

## Populating the State: Immigration to Hill County

Supplement to **Heart of Texas Tales Website**

### **Description of Life near Fort Graham, an Excerpt from Isabella Wood's Letter Sent Back to Scotland**

The letter shows that James and Isabella Wood from Scotland had stopped near Fort Graham on their way to the land that they had purchased in Bosque County (on the other side of the Brazos River from Hill County). The land was sold to them 'sight unseen' by land agents seeking to lure immigrants from the British Isles to Texas.

Mrs. Wood seems to be favorably impressed with the area around the Fort Graham, to which they relocated after encountering too many Comanche and Caddo Indian raids in Bosque County.

From her letter:

*I wish you and the friends to say what you think best to be done with the children and write us as soon as convenient, and direct "Mr Wood near Fort Grame Texas America." We expect to stop here till the season cools before we go to our land. We are near the Docter and market. We have fresh meat twice a week at 2 ½ cents the #. We have a comfortable cabin good water few have the like this summer here. We have not seen any rain to count for since we came, the grass is quite burned up and not a vegetable to be seen. The sun has a burning heat it is cool in the morning and evening you will burn your head and feet to go uncovered in the sun. There is not a day but some one is sick or has a chill and will be so until climated [acclimated]. We have the privilege of milking a few cows which is very useful to us. The country is rich and good, it is a great change. The manners and living are entirely different.*