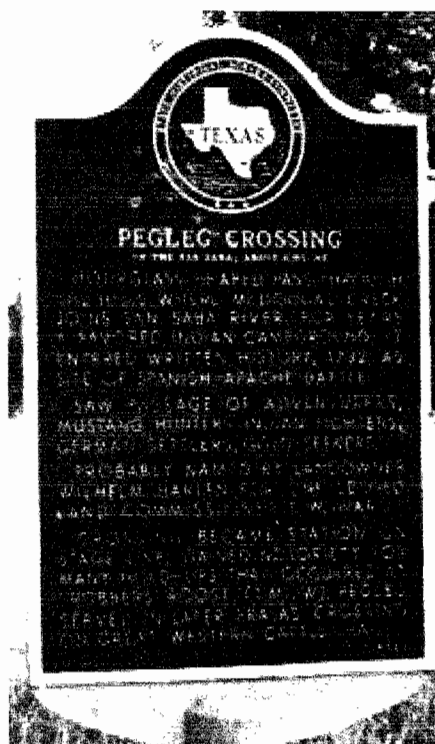


Pegleg Crossing

Pegleg Crossing is an hourglass-shaped pass through the hills where McDougal Creek joins San Saba River. For many years it was a frequently used ford on the San Saba River, and was part of the Great Western Cattle Trail.

General Information



The Pegleg Crossing on the San Saba River, at the mouth of MacDougal Creek twelve miles east of Menard in Menard County, was used almost continuously by the Spaniards from the time of the establishment of Santa Cruz de San Sabá Mission in 1757 until the end of the colonial period.

Discovery and Early Use

In 1849 William Henry Chase Whiting surveyed the ford as a part of a migration road to California. It served the army as a crossing, linking Fort McKavett with San Antonio both before and after the Civil War.

From 1867 until 1888 the San Antonio-San Diego Stage Line used the military road, and the stage line had a relay station, called Pegleg Station, constructed on a hill overlooking the ford.

Outlaws

In 1877 a group of outlaws robbed the U.S. Mail at the Pegleg Station where the trail crosses the San Saba River. This was a favorite location for outlaws, because of the geography surrounding the crossing. At the Pegleg Crossing, the terrain forms an hourglass between two ridges of hills and the main trail that was used by the

stagecoaches crossed the San Saba River at that point. The outlaws had a hideout called "the roost" nearby, from which they simply descended to rob the stagecoaches and travelers before riding off. Robberies at this location were so common that it became almost a "rite of passage."


Great Western Trail

The Great Western Trail used the Pegleg Crossing for cattle drives from south central Texas to northern ranges and railheads. Herds to be driven up the trail from the Mason area were assembled at Koocksville. The trail proceeded northward, crossing the James River near the site of present Noxville, the Llano River at Beef Trail Crossing, the San Saba at Pegleg Crossing, and Brady Creek west of Brady.

When State Highway 29 from Mason to Menard was built, Pegleg Crossing was abandoned.

More to come . . . Check Back Soon

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