

Lower Rio Grande Plantation  
Donna, Texas



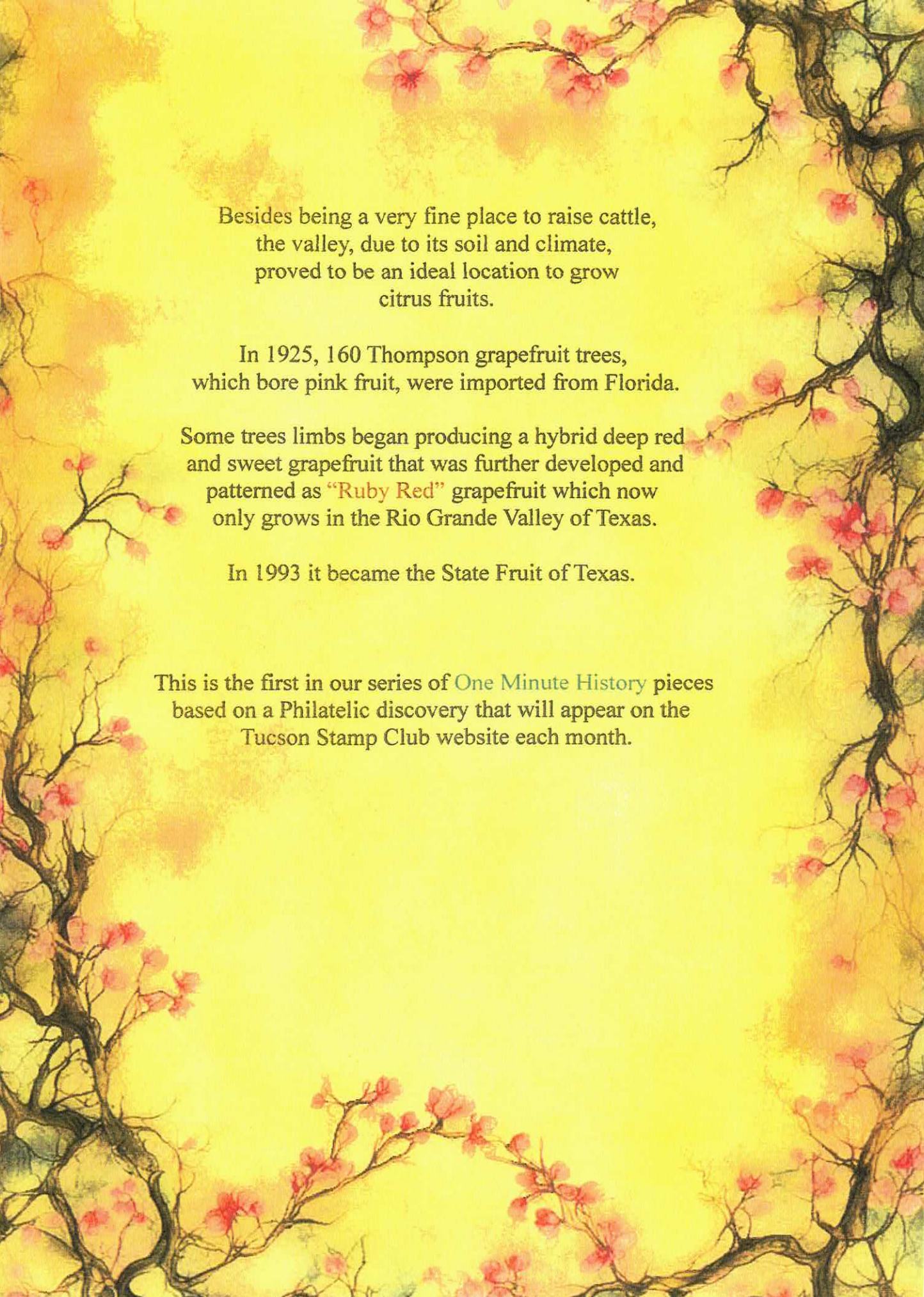
This colorful Advertising Cover prompted a investigation of a brief history of Donna, Texas, the territory which in 1834 was granted to Lino Cabazos by the Mexican state of Tamaulpas.

Thomas Jefferson Hooks arrived In 1900 and purchased 20,000 acres of land later giving part of to his daughter Donna.

She established the Alamda Ranch and stocked it with Jersey cattle.

In 1907 the town received a railroad depot and was named Donna in honor of Donna Fletcher (1879 – 1969) who was the town's postmistress.





Besides being a very fine place to raise cattle,  
the valley, due to its soil and climate,  
proved to be an ideal location to grow  
citrus fruits.

In 1925, 160 Thompson grapefruit trees,  
which bore pink fruit, were imported from Florida.

Some trees limbs began producing a hybrid deep red  
and sweet grapefruit that was further developed and  
patterned as “**Ruby Red**” grapefruit which now  
only grows in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

In 1993 it became the State Fruit of Texas.

This is the first in our series of **One Minute History** pieces  
based on a Philatelic discovery that will appear on the  
Tucson Stamp Club website each month.