdicated his position and his refusal at that time to call a democratic county convention, these democrats through the democratic convention, determined to affect a reorganization of the democratic party in said county, which had fallen into disuse and had been dissolved by reason of its failure to act before the four years next preceding. On May 24, 1904, the attached memoriam was addressed to the democracy of said county.

In pursuance thereof, on June 4, 1904, a mass convention of delegates was held at the city of Navasota, Texas and the democratic party was organized by the election of an executive committee, and chairman of said committee, and all precincts in said Grimes County being represented in said democratic mass meeting. The said democrats, in organizing the democratic party, as aforesaid, were actuated by the fact that there was no longer a necessity for the existence of said White Man’s Union association, in that there are only 210 qualified negro voters in Grimes County and about 2200 whites who have paid their poll tax and were thereby qualified to vote at the ensuing elections.

The democrats of said Grimes County asserted that said White Man’s Union association is at the present time a separate political party in said county and that they are not the democratic party of Grimes County for the following reasons to wit: In the year 1900 by resolution of said White Man’s Union executive committee, it was decided by a vote of said committee to make nominations for county offices, in proof of which see published proceedings of said committee.

**Campaign of 1904**

In 1902, the democratic executive committee of Grimes County was not called together at any time during said year, and no ticket was nominated by the democrats of said county, but said White Man’s Union association did nominate a ticket which was elected in 1902. On May 28, 1904, said White Man’s Union association, acting as a separate and distinct political party in said county, proceeded through its various lodges, to name and nominate a county ticket in said county. In proof of which see published proceedings of said White Man’s Union association.

That on or about this time, those manipulating the politics of said White Man’s Union association were confronted with a determination by the democrats to organize the democratic party in said county, that up to and prior to this time the White Man’s Union association had never claimed to be the democratic party of the county, and only made this claim on or about June 4, 1904 when confronted with the Terrell election law, whereupon after consultation with the attorney
general's department, and being informed that said White Man's Union association could not legally make nominations under the law, the leaders of said White Man's Union association decided to evade said law by subterfuge and proceeded to carry out their intentions in the following manner: That up to and prior to this time they had allowed members of said union of all political faiths to participate in said White Man's Union association's nominations, but being confronted with the law, they determined to capture the democratic name in Grimes County at their next meeting, and force the White Man's Union nominees upon the people of Grimes County in the democratic name; that said actions on the part of said White Man's Union association was absolutely fraudulent and was not determined upon as a part of the politics of said union until they were confronted with the fact that the democrats of said county were determined to organize the democratic party and place a straight democratic ticket in the field; that this determination to place the White Man's Union ticket in the field, in the name of the democracy, was for the purpose of preventing opposition to the White Man's Union ticket; that in order to evade the Terrell election law and at the same time maintain White Man's Union association in its entirety, the said White Man's Union association, by a process of evasion and subterfuge, decided upon a plan by which they were enabled to place their ticket in the field, and at the same time evade and stifle all opposition to the said association; that to carry into effect this determination they adopted the plan of naming their ticket, as they had done heretofore, as provided for by the constitution and bylaw of the White Man's Union association, and after naming and nominating said ticket, in the manner aforesaid, they would then assemble at the time prescribed by law July 9, 1904 call themselves by a different name and ratified this White Man’s Union nomination and called said ticket the democratic ticket that this act was fraudulent and an evasion of the law and said pretended democratic ticket is masquerading in the name of democracy, when in truth and in fact it is the White Man’s Union ticket and is composed of men of all political faiths, democrats, populists and republicans, all of which was a mere device and makeshift in order that the said White Man’s Union association might continue in power as an independent party, and at the same time get the benefit that would accrue to a bona fide democratic organization, and it is a fact that the candidates nominated who were named by said White Man’s Union association as its constitution and by-laws direct, long prior to the time prescribed by law, and who are now posing as the candidates of the democratic party of Grimes County, and said candidates are not democrats in any sense of the term, but belong to a separate and distinct political party.

Further Objections
That the opposing delegates to this convention should not be seated because said delegates were named and elected by a convention which nominated a county ticket which was not the democratic ticket, in that said ticket was composed of populists, republicans and democrats; that said convention failing and refusing to name a straight democratic ticket, were not entitled to select delegates to the various democratic conventions of the State; that is to say, we insist that the convention which selected the opposing delegates to this convention, insomuch as they affiliated with populists and republicans in the matter of naming and nominating the candidates, that they were thereby disqualified by reasons of such affiliation, from sending democratic delegates to the various democratic conventions throughout the State; that the opposing delegates to this convention should not be seated because they are at this time members of the White Man's Union association, which is a political party, separate and distinct from the democratic party, and in proof of this allegation that said White Man’s Union is a political party, reference is here made to the published resolutions of said White Man’s Union association; that the opposing delegates to this convention do not represent the democrats of Grimes County, because said delegates were selected by a convention which nominated an avowed populist for the office of tax collector of Grimes County; that the nomination of a populist by
said convention for the office of tax collector of Grimes County was done for the sole purpose of holding said White Man’s Union association together and retaining the republicans and populists in the organization of said White Man’s Union association; that the opposing delegates to this convention are not democrats and do not represent the democratic party of Grimes County; because said delegates acted with members of said White Man’s Union association on all political questions and in truth and in fact these opposing delegates to this convention are one and the same with the White Man’s Union association, in further proof of which we call attention to the fact that in Precinct 4 of Grimes County, one John Greenwood, a life-long democrat, was nominated for tax assessor by the White Man’s Union association, said association claiming that they would present the name of said Greenwood to the convention on July 16 for ratification and nomination as a democrat, according to system. However, one John W. McKinney was selected by the executive committee of the White Man’s Union association as a nominee for said office, displacing the said Greenwood on the grounds and for the reason that he had not been a member of the White Man’s Union for a period of six months; that the convention which elected the opposing delegates here, although no objections had been made to the said Greenwood on account of his democracy, refused to nominate said Greenwood for said office because he was not qualified for same according to the constitution and bylaws of said White Man’s Union; that the opposing delegates to this convention do not represent the democrats of Grimes County because they belong to the political organization, which political organization selected its delegates by the undemocratic and unheard of method of a system of lottery drawing in proof of which reference is here made to the published proceedings of the White Man’s Union Association.

That is to say that no man or set of men are entitled to represent the democrats of a county, when they take part and assist in nominating a county ticket in such an undemocratic manner; that said opposing delegates are not democrats and do not represent the democrats of Grimes County because they stand committed to a proposition which denies the right of the majority to rule in proof of which we call attention to the published proceedings of the White Man’s Union association, which met on the 10th day of December, in Grimes County, and voted down a proposition to permit the majority of the White Man’s Union association to nominate its candidates for county offices, thereby knowingly violating the fundamental principles of democracy and the republican form of government; that the opposing delegates to this convention should not be seated as democrats because they do not represent the majority of the people of Grimes County, in proof of which attention is cited to the fact that on the 23rd day of May 1904, the date when the White Man’s Union primaries were held in Grimes County, a hot contest was waged in each precinct by the different candidates for the offices previously drawn and only 740 men participated in these primaries, thereby showing conclusively that these delegates represented only one-fourth of the voters of Grimes County; that the opposing delegates stand committed to the undemocratic plan and method of allowing each precinct in Grimes County to nominate a candidate for a county office from each of said precincts, without reference to the fitness of said candidate for said office, in proof of which reference is made to the published report of the proceedings of said convention; that said delegates represent only men who are also committed to this undemocratic method of selecting candidates for county offices, and by this undemocratic method a resident of one precinct has no voice whatever in the matter of selecting eight candidates, that the opposing delegates to this convention are not democrats for in truth and in fact, as aforesaid, they are delegates elected by
the White Man's Union association; that their claims as democratic delegates are absolutely fraudulent; that among other proofs of this statement attention is called to the fact that on the 9th day of July 1904 at the town of Anderson, Texas, in the so-called democratic convention, which selected these opposing delegates and which was assembled for the purpose of naming the county ticket and sending delegates to the county convention; that the name of W. W. Meacham, a nomination democrat, was selected by the committee on delegation as a candidate to the county convention and that on motion of one of the members of said White Man's Union association, the name of Meacham was stricken off the list of delegates. The reason given for such action was that said Meacham was not a member of the White Man's Union association and accordingly his name was stricken from the list of delegates to the county convention. That subsequent to said action, other leading members of the White Man's Union association realizing the fact that this would be a virtual admission of the charge that had been made that they were not the democratic party and that said convention was, in fact, a White Man's Union association convention, and after conferring over the matter they decided that it was the better policy to attempt to conceal the fact that only union members were allowed a voice in said county convention and therefore compromised the matter by selecting the said Meacham chairman of the county convention; that if there are any nonunion democrats on the opposing delegation to this convention, that they have been placed on the list of delegates for the purpose of concealing the fact that the convention sending them is in truth and a fact a part and parcel of the White Man's Union association. Further, it is a fact that the so-called democratic convention held at Navasota on July 9, 1904, allowed the members of the White Man's Union to participate in the deliberations of said precinct convention and went to the extent of electing an avowed republican sergeant at arms on that occasion.

**Contention in Brief**

Now we are prepared to prove that we the democratic party of said Grimes County for the following reasons to-wit: We have consistently abandoned all parties at enmity to the democratic party of said county. As soon as was safe to do so, the democratic party of said county proceeded, as already set forth, and organized said democratic party. Said organization represented here by us was in strict conformity with the Terrell election laws and all other laws in such cases made and approved. We have proceeded to hold precinct primary conventions in various precincts of said county on the 9th day of July 1904; that on the 16th day of July 1904 said democratic party met in convention by its delegates named and nominated a county democratic ticket, elected delegates to the various conventions to be held in the State during the year 1904, and strictly complied with the law, as will be seen by reference to the proceedings of said convention, hereto attached, marked Exhibit “G” and made a part hereof.

We are the democratic party of Grimes County because we have named and nominated a straight democratic county ticket, thereby enabling all democrats to comply with their pledge to vote the democratic ticket, from president to constable. We insist no man or set of men can vote any other than the democratic county ticket, and be a democrat in the full sense of the term; that the opposing delegates to this convention having pledged themselves to vote other than the democratic county ticket, are not democrats in that sense of the term, which contemplates that those who participate in democratic conventions, shall vote the democratic ticket in the county as well as in State and National matters. We further say that we are the representatives of the democrats of Grimes County, because the opposing delegates to this convention having pledged themselves to vote other than the democratic county ticket, are not democrats in that sense of the term, which contemplates that those who participate in democratic conventions, shall vote the democratic ticket in the county as well as in State and National matters. We further say that we are the representatives of the democrats of Grimes County, because the opposing delegates to this convention has been selected by a convention, organized on the arbitrary and undemocratic plan of allowing each precinct in the county ten votes in the convent without regard to population; that this arbitrary basis was not adopted by the convention of its own choice, but was arranged by the committee calling said
convention, which said committee determined upon this arbitrary basis several months prior to the date of the convention which elected the opposing delegates; that the convention which selected said delegates was not called by a qualified democratic executive committee; that six of the members of said committee which called said convention, were disqualified from acting in the matter of the call by reason of the fact that they were directly interested in the result of the action of said convention; that they were interested in the result of the action of so-called democratic convention, by reason of the fact that the said six members were candidates for office of the White Man’s Union ticket, or had relatives who had candidates on said White Man’s Union ticket; that although directly interested, the said six members decided and assumed to act for the democrats of Grimes County in this matter and as further proof of these disqualifications is evidenced from the fact that said convention which selected the opposing delegates here, was called and ordered and organized in the manner that would most certainly redound to the interest of said six members.

We insist that we are the regular democratic delegates and should be seated in this convention, because we came in to be axiomatic that all democrats are entitled to a straight democratic county ticket, if they so desire it; that unless we are seated as delegates in this convention there will be no chance hereafter of placing a straight democratic ticket in the field in Grimes County, and the democrats of said county will be compelled if they vote at all, to vote for a ticket that populists and republicans have had a voice in naming, thereby depriving the democrats of said county of the right to vote a ticket of their own political persuasion, to which they believe they are entitled; that the seating of the opposing delegates and the democratic ticket in Grimes County is so intimately connected that said democratic ticket depends absolutely upon our recognition here as the democratic delegates from Grimes County and we most earnestly entreat the delegates here assembled to grant us this right, which we claim to be inalienable.”

The Houston Post, August 2, 1904

The subcommittee of the State democratic executive committee, entrusted with the task of preparing the temporary roll for the convention, completed its labors last night and announced its decision. The names of all delegates turned in from the various counties of the State uncontested were recorded and the contests, four in number, were disposed of as follows:

In Grimes County, the Brigance or so-called White Man’s Union faction, was seated.

In Austin County, the delegation headed by C. G. Kreuger and known as the Holt faction was seated, the committee’s action on this case being with pronounced unanimity. It will be recalled that this delegation was denied the right to participate in the temporary organization of the Eighth congressional district convention, thus depriving the Holt forces of their right to organize that body.

In the Brazos county case the delegation headed by Hon. J. E. Butler was seated.

The Newton county contest was decided favorably to the Westbrook faction.

The subcommittee will at once place the report in the hands of the full state democratic committee, which has been called to meet in the rooms of the Business League promptly at 10 o’clock this morning.

There is no doubt that the full committee will readily ratify the labors of the subcommittee, and that so far as the temporary organization of the convention is concerned, the roll will stand as now prepared.”
Constitution, By-Laws and Rules of Election of the White Man’s Union Association of Grimes County, Texas

To the Members of the White Man’s Union Association of Grimes County, Texas

The ballot of the White Man’s Union Association election to be held on March 28th will provide for your voting on the following Constitution By-Laws and Rules of Election for this Association.

The County Executive Committee of the White Man’s Union Association of Grimes County has unanimously approved this Constitution, By-laws and Rules of Election and they are herewith submitted for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
B. C. Thomas,
Secretary-Treasurer
White Man’s Union Association of Grimes County, Texas

Constitution

Article 1. The object of this Association shall be to secure to the people of Grimes County as economical, honest, county government and to elect honest, efficient, sober and faithful county officials and to create and maintain more fraternal relations and unity of action among the citizens of Grimes County.

Article 2. Any white legally qualified voter of Grimes County, who obeys the Constitution and By-Laws of this Association shall be considered a member of said Association.

Article 3. This association shall consist of one Lodge in each voting box in Grimes County. Each Lodge shall meet on the Saturday preceding the first Monday in March of each General Election year and elect a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary and two Executive Committeemen, to serve for two years. A majority vote shall decide all matters considered.

Article 4. The Executive Committee of the White Man’s Union Association shall be composed of two committeemen from each Lodge, who shall be elected by each Lodge at the meeting provided for in Article 2 and shall serve for two years. Each Lodge shall have the power to instruct their Executive Committeemen and can replace wither or both of them if instructions are violated.

Article 5. The County Executive Committee consisting of two members from each lodge as provided in Article 4 shall meet in Anderson on the first Monday in March of each General Election year. The first order of business shall be the seating of the duly elected committeemen from each Lodge by the officers of the Association. The presiding officer and eleven of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum. The Executive Committee shall elect a President a First and Second Vice President and a Secretary-Treasurer, who shall be the officers of the White Man’s Union Association of Grimes County. Such officers shall immediately enter upon their respective duties and shall hold office for a term of two years or until their successors are elected.

Article 6. The President shall preside at all regular and called meetings of the Executive Committee, but shall have no vote. In the absence of the President, the First and Second Vice Presidents shall preside in their respective order. The Secretary-Treasurer shall receive all monies and account for same to the Executive Committee and perform such other duties as the Executive Committee shall direct.

Article 7. At all meetings of the Executive Committee the Committeemen from each Lodge shall be entitled to one vote for each twenty-five votes, or major faction thereof, cast at their voting box in the first Primary of last preceding Association election and a majority of each votes shall govern except as provided for in Article 8.

Article 8. Any proposed change, amendment or addition to this Constitution or By-Laws shall be presented to the Executive Committee at any regular or called meeting and if approved by a
two-thirds vote of the votes represented by
committeemen present, shall then be submitted
to the members of the Association throughout
the County at the next Association first or
runoff Primary election and a majority vote
decide. The returns of votes for and against
shall be made in the same manner as is required
for the return of votes for and against
candidates. The Executive Committee shall
canvass the returns and declare the result.

By-Laws

Article 1. Special meetings of the Executive
Committee may be called at any time by the
President or ten members of the Executive
Committee, by giving five days written notice, or
one day’s personal notice to each member.

Article 2. The Executive Committee shall
decide all contests and disputes and the proper
interpretation of the Constitution and By-Laws
and their decision shall be final.

Article 3. No member of this Association after
his election to any office shall appoint anyone as
deputy to any office to which he may be elected
unless said applicant is a member in good
Standing of this Association.

Article 4. No member of this Association shall
hold any office drawn for, as hereinafter
provided for more than two consecutive terms.

Article 5. No member shall become a
candidate for any office unless he has been a
bona-fide resident of Grimes County and the
precinct which has drawn the office for which he
becomes a candidate for twelve months
preceding the W. M. U. A. primary election.

Article 6. The drawing for offices shall be held
every four years at the regular meeting of the
Executive Committee as provided for in Article
5 of the Constitution. The Secretary of the
Executive Committee shall write on a plain
white strip of paper each of the following county
offices: County Judge, County Attorney, County
Tax-Collector -Assessor, County Clerk, County
Treasurer, Sheriff and District Clerk. He shall
then fold these papers in exactly the same
manner, place them in a hat or box in plain open
view. The papers shall then be again counted to
insure proper folding. The hat or box shall then
be covered and thoroughly shaken. The
Executive Committeemen from each Justice
Precinct shall select one of their number to
draw, and such Committeemen shall be
blindfolded when drawing. The office so drawn
shall be open for any member of this Association
living within such precinct. The order of
drawing for offices shall first be determined by
a drawing by all justice precincts.

Article 7. Should any Justice precinct draw an
office for which they have not suitable candidate
they may exchange by mutual agreement with
any other precinct, provided said exchange of
offices must be approved by the Executive
Committee after a hearing from all parties
concerned, and such hearing shall be held on
Wednesday following the drawing. Should any
precinct fail to exchange as set out above, they
may by majority vote of the votes represented by
the Executive Committeemen residing in such
precinct designate as their candidate any
qualified member in good standing who lives in
Grimes County, with the approval of the County
Executive Committee. In case of a tie, the
Executive Committee shall cast the deciding
vote.

Article 8. The President and Secretary-
Treasurer shall each receive no exceeding
twenty-five dollars allowance on each General
Election year.

Article 9. Any member of this Association may
file a protest against any candidate’s name being
placed on the official ballot of the Association.
Such protest must be filed with the President of
the Association no later than three days after the
final date fixed by the Executive Committee for
filing of candidates’ names for the official ballot.
Such protest shall be in writing and filed in
duplicate and the President shall furnish one
copy of each protest to the candidate protested.
The President shall then call the Executive
Committee to meet for a hearing of the protest
within five days after filing of protest and the
President shall notify Contestee of date set for hearing. The decision of the Executive Committee shall be final.

Article 10. Where two or more Justice precincts compose a Commissioner precinct, each Justice precinct shall be allowed to fill the office four years, provided that the precinct desiring the change must have not less than thirty percent of the voting strength of the precinct furnishing the Commissioner, according to the vote in the last proceeding W.M.U. A. first primary election.

Article 11. The word Association as used in this Constitution and By-Laws means the White Man’s Union Association of Grimes County, Texas.

Article 12. The term Executive Committee as used in this Constitution and By-Laws means the County Executive Committee as provided for in Article 4 of the Constitution.

Article 13. The words “Committeeman” and “Committeemen” as used in this Constitution and By-Laws means duly elected members of the County Executive Committee as set out in Article 4 of the Constitution.

Rules of Election

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee of the W. M. U. A. of Grimes County, Texas at its meeting each two years to name the day upon which the primary and run-off election to chose the nominees of this Association shall be held, to appoint the presiding officer in each voting precinct in said county, who shall, on or before the day of said primary election, appoint two judges and two clerks said presiding officers, judges and clerks shall be members in good standing of said Association. Said presiding officers, judges and clerks shall conduct said primary election in a fair, honorable, and just manner and in accordance with the Terrell Election Law.

Section 2. One of said judges shall after it is ascertained that the person offering to vote is a member in good standing and legally entitled to vote, receive his ballot, calling the name of the voter and the number of his ballot in a clear and audible tone. Said judge shall immediately write his name and the number of said ballot on the back of said ballot and deposit it in the ballot box kept for that purpose.

Section 3. Each of said clerks shall keep a poll list, upon which he shall write the name of each voter and the number of said voter’s ballot.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of said presiding officer, judges, and clerks to commence counting said votes in one hour after the polls have been open and to continue to count as long as there are votes to count, but must stop counting and receive the legal ballot of any member of said Association legally entitled to vote.

Section 5. No person shall examine a poll list or ballot, except when necessary in case of a contest, to ascertain how a person voted, nor shall any person tell how any person voted.

Section 6. As the ballots are counted, they shall be placed in a ballot box, and said box shall be securely sealed immediately and sent to the President of the Executive Committee not later than noon of Monday following said election. The said boxes shall be delivered unto said President or someone whom he may designate to receive them.

Section 7. The presiding officer, judges and clerks shall sign the poll lists, tally sheets and returns in duplicate, and certify to the correctness of the same. One copy of each shall be kept by said presiding officer and one copy of each securely sealed shall be forward by said presiding officer in three days after said election to the President of the W. M. U. A. of Grimes County, Texas, or to some person whom he may designate to receive them. Said President shall securely keep and no open any returns until the proper time, which is in open meeting of the
Executive Committee for canvassing said returns.

Section 8. The Executive Committee shall meet at Anderson within ten days after said primary election, the time to be named at the meeting that calls said election, and canvass the returns and declare results.

Section 9. The candidate receiving a majority of votes in the first Primary shall be declared the nominee for the office in which he aspires before the Democratic primary. In case no candidate receives a majority vote, the two receiving the highest number of votes shall enter the run-off primary and the one receiving a majority in said run-off shall be declared the nominee of his Association. Should either of the two high men withdraw by written notice to the President, the remaining high man shall be declared the nominee of this Association.

Section 10. Any candidate who may have reasonable grounds may contest the election of his opponent by filing his reasons and grounds of contest in writing with the President of the Executive Committee within ten days after the result has been declared. Said President shall immediately place a copy of the reasons and grounds of contest in the hands of the contestees. The President shall then call the Executive Committee to meet not earlier than fifteen days to decide said contest. Said Executive Committee shall fully and fairly investigate all matters pertaining to said contest and give the selection to the candidate legally entitle to receive the same. A majority of the Executive Committee present and voting, as set out in Article 7 of the Constitution, shall determine the contest and their action shall be final.

Section 11. No person shall vote at said primary election unless he is qualified to vote at the general election to elect State and County officers, and must in addition, there to be a member of the W. M. U. A. in good standing.

Section 12. The test in this primary election shall be as follows “I am a member of the White Man’s Union Association of Grimes County, Texas in good standing. I hereby pledge myself to support and vote for the various choices of this primary as candidates before the Democratic Primary.” The above test shall be printed at the top of the official ballot of this primary. A ballot without this pledge on it shall not be counted.

Section 13. Any member of this Association residing within a precinct drawing an office may have his name placed upon the Official Ballot of this Association by presenting a petition to the President of the Association signed by three members of said Association in good standing requesting that his name be placed upon the Official Ballot. Said petition must be presented on or before the date set by the Executive Committee as the final date for filing of names and must be accompanied by such a sum of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of said primary election in such proportionate part as shall be determined by the Executive Committee under Section 17. “Rules of Elections”. It shall be the duty of the President of the Association to have any name so presented placed on the Official Ballot unless ruled out by the Executive Committee under Article 9 of the “By-Laws”.

Section 14. It shall be the duty of the President and Secretary of said Association to prepare an official ballot to be used in said primary, of the names which have been presented to said President by the said petitions as above. Provided that any three members of the said W. M. U. A. in the county may present by petition to the President of said Association the name of any person who is a member in good standing whom they desire to be placed upon the official ballot as candidates for the offices of County Superintendent, County Surveyor, County Commissioner, Justices of the Peace and Constables. Said petition shall be accompanied by such sum of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of said primary election in each proportionate part as may be hereafter determined by the said Executive Committee.
Section 15. Should the presiding officer appointed by the Executive Committee to hold said primary election fail or refuse to act, the members present shall elect a member of said Association, presiding officer, who shall have all the powers, privileges and emoluments of the presiding officer appointed by the President of the W. M. U. Association.

Section 16. The presiding officers, judges and clerks shall each be paid three dollars a day for holding the primary election. The presiding officer shall be paid three dollars for returning the ballot boxes, tally sheets and returns to the President of the W. M. U. Association.

Section 17. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to determine the cost of holding said primary election and to pro-rate said cost, so determined, among the various candidates aspiring for office in their respective precincts and such amount so pro-rated shall be paid by each candidate in advance who desires his name to be presented as candidate for any office to said W. M. U. A. primary. Any funds remaining in the Association treasury after payments of election costs and other expenses as determined by the Executive Committee, shall be pro-rated to the candidates on the basis paid in.

Section 18. The polls for this primary shall be open from 8 o’clock A.M. to 7 o’clock P.M. and no person under any circumstances shall be permitted to vote before or after such hours.

Section 19. The State Primary Election Laws shall govern all questions arising which are not specifically provided for in this Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 20. Any qualified elector who expects to be absent from the county on the day of election may vote by absentee ballot by applying for a ballot at least three days preceding the day set for the first Primary to the Secretary of the Association and receive a ballot. He shall then go before a Notary Public and make affidavit that he will be out of the County on the day of the election and that he is a qualified elector. He shall attach said affidavit to said ballot and deposit it with the Judge of the election in his voting box on or before the day of the election.

ELECTION LAWS

The election statutes of Texas during most of the nineteenth century, like those of most other states, applied exclusively to general elections and were not voluminous. In 1895 and 1903 the first attempts were made to regulate the nominating procedure of political parties. With the enactment in 1903 of the Terrell Election Law, which was amended in 1905-1906, a statewide direct-primary system for all state, district, and county elective offices was established and made mandatory for all parties that had received as many as 100,000 votes in the previous election; the requirement was later altered to 200,000 votes and afterward to 20 percent of the vote in the last gubernatorial election. Though for decades, normally, only the Democratic party was affected, the Terrell law and its numerous amendments since 1905 constitute a large part of the extensive body of statutes governing Texas elections. When Texas was a one-party state and primaries of the Democratic party determined election to statewide, district, and county offices, the primary statutes were of prime importance and were subjected to frequent legislative alteration.

The party convention system, which grew up and operated under party rules before 1905, has been perpetuated under the primary laws. Small parties are free to use it for nomination purposes as the Democrats and Republicans do. The selection of the number of delegates for each candidate at national party conventions is now based on the number of votes candidates receive in the presidential primary of each party.

The nomination of presidential electors of all parties still takes place in state party conventions held in presidential election years. In June (previously September) of each even-numbered year, following the runoff primary, a state convention is required by law to canvass the returns of the primary, enact party rules,
adopt a platform, and select a state executive committee. In presidential election years, the convention also selects delegates to the national presidential nominating convention, elects members from Texas to serve on the party's national committee, and elects potential presidential electors to serve if the party's presidential candidate wins. The delegates to all state party conventions are chosen from county conventions made up of delegates previously elected in precinct conventions.

From 1905 to 1907 the state convention of the Democratic party was required to apportion votes received by primary candidates for statewide offices. This rule was abandoned in the later year, and a simple plurality rule for all primary nominations prevailed until 1913, when a second or runoff primary between the two most successful candidates for the United States Senate was required in case no candidate received an absolute majority in the first primary.

The runoff became compulsory for all state and district offices in 1918 and for all county offices in 1947. After the latter year, a first primary was held in July and the runoff in August of even-numbered years. In 1986 the legislature approved, beginning in 1988, primary elections to be held the second Tuesday ("Super Tuesday") in March to conform with primary elections in other Southern states. The intent was to give more weight in presidential election years to Southern primaries. The strategy has seemingly worked, as presidential candidates now spend more time campaigning in Texas and the rest of the South. Runoff elections are held the second Tuesday in April.

The second primary had been generally adopted in the one-party states of the South in order to ensure majority elections, since final election in most cases was really determined in the primary and the general election in November amounted to little more than a formality. It should be added that, except for a short-lived presidential-preference primary adopted in 1913 (invalidated in 1916), the primaries in Texas were required by law to be administered and paid for by the party; most of the money came from filing fees. Candidates for statewide office, including the legislature, paid $1,000. Candidates filing for local office paid varying fees, usually $3,000 to $5,000 in heavily populated counties.

In 1970 a federal court decided that the method used for filing fees was a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment. The legislature responded with a law modifying fees. The same court rejected this, and in Carter v. Dies (1972) the ruling was upheld by the United States Supreme Court. In 1973 the legislature passed a law calling for a combination of state and private funding. Filing fees in 1995 were $4,000 for the office of United States senator, $3,000 for other statewide elective offices, $2,500 for United States representative, $2,000 for certain members of the judiciary, and $1,200 for others. State senators paid $1,000 and state representatives $600. Fees for county offices ranged from $2,000 to $300. In 1995 the state paid up to 60 percent of costs of primary elections, and the rest came from filing fees.

The prospective candidacy of Senator Lyndon B. Johnson for the presidency in 1960 brought about special election laws enacted for his benefit in 1959. One law moved the dates of the primary elections from July and August to the first Saturdays in May and June. This law also dispensed with the second series of precinct and county conventions previously held in the summers of even-numbered years to choose delegates to the September state convention.

Beginning in 1960 one set of precinct and county conventions elected delegates who served in both the presidential and gubernatorial state conventions, the precinct conventions to be held earlier on the moved-up day of the first primary. The earlier dates for the primaries allowed Johnson to be nominated for reelection to the United States Senate and simultaneously to have his name on the ballot as a presidential candidate. Opponents of Johnson resented these permanent changes in the primary arrangements, but the legislature has not repealed the law except for its specification of the time of the primary and runoff. The law
has since been used to allow Lloyd Bentsen to run for vice president and senator (1988) and in 1996 can be used to allow Republican Phil Gramm to run for president and senator. Two other significant changes in the election law occurred in 1959. First, it was required that when a voter first voted in a party primary or attended a party convention, his poll-tax or exemption certificate (now registration certificate) be stamped with the name of the party in whose primary he was participating. During that year he could not participate in the primary or convention of any other party. The other requirement was that the county executive committee, after canvassing the votes of a primary election, had to file the results with the county clerk. Previously no official returns of primaries were required to be made except to party authorities.

The suffrage laws of Texas apply to primaries as well as to general elections and have changed over the years. Formerly all persons twenty-one years of age or above were generally qualified to vote in Texas if they met residence requirements, paid a poll tax if they were under sixty years old (adopted in 1902), and were free from certain disqualifications relating to mental condition, pauperism, conviction of crime, and connection with the armed services. Woman suffrage in primaries began in 1918 and general voting rights in 1920.

In 1891 cities of 10,000 or more were permitted to set up voter registration; in 1949 a general registration law was enacted to become effective if the poll tax was repealed, but it was not. To participate in a primary the voter was supposed to subscribe to the pledge, required since 1907 to be printed at the top of the primary ballot, according to which he agreed in the following general election to support all candidates nominated in the primary. This pledge has been held by the courts to involve only a moral obligation on the part of the voter, since the law forbids his being barred from any primary for past political behavior; in some cases, however, violation of the pledge did prevent the names of bolters from going on the ballot as candidates in subsequent primary elections.

In 1963 many minor changes and clarifications were made in election procedures. A voter registration system was set up to go into effect if the voters repealed the poll-tax requirement in the Constitution of 1876. A temporary registration system for voting for national officials was also established, to be applied in case the poll tax was repealed for federal elections by a pending amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

The election of 1964 was the first one in which no poll tax was required to vote in federal elections, though the tax still survived for state and local elections. The Twenty-fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution went into effect that year, abolishing the poll tax as a voting requirement for president, vice president, presidential electors, United States senators, and representatives in the United States Congress. Thus, in 1964 in Texas different ballots had to be provided for voters qualified for all elections and for those voting only in federal elections.

Early in 1966 the poll tax was judicially invalidated for all elections. Senate Bill 1 of the first called session of 1966 of the Texas legislature required voters to register, in person or by mail, with the county tax assessor once each year between October 1 and the following January 31. Persons eligible to register and vote
had to be twenty-one years of age, residents of the state for one year, and residents of the district or county for six months. Persons over sixty who did not live in a city of 10,000 or more, or who moved, could vote without registering, except in counties of 500,000 or more population, where the county commissioners could require all voters to register.

A state constitutional amendment submitted on November 8, 1966, removed the poll tax from the state constitution and embodied a requirement for annual registration. Another proposed amendment was approved, removing the year’s residence requirement for persons who qualified to vote in another state for presidential electors and who had lived in Texas at least thirty days, and allowing the legislature to provide for the re-enfranchisement, under certain circumstance, of former Texas voters who had been away from the state for less than one year.

In 1971 the legislature eliminated the annual registration requirement and provided, instead, a continuing registration system, whereby voters were automatically registered after participating in primaries or elections. Passage of a statute effective August 27, 1973, by the Sixty-third Texas Legislature granted persons eighteen years of age all the privileges hitherto granted those twenty-one years of age. Neither the change in registration laws nor the vote for eighteen-year-olds came voluntarily. All changes in the election laws were fought bitterly by the Texas legislature and came only after United States Supreme Court decisions against the Texas position and amendments to the United States Constitution.

In 1995, once a person was registered, he remained registered unless he moved and failed to notify the voting registrar. Registration in person or by mail is usually with the county tax assessor-collector. Once a family member is registered, that member can register for other family members. Registration is allowed anytime, but one must be registered thirty days before an election.

For many years, the Democratic party of Texas was successful in barring African Americans from its primaries. At first this was done by party rule of the county organizations.

Between 1923 and 1944, statutory provisions, followed by rules of the Democratic state executive committee and finally of the Democratic state convention, were applied to accomplish this purpose. Each provision was attacked in turn in the United States Supreme Court. Except for sustaining the convention rule from 1935 to 1944, each successive device for keeping black citizens out of the Democratic primaries was struck down. Since Smith v. Allwright (1944) no white primary rule has functioned, and African Americans have been admitted to the Democratic primaries.

Absentee voting in Texas was provided for by Article 2956 of the Revised Civil Statutes of 1925, as amended by the Forty-third Legislature. Between three and twenty days before the date of an election a qualified voter could make application by affidavit for an absentee ballot. The application to the county clerk was accompanied by a statement why the voter could not appear on election day, his poll-tax receipt, and a fee for postage. The ballot had to be marked in the presence of a notary public or qualified official and returned to the county clerk at least three days before the election. Since 1987, however, early voting (no longer called “absentee”) has been allowed beginning twenty days before a first primary or general election and ten days before a runoff primary election and ending four days before any election. There are no restrictions on cause, the voter may vote at the county clerk's office or any of several designated places in the county or by mail, and the notary public is no longer required. Since early voting began, the number of early voters has increased to as much as 40 percent of the total.

Additional past features of the Texas election laws are the Australian ballot adopted early in the present century and rendered more secret by the adoption of the detachable stub in 1949, the presidential short ballot, the extensive corrupt
and illegal practices provisions particularly applying to the primary elections, and the acts of 1941 and 1949 which bar Fascists, Nazis, Communists, and other subversives from the ballot and exact loyalty oaths from all elected officials and other officeholders. The requirement of a loyalty oath was found to be unconstitutional, and the other provisions are no longer part of the election code. Texas long permitted aliens to vote but deprived them of the privilege in 1918.

As of 1995 Texas had no standard ballot. Ballots varied by party in the primaries and by county in the general election. Forms included paper ballots to be marked with an X, punch cards in which the voter uses a metal punch to punch a hole beside the name of the person for whom he is voting, an optical-scanner system, and automatic voting machines. All have the option to vote a straight party slate at the top of the ballot. A new election code enacted in 1951 made few important changes in the law. It did, however, provide for listing of the candidates of one party by another in general elections.

The election of 1952 saw its first and only use. In that year the Republican party cross-filed all but one of the Democratic party's candidates for statewide office to make it easier for Democrats to vote for Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Republican candidate for president. This action no doubt helped the general to carry the state and caused the Democrats to demand the repeal of the cross-filing privilege and to refuse in 1954 to allow their candidates to be cross-filed. The device was repealed in 1955. In that year, a new provision for reports of campaign expenditures reduced the number required to one before and one after an election. A campaign-reporting law was passed in 1973 with the primary purpose of publicizing the names of large donors. The legislature subsequently refused to make any significant changes in campaign-finance laws, and there are still no limits on the amount any individual or political-action committee may give any candidate except for someone running for a federal office, covered by federal laws.

In 1957 runoffs were provided for in special elections for United States senator and congressman-at-large between the two leaders in the initial election if no candidate received a majority. Special-election runoffs were later instituted for district congressmen.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:
**Fun Facts**

**Saint Patrick’s Day**, or the Feast of Saint Patrick (Irish: Lá Fhéile Pádraig, "the Day of the Festival of Patrick"), is a cultural and religious celebration held on 17 March, the traditional death date of Saint Patrick (c. AD 385–461), the foremost patron saint of Ireland.

Saint Patrick’s Day was made an official Christian feast day in the early 17th century and is observed by the Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion (especially the Church of Ireland), the Eastern Orthodox Church, and the Lutheran Church. The day commemorates Saint Patrick and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland, and celebrates the heritage and culture of the Irish in general. Celebrations generally involve public parades and festivals, céilithe, and the wearing of green attire or shamrocks. Christians also attend church services and the Lenten restrictions on eating and drinking alcohol are lifted for the day, which has encouraged and propagated the holiday’s tradition of alcohol consumption.

Saint Patrick’s Day is a public holiday in the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador, and the British Overseas Territory of Montserrat. It is also widely celebrated by the Irish diaspora around the world, especially in Great Britain, Canada, the United States, Argentina, Australia, and New Zealand. Saint Patrick’s Day is celebrated in more countries than any other national festival.

Modern celebrations have been greatly influenced by those of the Irish diaspora, particularly those that developed in North America. In recent years, there has been criticism of Saint Patrick’s Day celebrations for having become too commercialized and for fostering negative stereotypes of the Irish.

**St. Patrick**

Patrick was a 5th-century Romano-British Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland. Much of what is known about Saint Patrick comes from the Declaration, which was allegedly written by Patrick himself. It is believed that he was born in Roman Britain in the fourth century, into a wealthy Romano-British family. His father was a deacon and his grandfather was a priest in the Christian church. According to the Declaration, at the age of sixteen, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and taken as a slave to Gaelic Ireland. It says that he spent six years there working as a shepherd and that during this time he "found God". The Declaration says that God told Patrick to flee to the coast, where a ship would be waiting to take him home. After making his way home, Patrick went on to become a priest. According to tradition, Patrick returned to Ireland to convert the pagan Irish to Christianity. The Declaration says that he spent many years evangelizing in the northern half of Ireland and converted "thousands". Patrick’s efforts against the druids were eventually turned into an allegory in which he drove "snakes" out of Ireland (Ireland never had any snakes). Tradition holds that he died on 17 March and was buried at Downpatrick. Over the following centuries, many legends grew up around Patrick and he became Ireland’s foremost saint.
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Commemorative Plates $25 each

Caps $10 each

FOR SALE

Coffee Mugs - $10 each

Tote Bags $10 each