

# The Town of Bartonville and Its Landmark Store

*Historical Narrative researched and written by Betty Medlock for Texas Historical Commission Subject Marker, Denton County*

## I Context

The Town of Bartonville is a 6.8 square mile<sup>1</sup> rural community located eleven miles south of the city of Denton, in south central Denton County. Today, the town's limits are bordered by Argyle, Double Oak, Flower Mound and the Lantana Fresh Water District.

The history of the town, like others in the county, begins after the Texas Revolution during the early years of statehood. Native Americans, specifically Comanches, Kiowas, Wichitas and their sub group Kichais, were the inhabitants that saw the influx of Anglo Americans enticed to settle this western frontier<sup>2</sup>. The early Anglo settlers of the Bartonville area were lured, like so many others to Texas, by the shared hope of opportunity and fertile land. The struggling new Republic of Texas, eager to build its population, continued the *empresario* program established under the Spanish and Mexican flags.<sup>3</sup> In 1841, the Texas Emigration and Land Company was awarded a vast amount of land in North Texas. More commonly known as Peters Colony—the name of the key investor—the land grant served as the framework for all the settlements that formed the communities which would evolve into 26 present counties, including Denton.<sup>4</sup> One such settlement was that which was established by Elisha Chinn in 1854. According to Edmund Bates, the noted Denton County historian who interviewed residents in the early 1900s, Chinn's

---

<sup>1</sup> Town of Bartonville, <http://townofbartonville.com/> [accessed July 12, 2015]

<sup>2</sup> Bullitt Lowry, *Smallholder County: A History of Denton County*, Chapter 3 Before European Settlement, <http://www.dentonhistory.net/page16/styled/styled-5/> [Accessed July 18, 2015]

<sup>3</sup> Randolph B. Campbell, *Gone to Texas: A History of the Lone Star State*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003) p. 168

<sup>4</sup> Flower Mound Historical Commission. Editor Elwood Ross *Sweet Flower Mound Land* (Flower Mound, Texas, 1994) p. 4

Chapel (as the settlement came to be known) was a vibrant community and grew to include the settlements of Waketon, Shiloh and Bartonville.<sup>5</sup> Close to Elisha Chinn's holdings was a patent awarded in 1855 to Abraham R. Loving.<sup>6</sup> It is from these settlements that the roots of Bartonville grew.

Two branches off of Denton County's main water artery, Denton Creek, provided fresh water to the early settlers of Bartonville: the Loving Branch, which flows along the town's current eastern border and Sharps Branch, which meandered through the western and central sections of the town.

Because Bartonville is situated in the thin forest belt of the western edge of the Eastern Cross Timbers, early settlers had a readily-available source of timber to build their dwellings and fertile, sandy soil to plant their crops.<sup>7</sup> Prior to the Civil War these settlers were predominantly subsistence farmers and ranchers.<sup>8</sup> However, the post war arrival of the railroads would expand the economic base of Denton County.

The landscape of the county was forever altered when tracks built by the Dallas and Wichita Railroad Company connected the southern Denton County town of Lewisville to its southern neighbors in 1878.<sup>9</sup> The web of rail lines was extended through the county over the next decade under the names: Texas and Pacific; Missouri, Kansas and Texas; as well as the Gulf, Colorado

---

<sup>5</sup> Edmund Bates, *History and Remembrances of Denton County* (Denton, Texas: McNitzky Printing, 1918) p 75

<sup>6</sup> Texas General Land Office. <http://www.glo.texas.gov/cf/land-grant-search/LandGrantsWorklist.cfm> [accessed July 5, 2015].

<sup>7</sup> George M. Diggs, Jr., Barney L. Lipscomb, Robert J. O'Kennon, *Shinners & Mahler's Illustrated Flora of North Central Texas* (Fort Worth, Texas: Botanical Research Institute of Texas and Austin College, 1999) pp. 42-50.

<sup>8</sup> C. A. Bridges, *History of Denton County from Its Beginning to 1960* (Waco, Texas: Texian Press, 1978) p. 193.

<sup>9</sup> S. G. Reed, "Dallas and Wichita Railway," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/eqd04>), accessed August 24, 2015. Uploaded on June 12, 2010. Modified on February 1, 2011. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

and Santa Fe Railway. Their arrivals incited growth in several of the established Denton County cities such as Denton, Lewisville and Pilot Point while other towns, such as Sanger, Ponder, Justin, Roanoke, Aubrey, Argyle, Mingo and Krum were born as a direct result of their location on these new arteries of commerce.<sup>10</sup>

With the arrival of the railroad, life in the rural areas was altered as crops could be economically transported beyond the confines of their region. Those crops included peanuts, wheat, corn, cotton, and barley.<sup>11</sup> In 1881, the red winter variety of wheat was introduced into the county, providing a new cash crop that would establish an important economic base for the community.<sup>12</sup> An 1894 newspaper report touted Denton County as the leading wheat producer in the state,<sup>13</sup> prompting independent grain mills to spring up throughout the communities, including Bartonville.

In fact, today's Bartonville was first known as "Barton's Mills." An 1882 land deed is the first known account of the official recognition of the name of the town.<sup>14</sup> The year prior, two brothers, sharing the last name of Barton purchased ten acres of land at the southeast corner of the A. R. Loving Survey,<sup>15</sup> recognizing the commercial potential of its strategic location.

Although absent a railroad thoroughfare, the Bartons had positioned themselves along the "old wagon trail." What would ultimately be known as Farm to Market Road 407—defining the town's current eastern border—was well-traveled by local families heading to the markets in the

---

<sup>10</sup> Jim Bolz, Tricia Bolz and the Denton County Museums. *Denton County* (Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2010) p.8

<sup>11</sup> Hollace Hervey, *Historic Denton County: An Illustrated History*, (San Antonio, Texas: Historical Publishing Network, 2002), p.53

<sup>12</sup> C.A. Bridges, *History of Denton County from Its Beginning to 1960*, (Waco: Texian Press, 1978). p.193

<sup>13</sup> Hervey, p.55

<sup>14</sup> Denton County Deed Records, Vol. 0000V, p. 311

<sup>15</sup> Denton County Deed Records, Vol. 0000S, pp.386 – 389.

near-by larger cities.<sup>16</sup> At this time the closest trading center was the Waketon General Store nearly five miles east.<sup>17</sup>

The fates of the local farmers and the businesses that they supported rose and fell with the economy. Not long after the seeds of the town were planted, the drought of 1886-1887<sup>18</sup> tested the mettle of these founders and the community they supported. Following a decade of 150% population growth in the county, the 1890 census revealed a mere 17% growth.<sup>19</sup> But the small community of Bartonville, and the store as its anchor, held on and continued to prosper in anticipation of better times ahead.

For Bartonville, the first half of the 20th century reads like that of many other small Texas towns. Here, tenacious farmers and entrepreneurs held on to the promise of greater opportunity. Over the decades, as surrounding communities grew into full-fledged cities or faded into history, Bartonville remained rural with its identity intact. In many ways Bartonville fits the description penned by Denton historian Dale Odom when he stated:

*“... a very large number of ordinary, decent men and women have led good lives here, and in their triumph and tragedies, they have shared the common history of Texas, the Southwest and the United States.”*<sup>20</sup>

---

<sup>16</sup> Highland Village Historical Committee, *A History and Heritage of Highland Village*, (Austin, Texas: Sunbelt Eakin Press, 2004) p. 3

<sup>17</sup> Bill Bradford, *Chinn's Chapel, Waketon & Beyond*, (Addison, Texas: Ron Jon Publishing, 2007) p.20

<sup>18</sup> Bridges, p. 201.

<sup>19</sup> Texas Association of Counties. County Information Program. Historic Denton County Information 1850 – Present. <http://www.txcip.org/tac/census/hist.php?FIPS=48121> [accessed Jul 5, 2015].

<sup>20</sup> Dale Odom and Bullitt Lowry, *A Brief History of Denton County*, (Denton, Texas: Terrill Wheeler Printing, 1975) p 11

## II Overview

### *Bartonville Store at the Hub of the Community*

Post-Civil War Denton County saw a renewed surge in settlement by those seeking new hope and opportunity. The area continued to draw the interest of Southerners eager to leave the ravages of the war behind and begin a new life in Texas. The Bentley Bavester Barton family of Lafayette County, Missouri, was one of those that recognized the opportunities that Texas offered.<sup>21</sup>

Two of Bentley's sons would have a critical role in the development of the community that would maintain the family name. James M. Barton (November 3, 1840 – February 22, 1893),<sup>22</sup> was the first of the family to call Texas "home". In 1867, he and his new bride settled in Grapevine Springs.<sup>23</sup> Subsequently, his younger brother, Bentley Ballard (February 7, 1849 – March 7, 1905) came for a visit, and in 1877 married a local farmer's daughter, Martha Catherine Coleman.<sup>24</sup> Upon assessment of the communities, Bentley, or B.B. as he preferred to be called, recognized the economic potential of a particular corner of the A.R. Loving Survey, approximately half way between his brother's farm in Grapevine and the county seat in Denton.

Major transportation thoroughfares between localities of commerce were beginning to take shape. These crude roads provided passage for the rural residents to travel to higher concentrations of civilization and their markets. B.B. recognized that a particular nexus in

---

<sup>21</sup> Year 1860; Census Place: Washington, Lafayette, Missouri; Roll: M653\_628; Page 401: Image:54; Family History Library Film 803628

<sup>22</sup> Ancestry.com, U.S. Find A Grave Index, 1600s – Current, Provo, UT USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc. 2015 [database online, accessed July 28, 2015]

<sup>23</sup> Jim Morriss, "The Founder of Bartonville," City of Denton, Denton County History, <http://www.cityofdenton.com/home/showdocument?id=10203> [accessed Feb 16, 2015].

<sup>24</sup> Morriss, "Founder"

southern Denton County had limitless potential. This equidistant strategic location—ten miles from Denton, seven miles from Lewisville, nine miles from Justin and ten miles from Grapevine—would serve as the crossroads between the towns. On November 11, 1881, he and his brother James set the course of the future town by purchasing four parcels of land totaling approximately ten acres located in and near the southeast corner of the A.R. Loving survey<sup>25</sup>. The purpose of the purchase was visionary—to provide a much-needed center of commerce for the local farmers as well as services for those traveling between the larger communities.

B.B. recognized that there was economic opportunity in providing the convenience of readily accessible goods to the local farmers, sparing them the challenge of traveling to the nearby large towns. In addition to providing goods, he provided services such as milling the bushels of wheat grown by the local farmers. It was from that service that the town first received its identity as “Barton’s Mills.”<sup>26</sup> As early as April 1883, the location “Bartonville, Denton County” was cited on legal documents.<sup>27</sup> This identity was further cemented when Barton’s petition for postmaster was awarded in 1886. The Bartonville Post Office remained attached to the store, with the store owners serving as postmasters, until 1905.<sup>28</sup>

Ultimately, the Barton brothers would purchase an additional 222 acres in close proximity to their original investment.<sup>29</sup> The brothers maintained this land partnership until 1888 when B.B. bought out James’s investment.<sup>30</sup> Although an investor with his brother, James never lived in

---

<sup>25</sup> Denton County Deed Records, Vol. 0000S, pp.386 – 389

<sup>26</sup> Denton County Deed Records, Vol. 0000V, p. 311

<sup>27</sup> Denton County Deed Records, Vol. 0000V, p. 292

<sup>28</sup> Jim Wheat’s “Postmasters and Post Offices of Texas, 1846-1930”

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txpost/denton.html> [accessed Mar. 5, 2015]

<sup>29</sup> Denton County Deed Records, Vol. 0000T, p. 621

<sup>30</sup> Denton County Deed Records, Vol. 00033, p. 233

Bartonville. He had remained a resident of Grapevine<sup>31</sup> with a 322 acre farm east of Main Street.<sup>32</sup>

B.B.'s focus on business and commerce would lead one to believe that the ultimate objective of the purchases was not solely agricultural in use. In fact, others had recognized the strategic value of this location, as was evident by the land grants situated south and east of his property that were held by the Buffalo Bayou, Brazos and Colorado Railway Company.<sup>33</sup> However, it is unlikely that B.B. believed that a railroad would traverse his holdings, since the same year the Barton's were signing their name to the original land deed, the Texas and Pacific Railway began funneling commerce through the less geographically challenging route that lay approximately five miles west of their investment.<sup>34</sup> Despite this, B.B. recognized that the well-traveled juncture in this segment of the county still held commercial potential worthy of investment.

Although Barton had the vision for what the community could and would become, he did not have the patience or tenacity to be the one to see it continue to grow during his lifetime. In March 1890,<sup>35</sup> Barton sold his investment and used his experience to begin similar businesses in other Texas communities, as well as serve as postmaster in at least three of those towns.<sup>36</sup>

---

<sup>31</sup> Charles Young (editor), *Grapevine Area History*, (Dallas, Texas: Taylor Publishing, 1979) p. 94

<sup>32</sup> Morriss, "Founder"

<sup>33</sup> Texas General Land Office. <http://www.glo.texas.gov/cf/land-grant-search/LandGrantsWorklist.cfm> [accessed July 5, 2015].

<sup>34</sup> Texas Historical Commission. Roanoke Historical Narrative.

<http://apps.dentoncounty.com/website/historicalmarkers/historical-markers.htm#Roanoke> [accessed July 5, 2015] p. 1

<sup>35</sup> Denton County Deed Records, Vol. 00041, pp 242-245

<sup>36</sup> Morriss, "Founder". Note: In this article, the author states that B.B. moved to several communities seeking his fortune. From Denton County he moved to Parker County in the community of Adell. There he opened a new store and became the Postmaster. Four years later he moved his family to Advance, Texas where he repeated the business pattern of store and Postmaster. In 1899 he moved to El Reno in the Indian Territory. In 1904 he returned to Texas formed a partnership with W.T. Waggoner and started a store and cotton gin in Paradise, Texas where he died the following year.

However, the store location continued to be a constant center of local commerce as the store itself shuffled through a series of owners and managers.

The litany of owners is important to note as they were the ones who carried the remnant of the initial vision the founder foresaw. In fact, several of these individuals went on to carry this vision of commerce and their Bartonville experience to surrounding communities where they continued as successful business leaders. Had it not been for these stalwart entrepreneurs, the town's identity might have melted into the homogeneity of the surrounding communities. But unlike several of the settlements in the area, that did not happen to Bartonville.

The 1890 transfer of ownership of the founding landmark went to Tolbert F. Jasper, who maintained the business briefly before moving on to continue as a successful businessman in Lewisville, then Denton and ultimately Dallas. In 1891,<sup>37</sup> the store was sold to Benjamin F. Savage who held it for a decade. During much of that time it was operated by John T. Simmons before he became a successful merchant in Denton. According to an 1893 article in the Denton newspaper, the owners enjoyed a time of prosperity as they reported, "Bartonville is on a boom" and that "business seems to be very brisk."<sup>38</sup> In 1903, Mr. Savage sold this two-decade old business to Thomas B. Breeding.<sup>39</sup>

Thomas Breeding was a prominent citizen in the community. His land holdings extended beyond the store acquisition and ultimately maintained nearly 200 acres of prime Bartonville land until

---

<sup>37</sup> Denton County Deed Records, Vol 00049, p 9

<sup>38</sup> *Denton County News*. (Denton, Tex.), Vol. 2, No. 23, Ed. 1 Thursday, October 5, 1893, Newspaper, October 5, 1893; (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph504542/> : accessed July 06, 2015), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Abilene Library Consortium, Abilene, Texas.

<sup>39</sup> Denton County Deed Records, Vol. 00090, p 277



his death in 1930.<sup>40</sup> In addition, he was the official 1900 U.S. Census taker for Precinct #4,<sup>41</sup> in which Bartonville was located and his signature appeared on most title transactions of that day while serving as a notary for nearly three decades.<sup>42</sup>

These were times of growth and relative prosperity for the county and Bartonville. The town had grown from 25 residents in 1890 to an estimated 100 by 1896.<sup>43</sup> In 1911, there was even discussion about an “interurban” coming through Bartonville.<sup>44</sup> Further, when fire destroyed the store on two separate occasions in 1909 and 1918 during the Breeding ownership, there was sufficient commerce to justify its rebuilding whereby it would remain a cornerstone of the community.<sup>45</sup> In addition, during this era at least two other entrepreneurs recognized the importance of the geographic location and opened retail outlets in close proximity to the original Bartonville store. One store was opened by Christopher Columbus “Grandpa” Tyler and another, owned by Andrew “Monk” Faught, was commonly known as the “Faught Store.”<sup>46</sup> Eventually these new ventures failed as the original Bartonville store remained the root from which the community grew and branched.

During the ownership by the Breeding family, the location continued to be the focal point of community activity. The newly-rebuilt store was expanded and included a second floor which was used to further community involvement as a meeting site for the Bartonville Lodge #367 of

---

<sup>40</sup> Denton County Deed Records, Vol. 00049 p 1892; Vol 00067 p 340; Vol. 00114, p 143; Affidavit of Heirship 10482

<sup>41</sup> Year 1900: Census Place: Precinct 4, Denton Texas; Roll 1627; page 2A; Enumeration District: 0052; FHL microfilm 1241627.

<sup>42</sup> Journal of the Senate of Texas Being the Regular Session of the Forty-First Legislature, p1663

<sup>43</sup> David Minor, "Bartonville, TX," *Handbook of Texas Online* [accessed July 12, 2015] Uploaded on June 12, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association

<sup>44</sup> Bridges, p 283

<sup>45</sup> Bradford, p.2

<sup>46</sup> Bradford, p 2

the International Order of Odd Fellows<sup>47</sup> and church services by the Baptist Church of Christ at Blooming Grove.<sup>48</sup>

The community had grown steadily. By 1933 Bartonville had an estimated population of 300<sup>49</sup> but tough economic times would reduce its numbers to 75 by 1941<sup>50</sup> and even further to 50 residents by 1948.<sup>51</sup> But the Bartonville store held on. Darrel R. “Soakie” Pitt bought the store in 1938<sup>52</sup> and maintained its heritage during the tough years of the Great Depression and World War II before it was sold to Jim L. Ross in 1946,<sup>53</sup> then A.M. Alley in 1951.<sup>54</sup> Under the Alley ownership, the old store was renovated to the smaller size most recognized by current residents.<sup>55</sup> When Archie Alley entered into a partnership with James C. Price in 1959, the final chapter of the store commenced.<sup>56</sup> In February 2013, after 130 years of operation, the Bartonville Store—the landmark identifier of the community—closed its doors permanently. Tough economic times and state mandates would be its ultimate demise<sup>57</sup>. The property is currently owned by the Town of Bartonville and its future is uncertain.

---

<sup>47</sup> *Denton Record -Chronicle*, April 22, 1909, p 3

<sup>48</sup> Bradford, p 2

<sup>49</sup> *Texas Almanac, 1939-1940*, Book, 1939; (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth117163/> : accessed August 29, 2015), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Texas State Historical Association, Denton, Texas.p 103.

<sup>50</sup> *Texas Almanac, 1941-1942*, Book, 1941; (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth117164/> : accessed August 29, 2015), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Texas State Historical Association, Denton, Texas,.p118.

<sup>51</sup> *Texas Almanac, 1947-1948*, Book, 1947; (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth117136/> : accessed August 29, 2015), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Texas State Historical Association, Denton, Texas.

<sup>52</sup> Denton County Deed Records, Vol. 00304, p 279

<sup>53</sup> Denton County Deed Records, Vol. 00334, p 195

<sup>54</sup> Denton County Deed Records, Vol. 00374, p 31

<sup>55</sup> Bradford, p. 4

<sup>56</sup> Barry Bridget, “Store at same location 55 years”, *Lewisville News*, Dec 9, 1983

<sup>57</sup> John D. Harden, “Store No More,” *Denton Record- Chronicle*, Aug 31, 2013.

## *The Bartonville Community*

Although the store and its geographic location served as the center of the community, its residents spread throughout an expansive geographic area to connect to that hub. The dirt roads that the settlers traveled on gradually became paved roads in modern Bartonville, but many of the current thoroughfares serve as reminders to the founding families of the town. McMakin Road is one such tribute.

Less than three years after the Barton brothers acquired their land, Alexander (August 12, 1825-December 14, 1902)<sup>58</sup> and Lavonia McMakin along with their eleven children settled on 165 acres located between the Bartonville store and the community of Shiloh.<sup>59</sup> McMakin, who had served with the Alabama infantry during the Civil War,<sup>60</sup> was an attorney and represented neighbors in property transactions.<sup>61</sup> In addition, he served as a trustee at the community school, Double Oak #61, which his and other Bartonville children attended.<sup>62</sup> Many of Alexander and Lavonia's children remained in the community and continued the legacy of their parents well into the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Alexander and Lavonia as well as twenty family members are buried at the Shiloh Cemetery south of their original homestead.<sup>63</sup>

Another thoroughfare serving as a reminder to Bartonville founding families is that named after the Broom family. In 1890, James A. (May 1850 – September 30, 1940)<sup>64</sup> and Eliza Broom

---

<sup>58</sup> Shiloh Cemetery

<sup>59</sup> Denton County Deed Records, Vol 0000Y, p 365

<sup>60</sup> Jim Morriss, "McMakin Road Leads Back to Texas Pioneers," *Cross Timbers Gazette*, Jan 17, 2014.

<sup>61</sup> Denton County Deed Records, Vol 00033, p319

<sup>62</sup> Hervey, p13

Note: the school was located at the south end of his property. Today you can see the remnant of the school location near the corner of McMakin and Hawk roads.

<sup>63</sup> Shiloh Cemetery

<sup>64</sup> "1900 Census" (birth) and Ancestry.com (death)

<http://person.ancestry.com/tree/45689912/person/6404420124/facts> [accessed Aug 31, 2015]

purchased 157 acres near the McMakin homestead, south of and adjacent to the Bartonville store.<sup>65</sup> The Brooms raised 13 children on their farm which they maintained until 1917.<sup>66</sup> James became quite successful and was involved in the transactions of several land purchases in the county. Significantly, in 1910, Broom sold a parcel of land at the north east corner of his homestead to serve as the permanent location of Oddfellows Lodge #367.<sup>67</sup> Today, residents travel along the thoroughfare Broome Road which follows the southern border of the original homestead.<sup>68</sup>

The road that runs from the Bartonville store into the western section of the town is named in honor of the Jeter family. In January 1886, E.A. Jeter (August 1821 – June 2, 1891)<sup>69</sup> purchased the 640 acres Cartwright patent<sup>70</sup> and one month later sold 250 acres of that holding to his brother David Henry Jeter.<sup>71</sup> David Henry (December 1, 1839 – April 25, 1912)<sup>72</sup> in addition to farming was a part time Baptist preacher. His son, John Henry Jeter (June 10, 1882 – December 2, 1947) maintained the estate after his father's death. Five members of the Jeter family are buried in the small family cemetery in Bartonville on the original homestead.<sup>73</sup>

Bartonville residents were connected to their local communities in triumphs and tragedies. One such tragedy transpired in 1899 when a smallpox epidemic took its toll in and around the

---

<sup>65</sup> Denton County Deed Records, Vol. 00057, p 113

<sup>66</sup> Denton County Deed Records, Vol. 00159, p 65

<sup>67</sup> Denton County Deed Records, Vol. 00114, p 538

Note: there is no record of a permanent structure being built on the site for their purposes. It appears from other resources that they continued to meet in the upstairs of the Bartonville Store.

<sup>68</sup> Note: It is uncertain why the spelling of the road includes an "e". However, according to an article written by Jim Morriss, the family altered the spelling of their name in the 1930s. "*What Is a Broome Road*", City of Denton, Denton County History, <http://www.cityofdenton.com/home/showdocument?id=7243> [accessed Sept 9, 2015].

<sup>69</sup> Jeter Family Cemetery

<sup>70</sup> Denton County Deed Records, Vol. 00034, p 313

<sup>71</sup> Denton County Deed Records, Vol. 00029, p458

<sup>72</sup> Jeter Family Cemetery

<sup>73</sup> Jeter Cemetery

adjoining community of Argyle.<sup>74</sup> The eight year old daughter of Adolphus Schoppaul succumbed to the disease while in the detention camp set up on the Foster farm in Argyle.<sup>75</sup> Schoppaul (June 11, 1834 – July 12, 1921) was a German immigrant who arrived in America in 1858 and served with the Confederate Army prior to moving to Texas.<sup>76</sup> In the same month that the Barton brothers purchased their original plot, Schoppaul invested in 64 acres east of the Bartons' property.<sup>77</sup> In 1910, at the age of 70, he detailed his Civil War experience for the publication, *Reminiscences of the Boys in Gray, 1861-1865*. Adolphus, his wife and daughter are buried at Chinn's Chapel Cemetery.<sup>78</sup>

These remembrances provide a small sampling of the many families who contributed to the development of the community. But more than just words on a page or signatures on a deed record, the voices of past Bartonville residents do the most to describe the character of the founding families. An 1897 article in *the Denton County News* describes the community:

*“...large and flourishing...a town of no small dimensions. It has two stores of general merchandise, a gin, blacksmith shop and a doctor shop [Dr. Gotcher]. A fine school house just one mile south called Double Oak is where the children are taught ...a literary and arithmetic exercise every Friday night with a large attendance...farmers are all industrious and are well up with their work...we can see the fistula on the new courthouse from here.”*<sup>79</sup>

Decades later, Hansel Mason reminisced about his childhood during an interview with the *Lewisville Leader* as he described growing up in Bartonville during the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>80</sup> His father, E.S. Mason, was a blacksmith whose shop was situated along the common thoroughfare

---

<sup>74</sup> Taylor, D.J., “Smallpox Epidemic of 1899 Brought Fear; Changes to Denton County”, *Retrospect*, Denton County Historical Commission, Summer 2014, p 10

<sup>75</sup> Taylor, “Smallpox”

<sup>76</sup> Mamie Yeary, *Reminiscences of the Boys in Gray, 1860-1865*, p 665. Portal to Texas History [accessed February 20, 2015]

<sup>77</sup> Denton County Deed Records, Vol. 00030, p 82

<sup>78</sup> Chinn's Chapel Cemetery

<sup>79</sup> *Denton Record News*, April 1, 1897

<sup>80</sup> Jill Brannon, “Bartonville Early Days Recalled” *Lewisville News*, Feb 26, 1984

of McMakin Road and Jeter Road near the Bartonville Store, and a cotton gin.<sup>81</sup> Absent a formal church building in the town, Mason recounts the brush arbor revival meetings that were held on the property across from his family home, and the stock tank on his property which was used for the baptisms.

Over the decades, with continued population growth throughout the county, some of the surrounding towns merged into each other and forfeited their original identity. However, the uniqueness of Bartonville was consistently and indelibly identified by its century old landmark store location at the sharp junction where FM 407 alters its course for a few miles from an east/west thoroughfare to north/south.

Although the area had been commonly known for nearly a century as “Bartonville,” in 1960 with a population of 380<sup>82</sup> its identity was threatened when the City of Irving set its sights on annexing many of the southern Denton County communities. To fend off this merger, on September 10, 1960, Bartonville residents voted overwhelmingly to incorporate the town to maintain their unique identity.<sup>83</sup> The borders of the newly incorporated town made it the *largest* in the county with nearly 30 square miles.<sup>84</sup> The expansive borders included present day Double Oak and Copper Canyon. However, in May 1964, when no longer threatened by Irving, the town elected to disincorporate.<sup>85</sup> This remained the status quo until 1973, when a geographically smaller Town of Bartonville was reincorporated maintaining the nucleus of the old town commenced by its founder.<sup>86</sup>

---

<sup>81</sup> Deed Record, Vol. 00124, p 480

<sup>82</sup> Texas Almanac, 1966-1967, p 142

<sup>83</sup> Bob Hill “Decision at Bartonville: It’s Coming Soon” *Denton Record Chronicle*, Dec 2, 1963

<sup>84</sup> Hill, “Decision”

<sup>85</sup> *Denton Record -Chronicle*, Oct 21, 1973

<sup>86</sup> *Denton Record -Chronicle*, Oct 21, 1973

Today, Bartonville is still self-described as a small rural community. The 2010 population census listed 1,469 residents<sup>87</sup> throughout its 5,152 acres<sup>88</sup> with the cluster of its commercial development in close proximity to the same site B.B. Barton recognized as valuable to the local community.

### **III Significance**

The roots of the Town of Bartonville can be traced to two entrepreneurial brothers from Missouri who recognized the potential of commercial opportunity at this particular sector of Denton County. In 1881, James M. Barton and B.B. Barton purchased ten acres near the southeast corner of the A.R. Loving Survey upon which to build a store and the beginning of a settlement that would carry their name to the present day.

Ultimately, they would own as much as 220 acres surrounding their initial investment, but it was this corner and the businesses that they established—and that others continued—that provided farmers convenient goods and essential services to assist in their agricultural endeavors. As a result other communities in proximity flourished, contributing to the growth of Denton County.

This tradition continues with the recent development of an expansive commercial center located at the east entrance to the town on the slightly modified route of FM407. This 20 acre development<sup>89</sup> will not only service the residents of Bartonville, but also the growing

---

<sup>87</sup> 2010 U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division [accessed July 5, 2015]

<sup>88</sup> Town of Bartonville, Ordinance 535-12, Dated October 16, 2012

<sup>89</sup> NewQuest Properties website [http://www.newquest.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Lantana\\_TownCenter\\_siteplan.pdf](http://www.newquest.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Lantana_TownCenter_siteplan.pdf) [accessed July 5, 2015]

communities of Argyle, Copper Canyon, Double Oak and the Lantana Fresh Water Supply District.

While other early settlements such as Shiloh, Chinn's Chapel, Hawks, Sandy Ridge, and Waketon are known today only on local road signs and in history books, Bartonville remains a thriving community.

The Barton brothers could never have anticipated how their initial investment would manifest into such a vibrant community. Nevertheless, as a result of the careful caretakers of that dream, and other stalwart founders of the community, Bartonville has survived, thrived and proudly maintains its historic identity.

**( See Bibliography Below)**



## **Bibliography**

### ***Bartonville Historical Narrative***

#### **Books**

Edmund Bates, *History and Reminiscences of Denton County* (Denton, Texas: McNitzky Printing, 1918).

Bill Bradford, *Chinn's Chapel, Waketon and Beyond*. (Addison, Texas: RonJon Publishing, 2007).

Jim Bolz, Tricia Bolz and the Denton County Museums. *Denton County Postcard History Series*. (Charleston: Arcadia Publishing 2010).

C.A. Bridges, *History of Denton County from Its Beginning to 1960*. (Waco, Texas: Texian Press, 1978).

Randolph B. Campbell, *Gone to Texas: A History of the Lone Star State*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003).

George M. Diggs, Jr., Barney L. Lipscomb, Robert J. O'Kennon, Shinners & Mahler's *Illustrated Flora of North central Texas* (Fort Worth, Texas: Botanical Research Institute of Texas and Austin College, 1999).

Flower Mound Historical Commission, *Sweet Flower Mound Land*, (Flower Mound, Texas, 1994)

Highland Village Historical Committee, *A History and Heritage of Highland Village*. (Austin, Texas: Sunbelt Eakin Press, 2004).

Hollace Hervey, *Historic Denton County: An Illustrated History*. (San Antonio, Texas: Historical Publishing Network, 2002).

Dale Odom, *An Illustrated History of Denton County, Texas*. (Denton, Texas: Self- Published, 1996).

Dale Odom and Bullitt Lowry, *A Brief History of Denton County*, (Denton, Texas: Terrill Wheeler Printing, 1975)

Edd Painter, *June Bugs and Tabernacle Arrows: Remembrances of Rural Texas*, (Self Published, 1990 and revised 1996)

Charles Young (editor), *Grapevine Area History*, (Dallas, Texas: Taylor Publishing, 1979)

Georgia Caraway and Kim Cupit, *Images of America, Denton*. (Charleston: Acadia, 2009).

## **Newspapers:**

John D. Harden, "Store No More," *Denton Record-Chronicle*, Aug 31, 2013.

Bob Hill, "Decision at Bartonville: It's Coming Soon," *Denton Record-Chronicle*, Dec 2, 1963  
*Denton Record-Chronicle*, Oct 21, 1973

*Denton Record-Chronicle*, April 22, 1909, pg 3

Donnita Nesbit, "Town Hall Building Has Split Residents on Priorities of Community," *Denton Record-Chronicle*, May 13, 1982.

Jill Brannon, "Bartonville Early Days Recalled," *Lewisville News*, Feb 26, 1984

Barry Bridget, "Store at same location 55 years," *Lewisville News*, Dec 9, 1983

Jim Morriss, "The Bartonville Food Store—Gone But Not Forgotten," *Cross Timbers Gazette*, Apr 18, 2013.

Jim Morriss, "McMakin Road Leads Back to Texas Pioneers," *Cross Timbers Gazette*, Jan 17, 2014.

*Denton County News*, Vol. 2, No. 23, Ed. 1 Thursday, October 5, 1893, Newspaper, October 5, 1893; (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph504542/> : accessed July 06, 2015), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Abilene Library Consortium, Abilene, Texas.

*Denton County News*. (Denton, Tex.), Vol. 5, No. 48, Ed. 1 Thursday, April 1, 1897, Newspaper, April 1, 1897; (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph504153/> : accessed August 19, 2015), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Abilene Library Consortium, Abilene, Texas.

## **Maps**

Vick, Al. *Denton County Mapping Co.*, 1973

Boyd, Gregory. *Texas Land Survey Maps for Denton County*. Norman Oklahoma Arphax Publishing, 2008

*Denton County Atlas*, 1973

Texas General Land Office

<http://www.glo.texas.gov/cf/ArcMaps/ArcMapsZoomer.cfm> (image)

[http://www.glo.texas.gov/cf/ArcMaps/ArcMapsDetail.cfm?intCounter=3475&PageNum\\_qryarcM](http://www.glo.texas.gov/cf/ArcMaps/ArcMapsDetail.cfm?intCounter=3475&PageNum_qryarcM)

aps=1&CFID=4169403&CFTOKEN=d101f9f520635385-69E2503B-DEC0-A2DC-A4E4A8E66161921D&jsessionid=7430c340884617e9a28b1d724674a1ca244d

<http://www.glo.texas.gov/cf/land-grant-search/LandGrantsWorklist.cfm> (details)

## **Deed Records**

Title Bond, W.E. Mooney to B.B. Barton and James Barton, Nov. 11, 1881, Vol. 0000S: pg. 386, Denton County Deed Records.

Title Bond, Daniel McLeod to B.B. Barton and James Barton, Nov. 11, 1881, Vol. 0000S: pg.387, Denton County Deed Records

Title Bond, E.P. Holman to B.B. Barton and James Barton, Nov. 11, 1881, Vol. 0000S: pg. 388, Denton County Deed Records

Title Bond, H.B. Edwards to B.B. Barton and James Barton, Nov. 11, 1881, Vol. 0000S: pg. 389, Denton County Deed Records

Title Bond, B. B. Barton and James Barton, to S. P. Odell, April 16, 1883, Vol. 0000V: pg. 292, Denton County Deed Records

Title Bond, Daniel McLeod to J.H. Degan, Feb. 11, 1882, Vol. 0000V: pg. 311, Denton County Deed Records

Title Bond, J.C. Williams and J.P. Loving to B.B. Barton and James Barton, Apr 21, 1883, Vol. 0000T: pg. 621, Denton County Deed Records

Title Bond, Daniel McLeod to Alexander McMakin, Jul 29, 1884, Vol. 0000Y; pg. 365, Denton County Deed Records

Title Bond, J.M. Barton to B.B. Barton, Jan. 25, 1888, Vol. 000033: pg 233, Denton County Deed Records

Title Bond, John DeLacy to Amos Rowley, Mar 19 1888, Vol. 00033, pg 319, Denton County Deed Records

Title Bond, B.B. Barton to T. F. Jasper, Mar. 12, 1890, Vol. 00041, pp 242-245, Denton County Deed Records

Title Bond, T.F. Jasper to B.F. Savage, Nov. 14, 1891, Vol. 00049, pg 9, Denton County Deed Records

Title Bond, B.F. Savage to T.B. Breeding, Mar 13, 1903, Vol. 00090, pg 277 Denton County Deed Records

Title Bond, J.R. Chambers to T.B. Breeding, Dec 22, 1892, Vol. 00049, pg 612, Denton County Deed Records

Title Bond, W.A. Porter to T.B. Breeding, Nov 6, 1897, Vol. 00067, pg 69, Denton County Deed Records

Title Bond, L.C. McMakin to T.B. Breeding, Oct 22, 1909, Vol. 00114, pg 143, Denton County Deed Records

Affidavit of Heirship 10482, T.B. Breeding Deceased, Dec 4, 1943

Title Bond, Brumley (Breeding heirs) to Cecil E. Pitt, Aug. 10, 1938, Vol. 000304, pg 297 Denton County Deed Records

Title Bond, D.R. Pitt to Jim L. Ross, March 7, 1947, Vol. 00334, pg 195 Denton County Deed Records

Title Bond, Jim L. Ross to A.M. Alley, July 31, 1951, Vol. 00374, pg 31 Denton County Deed Records

Title Bond, James Broom to J.H. Cunningham, December 8, 1917, Vol. 00159, p 65 Denton County Deed Records

Title Bond, James Broom to Oddfellows Lodge #367, June 24, 1910, Vol. 00114, pg 538 Denton County Deed Records

Title Bond, Leondis Cartwright to E.A. Jeter, January 9, 1886, Vol. 00034, pg 313, Denton County Deed Records

Title Bond, E.A. Jeter to David Henry Jeter, February 11, 1886, Vol. 00029, pg 458, Denton County Deed Records

Title Bond B.F. Chappel to Adolphus Schoppaul, November 24, 1881, Vol. 00030, pg 82, Denton County Deed Records

Title Bond, W.E. Mooney to James Broom, December 22, 1890, Vol. 00057, pg 113 Denton County Deed Records

Title Bond, J.R. Degan to E.S. Mason, November 26, 1910, Vol. 00124, pg 480, Denton County Deed Records

## **Census Data**

Year 1860; Census Place: Washington, Lafayette, Missouri; Roll: M653\_628; Page 401: Image:54; Family History Library Film 803628

Year 1870; Census Place: Washington, Lafayette, Missouri; Roll M593\_786; Page: 411A; Image; 829; Family History Library Film: 552285

Year 1880; Census Place: Precinct 4, Denton Texas; Roll: 1300; Page 128B; Enumeration District: 106. Family History Film: 1255300;

Year 1900; Census Place: Precinct 4, Denton Texas; Roll 1627; page 2A; Enumeration District: 0052; FHL microfilm 1241627.

Year 1900; Census Place: Jacksboro, Jack, Texas; Roll 1648; Page 4A; Enumeration district: 0035; Family History Library microfilm: 1241648

### **Cemeteries** (visited)

Old Shiloh Cemetery, Flower Mound, TX

Jeter Family Cemetery, Bartonville, TX

Chinn's Chapel Cemetery, Highland Village, TX

### **Other Resources**

E. Dale Odom, "Denton, TX (Denton County)," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hed05>), accessed May 20, 2015. Uploaded on June 12, 2010. Modified on October 7, 2011. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

S. G. Reed, "Dallas and Wichita Railway," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/eqd04>), accessed August 24, 2015. Uploaded on June 12, 2010. Modified on February 1, 2011. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

David Minor, "Bartonville, TX," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hlb11>), accessed May 20, 2015. Uploaded on June 12, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association

Jim Wheat's "Postmasters and Post Offices of Texas, 1846-1930"  
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txpost/denton.html> [accessed March 5, 2015]

Jim Morriss, "The Founder of Bartonville," City of Denton, Denton County History  
<http://www.cityofdenton.com/home/showdocument?id=10203> [accessed Feb 16, 2015]

Texas Association of Counties. County Information Program. Historic Denton County Information 1850 – Present. <http://www.txcip.org/tac/census/hist.php?FIPS=48121> [accessed Jul 5, 2015].

Texas Historical Commission. Roanoke Historical Narrative. <http://apps.dentoncounty.com/website/historicalmarkers/historical-markers.htm#Roanoke> [accessed July 5, 2015].

Texas Historical Commission, Ponder Historical Narrative <http://apps.dentoncounty.com/website/HistoricalMarkers/PDFs/PONDER,%20DENTON%20COUNTY,%20TEXAS%202011%20SUBJECT%20MARKER%20HISTORICAL%20NARRATIVE%20-%20Revised%20May%202012.pdf> [accessed July 5, 2015]

Texas Historical Commission. Justin, Historical Narrative <http://apps.dentoncounty.com/website/historicalmarkers/PDFs/Justin-Texas-Denton-County-Historical-Narrative-Subject-Marker-2014.pdf> [accessed July 5, 2015].

Denton County, *Texas Almanac and State Industrial Guide for 1904* <http://tshasecurepay.com/digital-library/read/?resource-id=123&page=262&q=Denton+County#page/260/mode/2up> [accessed July 11, 2015].

*Texas Almanac and State Industrial Guide 1933, Book, 1933;* (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph117159/> : accessed August 26, 2015), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Texas State Historical Association, Denton, Texas.

*Texas Almanac, 1941-1942, Book, 1941;* (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph117164/> : accessed August 29, 2015), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Texas State Historical Association, Denton, Texas.

*Texas Almanac, 1947-1948, Book, 1947;* (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph117136/> : accessed August 29, 2015), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Texas State Historical Association, Denton, Texas.

*Texas Almanac and State Industrial Guide, 1966 – 1967, Texas Historical Association Digital Library.*

Yeary, Mamie. *Reminiscences of the boys in gray, 1861-1865 / compiled by Mamie Yeary.*, Book, 1912; (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph29786/> : accessed February 20, 2015), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting UNT Libraries, Denton, Texas.

Texas. Legislature. Senate. Journal of the Senate of Texas being the Regular Session of the Forty-First Legislature, Legislative Document, 1929;

(<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph204525/ark:/67531/metaph204525/> : accessed August 30, 2015), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting UNT Libraries Government Documents Department, Denton, Texas.

Ancestry.com, U.S. General Land Office Records 1796 – 1907, Provo, UT USA: Ancestry.com Operations, 2008 [database online, accessed July 28, 2015]

Ancestry.com, U.S. Find A Grave Index, 1600s – Current, Provo, UT USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc. 2015 [database online, accessed July 28, 2015]

U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division [accessed July 5, 2015]

D.J. Taylor, “Smallpox Epidemic of 1899 Brought Fear; Changes to Denton County”, *Retrospect*, Denton County Historical Commission, Summer 2014