

About TEXAS

Mostly

By FRANK CLARK

Texas County and Cabool, Missouri

TEXAS COUNTY IS THE LARGEST OF MISSOURI'S 114 counties and comprises 1,183 square miles of Ozark Highland. It is 125 square land miles larger than the State of Rhode Island. When the county was formed in 1843, it was named for explorer, fur trader and first lieutenant governor of Missouri, William H. Ashley. When it was formally organized in 1845, it was renamed for the Republic of Texas.

A seat of justice was laid out in 1846 near the center of the county on Brushy Creek and named Houston in honor of the first president of the Republic of Texas. During the Civil War, the county was ravished by guerilla warfare, and the town of Houston was destroyed. Houston was rebuilt and now is a center for dairying, poultry, livestock, farming and timber.

Texas County is a land of rugged hills, springs and caves. In the early 1800s, William H. Ashley leached saltpeter from bat guano in a cave in northeast Texas County for use in the production of gunpowder at his factory at Potosi. In 1818 explorer H.R. Schoolcraft visited the cave and named the area Wall-

Cave Valley.

As to the town of Cabool, there are two theories on how it got its name. One theory holds that an early settler had traveled through Afghanistan and compared the land in this area of Missouri to the land around that country's capital of Kabul. This seems like a very big stretch to me. The land may be rugged and hilly, but the elevation is in the range of 1,200 to 1,700 feet. Kabul is in the Hindu Kush, which is an extension of the Himalayas, and its elevation is 5,895 feet.

The second theory has Cabool named after a Native American leader. Cabool was his name, and he was a lover as well as a warrior. He lived in this area of Missouri many, many years ago.

The town of Cabool was laid out in 1882 on the route of the Springfield & Memphis (Frisco) Railroad. Cabool is the only town in the county on a railroad line.

A Main Street Scene in Cabool, Mo.



A view of Main Street, Cabool, Missouri, looking west—from a post card dated March 26, 1910.

BANK OFFICERS

President

John H. Bauch ??-1920
L.M. Edens 1921

Vice President

J.W. Wright ??-1920
Steve Yates 1921
Cahier
T. Brooks ??-1920
C.G. Blair 1920-21
W.R. Clifton 1921

Assistant Cashier

Steve Yates 1921

A \$5 Series of 1902 Plain Back on The First National Bank of Cabool with the signatures of T. Brooks as cashier and J.W. Wright as vice president.



The Cabool National Bank was chartered in September 1907 with Charter Number 8877. The building it occupied in 1906 had tile flooring, and mahogany furniture and fixtures. The latest model safe and vault was installed, burglar and hold-up insurance was taken out, and Burroughs bookkeeping and posting machines were purchased. Bank officers and employees were bonded. This bank was very useful to businessmen, farmers and ranchers of the community. The bank's motto was "Safety First."

On April 20, 1914, The Cabool National Bank merged with The Bank of Cabool to form The First National Bank of Cabool with a capital stock and surplus of \$60,000 and \$7,000 in undivided profits. This bank was liquidated on May 5, 1921. Today Cabool has a population of 2,000, and the bank building is occupied by the Corner Cafe.

The Cabool National Bank issued \$5 and \$10 Series of 1902 Red Seals, and \$5 and \$10 Series of 1902 Date Backs. The First National Bank of Cabool issued \$5, \$10 and \$20 Series of 1902 Date Backs, and \$10 and \$20 Series of 1902 Plain Backs. The bank's total issue was \$188,160; when it closed, there was \$50,000 outstanding.

References

- Cabool Enterprise Press*, various issues.
- Encyclopedia Americana*. Vols. I and XIX. New York, 1965.
- Kelly, Don C. *National Bank Notes: A Guide with Prices*. Oxford, OH: The Paper Money Institute, Inc., 1997.
- Texas County Library Staff, Houston, Missouri.