

FIELD'S STORE HISTORY

Drury Holland Field, son of Andrew and Frances Field, was born in Virginia on March 27, 1809. He married Caroline Frances Perry on November 9, 1837. They lived in Alabama originally. They came to Grimes County, Texas, sometime between 1846 and 1849. It is believed that Drury and Caroline were among the settlers who came to the newly formed state of Texas. They had nine children, but six died in their youth. Their three remaining children were Mary Frances, Mattie Lee and Eudora.

It is not certain when Drury and Caroline settled in the community of Field's Store, which bears his name. However, he was listed as a county commissioner in Grimes County in 1850. He owned and operated Field's Store. The exact date the store was established is uncertain. The general merchandise store handled anything and everything a family might have needed, from hardware, drygoods and groceries, to a pharmacy where potions were mixed and patent medicines were sold. The mortar and pestle used in the drug store are still in the possession of the family of John Franklin Jones, grandson of D. H. Field. Henry Harris bought the store from D. H. Field. Harris' son, Charlie, and Charlie's wife, Clara, began operating the store in 1902, soon after they married. After Charlie Harris died, Clara married Bradford Turner, and they ran the store. Information from this point, to the store's closing in 1924, is varied. The Sitton family currently owns the site, and they bought it from J. H. Brinkman.

The store also housed the Field's Store, Texas, Post Office, established July 1, 1874. It was largely through the efforts of Isaac Newton Jones, son-in-law of D. H. Field, that the post office was established. He was the first postmaster. Caroline Field served as postmaster in 1876, while I. N. Jones served as the first County Commissioner of Precinct 2. He served as postmaster again in 1877. I. N. Jones and Jesse Goodwin were trustees of New Hope United Methodist Church at Field's Store in 1871. I. N. Jones was also secretary for the United Methodist circuit preacher. In 1875, trustees I. N. Jones and William Wilson, with the approval of the Quarterly Conference, gave written permission to the Masonic Fraternity for use of the upper story "so long as the church building shall stand." D. H. Field died in 1872. Caroline Field died September 4, 1896, and is buried in Field's Store Cemetery beside her husband. The rose carved on her tombstone was made by her grandson, John Franklin Jones.

Isaac Newton Jones married Mary Frances Field on April 28, 1863, after he returned from the Confederate Army. They had four children; John Franklin, William Isaac, Wood Field, and George Andrew. William and Wood died in their youth. John Franklin Jones built and operated a gin at Field's Store around 1907. A small portion of the gin still sits on the site. George Andrew Jones built and operated a blacksmith shop at Joseph, Texas. Joseph was located on Joseph Road, just west of Hegar Road.

Mattie Field married a Mr. Eddings. It is not known if any children were born to this marriage. William Boulware married Eudora Field, who had two children from her first marriage, Edna and Malcolm Hearne. William and Eudora had five children; Bettie, Willie Eudora, Malcolm, Robert and Winnie Boulware.

Land purchased in 1866 by I. N. Jones was inherited by John Franklin and George Andrew Jones. George Andrew's portion has remained in the family for the past 126 years.

FIELD'S STORE SCHOOL BUILDING

In 1871 J. W. Day gave an acre of land for public worship, a school and a permanent burying ground. A community school called New Hope was functioning in the community as early as 1873 on this property.

The first two rooms in the Field's Store School Building were built in 1913. The room on the east was for the first through third or fourth grades. In this room there was a stage on the north side about 12 inches high. The blackboard was on the wall at the back of this stage. We think a door on the left side of this room led into the second room, which was for the grades fourth or fifth through sixth or eighth.

A third room on the west side was built in 1924 when Myrtle Grove was consolidated with Field's Store. There were folding doors between the rooms, with an entrance door between the second and third rooms.

A portable stage--long panels of planks with supports of 2 by 4's--was stored under the building on the east side, as this side was higher off the ground. For school programs or plays, this stage was erected. The desks and seats were attached to 1 by 4's and could be moved around to suit the occasion. A porch was across the front of the building, and each room had an entry to this porch.

In 1924 the fourth room was added to the back of the first section, across the north wall. This room may have extended out a few feet. The original stage was taken into the fourth room and several feet added. It had an outside entrance door on the west. The door in the second room led into the fourth room. This may have been the entrance to the first small stage. Pot-bellied stoves were attached to the brick chimney. This fourth room included the ninth and tenth grades. The chimney in the fourth room had some loose bricks, where sometimes one of the boys would hide the hand bell from the principal.

When the "take-up bell" rang, a line was formed for each room. The teacher stood at the head of each line, whether for recess or the end of the school day. A straight line had to be formed before the teacher said, "March" or "dismissed".

In 1931 or 1932 the seventh through tenth grades were consolidated with Waller. In 1937-38 the sixth grade remained at Field's Store. In February, 1946, consolidation notices were published to join Field's Store School District with the Waller Consolidated Independent School District.

On December 5, 1953, the Waller School District sold the Field's Store School Building to the Field's Store Community Center for the sum of \$1.00.