

2755

MOUNT BONNELL

The following from Mary Starr Barkley's "History of Travis County and Austin- 1839-1899" concerning Geo. W. Bonnell and Mount Bonnell.

From Page 62: "President Houston called the Sixth Congress in special session in Houston on June 27, 1842. The Mexicans were again threatening under General Adrian Woll. Word was received too, of the death of George W. Bonnell, one of those on the Santa Fe expedition, and for whom Travis County's mountain was named."

From page 210: "Texas Sentinel (or Centinel), 1840-41. On January 15, 1840, this paper was started with George W. Bonnell and Jacob W. Gruger. -----, and Joseph Addison Clark came to Austin to join his old newspaper friend, Bonnell."

From page 313: "In January, 1840, George W. Bonnell was secretary of the Texas Patriotic and Philosophic Society. The mountain northwest of Austin reputedly was named for him at the suggestion of a Mrs. Barker, whose name replaced the name Teulon for Mount Barker."

From page 31: "In the 1830's when Travis County was in the settling stages, the pioneers followed the streams up to Central Texas. The Indians, too, had their paths through this country; in Travis County they used the crossing of the Colorado at Shoal Creek into the hill country to the west. There are those in the area today who have climbed around Mount Bonnell on the path the Indians filed along around this hill."

From page 77: "Robert J. Towmes, another lawyer, arrived a year later, in 1857, to become Secretary of State. He died in 1865 at his home near Mount Bonnell."

From page 116: "In this period of the 1870's, stone was being quarried from Mount Bonnell where the Mormons had their grist mill nearby, and fashioned their millstones from that hill."

From page 213: "Sunday Herald, 1876 - weekly. It was about this time that a paper was published about Austin and Travis County, by J. T. Brackenridge, president of the First National Bank, in which he compared Mount Bonnell to Mount Clivet, 'None who have ever seen and known, as was written in Florence, can forsake Austin!'"

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*Mt. Bonnell is limestone. ^{Date} from
Miss Roselle Girard, Bureau of
Economic Geology, U.T. 7-17-69*

Mount Bonnell continued.

From page 332: "Folklore is the story told to the J. W. McClendon family by Mrs. Hally Bryan Perry of the origin of the song, 'Wait for the Wagon and We'll All Take a Ride.' In the 1850's, a young member of the legislature in Austin suggested adjournment early and a picnic, with dates, at Mount Bonnell, and returning by moonlight. A transportation committee was named to assemble horses and carriages, etc., when someone suggested, 'let's get a wagon and we all can go.' It was a long ride out there then, but they saw the sunset over the river, had their picnic, descended Mt. Bonnell, to ride back to Austin by daybreak. Next morning, on the desk of each legislator was the poem, 'Wait for the Wagon and We'll All Take a Ride.' Years later, the song was used by the Studebaker Company for its wagon."

The following from A. Garland Adair's "Austin and Commodore Perry".

From page 19: "Just how long the Commissioners spent at Waterloo and Montopolis is not recorded in their report to the third Congress at Houston which they made on April 13, 1839, but they must have admired the scenic Seven Hills. Surely Mr. Harrell did not let them go away without a shot at some deer and buffalo, a plunge into what has been named Barton Springs, and a look-see from what today is known as Mount Bonnell."

From page 45: " In 1849, a colony of Mormons settled at Mt. Bonnell for several months."

From page 27: (Big Foot Wallace) "He once lived for several months in a cave near Mount Bonnell."

From the Handbook of Texas, Volume 1, page 186:
"George W. Bonnell, a native of New York, came to Texas in 1836 with a company of volunteers which he had recruited for the Texas War of Independence. ----- During Sam Houston's first term as president of the Republic, Bonnell was commissioner of Indian affairs. ----- In 1839 he moved to Austin, where he and Jacob W. Cruger were selected as government printers on December 6. On January 15, 1840, Bonnell started publication of the Texas Sentinel in Austin. ----- On February 4, 1841, he became a charter member of the Austin Lyceum. A member of the Texan-Santa Fe Expedition, he was released from prison in Mexico in time to return to Texas to join the Meir Expedition as a lieutenant in Company F. On December 26, 1842, Bonnell was left with a camp guard on the Texas side of the Rio Grande. When the guard was ordered to retreat, Bonnell and a companion returned to camp for horses and Bonnell was captured and shot by one of the Mexican soldiers."

"Mount Bonnell, on the Colorado River near Austin, was named for him."

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