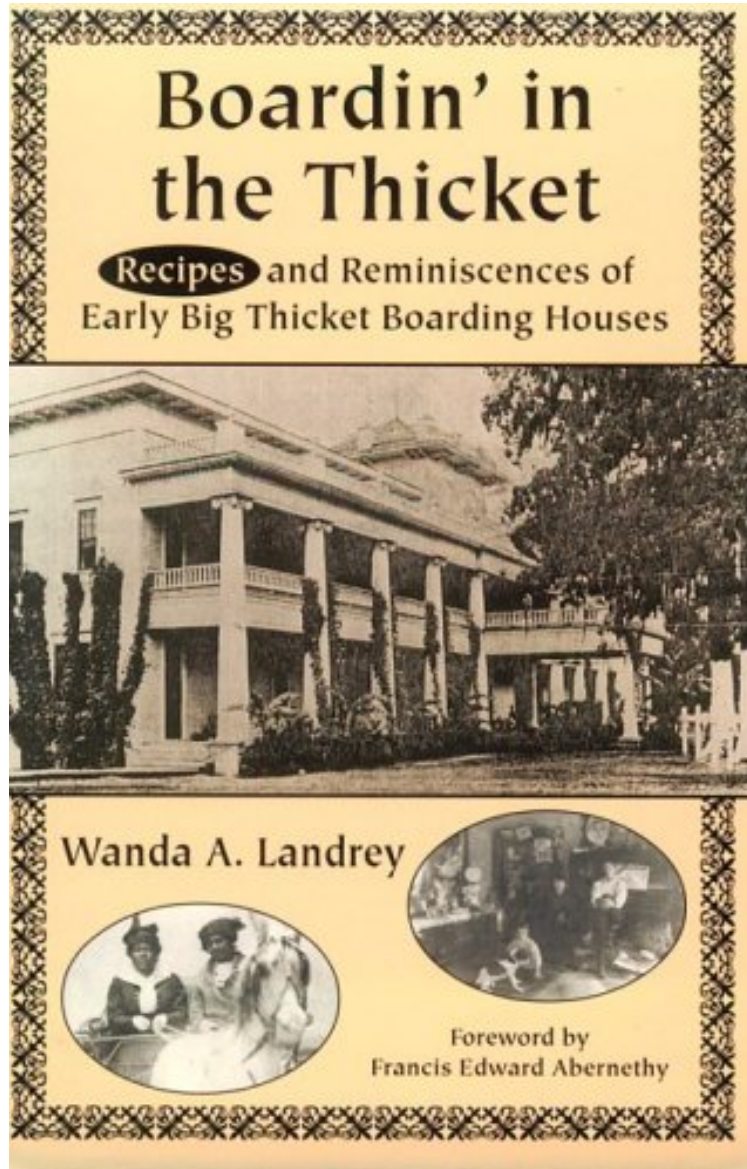


# Boardin' in the Thicket: Reminiscences and Recipes of Early Big Thicket Boarding Houses

Wanda A. Landrey

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**Wanda A. Landrey : Boardin' in the Thicket: Reminiscences and Recipes of Early Big Thicket Boarding Houses** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Boardin' in the Thicket: Reminiscences and Recipes of Early Big Thicket Boarding Houses:

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visiting with a local ...By Belinda A. WalkerMrs. Landrey writes in a very comfortable manner that is almost like visiting with a local and sharing the history of a place. It is an easy read about the history of a very underdeveloped area of the country. I grew up near this area in Texas and the stories and the area are very accurately described.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Brenda W. SeelbachReally enjoyed the trip back in time to these East Texas boarding houses and their owners and boarders!5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Comments from Wanda Landrey - author.By A CustomerInterviewing the survivors of the boarding house era in the Big Thicket of Texas was indeed one of the most enjoyable experiences of my life. For years I was treated as a special guest in their homes, being entertained with delightful stories and, because I was also collecting recipes, often served the speciality of the house. To think I had all that fun in the name of historical research.

A descendant of one of the pioneer boarding house families, Wanda Landrey searched the Big Thicket to find survivors of the boarding house era and to collect their stories and recipes.

". . . this is much more than just another regional cookbook. Many photos add to the narrative. . . . From a unique black hotel in Trinity with embroidered napkins and crystal, to an antebellum health resort that featured wild game, to the ordinary Harvey House restaurants in railroad depots, Landrey touched on a Big Thicket life few persons knew existed. . . . her labor of love became a treasure with a mystique that defies description--like the Big Thicket." -- East Texas Historical Journal"Anyone who ventures into the Thicket historically, much less gastronomically, will be rewarded with a reading of this book. Take it with hot strong coffee and a fluffy biscuit, a'drip with honey." -- Howard Peacock, author, The Big Thicket of Texas"It's either a cookbook with a lot of history or a history book with a lot of recipes. Either way, Boardin' in the Thicket is a fascinating collection of characters, customs, historical tidbits and recipes for down-home country cooking." -- Carol Rust, food editor, Houston Chronicle"Pioneers in southeast Texas found a little Eden in the Big Thicket. . . . domesticated cattle and hogs lived wild alongside deer and bear. Ducks and geese were counted in the millions. . . . The woods were filled with delicacies like nuts and wild fruit. The commerce that crisscrossed the region created a network of boarding houses, with a unique cooking style that took advantage of the bounty of the land." -- The Bloomsbury "Wanda Landrey causes me to remember a special day, long ago, when I ate sweet potato pie at the Bragg Hotel in the Big Thicket. This book makes me hungry, not just for the boarding house dishes Wanda describes, but also for a time in Texas culture that is gone forever." -- Leon Hale, author of Home Spun, Houston Chronicle columnistBoardin' In the Thicket is enhanced with a substantial bibliography of primary and secondary sources. (The Midwest Book , James Cox, ed. March, 1998 -- The Midwest Book , James Cox, ed. March, 1998About the AuthorWanda A. Landrey is a historian, writer and researcher who lectures on the culture of the Big Thicket region of Texas. She holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in history from Lamar University, and lives in Beaumont, Texas.