

SAN SABA TRAIL--~~THE~~ THE SPANISH TRAIL OF ANCIENT DAYS

Long before Boerne was laid out Spanish and other pioneers of this country established through Boerne what became known as the San Saba Trail, and apparently Indians before the white man's day traveled the same way. Boerne, therefore, has a peculiarly intimate interest in the Old Spanish Trail of today which is being constructed through Boerne from Florida to California. In earliest history we find records of pack train journeys between the Chihuahua country in old Mexico and San Antonio. Because of mountains, chasms and other natural obstacles those old trails went up around by Ft Stockton and finally through what is now Boerne into San Antonio. The old Spanish Pass is understood as having taken its name from those pack train days.

This story is a result of the interest of Boerne people in developing this old history. H. J. Graham, Julius H. Luckenbach, Charles Herff and others have recalled many old traditions. Mr. Graham spent evening with H. B. Ayres, the managing director of the Old Spanish Trail Association some time ago and recalled many of these traditions to him. He also suggested that W. M. Locke, the county surveyor at San Antonio for 43 years would very likely be in possession of records containing valuable facts. Mr. Locke did possess this knowledge fortified by his surveying experience all over this country and many experiences that took him back into pioneer conditions.

In 1683 it is recorded that Mendoza went northward from Mexico, having left around El Paso and proceeded down the Rio Grande to the junction of the Conchos river; thence to the Alamito Creek, then northward over the old Salt Lake Trail to Comanche Springs (Ft Stockton), then across Horsehead Crossing and in time reached the Indian villages where he established a Mission, the ruins of which may today be seen.