

THE JOURNAL

The unofficial newsletter of Wilson County Historical Society



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**BUY YOUR BRICK AND
TOUR THE JAILHOUSE**

July 4th, 1776

by Anthony Delgado

While a group of American colonists were adopting the Declaration of Independence announcing their departure from England and King George, a group of twenty-one Spanish colonial soldiers were keeping watch in what was then known as "El Fuerte del Santa Cruz del Cibolo" or "Fort Cibolo" initially established near present-day Sutherland Springs.

El Fuerte del Cibolo was erected to help keep watch and provide protection over the precious livestock in the many ranches near and along the Cibolo creek between Bexar and La Bahia (present-day Goliad).

According to the Texas State Historical Association's *Handbook of Texas*, *El Fuerte del Cibolo* existed between 1734-1737 and again from 1771-1782. In 1780, Spanish Texas Governor Domingo Cabello petitioned to have El Fuerte moved from its location near Sutherland Springs to a more strategic location further south. Today, a historical marker near Kosciusko recognizes this fort and its history.

The twenty-one men on duty at El Fuerte del Cibolo on July 4, 1776 are listed on the graphic below:



El Fuerte's exact location near Sutherland Springs has yet to be confirmed. However, clues exist that may help researchers discover yet another gem in Wilson County's rich history.

Historical Presence

The Floresville Chronicle-Journal

August 9, 1946

L. N. Savoy Dies From Fall Sustained While Working On Library Building

L. N. Savoy, 53, died at the Blake hospital in Floresville early Wednesday morning as the result of a fall from a scaffold at the new Wilson County Library building where he was employed as a plasterer. He was working on the outside ceiling of the side entrance to the building at the time. No one knows just how the accident occurred but it is thought he made a mis-step and fell from the scaffold, his head striking the concrete walk. He suffered a fracture of the skull and contusion of the brain and never regained consciousness.

Religious services were held at the Murray Funeral Home Thursday afternoon at 3:30 with burial in Floresville cemetery.

Mr. Savoy was born in Washington county, Texas, January 14, 1893 and lived there for many years. The family moved to Wilson county about 12 years ago and resided on their

farm on the San Antonio highway, a few miles northwest of town. Mr. and Mrs. Savoy were hard-working and thrifty people and engaged in the raising of turkeys on a large scale. Their turkey farm created wide interest for they had developed the breed of broad-breasted turkeys which established them as pioneers in the industry here.

Mr. Savoy also followed the trade of a brick mason and plasterer and was a skilled workman in his line.

The entire community mourns the untimely and tragic death of this good citizen and deepest sympathy is extended members of the bereaved family in their great sorrow.

He is survived by his father, Edward Savoy; his widow; one son, Edward Savoy of Beaumont; two sisters, Mrs. J. T. Justice of Floresville and Mrs. Rivers Jennings of Bellville, Texas; one brother, Jim Savoy of Corpus Christi.

In August of 1946, Louis Savoy, a skilled brick mason and plasterer, was working on the County's library (current Archives building) when, according to the news account of the time, he fell from the scaffold, hitting his head on the concrete walk which proved fatal.

Mr. Savoy was a life-long resident of Texas. While his residency in Wilson County only lasted just over a decade until his passing, his presence may have never left.

Just a few weeks ago, while Sandra Smith, the Wilson County Archives librarian, was reading this article, her daughter told her she saw a "figure" cross the hallway near the Archives' restroom. Sandra's daughter was unaware of what she was reading. At the time, Sandra and her daughter were the only ones in the building. Well, they were the only ones that were alive in the building.

Have you experienced such phenomenon elsewhere in Wilson County? Where was it? What was the occasion? Did you tell anyone?

GOT TICKETS?



You do not want to miss this opportunity to spend a great time with about 600 of your closest friends at the Floresville Event Center. The musical entertainment will be by Freddy Cruz and the Noble Outlaws.

Contact Viola to reserve your spots (or volunteer)!

Don't forget to get your silent auction to Ruby Manen. We will have lots of exhibit space.



Have a favorite dessert?

Consider donating it and others at the upcoming **Floresville Opry** and **Western Shindig**. Contact Viola Henke to learn more about how you can help make these two fundraisers a tasty event.

Save The Dates

Floresville Opry

Every First Thursday of the Month!
Bring your own adult beverages!
Set-ups & soft drinks available.

April 6, 2023 **Randy Carson**

May 4, 2023 **Tom & Bri Teboe**

June 1, 2023 **Sean O'BRIEN**

July 6, 2023 **BILLY MATA**

August 3, 2023 **Matthew Ryan & David Lewis**

September 7, 2023 **Jessie Mapes**

General Admission \$15 | Reserved Table (Seats 8) \$100

Benefit for Wilson County Historical Society

2nd Saturdays - Jailhouse Museum Tours
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Wilson County Jailhouse Museum

July 15 - Western Shindig
Floresville Event Center
Doors Open at 5:30 PM

July 18 - Membership Meeting
6:00 PM

"El Camino Real" by Dave Regan
County Courthouse

August 3 - Floresville Opry
Wilson County Expo Center
Doors Open at 5:00 PM

August 15 - Membership Meeting
6:00 PM

"Railroad History of Wilson County" by
John Reed
County Courthouse

September 7 - Floresville Opry
Wilson County Expo Center
Doors Open at 5:00 PM

Note: Society Meetings will be held in the County Courthouse, 2nd Floor Courtroom until further notice!

Be sure to check out our Website and "like" our Facebook page

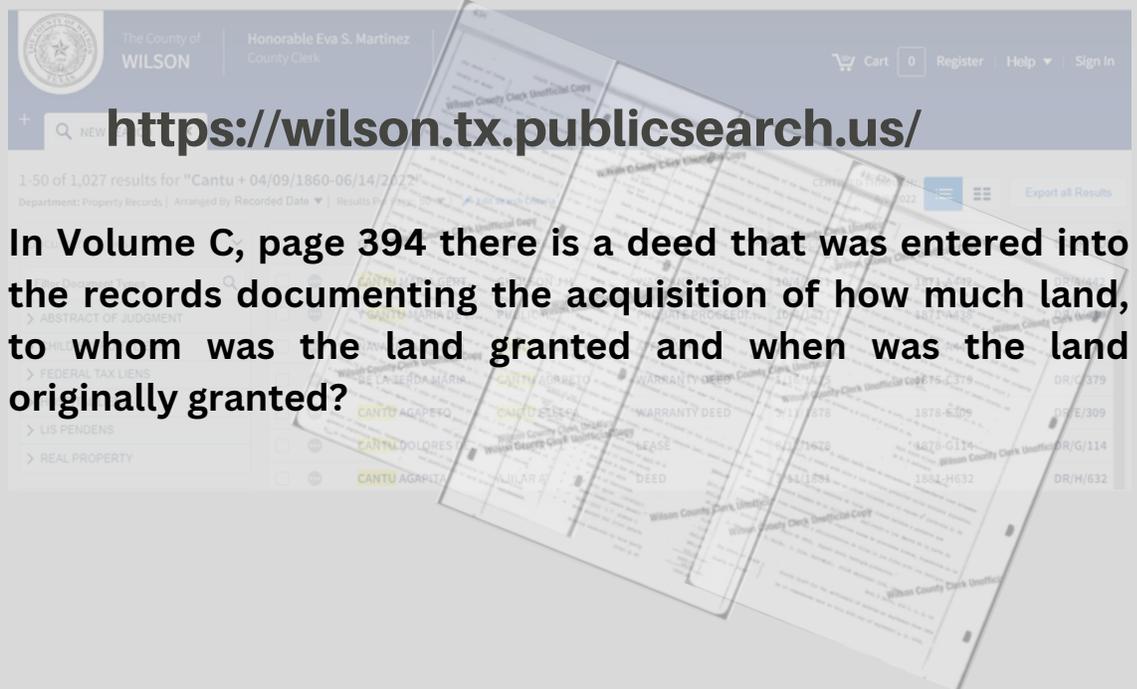


<https://www.wilsoncountyhistory.org>



[facebook.com/wilsoncountyhistorical society](https://facebook.com/wilsoncountyhistorical%20society)

Have you visited the Wilson County Clerk's Official Records Site?



In Volume C, page 394 there is a deed that was entered into the records documenting the acquisition of how much land, to whom was the land granted and when was the land originally granted?

Make your mark in Wilson County's history!

BUY A BRICK

Consider an inscribed brick paver as a tribute or memorial to a friend, family member, a loved one, or yourself, as a permanent part of Wilson County History!

We are taking orders for engraved bricks that will replace the existing sidewalk leading to the Wilson County Jailhouse Museum. As a "State Antiquities Landmark" we must preserve and protect the old Jailhouse.

Orders for engraved bricks will help fund the restoration and upkeep of the Wilson County Jailhouse Museum.

The Wilson County Historical Society's goal is for ALL families in Wilson County to be represented with an engraved brick.

Thank You!

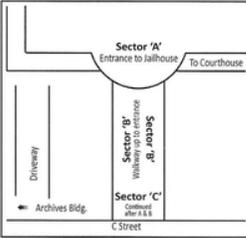
4x8 Brick Pavers
3 Lines, 20 Characters per line
\$100

Order at
wilsoncountyhistory.org



For info, contact
Neila Hopkins
281-376-1364
or Viola Henke
830-391-1062





WCH Graphics • 830-238-4531

Have you purchased your brick yet? You can leave a legacy for generations to come and help preserve our historic County Jailhouse Museum when you purchase a 4x8 brick paver. The pavers cost \$100 and you have three lines of 20 characters to tell your generational grandchildren to come that you were here and contributed to saving this historic landmark. You can contact Neila Hopkins or Viola Henke for purchase information.

Have you taken a Museum Tour?

Tours of our Jailhouse Museum are offered every second Saturday from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

Be sure to sign up for the special paranormal tours. It's an experience you will not forget.

