

Baylor University . The Texas Collection

Bolt Family Homestead and Legion Valley Indian Massacre Collection. 1985

Summary Information

Creator	Herring, B.
Extent (quantity/size)	1 document box
Language	English
Abstract	The Bolt Family Homestead and Legion Valley Indian Massacre Collection contains a scrapbook about an 1868 Indian raid on several families in Llano County, Texas.

Subjects

Frontier and pioneer life -- Texas. / Indians of North America -- Wars -- Texas -- Llano County. / Legion Valley Massacre (Llano County, Tex.), 1868. / Legion Valley, Massacre, Tex., 1866.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access and Use The collection is open for research.

Use/Reproduction Restrictions: All requests for copying of materials must be submitted to The Texas Collection in writing. Please use the Request Form for Copying Materials sheet.

Preferred Citation When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is:

Bolt Family Homestead and Legion Valley Indian Massacre Collection, Accession #3817, Box #, Folder #, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.

Processing Information Described by Paul Fisher and released on 2012-09-27.

Scope and Content

The Bolt Family Homestead and Legion Valley Indian Massacre Collection was acquired by purchase in one transaction from Al Peters in 2012 September 5. The two folders contain a scrapbook and loose papers that were in the back of the scrapbook. All materials are in their original order.

This collection begins and ends in 1985. Though all of the photographs, manuscripts, maps, and genealogical information dates from 1985, it all describes the people involved in the Legion Valley Indian Massacre Collection of 1868.

Administrative/Biographical History

The Legion Valley Massacre was one of many violent events in the history of Texan-Indian relations. The scrapbook in this collection describes the homestead of one family in Llano County, Texas, and the violent confrontation between Comanche Indians and some Euro-Americans living in the area.

With the American Civil War ending in 1865, Euro-Americans were moving West again, onto lands already controlled by American Indian tribes. Llano County, Texas, west of Austin, had just become a county in 1856, and people were still moving there in search of land for farms and ranches. In south Llano County, several related families settled at the confluence of the Sandy and Legion Creeks. These families included the Friends and two related Johnson families, who were all involved in the 1868 massacre.

On 1868 February 5, the three men from these three families left to get supplies from the nearby town of Fredricksburg. That left their three wives, Matilda Jones Friend, Elizabeth "Betsy" Townsend Johnson Bradford, and Samantha Johnson, as well as their infant children Nancy Elizabeth Johnson and Fielty Johnson. Lee Temple Friend, eight years old, son of Matilda Jones Friend and the only male of the group, was present as well. Also staying with the group at this time were 18-year-old Amanda Townsend, cousin of the Johnsons, and 11-year-old Malinda Caudel, also a relative of the families.

At the end of the day, with the children playing in the yard, a group of Indians rode in and began to steal horses at some distance from the house. Hearing the screams of the women and children, the Indians charged the house, taking everyone prisoner except for Matilda Jones Friend, whom they shot three times, scalped twice, and left for dead. Incredibly, Matilda walked a mile and half to the nearest help with two or three arrows still in her. She recovered and lived near Marble Falls, Texas, until 1909.

Only Malinda Caudle and Lee Temple Friend of the captured women and children survived. The children were brutally killed and the women were sexually assaulted and killed. Their bodies were found one by one by a group of men who set out to rescue them, but were too late. Malinda and Lee were reunited with what remained of their families several years after their capture, though Lee died shortly after coming into Anglo-American society.

This collection documents the Legion Valley Indian Massacre and the Bolt Family homestead. It is not clear what relationship the Bolts had with the Legion Valley incident. A large part of the scrapbook also traces the history of the Johnson family, which was involved in the Legion River event.

Related Resources

Related citations

Reeves, Johnie Lee. "Legion Valley Massacre," Handbook of Texas Online (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/btlkt>), accessed September 06, 2012. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Russell, Karylon Hallmark. "History: Spirits Crying Out In The Wilderness." Llano News, October 26, 2011. <http://www.llanonews.com/news/47074/>.

Archival Arrangement

The Bolt Family Homestead and Legion Valley Indian Massacre Collection were organized in one scrapbook at the time of purchase by The Texas Collection. All materials were kept in their original order for this finding aid.

Currently the The Bolt Family Homestead and Legion Valley Indian Massacre Collection is arranged in one series: I. Scrapbook Materials.

Series 1. Scrapbook Materials. 1985

Administrative/Biographical History	This small series contains a scrapbook and several loose pages that were at the back of the scrapbook. The scrapbook contains information on the Bolt Family Homestead, the Johnson Family, and the Legion Valley Indian Massacre.
Inventory	Box 1. Folder 1. Scrapbooks: Scrapbook 1, 1985 Box 1. Folder 2. Scrapbooks: Scrapbook 1: Loose Materials, 1985