



## **#5: Lord, Texas - The Town That Came Before Humble**

Old Humble residents have heard rumors of a town called Hunter's Paradise that predated Humble. The name of that town was mentioned in "A History of the Humble, Texas Area" which was published in 1976. There's only one problem...there was never a town here called Hunter's Paradise. It probably stems from someone writing that this area was a hunter's paradise (which it was). However, there WAS a town that predated Humble, and its history is documented among the archives of Harris County and the State of Texas. It was called Lord, Texas. It was short-lived, but it was important to the development of our town.

Back in 1875, Paul Bremond began construction of a railroad from Houston through the forests of East Texas. By 1877, the Houston East & West Texas railway had been built through Humble, across the San Jacinto River, and into New Caney. As the railroad made its way up through the forests, sawmills popped up along the way, making use of the railroad to transport their product.

One such sawmill was owned by the former Mayor of Houston, Irvin Capers Lord, and the Sheriff of Harris County, Cornelius M. Noble. The Lord & Noble sawmill was located in the area where Wal-Mart and Sam's Club are now located, although the sawmill had a spur to the railroad tracks. During the early 1880s, a community called the Lord's Mill community developed around the sawmill. By 1882 the community had a U. S. Post Office, cattle breeders and livestock businesses, and shipped produce to neighboring communities. There were also three other sawmills in the area. The Texas State Gazetteer listed the Lord community with a population of 150 residents in 1883.

William Smith Humble, son of our founder Pleasant Smith Humble, was the Postmaster of Lord in 1885. That same year, I. C. Lord lost a court case to M. C. Hale. Lord ended up putting the sawmill into bankruptcy court to pay his debts. With the loss of the sawmill, the community began to collapse. In February 1886, the U. S. Post Office was closed. It was at that point that Pleasant Humble took over responsibility for the local mail, which eventually led to a new U. S. Post Office for Humble in August 1886.

The Lord and Noble sawmill changed hands several times before finally being purchased by Charles Bender in 1889. That purchase, and the success of the Bender Sawmill, helped Humble survive those early years as a sawmill town.