

STONY

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By Pauline Schulter

(Home Demonstration Club Collection)

The article below on Stony was taken from the document **Towns & Communities of Denton County, Texas**. This was a document compiled by Emily Fowler and Alma Lain Chambers and was started by Mrs. Fowler in the 1930's and additions made by members of the Home Demonstration Clubs of Denton County, the Parent-Teacher organization of the county and the editors. The Krum section was compiled by Mrs. Billie Barry with help from Bonnie Cole and Oma Lee Hood Hardy and was done around the period 1945-1950.

The story on Stony was done by Mrs. Pauline Schluter.

Stony is in the western part of Denton County about a mile from Denton Creek. Old settlers settled there to have water for cattle and themselves. It was several years before deep wells were used there. The land is black and sandy loam and very rich land. Stony got its name from the almost solid rock that the town is built upon. About 1/4 mile from Stony there is a rock quarry from which the rock was taken to build the underpass between Stony and Denton on the old Highway 24. On the place where this rock quarry was located there is a rock fireplace, rock cellar and one room still stands and is in use though built almost a century ago. A house of six rooms and bath has been added to the original room.

The Methodist Church at Stony was built in 1888 and was located west of Bob Stewart's place. The site was sold to the church for \$1.00. The site where the church now stands in Stony was bought for \$5.00. The Baptist Church was built in 1889. The Church of Christ, for which the land was donated was built in 1910.

The first school was built in 1884, having only one room. Early teachers were Henrietta Austin, Mr. Carl and Alvin Ousley. Other buildings in the early days of Stony were grocery stores owned by Newt James and John Smith. Stony also had a hotel and post office. Note: G. D. Lain taught 6 mos. in Stony in the winter of 1885-6 to make money for medical school.

Cemeteries near Stony include one on the Green place, named for the Greens who owned the land. One cemetery is still in use, another one, an Indian cemetery, has 32 graves in it. Old settlers remember the Indian roaming through this community. One white boy was killed by Indians and is buried near Stony.

The Old Chisholm Trail crossed the creek in about a mile of Stony. Aaron Schoolfield walked the trail two different times to drive cattle to market. John Schoolfield bought his half-section of land for \$.50 per acre. He built his home there and the land has been handed down to his sons.

C. H. Gray, who now makes his home in Dallas, came to Stony in 1884. He tells of the wild animals such as panthers and bear that roamed the woods of Denton Creek. N. J. Woofter was one of the earliest settlers. He hauled the lumber by oxen from Fort Worth to build his first home. G. R. Foster, an early settler who came to Stony in 1880, still lives here.

Now Stony is very modern with churches, community center, good highways, school busses to take the children to better schools. There is good farm land, many Grade A dairies. There are nice homes with modern conveniences such as deep wells, electricity, home freezers and T. V. sets.

Below is some additional information on Stony from the introduction from the Stony Heritage Cookbook done in 1995. The author of the information is not known.

The Indians continued to be such a problem that Denton, Wise and Montague counties organized citizen soldiers assisted by the State Rangers, to protect the settlers. The last Indian raid was made on Denton Creek south of Stony in 1871. The Indians would come down Denton Creek about where Stony is located, gather up horses by the light of the moon and go away before daybreak.

Another Stony Indian story is about the four sons of Silas Christal, who operated a mill near Stony. In 1862, the four brothers, John, Richard, Isom and James, went into the buffalo range to kill buffalo and deer for winter meat. The boys had started camp when they saw a herd of buffalo coming toward the stream. John and Richard told Isom and James to cook supper while they slipped along the edge of the timber to get a shot at them. The boys heard gun fire, and in a short time a second shot. The brothers were never found- not a trace.



Stony School



Pauline Schuler