

A HISTORY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, TEXAS

APPROVED:

DIRECTOR AND
CHAIRMAN OF
THE COMMITTEE: (Signed) Ernest C. Shearer

ASSOCIATE
ADVISOR: (Signed) C. E. Ransom

ASSOCIATE
ADVISOR: (Signed) M. A. Miller

APPROVED:

DEAN OF THE
COLLEGE OF ARTS
AND SCIENCES: (Signed) R. Balfour Daniels

MONTGOMERY COUNTY LIBRARY
P. O. Box 579
Conroe, Texas 77301



A HISTORY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, TEXAS

An Abstract of a Thesis

Presented to

the Faculty of the Department of History

The University of Houston

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Arts

by

William Hawley Gandy

August 1952

29335

R04 0056 1331

A HISTORY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, TEXAS

A Thesis

Presented to

the Faculty of the Department of History

The University of Houston

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Arts

by

William Harley Gandy

August 1952

ABSTRACT

Montgomery County, Texas, was visited early by the Spanish explorers and missionaries. At one time the county was a site for a Spanish mission and several of the early famous Spanish itineraries passed through its boundaries.

During the empresario regime in Texas, Montgomery County was settled by the empresarios Stephen F. Austin and Joseph Vehlein. Later their colonists took an active part in Texas' struggle for independence from Mexico. In the Consultation and Declaration of Independence conventions Montgomery County was well represented by men who later became her citizens. In combat with the Mexicans a whole company from Montgomery County served in Sam Houston's army in the battle of San Jacinto.

Montgomery County is the third county created by the Republic. It had its beginning by an act of the First Congress December 14, 1837. Ever since that date it has taken an active part in the making of history for Texas. Its towns and communities are among the oldest and most interesting in the state. Its churches, schools, lodges, and newspapers were among the first to be organized in Texas.

Throughout its existence Montgomery's citizens have taken a leading part in public affairs. During Adrian Woll's invasion of Texas from Mexico a company of Montgomery County's militia turned out to

aid General Somervell; again during the Civil War a group of the county's citizens formed a company which fought bravely in General Hood's famous Texas Brigade.

In industries Montgomery County is richly endowed with three of the most important that Texas affords: oils, lumbering, and ranching. Farming also played an important part in Montgomery's industrial expansion. At one time it was noted for its tobacco industry, and cotton, before the Civil War, was raised extensively throughout the county. Its railroads have been active in helping Montgomery to expand.

The purpose of this thesis, therefore, has been to present a story of the history of Montgomery County for the first time, showing in that story the importance of the county as related to the history of Texas. Since no continuous history of the important events of the county has ever been compiled chronologically, this study attempts to give to the reader a panoramic view, integrating the available information concerning the origin and progress of the county.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author is extremely indebted to Hart Addison for the use of his valuable collection on Montgomery County. To him the author dedicates this study. To all the others who so kindly assisted and gave encouragement, the author wishes to express his sincere thanks.