

Family Heirlooms Will Be on Display, Including Contracts With Freed Slaves, At Sprinkle-Dessau Community Exhibit

J. Wentland.
Dairy and poultry products: Mrs. Henry Schoen, Mrs. Tillie Darr, Mrs. Milton Hall, Mrs. Hugo Kruger.

The past will be linked with the present when family heirlooms and rare old papers are put on display Friday at the school house scene of the combined Sprinkle-Dessau community fair.

The event, first of its kind ever held in Sprinkle, is expected to draw 500 persons between 5 and 10 p. m.

The fair will be followed Saturday by the Bee Cave community's project, scheduled to open at 11 a. m. and close at 6 p. m. Travis county has taken the lead in reviving these neighborhood events at which there is good-natured rivalry over the judging of pantry

products, livestock and sewing exhibits by school children, informal programs and displays of household treasures.

Mrs. Alice Lewallen of Sprinkle, whose great-grandfather and his sons owned a thriving plantation near LaGrange, has a private collection of papers that any Texas museum might envy. To moderns, there is the drama of a fading era in the yellowed pages Mrs. Lewallen will put on exhibit at the Sprinkle fair—slave sale papers, contracts between the plantation owners and the new freedmen and freedwomen, a sale slip for eight bales of cotton that fetched \$1010 when hauled to the Houston market in '65. The owners' net profit on that sale, incidentally, was \$934.

Similar papers are owned by Mrs. Lewallen's brother, Ernest Jarmon of Austin.

Contract With Slaves

One document is a contract which the Jarmon family made with its slaves, newly freed in the war but eager to remain on the plantation. In 1865, the freedmen and women were willing to continue performing their old duties in exchange for safekeeping and, for field laborers, one-tenth of the crop. But six months later, the ex-slaves had raised their price to one-third and share-cropping had come to Texas.

A contract to run from Jan. 1, 1866, to Dec. 25, 1866, shows the Jarmon family agreeing to furnish to the negroes "Comfortable house room and fuel for themselves and families, with teams, tools, and farming implements necessary to make a crop and feed the teams; to furnish each one of the parties of the second part (freedmen and women) with one peck of meal and three and one-half pounds of bacon per week—if beef is furnished the ration to be one pound per day—if pork is furnished the ration to be three-quarters of a pound per day. . . .

Rations Furnished

"If either of the parties of the second part desire it, to furnish the above kinds of rations for their children or portions of families unable to do farm labor in quantities sufficient for their food at the market value at the time furnished, and to give to said parties of the second part one-third of the cotton, corn, and fodder which may be cultivated, raised, gathered, ginned, baled and prepared for market by the parties of the second part after deducting expenses hereinafter specified. . . .

The 1865 contract was signed by 38 slaves, each making his "X" after his given name and the surname "Jarmon" he had adopted. The second, for the year 1866, carried 10 ex-slave signatures.

Mrs. Lewallen also will show a collection of valuable shawls, Mrs. S. Brogan will exhibit the wedding dress worn by her grandmother, and Mrs. Tillie Darr will lend an antique china closet to house the heirlooms at the fair. Dr. and Mrs. C. T. Gray will judge the antiques.

There will be an old-fashioned chicken dinner served throughout the evening by the club members of both communities. Judges of the exhibits will be T. H. Royder, county agent, and Jim Baswell of the Austin Chamber of Commerce on

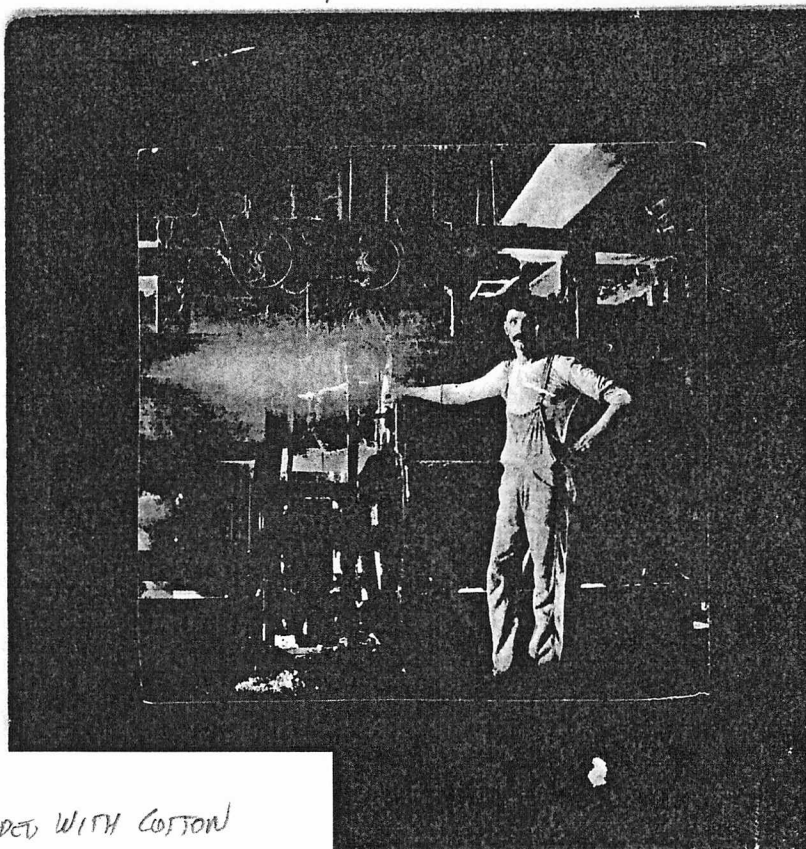
livestock, poultry and field crops. A home economics class of Miss Jennie S. Wilmot of the University of Texas will judge the women's and girls' exhibits.

Committees Named

The committees of the various departments of the Sprinkle-Dessau fair are:

Canned fruits and vegetables: Mrs. W. Massey, Miss Ida Goerlitz, Mrs. Frank Maxwell.
Baked products: Mrs. S. W. Hengren, Mrs. A. W. Criswell, Mrs. E. C. Nauert, Mrs. M. Sewant, Mrs. C. W. Wray, Mrs. M. Wieland, Miss Norma Lison, Mrs. E. W. Smith.
Antiques: Miss Clara Yager, Mrs. Alice Lewallen, Miss Laura Giles.
Pantry and livestock: Jack Massey, C. Jenke, Miss Annie Yeager, Mrs. V. M. Criswell, Embre Smith.
Field crops: G. A. Rogas, E. C. Nauert, Ernest Mueller, V. M. Criswell, M. Smith, S. W. Hengren.
Miscellaneous: Mrs. M. Smith, Mrs. Ruth Wierschenske, Mrs. H. F. Kruger, Mrs. Dale Davis.
School exhibit: G. A. Galbreath, Mrs.

418 Barv Cotton Gin
Sprinkle, 1904



417 E.V. Giles and
MKT RAILROAD LOADED WITH COTTON
Sprinkle, Tx. 1905

