

Mission Statement

The Mission Statement of the Denton County Historical Commission's Trail Marking Committee is to research, identify and document as conclusively as possible any portion of the Chisholm Trail that passed through Denton County.

Chisholm Trail and Denton County

The Trail beginnings

The Civil War had ended and Texas was left financially devastated. Though financially broke, they did have riches in land and cattle. The western part of the state was largely unsettled and was still plagued by Indian hostilities. Returning to the state were nearly 25,000 Civil War veterans and they were facing a dismal outlook. The Confederate money they might somehow have accumulated during the war years was now worthless. The life they had prior to the war faced many dramatic changes. Jobs were questionable; their family homestead had decayed into an under-cared for property and prospects of returning to a meaningful source of making a living was bleak. The cotton fields, the leading agricultural business prior to the war, had just faced a two-year drought and the fields were barren. Putting lives back together and restoring the state to a vibrant status appeared to be a huge hurdle.

Being land and cattle rich provided a potential as a source for recovery. Agricultural estimates prior to the war showed that Texas had several million head of cattle. During the war years Texas provided large amounts of cattle as meat supply for the Confederate troops until the Union blockades put an end to these exports. Due to the reproductive capacity of cattle it's not inconceivable that numbers similar to those several million cattle still roamed Texas after the war. A portion of these livestock were domesticated by the ranches that survived the challenges of the depleted supplies and workforce during the war years. Large numbers of these cattle, however, were wild and unbranded, often referred to as mavericks. If either these wild or domestic cattle could be gathered together in herds and sold, it would be possible to produce a stream of income and infuse the financial well-being of the state as a whole and provide working opportunities for many individuals. Potential sources for reliable markets were not readily available. Markets within the state could not absorb the quantity of cattle available even if cash was available to buy them. Railroads had not yet entered the state so transporting the cattle by railcar was not available. Many of the cattle that were sold within the state were sold for tallow or hides and at prices well below prewar prices. Even though Texans did not have an extreme appetite for beef at the time, the people back east had a big appetite and they

were willing to pay far more than what the cattle could sell for in Texas. With the over population of cattle in Texas \$2-5 a head was the going price if a buyer could be found. In the eastern states the same cattle would sell for \$40-60 a head and sometime for as high as \$100. This \$2-5 a head barely covered the cost of raising and keeping cattle. There was a saying at the time, “tell me how many cattle you have and I’ll tell you how poor you are.”

The dilemma was that Texas had the supply and the easterners had the appetite. How would it be possible to match these two together? Enter Joseph G. McCoy. McCoy was an entrepreneur from Illinois who along with two of his brothers had previously been in the business of raising, selling and buying livestock. Through other individuals he heard of the plentiful cattle herds in Texas and knew there would be buyers willing to pay 10-15 times more than the Texas market was willing to pay. McCoy was familiar with the railroad and knew that various railroads were entering Kansas from the east and slowly building to the west. Upon further exploring this and talking with railroad and state officials he picked the town of Abilene, Kansas which lay along the recently built Union Pacific railroad tracks. Abilene was located on the Grand Prairie, a swath of land that runs north and south extending far into Texas. The land was gently rolling with no dramatic changes in elevations and was covered with rich nutritious prairie grasses. The land between Texas and Kansas also offered adequate sources of water along the way. Abilene was a “town” of several dozen people living in adobe-type huts. The town had a four room hotel, a saloon, a general store and a few other businesses. It was on the edge of the frontier and McCoy had little trouble convincing the folks living there that he could bring prosperity to the town. To start the process he purchased 250 acres to be used for a railroad siding and holding pens. Next he built a three story hotel capable of housing 80 guests. It had a billiard room and saloon to provide entertainment. All this was completed by the beginning of September 1867. McCoy had hired a surveyor prior to finally selecting Abilene to help plat the trail. Abilene is located approximately 350 miles north of the Texas border. Along the trail that was platted was an active trail used by a trader by the name of Jesse Chisholm. Chisholm had an established trail between two trading posts, one just south of present day Oklahoma City and the other just outside Wichita, Kansas, a distance of about 180 miles. The rest of the trail was part of old military wagon trails and the portion from Abilene to Wichita which McCoy had roughly plowed helped direct the way. In order to advertise that Abilene

was open for business McCoy sent handbills to various organizations in Texas and placed ads in numerous newspapers. He also sent riders out looking for and helping direct herds. The first herd of cattle arrived in September, 1867 and marked what J. Frank Dobie, a noted Texas historian, labeled as “The greatest migration of man led animals the world has ever seen.” Between the Chisholm and Great Western Trail an estimated 6-8 million cattle trekked up these trails over the next 20 years. The sale of these cattle began to return to Texas an immense amount of money and firmly establish the state with an industry and culture that still defines the state.

Denton County Trail Marking Committee

In April of 2014 a Denton County Trail Marking Committee was formed. The Committee was appointed by Beth Stribling who was at the time Chairperson of the Denton County Historical Commission, DCHC. The committee was formed as a result of interest expressed by Denton County Judge Mary Horn in support of the National Park's interest in designating the Chisholm Trail (and Great Western Trail) as National Historic Trails. Lloyd Webb was appointed as chairman of the Committee. Alan Schiegg and Bob Montgomery would serve as committee members. Lloyd, Alan and Bob are members of the DCHC.

May 8, 2014

This afternoon Lloyd Webb and Alan Schiegg met with Jack Waide and Ms. Reba Marshall. Both Ms. Marshall and Mr. Waide are long- time Bolivar residents. Mr. Waide was born in 1931. Ms. Marshall maintains all records of the cemetery located in Bolivar.

Mr. Waide brought several maps, letters, receipts of various dealings of his great grandfather and grandfather and numerous newspaper clippings. Mr. Waide had one map that he had marked an 'X' on for the location of his great-grandfather's house and said "My grandfather Joe Dillon Waide, told me he watched cattle drives pass by that were sometimes over a mile wide and took all day to pass by while he was sitting on the front porch." That house was the house that James Waide Purchased from John Chisum. (John Chisum moved from the area in 1863.) Mr. Waide had the original "bill of sale" from John Chisum to his great- grandfather for 160 acres.

Mr. Waide had a map of the northern portion of Denton County that he had written in the names of the owners in the late 1800's. Ms. Marshall commented that Mr. Waide was the last living person who could do that.

On May 8, 2014, I, Jack Waide, met with Lloyd Webb, Alan Schiegg, and Reba Marshall in Mr. Webb's home to discuss knowledge that I recall concerning my great-grandfather James Waide's and my grand-father Joe Waide's memories and stories about the Chisholm Trail. My great-grandfather James Waide purchased the John Chisum ranch, located approximately three miles northwest of Bolivar, Texas for \$1350, I have the bill of sale, and my grandfather Joe Wade told me many times he sat on the porch of the original ranch house and watched longhorn cattle pass, driven north on the Chisholm Trail. It would sometimes be over a mile wide and take two days to pass.

Jack Waide
Jack Waide

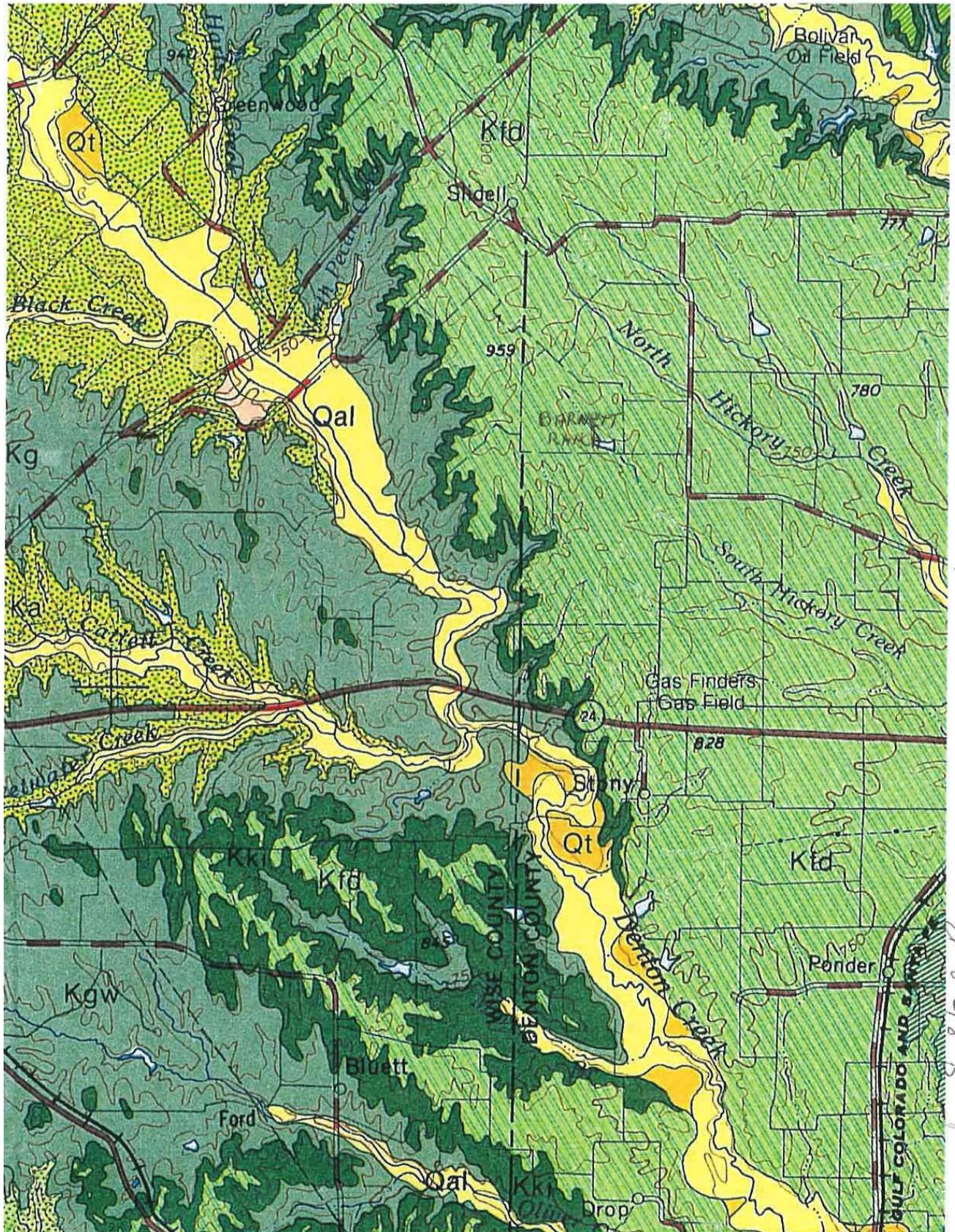
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Lloyd Webb
Lloyd

Interview with Joe ‘Skip’ Barnett

On October 21, 2014 Lloyd Webb and Alan Schiegg met with Joe ‘Skip’ Barnett. Skip is a fourth-generation member of the family that owns the 1250 acre Barnett ranch in western Denton County. The ranch has been part of the Barnett family since 1891 and is registered as a heritage farm with the Texas Department of Agriculture. He has felt quite strongly for a number of years that cattle drives of the Chisholm Trail days trailed through their ranch. The ranch, though not contiguous to Wise County, lies just to the east and within a couple hundred yards of the county line. The southern property line is a short distance from US highway 380. Skip is quite familiar with the Chisholm Trail cattle drives of the 1860’s and 70’s and over the years has found on his property some indications that these man led cattle drives had traversed their property. Over the years they had found various wagon parts and numerous horse shoes and he also stated that after a fire on the property some years ago there were noticeable signs of a trail that headed to the northeast. He stated that since the land has been part of their family, it has always remained unplowed and full of a variety of native prairie grasses. Mr. Barnett related a story to us that his father told him: When his father was about 8-10 years old he would go with his dad (Skip’s grandfather) to visit an old neighbor who lived on Flow road (a ½ mile or so north of the Barnett place). The neighbor had lived there all his life and he said that when he was a youngster there were many times he would be outside and could watch as thousands of cattle not too distant from him would go by heading in a northerly direction.

It is Skip’s belief that the cattle drives that were heading north crossed Denton Creek about 3/8 of a mile south of his place and continued just about due north up through the land that would later become the Barnett place. From a map that he provided it shows that the land in this direction offers rolling hills free of tree cover and full of native grasses. This is the land that is typical of the makeup of what is called the Grand Prairie. This type of land extends nearly uninterrupted up through Oklahoma into Kansas and even further north.



for S. & P. S. Barnett 940

Chisholm Trail Marking Committee Monthly Report

May 5, 2014

Co-Chairman: Lloyd Webb

Co-Chairman: Alan Schiegg

May 8, 2014

Lloyd Webb and Alan Schiegg met with Ms. Reba Marshall and Mr. Jack Waide. Ms. Marshall is a long time resident of Bolivar, Texas and Mr. Waide has lived there all his 83 years. They both had several documents and stories pertaining to the Bolivar area and their ideas concerning the Chisholm Trail. Mr. Waide had maps we agreed on reproducing and having him mark specific areas he and/or his Great Grandfather James Waide, and Grand Father Joe Waide, had spoken of in times past about watching large herds of cattle pass near their ranch northwest of present community of Bolivar. More meetings are planned with Mr. Waide.

Mid-May 2014

Alan spoke with Ms. Tona Batis Payne and Ms. Idalene Fuqua concerning documents and the sharing of information which will be followed up on in coming days. Alan and I visited the grave of Noah Batis in the Sanger Cemetery to identify specific dates and while there met Ms. Helen Bounds who co-authored the Sanger History Book, along with Tona Batis. Ms. Bounds gave us some additional contact names of people in the area who possibly could provide us with additional information on activities in the area during the 1800's.

Steve Meyers has contacted Alan and suggested we visit the Montague area and see what they have done in regard to researching and marking the possible route of the Chisholm Trail. We are working on scheduling that trip.

May 22, 2014

I visited the Bowie, Texas Chisholm Trail Park and viewed a map of their interpretation of the "corridors" or "feeder trails" that converged in various areas of Texas to eventually cross the Red River into Oklahoma on the Chisholm Trail

Alan has secured several newspaper clippings, books, and published papers on various writers about the Chisholm Trail.

We are analyzing all this material and researching any and all other material and individuals identified to us in developing a report as conclusive as possible on the marking of the Chisholm Trail.

Lloyd A. Webb, co-chair of Chisholm Trail Marking Committee

Alan Schiegg, co-chair of Chisholm Trail Marking Committee

May 29, 2014

Supporting Sources

“In the north Texas area the trail went through Denton County near Bolivar through Montague.....Interview with Noah C. Batis

Fry, Jasmine. “Sanger Pioneer, 88, Recalls Cattle Drives of Early Days” the Denton Record Chronicle May 1948.

“From Fort Worth the next town was Elizabeth, and from there to Bolivar; here the old trail forked. But we kept the main trail up Elm to St. Joe on to Red River Station, here crossing the Red River.”

“Location of the old Chisholm Trail”, C. H. Rust, from The Trail Drivers of Texas, compiled and edited by Marvin Hunter. Austin: University of Texas Press; 1985. P38

“At Fort Worth the trail crossed the west fork of the Trinity River. It then veered a bit to the northwest and led north along the Wise-Denton county line.”

The Chisholm Trail. Wayne Gard. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. 1954. p78

“Then there’s Audie Dent who lives in a modern farm house “across the road” a road that was one time called the Chisum (sic, Chisholm) Trail and was the life blood of a thriving Elizabethtown.”

Koethe, Jim. “Early Denton County Town Fades away to Memories.”
Denton Record Chronicle. 7 September, 1954

“From Fort Worth, the trail entered Denton County in the southwest. The first stop in Denton County was close to Elizabethtown near Denton Creek, Elizabethtown was once a thriving village, with a general store that stacked goods for drovers riding by....Cattle drives went through Denton County for nearly twenty years, along what became known as the Chisholm Trail, through the western part of the county.”

Thurman, Nita. “County played a part in historic Chisholm Trail for cattle.”
Denton Record Chronicle. 8 December, 2004.

“My father lived from 1854 to 1867 on Denton Creek about two hundred yards west of the Denton County line. From 1866 to about 1878 the regular traveled cow trail from Fort Worth to the Red River Station and Sivells Bend on (the) Red River passed about one hundred yards east of our home and crossed Denton Creek going north about 300 yards northeast of our house at an old wagon crossing on the county line between Wise and Denton Counties. During each spring and summer I have seen them drive so many herds of cattle to the Kansas market by our house that the cattle beat the grass down to the ground.....”

The Terrell’s: Eighty-five Years Texas from Indians to Atomic Bomb.
Terrell, C.V. Printed for the author by, Wilkinson Printing Co. 1948 p33

Whatever the trail may be properly called, between 1867 and 1887 thousands of Texas cattle were slowly driven through and just to the west of Denton (the city). The late James H. Goode (personal interview 1945) stated that he could remember seeing, as a boy, herds of these Kansas bound cattle moving right through the streets of Denton and past the courthouse. Drivers are known to have considered Fort Worth as the last supply station on the way north but undoubtedly Elizabethtown, Denton and Bolivar supplied them with such items as were available from their stock. Denton was the most important trading town north of Fort Worth along the trail but it was a mile or so back in the Cross Timbers. As a rule the cowboys held their herds on the open prairies to the west of Denton.”

History of Denton County. C. A. Bridges. Waco: Texian Press. p117

Here is the correct log of the cattle trails from Texas to Kansas.....Starting at the Rio Grande, the trail passed through Cameron, Willacy , Hidalgo..... Johnson, Tarrant, Denton, Wise, Cook, Montague, to Red River Station where the Texas Trail intersected the Chisholm Trail.”

“A Log of the trails”, George Saunders, from The Trail Drivers of Texas, compiled and edited by Marvin Hunter. Austin: University of Texas Press; 1985. p963

The cattle had to have water and grass available as they traveled. The trail might be six miles wide as they slowly traveled through thinly populated prairies. Coming through Denton County the trail paralleled FM 156 going north toward Bolivar, which was the center of the corridor to the Red River. It was a perfect landmark for cattle drivers. There was Clear Creek, Duck Creek, and further up the trail, Buck Creek and an open clear path to the Red River.

Historic Denton County, An Illustrated History. Horace Hervey. San Antonio” Historical Publishing Network. 2002. p14

North of “Cowtown,” the trail follows the Wise-Denton county line. Originally, the south Chisholm crossed the Red River at Sivells Bend just north of Gainesville. When the crossing was moved upstream, the route went through Saint Jo, passed east of Nocona, and crossed into Indian Territory at Red River Station”.

Eva Jolene Boyd. On the Old Chisholm Trail. Texas Highways Magazine. June 1988. p42



Town site of Bolivar

Type: THC Subject Marker, 1970

Location: SE corner of the intersection of FM 2450 and FM 455, Bolivar.

Marker Text: Named indirectly for Simon Bolivar, South American statesman, general and patriot. It might have been called "New Prospect," but for a mug of rum. When town was founded in 1852, a man who had settled here from Bolivar, Tenn., wanted to name the community in honor of his hometown. But a preacher-doctor insisted that it be named New Prospect. An election was called to settle the matter and the Tennessean exchanged mugs of rum for votes, Bolivar won. During the 1800s, Bolivar was the westernmost fort in Denton County and the first settlement west of Collin County. Two stagecoach lines changed horses here. The town thrived and could count three hotels, several stores, a gin, a flour mill, a sawmill, a blacksmith shop, a saloon, a church and a school. It was here that the Texas cattle trail joined the Jesse Chisholm Trail, but it was John Chisum, Texas cattle baron, who had herds here and furnished beef to the Confederacy during the Civil War. Bolivar and the surrounding area were havens for Sam Bass and his men. Two Bolivar men were jailed in 1890 for harboring notorious marauders. Many early settlers (whose descendants still live here) played important roles in development of county.



Elizabethtown, Circa 1870



Lloyd Webb at the Barnet Ranch.
Native grasses filled the Grand Prairie.

Chisholm Trail Marking Committee

Report to DCHC, September 4, 2014

In support of the National Park Service efforts to designate both the Chisholm Trail and the Great Western Trail as National Cattle Drive Trails a Denton County Trail Marking Committee was formed in April, 2014, Lloyd Webb is Chairman of the Committee, Alan Schiegg and Bob Montgomery are committee members. The committee's purpose is to identify if and where the Chisholm Trail came through Denton County. Our declared purpose:

The Mission Statement of the Denton County Historical Commission's Chisholm Trail Marking Committee is to research, identify and document as conclusively as possible any portion of the Chisholm Trail that passed through Denton County.

The other member of our committee is Bob Montgomery and although Bob has not been actively working with us on our efforts to this point we will rely on his historical knowledge of the county to provide review and input into our final report.

Our preliminary efforts have included meetings with residents of Bolivar and the surrounding area who are involved with the history of that area and whose ancestors were knowledgeable about the cattle drives of the 1860's and 70's. We also visited and met with individuals in St Joe, Nocona and Montague area who have been involved with marking of the Chisholm Trail in their county. We also visited the location of where Elizabethtown once existed and also where it's still active cemetery is located. We have talked with other individuals within Denton County who have knowledgeable information about the county's history. We have spent quite a bit of time researching books, newspaper articles, magazines and other documents at both our local library and the research library here in the courthouse and also some internet sources. We have also driven much of the area of western Denton County that the cattle trails most likely traveled. A summary of some of these activities was provided to Beth Stribling on July 29 and also in your Agenda notice for today's meeting there is a summary of some of our May activities. Our findings to this point do indicate that the Chisholm Trail cattle drives, or one of its major branches, did pass through

the western part of Denton County. Our research to this point shows the trail as entering Denton County in the far southwest corner of the county, near the location of Elizabethtown. Elizabethtown no longer exists except for its cemetery. The town was located near the current location of Highway 114 and I-35W. The approximate route of the trail then went north, roughly paralleling the Wise County line and up to and just to the west of Bolivar, where it veered north west and headed toward Montague county.

At this point we are waiting for a draft of the preliminary report from the NPS that will present its findings on the route of the Trail. Upon release of the report, which is due shortly, but I might add has been due for the last four months, the public will then have 60 days to provide their input as to the report's findings. Although our research is nearing completion we think it would be best to wait and review this preliminary report before submitting our final report.

Until this comes about we will continue to pursue some additional resources that may provide more supporting information as to the trails route through Denton County.

Lloyd Webb, Chairman

Chisholm Trail Marking Committee Final Report*

Our original mission was to identify as conclusively as possible the location of any portion of the Chisholm Trail that passed through Denton County. Our report to the Commission in September of last year (2014) indicated the Trail entered Denton County in the southwest corner, near the now defunct town of Elizabethtown, or Elizabeth as it is sometimes referred to, and traveled north roughly parallel to the area between I-35W and the county line to the west. The trail continued north passing to the west of Bolivar where it entered the southwest portion of Cooke County and traveled a few miles before it veered northwest into Montague County. The main trail crossed the Red River in the northwest part of Montague County.

Our report stated we were waiting for the draft copy of the Feasibility Study (for the purpose of National Historic Trail designation) from the National Park Service before making our report final. That was completed in late December of 2014 and released in early January of this year (2015). We are pleased to see that the NPS findings of the trail's location through Denton County pretty well mirrored what we stated in our September report. It's difficult to talk about the Chisholm Trail without using the words branches, arteries, feeder and connecting trails so we feel quite privileged *that* the NPS was detailed enough in their study to show that the main branch of the Chisholm Trail came thru Denton County and traveled the county's entire length from south to north, a distance of approximately *30 miles*. The NPS study did not name specific points within the county but from our literature research and anecdotal information we feel comfortable at identifying both the area of entry, Elizabethtown, and a point, Bolivar, which is a number of miles farther north, as nearby sites traversed by the Trail. Based on the report issued by the NPS and from our research, it is our conclusion the path of the Chisholm Trail through Denton County is that which is detailed in the attached map.

As Lloyd mentioned in his report to the Commission in February, we do want to keep this as a living document and not remain adamantly locked into the findings of this report. Should additional information become known that may require adding or amending this report a Postscript will be included for that purpose.

I would also like to mention that a hard copy of our complete report will be ready within the next couple of months. A copy will be placed in the research library here at the courthouse (research library at the Denton County Courthouse).

As a final note we would like to offer our thanks and appreciation to those people who provided information and assistance in helping us develop this report. Their names will appear in the bibliography.

Lloyd Webb, Chairman

4/2/2015

*Minor changes from the report delivered at the DCHC meeting of March 2015 are included to provide additional detail.

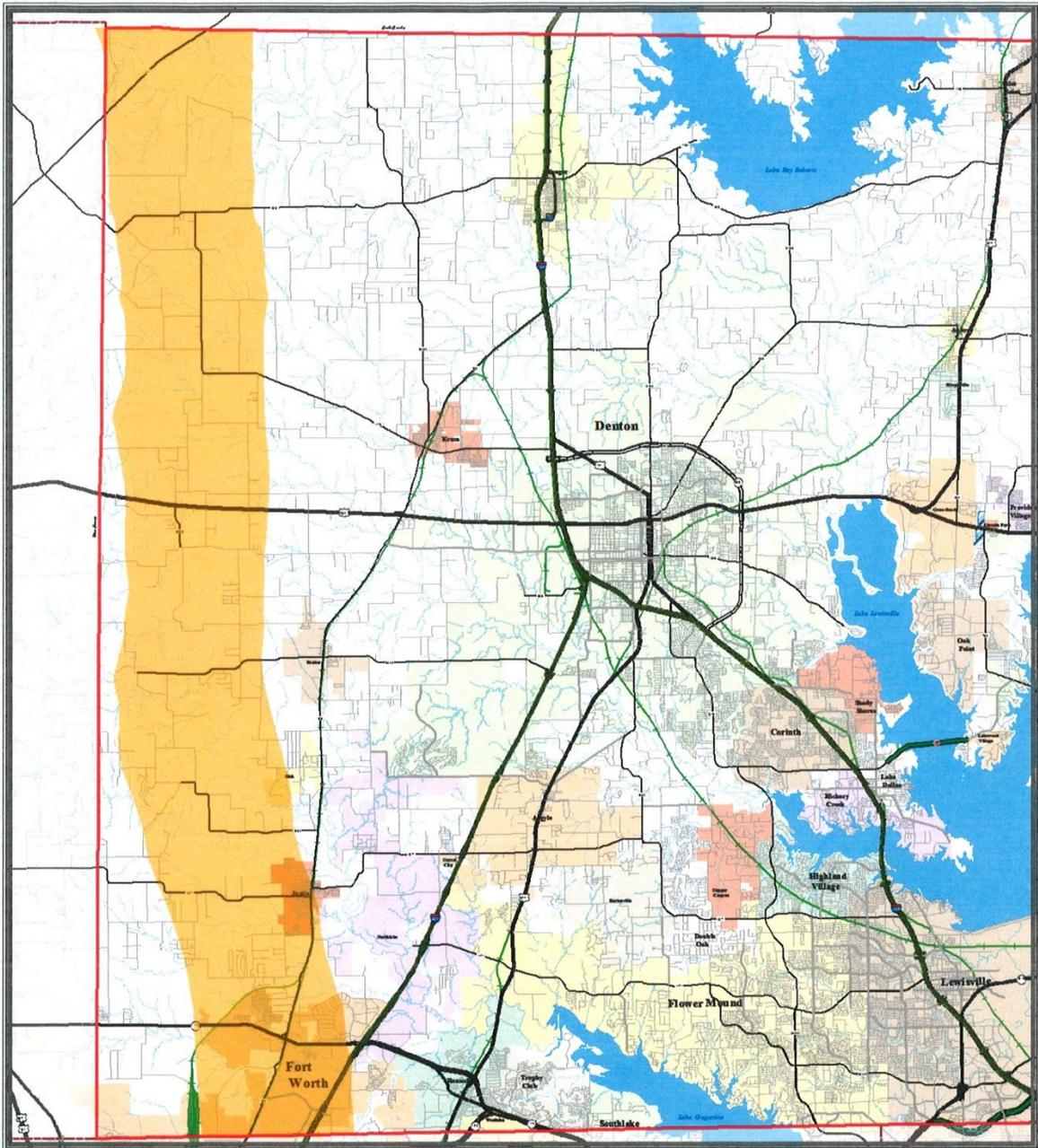
Address to Sanger City Council

Lloyd Webb, June 1, 2015

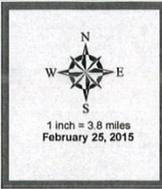
Thank you Mayor Muir and Council members for providing me this time on your busy schedule tonight. I am Chairman of the DENTON COUNTY CHISHOLM TRAIL MARKING COMMITTEE of the Denton County Historical Commission. Over the past year and a half, material and data has been gathered concerning the route of the Chisholm Trail through Denton County and has been presented to the National Parks system supporting that the Trail passed west of Sanger and has been accepted and included in a recently completed feasibility study. We are anxiously looking forward to Congress designating the Trail as a National Historical Trail. In 2017 the Trail will celebrate its 150th anniversary and to have the Historical Designation would give the states of Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas, along with cities, counties, educators and economic interests along Trail route excellent marketing opportunities. Currently we are in the planning stages to coordinate interested cities for this event. I encourage Sanger to plan to be a participant.

I am available as a contact for coordination or questions.

DENTON COUNTY Chisholm Trail



City Population	
INTERSTATE	Denton > 100,000
U.S. HIGHWAY	Lewisville 40,000 - 100,000
STATE HIGHWAY	Carrollton 20,000 - 40,000
FARM TO MARKET	Georgetown 20,000 - 40,000
MAJOR THOROUGHFARES	Other 10,000 - 20,000
MINOR ROADS	
CEMETERY	
RAILROADS	
AIRPORTS	
STREAMS	
LAKES & PONDS	
	Chisholm Trail



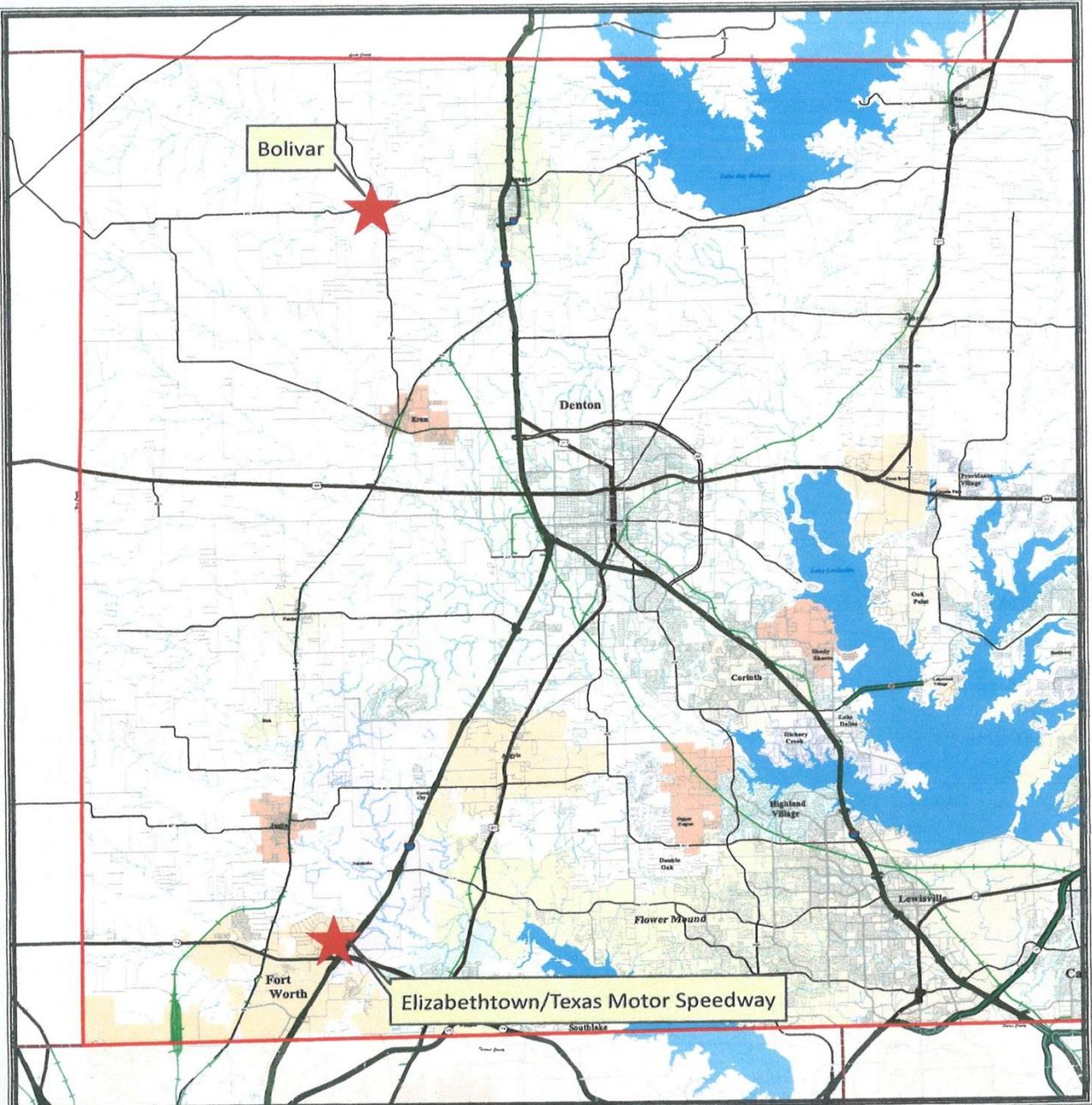
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DENTON COUNTY



INTERSTATE
 U.S. HIGHWAY
 STATE HIGHWAY
 FARM TO MARKET
 MAJOR THROUGHFARES
 MAJOR ROADS
 RAILROADS
 AIRPORTS
 STREAMS
 LAKES & PONDS

City Population
 Denton > 100,000
 Lewisville 40,000 - 100,000
 Carrollton 30,000 - 39,999
 Flower Mound 10,000 - 29,999
 Plano 10,000 - 29,999

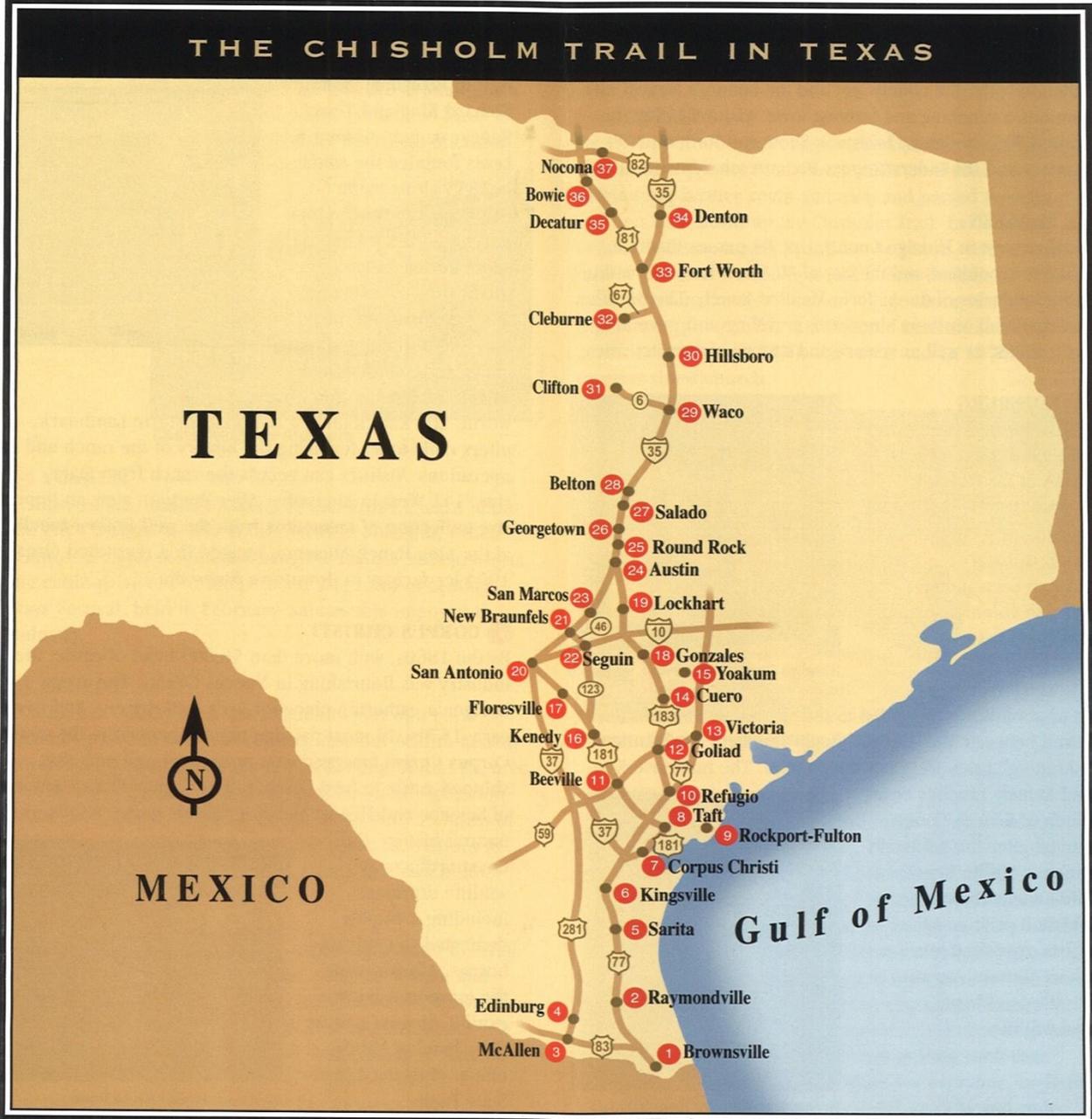
1 inch = 4.1 miles
 January 26, 2015

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Texas Historical Commission



9

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Acknowledgements

Those of us serving on the Chisholm Trail Marking Committee thank those many individuals who assisted us to carry out the mission of this project. The list of areas in which they have helped is numerous and would require many lengthy paragraphs to identify the individual areas in which they provided assistance. Perhaps a blanket thank you does not go far enough in providing our thanks but we do extend our appreciation to each of them for their assistance, direction, information and items provided. We acknowledge your help in allowing us to finish our mission.

Idalene Fuqua- Sanger Area Historical Society. Raised in Sanger. Ida wrote Historical Column for Sanger newspaper for many years.

Tonya Payne Batis- Sanger Area Historical Society, great-granddaughter of Noah Batis.

Nita Thurman, Area resident, Nita provided Historical articles for many years for the Denton Record Chronicle.

Skip Barnett- Denton County Land owner and rancher

Steve Ray- District Conservationist, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Beth Stribling- Denton County Historical Commission

Max Brown- Montague County Historical Commission

Wayne Wood- Montague County Historical Commission

Steve Myers- Tarrant County Historical Commission

Sara Hayden- G.I.S. Analyst, Department of Technology Services, Denton County. Thanks for the many maps you provided.

Mary Smith-Denton County Landowner, west of Justin.

Jack Waide- Denton County Land Owner and Historian.

Johnny Chambers- Raised in Sanger, second generation. Sadly Johnny passed away recently at age 92.

Reba Marshall-Denton County Landowner and Bolivar Historian

The reference librarians at Denton's Emily Fowler Library

Epilogue

In the course of preparing this report we did our best to keep focused on our mission which was to verify as conclusively as possible the location of the Chisholm Trail in Denton County. In the absence of eye witnesses, direct physical evidence or other verifiable facts we had to rely on secondary source information. There were times when some of that information offered contradictory facts. In the absence of verifiable facts we based our opinion on supportable information we located through research of books, periodicals, newspapers, brochures, handbooks and maps. Meetings were arranged with individuals from both Denton and neighboring counties in order to better understand the network of the trail as it traveled through and between counties. We conducted interviews with local individuals who have ancestral roots in the area and toured various county sites to see the terrain of the land. Our conclusion based on the availability of the information from the above material and other anecdotal observations have been offered in this compiled booklet.

Since it is difficult to talk about the Chisholm Trail without using the words feeder trails, branches, arteries or routes there arises contradictions as to the exact location the Chisholm Trail traveled. This point is made in Wayne Gard's article in *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly*:¹

Some of the confusion of the Chisholm Trail arises from mistaking it or one or the other of the trails on its flanks. Some comes from the nature of the trail. It did not follow an exact route, year after year; nor was it a line from a single starting point to a single destination. It might be compared to a tree with many roots and several large branches. The roots were the feeder trails coming in from every part of Texas that raised beef cattle in the trail period. The trunk was the route through North Texas...and the branches were the extensions to various railroad towns in which the cattle were sold.

We do not want to state that this report is the absolute and final authority of the Chisholm Trail location in Denton County but want to assure the reviewers that we strived to provide the best information available. Based on this disclosure it is our intent to keep this report as a living document and if any information comes to our attention that would either alter or add to the facts contained herein, we would do our best to verify that information and make any necessary amendments or additions.

¹“Retracing the Chisholm Trail,” *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 60, (July, 1956) 55

