

empowered to administer the necessary oath of office to the persons who may be elected at said election, and the officers thus elected and qualified shall proceed at once to discharge the duties of their respective offices. In case of failure of the said Benjamin Moore to organize said county as above provided for, it shall be the duty of the Chief-Justice of Bexar county to perform the duty herein required in relation to its organization.

Sec. 4. The town of Helena shall be, and is hereby declared to be the County Seat of said county, at which place all the County and District Courts of said county shall be held.

Sec. 5. That all that part of Karnes county which by this act is taken from Bexar county, shall be and remain subject to the railroad tax which was levied by a vote of the people of Bexar county, in virtue of the charter of the San Antonio and Mexican Gulf Railroad Company, the same in all respects as if said portion of territory had remained a part of Bexar county.

Sec. 6. That the act entitled "an act to prevent the locating and patenting of certain lands in Bexar county," approved February 16th, 1852, shall continue and be in full force over all that part of Karnes county which may be taken from Bexar county.

Sec. 7. This act shall take effect from and after its passage.

Approved, February 4, 1854.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

An Act to create the County of Coryell.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas, That all of the territory comprised within the following limits, to-wit: beginning at the north-west corner of Bell county proper, in the south west line of McLennan county; thence north 30° west with McLennan county and Bosque county lines 30 miles to a corner of the latter; thence south 60° west 32 miles; thence south 30° east 30 miles, to the upper line of Bell county proper; thence north 60° east 32 miles with the north-west line of Bell county proper, to the beginning, be, and the same is hereby constituted a new county by the name of the county of Coryell.

Sec. 2. The Chief-Justice of Bell county shall, within three months after the passage of this act, order an election for county officers, which election shall be advertised at three public places in the county of Coryell, stating the time and place, which shall be at some suitable point near the center of said county, and shall be conducted in all other respects in accordance with the general laws governing elections, and in accordance with an "act to provide for organizing new counties," approved March 20th, 1848; and the said Chief-Justice of Bell county shall qualify the said officers of the said county of Coryell, when elected.

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of the County Court of said new county, so soon as they are duly qualified, to proceed to locate the County Seat of said county, by selecting at least three eligible sites, not exceeding five miles from the centre of said county, having respect for any donation of land that may be made for that purpose, as well as convenience to wood and water; and when so selected, the Chief-Justice shall order an election, which shall be conducted according to the general laws governing elections for county officers. And if at the first election neither of the sites so selected shall receive a majority of all the votes cast, the place receiving the smallest number of votes shall be thrown out, and the Chief-Justice shall order another election as before, and so continue to do, throwing out the site receiving the smallest number of votes, until some one of the sites selected shall receive a majority of all the votes cast, which shall be declared the county seat of said county, and shall be called Gatesville.

Sec. 4. The County Court of said county shall have power to purchase, if necessary, land, not to exceed 320 acres, for the use of the county, and shall lay the same off into suitable lots for a town; and after selecting and setting apart such suitable lots as may be necessary for a Courthouse, Jail, Clerks' Offices, Churches, School Houses and Burying Grounds, they shall proceed to sell the remainder, or such portion thereof as they may deem necessary, at public auction, at such time and upon such terms as will most conduce to the interest of said county, and shall apply the proceeds thereof to the erection of necessary public buildings for the use of said county.

Sec. 5. The Chief-Justice of Bell county shall be entitled to three dollars per day for every day that he is necessarily employed or detained in holding said elections and organizing said county of Coryell.

Sec. 6. All that territory situated north-westwardly of the

county hereby created, and which was heretofore included within the limits of Bell county, shall be attached to and form a part of the territorial limits of the said new county, and for all county and general purposes, shall form a part of the same, after the organization of said county and the location of the seat of justice thereof; and the county hereby created shall be attached to and form a part of the Third Judicial District.

Sec. 7. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved, February 4, 1854.

CHAPTER XXXVII.

An act making an Appropriation for the Rescue of Captives now in the hands, or who may hereafter fall into the hands of the Indians.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas, That the sum of five thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated for the purpose of rescuing captive citizens of this State now in the possession of the Indians, or who may hereafter fall into the hands of the Indians.

Sec. 2. That the Governor of the State is hereby authorized to draw upon said appropriation as necessity may require, and that his warrant on the Treasurer shall be sufficient authority for the payment of such sum or sums as may be requisite to carry out the provisions of this act, and that a sufficient amount of said appropriation may be drawn from the Treasury of this State, under the provisions of this act, to restore Mrs. Jane Wilson, now in the town of Santa Fé, New Mexico, to her home and friends.

Sec. 3. That this act take effect from and after its passage.

Approved, February 4, 1854.