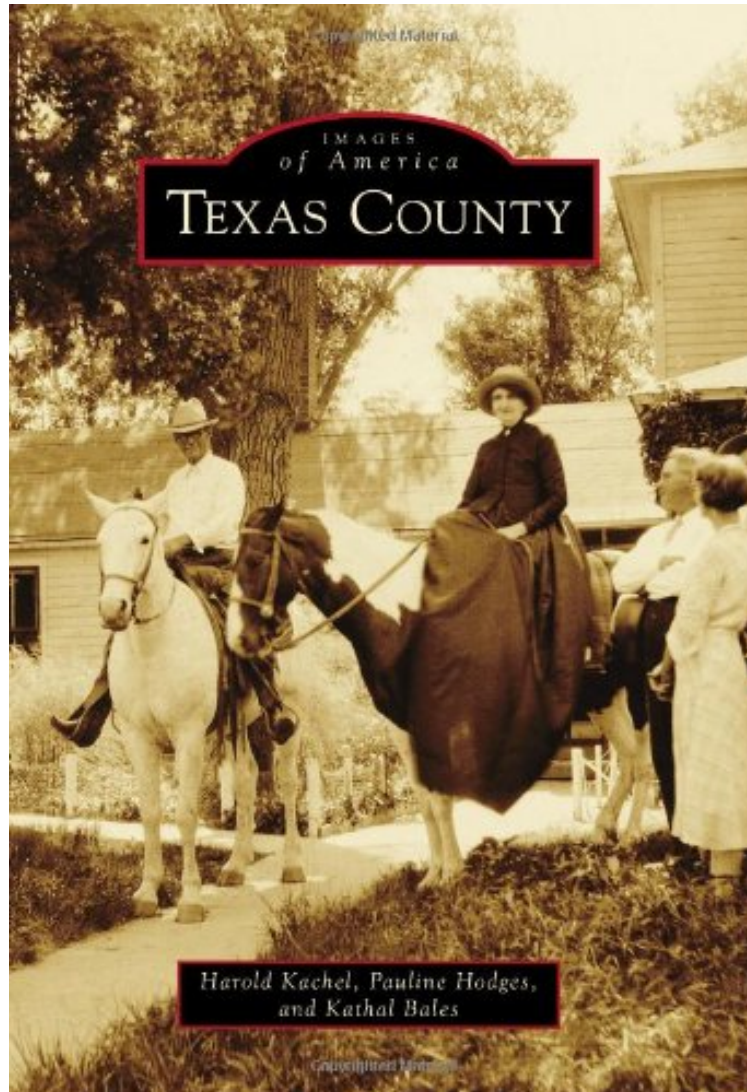


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Texas County (Images of America)

Harold Kachel, Pauline Hodges, Kathal Bales
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books like *The Worst Hard Time*, the novel *The Happy Immortals*, and Dr. Richter's book. I've grown to love the people who created this amazing heritage. Thanks, Dr. Kachel, for helping to open the window to so many outsiders like me who had no idea what the Oklahoma Panhandle and surrounding region was like, as well as the remarkable people there.

Although there is evidence that prehistoric people lived in the area, Texas County did not officially exist until the area comprising No Man's Land, the Neutral Strip, and later Cimarron Territory was tacked onto Oklahoma at statehood in 1907. For the 70 years prior, the area belonged to no state or nation, and for 70 years it was a haven for those who chose not to abide by the law, as well as some good folks who established ranches and small villages. The area drastically changed with the arrival of railroads at the beginning of the 20th century, causing the creation of new towns and the influx of homesteaders who created a whole new culture. From these humble beginnings, the area has grown to become a leader in gas production and hog farms, as well as a home for prosperous ranches and a packing plant.

About the Author Harold Kachel, EdD, is a farmer, rancher, and former professor and administrator at Oklahoma Panhandle State University. He is on the board of directors for No Man's Land Historical Society. V. Pauline Hodges, PhD, is vice president of No Man's Land Historical Society and has written a number of books and articles about the area. Kathal Bales serves as president of the Beaver County Historical Society.