

More Memories

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When one considers the development of Texas withing the span of a single generation, it is marvelous.

The census of 1860 gave the state 600,000 population. These were spread over east, central, south, and southwest Texas....on Red River the north border of the state reaching west to Montague County, thence in a southwest course to near the mouth of the Rio Grande River (the Mexican Border).

Throughout the entire occupied territory the population was thin with but a few towns of above a few hundred and no large city. Jefferson, Galveston, Houston, Austin, and San Antonio being the only places of sufficient size to justify the appellation of city.

The western border for about 700 miles in length and for a depth of 60 to 75 miles was almost exclusively ranch country and subject to raids by savage indians. All the territory beyond this border, north and west, was held by hostile tribes and roamed over by millions of buffalo and other wild game.

The western ~~xx~~ tribes were nomads with never an acre cultivated, and their villages were scattered over the upper waters of the various streams that flowed to the Gulf or to the Mississippi with always a stretch of territory of 100 miles or so (a no mans land) between them and the whites. This territory was hunted over by indians and was traversed by war parties to and from the white settlements and was a danger zone. The plains tribes depended upon raids on Texas and Mexican ranches for their supply of horses which annually amounted to thousands of head.