

Our County History Being Preserved

Weakley-Watson Hardware Co.

While visiting friends, Bill and Geneva Garrett, on their ranch near Santa Anna, Coleman County, I was being shown Bill's large collection of old tractors and farm and ranch equipment, which the restoration and preservation of, is a hobby and a passion for him. In one of several buildings housing this collection was an old wagon that caught my attention. The wagon base was built by Newton and was a basic chassis for farm utility wagons. These wagons were sold by companies that added sideboards and other features for utility farm and ranch use. The reason this wagon in particular got my attention, was that it had painted on its sides, an original sign which stated "Sold by - Weakley Watson - Miller Hardware - Brownwood"

As many know, Weakley-Watson Hardware received a Texas Treasure Business Award from the Texas Historical Commission. The Texas Treasure Business Award program pays tribute to businesses that have provided jobs and support to the state's economy for 50 years or more. Weakley-Watson Hardware was founded July 4, 1876, by Joseph C. Weakley. Soon to be 140 years in continuous business, evidence of its long history is to be found all around this area.

This wagon is more than 100 years old itself and part of the Weakley - Watson legacy. Weakley Watson Miller was the company name from 1909 until 1954, at which time it was changed to Weakley Watson Hardware Company. ~Clay Riley 2016

