

(from the 1858 Texas Almanac)

GILLESPIE.

[Furnished by A. ERLLENMEYER, and MULLER, P. M., of Fredericksburg.]

In this county there are 7,500 acres in corn, and 300 in wheat; twenty to twenty-five acres per hand are cultivated; farms in the county, 375; white population 2,700; slaves, 102; blind, one person; orphans, 25; improved land, 9,500 acres; unimproved 500,000 acres; value of improved land, \$10 to \$15; of unimproved, 50 cents to \$1.50; unlocated or public land, 100,000 acres; owned by non-residents, 300,000 acres; the oldest farms have been cultivated nine years, and produce as well as at first; soil generally a sandy loam; in some of the valleys it is alluvial, and several feet deep; there are 18,000 head of cattle, value \$7.50 per head; 1250 horses, value \$35 to \$100 per head; 2500 sheep, value \$3 each; 4000 hogs, value \$4 each; annual net increase of cattle, sheep and hogs, 35 to 40 per cent. Corn is worth this year \$1.50 per bushel; wheat, \$2. Wild turkeys and partridges are abundant throughout the year, and ducks and geese in the winter. Buffalo, cat, trout, eels, &c., are found in the streams. Fredericksburg is the County Seat, founded in 1846. It has a population of 800, and contains seven stores, two drug shops, two taverns; a large variety of mechanical pursuits are here followed. The public buildings are a substantial Court House, and four churches, with five denominations. There are five public and free schools with 250 pupils in all. The rivers are the Llano and Perdenales with their branches. No mineral springs known. Coal has been lately found within eight miles of Fredericksburg, thirty-five feet in depth, but whether it will pay to work it, has not yet been ascertained. Iron ore and limestone are abundant in the East part of the county. Most of the county is mountainous, the highest elevation being about 800 feet. Springs are numerous and the water good. Stock water abundant, and the range good throughout the year. In many places the water is impregnated with lime; in other places it is pure freestone. Population 2800; deaths last year 22 in the county, including the children. The military posts afford a market for corn and cattle; distant from 50 to 250 miles to the West and North-West. Our merchants get their goods from San Antonio and Indianola. This county was organized in 1848, being taken from Bexar, and was settled by the German Emigration Company. During the past eighteen months the Indians have given no trouble, though their depredations had been frequent for the three years previous. Fort Mason is in the North-West part of this county, and is partly supplied with provisions by wagons from Indianola, distant 250 miles. The Harrisburg Railroad will greatly benefit this county when it reaches Austin. In 1856, the territory North-West of this county was organized into the counties of San Saba, McCulloch and Llano, and they are settling up fast. The country above comprised in Fisher & Miller's Colony, embraces an area of about 1,500,000 acres. About one-tenth of this county is rich land, suitable for agricultural purposes, and the balance affords a fine sheep and stock range. One-half of the county is owned by the inhabitants and others, and the other half is still public land. Cottonwood, cypress and oak are used for

building purposes, of which there is a sufficient supply in some parts of the county. There are three saw and grist mills in the county, propelled by water. Pine lumber is also hauled from Bastrop, and is sold at \$70 per 1000 feet.

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