

Medlin Kills Last Buffalo

According to historical archives, the last wild buffalo in Coppel was killed in 1856 by Denton County resident Hall Medlin. It did not go quietly.

Local history records that wild buffalo used to roam the Grapevine Prairie, gradually drifting away as the area grew. On the day in question, Medlin was hunting in Grapevine Springs when he spotted a buffalo bull. According to one report, Medlin was on a horse, though another indicates that he was lying hidden in the grass. Medlin fired at the bull but did not kill it outright. The enraged animal charged, goring the hunter before falling over dead.

Accounts diverge again concerning the severity of the wounds. According to the book *History and Reminiscences of Denton County* Medlin was disemboweled by the act, while another source records him as "nearly disemboweled."

Against the odds, Medlin survived. He lay in the park until the next day when help arrived, and he went on to live another 27 years.

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