

Page 8 (Book page 67) describes Needham's Ferry and Crawford's homestead.

Text regarding the ferry states:

"We have more important information about the Cross Prairie ferry. Mr. Needham Bass lived at the McManus place. He was operating this ferry boat during the Civil War. When some of the persons had taken refuge in the garrison at Key West returned, they were very needy, and Mrs. Bass (note: this would be Elizabeth "Betsy" Peterson) made them some clothes. She says that the poling across of the ferry boat was so slow that sometimes it took all day to get across if the ferry was on the opposite side, and there was more than one load."

"moss" mattresses. They were real good if persons took time to make them properly. If there was no dead moss available, the green moss was scalded in a pot of boiling water and hung in the sun to mature. Then it was picked apart with the fingers, and after it had been used long enough to have only the center fiber of the moss, it was far more fluffy. They had to be done over every few months to keep them in good condition. At these times the moss was dumped out of the tick and picked to pieces to make it fluffy. If it was placed in the tick and tied, one row at a time in the center, it stayed good much longer and didn't get lumpy.

We also learned how to trap wild turkeys. They built a large log pen with a cover over it and made a passage beneath which was baited with food. The turkeys came in bunches, followed the string of food, and as they always look up, they never found their way back to the outside of the pen.

When the pioneers' supply of hog lard was gone, it was too far to market so they melted beef tallow in hot water. It made very good bread if eaten hot, but when it became cold it was very hard.

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Much of the time the water on Fennell Prairie ran into the conveyances while crossing there, just to the north of Cross Prairie.

Mrs. Hatch can tell us just how to "strike" a fire with a file and flint, having learned that art when she was a girl.

Mrs. Hatch gives us the exact location of Mose Barber's home. The house was south of Rose Hill cemetery, on the property now owned by Ed Newton, and near the new Melbourne Highway. Rose Hill Cemetery was his farm, and he had lots of Negroes to do the work there. After he disappeared, Crawford Bass homesteaded that vicinity. He gave to his son, Rull Bass, the claim to that part of the property just east of the road that turns south at the Bill Smith property. Rull Bass was Mrs. Hatch's first husband and they made that their home in their youth.

Captain Aaron Jernigan and Owen Simmons had many slaves, and we are told that there were quite a number of them brought here by the early settlers. One Negro, Steve Henderson, spent his life with Quinn Bass.

