A Pictorial History of Midlothian, Texas
Recognizing the treasures that lie within our heritage,
through the people with progressive hearts,
the Midlothian Mirror is honored to share the memories with you.
Foreword

Enjoy a visit back to the past with us through these images of Midlothian, Texas area as it celebrates 113 years of rich and vibrant history.

While this book does not purport to provide a definite history of our areas, it is one of the most comprehensive photographic histories ever produced here. We know as you thumb through these pages you will feel yourself transported back in time, and you won’t be able to help but imagine what life was like “in the olden days.”

This Book is composed primarily of treasured family photographs and special collections loaned by many generous citizens. To them we owe a special debt of gratitude. The names and dates included in the captions are as accurate as possible, and in many cases taken from information supplied by the owners of the photographs. However, time and passage of years may sometimes blur memories, and often blur the identifications made so many years ago. We apologize for any omissions and inaccuracies that may be found.

Having been associated with the oldest continuously operated business in Midlothian, which has chronicled the history of this area in print and pictures since 1882, I am proud to have the privilege to offer this pictorial history as a way to preserve these treasures of the past for future generations.

Debbie Garvin
Midlothian Texas
December 1995
Ellis County Courthouse

Past.... and Present....

Ellis County’s first Court House built in 1850. Cost $59.00.

Present Courthouse was built in 1896, cost $175,000.
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Public Sale of Town Lots in Midlothian

May 10, 1883
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Midlothian 1919
C.T. Bryant puts water into a Model A Ford. Photo taken in the early 1930's. Photo submitted by Carletta Bryant, wife to the station owner.
Early 1900’s photo of downtown Midlothian looking North from 8th Street and Avenue G. Photo submitted by The Midlothian Mirror – photo on penny post card.
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Trades Day 1915

came from miles around for the annual Trades Day in Midlothian. This photo was taken from the Southwest side of North 8th Street.

Photo submitted by: The Mirror
Trades Day 1915

People came from miles around for the annual Trades Day in Midlothian. This photo was taken from the Northwest corner of North 8th Street.

Photo submitted by: The Mirror
144th Infantry Band, part of the National Guard, plays for crowd.
Stanberry Hotel (where the horse and carriage is) was built in 1905 at the corner of South 7th and Avenue G. It later functioned as a boarding house until torn down in 1960. *Photo submitted by the Midlothian Mirror*

1901 Midlothian Ice Light & Water Co. *Photo submitted by Marjorie Holveck.*

Late 1800’s, Willie Scott, Ben Garvin, Lee Moore, Y.D. Voorhis, R.A. Schockly, Bill Mattes and Lovett, (lower front) are a few recognized around town.
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Late 1800's, Threshing crews worked hard together at harvest time.
Electricity came to Midlothian in 1904.

Midlothian was growing even then. After electricity was installed into downtown buildings, new businesses were started.

*Photo submitted by: W.L. Stephenson*
People had to get their mail even before Midlothian was a township. The first post office in this area, was east of town at the home of Rev. Charles Barker. The mail came to Barker’s house every Friday by horseback from Waxahachie. The rider changed horses here and proceeded on to Cleburne.

The next post office was in a store near the old Lebanon Church on South 14th Street from February 16, 1877 through November 24, 1879. Postmasters during that time were John W. Hawkins and Charles Barker. Marcellus T. Hawkins was the first man appointed to be the Midlothian Post Master on May 3, 1883. At that time the post office was in a store on the west side of East Avenue G, near 11th Street. The Post Office moved into a “lean to” across the tracks to West G and North 8th Street shortly after the turn of the century. At various times the post office has been located on either side of Main Street until the present building was erected in the early 1960’s.

*Photo submitted by: The Mirror*

*The identities of the men pictured is unknown.*
Rest time in the fields, workers take a meal break at the cook shack and return to work. Photo taken in 1903.

*Photo submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Morris Turner*

Barnett Jenkins is shown with his favorite pony.
Early 1900's continued to bring changes for Midlothian. To keep up with the growth, the Fire Department received a new fire truck.

The truck is a 1918 Ford Model TT Howe Pumper

The man on the far right is Robert Harris

1920's, Midlothian is a buzz, with folks doing their shopping.

Photo submitted by: The Mirror
Mrs. Oneta (Witherspoon) Sewell was gracious enough to lend these photos of scenes during the Cotton harvest and brought to market at the gin in Midlothian. These photos were taken in the late 1800s.
The Dunlap Theater located at 213 West Avenue F in the early to mid 1900’s was the last of several theaters in Midlothian.

Henry Witherspoon owned Witherspoon Grocery store in the early 1900’s. He was blind and is pictured in front of the counter with a cigar in his mouth. This photo was taken shortly after WWI.
1918 at West E and 8th Street, P. P. Love ran a livery which was later sold to Briggs Gouger for a garage.

1916, Gouger's Garage was located at East F and 8th Street. Pictured are Clint and Briggs Gouger and Cecil Potts.
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1950’s, Midlothian Fire Department in background and old water tower.

*Photo submitted by: The Midlothian Mirror*

1923, on the east side of downtown. T.A. Morgan in his drug store. Mr. Morgan built the first home in Midlothian in 1883 and was killed by a switch train in 1925 as he took grapes to a sick friend.

*Photo submitted by: Martha Carlton*
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Larkin Newton

The Newton Cabin was built in 1848. The City of Midlothian has moved this cabin to the downtown area and made it a focal point in a park setting. In the photo is a 6th generation of the Newton family. Photo was taken in 1983.

Photo submitted by: The Mirror