

Samples of 4 of the
'Fredericksburg To Comfort.. And A
Railroad'
Day Trip Cards by TexasDaytripper.com

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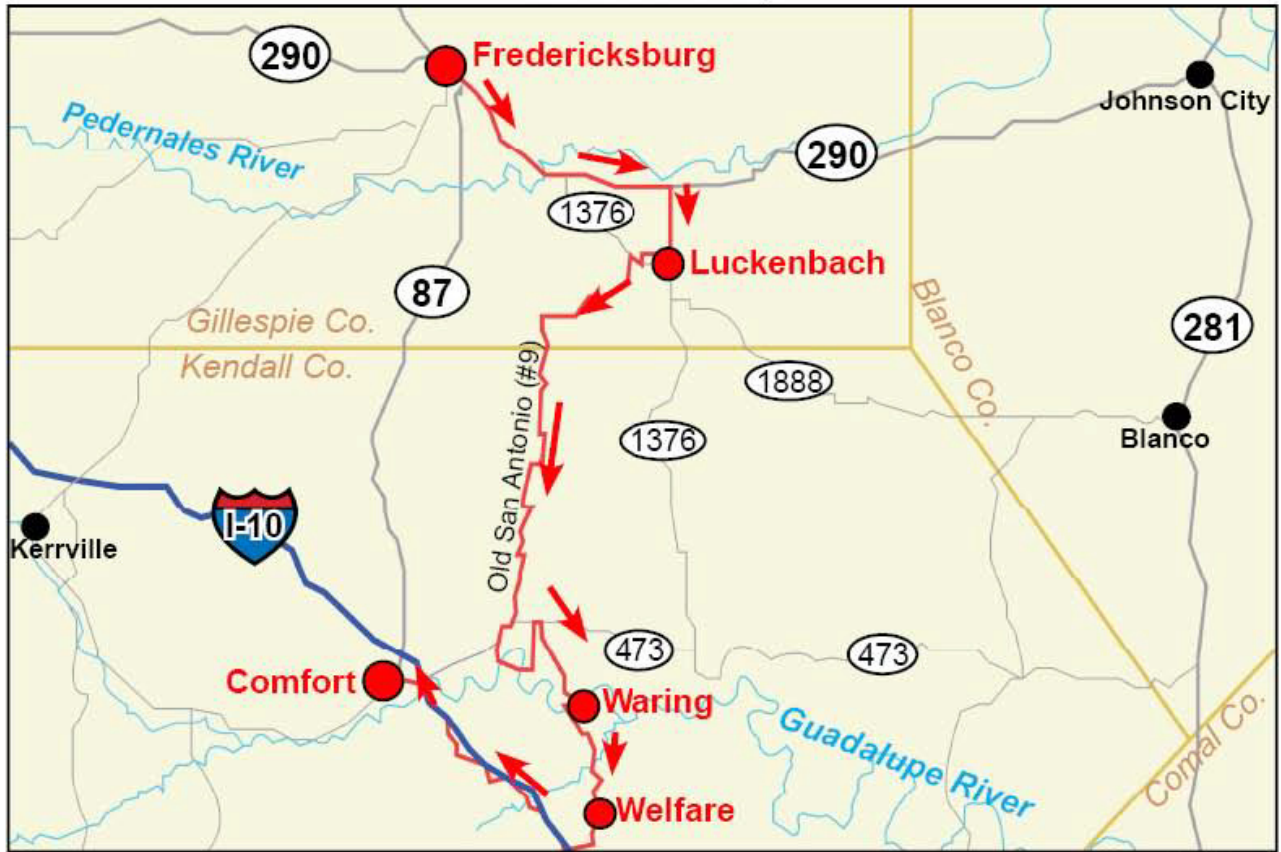
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Overview Map



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Head south on Old San Antonio Rd. (back the way you came) and continue past Grapetown Rd. Watch for Doebbler's Quarry sign on your right. Just down the road from the sign, find the Grapetown sign on your left. Turn left on the road there and check out the remains of Grapetown.

Schuetzen Verein

Every year on the weekend that is closest to the first Sunday in August, a 2-day Bundes Schuetzenfest occurs at this, or another sponsoring club's, location. The century old Gillespie County tradition of getting together and having shooting matches determines just who is the best Scharfschuetze (sharpshooter) around. (Notice the guns on either side of the sign!). According to Palmer Hohenberger, those beer drinking Germans drank 140 quarter kegs at the first gathering. It lasted several days and included much rowdy dancing and partying.

Grapetown

Grapetown, settled in 1853, used to stretch five miles up and down this road. Today very little remains of the original Grapetown except for traces seen here and there. The Germans who settled here mostly had been factory workers but chose this area for its cattle range opportunities. The local beer drinkin' hangout for Grapetown was Doebbler's Inn which you will read about soon. The old Grapetown schoolhouse which was built in 1884 lies on the banks of School Creek. From an amusing Luckenbach Moon article by John Raven: "In 1913



the railroad also came to Grapetown. Bankersmith opened it' doors right up the road with a store, dance hall and lumberyard. Both communities were bidding to give Walmart a taxbreak to build on their location when the state put Highway 87 in to Comfort in 1932. The new highway was a lot nicer than Old Number Nine Road so most of the traffic started by passing Grapetown and Bankersmith. Things kinda slid down hill. The businesses closed."

21 Down - In most cases, it's known as an out house.
But around these parts, it's the community _____ house.

Haengerbande (Hangman's Band)

Many of the new German settlers in Texas did not want to join the Confederacy when the Civil War broke out. They were brand new citizens of the United States and felt loyalty to their new country (besides the fact that their sentiments were anti-slavery). This didn't set well with the independent Texans who did join the Confederacy and the German "traitors" were hunted down and hanged by the "Haengerbande". One of the Rausch boys hid out in a creek depression near here to escape the Haengebande. Upon hearing horses approaching with 2 riders, he cocked his double-barreled shotgun. However, he was relieved that they did not discover him, and that he did not have to suffer the consequences of shooting some Texas Rangers.

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