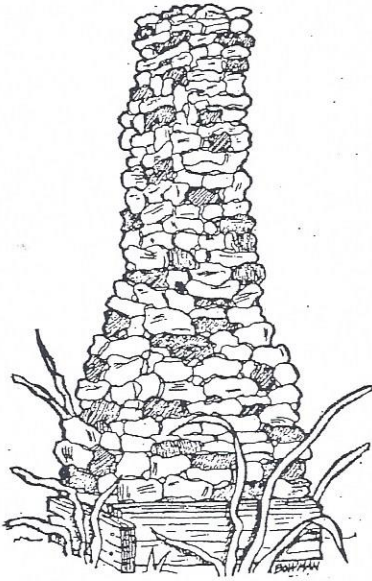


# The Story of Point Blank



The origin of Point Blank dates back to the 1840's when several families from the southern United States settled the area after Texas won its independence from Mexico.

The town's unusual name has long intrigued visitors. Some believe it originated with gunfighters who had a tendency to shoot their foes at point blank range; others attribute it to the bluntness of the early settlers' disposition.

The community actually got its name from Florence Dissesway, a French governess and relative of the Colonel R.J. Robinson family, who came to San Jacinto County in the 1840's. Miss Dissesway joined the family in the 1860's and immediately noticed the scarcity of white families living in the area. She called the settlement "Point Blanc" (white point).

The name appealed to the community's residents but they tended to mispronounce and misspell "Blanc" as "Blank." When a post office opened after the turn of the century, the local spelling was used.

Point Blank's most famous resident was probably George T. Wood, who served as Texas' second governor in 1847-49. Wood settled here before 1860, describing the area as "a primeval forest abounding in wild game." In later years, he referred to the community as "the Point."

Wood, a native Georgian who fought with Sam Houston in the Creek Indian Wars at Horsehoe Bend, owned a large plantation in San Jacinto County, then a part of Liberty County, and reared his family at Point Blank.

During his service with the State, first as a State Senator and later as Governor, he often rode to Austin on a mule he called "Old. Pantalette."

When he died in 1858, his wife ordered the body interred in a small family cemetery on his plantation, reportedly to fulfill Wood's wishes that he be buried "close to home." His tall, soaring marble tombstone, hauled to Point Blank by oxen wagon, carries a simple inscription: "Here lies a just man." The cemetery is almost surrounded today by dense forest growth.

Part of the lumber from Wood's old plantation home was used to build the first post office at Point Blank.

