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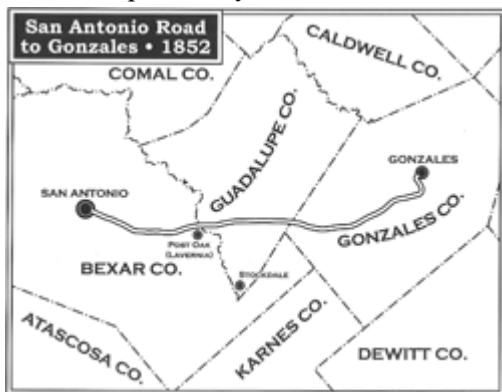
A pantheon of Texas heroes crossed the Cibolo under the Deaf Smith Oak. Stephen F. Austin brought his new army to the successful Siege of Bejar, Travis's letter pleading for help and re-enforcements for the Alamo passed its way.

Susanna Dickinson, survivor of the Alamo, (left, with her daughter, Angelina) delivered the message of defeat to Sam Houston's troops at the Crossing. As a result, Sam Houston burned Gonzales and the "Runaway Scrape" commenced.

The Mexican Army pursued the retreating Texans through the Crossing to their defeat at San Jacinto

by Sam Houston's forces.

In 1842, when the first boundaries of Guadalupe County were drawn, the Gonzales Road was established as its southern boundary. That boundary became a disputed issue when Wilson County was created in 1860. The Texas Legislature resolved that dispute between Wilson and Guadalupe County in 1874. The Road was replaced by a straight line. The Road meandered back and forth across that line.



Neither county was interested in its maintenance; it was enclosed within private property. The Oak continued its vigil along a road that disappeared.

The Deaf Smith Oak witnessed the Texas Revolution and the emancipation of African slaves that labored under its branches. It stood silently as the Wild West entered and left the stage.

From LostTexasRoads.com

By Allen & Regina Kosub

Thank You, La Vernia Garden Club and Allen & Regina Kosub!

The La Vernia Heritage Museum
is operated by the
La Vernia Historical Association



LaVerniaHistory.com



May 3, 2018

La Vernia Garden Club Dedication Ceremony

for the donation of
a resting bench

to the
La Vernia Heritage Museum

and placed under the tree grown from
an acorn of the famous

Erastus "Deaf" Smith tree





Iris Seale
Planting Deaf Smith
Oak sapling
11-18-2007 at
LV Heritage Museum

“As you drive the rolling countryside on Highways 775, 539 or 123, pause at the county line markers between Wilson and Guadalupe counties and remember Erastus “Deaf” Smith, the Texas Revolution, the Immortal 32, the Alamo, the Runaway Scrape...you just crossed their road.”

—Allen and Regina Kosub for *Lavernia Legacies*



The Deaf Smith oak is located on the Circle N Dairy owned by Mary Scull, pictured here in 2007. The tree is still alive but struggling.

Erastus ‘Deaf’ Smith Tree

It is a special tree recognized by the Texas Forest Service for its place in Texas history.

Located in a survey granted to Erastus “Deaf” Smith by the Mexican Government, it barely remains standing in an open field about two miles north of La Vernia, Texas, twenty-two miles east of San Antonio in Guadalupe County near its boundary with Wilson County.

In the 1820’s, Byrd Lockhart laid out a road from the DeWitt Colony in Gonzales to San Antonio de Bejar. The Gonzales Road crossed the Cibolo at a natural ford on the Deaf Smith Survey. The Crossing exists in a deep bowl-shaped depression. The Deaf Smith Oak provided a perfect vantage point to view the Cibolo Crossing and the terrain in the direction of San Antonio.

In 1835, as tension grew, Mexico sent troops from San Antonio out the Gonzales Road to retrieve a cannon in Gonzales. Defying the Mexican troops with “Come and Take It,” the first shot of the Texas Revolution was fired on the Gonzales Road.

It was Deaf Smith who is believed to have climbed this tree to spy on the Mexican troops as they crossed the Cibolo.

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