

HISTORY & FOLKLORE



From Illustrated Press of Liberty County, Thursday, March 21, 1963 –

Dempsie Henley of Liberty is seen visiting the vicinity of the proposed Big Thicket Park, near Big Sandy, Texas, in Hardin County. In the picture above, he meets some local citizens who had emigrated there from Baytown. They seem to have left their shoes behind.



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Dempsie Henley visits Rev. Collins' house near Big Sandy. It is the old time "dogtrot" type of house, with a breezeway cut entirely through the center of the house. – W.R. Johnson photo

LaSalle's Cannon

From The Liberty Gazette, Monday, August 25, 1856

In the year 1685, the great discoverer and explorer LaSalle, entered the bay of St. Bernard (now called Matagorda Bay) and made a settlement on the West side, near the entrance. He had eight cannons, and we find in a note to Yoakum's History of Texas:

"These pieces of artillery were afterwards transported to La Bahia (now Goliad) and used by the Spaniards till 1812, when they were taken by the Americans under Gutierrez. By then they were used successfully against Salcedo. After the close of Gachupin War, they fell again into the hands of the Mexicans. They were taken from the latter by Urrea in 1836; and when Texas succeeded at the battle of San Jacinto, they were left at Goliad, where as late as 1838 they were seen, with the impression of Louis XIV upon them."

They are not all lost yet. On Christmas 1849, the young men of this place charged one of these can-

nons very heavily, and when fired it bursted and pieces flying in every direction. The butt entering one wall of the house when we now occupy as a printing office, struck the opposite wall and fell on the floor. It is now used in the office as a weight. Another one of these guns is now lying spiked, within the old barracks in La Bahia or Old Town. They are certainly very interesting relics.

— Goliad Express

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