



Fort Chadbourne Officers Quarters - Before and After

crumbled. Most of the information on Fort Chadbourne has been handed down as “stories” by the early day residents of the area. There is little first hand and what historians call authentic information.

Dugout housed post office

A dugout housed the Fort Chadbourne Post Office for many years following the appointment of Mrs. R.E. Douglas as postmaster in 1889 when the post office at the old fort was terminated. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Johnson took the place in 1925. An opening on the dugout held a letter drop used when the post office wasn't open. A live oak thicket nearby served cowboys and frontier people as a place to tie up horses and buggies.

Knight worked at gin

J.A. Knight, one of the founders of Coke County, worked at Coke's first gin, on the Snyder ranch, powered by a steam engine, over forty years ago. It was called the Yellow Wolf Gin, burned mesquite wood and turned out eight bales a day. Farmers came, some a day's journey and if business was good, they camped for the night and got a good chance to vest around the campfire.

Knight was engineer and rode horseback from Valley View, drew \$1.25 a day, wages for skilled work then.

The second gin in the county was operated by the father of Ralph and Frank Harris, at the Harris ranch. The ranch could use the cotton seed for feeding, farmers did not need them. Mr. Harris offered the ginning for the seed, the farmers gladly accepted, and the seed were stacked in great ricks near the gin. From there they were hauled throughout the winter and fed to the cattle on the range.

The first thresher – a “ground-hog” machine was run by two mules and who had to walk in an inclined run around.

Mr. Knight was formerly in the hardware business at Robert Lee and was County Relief Administrator under the State Relief Commission.

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CONGRATULATING COKE COUNTY ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Robert Lee Care Center is a medicare and medicaid 79- bed long term care facility. We are located in Robert Lee of Coke County, Texas. Our services also include dementia care, skilled nursing care, respite care, hospice care, convalescent care, short - term therapy and rehabilitation, and medical services.

Nestled in the quiet, close-knit community of Robert Lee, the Care Center's origins can be traced to a small local hospital that opened in 1949. Through the years, the hospital evolved and expanded to serve the growing needs of the community. By 1971, a 44-bed nursing home was added to the facility. In 1986, the hospital closed and the building was repositioned to serve area seniors in a home environment. Since its inception, our community of gifted employees, our own caring “home folks,” have served the residents and families of Robert Lee Care Center with personal care and support. Our staff, as well as most of the Care Center residents, are lifelong members of the Robert Lee community. In every sense, it is truly family taking care of family.

Some of the greatest gifts Robert Lee Care Center provides residents and families are higher staff-to-resident ratios, more personal attention and a vast array of services, all results of our non-profit status and hospital district funding.

Today, the Robert Lee Care Center is a central hub for community services. In addition to nursing, and therapy, Care Center also prepares meals for the local community senior center. Robert Lee truly embraces the “neighbor caring for neighbor” philosophy both inside and outside the Care Center.

ROBERT LEE CARE CENTER