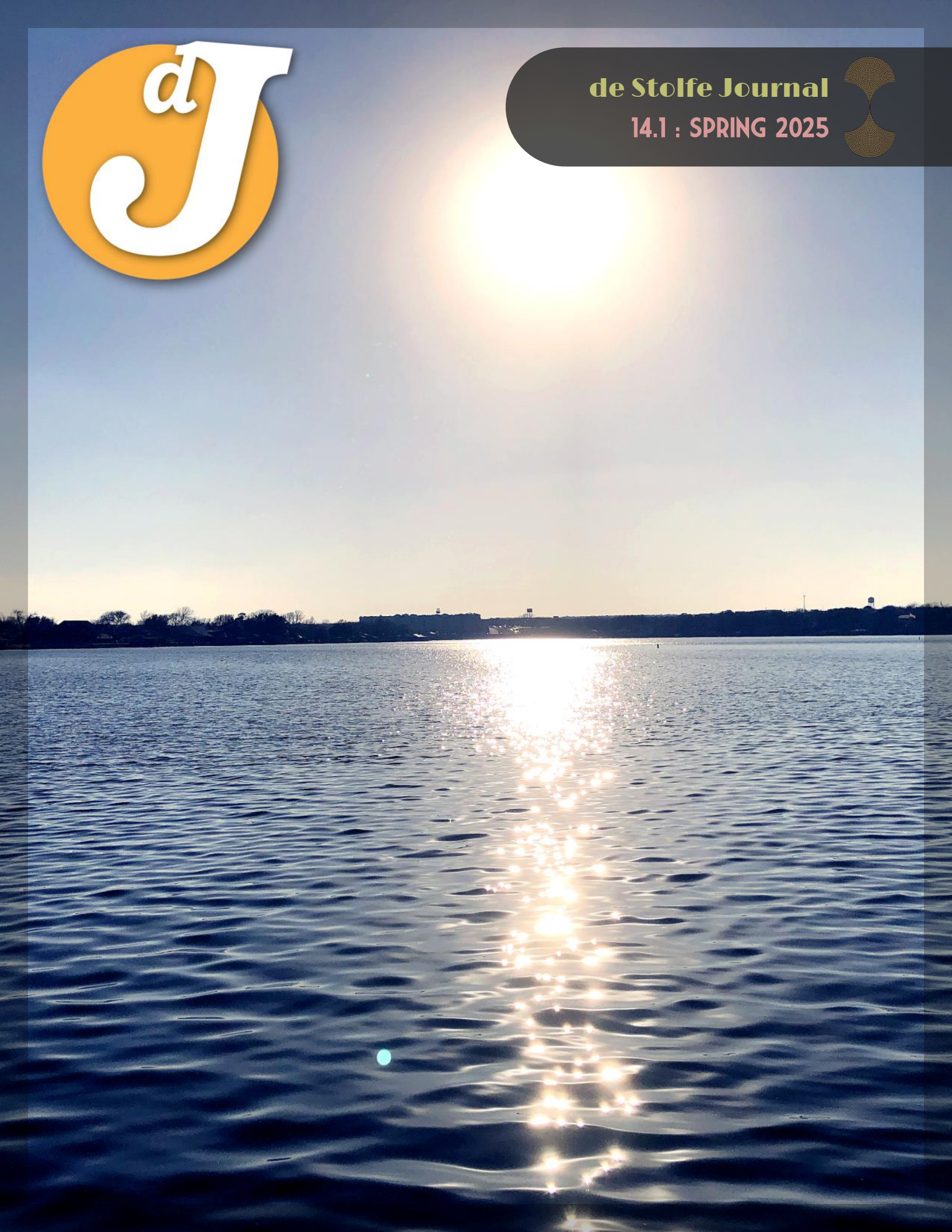




de Stolfe Journal

14.1 : SPRING 2025



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14.1 : SPRING 2025

Covers activities in January through April 2025.

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ON THE COVER



The cover shows Lake Granbury, an artificial lake formed by damming the Brazos River southeast of Granbury in 1969. On any nice day, boats will be all over the lake. Fishing is also quite popular for several types of bass, catfish, crappie, sunfish, and gar. Many housing developments are located along the lake.



Site of the future dam in 1966 that would create Lake Granbury. (Brazos River Authority)

We live in the 2020s, not the 1920s! Wherever there is a web link like below, click it to go to the webpage it references! (Click it now!)

www.destolfe.com



COMMENTS BY RG



Radical Changes

Talk about being stupidly late! Here it is almost August and I'm just now getting out the FIRST regular issue of 2025! Sheesh! This issue will catch you up on some of the reasons why this issue was so late.

First of all, the most notable change is that I moved. In early February, I moved from Lubbock to Granbury, Texas. There is a very long explanation as to why in this issue, and it's not for the reason you would expect.

The first section of this issue covers what has been going on with me over the past year, and the factors that came together to have me move from Lubbock to Granbury.

The next section has multiple parts where I went to various places in Granbury to explore the town and find out what is here. In particular, I went to the Granbury visitor's center, to Lake Granbury, the historic depot, the Hood County jail, and a few other miscellaneous places. More of these explorations will be in the next regular issue, which I think will be the Summer issue to come out in early September.

I also catch up on a few minor things from last year.

The last major section involves Texas bluebonnets! This spring was full of them around town! Over about a month, I documented the various places where I found them. I also tell about a bluebonnet photo contest I entered with the local newspaper. They were really pretty! I had not seen so many before, only small isolated spots.

Of course, I include a brief section of the travels of Bluecat. I will have more travels of Bluecat in the next issue.

And finally, I include the usual sections of Word For Life where I continue going through the book of Revelation. And I have many pages of Random Things that mostly include miscellaneous things over the last six months.

Very soon, I will have another major special issue covering my second trip to Flagstaff in the summer of 1995. Last summer, I had a major special issue covering the first trip to Flagstaff in 1994 where I took a Greyhound bus to Arizona. The second and third trips to Flagstaff in 1995 and 1996 I travelled by Amtrak train.

Until the next issue, I hope you enjoy this current issue!

RG

WORD FOR LIFE

Revelation Topics - "The End Times" - Part 5

As I said before in the previous entries of this unexpectedly long series about the book of Revelation, I am continually learning more about these details, just as you are also learning. I do not claim to be any kind of expert in the Bible nor a theologian, but simply a believer who wants to pass on what knowledge I learn as I find out about it. The book of Revelation has a total of 22 chapters, and we have so far covered through chapter 16. The rest of the book has details that really should not be glossed over even if just summarized. So, I will dedicate more time to these last chapters. Let's now continue.

With the seven bowls of the wrath of God fully poured out onto the earth as covered in chapter 16, the earth and the people left alive on it are in terrible shape! The next few chapters cover the final judgements of wickedness with the finale being when Jesus returns to the earth in chapter 19

Chapter 17 starts with an angel that had one of the bowls of judgement telling John, "*Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.*" (Revelation 17:1-2) There are two entities here, the Scarlet Woman and the Scarlet Beast. The woman was described as "*arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.*" (17:4) She was

"drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus" (17:6). The scarlet beast was described as "*full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns*" (17:3).

The angel then said to John, "*...I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her...*" (17:7) Now the rest of this chapter is really detailed and rather confusing to get straight, and I shall not even try to fully explain every detail. You can have your own study on that! But, I will give a general idea of some of the meanings. Regarding the "seven heads and the ten horns", the angel goes on to say, "*The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. The beast... is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven...*" (17:11)

Let's pause to better understand this chapter. Revelation was written by the apostle John, the one "who Jesus loved" (John 13:23, John 21:20-22, Revelation 1:9), sometime between 60 AD and 70 AD. Biblical scholars much debate what the seven heads specifically refer to. We know that the angel said that the "seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits". One common understanding is that the seven heads refer to seven consecutive kingdoms, and with that, the angel said that "there are also seven kings", likely one for each of the consecutive kingdoms. It is unknown if the kings are specific individuals or a general reference to the kingship of each

kingdom regardless of the number of individual kings within each kingdom. The scholarly understanding concludes to say that the five kingdoms that have fallen are Egypt, Assyria, Neo-Babylonia, Persia, and Greece. The "one" that is falling was the Roman Empire, the sixth head. What the seventh head is is also under much debate! Some have said that the seventh kingdom is the Islamic or Ottoman Empire, which did not start until about 1299 AD, many centuries past the time when John wrote Revelation. Out of this seventh kingdom rises the beast to become the eighth kingdom out of the seventh. Therefore, many think that the antichrist, the false prophet, will arise from this kingdom in the last days to become the eighth kingdom terrorizing the earth.

Revelation 17:8 says that he "*was, and is not, and yet is*", while the earlier part of verse 8 says, "*The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition.*" We will see later in chapter 20 that after Jesus returns, He will capture Satan, bind him with a great chain, and cast him into the bottomless pit for a thousand years. At the end of the thousand years, Satan will be let out "for a little while" (20:3) before he is captured again with finality and cast in judgement to the Lake of Fire and Brimstone, or perdition, where verse 11 also states this. But let's not get ahead of chapter 17. Another understanding is to say that the seven heads refer to specific emperors of Rome, despite some flaws and gaps with that theory.

Here is another reference that seems relevant to Chapter 17. King Nebuchadnezzar of the Babylonian Empire had a dream which Daniel interpreted as told in Daniel 2:1-45. Here is the king's dream as reported by Daniel:

*31 You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome.
32 This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze,
33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.
34 You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.
35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.*

And here is Daniel's interpretation of the king's dream:

*37 You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory;
38 and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold.
39 But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall*

WORD FOR LIFE

Revelation Topics - “The End Times” - Part 5

rule over all the earth.

40 And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.

41 Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay.

42 And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile.

43 As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another,

just as iron does not mix with clay.

44 And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

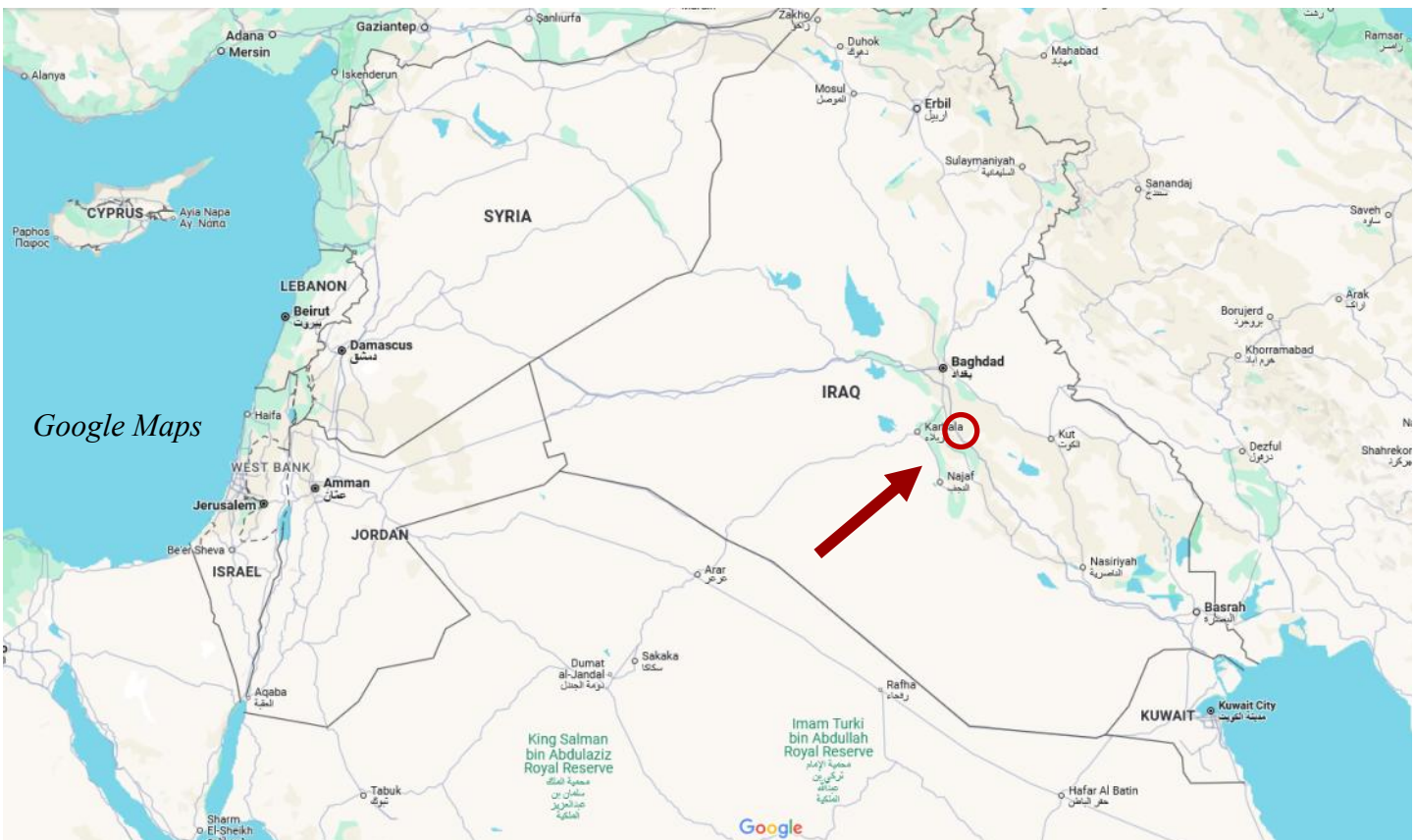
45 Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this.

This dream and interpretation seem to parallel Revelation 17 even though it only mentions what appears as five kingdoms,

with the interpretation showing the Babylonian empire as the head of gold. Now by this point, Egypt and Assyria have already fallen, leaving five other kingdoms that still lines up with what I said earlier. Verse 41 sounds much like the Roman Empire, as it split into the Western and Eastern empires, with Rome and Constantinople as the capitals respectively. I must note that the kingdoms mentioned here only represent those relevant to the prophecy, even though there were many other kingdoms all over the earth. Verse 44 is a clear Messianic prophecy showing the reign of Jesus during the last millennium.

Back to Revelation 17, The angel then said, “*The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them*”. (17:12-14) So clearly, this is more prophetic Word that will be fulfilled later as told in chapter 19. The angel also said in verse 16 “*And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.*”

Verse 18 finally identifies who the woman is, “*And the woman whom you saw is that great city*



Location of historic Babylon

WORD FOR LIFE

which reigns over the kings of the earth.” That city is Babylon, and the next chapter tells what happens to Babylon!

Let’s pause again before going into chapter 18 to understand a little more about the old Babylon. According to the World History Encyclopedia,

“Babylon is the most famous city from ancient Mesopotamia whose ruins lie in modern day Iraq 59 miles (94 km) southwest of Baghdad. The name is derived from bav-il or bav-ilim, which in Akkadian meant “Gate of God” (or “Gate of the Gods”), given as “Babylon” in Greek. In its time, it was a great cultural and religious center. The city was referenced with awe by ancient Greek writers and was reportedly the site of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Its reputation

has been tarnished by the many unfavorable references to it in the Bible beginning with Genesis 11:1-9 and the story of the Tower of Babel associated with the ziggurat of Babylon. The city also appears unfavorably in the books of Daniel, Jeremiah, Isaiah, and, most famously, the Book of Revelation.”

Babylon, located in the fertile crescent of the Middle East between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, was where the Israelites of Judah were exiled to after Nebuchadnezzar conquered their region, as told in the books of the major prophets, especially Daniel. Way back in Genesis 11 and a while after the Flood, the people of that time were building a tower, referred to as the “tower of Babel” to try to reach the heavens. God put a stop to that by scrambling the people’s speech into multiple

languages (as up to that point, there was only one common language) and scattering the people across the earth. It was because of this language scrambling and scattering as to why there have since been very different major cultures established around the world, specifically in Africa, Asia, and Europe. Now, let’s go to Chapter 18, where we will also stop for this issue.

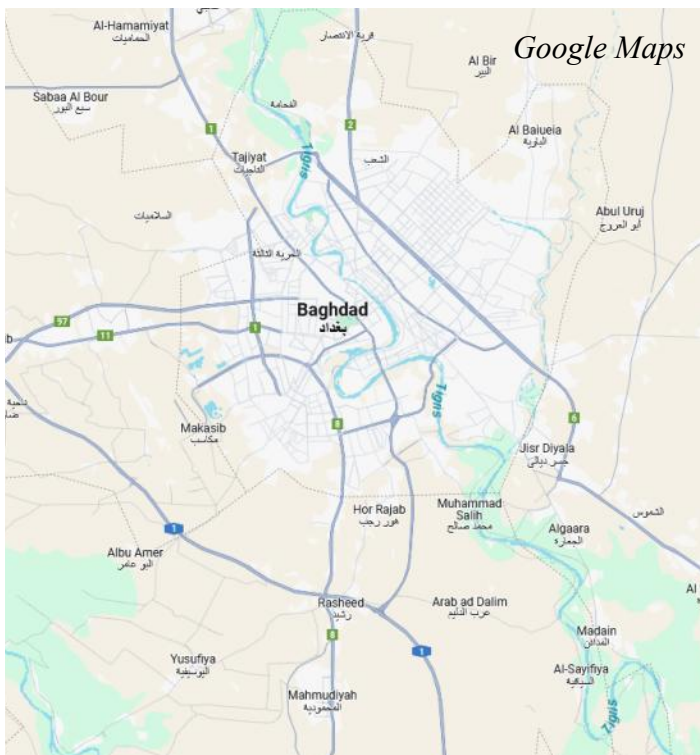
Chapter 18 specifically talks about “*The Fall of Babylon the Great*” and the world’s reaction to that fall. Another angel came and declared,

“Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the

kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.” (18:2-3)

Then another voice from heaven said,

“Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. 5 For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. 6 Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. 7 In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow...” (18:4-7)



Old Babylon is south of the modern capital Baghdad.



Satellite view of old Babylon in modern Iraq.

WORD FOR LIFE

This is clearly a call for the Godly to leave Babylon as it is about to be judged harshly.

“...her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.” (17:8)

This last verse clearly shows the nature of the fall of Babylon. The response by the people will be of sorrow, weeping, and mourning of their loss as they had committed fornication with her.

“The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning...” (17:9)
“And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her,

for no one buys their merchandise anymore...” (17:11)
“The merchants... who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing” (17:15)
“Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance 18 and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning...” (17:17-18)

However, while the world wails over their great worldly loss, the angel said to believers,

“Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!” (17:20)

The angel then told about the finality of the fall of Babylon.

“Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore.” (18:21)

And the reason for the destruction,

*“For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived.
24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth.” (18:23-24)*

The first couple of verses in chapter 19 show how heaven responded.

“After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Alleluia!

*Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!
2 For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her.” (19:1-2)*

The rest of this series likely will be in two more sections, one covering chapters 19 and part of 20, and the other covering the rest of 20 and 21 and the beginning of 22. Chapter 22 is sort of the wild card in that most of it summarizes the entire book of Revelation.

Additional Scriptures Referenced

John 13:23

Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.

John 21:20-22

*20 Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, “Lord, who is the one who betrays You?”
21 Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, “But Lord, what about this man?”
22 Jesus said to him, “If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me.”*

Revelation 1:9

I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Genesis 11:1-9

*1 Now the whole earth had one language and one speech.
2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there.
3 Then they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar.
4 And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”
5 But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the*

*sons of men had built.
6 And the Lord said, “Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.
7 Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.”
8 So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city.
9 Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.*

RANDOM THINGS



The Granbury HEB has a large section of Texas goods, including these hairon leather coasters.



A very cold day with light snow in Granbury on February 19, 2025.



More common in Lubbock, Granbury experienced a rare haboob, a high winds sand storm that dimmed the sun. There were two other separate storms later.



What happened with society where a sign like this is needed??

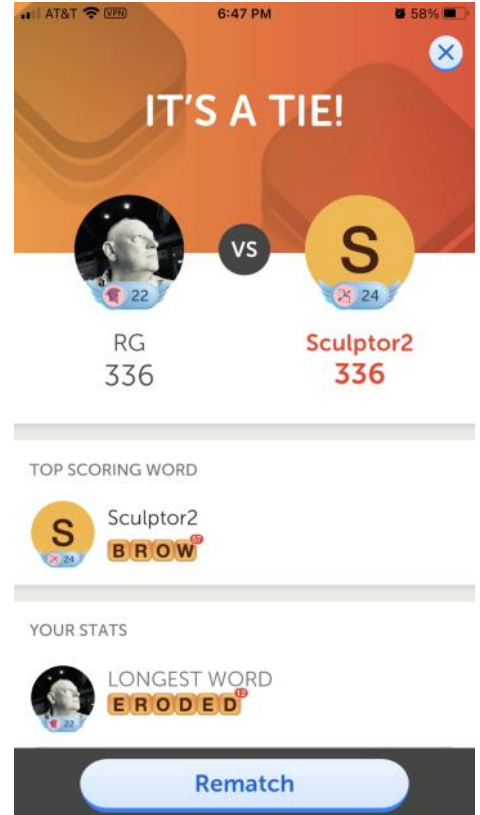
Types of vinegars. sign in HEB.



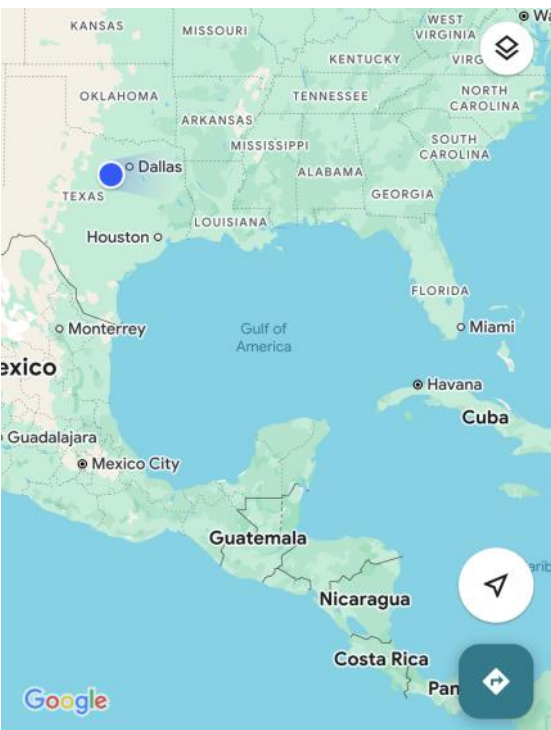
RANDOM THINGS



This game called Fairway Solitaire by Big Fish is a golf themed solitaire game heavily based on playing golf. These two screenshots show nearly perfect games! I first played this game over a decade ago!



I have played Words With Friends for 15 years, very rarely have I gotten a tie!



Google Maps changed the name of the Gulf on their maps, but Apple Maps did not.



Google Maps also modified the Persian Gulf to be named Arabian Gulf.

RANDOM THINGS



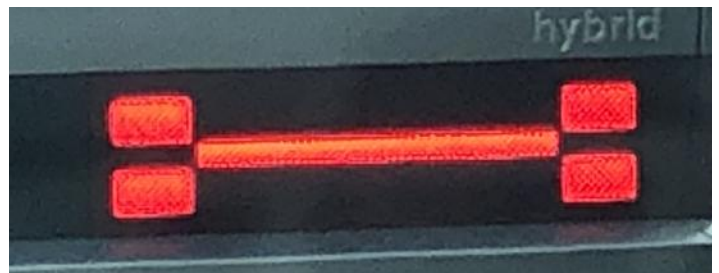
While driving around outer Granbury, I came across some oreo cows in a fenced field.



A tortoise found at a local agricultural store.



A sign for minnows at a gas station. A strong haboob blew away the sign in the early spring.



The taillights of the new Kia Santa Fe cars look like the shape of a dog bone!



Saw a gecko at a friend's house.



Also saw a baby possum.

RANDOM THINGS

*At a mechanic's shop,
I saw these two rat
rods made from
duallys. They were
very strange!*



*Before leaving
the HEB in
Granbury, I saw
this extremely
long horse
trailer!
Granbury is in
between
Stephenville and
Fort Worth, and
many horse
trailers come
through town.*



RANDOM THINGS

The Morning Was... Strange

On March 13, I needed to go to Austin to work an annual event called Bloody Mary Morning. Austin is a weird place!



While I did not stop here when going through Clyde, I drove past a drive through BBQ restaurant! I have never have seen one before. April 18, 2025.



Decided to go to Rudy's BBQ in Burleson on Saturday, April 27, 2025. They were installing what looked like Tesla charging stations.



CATCHING UP

The Back Story

In my comments of the last issue, I said, “Well, I am stupidly late in finishing out the reporting of 2024 and into 2025. But in all fairness, there have been some major changes with me! Now, you will have to wait until the next regular issue to get caught up with the new things.”

Now, here is the next regular issue, the first regular issue of 2025 coming out in the middle of the year! I also said in those comments, “January proved to be quite the radical transitional month. However, this leads into what the next issue will cover to get y’all caught up with what is going on with me. But also needless to say, January and early February were quite the roller coaster of emotions and of physical activity.” In order to get y’all caught up, I need to briefly refer back to August of last year for any of this to make sense!

From mid June 2023 to early August 2024, I was working for a technology based company located in

Lubbock. By the time I started working, the company went away from one type of service to another one that was slightly different but still used the same technology.

As of June 2023, I was only one of two full time people working for the company. Over the following year, we worked events that were in Lubbock and in various places around the country. I included event locations where I personally worked in previous issues of the journal over the last two years. These locations Tampa, Houston, Midland, and Boise, besides local events.

By August 2024, the company was growing organically but not exactly in any kind of structured manner, and no one really knew exactly where things would go from there in the longer term. However, I was getting more and more lost in that progression, and I just could not see where I fit into whatever direction the company was going. For multiple valid reasons, I had considered quitting

several times in the early months of 2024 and into the summer. I was looking for a different job but just could not find anything. I finally said enough and quietly quit in early August 2024 even without having another job secured.

One thing to note here (this is foreshadowing) is that in early 2024, one of the other employees, who was really the main driving force of the company, had come on

full time in the fall of 2023 and soon after established a second shop location in Granbury, a small town southwest of Fort Worth. He had thrown out the idea to me several times of moving to Granbury. I entertained the idea by looking at the feasibility of it only to determine that it was just far too expensive and unaffordable and dismissed the idea, which was the right choice.



Here I am by one of the screens owned by the company I worked for while at a Texas Tech Lady Soccer game the last day of August in 2023. I am recording video with my GoPro.

CATCHING UP

Lean Half Year

So of course, quitting without another job already secured was scary (and by some people's uninformed opinions as stupid), but I just kept looking and applying. I did not find much and got no responses from those who I applied. But, I did decide to go back to an old job working as a delivery driver for Steak Express knowing that it would give me quick cash in hand. I got paid basically minimum wage, but I did get tips and a gas allotment per order I delivered. Compared to past times working for Steak Express, the business model changed

(especially during and after Covid) to where it worked out more in my favor in that I generally made more money per shift than in the past. But of course, I still didn't make close to enough money to pay rent and bills. I did the best I could. I purposely stayed home for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years to cut out any unnecessary expenses.

Ultimately, I got behind on the rent as you could guess, but I had the most understanding and accommodating landlord I have ever had who worked with me! The landlord gave me

until the start of January to get at least mostly caught up. However, that didn't happen. Undoubtedly, New Years was quite stressful knowing that I could not meet his requirement and having to tell him that I just could not get caught up on the rent like I

wanted. While he was understanding, he still had a rental business to run, and he gave me the notice to vacate. He was kind in other ways though, with one of those ways giving me to the end of January to make enough money to move out, among other things.



In September, I went back to work for Texas Steak Express as a delivery driver for the third time. I first worked for them in the fall of 2007 to January of 2009, and a second time in the fall of 2011 to late spring of 2012. The third time was from the fall of 2024 through January of 2025.



CATCHING UP

Packing And Moving

The bulk of the moveout was in the last two weeks of January, and especially the last week. My only option was to put the entire house into storage as I had nowhere else to move to. After a bunch of looking and comparing, I did manage to find a storage unit that gave me lots of space for a fantastic price! (I got a 12x20 unit that was actually 14x20 for the specific unit I chose.) While I did look for other housing options, they were just all a little more than I could realistically afford working for Steak Express. I have made the mistake too many times in the past of assuming that it would “just all work out” by

getting a place that was even a little beyond what I could afford, with those options having worked out poorly. I most definitely was not going to make that same mistake again! Recent inflation also made the rental prices much higher than they were even five years ago. But, my biggest, most immediate concern was to get moved out, and I would figure out the rest later even if I had to sleep in my car for a while. (At least my car is paid for!) I just knew that I could not stay in the house I was in, despite really liking living there. I was glad to get help from some people from my church that last week to move my house

into storage and to help with some of the packing. After all, I was living in a three bedroom, two bathroom, one car garage house! I had been living there since June of 2021, for over three and a half years. I was stressing hugely the last few days, trying my frantic best to get everything moved out—even by myself at times—and most importantly to leave the place clean as it was newly remodeled

when I moved in! I stayed at a hotel for a week. I probably lost a few pounds that last week with the stressing and the activity! It took three more days into February, but I was finally fully moved out and left the house as clean as possible, even though it was after midnight, and I was an emotional wreck! The storage unit was packed so full in the front that I could barely close the door!



My storage unit before (up) and loaded (down).



This was my garage after finally getting moved out. I did not photograph the rest of the house.



(This photo was at Midnight.)

CATCHING UP

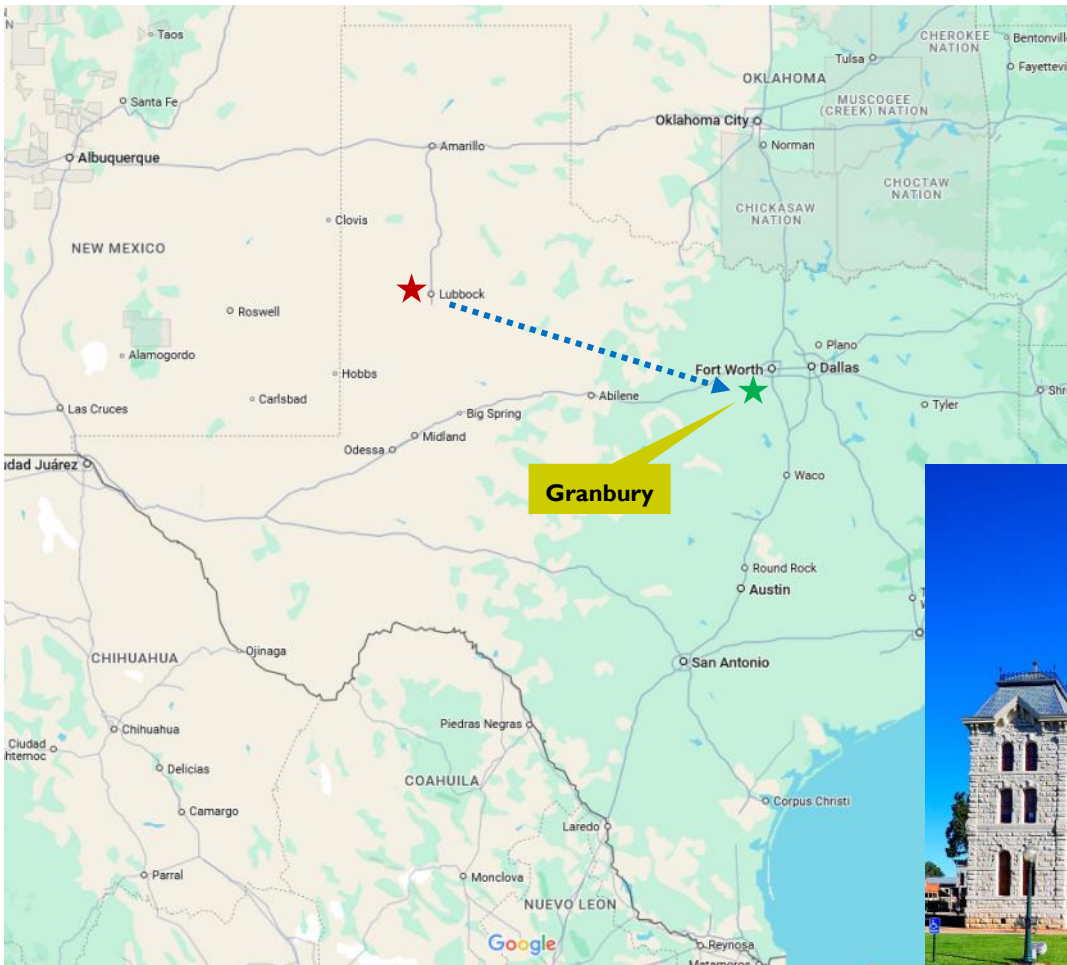
An Unexpected Option Came Available

Now by mid January, the other guy I mentioned earlier who was the driving force with the company I used to work for, was in a bit of a pickle in that he needed help to get some things in order for the company, particularly with some ongoing paperwork. He talked with the owner of the company to work out a means where I could return to work for the

company, but instead work out of the Granbury shop. After some convincing, the owner allowed him to bring me back on. Since the move would be rather quick, there was no need for me to move my stuff right away from Lubbock, so I put my stuff in storage as I originally planned and kept it there. I stopped working for Steak Express about a week

before moving out to focus on packing. My car was packed about as I full as I could make it safely, having most of what I wanted to take with me. I then leisurely made my way from Lubbock to Granbury on Tuesday, February 4, 2025. This was the next major move I've done since that move to Snyder in 2018 and the move back to Lubbock in 2021. I

had no clue how it was going to work out, and no clue if I was even making the right decision! But, it was all I had. The plan was that I would stay with my boss at his house in Granbury for maybe two or three months until I could get make enough money for whatever the next step might be.



*Hood County Courthouse
in Granbury*



CATCHING UP

On Monday, February 10, I would officially start working full time again. There were a few things different from the capacity I was in previously, but we would figure out the other details as time went on since this was basically a new position. Over the next few months, I worked daily from the shop to help organize paperwork and help with other things, basically working in a role similar to an administrative secretary along with some graphic work like I did before.



This is the shop in Granbury. We had three bays. There is an air conditioned office with bathroom inside in the first bay.



CATCHING UP

Living In Granbury, Texas

From the first few days moving to Granbury, I wanted to explore the town and see what was there since I was assuming that the town was my new home. A couple of days later, I went to the Visit Granbury office to get basic information and find out some history of

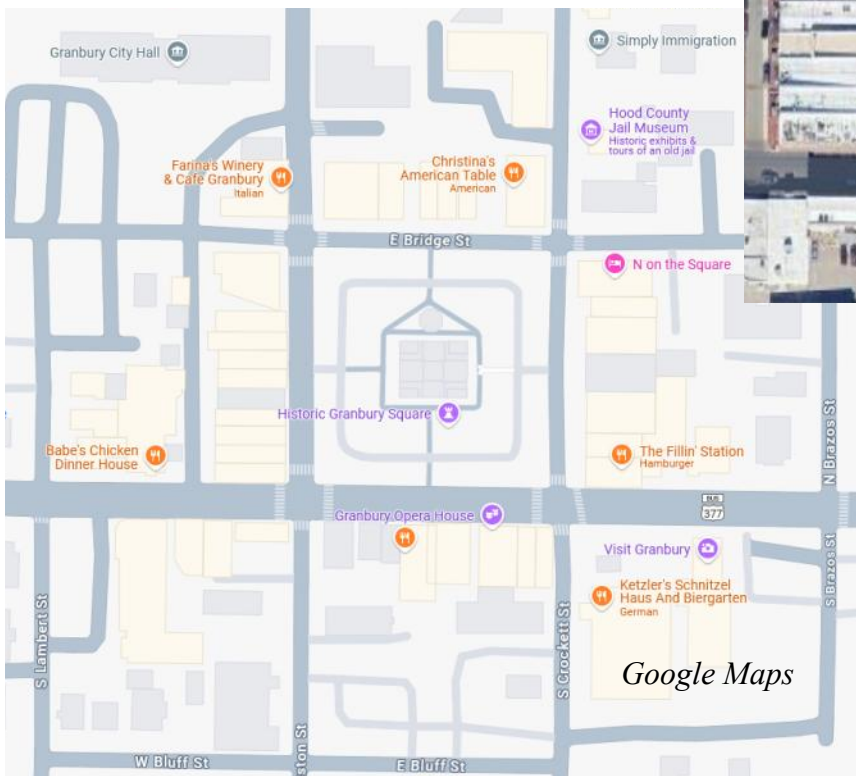
the area. Other things I did over the following weeks were to go to the boardwalk on Lake Granbury, go to the Hood County Jail Museum, visit the Granbury Cemetery, stopped by the Granbury Depot, as well as drive the various roads around town to

see the area. With how Granbury is laid out, there is really only one main road, Highway 377, along with one other somewhat main road, Highway 144. All of the other roads just feed from the main road and there are really very few options to be able to bypass the main road as

it is constantly full of traffic even into the night.

The bulk of this issue includes the places I visited in Granbury. I will likely continue with the visits into the next issue as it would make this issue too large.

The town of Granbury is on the north side of Lake Granbury—which is actually a dammed portion of the Brazos River—and is laid out as a grid, like many small towns in Texas are. The main square has the Hood County Courthouse with various old buildings dating to the late 1800s on each side and corners of the square. The buildings have various businesses now that are different from the original businesses when the buildings were new.



About four blocks east from the square is the city beach on Lake Granbury.

VISITING GRANBURY

First Visits

Just a couple of days after getting to Granbury (and some much needed sleep!), I wanted to get more information about Granbury. The first place I thought of going to was the visitor's center, a place called Visit Granbury. They had a building very close to the downtown square. Granbury proper is set up like many old towns in Texas where the county courthouse is in the middle of a square with businesses lining the streets. The downtown is also several blocks from Lake Granbury. More on the lake later. The visitors center was a great help to provide more information and establish a general history of the town.

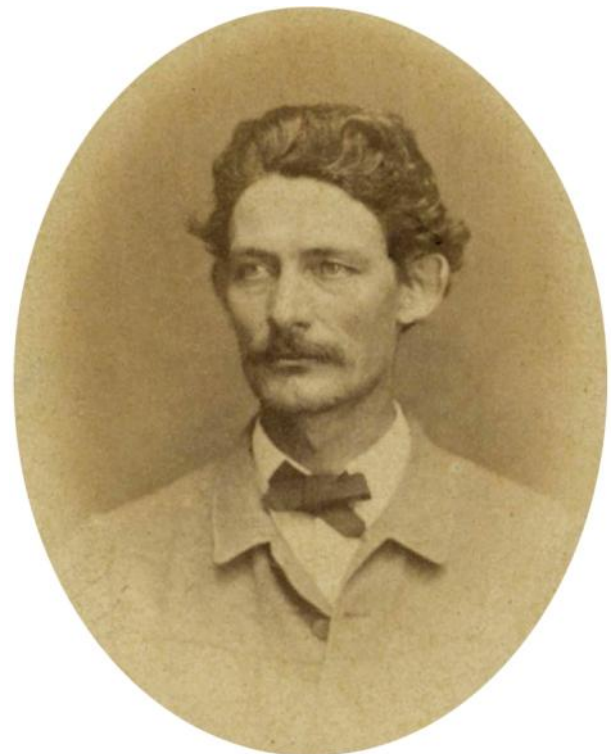
Hood County was formed in 1866 and named after Confederate General John Bell Hood, commander of Hood's Texas Brigade. Granbury was apparently also incorporated in 1866 and was named for Confederate General Hiram B. Granbury. Today, the city population is officially small, but the population with the county is rather large, especially considering that Granbury is only about 38 miles away from downtown Fort Worth.



General John Bell Hood



Just outside of the Granbury visitors center, they have this painted mural of monarch butterflies. Apparently, Granbury is along the migration path of the monarch butterflies and are typically seen the most in May and June, but could pass through as early as March or April.



General Hiram Bronson Granbury

VISITING GRANBURY

Lake Granbury

From the second day arriving in Granbury for the next three months, I occasionally went to the boardwalk on Lake Granbury. One thing to note, all lakes but one in Texas are manmade, formed from dams. Lake Granbury is no exception, the Brazos River dammed to create the lake in the 1969. The lake is shaped like a wide river that is was, and so it is a weird shape that follows the previous river

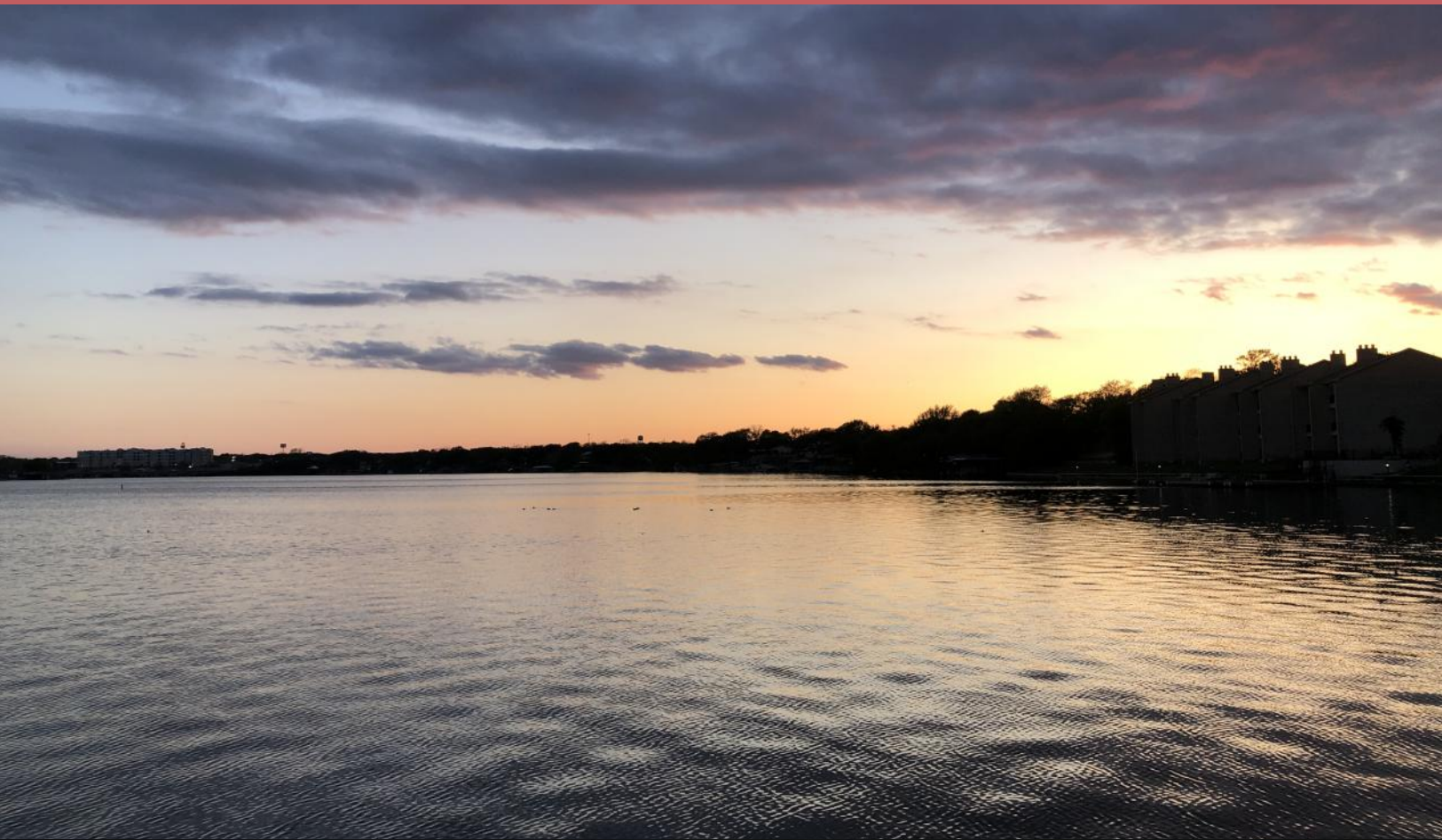
instead of being roundish. Downtown Granbury is only a few blocks from the water's edge, and a few blocks away from downtown is a sandy beach that is protected by an L shaped boardwalk. This boardwalk gets you out on the water enough to be able to look over the waters. In the winter when I first got there, the water and the winds were cold, but refreshing, and is a nice place to take a leisurely, peaceful walk.



VISITING GRANBURY



VISITING GRANBURY



VISITING GRANBURY

Granbury Depot

Through the month of February, I went exploring to different parts of my new town. Near the post office is the old depot next to the train tracks. The tracks are in regular use, but the depot is not, but it looked like it was restored and home to a museum or historical center. I have not yet explored the inside,

but I walked around the outside. Between the building and the tracks is a high metal fence that spans the entire block, further separating the depot from its prior use as a depot. As some point, I will see if I can explore the inside. Also, I have yet to see a train on these tracks, but I do hear them regularly.



VISITING GRANBURY

Looking east



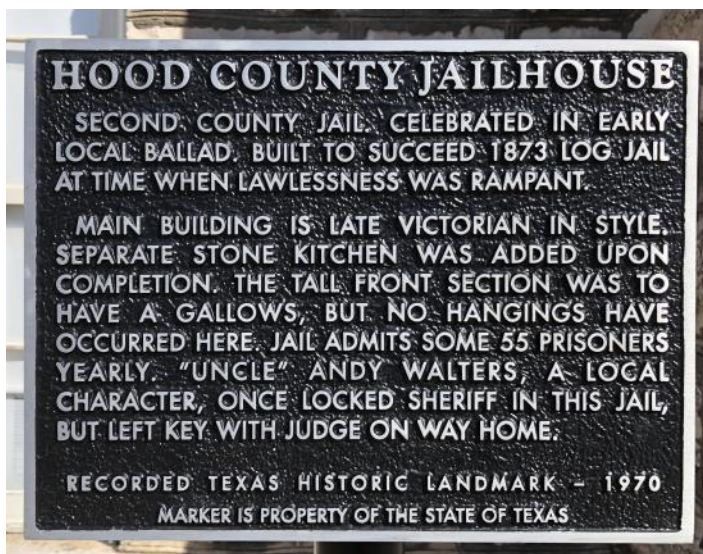
Looking west



VISITING GRANBURY

Hood County Jail Museum

On Saturday, February 22, I went to jail. Well... I went to A jail! The Hood County Jail. This is the second jail building built in 1885, with the first one made of logs and built in 1873. Today, it is a museum that is run by the Hood County Historical Society. It has two floors with the second floor containing the bars, more like a grid of flat iron, housing the prisoners. There was another room that was the women's section said to house even more hostile women prisoners!



Hood County Jailhouse

Second county jail celebrated in early local Ballad, built to succeed 1873 log jail at time when lawlessness was rampant.

Main building is late Victorian in style. Separate stone kitchen was added upon completion. The tall front section was to have a gallows, but no hangings have occurred here. Jail admits some 55 prisoners yearly. "Uncle" Andy Walters, a local character, once locked sheriff in this jail, but left key with judge on way home.

Recorded Texas historic landmark—1970
Marker is property of the state of Texas

This marker was added while the jail was still being used, until 1978!



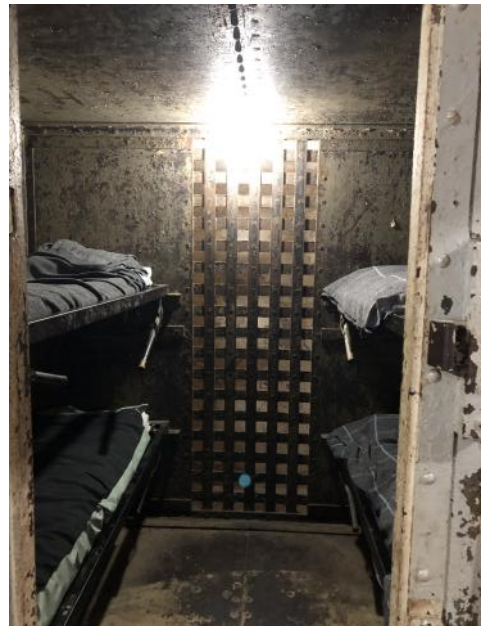
*Hood County Jailhouse.
This second one of stone was built in 1885
and used until 1978.*

VISITING GRANBURY

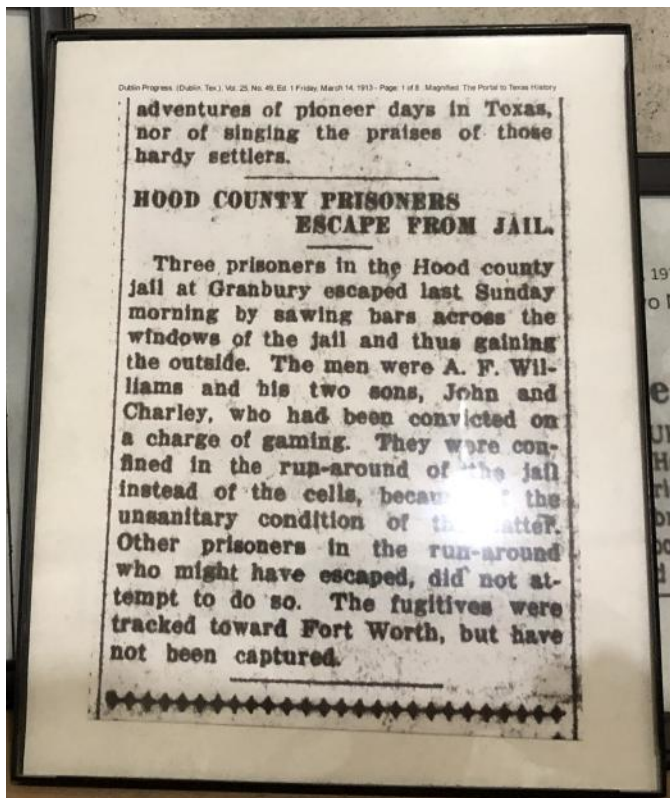
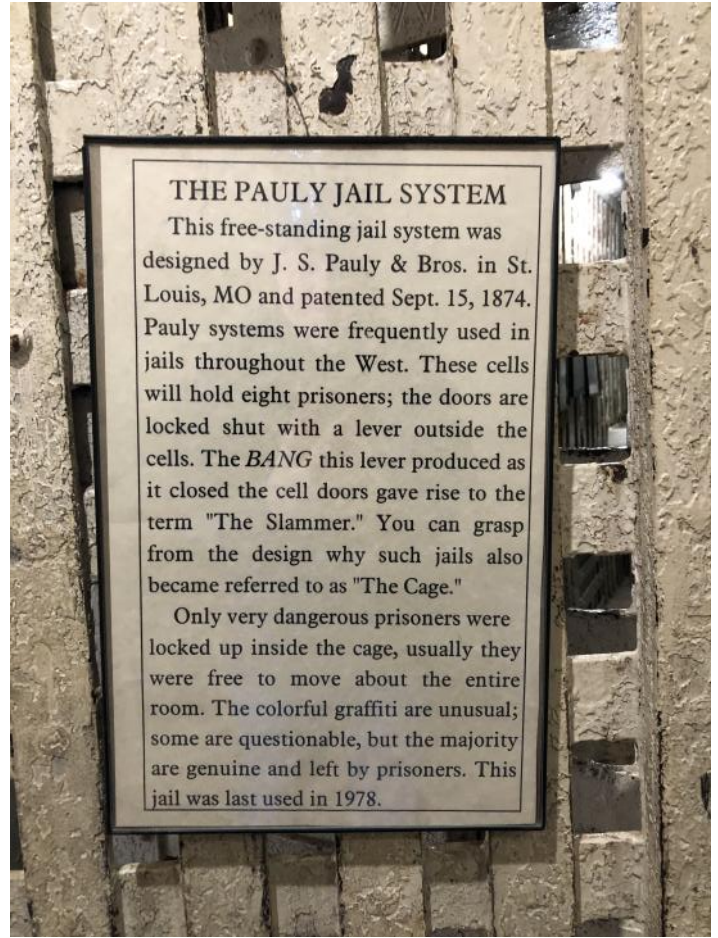


These top two photos are of the jail room for women.

The rest of these photos are of the main jail and show the interior cells for the worst of the prisoners.



VISITING GRANBURY

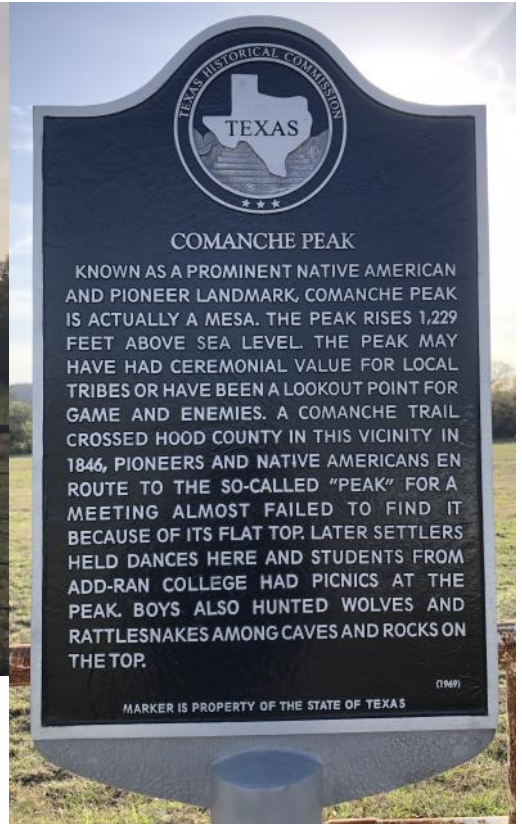


Shortly before I left, there came in a visitor, a young German Shepard in training to be a service dog.

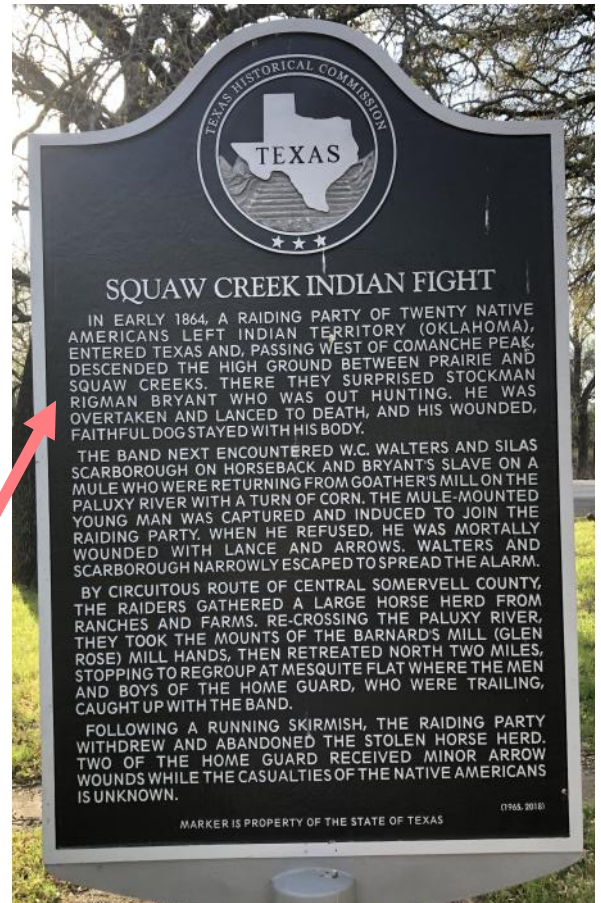
VISITING GRANBURY



Along 144 between Granbury and Glen Rose, a historical marker highlights Comanche Peak, a mesa known to the local Native tribes and early pioneers going through the area.



Somervell County Picnic area north of Glen Rose.



CULINARY QUESTS - 2024



Homemade beef and barley soup (8.17.24)



French inspired chicken noodle soup (10.10.24)



Succotash with beef stroganoff (9.15.24)



Homemade pumpkin bread/cake (10.27.24)



This is how I cut my Jack o'lantern pizza (10.31.24)



TEXAS BLUEBONNETS

Within a month period from late March to late April, I saw and stopped at various locations where I found bluebonnets. They ranged from localized groups to

wide splashes of blue with other wildflowers mixed in. Here is my bluebonnet journey in Granbury, Texas for 2025! (The photos are not altered.)



This was the first location I found that was full of bluebonnets in the front yard of a house! The growth was thick and was a showstopper! This rather set my expectation of what I hoped to find in other places. (Saturday, March 29, 2025)



TEXAS BLUEBONNETS

2

This location was a small patch by a mailbox next to the road. (Sunday, March 30, 2025)



3

This location was another house a few blocks from the downtown square. The bluebonnets were thick in this front yard along with a few other flowers in other areas of the yard. (Monday, April 7, 2025)



TEXAS BLUEBONNETS

4

This location was in the shoulders of the local highway where the bluebonnets and other wildflowers were sprawling! (Friday, April 11, 2025.)



TEXAS BLUEBONNETS

5

A few straggler bluebonnets were near my place of work.



7

These were the only few bluebonnets I saw among a whole slew of various other wildflowers



6

Near downtown Granbury, there was a single bundle of bluebonnets surrounded by flat grass! It was a very nice mound of bluebonnets though!





Bluebonnets are simply one color of a variety of lupine, with other colors including white, yellow, pink, red, bicolors, and variations. The bluebonnet is the official state flower established in 1901, and Texas recognizes six varieties of them: lupinus subcarnosus, lupinus texensis, lupinus havardii, lupinus concinnus, lupinus perennis, and lupinus plattensis. There is also a maroon bluebonnet associated with Texas A&M, called an Aggie bluebonnet.

BLUEBONNET CONTEST

The Hood County News promoted in their newspaper about a bluebonnets photo contest. The bluebonnets were apparently blooming later than in past years and so the contest was extended to nearly the end of April. From late March for several weeks, the bluebonnets were nice! Here were my three submissions. I never hear any more about my submissions and have no idea who won.



Hood County News
hcnews.com



RG de Stolfe

Granbury, Texas.

Where was your photo taken?

Granbury, Texas.



RG de Stolfe

Granbury

Where was your photo taken?

Granbury



RG de Stolfe

Granbury

Where was your photo taken?

Granbury

TRAVELS OF CHATBLEU



Bluecat on the pier of Lake Granbury



A sunny, clear day.



Granbury visitor center



Bluecat is on the road travelling to Austin, Texas.



Bluecat looks good even at night.



Bluecat has a friend. Her name is Dotty.

FINAL THOUGHT

Coming shortly, I have another special issue that will cover 30 years since my SECOND Flagstaff trip!



*I came across this photo of what Lake Granbury looked like in 2014 during a drought. It looks very different today as you can see on the cover!
(Reddit: "dumbidiotface" 3.11.2014)*



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