

In response to a query that was directed to our webmaster regarding information about an ancestor named J. C. Goodwin who was shot in the Goodwin Hotel in Bryan, Bill Page sent the following items of interest.

I have a few newspaper citations of possible interest, some just giving an overview of hotels in Bryan.

Bryan ... There are three hotels already, and a large new one nearly finished ... Galveston Daily News, 18 April 1867, page 2.

[ad] At Bryan City - the terminus of the Central Railroad - Messrs.Prewett & Holliday have the Commercial House, a very fine hotel, which they advertise. They have the reputation of providing excellent accommodation for the traveling public, and we take a pleasure in recommending their house to all who go to the thriving city of Bryan.

Galveston Daily News, 9 November 1867, page 2.

From Our Traveling Agent. Shaw House, Bryan, Feb. 19th, 1868 ... I am still making the Shaw House my headquarters, where I find an old friend Mr. A.A. Burk, formerly of Galveston, ably discharging the duties of the office, and I doubt not will be a valuable acquisition to the Shaw House, which is, in my estimation, equal to any in the interior of the State, and does credit to the obliging proprietress, Mrs. S.A. Shaw.

Galveston Daily News, 25 February 1868, page 3.

[ad] Brazos House, East Side of the Railroad, Bryan City, Texas, W.H. Bowman, Proprietor. A good stable is connected with the House.

Galveston Daily News, 6 March 1868, page 2.

We regret to learn that Mr. J.C. Goodwin, of the Goodwin House, Bryan, Texas, was shot and mortally wounded recently by a Mr. Mosely. The affair grew out of the settlement of a hotel bill. Mr. Goodwin was highly esteemed, and kept a good house of entertainment. -

Houston Journal. Flake's Bulletin (Galveston), 11 March 1868, page 1

Bryan ... The hotels, barrooms and places of amusements seem to be doing a good business, all of which is evidence of thrift and prosperity

... The Commercial Hotel, under the management of Messrs. Faulkner and Purdy, is in full blast of success, and keeps up the reputation of a first class hotel

Galveston Daily News, 7 April 1868, page 3.

A fight occurred in Bryan on Wednesday evening at the Purdy House between two barbers, which resulted in the serious wounding of each by pistol shot. The name of one of the parties was Bill Welborne and the informant thinks the other's name was John Watts.

(Marshall) Texas Republican, 9 May 1868, page 2.

[ads] Beckham House, Bryan, Texas. Mrs. M.J. Beckham, proprietress, a good livery stable is connected with the House. Commercial Hotel, seventy five yards northwest of the railroad depot, Bryan City, Texas. John O. Hill, Grantville, Ga.; B.F. Davis, Anderson, Texas. Re-opened June 9th, 1868, under the above management; promises the best possible fare and accommodations. The house is large, commodious, and the best ventilated establishment in Bryan. Having our own cows, we have constantly on hand an abundant supply of the nicest milk and butter, perfectly fresh and sweet. Our porters receive checks at cars and deliver baggage to guests at Hotel.

Dallas Herald, 15 August 1868, page 4.

A shooting affair occurred at the Brazos House, between a young gentleman of the Texas Express Company and a Mr. William Key, in which the latter was wounded. Examined before the committing magistrate and released. -

Bryan News Letter, Sept. 19. Flake's Bulletin (Galveston), 20 September 1868, page 4

As you can see, the hotels were fairly often the scene of violence. If Goodwin owned the hotel, there may be more information about it in the deed records and / or his probate records in the county clerk's office.

I don't know if the following article connects in any way with the earlier Goodwin hotel?

The Appeal says: "Bryan is making a steady growth. Several new buildings have just been completed, among them the elegant resident of our associate, G.I. GOODWIN, Esq., and the new hotel of Mrs. SCALLORN, near the passenger depot. When Mr. HEARNE completes the repairs on the GOODWIN building, in the same vicinity, we shall be well supplied with hotels. Capt. John N. HENDERSON and Judge BARMORE, are also having residences put up. Friend HENDERSON is making a cage, and we suppose the next plan will be to capture a bird to put in it. Col. P.R. SMITH, and E.L. WARD are also laying the foundations of a large two story brick building, adjoining the SMITH & BOWLES brick. A new business house has also been put up lately in the burnt district. We also learn that Capt. J.S. FOWLKES contemplates the erection of an elegant residence on the lots recently purchased by him. Other buildings are in contemplation.

Galveston Daily News, July 13, 1873, p. 4.

*Mr. Goodwin was murdered; Mr. MOSELEY was acquitted of the crime.

(Marshall) Texas Republican, 4 Apr. 1868, p.2, col.8 [I don't have an actual copy of this article - just a brief abstract]

J.C. Goodwin - probate case 53a filed 5 March 1869. WPA Probate Index. Mrs. F.C. GOODWIN was appointed admr. of J.C. GOODWIN decd.; 29 Mar. 1869. Brazos County Probate Minutes, Book C, p.467.

The following appears to concern the children of J. C. Goodwin - it's not uncommon for there to be 2 different probate packets if there are minor children involved. Emmett, Mittie & Sarah GOODWIN, minors, case 35 ½ filed 15 Mar. 1871.

WPA Probate Index. Probate packet 35 ½; petition of guardianship of Sarah M., Emmett & Mittie GOODWIN, minors under age 14, by their mother Frances C. GOODWIN. Brazos Genealogist, v. 16, no. 2, p. 52. Francis C. GOODWIN appointed guardian of Sarah M., Emmett & Mittie GOODWIN, minors; 27 Mar. 1871. Brazos County Probate Minutes, Book D, p. 25. Frances C.

GOODWIN, guardian of Sarah M., Emmett & Mittie GOODWIN, sold land to William BROOKSHIRE. Brazos County Deed Book N, pp. 151a-5.

Bill Page