

The Montgomery Town Goat

The first public water well for Montgomery was dug in 1844 by Col. Joseph Bennett at a cost of \$202.50 and was paid for by Commissioner's Court. The well is located in the stone fence on the south side of what is now the community center.

On a hot, dusty day in 1906, a goat wandered into town. Whether it belonged to someone or was on the loose is not known for sure. The goat soon realized that if he hung around the well long enough, some kind soul would haul up a bucket of water and give him a drink. As time went on, the goat learned that if he went to the saloon, he would be given beer and food handouts. Other businesses around town would also give him handouts. It is said, that after a handout, he would let his long beard be pulled. The billy goat seemed to realize his celebrity status and would station himself at the well waiting for attention. Many times he would jump up on top of the well door and wait for someone to arrive to draw water. It is not known if the billy goat was ever given a name or exactly how long he stayed in town.

Contributed by Narcissa "Sissy" Boulware and Billy Ray Duncan

Cemetery Tale

This story starts December 1, 1868 – on that day, Peter and Richard Willis, wealthy Montgomery merchants, donate seven acres of land on Plantersville Road to the town of Montgomery to be used as a "new cemetery". From December 1, we fast forward to December 28th. This first Monday after Christmas, four men riding into Bear Bend, east of Montgomery, steal a horse and head for town. The four men ride into Montgomery and begin to terrorize the town's people, riding their horses into stores, shooting off their guns, robbing people in the street and, in general, creating chaos.

What the outlaws didn't know was that men from Bear Bend were riding into town after the horse thieves. Upon reaching the town, the Bear Bend men joined outraged men of the town and went after the outlaws and a running gun battle ensued. The gun battle raged from the center of town, west down College Street where the youngest outlaw ran into the Chilton home. There the armed citizens coax the youngest boy out of the house where one of the outraged citizens stabs him with a Bowie Knife.

When the dust settled, the four outlaws were dead and awaiting burial, but burial in the "old" cemetery was refused. Even though the "old" cemetery was public, it was considered a church cemetery and the townsfolk refused the outlaws burial. This is where the "new" cemetery comes into play, with the first burials being three of the outlaws. The fourth was buried nearby, exactly where, is unknown.

So ends one of the best known tales in Montgomery history.

Shared by Donald Duncan, local Montgomery Historian

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- **DAVIS COTTAGE** built with logs cut in 1831. An example of a pioneer home. Now used as the Chamber of Commerce office and Museum. A copy of Dr. Stewart's Texas Flag design is on display.
- **LAW OFFICE** built while Texas was still a Republic. Served as a day school, post office and a law office.

Both facilities were given to the Montgomery Historical Society in 1984 by the Davis heirs.

- **McCALL LAW OFFICE** built in the 1880's – given to the Montgomery Historical Society by the McCall heirs. It has been restored and furnished with some of Judge Screven A. McCall's furniture and books.

Dr. Charles Bellinger Tate Stewart

The Lone Star Flag with its vibrant fields of red, white, blue and a single inset star has served as a proud symbol of Texas since 1839. At the request of the Republic of Texas President Mirabeau B. Lamar, Dr. Charles B. Stewart of Montgomery created this inspirational banner and the elegant simplicity of his design truly exemplified the united will of the citizens of the new Republic of Texas. After winning approval by a committee of six signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence and then Congress, the Lone Star Flag was officially designated in 1839, and since that time it has graced flagpoles across the state of Texas.

Following Dr. Stewart's passing (he is buried here in the New Montgomery Cemetery), his flag sketch was handed down first to his son and later to his granddaughter. A copy of the original design and Mirabeau B. Lamar's signature can be seen in the Nat Hart Davis Pioneer Complex & Museum. Dr. Charles B. Stewart's design of the Lone Star Flag created in cloth and in color is an embodiment of the spirit and will of the people of Texas and his work remains a great source of pride to the people of Montgomery County today. On May 30th, 1997, the House of Representatives of the 75th Texas legislature officially commemorated Montgomery County as the Birthplace of the Lone Star Flag.



(1806-1885)

Montgomery History

Montgomery traces its roots to 1823 when Andrew J. Montgomery established a trading post a few miles to the west of the current townsite. On December 14, 1837, the town named for Andrew Montgomery became the first county seat of Montgomery County and the third county formed under the Republic of Texas. It originally extended from the Brazos River to the Trinity.

Owen and Margaret Montgomery Shannon, colonists with Stephen F. Austin, had settled on their grant of land and traded with the Indians. In July of 1837, an ad in the Telegraph and Texas Register advertised the sale of lots in the newly organized town of Montgomery. The article stated that a new county was expected to be created, and Montgomery from its central position, would be selected as the seat of justice. Montgomery remained the seat of government until 1889 when the records were moved to Conroe.

In its early days, Montgomery was the trade center for a large farming area, where stagecoach, railroad and telegraph lines crossed. A post office opened in Montgomery in 1846. The city was officially incorporated in 1848 with Judge Nathaniel Hart Davis as Mayor. In the era of antebellum Texas, Montgomery had a newspaper and a telegraph line and was at the crossroads of two stage lines. It became a trading center, especially in lumber and cotton. In 1850 it had Baptist and Methodist churches, a Masonic lodge, a private school, a new courthouse and two physicians, E.J. Arnold and J.H. Price.

In the 1850's Montgomery experienced a building boom. Some of the fine homes built at that time remain today with descendants of the original owners or early owners occupying them. A yellow fever epidemic, and the Civil War stopped all progress in Montgomery. The political and economic power shifted away from Montgomery to Conroe in 1870. By 1900, numerous mercantile establishments were in business, as well as three cotton gins, railroads active with freight and passengers, five hotels and boarding houses, doctors, dentist, and lawyers. After the county seat moved to Conroe, Montgomery reverted back to the little town it is today – quiet, peaceful and loaded with history. It's relatively small population makes it even more amazing that so few could preserve so much of their past.

Montgomery, Texas holds a very special and dear place in my Heart. As the great, great, great granddaughter of Dr. Charles B. Stewart, our family rejoices to see how the citizens of Montgomery are keeping history alive through the many celebrations and special events honoring our ancestors and the many other patriots who have made their place in Texas history.

Pat Spackey