

## **Hallettsville July – December 1852**

A pivotal event in the development of Hallettsville took place in June thru October of 1852. June 14, 1852 was selected as the Election Day for the county residents to select a permanent county seat. Only two towns made a bid for the site – Petersburg, the current county seat, and Hallettsville.

On June 21, 1852, Margaret P. Hallet and Collatinus and Mary Jane (Hallet) Ballard deeded to John H. Livergood, County Judge of Lavaca County, 274 acres of land more or less on the east bank of the Lavaca River which included the town site of Hallettsville. This deed stated that the property was given to the county in consideration of the County Seat for the County of Lavaca being permanently located by the voters of said County of Lavaca in the town of Hallettsville as evidence by an election on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 1852.

Hallet and the Ballards had a vested interest in making sure that the county seat would be located in Hallettsville and their land donation, they hoped, would seal the deal. The deed was filed for record on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October 1852.

Reserved from the deed were the following properties:

Lots 1, 2, 4 & 7 in Block 5 entered in the name of A.G. Foster

Lots 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 in Block 1 entered in the name of A.G. Foster

Lots 2 & 3 in Fractional Block 2 entered in the name of A.G. Foster

Block 3 in the name of A.W. Hicks

The street between Blocks 2 & 3 in the name of A.W. Hicks

Lot 7 in Block 10 entered in the name of J. Dowling

One tract of 80 varas square for the family school house

One tract of 80 varas square to the Methodist society for a meeting house

After this deed transaction, the entire town tract of Hallettsville now belonged to the Lavaca County except for the property that had been previously sold or reserved by Margaret Hallet or Collatinus Ballard.

In August of 1852, Lavaca county residents, William and Cynthia Smothers, also in consideration of the County Seat for the County of Lavaca being permanently located by the voters of said County of Lavaca in the town of Hallettsville, deed to Joshua E. Martin, County Judge of Lavaca County, 100 acres of land, in a square form that adjoined the tract of said C.K. Ham on the east.

*\*Lavaca County Deed B/207*

*\*Lavaca County Deed B/241*

## **Block 1**

### **July – December 1852**

Block 1 is located northwest of the Courthouse square and is bordered by First St. on the north, Second St. on the south, Main St. on the east and Front St. on the west. The block is comprised of eight lots each lot 80 varas X 80 varas.

#### **Albert G. Foster (Block 1 Lot 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5)**

Lots 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 in Block 1 were reserved to A.G. Foster per the deed of Margaret P. Hallet and Collatinus and Mary Jane Ballard to John H. Livergood, County Judge of Lavaca County dated 21<sup>st</sup> June 1852.

**Albert G. Foster**

**Arrived in Lavaca County in 1840**

**1846 Tax Roll**

**1850 Census**

*\*Lavaca County Deed B/207*

*\*History of Lavaca County p.12*

**William Smothers (Block 1 Lot 6)**

**Thomas Simons & Son (Block 1 Lot 7)**

**Murchison Lodge (Block 1 Lot 8)**

## **Block 2**

### **July – December 1852**

Block 2 is located **west** of the Courthouse square and is bordered by Second St. on the north, Third St. on the south, Main St. on the east and Front St. on the west. The block is comprised of eight lots each lot 80 varas X 80 varas.

**Dr. Marshall B. Bennett (Block 2 Lot 1)**

**A.W. Hicks (Block 2 Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7)**

On May 7, 1852, Collatinus Ballard sold these seven blocks to A.W. Hicks, it being the premises where on said Hicks lived and occupied with his house and gardens.

*\*Lavaca County Deed B/443*

## **Block 3**

### **July - December 1852**

### **A.W. Hicks Hotel & Tavern (Block 3 Lots 1 – 8)**

Block 3 and the street between Block 2 and 3 were reserved for A.W. Hicks per the deed of Margaret P. Hallet and Collatinus and Mary Jane Ballard to John H. Livergood, County Judge of Lavaca County dated 21<sup>st</sup> June 1852.

### **William Smothers (Block 3 Lot 1 and 3)**

*\*Note: While the B/207 deed states that the entire eight lots in Block 3 were reserved for Hicks, William Smothers had previously purchased Lots 1 & 3 in Block 3 in 1851 via deed B/44.*

*\*Lavaca County Deed B/207*

## **Block 4**

### **July – December 1852**

### **Hallett & Ballard to Lavaca County (Block 4 Lot 1 – 8)**

*\*Lavaca County Deed B/207*

## **Block 5**

### **July – December 1852**

### **Albert G. Foster (Block 5 Lot 1, 2, 4 and 7)**

### **Lavaca County (Block 5 Lot 6 and 8)**

Lots 1, 2, 4 and 7 in Block 5 were reserved to A.G. Foster per the deed of Margaret P. Hallet and Collatinus and Mary Jane Ballard to John H. Livergood, County Judge of Lavaca County dated 21<sup>st</sup> June 1852.

*\*Lavaca County Deed B/207*

### **Dorothy McDonald (Block 5 Lot 3)**

### **George W. and Mary Dufner Guthrie (Block 5 Lot 5)**

### **Collatinus Ballard (Block 5 Lot 7)**

*\*Note: While the B/207 deed states that Lot 7 in Block 5 was reserved for A.G. Foster, Lot 7 was the location of the Collatinus Ballard store.*

## **Block 6**

### **July – December 1852**

Block 6 is the Courthouse square and is bordered by Second St. on the north, Third St. on the south, LaGrange St. on the east and Main St. on the west. The block is comprised of eight lots each lot being 80 varas X 80 varas.

#### **Hallett & Ballard to Lavaca County (Block 6 Lot 1 – 8)**

*\*Lavaca County Deed B/207*

## **Block 7**

### **July – December 1852**

Block 7 is located south of the Courthouse square and is bordered by Third St. on the north, Fourth St. on the south, La Grange St. on the east and Main St. on the west. The block is comprised of eight lots each lot 80 varas X 80 varas.

#### **Hallett & Ballard to Lavaca County (Block 7 Lot 1 – 4, 6 and 8)**

*\*Lavaca County Deed B/207*

#### **John R. Whited Residence (Block 7 Lot 5 & 7)**

Collatinus and Mary Jane Ballard sold Lots 5 and 7 in Block 7 to John R. Whited and Eliza Whited. The lots fronted on Main St. each 20 varas wide and 40 varas in depth.

*\*Lavaca County Deed B/58*

## **Block 8**

### **July – December 1852**

Block 8 is located south of the Courthouse square and is bordered by Fourth St. on the north, Fifth St. on the south, LaGrange St. on the east and Main St. on the west. The block is comprised of eight lots each lot 80 varas X 80 varas.

#### **Hallett & Ballard to Lavaca County (Block 8 Lot 1 – 8)**

*\*Lavaca County Deed B/207*

On June 5, 1852, John and Emily Buchanan to M. B. Bennett and Josiah Dowling 3 acres adjacent south west corner of Block 8 all that message, tenement, apparatus and improvements.

*\*Lavaca County Deed B/159*

## **Block 9**

### **July – December 1852**

Block 9 is located northeast of the Courthouse square and is bordered by First St. on the north, Second St. on the south, Texana St. on the east and LaGrange St. on the west. The block is comprised of eight lots each lot 80 varas X 80 varas.

#### **Hallett & Ballard to Lavaca County (Block 9 Lot 1 – 8)**

*\*Lavaca County Deed B/207*

## **Block 10**

### **July – December 1852**

Block 10 is located east of the Courthouse square and is bordered by Second St. on the north, Third St. on the south, Texana St. on the east and LaGrange St. on the west. The block is comprised of eight lots each lot 80 varas X 80 varas.

#### **Josiah Dowling (Block 10 Lot 7)**

Lot 7 in Block 10 was reserved for Josiah Dowling per the deed of Margaret P. Hallet and Collatinus and Mary Jane Ballard to John H. Livergood, County Judge of Lavaca County dated 21<sup>st</sup> June 1852.

**Josiah Dowling**

**1846 Tax Roll**

**1850 Census**

*\*Lavaca County Deed B/207*

## **Block 11 – 17**

### **July – December 1852**

#### **Hallett & Ballard to Lavaca County (Block 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17)**

*\*Lavaca County Deed B/207*

## **Block 18**

### **July – December 1852**

Block 18 is located east of the Courthouse square and is bordered by Second St. on the north, Third St. on the south, adjoins Block 22 on the east and Texana St. on the west. The block is comprised of eight lots each lot 80 varas X 80 varas.

The Alma Male & Female Institute est. in 1852 on Block 18 on land donated by Mrs. Margaret Hallet. It opened its doors in May 1853. The building, a long two story structure facing west, was located one block east of the square. The frame was rough-hewn timbers, covered by planking hauled from Indianola on ox carts. The building was a project of L. W. Layton, a local builder, at a cost of about \$5,000.00.

*\*Free State of Lavaca p. 169*

## **Block 19 - 20**

### **July – December 1852**

#### **Hallett & Ballard to Lavaca County (Block 19 and 20)**

*\*Lavaca County Deed B/207*

## **Fractional Block 1**

### **Fractional Block 2 Lot 2 and 3**

#### **July – December 1852**

Fractional Block 2 is located directly north of Block 1 and is bordered by First St. on the south and Main St. on the west. On the north is the boundary of the original town tract.

#### **A.G. Foster (Fractional Block 2 Lot 2 and 3)**

Lots 2 and 3 in Fractional Block 2 were reserved to A.G. Foster per the deed of Margaret P. Hallet and Collatinus and Mary Jane Ballard to John H. Livergood, County Judge of Lavaca County dated 21<sup>st</sup> June 1852.

*\*Lavaca County Deed B/207*

*\*Note: While the B/207 deed states that the Lot 2 and 3 in Fractional Block 2 were reserved for Foster, L.T. Harris had previously purchased Lots 2 and 3 in Fractional Block 2 on Feb. 22, 1852 via deed B/175 from Collatinus Ballard. Along with the lots, the deed also included an additional ½ acre of land running 35 yards on Main St. then on a westerly course to Front St. The down payment and note on the property were to be paid to a William Pursley, not Ballard. In December of 1853, L.T. Harris and wife sold the same property back to Ballard so they did own the property in 1852 and it was not reserved for A.G. Foster.*

## **Fractional Block 3 Lot 4 and 5**

### **July – December 1852**

On April 5, 1852, Lot 4 and 5 in Fractional Block 3 were sold by Collatinus Ballard to Peter McDermott for \$20.00. Ballard deeded the acreage to McDermott in consideration of a cotton gin have been built and put into operation at that location by McDermott. The gin fronted on First and LaGrange Streets and adjoined the lot on which was located the McDermott residence.

*\* Lavaca County Deed B/106*

*\*Free State of Lavaca p. 162*

## **Fractional Block 4 Lot 6 and 7**

### **July – December 1852**

**Hallett & Ballard to Lavaca County (Fractional Block 4 Lot 6 and 7)**

*\*Lavaca County Deed B/207*

## **Fractional Block 5 Lot 8 and 9**

### **July – December 1852**

**Hallett & Ballard to Lavaca County (Fractional Block 5 Lot 8 and 9)**

*\*Lavaca County Deed B/207*