



Summary Information

Title: Ruth Grant's Homer Research Collection

Collection Number: 2008:036

Creator: Ruth Grant

Collection Dates: c. 1836-2003

Extent: 1 cubic foot (3 boxes)

Language: English

Collection Abstract:

Ruth Grant's Homer Research Collection consists of research materials compiled in an attempt to write a book on the city of Homer, Texas, Angelina County's 3rd county seat. The collection documents Homer's founding and beginning as county seat in 1858, accounts of the Civil War in Homer, genealogical information on Homer's prominent families, churches, land ownership records, post offices, schools, cemeteries, and modern correspondence with descendants of Homer settlers. Also highlighted is the Scroggins and Borden family feud focused on Robert P. Scroggins and Ben W. Borden.

Repository:

The History Center
102 N. Temple
Diboll, TX, 75941
936-829-3543
<http://www.thehistorycenteronline.com/>

Author/Processing Information: Processed by Emily E. Hyatt on January 8, 2009.

Revision History: Finding aid revised by Matt Gorzalski on January 31, 2011, adding the oversize newspapers and updating description.

Biographical/Historical Note:

Ruth Grant was born in Center, Texas on October 27, 1922, the daughter of Bunker and Mae Scroggins Squyres. She died in Lufkin, Texas on August 23, 2008. A 1940 graduate of Lufkin High School, Grant was a charter life member of the Lufkin High School Alumni Association. She trained at Scott and White Hospital and became a registered medical technologist in 1943. She later received her B. A. and M. A. from Stephen F. Austin State University and was a Lufkin school teacher for 23 years, as well as a certified school counselor. After retiring in 1978, Grant continued in education through her books and

lectures on Lufkin and Angelina County history. She wrote the book *Lufkin Street Stories* in 2001. She planned to write a book on Homer, the former Angelina county seat, and collected many research materials to that end. She was, however, unable to write the book. Grant was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Lufkin, the Angelina County Historical Commission, and the Angelina County Genealogy and Historical Society. She was a member and past officer of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

Angelina County has been served by four different county seats since it was carved out of Nacogdoches County in 1846. Marion was the county seat until 1854 when the residents chose Jonesville. Homer followed as the county seat in 1858-1892, until the construction of the county's first railroad and a courthouse fire forced the change to Lufkin. Although Homer's population was always relatively small, it was still considered to be the economic, cultural, and political seat of the county for many years. The county's first organized church and many major businesses were established in Homer during its height. Some of the families who settled Homer remained leaders in county affairs for generations.

In addition to its former status as a county seat, Homer was known from the 1860s to the early 1900s for its feuding families. Resentments and slights dating back to the days of the Civil War and its immediate aftermath would periodically flare up. Much of Mrs. Grant's research documents several of these incidents and the families involved.

Collection Scope and Content:

Ruth Grant's Homer Research Collection was compiled by Grant in preparation for writing a book on Homer, Texas. There are a few original documents within the collection, but the bulk of the collection consists of photocopies of documents and secondary sources and handwritten notes made from research materials. The subjects covered range from Homer's founding and beginning as county seat in 1858, accounts of the Civil War in Homer, genealogical information on Homer's prominent families, churches, land ownership records, post offices, schools, cemeteries, and modern correspondence with descendants of Homer settlers.

The collection highlights the family feud between the Scroggins and Borden families in both the research notes and newspapers. It is believed that the feud originated between Ben W. Borden's support of prohibition and Robert P. Scroggins's anti prohibition view. Scroggins, Ruth Grant's grandfather and general store co-owner, was murdered by school teacher Borden in his store on March 19, 1900. A jury acquitted Borden, and Robert's brother Fred Scroggins sought revenge by murdering Joe Borden while he and his brother Ben played dominoes. Ben escaped but later ran into Fred and gunfire was exchanged. Both men were arrested and sentenced to two years in prison but were acquitted during appeal. A March 22 *Lufkin Weekly* article describes Robert Scroggins's murder; a May 3 *Lufkin Weekly* article and a May 4 *Angelina County Press* article describes Ben Borden's trial proceedings and the verdict. These newspapers, along with the *Weekly Tribune*, are incomplete and copies of the originals.

Arrangement:

The archivist made an effort to retain Mrs. Grant's original subject oriented filing scheme. These subjects are arranged alphabetically.

Subject Terms:

Topics

- Business enterprises -- Texas -- Homer
- Cemeteries -- Texas -- Homer
- Church buildings -- Texas -- Homer
- Land tenure -- Texas -- Homer
- Local history -- Texas -- Homer
- Family history -- Texas -- Homer
- Fraternal organizations -- Texas -- Homer
- Marriage -- Texas -- Homer
- Obituaries -- Texas -- Homer
- Postal service -- Texas -- Homer
- Schools -- Texas -- Homer
- Vendetta -- Texas -- Homer
- Veterans -- Texas -- Homer

Corporate Names

- Angelina County Press
- Lufkin Weekly
- Weekly Tribune

Personal Names

- Borden, Ben W.
- Scroggins, Robert P.

Family Names

- Borden family
- Brown family
- Chapman family
- Fowler family
- Gilly family
- Glen family
- Manning family
- Mantooth family
- Mueller family
- Scogin family (Scroggins)
- Silliman family
- Thompson family
- Windham family

Genres

- Newspapers
- Photographs

Locations

- Angelina County (Tex.)
- Angelina County (Tex.) -- Genealogy
- Angelina County (Tex.) -- History
- Homer (Tex.)
- Homer (Tex.) -- Genealogy
- Homer (Tex.) -- History
- Homer (Tex.) -- Research
- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

Access and Use

Access Restrictions: There are no access restrictions on this collection.

Acquisition Information: This collection consists of two accessions. Accession 2006:003, comprising the newspapers, was donated by Ruth Grant in January 2006. Accession 2008:036, the remaining research notes, was donated by Carol Falviell on December 5, 2008 after Grant's death.

Custodial History: Ruth Grant collected the research materials through the 1980s – 2000s. She donated the newspapers to The History Center in January 2006. After her death, her family donated the remaining research materials in December 2008.

Citation: Ruth Grant's Homer Research Collection, c. 1836-2003, 2008:036, The History Center, Diboll, TX

Related Materials:

- Photographs of the Squyres, Burris, Masingill, and Scroggins families in accession 1988:P001, donated by Ruth Grant, located in the Photograph File.

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Bibliography:

- Angelina County Historical Survey Committee, and Bob Bowman. *Land of the Little Angel: A History of Angelina County, Texas*. Lufkin, Tex: Lufkin Print. Co, 1976.
- Obituary of Ruth Squyres Grant. *Diboll Free Press*. August 27, 2008

Collection Inventory

Box 1

Folder 1	Angelina County Facts
Folder 2	Borden Family (see also Civil War and Feuds and Trouble After the Civil War)
Folder 3	Brown Family
Folder 4	Business – Homer
Folder 5	Cemeteries – Homer
Folder 6	Chapman Family
Folder 7	Churches – Homer
Folder 8	Civil War – Homer
Folder 9	Feuds and trouble after Civil War
Folder 10	Fowler and Glenn Families (see also Civil War and Feuds and Trouble After the Civil War)
Folder 11	Genealogy notes – Homer
Folder 12	Gilly Family (see also Civil War and Feuds and Trouble After the Civil War)
Folder 13	Homer – Facts, Beginnings, County Seat
Folder 14	Land Records – Homer
Folder 15	Manning Family

- Folder 16 Mantooth Family
- Folder 17 Marriages – Homer
- Folder 18 Masonic Lodge – Homer
- Folder 19 Muller Family (see also Civil War and Feuds and Trouble After the Civil War)
- Folder 20 Newspaper Clippings
- Folder 21 Newspapers – Homer
- Folder 22 Obituaries – Homer

Box 2

- Folder 1 Photographs – Thompsons, Squyers, Scroggins, Massingill families and others
- Folder 2 Post Offices – Lufkin and Homer
- Folder 3 Research Correspondence
- Folder 4 S and B Feed – Homer
- Folder 5 Schools-Homer
- Folder 6 Scroggins Family
- Folder 7 Selman Family(see also Civil War and Feuds and Trouble After the Civil War)
- Folder 8 Thompson Family
- Folder 9 Veterans – Homer
- Folder 10 Windham Family (see also Civil War and Feuds and Trouble After the Civil War)

Oversize Box 1

- Folder 1 *Angelina County Press*, March 1900 (Three sheets)
- Folder 2 *Angelina County Press*, March 23, 1900 (Four sheets)
- Folder 3 *Angelina County Press*, April 1900 (Two sheets)
- Folder 4 *Angelina County Press*, May 4, 1900 (Eight sheets)
- Folder 5 *The Lufkin Weekly*, March 22, 1900 (Three sheets)
- Folder 6 *The Lufkin Weekly*, April 26, 1900 (Six sheets)
- Folder 7 *The Lufkin Weekly*, May 3, 1900 (Two sheets)
- Folder 8 *Weekly Tribune*, July 5, 1900 (Four sheets)