

University of Texas at Tyler

## Scholar Works at UT Tyler

---

Presentations and Publications

Robert R. Muntz Library

---

Winter 1996

### "Newspaper Notes, a Continuation: Miscellaneous." *Chronicles of Smith County, Texas* 35 no. 2 (Winter 1996): 18-24

Vicki Betts

University of Texas at Tyler, [vbetts@uttyler.edu](mailto:vbetts@uttyler.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarworks.uttyler.edu/pres\\_pubs](https://scholarworks.uttyler.edu/pres_pubs)



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

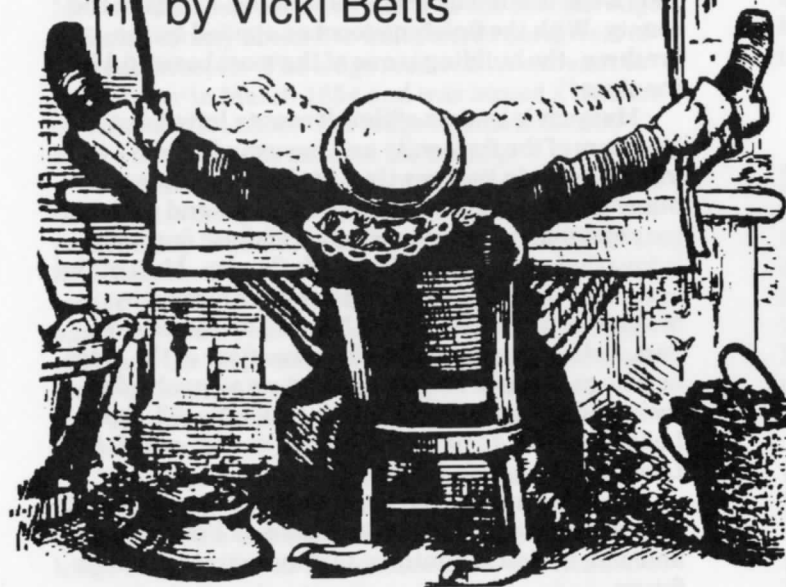
Betts, Vicki, "'Newspaper Notes, a Continuation: Miscellaneous." *Chronicles of Smith County, Texas* 35 no. 2 (Winter 1996): 18-24" (1996). *Presentations and Publications*. Paper 27.  
<http://hdl.handle.net/10950/443>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Robert R. Muntz Library at Scholar Works at UT Tyler. It has been accepted for inclusion in Presentations and Publications by an authorized administrator of Scholar Works at UT Tyler. For more information, please contact [tgullings@uttyler.edu](mailto:tgullings@uttyler.edu).

# Newspaper Notes a continuation

Gleaning Smith County  
happenings from  
area newspapers

by Vicki Betts



The loss of the backfiles of the Tyler newspapers to fire in the early twentieth century left a serious gap in primary sources for the Smith County historian. Fortunately, however, other area papers often quoted excerpts of entire articles from the Reporter, States Rights Sentinel, and other local publications, and a lively exchange between editors added to the flavor of the Civil War and Reconstruction era.

While conducting research for Smith County, Texas, in the Civil War, I compiled a file of articles from 1860 through 1865 (later expanded to 1875) which mentioned Tyler or Smith County. Sometimes tragic, often funny, and always informative, this file has proven to be a valuable source of information for one of the most interesting periods of our history. Clips on miscellaneous articles are printed here as they appeared over one hundred years ago. Locations of microfilm copies of the newspapers consulted are listed below.

---

Austin Democratic Statesman .....	University of Texas at Tyler
Austin State Gazette .....	University of North Texas
Austin Weekly Southern Intelligencer .....	Texas A&M University
Clarksville Standard .....	East Texas State University
Daily Austin Republican .....	East Texas State University
Dallas Herald .....	East Texas State University
Galveston Tri-Weekly News .....	East Texas State University
Galveston Weekly News .....	East Texas State University
Galveston Flake's Bulletin .....	
Galveston Daily News .....	East Texas State University
Houston Tri-Weekly Telegraph .....	Texas A&M University
Marshall Harrison Flag .....	East Texas State University
Marshall Texas Republican .....	East Texas State University
San Antonio Tri-Weekly Herald....	

---

previous installments: "religion" - 1988, "agriculture" - 1988, "crime and punishment" - Summer 1989, "transportation" - Summer 1990, "human interest" - Winter 1990, "newspapers" - Summer 1992, "businesses & communications," "marriages & deaths," - Summer 1993, "politics and elections," - Summer 1994, "Military Reconstruction" - Summer 1995, "Civil War Military" - Winter 1995, "Judiciary and Government" - Summer 1996.

## Miscellaneous

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 7, 1860

The Tyler Reporter says that snow fell there on the 19th, over 10 inches in depth. An invoice of sleighs should be immediately sent to that place.

MARSHALL TEXAS REPUBLICAN, January 21, 1860

[Summary] Tyler Reporter told a young man from Canada farewell. He was supposed an abolition emissary and was escorted out of Tyler.

MARSHALL TEXAS REPUBLICAN, March 31, 1860

[Summary] Learn from the Tyler Reporter that Dr. Wiley Yarbrough was stabbed several weeks ago by Moses Pierce. He is out of danger and recovering.

TEXAS BAPTIST, April 19, 1860

Tyler Female Institute

Brother Baines: Feeling it due this flourishing institution, that its claims to the support of the Baptist of Eastern Texas, should be presented through the medium of their State organ, I hope you will allow me to intrude a small space in your columns for that purpose. This school, under the control of the Cherokee Association, is beautifully located in the town of Tyler, Smith county, Texas.--The handsome building erected for its use, although situated on an eminence overlooking the entire village, is perfectly retired and removed from everything calculated to attract the attention of the pupils from their legitimate duties. Commencing a little more than a year ago under the most discouraging auspices, and with but few in attendance; it has rapidly grown in public favor, until it now numbers eighty pupils in regular attendance, while it is weekly receiving accessions. Under the supervising care of the President, our esteemed brother, J. Hand, who has shown himself an able and laborious instructor, seconded by his energetic corps of assistants, we have everything to hope and nothing to fear for its future.

The accession of Professor Leignoski, late of Lagrange, Georgia, who has within a week past, taken his place as principal of the Musical Department, gives an additional earnest of the determination of the trustees, to place it among those permanent institutions that have in all ages, and all countries been the great receptacles of learning and oracles of wisdom. It would not be saying too much that Prof. L., as a composer, as well as a teacher of music, has no superior in the United States. His musical compositions have been pronounced by competent judges of this delightful art, as productions of unsurpassed merit in this country.

In connection with the commodious edifice, designed more especially for the Literary department, steps are being taken to erect a neat building devoted exclusively to musical purposes. Here then, at a location containing both the requisites of health and easiness of access, are offered superior facilities for the acquisition of a finished education.

And will not every Baptist in Eastern Texas, who has a daughter to educate, encourage this deserving Institution by sending her here to be taught, and using his personal influence in its behalf.

Yours truly, W. H. Smith  
Tyler, Smith co., Texas.

MARSHALL TEXAS REPUBLICAN, May 12, 1860

[Summary] Measles, whooping cough, and scarlet fever prevail in Tyler.

MARSHALL HARRISON FLAG, May 18, 1860

From a notice we have seen of a report of the late Tyler Convention, given through the Reporter of that place, the citizens of Tyler have to resort to primitive means to obtain light. If the Reporter was in earnest about the courthouse being lighted up with two tallow candles, the people of that place may get the finest spermacetti by accompanying an order with the cash to any of our numerous family stores.

TEXAS BAPTIST, August 23, 1860

Trustees E. T. B. College

The Trustees of the East Texas Baptist College are hereby notified to attend a meeting of the board in this place, on Saturday before the 3rd Sabbath in September, next. A full meeting of the members is desired as business of much importance to the denomination will be presented for the action of the Board.

F. J. Kelly, President B. T. E. T. B. C.  
R. A. Felton, Sec'y  
Tyler, Aug. 12, 1860

DALLAS HERALD, November 14, 1860

Frederick Amthor.--Our citizens will recollect that a tailor names Amthor, held forth at this place a short time in the spring of 1859.--He was regarded as a suspicious character, and found this place rather an unpleasant residence. From here he went to Henderson, and found it necessary eventually to leave there. He has turned up lately in a letter to the Chicago Press and Tribune filled with the vilest slanders on the people of Texas.--This will serve to give an idea of what kind of men hailing from the Northern States, we cherish and give our patronage.-- Tyler Sentinel.

The Sentinel, says that the population of Tyler, according to the late census, is 1,021--whites 659; blacks 362.

CLARKSVILLE STANDARD, February 9, 1861

Texas Baptist College

The exercises of this institution will commence in the town of Tyler, on the 1st Monday in February, 1861. As many are aware, this College was dedicated at the last session of the East Texas Baptist Convention, and the undersigned was-- [rest illegible]

Wm. B. Featherstone, J. R. Clarke

SHREVEPORT THE SOUTH-WESTERN, April 30, 1862

FIRE.--We learn by the Tyler Reporter that on the night of the 16th inst., the "East Texas female college," at that place was burned to ashes--evidently the work of an incendiary. The energetic teachers have made arrangements so that there will be no interruption at the school.

HOUSTON TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, March 23, 1863

The Tyler Reporter, of the 12th inst., says that on Friday last there was a considerable hail and rainstorm in that vicinity. No material damage was done, however.

MARSHALL TEXAS REPUBLICAN, July 11, 1863

Ran away Alfred 55 yrs, 5'6"-5'7" blacksmith, \$30 reward for man and mule. L. E. Dupuy or Marianne Goffe, 7 Leagues Post Office.

HENDERSON TIMES, August 29, 1863

[Summary] Mr. Joseph Gaston (Rusk Co) shot and killed in Tyler last week. "The hommoside [sic] originated from the usual cause."

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, September 9, 1863

The Tyler Reporter does not object to the large number of negroes now being brought from La. to Texas for security, provided their owners take proper care of them. But the editor complains that they are sometimes permitted to do pretty much as they please, and he states that one Dr. Blackman's negroes committed thefts on a large scale.

MARSHALL TEXAS REPUBLICAN, November 18, 1864

A. I. Hays, agent clothing bureau will be in Tyler 20th, Starrville 19th to exchange calico and domestic for garments of homespun cloth.

MARSHALL TEXAS REPUBLICAN, December 16, 1864

[Summary] The cloth did not arrive

SAN ANTONIO DAILY LIGHT, January 29, 1865

The [Tyler] Reporter says: The N. O. Picayune, finding the name of Roberts among the Texas refugees in Mexico, erroneously supposes it to be Judge O. M. Roberts, of this place, formerly of the S. Court of this State. Judge R. has not been absent from Texas since the surrender of the Confederate armies, and is quietly engaged in the practice of law at this place.

HOUSTON TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, February 25, 1865

From the Tyler Reporter. FIRE.--About 11 o'clock, on Monday night last, the alarm of fire aroused our citizens from repose. Fire had broken out in the back rooms of our fellow citizen, Major George W. Chilton, supposed to be the result of carelessness on the part of a Negro. Many citizens and soldiers were soon on the spot, but their utmost efforts availed nothing more than the saving of most of the furniture. The community sympathize deeply with the Major and his family.

If such lessons as this do not teach our citizens to be careful about fire, we may well despair of doing so in a newspaper.



GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, March 8, 1865

The Editor of the Confederate Journal of Tyler, Col. Geo. W. Chilton, states that his residence has been consumed by fire. By the exertions of the citizens some of the furniture was saved.

HOUSTON TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, August 25, 1865

The Tyler Reporter furnishes the following items:

We are happy to see a spirit among our people, to return to the habits of old times, in devoting a proper degree of attention to the religious and benevolent institutions in our midst. The churches are well attended by patient audiences, and the Sabbath schools are reviving. The Masonic fraternity is, we are informed, prosperous, and fulfilling its silent mission of love. [Tear in paper] Templar's societies have survived the war, in this place and are beginning to resume their former prosperity. We are rejoiced to know that we have come out of the four years of terrible war, a better and wiser people.

HOUSTON TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, October 2, 1865

BOARDING SCHOOLS IN TYLER.--We would inform persons in the adjoining counties that if there are any schools in Tyler which will accept students from abroad; we have not been officially notified of the fact.

SAN ANTONIO DAILY LIGHT, December 22, 1865

We welcome back among his old friends, and to old home, our young friend Alf. Davis. Four and a half years of war and absence have made but little change in him, and he appears very much the same jolly Alf.

S. M. Warner, whilom editor of the Reporter, turned up here all right a day or two ago, having just returned from a visit North.

GALVESTON FLAKE'S BULLETIN, February 8, 1866

THE FREEDMEN.--We are pleased to see that nearly all the freedmen, who have been frequenting our streets for months have gone back to their old vocation on the farms. We and them animated with the hope of accumulating fortunes very rapidly, and we expect to see them do tolerably well, as laborers, during this year....

Most of our farmers have engaged to give their negroes a portion of the crop for services, which may stimulate them to do better than they otherwise would.--Tyler Reporter, 10th

MARSHALL TEXAS REPUBLICAN, September 22, 1866

We take great pleasure in stating that R. Knight & Co. have a supply of No. 1 flour on hand, from the mills of Maj. J. P. Douglass of Tyler, Texas. We speak understandingly on the subject, as we have "tasted the bread," and know that the article is genuine. If you want flour, go to R. Knight & Co., and call for the "Douglass brand."

MARSHALL TEXAS REPUBLICAN, May 11, 1867

Shermanized Meeting in Tyler.--We learn from the Index, that a meeting of citizens, "regardless of color," was held in Tyler, on the 1st inst., at which white and black men spoke, and in which the spirit of radicalism seemed to predominate, judging from the published report of the proceedings as we find them in the columns of the Index.

DALLAS HERALD, June 1, 1867

The editor of the Trinity News, has recently passed over the country from Palestine to Tyler....The citizens of Tyler are making an effort to have the State university located at that place, and he think there is a strong probability that they will be successful.

MARSHALL HARRISON FLAG, August 15, 1867

The citizens of the Smith county are holding public meetings for the purpose of inaugurating some plan for securing emigration and bringing into cultivation and market the unimproved lands. This is a wise move on their part, and should be imitated by others. Large landholders have it in their power, by liberal combinations and offering favorable terms, to induce a heavy emigration to Texas, and in a few years the State would be densely settled, and all being producers would abound.

DALLAS HERALD, December 7, 1867

The Tyler Reporter has quite a lengthy well written, report of the Negro mass meeting held in that place on the 7th. Such a scene as was presented on that occasion, no doubt brought the blush of shame to those that had been participants in bringing together such a concourse of negroes, under false pretenses. Gov. Pease, Gov. Hamilton, and other distinguished characters, with a huge dinner were announced for the occasion. But ah! No Hamilton, very little dinner, and not even Pease were there to satisfy their hunger and not a Radical friend would so much as invite the "poor pilgrims," to their homes or tables to partake of their "so called" hospitality and equality.

The Index, (which by the way, is the only sensible thing we have ever seen it do) ignores the whole affair, does

not so much as ever refer to, or make mention of it. Doubtless it is growing wider, children generally do as they get older. "When I became a man, I put away childish things."--Harrison Flag

GALVESTON FLAKE'S BULLETIN, February 20, 1868

We have a specimen of bituminous or stone coal, from a deposit just found near Thorn's Saline, in this county. The strata is said to be two feet thick, and was discovered eighteen feet below the surface of the earth, by some parties digging a well. The specimen we have is very pure, and if the quantity is sufficient the discovery may be made profitable.---Tyler Reporter.

MARSHALL TEXAS REPUBLICAN, December 11, 1868

There was an "East Texas Medical Convention" at Starrville, Smith county, on the 1st of October, at which Professor Morgan H. Looney, of the Gilmer College, delivered an address of unusual interest and elegance. The Henderson Times publishes it in its issue of the 2nd.

The Tyler Reporter states that, on the 1st inst. at a public sale "good improved lands sold for four dollars and sixty cents per acre, which shows that lands are looking up a little under the influence of a remunerative cotton market."

The same paper states that the Index has derived six or eight thousand dollars printers fees in bankrupt cases. The Reporter gives an account of a cotton factory at Tyler.

MARSHALL TEXAS REPUBLICAN, December 25, 1868

Mr. John Scott lost his kitchen and contents, by fire, at Tyler, on the night of the 11th inst.

DAILY AUSTIN REPUBLICAN, January 28, 1869

We return our thanks to Mr. J. G. Woldert, of Tyler, for a bottle of nice "schiller," wine received through our friend W. H. Andrews, Esq., who recently returned from Tyler Court....Mr. Andrews informs us that Mr. Woldert has about forty barrels of fine wine, of various kinds, made out of the native Texas grape.

MARSHALL TEXAS REPUBLICAN, March 26, 1869

Judge Jennings, of Tyler, and E. W. Bush, of Rusk, have formed a copartnership in the practice of law. The reputation of Judge Jennings as a lawyer is coexistent with the State, and his associate has no superior in the profession, for industry, promptness and dispatch.--Rusk Observer.

MARSHALL TEXAS REPUBLICAN, April 2, 1869

Col. George W. Chilton, formerly a resident of Tyler, in this State, a practicing lawyer, and elected to Congress from this District in 1867, has settled in Louisville, Ky., where he has resumed the practice of his profession. The Courier Journal pays him a merited compliment. We wish him a successful career.

DALLAS HERALD, October 2, 1869

Wm. H. Crisp's troupe of dramatists were performing in Tyler last week.

DALLAS HERALD, October 9, 1869

The Crisps are playing to crowded houses at Tyler.

DAILY AUSTIN REPUBLICAN, July 15, 1870

The State Council of the Friends of Temperance of Waco on the 4th upwards of thirty councils were represented. The Register gives the list of officers of the State Council:....J. M. Hockersmith, Tyler, Conductor.

DAILY AUSTIN REPUBLICAN, August 24, 1870

Richard Gregory, of Tyler, is ill but still "hale and hearty."

DAILY AUSTIN REPUBLICAN, September 17, 1870

The Tyler Reporter says: The latest accounts we have of enrollment of militia in this county, about one thousand names had been taken, and nary \$15. We suppose the work is about half done in the country.

DALLAS HERALD, October 22, 1870

The Crisp Troupe are announced to give a series of performances in Tyler, after which, we believe, they go to Shreveport for the winter.

DALLAS HERALD, June 24, 1871

Grand Masonic Officers elected for the Present Year and their Post Offices: Grand Royal Arch Chapter: H. J. McBride, G. K., Tyler.

DALLAS HERALD, August 3, 1872

"What I Saw in Texas." A paper by John W. Forney.

We suffered little or nothing from the Southern sun; and when, at the end of our first day, we entered Tyler, we were hungry enough to enjoy the direst fare, and tired enough to sleep on the hardest floor and to bid defiance to the mosquitoes, which, however, visited us but rarely. Tyler is the county seat of Smith, with a thriving population looking forward to the completion of our railroads, which passes through its northern townships. The whites are in the majority. People have to wagon their crops fifty to a hundred miles to the nearest depot, at Long View. Fine farms can be bought here at three dollars an acre. Timber can be purchased at the saw-mills for fifteen dollars per thousand feet, but the cost of transporting it to the railroad is so great that it sells at from fifty to sixty dollars a thousand. When the railroads are finished lumber can be had as cheaply in Texas as in almost any of the Northern states. It is only necessary to remember the enormous cost of transporting the cotton, corn, lumber, and other materials, to see the crying necessity for railroads.

After a sound sleep Colonel Scott roused us at dawn, and, at the end of a pleasant ride of twelve miles, we entered one of the sweetest of villages, named Mount Sylvan, where a luxurious breakfast, was spread in a little house, presided over by Mrs. [sic] Dollahite. No catfish and waffles at the falls of Schuyl Kill, near Philadelphia, could have been more delightful--nay, not even the luscious repast of Taft, near Boston, nor yet the far famed feasted at the High Bridge in New York, could have been more toothsome. We were now on the Memphis and El Paso stage line, under the charge of Major Wright, chief manager, whose efforts to contribute to our comfort we shall alwas [sic] gratefully remember.

DALLAS HERALD, January 11, 1873

The Public Square of Tyler is now lit by gas, so says the Democrat.

On Friday night, the 13th inst., the house of Mrs. Alexander, a widow lately residing some three miles from town, was burned, together with all the household property.--Ibid. [Tyler Democrat]

DALLAS HERALD, May 10, 1873

--Major Foots, engineer on the Houston and Great Northern railroad, has just shown us a specimen of anthracite coal, found in the cuts on the beds of this road, twelve or fifteen miles from this place. This, as everyone knows, is the best class of coal, and for many purposes is invaluable.--[Tyler Index]

AUSTIN DEMOCRATIC STATESMAN, May 20, 1873

Hon. Oran M. Roberts, formerly Judge of the Supreme Court of this State, is President of the Literary and Scientific Association at Tyler.

DALLAS HERALD, August 20, 1873

Douglass' Texas Battery.

Tyler, Texas, August 27, 1873.

At a meeting of the surviving members of Douglass' Texas Battery (originally Good's), held this day, the meeting was called to order by Captain J. P. Douglass being called to the chair, and Alfred Davis, secretary.

The following named members were present: J. P. Douglass, C. C. Winberly, D. C. Williams, J. B. Douglass, W. G. Williams, of Tyler; C. C. Walker, of Grayson county, W. J. Saunders, of Gainesville, and G. A. Knight, of Dallas.

The following resolutions were offered by Dr. C. C. Walker, of Whitesboro, Grayson county, and adopted:

Resolved, That we request all surviving members of Douglass' Battery to meet at the city of Dallas, on Thursday, October 2d, 1873 (at which time the Fair of the North Texas Agricultural, Mechanical and Blood Stock Association will be in progress), for the purpose of forming an Association.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed, consisting of Captain John J. Good, Nat. M. Burford and Thomas Walker, all of the city of Dallas, Captain James P. Douglass, Alfred Davis and James Howard, of the city of Tyler, whose duty shall be to correspond with and notify the surviving members of the above resolution.

Resolved, That a copy of the above resolutions be furnished the Dallas city and the Tyler city papers, with a request that they publish the same.

No other business appearing, the meeting adjourned to meet in the city of Dallas, on the 2d day of October, 1873.

J. P. Douglass, Chairman

Alfred Davis, Secretary.

DALLAS HERALD, October 11, 1873

[Summary] Account of meeting of the Society for Reunion of the First Texas Artillery to meet annually, alternately at Dallas and Tyler.

DALLAS HERALD, January 3, 1874

Beside the above there are schools of high grade in most of the important towns of the State, as Fort Worth, Weatherford, Sherman, Denton, Bonham, Paris, Tyler, Henderson, Houston, etc.

AUSTIN DEMOCRATIC STATESMAN, March 3, 1874

John F. Haden has associated with Dr. W. H. Park in the drug business, in Tyler....C. O. Bowen has recently opened a drug establishment in Tyler....Frank Randall, whose arm was amputated on the eleventh instant, in Tyler, is rapidly recovering. The arm was amputated at the shoulder joint by articulating the bones and removing the entire arm.

AUSTIN DEMOCRATIC STATESMAN, March 25, 1874

Smith County.--Granges have been organized in Jamestown, Canton, and Sylvan Springs.

DALLAS HERALD, July 18, 1874

C. W. Matthews, of Tyler, has been appointed immigration agent for the southern states, and will leave on his mission immediately.

DALLAS HERALD, September 5, 1874

On last Tuesday morning the people of Tyler were pleasantly surprised to see again in their midst the Hon. George Chilton, after an absence of seven years.

At four o'clock in the evening in response to a request signed by many citizens he met an enthusiastic assembly at the courthouse, shook the hands of his many friends who extended to him a hearty welcome back to his old home. He delivered an elegant and touching little address of about ten minutes length. We, with many others, extend to Colonel Chilton a hearty welcome, and hope that the remainder of his days may be spent at home in uninterrupted peace and happiness.--Tyler Reporter.

DALLAS HERALD, October 10, 1874

Lieutenant Governor Hubbard returned from Shreveport to Tyler on Tuesday night last. He had been to Shreveport for the purpose of getting the capitalists of that city to subscribe twenty thousand dollars to aid in the construction of the Tyler tap railroad. The Board of Trade requested him to defer his final solicitation for stock until after the election in November, assuring him that in case they were successful in electing an honest set of state officials, the city of Shreveport would readily subscribe not only the twenty thousand asked for, but would increase it to thirty or more thousand in cash.

The grangers of Smith county held a convention at Tyler on Friday last, all the grangers in the county being represented. Among the different matters acted upon was the selection of a purchasing agent for all the granges in Smith County. Mr. George Humphrey, an extensive planter, was appointed in that capacity.

DALLAS HERALD, October 24, 1874

We are gratified to learn that contracts have been made for brick and lumber for the building of the east Texas university. The committee, whose duty it is, are not looking out a suitable location, and will make a selection in a few days. Over ten thousand dollars worth of stock has been subscribed, and the enterprise is on a sure footing.--Tyler Democrat.

AUSTIN DEMOCRATIC STATESMAN, November 24, 1874

The Tyler Reporter of the twenty-first instant states that, "immigrants are passing through our city in perfect caravans. We have noticed more this week than at any other time this season."

AUSTIN DEMOCRATIC STATESMAN, December 22, 1874

Smith County has had a larger number of immigrants added to her population this season than any since the war.

AUSTIN DEMOCRATIC STATESMAN, August 4, 1875

W. J. D. writing from Jamestown, says that the whole country has undergone the process of cremation. The drouth had been often weeks' duration, and W. J. D. is much depressed, and so with his combustible neighbors. They are naturally anxious.

AUSTIN DEMOCRATIC STATESMAN, September 16, 1875

The Grange Reporter reports thusly: "Smith has the largest number of Grangers of any county in the State. Twenty-one million dollars have been saved to the members since the order of Patrons was organized."