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FLINT HILLS CATTLE DRIVE
Dave Leiker

LETTER FROM KANSAS... INTERESTING TO CATTLE DRIVERS

The Dallas Daily Herald | 16 May 1868

Junction City, Kansas

March 20, 1868

Mr. Editor—

Having received a number of letters from Texas, inquiring about this market, as a point to which to drive cattle, I thought best to write something in regard to it through the columns of the “Herald” as I know of no sheet of wider circulation by which to spread the information. I will be as brief as possible in order not to “bore” you, and strictly confine my views to the interest of those interested.

The inducements held out for driving cattle to this market exceed those of any I can hear of. There will be two packing houses here this summer, and shipping stocks sufficient should persons find it advantageous to ship to St. Louis or Chicago with which markets they are within speedy communication. Water and range unsurpassed by any in any country.

One of these packing houses will be established by a Texian, a prominent neighbor to Dallas, and a man of means.

The sooner beef is brought to market the better, and sixty days or more should be consumed in reaching this point from the Dallas section.

I would advise persons to avoid driving to

Abilene, as the people are opposed to it in a measure, those of this section are anxious for them as they can see the advantages derived from it. (Abilene is a small place west, on the railroad,) besides it is much farther and more costly to ship cattle to the Eastern markets, should such a thing be necessary.

Good beef is now worth 9 and 10 cents net in this place. Upon good authority I may assert that beef will range at from 2 3/4 to 4 1/2 groas. Supplies should be bought at Dallas by all passing through that place, as they will save a large per cent in cost, as on Red River and through the Nation I found it impossible to procure any. There are two noted routes—one via Fort Washita and mouth of Little Arkansas, the other via Carriage Point and Boggy Depot, crossing the Arkansas River at the Creek Agency. Water and grass in abundance the whole route. I would recommend the latter route for convenience.

Texians should endeavor to manifest as little anxiety to sell as possible; all these traders ask, is to see a man anxious to sell. Hoping this may prove advantageous to someone, I remain.

Your obedient servant, G.A.W.