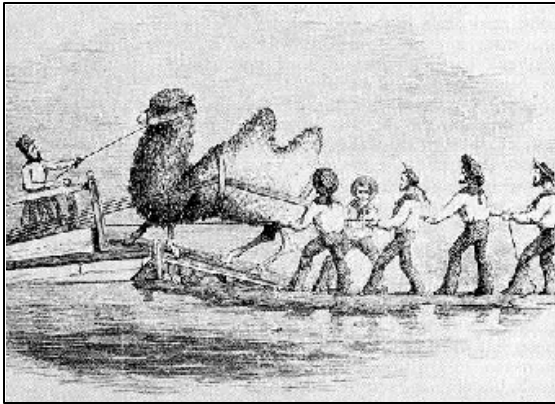
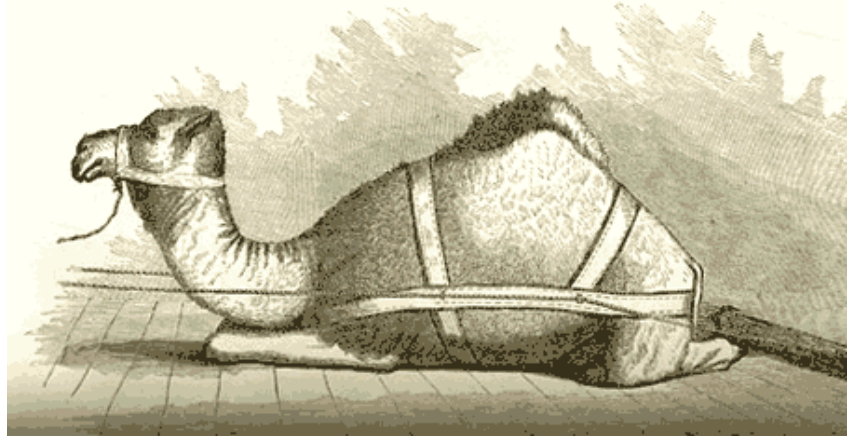


Camels through the Port of Indianola

A camel from an 1855 U.S. War Department bulletin, *The Purchase, Importation, and Use of Camels and Dromedaries to be employed for Military Purposes*



There were at least two government shipments of camels unloaded at Indianola. They were part of a U.S. Government experiment to determine if camels would make better transports of military goods than horses or mules. The first group of 34 camels – some with a single hump, others with two – was unloaded at Indianola on May 14, 1856. They arrived in Victoria on June 8, at San Antonio on June 18 and at their destination, Camp Verde on August 26.



The great-great grandfather of Curtis Postert of Indianola was Amasa Clark, who helped take care of the U.S. Army's camels at Camp Verde. In recent years, a treasure hunter at Camp Verde, gave Curtis' father, the late Fred Postert, a camel bell that he had found.

In a book written in his latter years, "Reminiscences of a Centenarian," Clark told of taking care of the camels for 14 months during which he gathered enough camel hair from the humps when they were shedding to make two camel hair pillows.

Beale's Camels were the second shipment of 32 adult camels along with two calves that had been born at sea. The U.S. Camel Corps was headquartered at Camp Verde in the Texas Hill Country. The purpose of the Beale expedition was to scout a suitable route to California.

In 1860, 20 camels and 15 pack mules were used by William H. Echols, escorted by some 30 infantrymen to map the Big Bend area and West Texas.



1877 *Harper's Weekly Magazine*

Before the 1875 and 1886 storms ...



Main Street of Indianola, 1868
Photo, Texan Institute of Cultures, San Antonio



Steamship at dock, Indianola
Photo, Roseate Spoonbill Gallery, Port Lavaca

... After the 1886 Storm

1886 Storm Damage to H. Runge & Company bank, store and warehouse with only the bank left standing.

Huddled in the bank during the storm were Dr. David Lewis' wife, Amelia and their four children, Anton and Katie Bauer with their six children, Louis Budde, Gus Wasserman "and several colored people who had hairbreadth escapes." All survived.

Dr. David Lewis was drowned trying to reach safety.

The H. Runge Bank that began in a tent was relocated to the branch office in Cuero.



Photo, Local History Collection, Victoria College

Port Lavaca

The Calhoun County Museum has a number of items that have been donated by families who were residents of Indianola.

There is also a diorama that shows what Indianola looked like prior to the storms of 1875 and 1886.



The museum is open
Tuesday through Friday, 1:30-4:30 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For other information see website for
Port Lavaca-Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce
www.calhountx.org



The Indianola House at Port Lavaca offers guests an opportunity to spend the night in a home that was moved from Indianola.

Actually, the original home has been split into two separate structures: the Indianola House at 210 So. Guadalupe Street and the Guest Cottage at 214 So. Guadalupe Street.

For Bed and Breakfast information phone Leslie Henke at (361) 552-2389.

Port Lavaca

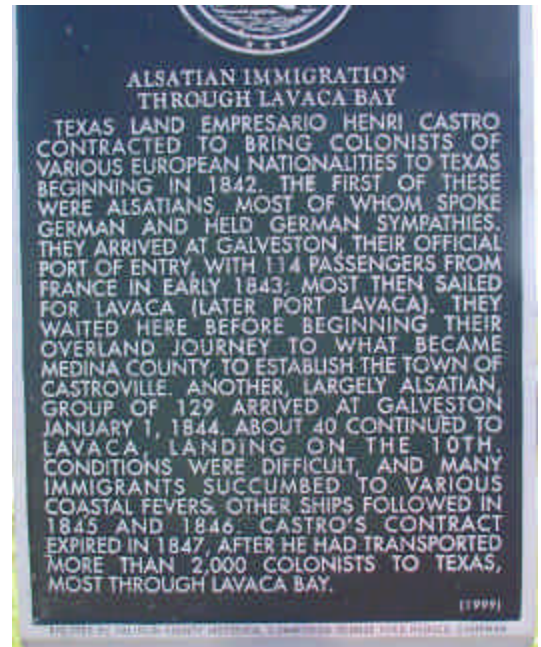


Two bells from Indianola can be seen at the Half Moon Reef Lighthouse in Port Lavaca on State Highway 35 next to the Bauer Community Center. The larger bell is from the Catholic Church at Indianola and the smaller one is a fire bell.

The First United Methodist Church, 814 N. San Antonio, Port Lavaca, has the bell saved by Aunt Belinda from the Methodist church at Indianola. It is still used to call the congregation to worship.

Alsations brought by Henri Castro

The Indianola Trail was also used by the Alsatian immigrants brought by Henri Castro, landing at Lavaca (now Port Lavaca). They used a portion of the old Indianola Trail en route to San Antonio and beyond to establish Castroville, D'Hanis, Quihi, and Vandenburg. The Historical Marker is at Smith Harbor, near Austin Street on Commerce Street.



Yellow-Crowned
Night Heron
Dean Johnstone



While you are in Port Lavaca be certain to stop at the Roseate Spoonbill Gallery, 129 E. Main next to the Green Iguana Grill. Dean Johnstone offers historic photos (some from Indianola), and wildlife photos of birds seen in the Calhoun County area. His web site is: www.roseatespoonbill.com.