

The Community of Bay's Chapel

Robert Thomas Bay was born to Andrew and Nancy Elizabeth Brown Bay on January 28, 1793 in Davidson County, Tennessee. He married Mary Polly Eddins in Wilson County, Tennessee on January 2, 1815 and settled later in Haywood County, Tennessee. In 1850, Thomas and Polly traveled to Texas with 8 children and at least five other families from Haywood County. After arriving in Texas, the families bought and settled on land in the J. H. Collard headright in Montgomery County. The families built log houses and a log building which was used for a church and a school. It soon became known as the Bay's Chapel Church and School. Both the community and the church congregation grew rapidly. Like other communities in Montgomery County, Bay's Chapel was devastated by the War Between the States. After the war, many residents of the community migrated toward the path of newly developed railroads. A new church was dedicated in 1899 near the site of the old church-school. Many of the founders and former residents of the Bay's Chapel Community are buried nearby in the Bay's Chapel Cemetery.

