

Sprinkle, Travis County 7500
Austin History Center

Notes from Sprinkle, Texas: Just a Sprinkling of a Town, essay by Glenda Perryman (1966) Regan High School:
Most of info. from interview with Mrs. Chellie (Barr) Jamison.

Named for Erasmus Frederick Sprinkle, an early settler near Hornsby Bend, who was maternal grandfather of Wm. Braxton Barr. Barr named the community after him.

John and Cremora (Sprinkle) Barr of Virginia were parents of Wm. Braxton Barr. They settled at Hornsby Bend in 1888. Other early settlers - Jourdots & Maxwells.

1894-95 TC Directory Pop. of Sprinkle 91 (26 negroes)
1898-99 " " " 102 (27 ")

15 homes in Sprinkle at its peak

Wm. Braxton Barr, 1869-1902

At age 18 started out in Sprinkle. Married Tillie Birdwell of Manor 3 children: Richard Everett Barr, Geo. Ernest Barr, Chellie Barr - who married F.A. Jamison, a banker of Buda.

Member of Masonic Lodge, Cotton Men's Assoc., Christian Church
Great temperance worker and active in political affairs

Owned (in addition to home): 13 rent houses
merc. store
blacksmith shop
cotton gin
223 acre farm
butcher shop - built by Mrs. Barr after his death

Besides Barr owned businesses, there was another merc. store and a depot in Sprinkle.

First schoolhouse was built by Barr for a church - built in 1896 across road from Barr house. When r.r. was built, school had to be moved because too noisy. Second school had two rooms, two teachers - thru 7th grade. This school lasted 15 or 20 years. Then school consolidated with Manor. School house burned down later.

Barr merc. store was built by Capt. Sprinkle - across road from Barr house. Later moved to side of house. Store was 2-story - men's clothes upstairs, dry goods and groceries down. Four men from around Austin would get together and buy dry goods from St. Louis. Goods shipped to Austin, then each hauled his share home by wagon. Post Office was in back of store. Existed until about 1928.

1902 or 1903 MK&T RR was built. Four passenger trains per day thru Sprinkle. Section foreman and crew lived at Sprinkle. Sedberry - grandfather of Chester Kielman - was section foreman during Sprinkle's peak. Train stopped daily to load cotton.

Social events around 1918:

Parties in homes - several a week. No drinking, no music, no round dancing. Singing and games.

People attended church on Sundays in other communities, and in the evening they held a union Sunday school at the school bldg.

Recollection of Mrs. Jamison:

One day noticed a man in father's store wearing a funny hat. Her father told her the man had been scalped by Indians and that was why he wore a leather skull-cap.

Took an hour to get to Austin in horse and buggy. Had to ford Walnut Creek where Cameron Rd. now crosses it.

Gin and store burned.

What is left of Sprinkle now (1966):

1. Barr house

Parlor used as voting precinct. 120 registered last election.

2. House that used to be a store.

3. Population of 20

FROM ESSAY BY ROBBY DRAKE NOV. 29, 1969:

"NOW MRS. — GRAVES, DAUGHTER OF CHELIE ERIC LIVES IN THE
BARR MANSION"