

History of Indianola (short version)

Indianola was once just a piece of land that separated the Matagorda Bay from Lavaca Bay and was actually named Indian Point. The name Indianola came in 1849, when Mary Brown decided to combine Indian with the Spanish word for wave.

Despite Mrs. Brown's name change, Germans proceeded to call the land Carl's Haven, meaning Carl's Harbor, in memory of Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels, who led them to Texas. Regardless of the different names, Indianola was in fact where the action was; from the immigrants to troops, merchants and ships, everyone and everything wanted some of the action Indianola had to offer.

It was a little after 1849 that Charles Morgan decided to take advantage of deeper water, which was closer to Powderhorn Lake. Businesses and many residents of Indianola soon followed Morgan to the new settlement, which was incorporated as Indianola on Feb. 7, 1853.

As the years followed, Indianola went head to head with Galveston, its rival. People living in both areas figured the first port with a railroad would dominate the competition. Unfortunately, Indianola's railroad bed was ruined while still under construction. This gave Galveston the upper hand, but not for long.

Indianola's railroad was finally completed and social life prospered, but with Indianola's success also came disaster. On September 16, 1875, after the railroad was completed, a horrendous storm hit Indianola. The storm caused thousands to move inland and others to rebuild only to endure another storm in 1880. Sadly, Indianola experienced a premature demise but will always be remembered.

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