The Four Sixes Ranch

The untamed, rugged land of Texas became home to legendary ranches and cowboys as big and windy as the state itself. Across the wide-open country, prosperous land and cattle operations were established. Among them was the Four Sixes Ranch. Totaling one-third million acres, the ranch has a storied history that with a poker game and a winning hand of four sixes—reputedly, but not so. In true Texas fashion, it does make a good story, though.

The real history of the Four Sixes began with Samuel Burk Burnett, who became one of the most influential and prosperous cattlemen in Texas. Before the age of 20, he purchased a herd of cattle wearing the 6666 brand. The origin of the 6666 brand and why it was used is unknown. But it had nothing to do with a card game. The element of luck was always associated with Burk Burnett is not unfounded. His land, which supported thousands of cattle also held some of the state’s richest oil reserves.

Burk Burnett developed an important and strong relationship with Comanche Chief Quanah Parker. Through long friendship, Parker and Burnett made positive strides to accommodate the needs of cattlemen and Comanche on the South Plains during a critical time in Texas frontier history. This unique relationship proved to be pivotal point in the expansion of the cattle industry.

Today, the Four Sixes Ranch is the forerunner in the cattle industry. Four Sixes properties in Texas and Montana represent both the present and the past. This is largely due to the foresight of Burk Burnett and the management and support of his descendants, who value their heritage and the prominent ranch’s place in the history of Texas and the American West.