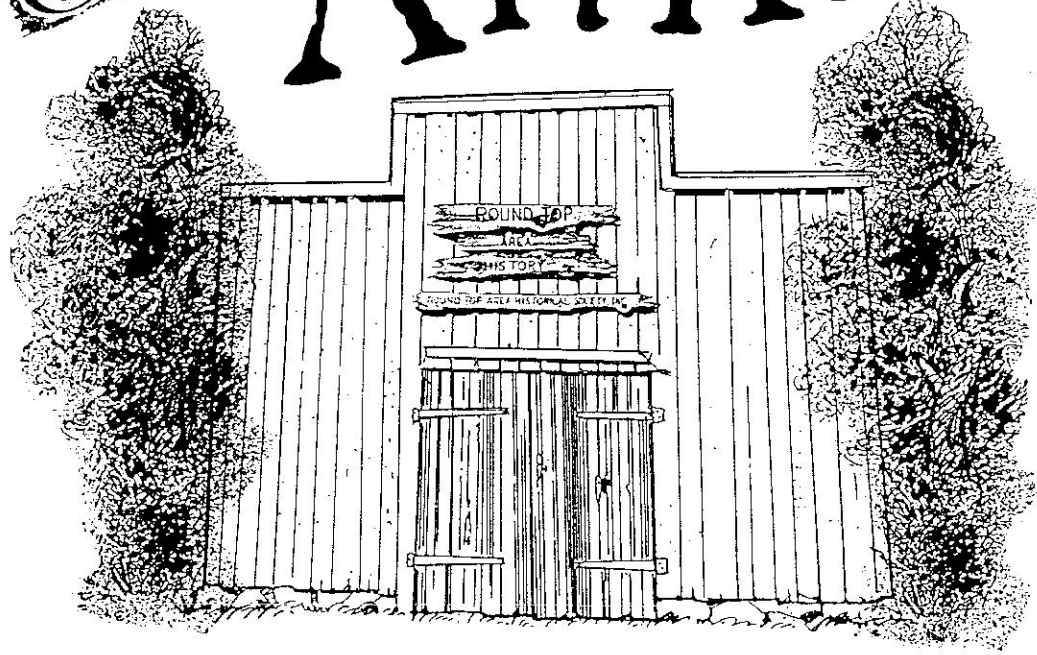


FACTS



Artifacts



ROUND TOP
Historical
Cultural
Quaint
Unique
Patriotic

Vol. 6 No. 1

Spring/Summer
1999



ROUND TOP AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.



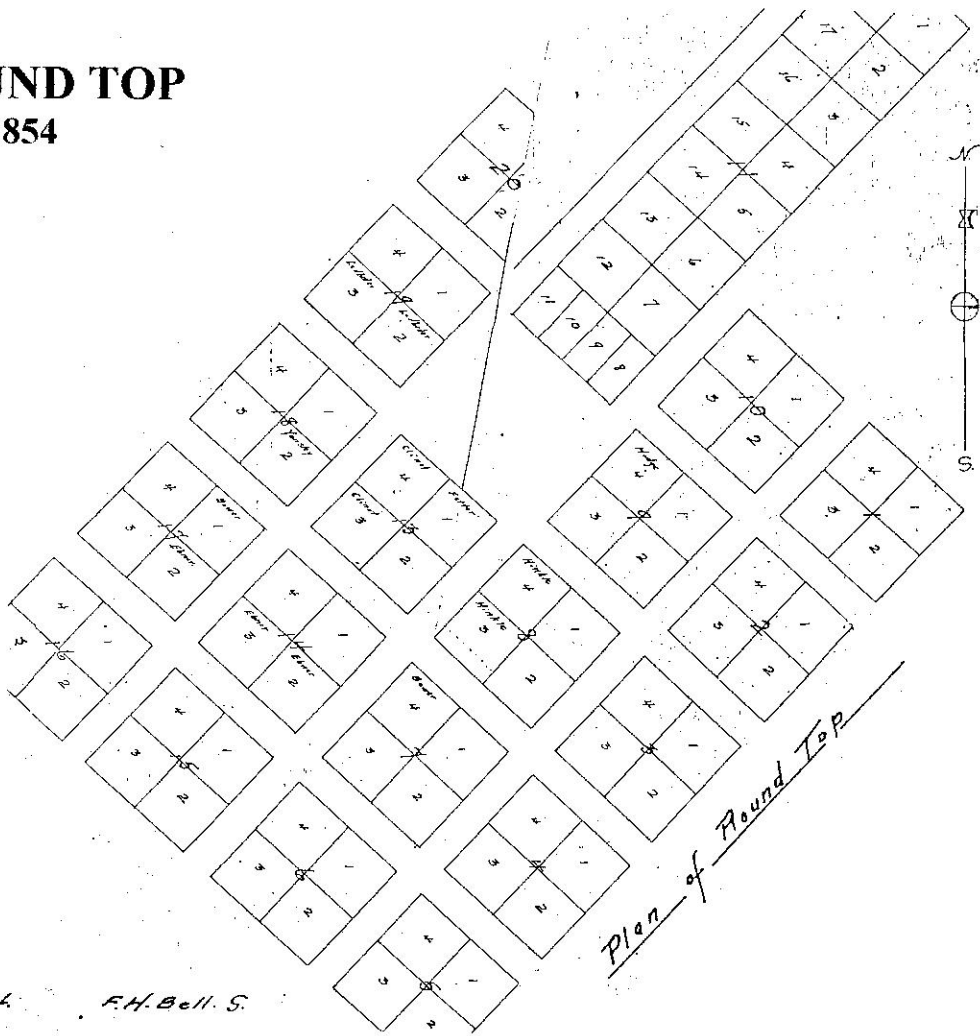
FIRST PLAN OF ROUND TOP

By F. H. BELL, Surveyor - 1854

William Caruthers drew a plan for the Village of Round Top on 3-21-1850. It is alluded to in FCRR, Vol. 37, Page 77, but it has never been located.

This is a reduced size, partial copy of Bell's 1854 survey.

Round Top's "General Store" is situated on Lot 2, Block 19. Note that F.H. Bell had written in the name, *Ledbetter*.



Surveyed the 6th day of February 1854. F.H. Bell, S.

Round Top's "GENERAL STORE"

John Shults became the third United States postmaster in the area on 7-19-1848. He immediately moved the post office to his land (present day Round Top) and simultaneously changed the name to Shults Store. On 11-30-1848 the name of the post office was officially changed to Round Top.

The La Bahia Road came through Round Top from two directions to the east and proceeded across Cummins Creek toward La Grange. One of these trails closely followed what is 1457 today, coming in from the stage stop referred to as "Old Round Top Place." The other ran along a line what today is SH 237. They intersected somewhere between the town hall of today and Cummins Creek.

In 1848 John Shults and his father, Christley, owned three-fourths of the land that is Round Top today. The other fourth was owned by Myers Fisher Jones. Across Cummins Creek to the west there was a stage stop operated by Stephen Townsend.

On 9-20-1851 John Rufus Alexander, son-in-law of M.F. Jones, sold seventy acres of land to Hugh White. It is on the southwest corner of this seventy acres that the "general store" was built. Today, it is directly across SH 237 from the town hall at the corner of Mill Street.

The plat of Round Top shows it as Lot 2, Block 19. The sequence of ownership from the granting of the headright to James Winn is as follows:

James Winn

to

Samuel M. Williams
& Horatio Chrisman

Vol. D, P. 267
7-10-1835

Upper two-thirds league.

to

Myers Fisher Jones

D/262
5-18-1846

M.F. Jones purchased by sheriff's sale. Williams and Chrisman had made some kind of deal with Nicholas Bryan. He defaulted and court decreed land to be sold. See Sheriff's Deed D/265.

to

John Rufus Alexander

G/581
11-19-1850

J.R. Alexander was the only son-in-law of M.F. Jones.

to

Hugh White

H/267
9-20-1851

The subject of this article is on one of the tracts of land, a 70 acre tract, in this deed.

to

J.A. Ledbetter

Not recorded.
* See County Clerk's
letters dated 4-5-99
and 5-7-99

Hugh White sold (or made some kind of deal) with J.A. Ledbetter on Blocks 19 & 22 sometime between 1851 and 1854.

References to County Clerk's and District Clerk's letters provide authentication. The letters are on file at the Round Top Historical Center.

Neither Myers F. Jones nor J. R. Alexander ever sold land to J. A. Ledbetter. See County Clerk's letter dated 5-10-99. Also reference Vol. O, P. 283 (Ledbetter to Kleinert) dated 1-28-1860 where it states, "to the northwest corner of J. A. Ledbetter's Lot #3 in Block No. 19."

On 1-28-1860 J. A. Ledbetter owned all of Blocks 19 and 22.

Hugh White		350 acres in several tracts.
to	L/520	The deed states, "except so much thereof as has been
Charles P. Flack	1-19-1857	included in said Town or Village of Round Top."

Reference District Clerk's letter dated 3-21-99 where it is verified there were no court cases against Melvina or Hugh White.

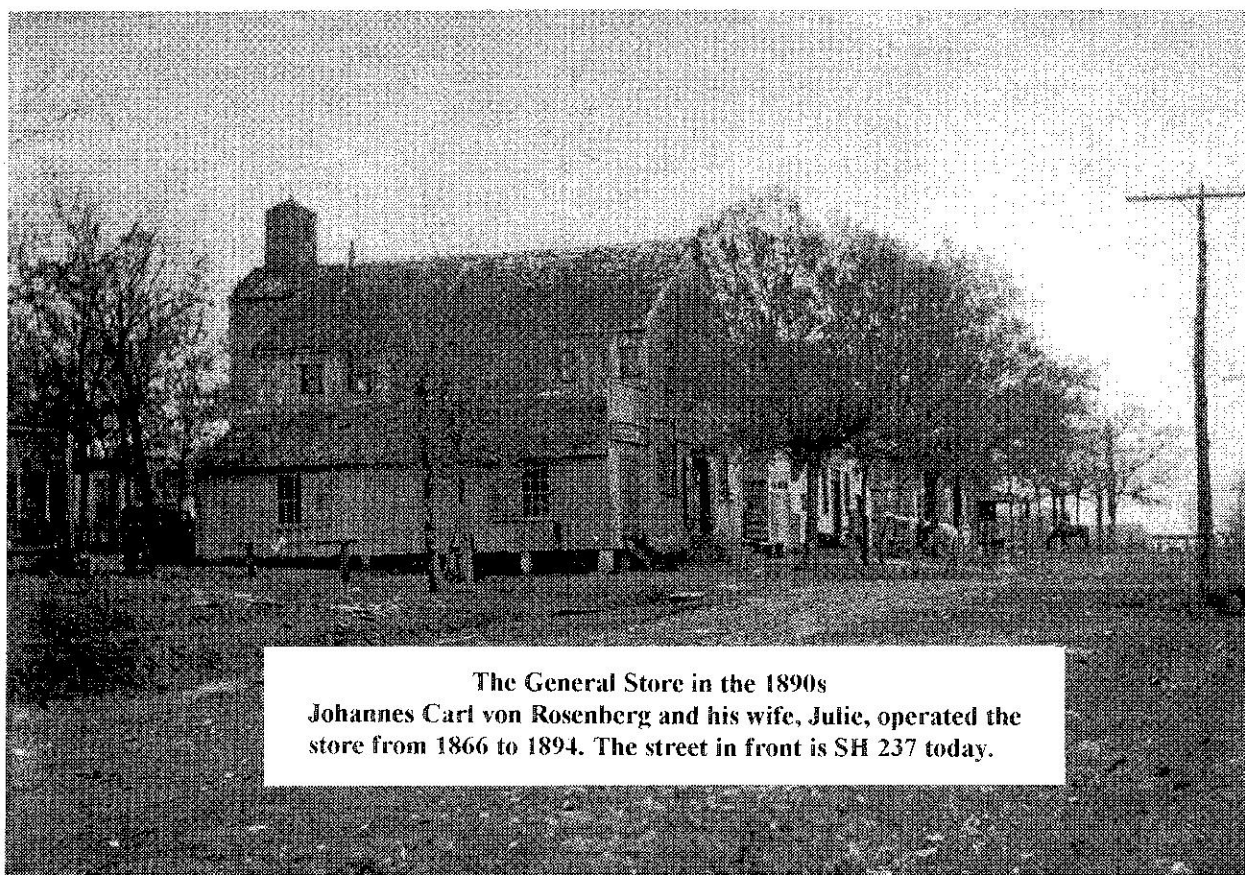
J. A. Ledbetter did buy Lots 2 & 3 in Block 21 from C. P. Flack on 7-4-1857 for \$1,050 (M/163). That price would have been about right if a building existed. Bieberstein's map of 1877 did indicate two buildings on Lot 2, Block 21, but that's over twenty years later.

So, with the ambiguous information pertaining to Lot 2, Block 19 and the fact there are no recordings of the transactions between White, Flack and Hodge to or from J. A. Ledbetter, there is no certain way it can be determined who built the "General Store" and when.

An educated guess would place its beginning from 1851 when Hugh White became owner of the acreage. Inasmuch as the date that J. A. Ledbetter became owner of Lot 2 is not known, but considering the fact that F. H. Bell put the Ledbetter name on it in 1854, it can be assumed the "General Store" was built between 1851 and 1854, most probably by J. A. Ledbetter.

John Alexander Ledbetter was the oldest son of Hamilton and Jane Ledbetter, born 12-27-1830. Hamilton Ledbetter moved into the Round Top area on July 17, 1850, when he purchased 536 acres of land (G/390) in the area that today encompasses the Richter Cemetery. John, more often called Alex, never married. He was killed while on sentinel duty in the Civil War at Vicksburg. He was a captain in Waul's Legion.

J. A. Ledbetter	Not recorded.	Reference County Clerk's letter dated 4-29-99.
to	Sometime between	
William Hodge	1-28-1860 and	
(William Hodge & wife, Mary)	12-26-1862.	
to		\$600.00 for one acre. This price would have included
Arthur Meerscheidt	R/157	a building. The deed describes one acre, but
	12-26-1862	William Hodge had sold Lots 1 & 4, Block 19
		(a half acre) to S. K. Lewis on 4-8-1862. See R/209.
to		
John von Rosenberg	S/154	\$800.00. This deed also describes one acre incorrectly.
(Johannes Carl von Rosenberg)	2-1-1866	John von Rosenberg, on 1-7-1867, purchased Lots 1
		and 4 from S. K. Lewis (T/98).



The General Store in the 1890s
Johannes Carl von Rosenberg and his wife, Julie, operated the store from 1866 to 1894. The street in front is SH 237 today.

**John von Rosenberg
and Children**

to

C. J. von Rosenberg	50/246	\$3,000.00
William von Rosenberg	6-30-1894	Three parcels
Otto von Rosenberg		

to

Henry A. Dippel	65/31	\$600.00
& wife, Emma	10-12-1899	All of Block 19 less 26 feet front running back the entire length of block which was sold to Otto Poppe 7-31-1889 in 37/114.

to

August von Minden	106/620	August von Minden traded 86 acres of land valued at \$5,500.00 to Henry A. Dippel for the land, store and merchandise in Block 19.
& wife, Marie	11-1-1918	

Marie von Minden	144/465	Sold ten feet frontage to the State of Texas for highway.
(August von Minden Estate)	6-3-1929	

**ROUND TOP AREA
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY, INC.**

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- ★ Collect and preserve the facts and artifacts of history.
- ★ Illustrate the story of the area by means of exhibits that reflect the early life of the people.
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A NOT-FOR-PROFIT AND INCORPORATED SOCIETY UNDER THE LAWS OF TEXAS.
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August and Marie von Minden Estate

to
Ernst and Alice von Minden

No probate found.
See District Clerk's letter dated 8-31-99.
Passed by inheritance.

to
Annie Schatte

**452/717
9-11-1972**

**Lot 2, Block 19
(Alice and Annie were sisters)**

to
**Odies G. Schatte
and wife, Betty**

**521/591
6-23-1978**

Lot 2, Block 19

to
**Jerry Schatte and
Rebecca Schatte**

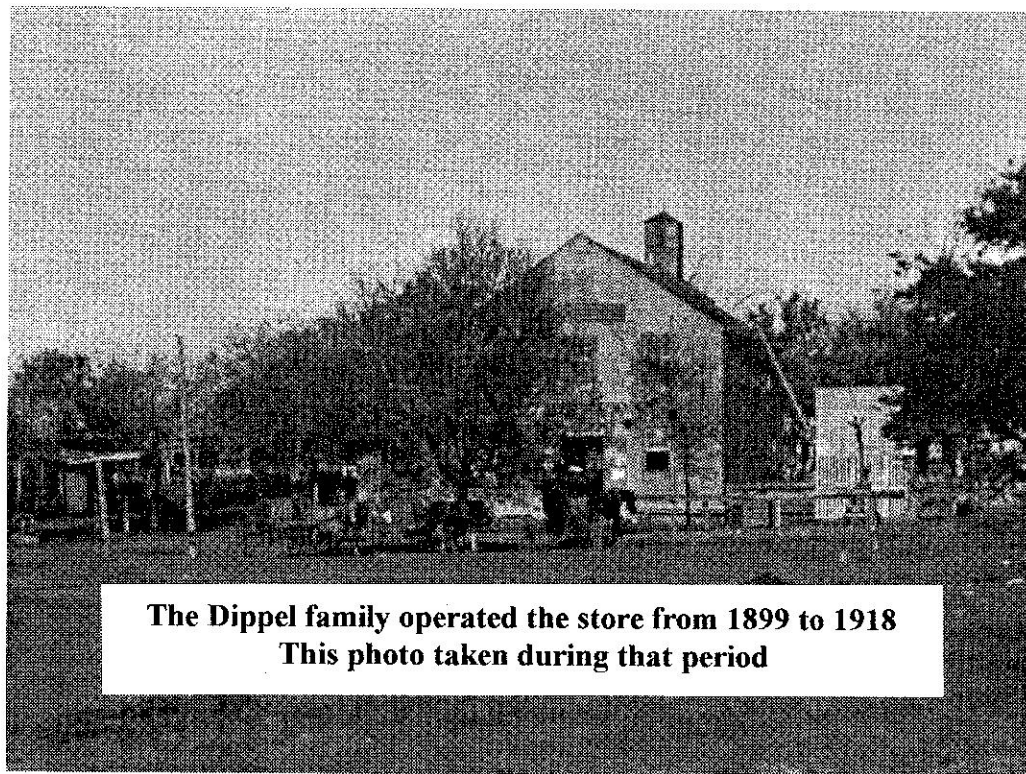
Passed by inheritance.

to
**Hugh A. Wood
and wife, Peggy M. Wood**

**838/313
1-16-1992**

Lot 2, Block 19

Hugh and Peggy Wood operate the "General Store" today.



**The Dippel family operated the store from 1899 to 1918
This photo taken during that period**

This history of Round Top's "General Store" has been researched and compiled by Herbert L. Diers. Sincere gratitude is extended to the offices of the Fayette County Clerk, the Fayette County District Clerk and the Fayette Heritage Museum & Archives for their assistance in this research. Ike Von Minden assisted by reviewing records and surveys. The photographs are the courtesy of Ed W. Ahlrich out of the Friederike Recknagel Collection.



Round Top's "GENERAL STORE"
in 1986 during the Texas Sesquicentennial

ROUND TOP AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. Box 151

Round Top, Texas 78954