

The image shows a title slide with a light brown wood-grain background. A white rectangular box with a thin green border is centered on the page. Inside the box, the text "Bastrop County, TX" is written in a black serif font. A thin green horizontal line is positioned below the first line of text. Below the line, the text "Freedom Colonies" is written in the same black serif font. Two dark brown horizontal bars are positioned on the left and right sides of the white box, appearing to hold it in place.

Bastrop County, TX

Freedom Colonies



## ***Freedom Colonies of Bastrop County***

News of their freedom reached Bastrop County slaves throughout the summer of 1865. Every resident of Bastrop County faced life changing circumstances with that news. Some had to find a different way to cultivate and harvest their crops. Hundreds of African Americans had to decide whether to stay on the plantations where they had worked as slaves, or to create a new life outside the only environment many of them had ever known.

Between 1865 and 1920 former slaves formed settlements rooted in the hidden sand hills, wilderness, and bottomlands of the County. Many of these settlements are still active today and their history echoes in the names we see on today's maps.

*"Freedom Colonies of Bastrop County"* opens a tiny window into the stories of these historical settlements founded by former slaves, the families that lived in those settlements, and the impact their descendants still have in Bastrop County and throughout the United States.

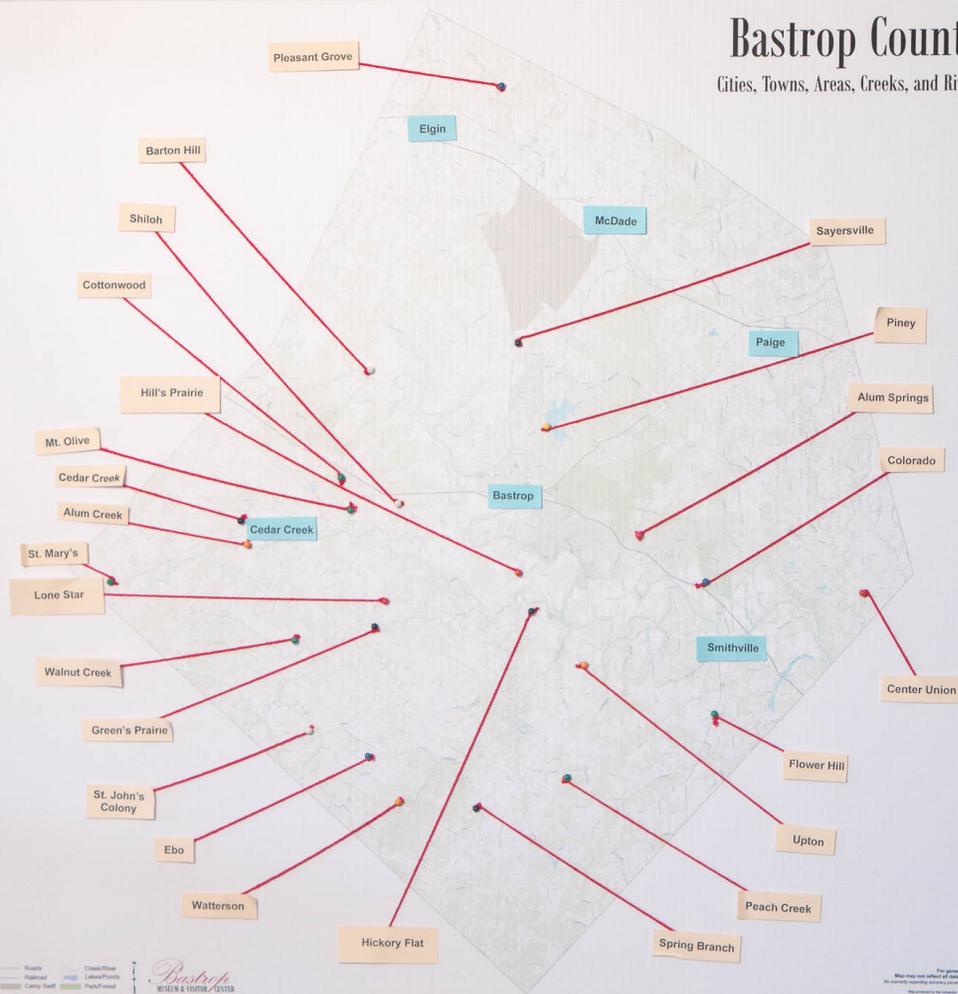


1st Lieutenant Doris J. Parr, Bastrop County native, and leading member of the Bastrop County Historical Society's Freedom Colonies Research Team



# Bastrop County

Cities, Towns, Areas, Creeks, and Rivers



## Bastrop County Freedom Colonies

- Alum Creek
- Alum Springs
- Antioch
- Barber's Prairie
- Barton Hills (Utley/Union Hill)
- Bateman
- Bassen
- Black Jack
- Bluebonnet Acres
- Carr Springs
- Cedar Creek
- Cedar Grove
- Center Union
- Chapel Ann
- Comanche
- Copperas Creek
- Cottonwood
- County Line (Morgan's Store)
- Craft's Prairie
- Dixon Prairie
- Elm Grove
- Excelsior
- Grassyville
- Green Springs
- Green's Prairie
- Hickory Flat
- Hill's Prairie
- Hopewell
- Jeddo
- Jerusalem
- Jordan
- Lake Creek
- Little Sandy Creek
- Lone Star
- Long Branch (Ebo)
- Long View
- Lower Cedar Creek
- Madison
- McGehee
- Mount Olive
- Mount Rose
- Mount Zion
- Peach Creek/Salem
- Pin Oak
- Piney
- Pleasant Grove
- Pleasant Springs (Caldwell's Store)
- Plum Grove
- Redtown
- Sayers
- Shiloh
- Shipp's Prairie
- St. Mary's
- String Prairie
- Sweet Hill (Upton)
- Thorne Brake
- Walnut Creek
- Watterson
- Wilbarger





## Center Union (Winchester)

**History:** Named after an area in northeast Bastrop County on the Fayette County border, where three leagues of property met, former slaves of the white landowners created this community after the Civil War. One of the wealthy white settlers, the Cunninghams, were in great debt after the war and in 1874 the land was sold in 40-acre tracts to pay the debts. Former slaves and early Center Union pioneers bought some of these tracts. Descendants of some of these families continue to own the land.

### Families associated with this Colony:

Adams Anderson Bean Blodoe  
Brown Barlowen Carr Hardeman  
Henderson Hill Jefferson Patridge  
Pryor Williams

### Schools, Churches and Cemeteries:

Longview School  
Center Union School (1897)  
Center Union Baptist Church (1896)  
AME Church organized (1880)  
Cunningham Cemetery (1874) Lot 10 and #11 from the Cunningham Estate sale.



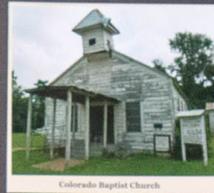
## Upton

**History:** Located seven miles south of Bastrop, the community was originally settled in 1847. Therefore, Upton, as such, does not qualify as a Freedom Colony; however, a fairly large number of freed slaves did settle around this area.

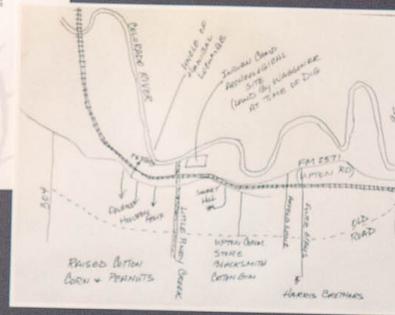
### Families associated with this Colony:

### Schools, Churches and Cemeteries:

Sweet Hill School  
Sweet Hill Cemetery



Colorado Baptist Church



## Colorado

**History:** Located two miles south of Smithville, this community seems to have been established through the efforts of Nathan Griffin. After trying other sources to purchase land for freed slaves, he was finally able to come to an agreement with an individual if all members of his group would purchase land from that seller. This group agreed and upon settlement founded the Colorado Baptist Church.

### Families associated with this Colony:

Bell Bolden Griffin  
White

### Schools, Churches and Cemeteries:

Colorado Baptist Church School  
Flower Hill School  
Shipp's School  
Colorado Baptist Church



## Paige

**History:**

### Families associated with this Colony:

Johnson Thorne Sampson

### Schools, Churches and Cemeteries:

Paige Elementary  
Chocolate School  
Saint's Delight Baptist Church  
Saint's Delight Cemetery



## Flower Hill

**History:** According to the Texas State Historical Association, this colony was once located about three miles southeast of Smithville. In 1907, a one-teacher school served 34 black students. As late as the 1940's a church and few homes were still active. Today, only a cemetery remains on private property.

### Families associated with this Colony:

### Schools, Churches and Cemeteries:



## Long Branch (Ebo)

**History:** Called both Long Branch and Ebo, this colony may have received its alternate name from a former McGehee plantation slave, Matilda Jackson.

### Families associated with this Colony:

Benford Pysiklik Harris  
Jackson Jefferson Ribbeson  
Slaughter White

### Schools, Churches and Cem.

Long Branch School  
Long Branch Church  
Mt. Woodrow Baptist Church (1918)



Large oak trees mark the spot where Green's Chapel Methodist Church stood on James Franklin's property.

## Miranda Ricks Griffin

The late Mrs. Miranda Ricks Griffin was born during slavery. Her parents, Gaberella and Thomas Ricks, were owned by the Ricks family. When Miranda was eleven years old, the slaves were set free. The Ricks then separated her mother and daddy, selling her mother to a man by the name of Houston. Miranda was later moved to Bastrop County when her stepfather decided to look for a better place to live.

After Miranda finished school, she read in a paper that she could order a doctor book. From that beginning, she became a midwife, married a man named Griffin, and bore him eleven children.

As a midwife, Miranda worked with the late C.C. Owens, M.D. for many years. She delivered babies of all races, colors, and creeds. She went out in all kinds of weather, driving her horse and buggy. When it was cold, she had to warm irons and rocks and wrap them up in a quilt to keep her feet warm.

Miranda worked until age 98 when her health failed. Some of her patients came to visit her, bringing gifts, along with the children she helped deliver into the world. She lived to see all her grandchildren, great-grand children, and some of her great-great grandchildren.

She lived 103 years.



Edited manuscript from the Smithville Times.



### St. Mary's

**History:** Located 17 miles west of Bastrop on Highway 21, St. Mary's was established by the Doole and Patton families when they transferred 2,000 acres of land to their former slaves. Prior to WWII the population exceeded 300.

#### Families associated with this Colony:

Ates	Alexander	Bolden	Burne
Cavanagh	Dennis	Doyle	Franklin
Freeman	Gordon	Harden	Hill
House	Hudspeth	Johnson	Jones
Landran	Nealy	Overton	Patton
Prosser	Rome	Slaughter	Smith
Suced	Swan	Taylor	Thompson
Tonnes	Washington	Wilson	Winston

#### Schools, Churches and Cemeteries:

St. Mary's School  
St. Mary's Baptist Church  
St. Mary's United Methodist Church (1880)



### Peach Creek (Salem)

**History:** Settled by former slaves, many from the Hill's Prairie or Hill Plantation area, Peach Creek was near present-day Rosanky. This community is rumored to have originally been a Native American settlement.

#### Families associated with this Colony:

Castle	Jackson	Jones
Matthews	Robinson	Waites

#### Schools, Churches and Cemeteries:

Salem School  
Salem Baptist Church (1875)  
St. Phillips Baptist Church (1880)  
St. Phillips Baptist Cemetery



### Piney

**History:** Often referred to as Piney Creek, Piney was founded by Joseph Morgan. Tradition says he lived in a cave for years after emancipation until able to build his own dwelling. Somewhere on what became Camp Swift, this settlement was a mix of African American and Caucasian by the early 1940's. After being subsumed by the Army training post, Piney residents moved to other communities and to other cities. Some moved across Hwy 99 to what is now Sayersville. Pleasant Hill Church moved there and the church with its associated cemetery is still active and in use by the community.

#### Families associated with this Colony:

Anderson	Bohinger	Clark
Colton	Cutherson	Davis
Flowers	Haywood	Hessington
Jackson	Lee	Wilson

#### Schools, Churches and Cemeteries:

Grimes School  
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church (1886)  
Union Chapel Baptist Church  
Haywood Cemetery  
Pleasant Hill Cemetery  
Piney Creek Cemetery (1866)  
Thomas Cemetery (1908)



### Mrs. Jane (Janie) Roland

Born in 1809 and the widowed matriarch of a large family, Jane threw her lot in with the many former slave families from the Hogeye (Webbersville) area looking for a better life. Several families migrated into southwestern Bastrop County with the Rev. John Henry Winn, Sr., founding the St. John's Colony, near Dale, Texas.

In 1878, widow Jane packed up her children and her belongings, and moved with another 13 families to St. John's. Land was available sale, and Jane purchased acreage for her family to live on and to farm.

Jane was mother to 7 children: Amanda Banks, Patsie Southall, Clay Roland, George Roland, Bonner Roland (preacher, teacher and doctor), Ella Hill, and Emma Harlin. At her death in 1912, she boasted 78 grandchildren, 165 great grandchildren, and 14 great-great grandchildren.

Many of her descendants still reside in St. John's Colony and surrounding Bastrop and Caldwell Counties.



### St. John's Colony

**History:** Founded as Winn Colony about 1872, the original families were fleeing racially-motivated violence in their original Hogeye settlement. Led by a free black preacher, Rev. John B. Winn, 14 families traveled by wagon to the area on the Bastrop-Caldwell county border which Rev. Winn had earlier scouted out for the group. St. John has one of the longest running Juneteenth celebrations.

#### Families associated with this Colony:

Allen	Carter	Davis	Franklin
Harrison	Hill	Johnson	Lofton
Mackey	Norrington	Pickett	Price
Roland	Walker	Winn	

#### Schools, Churches and Cemeteries:

Lytton Springs School  
St. John School (@1903)  
St. Lytton School  
Landmark Baptist Church  
Zion Union Missionary Baptist Church (oral tradition says it was the first church)  
St. John Missionary Baptist Church (1873)  
St. John Cemetery/Zion Cemetery



### The Lofton's from St. John Colony

Louis Simms research of his great-great-grandparents, Jordan and Sarah Anderson Lofton indicates to him that they were slaves, possibly born in Mississippi or North Carolina.

From the information that is available, he has determined they arrived in Texas prior to 1853, where their oldest of 14 children was born. They arrived in Bastrop County in 1866 and by 1880 they were living in St. John Colony.

On March 1, 1881 Jordan and Sarah purchased 224 acres of land from J. T. Roberts located in the J. B. Blacklock Survey. They purchased their land with 45 bales of lint cotton. Although they could not read or write, they managed their farm and a cotton gin.

In 1920 Jordan managed his farm, owned his home, mortgage free, and employed other people. Sarah died between 1910 and 1920 and Jordan died May 7, 1921 at the age of 99 in Dallas, Texas. He was buried in the St. John Colony Cemetery, adjacent to St. John Colony.

There is additional information on this family and their descendants in the archives of the museum.



Louis Simms



### Green's Prairie

**History:** Built near the road to Red Rock, on the west side of the Colorado River, this colony existed due to the aid of local surveyor, J.J. Moncure.

Moncure allowed freed slaves to economically purchase portions of acreage along Cedar Creek. Prices for this land ranged from 50 cents to \$1.50 an acre. One of many colonies along upper and lower Cedar Creek, the family names listed below lived on the creek, but may or may not have lived directly in the Green's Prairie colony.

#### Families associated with this Colony:

Anderson	Brocker	Brown
Clark	Clayton	Franklin
Hornsby	Hutchens	Johnson
Jones	McDonald	Moore
Roe	Sampson	Sanders
Taylor	Thompson	Thomson
Thorne	Williams	Weeks
Winston	Whitney	Yancey

#### Schools, Churches and Cemeteries:

St. Lytton School



### Sayersville

**History:** Sayersville is not strictly a Freedom Colony. It was originally settled by Caucasians. When the U.S. government claimed 52,000 acres of Bastrop County for Camp Swift, the Piney Creek colony was forced to move from the area. Many families relocated to Sayersville around 1942 and built a new life there..

#### Families associated with this Colony:

Reese	Williams
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#### Schools, Churches and Cemeteries:

Sayersville Negro School (@1903)  
New Hope School  
Ford School  
Magdalene School  
Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church



### The Hodge Family of Cedar Creek

Nelson and Jennette Hodge were two of the many ex-slaves who migrated to Cedar Creek to begin a new life. They may have been slaves on the Frigg Plantation in Hill's Prairie until 1860, and were married sometime after emancipation.

They lived in a "doublet log cabin" on acreage purchased from Jack Moore. The family farmed on 3rd and 4th shares, and bought horse and mule teams, a wagon, and farming tools on credit from local merchants.

Several children were born over the years: Nelson, Jr., James, Pink, Rosemie, Nellie and Lillie, who all went to school, and eventually became successful adults with their own land and families.

The Hodge family was an important force in establishing Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church. Many family members are buried in the nearby Shiloh Cemetery.



Jennette Hodge

Lillie Hodge White, wife of Tenor White, daughter of Jennett Hodge



### Cedar Creek

**History:** It is difficult to pinpoint a single "Cedar Creek" settlement. Many freedom colonies were settled along the banks of the creek. Schools and churches may have served more than one community and families did not necessarily stay forever in the same village.

#### Families associated with this Colony:

Aldridge	Alexander	Anderson
Burford	Burd	Clayton
Duchay	Dickson	Fanning
Franklin	Harris	Hodge
Hopkins	Hornsbay	Harrison
Jackson	Jones	McLeod
McDonald	Oakberry	Priddy
Roberts	Thorne	Walker
White	Wilson	Winston
Wright	Yancy	

#### Schools, Churches and Cemeteries:

Schools: Alum Creek, Haywood, Hopewell, Long Branch, Mt. Olive, St. Paul, Union Chapel

Churches: Alum Creek, Elm Grove, Hopewell, Harwood, Mt. Olive, Primitive Baptist (1886) St. Paul United Methodist (1860), Union Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (1870)

Cemeteries: Alum Creek, Duchay, Hornsbay, Mt. Olive, Sand Wright



### Shiloh

**History:** Shiloh was located on Highway 21 between Highways 60 and 304 and was composed of 61 to 80 black families. Shiloh was a farm community and the second freedom colony to develop from Antioch Baptist Church. George Weeks was the first teacher at Shiloh School. Shiloh Church was the first church in the County built by former slaves.

#### Families associated with this Colony:

Aldridge	Barnett	Bell
Black	Dixon	Edmondson
Fuller	Hall	Hodge
Hornsbay	Law	Hilder
McDonald	Moore	Keese
Washington	Williams	

#### Schools, Churches and Cemeteries:

Shiloh School

Faucett School

Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church (1850)



### Alum Creek

**History:** Located 18 miles west of Bastrop City, near Tom Alexander's property, Alum Creek was settled some time after 1850. Mr. Alexander donated the land for the Mt. Pleasant Church.

#### Families associated with this Colony:

Baird	Brooks	Dobson
Fleming	Jackson	McLeod
Roberts	Robertson	Wilson

#### Schools, Churches and Cemeteries:

Alum Creek Elementary

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church

Protestant Methodist Church

Clairborne Cemetery

Alum Creek Cemetery



Oak Leaf Farm, homeplace of Virgie and Oscar McDonald. The house was destroyed by fire in 1970.



### Lone Star

**History:** Lone Star is located between Highway 304 and FM 201, three miles west of Bastrop. Although they had a school and church, very little is known of the early freed slaves that established this community.

#### Families associated with this Colony:

#### Schools, Churches and Cemeteries:



### Cottonwood

**History:** About 12 miles west of Bastrop, the community was built around an old cottonwood tree. The tree's shade served as the original location for church services. Some of the first black landowners were Ben Jones, Millie Hicks, Mr. Black, Joe Grimes, T.A. Arnold, Mr. Murray, Mr. Young, Richard McGee, Timon Walker, and Marsh Williams.

#### Families associated with this Colony:

Arkala	Arnold	Black
Breeding	Flowers	McGe
Grimes	Hicks	Hodge
Jones	Marshall	Murray
Oakberry	Pearson	Walker
Williams	Wilson	Wright
Young		

#### Schools, Churches and Cemeteries:

Cottonwood School

County Common School

Cottonwood Baptist Church

St. Paul Methodist Church—1873



The Martin and Sophia McDonald family standing in front of their homeplace on what is now McDonald Lane West, Cedar Creek



## Hill's Prairie

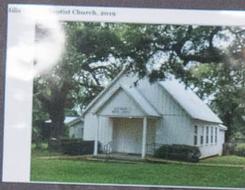
**History:** Settled by former slaves from the Hill Plantation, it is located about five miles from Bastrop on Hwy. 20, "the old road to Red Rock." Some freed slaves from the Hill Plantation may have settled there initially, but many of them moved to other locations in the county within a few years after Emancipation.

### Families associated with this Colony:

Clemens      Haywood      Hornsby  
Houston      Kellough      Lincoln  
Martin      Veal      Washington

### Schools, Churches and Cemeteries:

Clearview Elementary  
Ruston School  
Antioch Baptist Church  
Antioch Baptist Cemetery (@1865)  
Clearview Cemetery (@1865)  
Slave cemetery on Woods Moore Plantation (@1850)



File: Antioch Church, 2019



## Mount Olive

### History:



### Families associated with this Colony:

Johnson      Thorne      Sampson

### Schools, Churches and Cemeteries:

Elm Grove School  
Mt. Olive Church (1864)  
Mt. Olive Cemetery (between 1873 and 1879)

Antioch Baptist Church, est. 1872



## Craft's Prairie

**History:** Established about four miles west of Smithville, the settlement was named after Jim Craft. Many of the former slaves came from the R. L. Rector plantation.

### Families associated with this Colony:

Jones      Lee      Wilson  
Jackson      Rector

### Schools, Churches and Cemeteries:

Primitive Baptist Church



## Watterson

**History:** Watterson community, located 11 miles south of Bastrop, was established about 1870, as freed slaves began striking out from their old masters' plantations. Settlers at Watterson were from the Hill's Prairie area plantations. James Franklin purchased the first farm in 1875. Others bought small farm acreages, or were sharecroppers on white men's farms.

### Families associated with this Colony:

Grimes      Haywood      Jackson  
Johnson

### Schools, Churches and Cemeteries:

Haywood School  
Haywood Cemetery



## Barton Hills (Utley/Union Hill)

**History:** Built on Barton Farm property, Barton Hills was a community of sharecroppers, who primarily worked for the landowners, their former owners, Hugh Barton and his brother-in-law, George Warren, were abolitionist slaveholders in that they taught their slaves to read and write. They also built a church for them on the bank of the Colorado River. The Union Hill Church is an active church today.

### Families associated with this Colony:

Bell      Collins      Hill  
Hoadley      Humphrey-Johnson  
Jones      Mackey      Meltride  
Patton      Story      Young

### Schools, Churches and Cemeteries:

Union Hill School  
Union Hill Missionary Baptist Church  
Colorado Chapel Cemetery



Mt. Zion Church - formerly located on FM 969.



Barton Hills Store, 2019



## Pleasant Grove

**History:** Located four miles north of Elgin, Pleasant Grove was established some time prior to 1879. Although there were enough settlers to form churches and a school, the community was never large enough to have population figures kept.

### Families associated with this Colony:

Barnet      Johnson      Thorne  
Sampson      Yancy

### Schools, Churches and Cemeteries:

Elm Grove School  
Mount Moriah Baptist Church (1870)  
Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church (1892)  
Mt. Olive Baptist Church (1874)  
Mt. Olive Cemetery

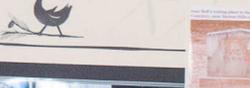
## Jane Bell

Born in 1841, Jane was born into slavery in Georgia. Her mother was African and her father was Cherokee. As children, Jane and her brother George, were sold to Durent Hatch Bell, Sr. in Arkansas. At age 18, Jane was moved to Texas when her owners migrated to Bastrop County. The white bells and their slaves eventually bought land and settled near the Sayers community. Jane was very proud of the fact that she and her brother were not field hands on the Bell Plantation. Her conversations frequently included the statement "you are looking at a house slave... me and my brother never worked in the fields."

Jane remembered all the slaves being called together one June day and told they were free. She and her brother struck out walking... she also said it was difficult to accept the fact that they had to make all the decisions, but they were young and enjoyed looking for work.

For some period of time, the siblings worked in various households around Sayers and eventually returned to the Bells as paid employees. Jane lived for many years in the Dogwood community near Sayers, raising six children. She moved to Barton Hills in her later years to live with her son George.

Excerpt from "Jane Bell: A Life in Slavery, Freedom," Black History Month. Special to the Bastrop Advertiser. Christa F. Bell, great-grandson of Jane Bell.



## Mildred Bell

Mildred Bell participated in the Freedom Colonies research project and was interviewed by Cristin Embree. Following are some of Mildred's comments.

"My people were share farmers, poor folks, working from sump to sundown. We never did own any land in Bastrop County. We bought this place 1908 (near Barton Hills) 40 acres, what we live on.

The Bells has land in the bottoms... Barton Hills. In the 1920s black people around here did not own any land... The Bells were the only black folks that bought land... Jane Bell was my husband's great grandmother.

They used to call it Barton's Hills. It was all black folks, they all work the land for the Bartons. There was a store. It was kinda like a plantation but it wasn't called a plantation.



Excerpt from an oral interview by Cristin Embree in 2009.

### Amelia Barnett

Born into slavery in 1843, Amelia was moved during her childhood to Charley Barnett's cotton plantation in Bastrop County.

*This quotation is a portion of an interview recorded in the 1930's, when Ms. Barnett was 94 years old.*

"Mawster Barnett never did tell us dat we was free, and we got de news fum other folks dat we was free. We was supposed to have been freed on June 19, 1865. When I knowed that I was free I kept on workin' fo' Mawster Barnett fo' about six months.

I helped him gather his crops but I wasn't paid fo' it. Den de only way dat I got away was dat I jes' got up and walked off.

It was on Christmas Eve day dat I went away. I walked to another white fambly, about two miles away...I stayed there one day, and den I walked to de Schuff place, where I had a servant friend..."



### Nancy Coleman Thomas

Nancy was born in Bastrop County on the Meek Smith cotton plantation in 1859.

*This quotation is a portion of an interview recorded in the 1930's, when Mrs. Thomas was 79 years old.*

"Us niggers was set free on June 19, 1865. We was told dat we was goin' to git sixty acres and a mule. We never did git nothin' lak that. 'But', de slaves asked de mawster, 'what're we goin' to do?' We ain't got no place to go to."

'Stay on here and help me gather my crops. You'll get paid for it. Dey helped him gather his crops. He give mammy four dollahs a month fo' cookin'.

He also fed her chillun."



The slave narratives excerpted here are from a Federal program that ran from 1936 through 1938. The interviews were conducted orally and then transcribed, as you see here. The transcribers tried to illustrate the African American English dialect, which has many common points with the Southern American English dialect due to the strong historical ties of African Americans to the South.

### Richard Carruthers

James was born in Memphis, TN, and was brought to Bastrop County after he and his mother were purchased by Billy Coats.

*This quotation is a portion of an interview recorded in the 1930's, when Mr. Carruthers was 100 years old.*

"When I was 21 and some more, I don't know jus' how old, I was a free man. That the day I shouted. We niggers scattered like partridges."



### Robert Prout

Robert was born in Alabama in 1850. When he was about four, he and his parents were purchased by Dr. Hugh Barton, Jr. and brought to Bastrop County. Dr. Barton taught his slaves to read and write.

*This quotation is a portion of an interview recorded in the 1930's, when Mr. Prout was 87 years old.*

"After freedom, we was told by Yankees dat we was goin' to git 40 acres, a home and a mule...we never did get no forty acres and no mule. A lot ob mawsters was good enough to help dere ex-slaves git a stah by givin' 'em some land, hoeses and milk cows."

In some parts in Texas some ob de mawsters tried to make de ex-slaves stay on de places by threatenin' to whoop 'em.

After slavery times de ex-slaves done most ob de farm work, and a lot ob dem made good success ob it. A lot ob 'em got schoolin' and branched out, and done somethin' else."



### Harriett Robinson

Harriett was born in Bastrop County on the Colorado River in 1842.

*This quotation is a portion of an interview recorded in the 1930's, when Mrs. Robinson was 95 years old.*

"After the war, Master Colonel Sims went to git the mail and so he call Daniel Ivory, the overseer, and say to him, 'Go round to all the quarters and tell all the niggers to come up. I got a paper to read to 'em. They're free now, so you kin git you another job, 'cause I ain't got no more niggers which is my own."

"Niggers came up from the cabins, nappy-headed, jest lak they gwine to the field. Master Colonel Sims say, 'Caroline (that's my mammy), you as free as me...So you go on and work and I'll pay you and your three oldest chillun \$10.00 a month a head and \$4.00 for Harriett.' That's me, and then he turned to the rest and say, 'Now all you 'uns will receive \$10.00 a head till the crops is laid by."

Don' you know before he got ha't way 't'roo', over half them niggers was gone."



### James Jackson

James was born in Louisiana, was moved to Travis County when he was about two. He and his two brothers were stolen and sold to Dr. Duval in Bastrop County.

*This quotation is a portion of an interview recorded in the 1930's, when Mr. Jackson was 87 years old.*

"When de slaves was free, dey was sho' happy. Day all got together a kin' of celebration. Mawster tol' dem if dey wanted to stay and help make de crop, he'd give them 50 cents a day and a place to stay. Some tuk him up on dat and stayed, but a lot of dem left dere. Me and my brother, we started walkin' to Austin."



### James Burleson

Born in 1852, James was a slave on the Jonathan Burleson Plantation in Bastrop County.

*This quotation is a portion of an interview recorded in the 1930's, when Mr. Burleson was 86 years old.*

"I kin remembah when I was set free. It was Mistress Nancy dat called my mammy to her, and said, 'Emiline, yo' all is free now--yo' all is free lak me."

"...I was livin' now wid mammy and my step-pappy, Henderson. Den one day he got killed. Dis was about six months after slavery."

"I think dat some folks killed him in de brush. De reason dey killed him was 'cause he was out gittin' up some cattle. I don't remembah if dey was his or not."

"I stayed home now and helped mammy. I done dis until I was about twenty-two...den I got married."

"...I never did know much of anything but fahm'n'. I never did git no learnin'...I kain't read now and I kain't write my own name."



#### Albert Jones

Albert Jones was born a slave in the mid-1800s. His father was a slave master named Clemons. He took the last name of Jones when he left the plantation and went to live with his sister. In 1868 he married Angeline Bell and she settled in the Green Springs community. He served two terms as a Bastrop County Commissioner—elected in 1886 and 1888. During this time he purchased a small home in Bastrop so he could live in town when court was in session. The house still stands today. He died in 1909.



#### Amanda Jones

Amanda Jones was born December 16, 1898 and lived to be 110 years old. Her life was a history lesson. During an interview with the Bastrop County Historical Commission, Amanda reminisced about her family and childhood



*"...I didn't go any higher than sixth grade because the teacher wasn't allowed to teach...any higher than sixth..."*

*And I didn't get to go anywhere else, because my family was poor and they wasn't able to send and they wasn't able to send nobody, send seven children to school.*

*But my younger brother he got to go to St. John's School and he finished there, in Austin... They stayed in the dormitory. And my brother his name was James and Professor Ben DeBbay loved him so much that he just stayed there until he finished. He finished high school there.*

*And my other brother [Robert] he went, but in '25 he come home...Mama died and never did go back..."*  
(October, 1993)



#### Green Springs



##### History:

##### Families associated with this Colony:

Franklin	Hornsby	Jones
Priestley	Taylor	Thompson
Yancy		

##### Schools, Churches and Cemeteries:

Union Chapel Church  
Sol-Wright Cemetery

If you have any information about Freedom Colonies in Bastrop County or if you want to request the exhibit for display, please contact Dock Jackson, President of the Kerr Community Center/ Board Member of the Bastrop County African-American Cultural Center  
(512) 308-2213