

FORGOTTEN TEXAS CENSUS

First annual report of the Agricultural Bureau of the Department of Agriculture, Insurance, Statistics, and History 1887-88 by L. L. Foster, Commissioner

WILSON COUNTY

- Was created in 1860 from Bexar and Karnes counties, and named in honor of James C. Wilson, one of the Meir prisoners. This county joins Bexar on the southeast. The general surface is gently undulating. It is very well timbered and watered, and is adapted to agriculture and stock raising. The soil is a light sandy loam, and fertile. Farm crops yield well. Fruits and vegetables are also grown with success.
- The San Antonio River and Cibolo Creek flow nearly centrally through the county from northeast to southeast. There are a number of smaller streams which add greatly to the water supply.
- The water of Sutherland Spring in this county is reported as being good for many diseases.
- The San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad passes through the western part of the county, and has a mileage in the county of 24 miles, with property assessed at \$188,745.
- Number of marriages during 1887, 62; divorces 5, births 379, deaths 91.
- In this county there are 7 lawyers, 10 physicians, and 20 merchants.
- The following religious denominations are each represented by church organizations in the county: Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, Christian, and Catholic churches.
- Improved land is valued at from \$3 to \$15 per acre, and unimproved at from \$2.50 to \$5 per acre.
- Acres of State school land in the county 5606.
- The county was organized in 1860, and contains an area of 795 square miles.
- Population in 1880: 7188;
 - In 1887: 8307.
 - Males 4262
 - Females 4045
 - Color and nationality:

- Americans 3834
 - colored 720
 - English 963
 - German 192
 - French 50
 - Irish 79
 - Mexican 2023
 - Spanish 26
 - Polish 412
 - Scotch 8
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- There are in the county 1362 white and 103 colored families.
 - The assessed value of all property in 1877, \$1,091,120; in 1887, \$2,695,874. Gain in ten years \$1,604,754.
 - Floresville is the county seat, population 1200. The other principal towns in the county are: Stockdale, population 300; Sutherland Springs, population 150; La Vernia, population 150; Gray Town, population 100; Fairview, population 100.
 - There are 2 weekly newspapers published in the county.

Transcribed by Gene Maeckel, August 2002