GUIDE

MILTON FAVER LAND PAPERS 1858-1917 undated

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION 57

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ALPINE, TEXAS
COLLECTION SUMMARY

of the

MILTON FAVER LAND PAPERS, 1858-1917 & undated

The Milton Faver Land Papers were donated to the Archives of the Big Bend by Mr. and Mrs. Jake Cline. Mr. Jake Cline is Milton Faver's great-grandson. This collection contains land grants and warranty deeds to land associated with the Faver family.

Milton (Don Melitón) Faver was the first cattle baron to settle in the Big Bend. He was born around 1822 in either Missouri, or Virginia. The U.S. census of 1860, lists his birthplace as Missouri, but in the 1870 and 1880 census, it is listed as Virginia. When he was eighteen years-old, he worked at a flour mill in Meoque, Mexico under Francisco de Leon. There, he met Senorita Francisca Ramirez, and after a brief courtship, they were married. Eaver left the flour mill and became a freighter/trader between Meoque and Ojinaga. Later, he was a freighter on the Chihuahua and Santa Fe Trails. Eventually, he left the freighting business and moved his family to Ojinaga where he opened a general store about 1856.

He kept his store, but moved in 1857 to Cibolo Creek in the Chinati Mountains, near present-day Shafter. He entered the livestock business and established the Cibolo, La Morita, and Cienega Ranches. At the Cibolo and Cienega Ranches, Faver built elaborate fortifications to protect the water supply from the Indians. Cibolo Ranch was sometimes used to store supplies for U.S. Troops, and was called Sub-Post Presidio. U.S. forces were posted there during times of need. Faver regularly supplied the garrison at Fort Davis with beef, before and after the Civil War.

Faver purchased small tracts of land around springs on each of the ranches that gave necessary access to the water, and let his cattle graze on that, and the adjacent open range. By the end of 1875, Faver owned 1,600 acres on the three ranches, and in 1883, he bought 640 acres northwest off Fort Davis, making his acreage total 2,880 acres. Faver collected his original herd of cattle in San Pablo, Chihuahua in 1849, in exchange for sweet potatoes and other commodities. He kept the cattle there until 1857, and then moved his stock across the Rio Grande and stocked his Cibolo and Cienega Ranches.

Later, in 1857, the Indians raided his ranches and took all of his cattle, except for 32 calves contained in a corral. In another raid during the Civil War, he was striped of all his cattle, except for 30-40 head. He rebuilt the herd, and in twenty years, it totaled from ten to twenty thousand head of Mexican Longhorns. On July 31, 1875, the Indians raided La Morita Ranch, ran off 1,000 sheep, killed Ranch Manager Carmen Ramirez, and captured Ramirez’s wife and two of their sons, who were never recovered.
Milton and Francisca Faver had one child, John (Juan). He was educated in San Antonio, Texas and then was sent to Germany for further education. He married Gavina Rodriguez and they had one child, Avallino. They were divorced in 1886, following a domestic dispute concerning his wife and Moses Kelly, the tax collector for U.S. Customs. John killed Kelly and subsequently, spent time in prison in Mexico. He later married Gumecinda Zubia and they had seven children.

D.G. Knight took care of Cibolo Ranch for Faver from 1886-1889. Faver then sold his entire herd of 7,000 cattle to Joe Humphreys for $18,000 and transferred 5,000 sheep and 1,600 goats to George Dawson in 1889. That same year, he transferred 320 acres at La Morita to Juliano Ramirez de Dawson, his wife's cousin.

Milton Faver died on December 23, 1889. He was buried on Chinati Mountain. The Cibolo and Cienega Ranches were left jointly to Mrs. Faver and John. She took Cibolo and he took Cienega. After Mrs. Faver died, John inherited Cibolo.

The collection consists of Legal Documents and Photographs (1). The material is housed in one newspaper box in folders listed after the biographies in this guide. Two oversized framed photographs are cataloged and housed in the Museum of the Big Bend.

By: Melleta Bell
Archival Assistant
April 21, 1987

ALSO SEE

Reference File: Faver, Milton
Reference File: Cibolo Creek Ranch, Presidio Co., TX.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Alpine, TX. Archives of the Big Bend. Oral History Interview with Frances Faver Cline (Mrs. Ira W.) June 16, 1983.


BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: Milton (Don Meliton) Faver

Date of Birth: c. 1822          Place of Birth: Virginia or Missouri

Date of Death: December 23, 1889 at Cibolo Ranch, Presidio County,

TX Marriage: c. 1840 to Francisca Ramirez

One child:

John (Juan) Faver, married Gavina Rodriguez (1st, divorced 1886) and Gumecinda Zubia (2nd), storekeeper offather’s Ojinaga store, died in 1913

Primary Residences of Milton Faver:

Virginia                      c. 1822- c. 1840
Meoque, Mexico                c. 1840- c. 1856
Ojinaga, Mexico               c. 1856- c. 1857
Cibolo Ranch (near Shafter)   c. 1857- c. 1889

Principal Occupations of Milton Faver: Rancher, Store Owner, Freighter

Significant Events and Dates in the Life of Milton Faver:

c. 1840  Supposedly fought a man in a duel in Missouri.
c. 1840  Worked for Francisco de Leon in a flour mill at Meoque, Mexico. Met and married Francisca Ramirez.
c. 1840  Was a freighter/trader between Meoque and Ojinaga. Was a freighter on the Chihuahua and Santa Fe Trails.
c. 1856  Moved to Ojinaga and opened a general store.
c. 1857  Moved 25 miles North ofPresidio (Shafter area) on Cibolo Creek in the Chinati Mountains.
          Established Cibolo, La Morita and Cienega Ranches.
c. 1889  Sold out and transferred most ofhis land and cattle.
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LAND TRANSACTIONS 1858-1896 (11 leaves)

Folder 1  Land Grants 1858-1875 (3 leaves)

State of Texas (Hardin R. Runnels) to William P. Hardeman, assignee of William Hadden, 160 acres, survey 17, on Cibolo [Creek], Presidio County, Texas, 1858.

State of Texas (Hardin R. Runnels) to William P. Hardeman, assignee of William Hadden, 160 acres, survey 18, on Cibolo [Creek], Presidio County, Texas, 1858.

State of Texas (Richard Coke) to Milton Faver, assignee of Adams, Beaty, & Moulton, 640 acres, survey 327, on Cibolo Creek, Presidio County, Texas, 1875.

ALSO SEE: Reference File: Faver/Dawson Shafter Deeds, 1889

Folder 2  Warranty Deed 1896 & 1917 (8 leaves)

John Faver and wife, Gumesinda [Zubia] to Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of San Antonio, State of Texas, parcel in the town of Shafter, Presidio County, Texas, 1896

Folder 3  Certified copies of the 1896 deed (2) (6 leaves)

PHOTOGRAPHS, UNDATED (1)

Folder 4  Portrait of Milton Faver, undated (1)

Milton Faver (child cut off, left) [G.7.*.83]

SEE ALSO:

Two framed photographs, one of Milton Faver and one of John Faver, in Museum of the Big Bend, Sul Ross State University.