

The first 100 years

Everyone hot—entire faculty fired over Cadet Crisp

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Contributor

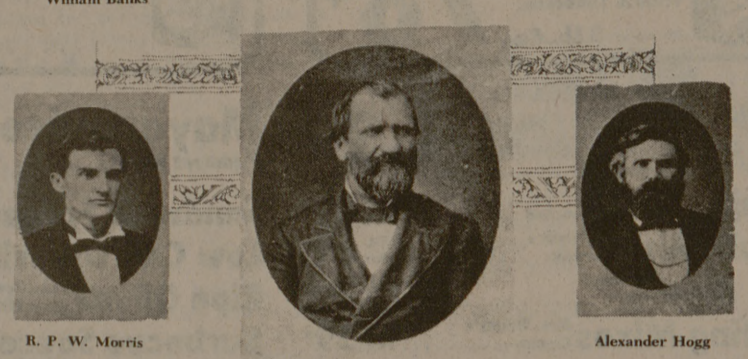
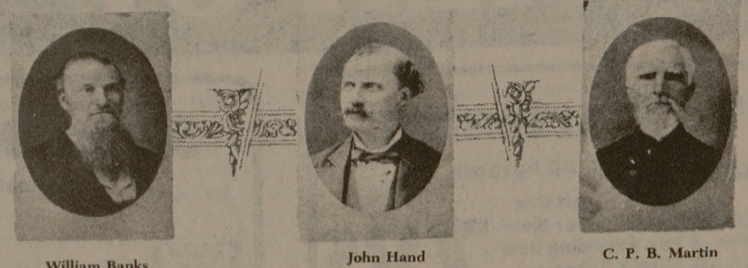
It is difficult to imagine the Texas A&M faculty numbering scarcely a dozen professors in view of today's more than 6,000 staff members, but this was the case in 1879. Exposed to and pressured by every natural hardship of the 1870's, the faculty and staff operated under harsh conditions. Although there were adequate spaces for only 160 cadets, enrollment soared to an unbelievable 253 in 1878. The dining hall was inadequate and bathing facilities

consisted of a swim in the Brazos. In the midst of the rapid expansion and over-loaded work conditions, professor salaries were lowered from \$2,500 to \$2,000 per year. Many students arriving to apply for entrance returned home dejected. Soon parents, the press and politicians became inquisitive and even critical of the conditions which existed at the college.

Amidst this public attention, it was brought to light that little effort was being made to teach courses in practical agriculture and mechanics. At the Texas State Grange meeting in Bryan during mid-January, 1878, members complained adamantly about the nonproductive nature of the A&M College. How could a school teaching purely literary subjects fulfill its agricultural intent? In March, 1879, the Texas legislature sent a special committee to investigate the conditions at the college. They returned to Austin and reported that additional funding would solve the ills of the college. Regrettably, the funding, although welcome, would not solve the growing tensions among students and faculty. This unrest reached its breaking point in June, 1879.

During a routine mid-summer meeting, the Commandant, Capt. George T. Olmstead, presented the names of cadets to be promoted. A dispute soon ensued as to who would be promoted to senior captain, or Cadet Corps Commander as it is known today. Faculty approval had usually been automatic. Yet, in a vote of 5-4, Olmstead's nominee, John C. Crisp '80, was disapproved.

The rejection resulted from faculty disagreement and not the qualifications of Cadet Crisp. Crisp had a good academic record and no demerits. The split was between professors L.M. Lewis, D. Port Smythe, R.P.W. Morris, A. Hogg,



A rowdy faculty
President Thomas S. Gathright and several members of his 1878-79 faculty.

and W.A. Banks, who disapproved the promotion, and President Gathright, professor J.T. Hand, adjunct professor L.L. McNinnis and Capt. Olmstead, who approved. Earlier disputes between these factions began to resurface. Gathright attempted to exert his authority as president, and approve Crisp's appointment as the senior cadet. His attempts failed.

On August 28, Crisp, disgruntled over the turn of events, appeared before the Board of Directors to file a

formal complaint. He felt he had been unjustly wronged by the petty arguments of the faculty. Crisp attacked Hogg as the primary cause for his rejection. Hogg had long been an antagonist of Gathright's. He had undermined many Gathright programs and aspired openly to someday become the president of the College. By September, 1879, the entire faculty and staff, the returning students, local Bryan residents and the press were involved in the dispute. In an attempt to cool the situa-

tion, Gov. Oran M. Roberts urged Gathright and faculty to settle their differences and return to the College. This suggestion was ignored.

The Corps by this time became despondent and resentful of the harsh treatment Crisp was receiving. The Corps, although small and young, had already unified itself into a cohesive body with a mind of its own. On Sunday evening, November 16, 95 members of the Corps submitted a petition to Gov. Roberts and the Board urging them to support the decision of President Gathright to retain Crisp as senior captain. On November 18, Roberts and the Board met on campus to review the Crisp case. Arguments from both sides were heard. Each faculty member was asked if the present disturbance could be disposed of while at the same time retaining harmony on the campus. The answer of each professor was a resounding no.

The act that probably spelled the final blow to the faculty was the appearance of Cadet Crisp before the Governor and College Board of Directors. In an eloquent address, Crisp ably outlined the true nature of the problem. The panel was very impressed with his poise and oratory.

As the representative of the Corps, he spoke openly for cadet rights: "I am proud to be worthy to suffer for the cause of right and truth for my young and gallant comrades and my beloved Alma Mater."

Upon the conclusion of Crisp's presentation, it was stated by the Board that they felt he was fully qualified, yet in their opinion it was the decision of the faculty to select the corps commander. The inability of the faculty and staff to work in harmony was the primary issue, not Crisp. The press, concerned Texans and parents continued to clamor for a

solution. It was felt by the Board that the faculty could no longer work together. On Saturday, November 22, six days after Crisp's letter to Gov. Roberts, the Board requested the resignations of the entire faculty. By late evening on the same day, the Board had selected an entirely new faculty and a new president, John G. James. The dismissal of the faculty brought on a new direction of pur-

pose for academics at Texas A&M. Classical education was almost totally discarded in favor of agricultural and mechanical courses. Out of a possibly tragic set of circumstances, Texas A&M was spared the fearful plight of being closed. Enrollment slowly crept upward, the morale of the student body endured and by the spring of 1880, hardly a word was uttered about the eventful fall of '79.

TEXAS 1876

JULY 30-AUGUST 5

FORT WORTH — The useless waste of money on weddings and funerals calls for reform. Extravagance makes young men dread marriage and death.

FORT WORTH — Henceforth the supplies for the army posts of the West, hundreds and thousands of tons of freight, will be shipped from the "City of Heights." Yesterday, Major Strang, quartermaster of the United States Army, arrived here, in obedience to orders from the War Department and established headquarters here.

SAN ANTONIO — An example will yet have to be made of some of the drivers of vehicles in this city, for leaving a horse, or horses, standing alone in the streets while they go into houses, generally barrooms. They thus cause runaways dangerous to the lives and property of citizens generally. We demand of the city authorities that they punish every such case to the fullest extent the ordinances allow, except where there is a valid excuse.

HOUSTON — The great railroad feat of changing the gauge from broad to standard on the Houston and Texas Central began at daylight this morning. The change is necessary because almost all of the other major roads in the state are built at the narrower gauge, necessitating transfer of all passengers and freights going to Houston. Preparations for the change, including new, narrower cars have been in progress for some time. With two teams working, it is expected that the job will be finished by tomorrow morning.

AUSTIN — On July 31, the Legislature rescinded the motion to adjourn sine die on that date and agreed to stay in session until the important pending legislation is finished. The action was initiated by the Senate, and a message from the governor urging the House to concur was sent in the afternoon. After heated debate and controversial parliamentary maneuvers the House agreed. One effect is to give the Texas and Pacific Railroad the extra three weeks it requires to fulfill the requirements of its charter and avoid forfeiture of its lands.

NEW BRAUNFELS — The murderer of Miss Emma Voelcker was shot dead Saturday night through the window of the court house by an unknown person in the presence of 40 men as a guard. However sweet the revenge to the perpetrator, thinking people consider that he robbed the law and society of their revenge, and is in a legal sense guilty of assassination.

RUSK COUNTY — Capt. C. B. Richardson is a model farmer in this county. He lives within his income, makes all the necessities of life at home and owes no man a dollar.

ADVERTISEMENTS — The Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railroad. The shortest line to all points in the North, East and West. This road, now in operation 167 miles west of Harrisburg and within 44 miles of San Antonio, offers the shortest, quickest and cheapest route. Baggage checked to destination. Two daily trains from Kingsbury making close and reliable connection at Harrisburg with trains of the GH&H for Houston and Galveston.

Tupinamba
Eddie Dominguez '66
Joe Arciniega '74
Greg Price

For those who demand the Real Thing!

If you want the real thing, not frozen or canned... We call it "Mexican Food Supreme."

Dallas location:
3071 Northwest Hwy
352-8570

Foxfire... 1-acre wooded homesites at in-town prices... that's quite a lot.

Foxfire will soon be one of the prestige neighborhoods in Brazos County. You can be a part of it now — even if your dream home is a few years away. Foxfire is 91 wooded homesites on 159 acres of land. It was conceived as an alternative to the hustle and the hassle of the in-town subdivision. Foxfire is a scenic enclave for a special kind of family who can come to terms with the natural environment. The home sites are large (1-3 acres). There is room to breathe, room to live life to its fullest. The terrain is varied, the vegetation natural and lush. Great areas have been set aside to preserve 100-year old oaks that will someday shade the yard of a new home. The amenities of Foxfire are a luxury you would expect in a country subdivision of the first class. There is a swimming pool, a tennis court, a playground, a dog park, and a clubhouse. All of the essential services are available. And yet it is quiet and peaceful. The covenants that govern the use of Foxfire homesites are uniquely responsive to the lifestyle of the landowners. The prohibitions are limited: no mobile homes (or other

temporary living structures), no open fires (or other activities that endanger the forest), no practices that abuse the rights of others. There is a minimum requirement for heated space (1800 square feet) but no restriction on design or exterior material. In brief, Foxfire's deed restrictions grant each owner the freedom to build his dream home with freedom while protecting the freedom of his neighbors. Foxfire is easily accessible by major thoroughfare by automobile. Major arteries include other downtown Bryan and College Station (as well as the highway to Dallas and Austin) and beyond. Foxfire is a pleasant surprise. You can own an acre of wooded land in Foxfire for about the cost of a 100-foot lot in a city subdivision. The resale value of Foxfire property cannot be guaranteed but most buyers assume this property will never sell for less than it does today. Terms are available to buyers who qualify. Bring the family to Foxfire and see for yourself. Foxfire may be the place you have looked for to live fully and invest wisely.

PHASE 2 NOW OPEN!

- THE AMENITIES**
- Large homesites (1-3 acres)
 - Dense woods and vegetation (pristine may be the word)
 - City water service (individual house meters)
 - Septic sanitary service (approved by Texas Health Code)
 - Cable television (Midwest Video Corporation)
 - Electric utilities (Bryan Utilities)
 - Regular refuse collection (independent contractors)
 - Telephone service (General Telephone)
 - Cul de sac streets (for maximum privacy and safety)
 - Neighborhood park (but no memberships, no dues)
 - Bridle path (ok for joggers, too)
 - Lighted street markers (built from natural materials)
 - Fire hydrants (for protection and insurance ratings)
 - Seal-coated streets (the same as Rosemary Drive)
- THE RESTRICTIONS**
- No mobile homes (or other temporary living structures)

- Minimum home size (1800 square feet/heated space)
 - No requirements on exterior materials (wood, brick, glass is ok)
 - Limitations on livestock (based upon lot size)
 - No redivision of a home site (one home per lot)
 - No activities that endanger the forest (or abuse the rights of neighbors)
 - No encroachments (50-foot street setback/25 feet from each property line)
 - No neighborhood association (no joining/no fees)
 - No property taxes for the year 1976
- THE COST**
- A one-acre tract in Foxfire sells for about the price of a 100-foot lot in a Bryan-College Station subdivision.
 - Terms are available for those who qualify.
- THE TIME TO ACT**
- The time to act is now. Certain lots are already committed. Other lots are being considered by builders and families like yours. If you ever want to live in Foxfire (even if it will be a few years before you begin your home) the time to buy land is now.

- PHASE 2**
- Foxfire Phase 2 will include exactly the same amenities and will be governed by identical deed restrictions to Phase 1.
- No bond has been posted to guarantee completion of these improvements since, in some cases, work will be completed simultaneously with work on Phase 1. In other cases (particularly seal coating of streets) this work will be completed as winter weather permits.
- In every case, however, all improvements in Phase 2 will be complete prior to January 1, 1978.
- THE CREDITS**
- Land Use Planning: Vernon G. Henry AIP & Associates, Inc.
 - Consulting Engineers: Bryan Engineering & Surveying Corp.
 - Construction Supervision: Marcal, Inc. Commercial Constructors
 - Development Financing: First National Bank, Bryan
 - Consulting Architect: Timothy Keneipp AIA
 - Graphic Design/Advertising: Joe Buser & Associates Advertising/Public Relations
- For more information call: 779-1799

