

Burning of Court House 1875.

From History of Hood County, *Texas*

*Page 133*

by Thos. T. Ewell. 1895-

During the period of which we are now writing (1873 to 5) high crimes and misdemeanors seem to have marked our past record with many dark pages. Some reckless and daring characters became prominent in the citizenship of the county. Their business seemed to be, to thrive by any methods howsoever dishonest. The criminal dockets were replete with charges of cattle stealing and other offenses of like character. Forgeries in land titles were strongly suspected, and charged in some instances, and on the night of March 5, 1875, the citizens of Granbury were aroused from their slumbers by the alarm of "fire!" to see the first great display of flames and sparks in the history of the town, as the consuming element was fast destroying the court couse, with all the county's records, including numbers of private deeds and papers, deposited there for record. The loss of the building was incomparably small to the great loss, inconvenience and expense resulting to private interests, felt severely in all the intervening years down to the present day, and which will probably continue for many years hence. The fire was evidently the work of incendiarism - by whom, or for just what motive, was never developed.