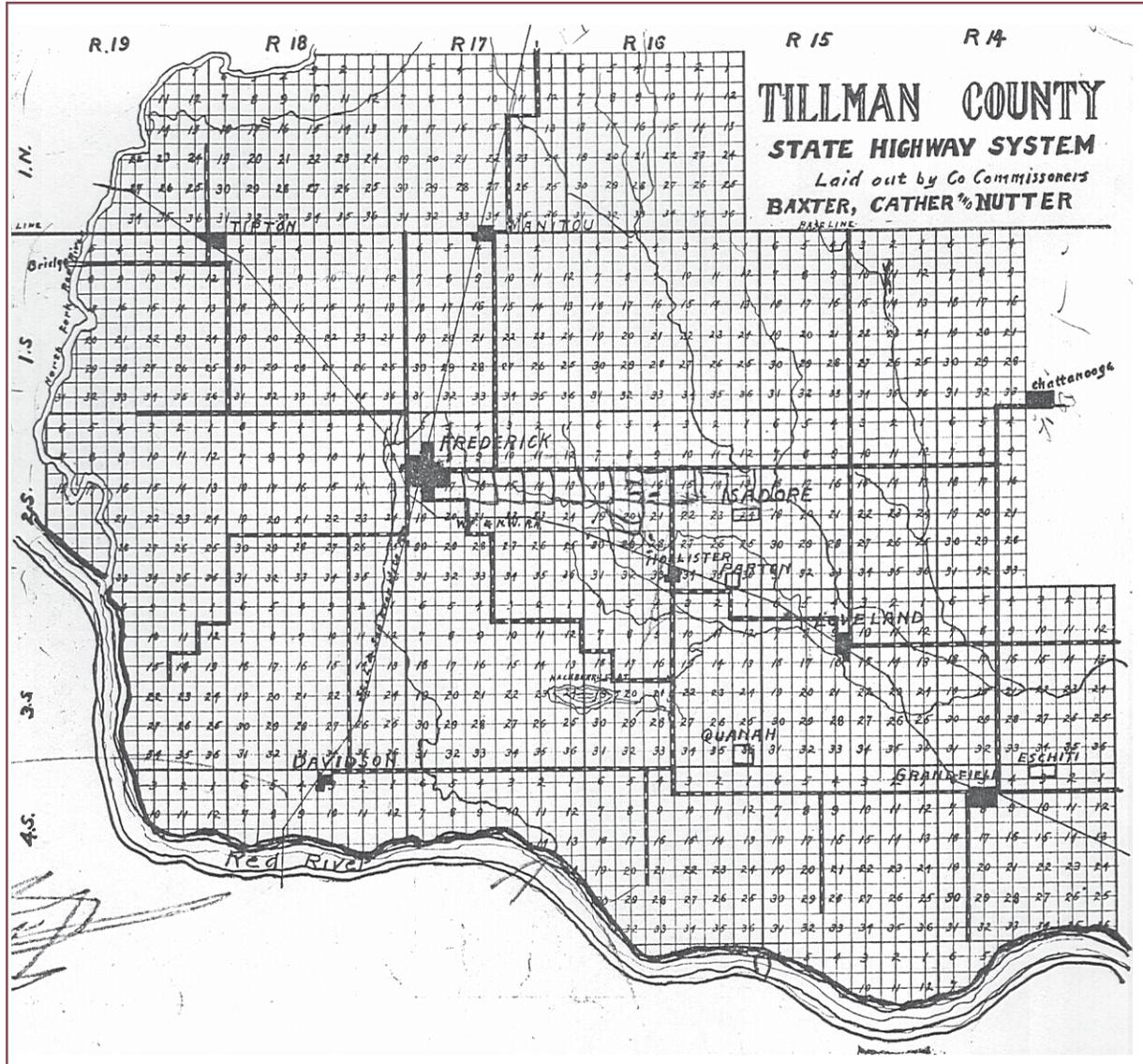


# Tillman County Chronicles

## Tillman County Historical Society Column

by Joe Wynn

May 12, 2009



## Early Map Shows Main County Roadways

When this undated highway map was printed in the **Frederick Leader's** 1916 county industrial edition, the area that is Tillman County had been opened to

settlement for less than 15 years. Establishment of towns and communities was still underway, and development of

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roads and bridges was a very different process than today.

Transportation was by horse, wagon, buggy, or early automobile. "Highways" were unpaved, and many were located very differently than today's principle highways.

Bold lines on the map show the prominent roadways (called state highways), which total 225 miles.

No highways ran directly to the Red River and no highway bridges are shown across the Red River south of Tillman County, although a railroad bridge did cross the river southwest of Davidson.

The 1916 map shows a bridge across the North Fork west of Tipton, although it is one mile south of the current Highway 5 bridge.

The entire county was heavily populated with farm families and early settlers. Many of the 1916 highways led to areas that today are open countryside. In 1916, however, those highways would have led to established communities throughout the county.

In addition to present cities, towns that are named on the map include Isadore, Parton, Quanah, and Eschiti.

Hackberry Flat is also clearly drawn on the map southeast of Frederick.

The 1916 industrial edition described the highway system as follows:

"Tillman county is famous for its good roads, which need but little work to keep them in good condition. The county commissioners have laid out a system of state roads which will be part of the state

highway system, and work is now being done at putting these roads into condition.

"All this work is done under the direction of the county engineer and the commissioners, after plans which have been approved by the state highway engineer, thus insuring the best class of bridges and the most approved roads. The bridge building problem is not a serious one in Tillman county, but where bridges are needed they will be constructed of the most lasting type, so as to afford as nearly permanent good roads as is possible.

"The above map shows the county roads as originally laid out. These have been subjected to slight changes and some additions, but his map serves to give a good conception of the extensiveness of the system in this county."

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