

N. G. Collins

Flores & Perez vs. N. G. Collins in [Raw XML File \(82k\) - University of Texas Libraries](#)

Freer is at the intersection of U.S. Highway 59 and State highways 16, 44, and 339, twenty-four miles northwest of San Diego and twenty-three miles northwest of Benavides in northwestern Duval County. It is the second largest town in the county. The area was originally called Las Hermanitas ("the Sisters"), for two hills south of the present townsite, and then became known as Government Wells, for a water well dug by United States Cavalry troops in 1876 on the property of A. J. Wiederkehr, north of the site of present Freer. When Norman G. Collins, who moved to Duval County in 1867 and later became the county's leading sheep rancher, bought 35,000 acres, the future townsite became part of his Rancho Americano. The German immigrant William Hubberd became one of the first settlers at Government Wells when he arrived to manage Collins's ranch; Hubberd bought his own land in 1876. Among the first settlers in the area may have been the brothers Paul and Joe White, who around 1900 settled in the valley of Rosita Creek, near the site of future Freer, to dig water wells for the local ranchers.

Handbook of Texas Online, s.v. ","

<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/FF/hgf6.html>
(accessed March 21, 2010).

San Diego, Texas— Other sources date the first post office from 1867, with George B. Warden as postmaster. At any rate the community remained virtually completely Mexican American until the latter year, when a boom in the sheep industry began attracting several white settlers, who later rose to local prominence. Among them were [James O. Luby](#), Walter W. Meek, Sr., Norman G.

Collins, Capt. E. N. Gray, Frank C. Gravis, Frank W. Shaeffer^{qv}, and William Hubberd. One other event of lasting significance for the town occurred in 1867: Father **Claude Jaillet** built a ten-by-thirty-foot wooden church, which became the only public place of worship between Corpus Christi and the Rio Grande.

Handbook of Texas Online, s.v. ", "

<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/LL/flu3.html>

(accessed March 21, 2010).

Freer, Texas Rattlesnake Roundup Freer, Texas

The area was originally called Las Hermanitas ("the Sisters"), for two hills south of the present townsite, and then became known as Government Wells, for a water well dug by United States Cavalry troops in 1876. According to the handbook on Texas, when Norman G. Collins, who moved to Duval County in 1867 and later became the county's leading sheep rancher, bought 35,000 acres, the future townsite became part of his Rancho Americano. The German immigrant William Hubberd became one of the first settlers at Government Wells when he arrived to manage Collins's ranch; Hubberd bought his own land in 1876. Among the first settlers in the area may have been the brothers Paul and Joe White, who around 1900 settled in the valley of Rosita Creek, near the site of future Freer, to dig water wells for the local ranchers.

<http://texaslesstraveled.com/freersnakes.htm>. Accessed march 21, 2010

Freer history:

First known as Las Hermanitas, which means the Sisters, for the two hills south of town. Next, the town was known as Government Wells for a water well the US Cavalry dug in 1876 north of the present city site. Rancher, Norman G. Collins, came here and purchased thousands of acres of land for his sheep, he named his ranch, Rancho Americano. William Hubberd, from Germany, settled in Government Wells when he came to manage the sheep ranch. He also bought land here in 1876. Paul and Joe White were

also among the early settlers of the area. They settled in the Rosita Creek valley near present-day Freer and made their living digging water wells. Many other early families established themselves in the area included the Hahls, Momenys, Rileys, Powers, Nortons and Daniel J. Freer. A school was built in 1917. When Daniel Freer came to visit his friends, the Rileys, he liked what he saw and purchased some land near the Rileys. J.T. Johnson and Freer petitioned for a post office in 1925. They submitted three names for the PO - Riley, Wendt and Freer. The post office chose Freer because the other two were already being used in Texas.

Welcome to Key to the City's page for Freer

Duval County,

Texas

<http://www.usacitiesonline.com/txcountyfreer.htm>

Accessed march 21, 2010