

Eliasville, Texas



Eliasville is tucked between the mountains and the banks of the Clear Fork of the Brazos River near the intersection of Farm roads 1974, 3109, and 701, close to the [Stephens County](#) line in southwest [Young County](#). The townsite was on 160 acres of land owned by J. L. Dobbs, who settled there in the 1870's. In 1876 William Leonard and Thomas Franklin Donnell moved from Missouri and established ranches in the area.

They first erected a small burr mill in the town, and a few years later they built a flour mill across the Clear Fork with hand-cut stones quarried nearby. Hardly was the mill completed before it was washed away by flood waters. In 1879 the brothers rebuilt the mill. This third mill was a landmark until it was destroyed by fire in 1927. The town was named for [Elias DeLong](#), who opened the first store in 1878.

In 1881 the Presbyterian church was organized, and it has remained a strong force in the community. With the oil boom of 1921 Eliasville was incorporated, and the town grew rapidly for a few years. At one time the town had a population of over 10,000 and had a post office, bank, school, cotton gin and many other businesses. The first school was a subscription school and was located about 3/4 mile south of the city in Stephens County.

The first teacher was Wylie Jones. The second school, built of rock, was also by subscription and was located about three miles west of the city. The teacher of this school was a Mr. Watson. The original public school #17, was a rock building located south of the business section of town on what was called "The Hill". In 1884 this school had 115 students, taught

by Prof. A.N. Edwards, Miss Martha Elkins and Mr. W.T. Stinson. The last public school was a brick structure on the south side of town, near the Graham-Eliasville Hwy. Dr's. Harry Yandell and Homer F. Rainey were students at Eliasville each of whom went on to become President of the University of Texas. Other teachers include Miss Kate Beaty and Miss Linnie Turner.



Banker W. T. Donnell was the first mayor. The number of residents declined as production slowed, however, and during World War II many moved to Fort Worth for defense work. The population was 400 in 1940, and although it had declined to 116 by 1980 the town still retained its post office. A city lake was completed in 1952. Eliasville is no longer incorporated. The population was still reported as 116 in 1990.

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