

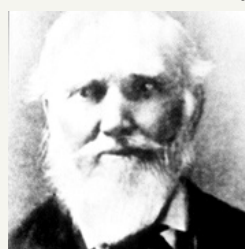
# THE CITY OF HURST: A HISTORY

## 1841

The Republic of Texas signs a land grant contract with a group of investors originally headed by William Smalling Peters to recruit 200 families from outside Texas to settle in the North Texas area. Peter's Colony is formed.

May 21 - General Edward H. Tarrant leads 69 volunteers at Battle of Village Creek against Caddo, Cherokee, and Tonkawa tribes, opening the region for further settlement by European colonizers.

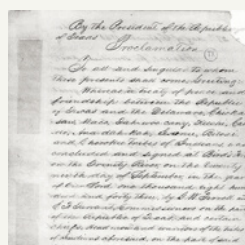
August - General Tarrant orders a military outpost built near Village Creek. Bird's Fort - named for Jonathan Bird - was built south of present day Euless (later abandoned in answer to the threat of Comanche attack).



General Edward H. Tarrant

## 1843

September - Treaty signed by Sam Houston, General Edward H. Tarrant, Ed Terrell, and several Indian tribes in the area (first Caddo, then also Anadarko, Biloxi, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Delaware, Hainai, Kichai, Tawakoni, Waco, and others). Bird's Fort reestablished.



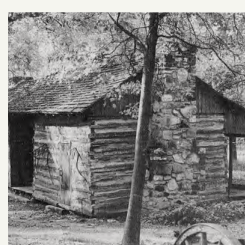
## 1846

John Hust from Tennessee filed a land claim on Walker Creek and may have been one of the first settlers in Hurst. Soon afterward about a dozen settlers chose this area as their home.



## 1848

Hamilton Bennett homesteads a section of land east of the Birdville community and builds a log cabin about where east Loop 820 and Trinity Boulevard intersect today.



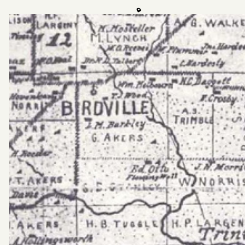
## 1849

December 20 - Tarrant County created from Navarro County. Named for General Edward H. Tarrant, Indian fighter, hero of the Mexican War, and a member of the Texas Congress. Birdville, at the site of the present-day Haltom High School, was named county seat.



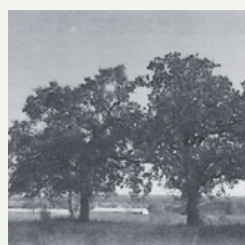
## 1850

August - First county election held in a log cabin in Birdville.



## 1851

After Hamilton Bennett's wife dies he establishes a public cemetery on top of a small hill nested among some live oak trees on the norther edge of his property. One of the first public cemeteries in Tarrant County, it is called the Post Oak Cemetery. The cemetery is adjacent to the Parker Family Cemetery on Cardinal Road in Hurst.



## 1853

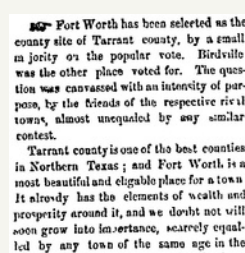
Isaac Parker migrates to the area with his wife and five children from the little town of Elkhart on the Navasota River. He purchases a section of land owned by Hamilton Bennett which included a log cabin on land in the southwest corner of the present day City of Hurst - South of Hwy. 183 across the railroad tracks.



Isaac Parker

## 1856

November - Fort Worth made the seat of Tarrant County. Fort Worth is said to have won the election by 3 votes that were later found to be illegal.



## 1857

Randol Mill built south of Hurst on the Trinity River. It was operated by R.A. Randol until 1916.



# 1860

Isaac Parker's niece, Cynthia Ann was "freed" from Peta Nocona's tribe by Texas Ranger Captain Sul Ross at the Battle of Pease River. Isaac Parker goes to Fort Cooper in Throckmorton County to identify his niece and brings her home to his log cabin in Tarrant County.



Cynthia Ann Parker

# 1865

Daniel Arwine came to Texas from Indiana. In 1879, he deeded six acres for school, church, and cemetery. The school - Red Sulphur Spring (later Arwine School, and now Bellaire) - was the first in the area.



Daniel Arwine

# 1866

Isham's Chapel Methodist Church founded (now the First Methodist Church of Hurst). 11 charter members. First one-room building also used as a schoolhouse.



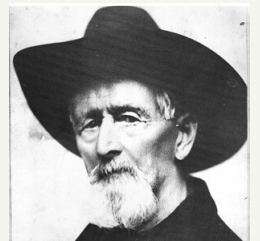
# 1867

Isaac Parker's wife, Lucy, dies and Parker, aware of a cemetery on the northern edge of his property called the Post Oak Cemetery, Parker decides to set aside a small patch of land adjacent to the Post Oak Cemetery to become the Parker Family Cemetery.



# 1870

William L. Hurst comes from Horse Shoe Bend, Tennessee with his wife and several children. The Hurst family settle first near Grapevine, then moved to Bedford before finally settling about a mile north of Highway 10 in Hurst.



William Letchworth Hurst

# 1880

Jeff Souder family comes to Hurst from Indiana.



Thomas Jefferson Souder

# 1903

Rock Island line was built through on land donated by W. L. Hurst in exchange for the establishment of a Depot named for him. Hurst Train Depot established.



# 1909

Community name changed from "Ormel" to "Hurst."



# 1927

The Library is first established as a county station by the Fort Worth Public Library with an appropriation budgeted by the Commissioner's Court. Mrs. Jesse Powell (formerly Miss Inza Page) is the librarian. She operates the Library only a few hours a week. Books are kept in a large wooden box with a lock and stored in the cloakroom of the South Hurst School.

Star-Telegram publisher, Amon Carter, Sr., buys the Isaac Parker log cabin and moves it to his ranch and has the building restored to its original condition (After Carter's death, his foundation donated the log cabin to the Log Cabin Village in Fort Worth.).



Amon Carter, Sr.

# 1949

First Post Office established in Hurst inside Emma's Café on what was once called Highway 183, now known as Highway 10. Bill Souder, later to become the mayor of Hurst, was the first postmaster.



Bill Souder

# 1950

Population 200.



# 1951

Ground-breaking ceremonies for Bell Helicopter Plant.



The Hurst Bell Helicopter Plant, shown above, is the world's first that was designed and constructed specifically for the manufacture of rotary-wing aircraft.

# 1952

Hurst incorporated as a general law city on September 25, 1952 with a total population of 2,700.

Chamber of Commerce organized at Hurst (joined by Euless Chamber in 1955, and Bedford Chamber in 1969).



# 1955

Hurst and Euless school districts merge (joined by Bedford in 1958 to create Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD).

1956 - City Charter adopted - Home Rule Government - Population 5,700.



# 1957

Lawrence Dale Bell High School opened on land donated to the school district by the late Larry Bell, Founder and President of Bell Helicopter.

A 12' x 20' building is erected by the city next to City Hall just off Holder Drive as the first library. The building costs \$1,000 and is furnished with wooden shelves, an old vanity for a desk, and a single light bulb. There is no typewriter or checkout equipment. All books still belong to the County; books are not cataloged.



# 1960

1,000 square feet in the new Civic Center at 700 Mary Drive is allotted to the Library. All City offices, except the Police Department, are housed in this new building. In March, the Library is included in the City budget and \$1,500 is allocated for books and other materials.

Population is 10,165.



# 1969

Tarrant County Junior College Northeast Campus opens.

1970 - Population is 27,215.



# 1972

Northeast Mall opens as the largest indoor mall in Tarrant County.



# 1974

January 13 - Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport opens.



# 1977

Fifty years after establishment of the Library, a bond vote passes approving \$1.1 million for a new Library facility to be built on Precinct Line Road.



# 1979

Volunteers in Action is established.

This is the first municipal volunteer program to be recognized by the state of Texas.



# 1980

Population 31,420.

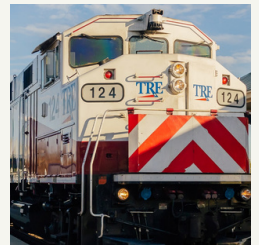
1990 - Population 33,574.



# 2000

Trinity Railway Express (TRE) begins running between Fort Worth and Dallas (with a stop at Hurst/Bell Station).

Population 36,273.



# 2002

The City celebrates its 50th anniversary.

To commemorate the milestone, the City buries a time capsule at City Hall.



# 2005

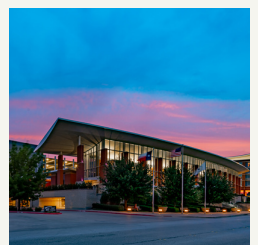
A bond vote authorized \$1.5 million for improvements to the Library along with construction of a new Senior Activities Center and a new Fire Station #2.



# 2010

Hurst Conference Center opens.

Population 37,412.



# 2011

The newly expanded Hurst Public Library reopens.



# 2020

Population is 40,413.



# 2021

The new Animal Services and Adoption Center and Hurst Dog Park opens.



# 2022

The City celebrates its 70th anniversary.



## References:

George N. Green, "HURST, TX," Handbook of Texas Online (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hdh04>), accessed October 03, 2012. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

"HURST," Texas Almanac (<http://www.texasalmanac.com/texas-towns/hurst>), accessed October 03, 2012.

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