

(from the 1867 Texas Almanac)

HARRIS COUNTY.

COUNTY-SEAT, HOUSTON, is bounded on the north by Montgomery, on the north-east corner by Liberty, on the east by Chambers, on the south-east by Galveston Bay, on the south by Galveston and Brazoria, and on the west by Fort Bend and Austin counties. The streams of this county are, Buffalo bayou, San Jacinto, White Oak bayou, Bray's bayou, Clear creek, Spring creek, Cypress creek, Cedar bayou, Sims's bayou, Green's bayou, Hunting bayou, Hall's bayou, and some others, mostly quite small, but nearly all bordered with pine, white oak, cypress, magnolia and various other kinds of timber. The county has almost one sixth part of its surface covered with timber, and nearly all the buildings of Houston and other towns are constructed from its pine timber, chiefly found on Buffalo bayou, the San Jacinto and the northern part of the county. There are some 15 or 20 saw-mills engaged in cutting this timber. The best buildings of Houston are, however, constructed of brick of a good quality made in the immediate vicinity. Houston is the county-seat, and is one of the three largest cities in the State ; the other two, having almost the same population, are Galveston and Antonio, each of which has a population of about 15,000. Houston has been justly termed the railroad centre of the State, as all the railroads, except three, centre in that city, namely, the Texas Central, the Galveston Railroad, the Texas and N.O. Railroad, and the Brazoria Tap Railroad. The other three are the road from Lavaca to Victoria ; that between Marshall, Texas, and Shreveport, Louisiana ; and the B.B.B. and C. Railroad, connecting Harrisburg with Alleyton, on the Colorado, by a bridge over that river. The roads converging at Houston are bringing to that city a constantly increasing trade ; and as they are being extended farther into the interior, the business must increase proportionately. The road from Houston to Galveston is strictly a trunk road, receiving freight and travel from, and returning it to, all the others. This trunk road will require a double track in a very short time, to enable it to do the large and increasing business of all the other roads, though a portion of that business is being done by the steamers plying in Buffalo bayou. We have no data to enable us to give the amount of annual trade of Houston, though it amounts to many millions. Indeed, some of the large mercantile houses do a trade amounting to near a million of dollars each, every year. There are in Houston near a dozen churches, representing nearly all denominations, and the academies and schools are numerous, some of them giving a complete education in all the higher branches.

We refer to our table of county statistics for the various products (and their value) of Harris county, and the assessed value of all other property, the aggregate being near five millions. There are two cotton and wool factories now being constructed in Houston or its immediate vicinity, and both will be in operation in a few months. There is every reason to believe that Houston will eventually become a large manufacturing town, as its railroads, timber, and water give it great advantages. The other towns in Harris county are Harrisburg, San Jacinto, Lynchburg, Hockley, Cypress City, Rose Hill, and Ida. These all

have post-offices, but are quite small places. Harrisburg, however, is now being rapidly improved, and promises to become a place of considerable importance, on account of its location at the head of the good navigation in Buffalo bayou, and at the same time being the terminus of the B.B.B. and C. Railroad, which is now doing a large business, and must do an immense western trade as soon as it is extended to the Guadalupe 40 or 50 miles farther.

Though the soil of Harris county is not so good as that of the Brazos and other streams, yet its vicinity to the market at Houston renders its cultivation in vegetables, corn, etc., quite profitable. The prairies of this county afford an excellent range for stock, and convenience to market gives the stock-raisers great advantages in being able at any time to dispose of any good beef cattle. The price of lands in Harris varies from \$1 to \$30 per acre, the price depending upon timber, water, and the vicinity to Houston, more than on the quality of the soil.

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