A lot of what we know about Billy the Kid is dead wrong, and that includes stories and information about the time he spent in Texas. Tascosa must have had a population of several thousand if we are to account for all the first-hand stories people of the day (and not of the day) later told about what amounted to a working vacation in Texas for The Kid.

Here are a few true facts, untrue facts, distortions, fictions and outright lies about Billy the Kid in Texas, sorted out as best we can.

He wasn’t Billy the Kid in Texas. Billy’s enduring and romantic sobriquet came after his stay in Texas. People of the day called every young tough with a gun and willingness to use it Billy. Anybody who called Billy the Kid anything called him Billy, which was handy because he went by a slew of surnames but his first name could always at least be translated to Billy.

On his way out of Tascosa and Texas, Billy gave Hoyt a horse named Dandy Dick as a token of their friendship. Hoyt mentioned that he would be taking Dandy Dick through New Mexico and if someone thought they recognized the horse—or something—and there might be a messy misunderstanding, Billy scribbled out a bill of sale, recruited a few witnesses and sent Holt on his way.

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