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Reliving Lake Highlands History

The Rodgers Community made up most of what is now Lake Highlands.

The genesis of the name Rodgers isn't known for sure but some say that one of the girls from the prominent Jackson family married a Rodgers. The 1882-83 census shows a W.C. Rodgers owning 248 acres, so they are most likely the source of the name.

The community, located along what is now Audelia Road, was populated by white families. It had a church and a school, but residents depended on the small towns surrounding them for dry goods, entertainment, and mail.

The people of the Rodgers Community came from states such as Iowa, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio, Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi, and most made their living as farmers.

Audelia, Texas, was at the intersection of what is now Forest Lane and Audelia Road. The first settlers in the Audelia area were the family members of James E. Jackson of Tennessee, who received a land grant in the Peters colony in 1842.

What was the Peters Colony? The Peters colony came from a North Texas grant made in 1841 by the Republic of Texas to 20 American and English investors led by William S. Peters, an English musician and businessman.

Now back to Audelia. The area around the Jackson homestead became known as Ardedia, after his daughter, but the name was later changed to Audelia. Even though settled in the 1840s, it was not recognized as a community until the 1870s. The Audelia post office began service in October 1899, which led to the opening of a general store.

The first postmaster was the store's merchant, Junius T. Rhoton. In addition to the post office, Audelia had a cotton gin and a school in 1900. The post office remained in Audelia until January 1904, when it was moved to Richardson. By 1915, Audelia had a population of 20 and by 1940 a population of 35, a store, and a church. And by 1981 Audelia was in Dallas.

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