

SEPTEMBER 2022

# Hayden Springs Historical Investigations

Post-Emancipation Freedmen Community in Northeastern  
Travis County, c.1870 – c.1928



**PREPARED FOR**

Travis County Historical Commission

**PREPARED BY**

Preservation Central, Austin, Texas

SEPTEMBER 2022

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# **HAYDEN SPRINGS HISTORICAL INVESTIGATIONS**

## **TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS**

### **Prepared for:**

Texas County Historical Commission  
September 2022

### **Prepared by:**

Preservation Central  
Austin, Texas

### **Enclosures:**

Narrative History: Sandy Hayden and Hayden Springs Freedmen Community  
Oral History Workshop Materials  
Oral History Manual  
Texas State University Student Research Papers  
Historic and Overlay Maps  
Voter Registration and Census Research

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### ***Cover Photo: Georgia Banks***

Provided by Barbara Carothers Scott, 2022

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**TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Executive Summary .....	1
Introduction.....	2
Hayden Springs: Historical Overview .....	3
Project Purpose and Scope of Work .....	4
Project Team .....	5
Field Investigations.....	5
Research.....	10
Community Outreach and Engagement .....	13
Education .....	17
Partnerships.....	24
Oral Histories .....	24
Work Products .....	28
Future Goals.....	30
Narrative History: Sandy Hayden and the Hayden Springs Freedmen Community.....	31
Bibliography .....	80
Appendices.....	87
A. ....	Oral
History Workshop .....	87
B.....	Oral
History Manual.....	120
C.....	Texas
State University Student Research Papers.....	144
D. ....	Historic
and Current Overlay Maps .....	204
E.....	Voter
Registration and Census Research.....	210

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In 2021, the Travis County Historical Commission (TCHC) applied for and received a Certified Local Government (CLG) grant from the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to explore and document a previously unknown Freedmen Community (aka Freedom Colony, Freedom Community, Freedmen's Community) tentatively identified as Hayden Springs, which lay on and around present East Metro Park in northeastern Travis County.<sup>1</sup> Interest in Hayden Springs was initially piqued when TCHC members and associates, Lanny Ottosen, Richard Denney, and Christi Costlow found a building footprint identified as "Sandy Hayden School" on a field map of the old Manor and Webberville Road prepared for a county roads survey (1898-1902). Their research revealed that Sandy Hayden was an African American blacksmith and farmer who settled in the area sometime after Emancipation, but certainly by 1884, when the school was mentioned in a local newspaper article. The researchers prepared a working paper on their findings and recommended further investigations to learn more about the school and the community it once served.

Under the CLG grant, the commission hired Preservation Central, a historic preservation consulting firm, to undertake a multi-faceted project that would involve further archival research but, perhaps more importantly, focus on community engagement, participation and education. The consultants and the TCHC promoted the project to interested parties including churches, schools, and community groups in the City of Manor and surrounding rural areas near Hayden Springs. In particular, they hoped to interest area teachers and school administrators in a class project on basic oral history techniques taught by the consultants with students conducting interviews with family members or community elders.

Over the course of the project the consultants undertook archival research on Sandy Hayden, his family, and other members of the small Freedmen community that formed around Hayden Springs School and persisted into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Meanwhile, they drafted an oral history manual geared to lay historians and led an oral history workshop, "Oral History for the People!" for the same audience, i.e. people who wanted to tape interviews with family, church members, classmates, and friends for personal, rather than academic uses. Through community outreach, the consultants also interviewed eight narrators who either grew up in the rural community or had close relatives who lived in the area.

One of the most successful aspects of the project was the partnership between the TCHC and Dr. Ruby Oram, an Associate Professor of History at Texas State University, whose undergraduate students in her "Introduction to Public History" class conducted primary research on community members from deed and census records, Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, and other sources. The students compiled their findings in papers included in the Appendices of this report.

Finally, this report was prepared to document the activities, work products, outcomes, and future goals stemming from this project.

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<sup>1</sup> Multiple terms are used to describe what is referred to as a "Freedmen Community" in this report including but not limited to: Freedom Community, Freedom Colony and Freedmen's Community.

## **INTRODUCTION**

In 2021, the Travis County Historical Commission (TCHC; Commission) embarked on a Hayden Springs Historical Investigations project in response to an inquiry from Charles Bergh, Travis County Parks Director, about a small frame building on the grounds of East Metro Park, a county park in northeastern Travis County. The building had been identified in a 2002 archaeological report as two-room “tenant shack” of little significance, but because it was the only extant historic resource on the park, Bergh hoped to learn more about its origins and history for possible public interpretation.

Commission members and associates conducted more extensive research and found field notes and maps from an 1898-1902 county roads survey showing a building footprint identified as “Sandy Hayden School” near the park entrance to the north. The previously unidentified school once stood on the old the “Manor and Webberville” road, now Blake Manor Road, which runs along the park’s boundary and provides access into the park. Their research also revealed that Sandy Hayden was a Freedman who established his homestead on the Manor and Webberville Road, just north of the park entrance, in the 1870s. They also found that Hayden sold an acre of land to the county “for school purposes,” almost certainly for African American children. The research team posited the question: could the two-room building on East Metro Park have been that school?

The researchers conducted further research on Sandy Hayden, for whom the school was named, and learned that the formerly enslaved Freedman had the means to buy town lots in the community of Webberville as early as 1866, only seven months after Emancipation. In fact, they traced Hayden’s involvement in dozens of real estate transactions in northeastern Travis County, from 1866 to his death in 1908, and beyond. They were especially interested in his sale of land for a school in 1884 and ultimately learned that Hayden Springs School had existed for more than four decades before it closed in 1928. From these and other findings, the research team concluded that it would be “a worthwhile avenue of research” to identify and interview if not former students, their descendants, to learn more, not only about the school, but about “a forgotten piece of Travis County African American history that deserves to be recognized.”<sup>2</sup>

The “Hayden Springs Historical Investigations” project resulted from their recommendation. In the fall of 2020, the Travis County Historical Commission applied for and received a Certified Local Government (CLG) grant for a consultant to further study the under-represented community through minimal field investigations and archival research, oral histories, and community outreach. The consultant was charged with identifying and interviewing descendants of those who once lived in or near the now dispersed community as well as teaching basic oral history methods and skills to lay people who wanted to tape interviews with their families, friends, church members, and others in their own communities. The consultant would also produce an oral history manual geared to a lay audience and attempt to involve students in the project. Another goal of the project was to provide the information to the Parks Director for a kiosk or other means to interpret the park as the former site of a freedman farmer and center of a post-Emancipation Freedmen’s community in northeastern Travis County.

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<sup>2</sup> Richard Denney, TCHC, Lanny Ottosen, TCHC Associate Member, Christy Costlow, Travis County Archivist, TCHC Associate Member, “Hayden Springs School, East Metro Park,” Travis County Historical Commission. Working Paper May 25, 2020.

The project was a multi-faceted research and community participation endeavor involving partnerships with the City of Manor, Texas State University, the Austin History Center, the Texas Freedom Colony Project, and various other organizations and community groups. The project included educational components and oral histories with African Americans whose ancestors may have lived in the Hayden Springs school community.

This report covers the work of the consultants, commission members and associates, and volunteers, as well as oral history narrators who shed light on the former Hayden Springs school community, an area now known as “the Post Oaks.” The report describes their field and research methods; community outreach; partnerships with Texas State University students, the Austin History Center, and the Texas Freedom Colony project, among others; the creation of an oral history manual geared to lay people rather than academics; the oral history training workshop; identification of potential narrators and interviews with eight narrators associated with rural northeastern Travis County; work products including the oral history manual, tapes and partial transcripts; and future goals related to the project.

## **HISTORICAL OVERVIEW: HAYDEN SPRINGS**

The community associated with Hayden Springs School emerged in the mid-1870s from one or two neighboring farmsteads settled by Freedmen Sandy Hayden and Hinton Banks on previously unimproved land in northeastern Travis County. By the early 1880s, a community had grown up around the Hayden-Banks homesteads to include more than a dozen adjoining farms. The farms lay in a swath of land beginning about four miles southeast of the relatively new city of Manor, to the northwest, and extending southeast toward the antebellum town of Webberville, to the southeast. Composed almost entirely of African American households, the community included both landowners and renters, likely tenant farmers or sharecroppers. By 1884, the community was large enough to warrant its own school, which was known as Hayden Springs School in newspaper articles, as early as 1888.

Based on census records and Travis County rural directories (1894-95, 1898-99, 1901, and c. 1921), the community appears to have reached its pinnacle in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. At the turn of the century, the community centered around the school – the largest “Negro” rural school in the County -- a small store, and a shop, possibly Sandy Hayden’s blacksmith shop, all of which lay along the Manor to Webberville Road.<sup>3</sup> The 1894-95 rural directory shows that a large number of African Americans in the community owned their own farms. Sandy Hayden had the most land, with 440 acres, but others, including A. Alexander (306 acres), Jack Kelly (227 acres), John Wadkins (90 acres), and George Allen (40 acres), to his north, and Hinton Banks (75 acres), Henderson Banks (25 acres), Ike Brown (141 acres), R. H. Bacon (50 acres), Henry Brown (100 acres), and Noah Owens (110 acres), to the south, also owned considerable property at that time.

Hayden Springs may have started to decline as a distinct community – separate from Manor, Littig, and Webberville – in the 1920s. In fact, neither the census, deeds, or rural directories ever refer to the community as “Hayden Springs;” the 1894-95 directory divides residents among the larger towns of Manor, Webberville, and Littig, with some in Hornsby, depending on their proximity to those places. But most of the founding settlers still lived in or close to Hayden Springs School. By the 1920s, however, many of the founders, including Sandy Hayden and his wife, Eliza, had passed away. Others, including

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<sup>3</sup> The road from the current City of Manor starts as Parsons Street before becoming Blake Manor Road, then Manor Burleson Road.

most of the Hayden children, had moved away, some to nearby Manor, Austin, Webberville, and Elgin, but others out of the region altogether.

When Hayden Springs School closed in 1928, students who remained in the community were sent elsewhere, likely to the new Rosenwald School shown as “Littig Negro School No. 2” (aka Gravel Hill School), on a 1936 school district map of Travis County. Even the name, “Hayden Springs” passed out of living memory. None of the residents met during the course of this project recall that name; they tend to refer to the area in the vicinity of East Metro Park and Parks Springs Baptist Church as “the Post Oaks,” for the area’s large stands of post oak trees.

(see more detailed history of Sandy Hayden and Hayden Springs in this report)

## **PROJECT PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF WORK**

In the fall of 2020, the Travis County Historical Commission (TCHC) asked Preservation Central, an Austin-based historic preservation consulting firm with experience in researching African American history, to prepare a Scope of Work for further research, including oral histories, according to recommendations made by TCHC members and associates in their Working Paper 05-25-2020. One of the goals of this project was to learn more about Hayden Springs School and the surrounding late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century Freedmen’s Community it served in northeastern Travis County.

To fund the project, the TCHC applied for and received a Certified Local Government (CLG) grant for professional services and direct expenses associated with the endeavor they identified as “Hayden Springs Historical Investigations.” The project was funded in part by a CLG grant, and in part by a match from Travis County to include in-kind volunteer services. All of the work and deliverables produced for the project adheres to CLG requirements as stated in ***Fiscal Year 2021: Certified Local Government Grant Contract TX-21-008***, between the Texas Historical Commission, an agency of the State of Texas, and the Grantee, Travis County.

The TCHC hired Preservation Central to perform minimal field work, undertake secondary and primary (archival) research on Hayden Springs School and its namesake, Sandy Hayden, conduct oral histories with descendants or persons with knowledge of the community, and write a narrative history of the Hayden Springs Freedmen’s Community as outlined in the Scope of Work:

- Literature Review and Preliminary Research
- Field Investigations
- Identifying and contacting potential oral history candidates
- Public outreach and engagement
- Oral history workshop
- Collaboration with professionals in related fields of public history and African American studies
- Schedule and facilitate interviews
- Publicity
- Educational materials and informational packets
- Narrative history of Sandy Hayden and the Hayden Springs community

- Final presentation to the Travis County Historical Commission and general public

The project called for considerable community engagement, the creation of educational materials, and holding at least one public workshop to help non-professionals conduct their oral histories with family and church members, classmates, or friends. Other tasks included working with the Travis County Parks Department on an informational kiosk about the history of the former freedmen's community that once occupied present East Metro Park, and collaborating with other cultural resources professionals on teaching oral history techniques and practices, researching African American history, and other fields related to Texas Freedmen's communities.

Work Products, including taped interviews, transcripts, photographs, maps, and archival documents acquired in the course of work, are submitted either as appendices or attachments to this completion report to the Texas Historical Commission. The report includes an executive summary, project goals and objectives, research and survey methods, a narrative history of Hayden Springs, and an analysis of the project findings or results. It also acknowledges the people and groups that contributed to the project, such as professional colleagues and collaborators, institutions, volunteers, and oral history narrators. Finally, the report gives proper credit to the federal, state, and local government agencies that provided funding or in-kind services for the project as set out in the CLG Grant Contract TX-21-008.

## **PROJECT TEAM**

***Commission Volunteers:*** Members of the Travis County Historical Commission contributed substantially to the project. A subset of the commission formed a committee to work with the consultants. Together they outlined goals and objectives of the projects, identified sources for advanced research, made contacts within the target community, and helped organize and publicize the workshop and final presentation.

They actively supported the project by identifying interested community organizations, contacting churches and other groups to present and discuss the project, contacting candidates for oral histories, and taking the oral history training. They worked with the consultant to gather primary research materials on the inhabitants and resources of the community, reviewed and commented on the historical narrative and project report, and arranged for, and participated in, the public presentation.

***Consultants:*** The consulting team included historian Terri Myers, historian and project director, and associate historian Maria Priebe, both of Preservation Central, and subconsultant Eleanor Thompson, who served as a liaison between the consultant and the TCHC. Ms. Thompson had worked with Preservation Central on related projects in historic African American communities, including the Rubin Hancock Farmstead, for which she contacted oral history candidates among Hancock's descendants and assisted with their interviews.

## **FIELD INVESTIGATIONS**

Minimal field investigations were conducted at various times starting on February 15, 2022, when TCHC chairman, Bob Ward, and project director, Terri Myers, visited East Metro Park, a county park that occupies part of Sandy Hayden's homestead. Mr. Ward and Ms. Myers traveled to the park where Mr. Ward photographed a two-room building on the grounds. It is the only extant resource dating to the historic period, c. 1910. Ms. Myers recorded its physical characteristics. Character-defining features of the building are its diminutive size, two-room "Cumberland" plan room arrangement and fenestration pattern, 4/4 double-hung sash, board-and-batten siding, and hipped roof.



Described by archaeologists in a 2002 report as a “tenant shack,” the small historic frame building on East Metro Park appears to date from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century or early 20<sup>th</sup> century, perhaps more precisely, from c. 1895-1915. The project director based that timeframe on previous experience with other, similar houses built around the turn of the century for lower-income, predominantly Black and Hispanic families in Austin. Some examples are still extant in parts of South and East Austin where they were dated through city directories and Sanborn maps. In urban settings like South Austin, they typically began as two-room hall-parlor, or three-room L-plan or center-passage dwellings, with gabled or hipped roofs.



**Figure 1: Two-Room Building (Possible Tenant Dwelling) on Sandy Hayden's Property**  
Photo: Bob Ward, 2022

If owner-occupied, these small homes were often enlarged later with shed-roofed additions to the rear. In rural areas like northeastern Travis County, simple double-pen dwellings separated by a central chimney with open hearths in both rooms were common among both small farmers who owned their land and tenant farmers. In the case of the East Metro Park building, the hipped roof, board-and-batten siding, and 4/4 lite double-hung wood sash are more indicative of its use as a dwelling rather than a school. In addition, most historic photographs of rural schools in Travis County from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as this building appears to be, show schools of this period with front-gabled rather than hipped roofs, and lapped, rather than board-and-batten siding, though double-hung sash is typical.

Research has not been found to confirm its original use, but the form and plan type strongly suggest a domestic use; it may have simply been a one- or two-family dwelling. Its hipped roof, board-and-batten siding, and 4/4 double hung windows are almost identical to other small frame dwellings that once housed lower-income families, many of them African American, in Austin at the turn of the century. The type may have also been used in rural Travis County, as well. Some examples of the type still survive in East and South Austin, especially in the Bouldin Creek neighborhood where an African American enclave variously known as “South Side,” or “Brackenridge,” for the former Brackenridge “colored” school on W. Elizabeth Street, developed just after 1900.



**Figure 2: Springs on Sandy Hayden Farm**  
Photo: Terri Myers, 2022

Furthermore, no other rural schools in Travis County have been found that adopted this particular building type, roof form and pitch, plan and design. Though rural schools in the county came in a wide variety of forms and design, most built in the late 19 th and early 20 th centuries featured gabled roofs and narrow front-to-back, rather than wider side-to-side, rectangular plans with entrances on the gabled ends, rather than on the sides. had took a wide variety of were built in all many there were a no standard plan for rural school design s rural schools ranged there was a wide , are similar in type, materials, and design, to the so-called tenant and adopted this building form Though evidence may yet be found that the building did serve as the community school, it is more probable that members of the Hayden family built it for tenants on the farm, possibly for other family members or tenant farmers.

Subsequent field investigations were conducted by the project director and community liaison at Black churches and cemeteries in the area. They included the Gilden Creek First Baptist Church, Little Zion Baptist Church, and Gilden Creek Third Baptist Church in Manor; Parks Springs Baptist Church southeast of Manor, Union Lee Baptist Church south of Hayden Springs, and Ebenezer Baptist Church in Webberville. Buildings were photographed and information on historical markers, tombstones, and church cornerstones was copied for further research. Though several Black families still live on their family land near East Metro Park, Travis Central Appraisal District records indicate that houses and other improvements on those sites are non-historic.





**Figure 3: Little Zion Baptist Church, Manor, Texas**  
Photo: Terri Myers, 2022



**Figure 4: Parks Springs Baptist Church, Travis County, Texas**  
Photo: Terri Myers, 2022



**Figure 5: Union Lee Baptist Church, Travis County, Texas**  
Photo: Terri Myers, 2022



**Figure 6: Webberville Ebenezer Baptist Church, Travis County, Texas**  
Photo: Terri Myers, 2022

## **RESEARCH**

***Preliminary Research:*** Preliminary research was conducted by the consultants before other aspects of the project commenced to give them a basic understanding of the community and its history. Prior research was also necessary in developing appropriate and relevant questions for oral histories and for communicating the goals and objectives of the project to others.

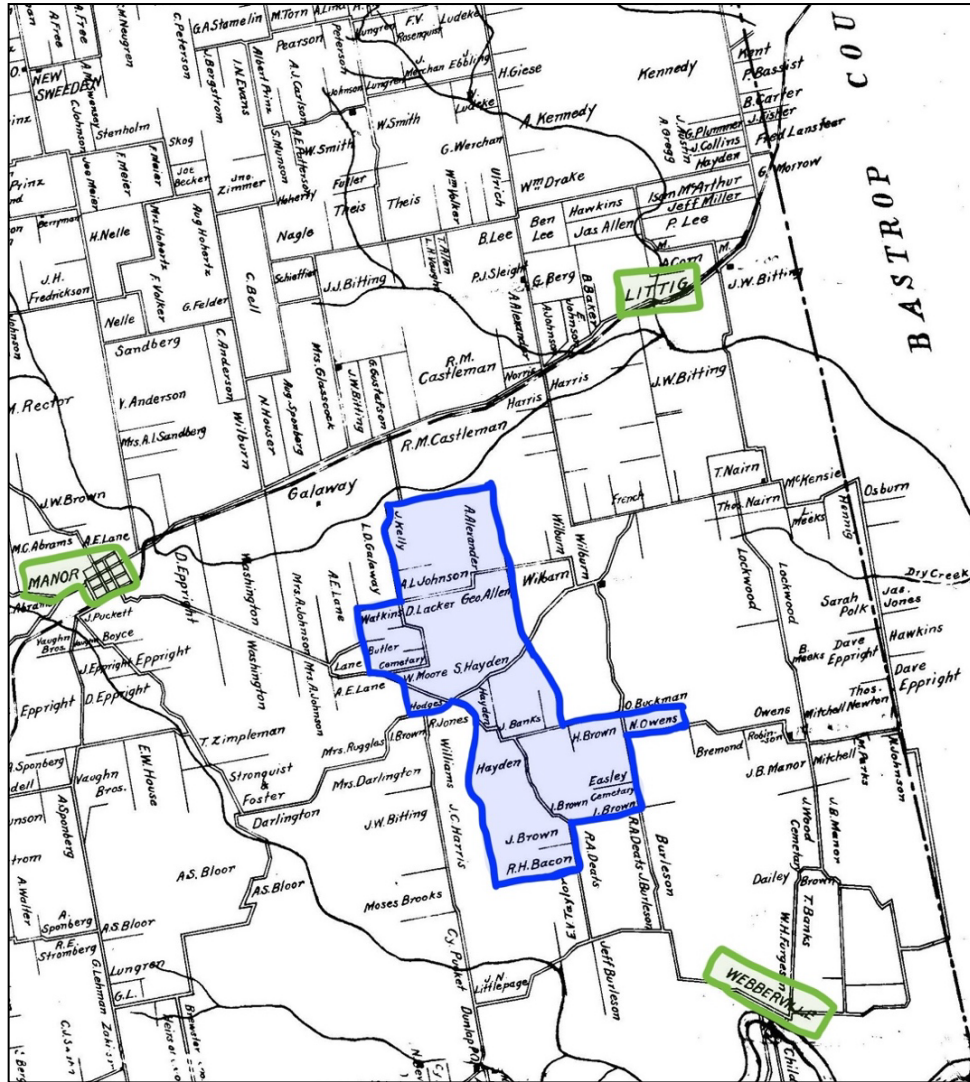
The consultants reviewed the “Hayden Springs School, East Metro Park” Working Paper compiled for the Travis County Historical Commission (May 25, 2020) by Richard Denney, TCHC, Lanny Ottosen, TCHC Associate Member, and Christy Costlow, Travis County Archivist and TCHC Associate Member. The paper started with a context for their research on the history of a two-room frame building located on the grounds of East Metro Park, a county park in northeastern Travis County.

Archaeologists had previously described the building as a “tenant shack,” in their 2002 Cultural Resources Report No. 10, on the park, but Denney, Ottosen, and Costlow’s research revealed that a school, known as Hayden Springs School, or “Sandy Hayden School,” once stood on the property. They conducted subsequent research on the site and posited open questions and future research possibilities that led to the current research and educational project. The working paper provided a strong basis for the consultants to conduct further research.

The consultants followed up on the TCHC team’s initial deed and census research, adding to their spreadsheet for land transactions to and from Sandy Hayden and tracing Hayden’s family in census records from 1870, when they appear under the name “Sander Ender,” as interpreted by ancestry.com, through 1930. They also traced the names of residents along the old Manor to Webberville Road, from the Eppright property southeast of Manor, at the north end, to where the road dead-ends on the 1898-1902 County Roads map, to determine if they were white or Black according to the 1900 Census.

In doing so, they saw that the majority of residents in and around Sandy Hayden’s homestead and Hayden Springs School were also African Americans, many of them freedmen who settled along the road from the mid-1870s through the 1880s and 1890s. In fact, virtually all of the families along the road from Jack Kelly and A. L. Johnson on the north, to and including Jerry Brown and R. H. Bacon on the south, as well as Noah Owens, the Easleys, and Ike Brown on the parallel Webberville to Wilburn Springs Road to the east, were African Americans.





**Figure 7: African American Families in Hayden Springs Area Relative to Manor, Littig, and Webberville**

Travis County Road Maintenance Map, 1898-1902

Identifying residents by race and occupation proved the existence of a large community of African American farmers in the roughly triangular-shaped agricultural landscape between Manor, Littig, and Webberville at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Because Hayden Springs School lay about mid-way between the end points, it seemed probable that most children in the community would have attended that school, rather than those in Manor, Webberville, or Littig which appeared farther from home.<sup>4</sup> Thus, the consultants felt they had established logical boundaries for the school population in Hayden Springs.

The consultants also reviewed the 1867 Voter Registration Rolls for Travis County Precinct 2, the area in and around Webber's Prairie, or Webberville, which contained vital information on Sandy Hayden and other African Americans who ultimately settled in and around the Hayden Springs community. For instance, the rolls showed that Sandy Hayden had lived in Texas for 25 years, which meant he had come

<sup>4</sup> On current, modern roads, Sandy Hayden's Jennings League property where the school was located is about 4.5 miles from Manor; from the Jennings League to Webberville is 5.1 miles, Jennings League to Littig is 6.8 miles.



to Texas about 1840, when it was still a Republic. The rolls also showed that he had been born in North Carolina and, from his “X,” mark as his signature, that he could not read or write. The rolls showed similar information for other African Americans in the same precinct, some of whom settled in or close by the Hayden Springs community. Among them were Sandy Haden, Elias Bell, Napoleon Bonapart [sic], Isaac Meeks, several men named Louis Meeks, Henry Banks, James Banks, Thomas Banks, and Samuel Hancock. Because the rolls listed the birthplaces of the recently emancipated men and the date their enslavers brought them to Texas, they provided a baseline for identifying Hayden Springs families in later census records.

Further archival and primary research was conducted in Travis County deed, tax, and census records. Other sources, including Travis County school reports, historic newspapers, and photographs were also investigated as the project continued. Primary research helped establish the extent of the community, its origins, most productive or peak years, and period of decline, as well as basic information about the residents, household composition, principal occupations, religious and educational affiliations, and other relevant information about the people who lived and worked in Hayden Springs.

**Archival Research:** The project historian and associate historian conducted extensive primary research on Sandy Hayden and his immediate family, as well as census and deed research on other African American families who owned property and lived in the Hayden Springs Freedmen Community from about 1870 to the late 1920s when Hayden Springs School and after Sandy Hayden, its namesake passed away and most of his children had moved to Austin, Waco, and other places in Texas and elsewhere in the country.

Among the most important primary resources for this project were Travis County deed records, Travis and Bastrop County census records, Travis County rural directories, and Travis County road and highway maps. Deed, census, and roads maps were used together to show how Hayden Springs evolved from two homesteads in the mid-1870s to a community of more than a dozen farmsteads, a school, a store, and a shop, most likely a blacksmith shop. They were also vital in illustrating the extent of African American land ownership in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. These and other primary sources used to research the community are listed below:

**Austin American Statesman/Austin Weekly Statesman**, and other iterations: articles on Travis County rural schools, teachers, trustees, enrollment, Hayden Springs School, Sandy Hayden, Hinton Banks, St. John’s Regular Missionary Baptist Association meeting in which Sandy Hayden’s death and status as a deacon of the association is mentioned, 1908, among other topics, via [newspapers.com](#).

**Austin City Directories:** various publishers and dates, specifically 1895-1912 for Sandy and Eliza’s children who moved to Austin and business, “Hayden Bros. Blacksmiths and Wheelwrights.”

**Bastrop County Archival Records:** via Portal to Texas History.

**Clopton Chronicles:** online Clopton family genealogy, stories, and records for Sandy Hayden’s possible enslaver, Benjamin Michaux Clopton of Davidson County, Tennessee.

**Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps:** City of Manor, showing Black churches, school, businesses.

**Texas Department of Vital Statistics:** death certificates for Sandy Hayden and most members of his family, via [ancestry.com](#) and [find-a-grave.com](#).

**Travis County Deed Records:** numerous but specifically 1842-1893 for Benjamin Clopton, Sandy Hayden, and others in Hayden Springs, and 1928-1929, from heirs of Sandy Hayden to Henry Faulk.

**Oath of Office:** Sandy Hayden as Alderman of the Town of Webberville.

**Election Official:** Sandy Hayden's signature as an election official in Webberville precinct, 1873.

**Travis County Highway Maps:** various but specifically the 1896 map which denotes buildings and structures.

**Travis County Marks and Brands Register:** horse and cattle brands of Sandy Hayden, and others in Hayden Springs community.

**Travis County Marriage Certificate:** Sandy Hayden and Eliza Hancock, 1870.

**Travis County Rural Directories:** Manor, Webberville, and other communities in and around Hayden Springs, 1894-95; 1898-99; 1901; C. 1921; 1956, on file at the Austin History Center.

**Travis County Roads Book 1:** Surveyor's field notes and maps for Manor and Webberville Road, and nearby roads, 1898-1902.

**Travis County School Superintendent Records:** various on file at the Austin History Center.

**Travis County Voter Registration Rolls:** Precinct 1, 1867.

**U. S. Bureau of the Census:** population schedules, Bastrop and Travis Counties, 1850-1940, via ancestry.com.

**U. S. Bureau of the Census:** agricultural schedules, Bastrop and Travis Counties, 1850, 1860, 1970, 1880, via ancestry.com.

**U. S. Bureau of the Census:** slave schedules, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas, 1820-1860, via ancestry.com.

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT**

A major component of the work program involved community outreach and engagement, so much so that a designated community liaison was included in the project proposal. The purpose of the community liaison was not only to identify and solicit candidates for oral histories, but also to help spark an interest among local residents in recording stories of their parents and grandparents, not only for their families, but also for the benefit of future researchers. In addition to the designated community liaison, Travis County Historical Commission volunteers and the project director engaged in a variety of public events and opportunities to publicize and promote the project.

Travis County Historical Commission members, including chairman Bob Ward and members Rosemary Morrow, Lydia Moore, and Stephanie Lang, along with the project director and community liaison, helped promote and publicize the Hayden Springs project throughout the course of the project. They contacted educational leaders, local and county officials, churches, and schools through telephone and email correspondence, attendance at various community events related to African American heritage and oral history, and the distribution of informational materials to historically Black churches in and around the city of Manor. They also attended and participated in several African American history events to get the word out about the project.

**Hayden Springs Flyer:** At the start of the project, Preservation Central prepared an informational flyer about the Hayden Springs Freedom Community project (See Appendix A). The flyer provided a brief history of the community and introduced the need for oral histories to fill in the gaps in our knowledge about the families who once lived there.

**TCHC Meeting:** On Saturday, June 12, 2021, historian Terri Myers made a short presentation to the TCHC at Pioneer Farms on the project goals and work program to accomplish them. She talked about the challenges of researching African American communities and asked members for their support and participation. She distributed a flyer on the project to members and solicited volunteers for the effort. Among those interested in contributing to the project were TCHC members Adrienne Isom, Stephanie Lang, and Lydia Moore, all of whom had ancestors in or around Hayden Springs.

**Texas Freedom Colonies Oral History Workshop:** On October 30, 2021, TCHC member, Lydia Moore, and the project director attended an oral history workshop conducted by Dr. Andrea Roberts, director of the Texas Freedom Colonies Project, at the Bob Bullock Texas History Museum (See Appendix A). During intermission, Ms. Moore represented the TCHC at a table covered with flyers on the work of the commission and different reports related to African American history in Travis County. She shared the table with the project director who gave out flyers on Hayden Springs and the oral history workshop planned for the spring of 2022. Ultimately, Ms. Moore, who is a direct descendant of Sandy Hayden, agreed to sit for an interview about her own family for the project.

**Texas State University:** Dr. Ruby Oram, Assistant Professor of Practice, Department of History at Texas State University, contacted TCHC chairman Bob Ward and project director Terri Myers on January 12, 2022, to discuss how her undergraduate students could contribute to our research on Hayden Springs. Her email and subsequent Zoom meeting were the start of an ongoing partnership between the TCHC and Texas State University. The results of that partnership are discussed separately in this report.

**City of Manor:** Early in 2022, the project director contacted Debbie Charbonneau, Heritage and Tourism Manager for the City of Manor, to discuss the oral history project and solicit city support. Ms. Charbonneau turned out to be a tremendous partner for the project. On February 1, Terri Myers and community liaison Eleanor Thompson, met with Ms. Charbonneau at Manor City Hall to plan for the event on a Saturday later in the spring.<sup>5</sup> Ms. Charbonneau offered to schedule a date and time at City Hall for the workshop, suggesting that the Council Chambers might be available. Since that first meeting, the consultants and Ms. Charbonneau remained in constant contact throughout the spring and oral history workshop.

**Interview Connections:** Ms. Charbonneau also introduced the project director via email to Wayne Schneider, a local resident she described as being a font of knowledge about the history of the area around and including Manor, and to Manor Police Chief, Ryan Phipps, who had spoken of a local man who might be a good oral history candidate. Ultimately, the TCHC chairman and project director conducted a taped interview with Mr. Schneider, who lives on Sandy Hayden's former homestead. The project director later taped an interview with Chief Phipps' contact, Mr. Elbert Burns, who had grown up in Manor where he attended the segregated school with several members of the Banks family who are descendants of Hayden Springs' original settlers and Sandy Hayden's neighbors.

**African American Church Contact:** Meanwhile, the consultants made a list of African American churches in the vicinity of Manor and Webberville, and in the rural countryside along the old Manor to Webberville and Manor and Burleson roads (see below). The community liaison, Eleanor Thompson,

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<sup>5</sup> At the time, the Omicron variant of Covid-19 remained a threat, so they decided to wait on setting a firm date.

visited several African American churches in the area to promote the project and planned oral history workshop, as well as to solicit names of parishioners who might be good oral history candidates from pastors. She distributed informational flyers to church members after services at Little Zion Baptist Church, Gilden Creek Third Baptist Church, and Union Lee Baptist Church. The consultants and TCHC chairman also met with pastor Aubrey Johnson, at Gilden Creek First Baptist Church to discuss and promote the project, and also ask for names of potential interviewees.

The following African American churches were contacted by phone, email or postal mail. The list is current as of August 2022:

**Little Zion Baptist Church**

Address: 406 E. Burton St., Manor, Texas, 78653

Phone: (512) 272-4152

Email: [contact@LZBC1895.org](mailto:contact@LZBC1895.org)

Website: <https://www.lzbc1895.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LZBCMANOR/>

Pastor: Michael Gobert

Phone: (512) 576-2607

Email: [PastorGobert@gmail.com](mailto:PastorGobert@gmail.com)

**Gilden Creek First Baptist Church**

Address: 310 S. San Marcos St., Manor

Phone: (512) 272-4575

Pastor: Rev. Aubrey Johnson

**Gilden Creek Third Baptist Church**

Address: 204 E. Burton Street, Manor, Texas 78653

Phone: (512) 272-5296

Pastor: Kenneth W. Loggins

**Parks Springs Baptist Church**

Address: 18415 S. Lockwood Rd. Manor, 78653

Phone: (512) 272-5723

Email: [Parksprings1881@gmail.com](mailto:Parksprings1881@gmail.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Park-Springs-Baptist-Church/275571629210267>

Pastor: Rev. R. D. Williams Sr.

**Union Lee Baptist Church**

Address: 21069 Blake Manor Rd, Manor, TX 78653; Phone: (512) 272-5106

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Union%20Lee%20Baptist%20Church/926033190824156/>

**Webberville Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church**

Address: 1314 Webber St., Austin, Texas

Phone: (512) 276-7917

**Manor Church Of Christ**

Address: 201 S San Marcos St, Manor, TX 78653

Phone: (512) 745-0030

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Manor-Church-Of-Christ/416718728365900>

**Black History Month:** On February 25, 2022, TCHC chairman Bob Ward was invited about the project at a Black History Month Celebration held in council chambers at Manor City Hall. Mr. Ward introduced the Hayden Springs project while project director Terri Myers and community liaison Eleanor Thompson distributed flyers on the project. They also distributed a list of family surnames in and around the former Freedmen Community to attendees, most of whom lived and/or worked in the Manor area and might know some of their descendants for possible oral histories. Several good connections were made at the event, including Manor Police Chief, Ryan Phipps, who offered to put the team in touch with a potential interviewee who lived next to the police station. Event sponsors included the City of Manor, Bluebonnet Electric Coop, Friends of Manor Parks, and Manor resident and community activist, Ruth Taylor-Biscoe, who was later interviewed for this project.

**TCHC Update:** At the TCHC meeting at Pioneer Farms on March 19, 2022, the project director updated the members about their census, deed, and newspaper research on Sandy Hayden and Hayden Springs. Research suggests that an early Bastrop County settler, Benjamin M. Clopton, may have been Hayden's enslaver based on his 1850 and 1860 slave schedules, both of their occupations as blacksmiths, and Clopton's wife, Justina's maiden name – Hayden - and former birthplace and home in North Carolina. Ms. Myers also discussed the upcoming oral history workshop scheduled for May at Manor City Hall.

**Workshop Flyer:** Once a date and time were set for the oral history workshop, the associate historian, Maria Priebe, created a flyer entitled, "Oral History for the People!," for distribution to Manor-area churches, civic groups, and newspapers to let the public know about the free program. Historian Cynthia Evans and community liaison Eleanor Thompson distributed these flyers to church members after Sunday services leading up to the workshop on May 21, 2022 (See Oral History Workshop in separate section of this report). In the weeks leading up to the workshop, the project team contacted the Austin History Center, community bulletin boards, and the editor of *The Manor Journal*, a local weekly newspaper, to publicize the workshop.

**Parks Springs Cemetery Clean-up Event:** On September 10, 2022, the project director attended a cemetery clean-up and fundraising event at Parks Springs Cemetery to talk about the project and to contact potential oral history candidates. The event proved fruitful as several participants in the clean-up project had either grown up in the community or had relatives who lived near the African American cemetery and church, an area now known as "the Post Oaks." The congregation had purchased an acre of land in the Gordon C. Jennings League for Parks Springs Baptist Church in 1887; in 1898, church trustees including Charles W. Hodge bought \$400 worth of lumber from the Manor Lumber Co. for improvements to the church.<sup>6</sup> In 1893, Claus and Johanna Anderson sold 25 acres of land – also in the Jennings League – to the Parks Springs Cemetery Association trustees Alonzo Johnson, John Wadkins, and Alfred Rainey.<sup>7</sup> The church and cemetery lie immediately north of Sandy Hayden's property in the Jennings League. Several participants agreed to taped interviews and others gave phone numbers of relatives who might participate. Two interviews resulted, that of Barbara Carothers Scott and that of a woman who wishes to remain anonymous.

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<sup>6</sup> Travis County Deed Records: 105: pg. 107; Travis County Deed Records: Mechanic's lien, 123: pg. 607.

<sup>7</sup> *Manor, Texas Past and Present*, <https://manorstories.blogspot.com/2020/12/parks-springs-baptist-church-and.html>, accessed September 24, 2022.



**Figure 8: Bob Ward at Black History Month Event**  
Photo: Terri Myers, 2022

## **EDUCATION**

**Manor ISD:** At the outset, Travis County Historical Commission members volunteered to contact community groups, primarily African American churches and Manor Independent School District administrators, to discuss the purpose of the project and uses of the taped interviews. They also solicited their help in identifying good oral history candidates. In addition, they asked for advice on appropriate ways to approach local narrators (interviewees) on sensitive issues that might arise, including race relations and school segregation in and around the project area.

Educator and TCHC member, Dr. Rosemary Morrow, contacted several Manor ISD officials to gain their support for the project and possibly add an oral history component to their curriculum. As proposed, the project director and/or TCHC volunteers would provide background on the Hayden Springs community and teach some basic oral history techniques to students who might tape interviews with members of their own families as part of the project. Among the educators contacted by Dr. Morrow, was Dr. Christopher Harvey, who serves as Mayor of Manor, as well as the contact for Academics Partners at Manor ISD. Dr. Harvey suggested contacting Debbie Charbonneau, the City's Director of Tourism and Heritage, who was working on a documentary film on Manor. Ms. Charbonneau proved to be immensely helpful in arranging space at City Hall for the oral history workshop and individual interviews.

In addition, Dr. Morrow contacted Courtney Pegues, Assistant Principal at Presidential Meadows Elementary School in Manor. She was informed that Manor ISD had recently hired a Social Studies Specialist who might also be interested in having students participate in the project. The project director followed up on her contacts but, although they expressed interest in the project, they could not commit to including an oral history component to their classrooms at that time. However, student participation was ultimately achieved in the form of a semester-long classroom assignment in Dr. Ruby Oram's



“Introduction to Public History” course at Texas State University, as discussed in more detail elsewhere in this report.

**Texas State University:** In January 2022, Dr. Ruby Oram, an Associate Professor in History at Texas State University, contacted TCHC chairman Bob Ward and the consultants to discuss the possibility of having the undergraduate students in her Introduction to Public History Course work on the Hayden Springs project as a class assignment. They met via Zoom to consider options for student research that would give them an opportunity to learn archival and primary research methods while supporting the Hayden Springs project.

Based on their meeting, Dr. Ruby Oram created a semester-long class assignment that required students to: 1) track surnames of known Hayden Springs residents in U.S. census records from 1870 to 1940 for a mid-term project; 2) locate and research information on African American churches, schools, and businesses in the Hayden Springs area; and 3) make initial contact with community members who might be good oral history candidates. She gave instruction on census, deed, and Sanborn fire insurance map research and had students conduct primary research on some of the early residents and property owners in Hayden Springs, 1866-1940. The students worked in teams of two to produce papers on family histories and land transactions with proper citations and bibliographies. Dr. Oram reported that the quality of the student papers reflected their enthusiasm for a project on real people and places (their work is further detailed in a separate section of this report).

The consultant sent Dr. Oram the TCHC Working Paper and other documents, including a spreadsheet showing population and agricultural schedules for people in the project area to give students some background on the history of Hayden Springs and its inhabitants. She suggested that students use the 1898-1902 Travis County roads map, aka maintenance map, that shows property owners/residents around the Hayden property and Hayden Springs School to map out the core African American community. She provided surnames for research; among them were the Meeks, Banks, Bacon, and Brown family names. She also sent cropped portions of the map that included Sandy Hayden’s land, the school, and property owners in a triangular-shaped region between Manor, Webberville, and Littig to define the project area. Finally, she encouraged Dr. Oram to have her students research property owners' names in an online newspaper archives such as newspapers.com.

Dr. Oram drafted the following course syllabus (in italics) for fifteen undergraduate students as part of her “Introduction to Public History,” course at Texas State University:

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### ***HIST 3368A: Introduction to Public History***

#### ***Hayden Springs Freedom Colony Project***

*Hayden Springs was a Freedom Colony – a community founded by formerly enslaved Texans after emancipation– located in northeast Travis County, TX. The community was named after Sandy Hayden who purchased 500 acres of land between Manor and Webberville after the Civil War and helped organize a settlement of Black landowners in the years that followed. Hayden lived in this area by 1867 and helped found a school for Black children probably in the 1880s. Little else is known about this historically Black community. No public records of Hayden Springs, TX has been found past 1928.*

*Students in this course are among the first historians to research Hayden Springs and help uncover the forgotten history of its community members. Throughout the semester, your research*

*findings will be shared with the Travis County Historical Commission (CHC) as part of a grant-funded project to interpret the history of Hayden Springs for the public. In other words: you will work as real public historians in this class and finish the semester with hands-on experience to add to your resumes.*

*Students will contribute to the Hayden Springs Freedom Colony Project through 3 assignments:*

***Family History Project (individual) 20% - (Week Seven – Midterm Assignment) Due Thursday March 3rd***

*The Travis CHC has researched the last names of several families who likely lived in the Hayden Springs community. But what happened to these families? Did they move elsewhere after 1928? Did they have any children? And if so, what happened to their descendants? Students will help answer these questions by each researching one family name in U.S. Census records from 1900 to 1940. Students will write a five-page paper summarizing and interpreting the results of their findings, which will be shared with the Travis CHC. More information on this project will be introduced in class.*

***Historic Sites Project (in-class) 10% - (Week Eight – Research Method Project) Due March 10<sup>th</sup>***

*We know that the community of Hayden Springs founded a school in the late nineteenth century. But what other institutions may have been founded/used by these community members? Where were they located, and do any still exist in the landscape today? Students will explore these questions by analyzing historic maps of as part of an in-class project with their peers. This project will introduce students to the practice of using digitized Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, an important resource for public historians working at the local level. This entire project will take place during our class sessions of March 8<sup>th</sup> and March 10<sup>th</sup>. More information will be introduced in class.*

***Oral History Project (team) 20% - (Week Fifteen – Final Project) Due May 5<sup>th</sup>***

*Students will help the Travis CHC prepare to conduct oral history interviews by reaching out to community members who may have information on the history of Hayden Springs. This informal communication with community members is a crucial step to help the Travis CHC build bridges with community members in the Manor-Webberville area. Students will work in teams for this project, and each write a 6-page paper summarizing their findings and reflecting on their experiences with the Hayden Springs Freedom Colony Project. More information will be introduced in class.*

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In March 2022, Dr. Oram updated the consultant on student progress to that point; they remained in contact throughout the semester.

Students reviewed Sanborn Maps for the City of Manor to locate sites that might be affiliated with community members. They found four Black churches, a Black hotel, a Black restaurant, the Black high school, and the possible home of Sandy Hayden, which lay in the 200 block of Lexington Street, next to a blacksmith shop. They plotted the sites on a Google Maps (see link below) and indicated the Sanborn map sheets where they found the properties. The 200 block of S. Lexington Street, where Hayden may have lived, lies just over a block from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Baptist Church (Negro) and only 3 blocks from Mt. Zion

and the 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church, all of which are historically Black churches. Thus, the area between present S. Lexington and along present E. Burton streets likely defines the historic Black residential community.

[https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1YBvisCKoxMYI5KyX\\_gloIAUjUIq3GPW&usp=sharing](https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1YBvisCKoxMYI5KyX_gloIAUjUIq3GPW&usp=sharing)

Students also researched the names of Black landowners listed in the 1894-1895, 1898, 1901, and c. 1920 Travis County rural directories and wrote research papers on their findings. In one instance, a student was able to trace the descendants of Louis Meeks through the 1940 census. Students suggested following up on names in the more recent records to possibly identify potential oral history candidates.

In the second half of the semester, students divided into two groups. The largest group focused on census and deed research as the basis for writing narrative histories on the largest landowners in the area, including the Meeks, Banks, and Hayden families. The smaller group focused on outreach to historically Black churches in the area to spread awareness of the project and collect contact information on interested community members. Students in this group were given a short script by Dr. Oram that included a basic overview of the project and the upcoming oral history workshop in Manor.

By the close of the semester in May 2022, the larger group had completed their census and deed research and their papers on family/property histories on some of the largest landowners in the Hayden Springs community. The papers were compiled by Dr. Oram and sent to the consultants for use in the project (See Student Research Papers in Appendix C). The smaller outreach group had no luck in their efforts to engage with community members. They sent email messages and left voicemails for various pastors but had not received any responses by the end of the class assignment; in fact, the consultants experienced similar results.

The TCHC invited Dr. Oram and her students to attend the oral history workshop on May 21, 2022. Dr. Oram and two of her students attended the workshop and briefly discussed their research. In addition, several students expressed an interest to remain involved in the project after the end of the semester. One, Matthew Medina, was eager to continue his deed and census research and asked if there might be volunteer or internship opportunities over the summer. Preservation Central ultimately offered Mr. Medina an internship to create a series of maps showing the evolution of the community from its initial homesteads to its peak between 1880-1915, and its decline after 1928. His work is found in the narrative history of Hayden Springs and in Appendix D.

Dr. Oram followed up by applying for a panel discussion on undergraduate student involvement with the Hayden Springs Freedmen Community at the Texas Historical Commission's "Real Places Conference" in February 2023. Her proposal started with TCHC chairman, Bob Ward, and project director, Terri Myers, giving an overview of the project. Next, she planned for students to share what they had learned about Texas history and what they gained from the experience. Finally, she would offer concluding thoughts on the importance of involving students – including undergraduates – in public history projects. The THC accepted Dr. Oram's application; the panel, including student Matthew Medina, made its presentation on Thursday, February 2, 2022, 2:15-3:30 p.m. at the Doubletree Hilton in Austin.

Student involvement with the Hayden Springs project contributed immensely to our knowledge about the former Freedmen Community. Their research has been incorporated throughout the narrative history of Sandy Hayden and the Hayden Springs community which appears in a separate section of this report. According to Dr. Oram, the project was meaningful to many of the students, especially because it gave them an opportunity to contribute to a real-world project. When the consultant told Dr. Oram how important and well-researched their research had been to the narrative, she replied, "The quality of their

work reflects how invested these students were in the research! They really enjoyed being a part of this project.”

Student papers were edited and compiled by Dr. Ruby Oram under the title, “Hayden Springs Freedom Colony Project Family and Property Histories of Hayden Springs Community Members.” The following Texas State University students wrote family and property histories that are included in this report in Appendix C. Their findings were incorporated into the narrative history.

#### Texas State University Students and Research Topics

Renaldo Josue Funez Sanchez: Sandy Hayden – Family History

Berkley Kading and Matthew Medina: Sandy Hayden – Property History

Montana Copeland and Travis Leffall: Hinton Banks – Family History

Darrell Correia and Blakely McCullough: Henderson Banks – Family History

Darrell Correia and Blakely McCullough: Hinton and Henderson Banks – Property History

Alyssa Cradit and Chloe Johnson: Louis Meeks – Family History

Alyssa Cradit and Chloe Johnson: Louis Meeks – Property History

Elijah Williams Harms and Willow Shaw: Charley Morrow -- Family History

Elijah Williams Harms and Willow Shaw: Charley Morrow – Property History

Trinity Abels and Matthew Medina: Will Hill – Family History

Trinity Abels and Sophie Moore: Ike Brown – Family and Property History

Berkley Kading: Dock Merritt – Family History

Nkundimana Claude: Henry Brown – Family History

Zavier Cienfuegos: Joshua Pope – Family History

Zavier Cienfuegos and Renaldo Josue Funez Sanchez: Robert Bacon – Family History

Arthur Fairchild: James Smith – Family History

***Oral History Workshop:*** On Saturday May 21, 2022, the TCHC held a public oral history workshop led by consultants Preservation Central in Council Chambers at Manor City Hall. The workshop was geared to an audience of non-professionals who might want to try their hand at taping oral histories with family or church members, friends and classmates for personal use rather than academic use. It was open to the public and included workshop on basic oral history techniques. The consultants gave each participant a packet with information on sources and tips for conducting their own oral histories. A draft of an oral history manual created for the project, *Oral History for the People!*, was also included in the packet. Slides used in the presentation are included in this report as Appendix A.

The purpose of the workshop was to train participants in basic, accepted oral history techniques and practices. Consultant Terri Myers, of Preservation Central, organized the workshop with the help of TCHC Chairman Bob Ward, City of Manor Heritage and Tourism Manager, Debbie Charbonneau, and TCHC members Lydia Moore and Stephanie Lang, historian Cynthia Evans, and community liaison, Eleanor Thompson. Bob Ward welcomed the participants and introduced the project and its purpose. Project director, Terri Myers went over the agenda.



**Figure 9: TCHC Oral History Workshop**

Photo: Xade Biscoe, 2022

Historian Cynthia Evans presented sources and methods used in conducting research for African Americans and their communities and took questions from the audience. Ms. Moore and Ms. Thompson spoke about the challenges and rewards of researching African American history.

Ms. Myers presented a slide presentation created for the workshop on basic oral history techniques and equipment. She showed several types of recorders for taping oral histories and compared them as to their cost and relative ease of use. She demonstrated how to operate simple cassette tape recorders.

Most of the presentation centered on topics such as identifying good candidates for interviews, crafting open-ended questions for the best, most detailed results, and focusing the discussion on themes or topics relevant to specific projects, such as the Hayden Springs community. She discussed oral history “etiquette,” including research that should be done prior to the interview, setting up the interview, taking down vital information at the start of an interview, practicing good listening skills, giving your interviewee enough time and opportunity to speak and explain themselves. Finally, she spoke about ways of ending the interview, obtaining release forms for tapes and transcripts, and important follow-up activities, like sending handwritten “thank you” cards to the narrator.

Dr. Ruby Oram, Associate Professor of History at Texas State University, introduced two of her students in her “Introduction to Public History,” class. They were among 15 students in the undergraduate class

who conducted archival research on residents of Hayden Springs. They were particularly interested in the assignment because their findings would contribute to a real-world project.



**Figure 10: Recording and Transcribing Equipment Showcased at the Workshop**  
Photos: Terri Myers, 2022

***Oral History Manual:*** At the suggestion of the Texas CLG Coordinator, the consultants created an oral history manual for lay historians or non-professionals. Associate historian Maria Priebe found numerous publications available online and chose the Baylor University Oral History Manual as the best model for current and best practices in the field. She used the Baylor manual as a springboard for developing a less-structured guidebook to taping and transcribing oral histories.

The resultant “Oral History for the People!” manual is intended as a basic guide for non-professionals to tape informal interviews with family and church members, classmates, and friends, primarily for personal rather than archival use.

A draft of the manual was included in packets for participants in the commission’s oral history workshop, held in Manor on May 21, 2022. Travis County later printed the manual, which is included in this report as Appendix B.

## **PARTNERSHIPS**



Preservation Central collaborated with members of the Travis County Historical Commission, especially Richard Denney, Lanny Ottosen, Lydia Moore, and chairman, Bob Ward.

Over the course of the project (August 2021 through September 2022), the Commission and consultant formed partnerships with individuals, organizations, city governments, college professors and students, as well as a documentary film crew. These partnerships helped fill in many of the gaps in the history of Hayden Springs but perhaps more importantly, they encouraged everyday people to pursue their own history by taping family members, schoolmates, church members, and other personal contacts whose stories and experiences might otherwise be left unknown.

Other partnerships made during the course of the project include the following people and groups.

***Ruth Biscoe, Black History Month Celebration:*** Ruth Biscoe allowed the TCHC and consultants to promote the project to participants at the Black History event at Manor City Hall. She helped publicize the project and later sat for an oral history.

***City of Manor:*** The City of Manor supported the project in many ways, most importantly in the use of Council chambers for the oral history workshop and in providing space for the first oral history with Wayne Schneider.

***Debbie Charbonneau:*** Debbie Charbonneau gets her own accolades: The TCHC and the consultants are so grateful to Debbie Charbonneau, Manager of Heritage and Tourism for the City of Manor, who worked with them from February through the spring and early summer of 2022. Ms. Charbonneau not only arranged for Council Chambers and the use of the city's AV equipment, she also attended the workshop, set up tables and equipment, made coffee and iced tea, and cleaned up afterwards!

***Austin History Center:*** On April 19, 2022, the project director contacted Audio Visual Archivist Afsheen Nomai at the Austin History Center for advice on the oral history workshop and other topics related to the Hayden Springs project. On May 12, Ms. Myers met with Mr. Nomai and African American Community Archivist, Jacqueline Smith-Francis, at the Austin History Center. Mr. Nomai agreed to archive the tapes and transcripts from the project at the center. He provided us with the required release forms for transcripts and tapes, as well as handouts on tips for oral histories. Other AHC staff, including Vanessa Hutchins, were generous with their time over the course of the project research.

***Texas Freedom Colony Project:*** Dr. Andrea Roberts of Texas A&M University provided publicity for and participated in the oral history workshop at Bob Bullock Texas History Museum.

***Austin Freedom Communities Documentary Film Project:*** Film director Funmi Ogunro arranged for Stephanie Lang to interview the TCHC Chairman and consultant for a documentary film on Central Texas Freedom colonies at Ms. Myers' home.

***Texas State University:*** See details in a separate section of this report.

## **ORAL HISTORIES**

The purpose of conducting oral histories was to fill-in gaps in the public record about the lives, occupations, folkways, and legacy of freedmen who created their own community in the project area during the first decades after Emancipation. Some family photographs and ephemera were copied by the consultants for use in the narrative history and final completion report.

As part of the work program, the consultants sought interviews with descendants of families associated with Hayden Springs, or, as it turned out, "the Post Oaks." Oral histories were intended to fill in the gaps

in written or public records on Hayden Springs, such as the founders' names, their relationships, religious affiliations, cultural traditions and lifeways, land ownership or tenancy, occupations, and degree and level of education. Of particular interest was the location, physical description, and ultimate disposition of Hayden Springs School, which served the community for 44 years, from 1884, when Sandy Hayden an acre of land for "school purposes," until 1928, when Hayden Springs School closed its doors for the last time.

Unless restricted by the interviewee, transcripts of the oral histories will be available and easily accessible to the public at the Austin History Center, in downtown Austin.

**Project Interviews:** Eight oral histories were conducted for this project. This section identifies the narrators and briefly describes topics covered in the interviews. More information and additional themes are contained in full or partial transcripts, and tapes on file at the Austin History Center.

**Wayne Schneider, interview at Manor City Hall, July 14, 2022. [See more complete transcript of this interview on file at the Austin History Center].**

Mr. Schneider is a white resident of Hayden Springs who attended Manor public schools when they were still segregated; he graduated from school in 1962 [Manor schools were integrated in 1966]. He lives on or next to Sandy Hayden's homestead tract.

Mr. Schneider told us about his own research on Sandy Hayden. In 1952, his father, bought 51.53 acres of land on Blake Manor Road. A 4-room house with a bath and a water well stood on the property; it was demolished. In the mid-1980s, Wayne and his wife built a new house on the 51 acres. From deed and other records, he believes his property is on Sandy Hayden's homestead. The "tenant shack" on East Metro Park was on the site in 1952 when Wayne Schneider's family moved there. Schneider thought the 4-room building where the parking lot for the swimming pool [on East Metro Park] is now, may have been the school [Sandy Hayden aka Hayden Springs school]. He said a deed indicated there was a springs on Sandy Hayden's property line. He also referred to a December 2, 1873 voter record from Webberville signed by Sandy Hayden's who was an election official at that time.

Schneider said the area along Blake Manor Road was almost entirely rural in the 1950s and 1960s. Blake Manor was a dirt road. People raised turnips, cotton, and corn. Other houses in the area were "old, poor, frame houses." There were springs behind the "tenant shack" that bubbled up from the ground [it is still extant]. He said that most of his neighbors were Black, including the Banks and Easley families [Hinton Banks and some of the Easleys were among the early residents of the Hayden Springs community]. Rev. Aaron Taylor lived in a house on present East Metro Park; the house serves as the maintenance building.

**Adrian Fowler, interview at her home, July 26, 2022. [See more complete transcript of this interview on file at the Austin History Center].**

Adrian Rhae Fowler was born at Holy Cross Hospital in Austin; her father, Son Jica aka Jake or S.J., was an Austin native but her mother, Ruby Rhae Harrison Fowler lived in a rural area called "the Post Oaks" [which we later learned encompasses Hayden Springs]. Ms. Fowler spent summers and weekends in "the Post Oaks" where her grandparents lived.

Her maternal grandparents were Dub Green and Sarah Hunter Green; great-grandparents gave Dub and Sarah 200 acres of land in the Post Oaks as a wedding gift. Adrian spent summers and weekends with her grandparents in the country. She attended school in both Littig and in Manor; boarded with aunt and uncle. She spoke about Union Lee Baptist Church in the Post Oaks where her parents spent the 19<sup>th</sup> of June. Family didn't grow cotton, mostly cattle and hay in the post Oaks. Her grandmother sold off 100

acres of land – boys were in World War II, Mexico, and in the oil fields – scattered all over – and she and her youngest boys couldn't work the land. Adrian and her brother split 65 of the 200 acres.

Gravel Hill School [near the Easley and Ike Brown cemeteries] was built on 2 ½ acres of the 200 acre tract. It was a Rosenwald School. The community had to put up the land and labor. Julius Rosenwald was CFO for Sears and Roebuck Co, knew Booker T. Washington. He saw schools as a way of expanding into Black markets – people had to be able to read to order merchandise from their catalogs. A community had to give a minimum of 2 ½ acres for a 1-room school, so great grandfather and grandmother gave the land and the first \$20 for the school. It was built on the north 100 acres of the tract. Her father's sister taught there; she would teach all week and come back to Austin on the weekends.

Family names in the Post Oaks included the Easleys, Banks, Sterlings, Browns, Lockwoods. The Taylors came later. The maintenance building on East Metro Park was the Taylor's home and the "tenant" house was on the Taylor's property.

**Elbert Randolph Burns, interview at his home on July 22, 2022. [See more complete transcript of this interview on file at the Austin History Center].**

Mr. Burns, a lifelong resident of Manor, talked about attending Manor Colored School: he graduated in the first integrated class at Manor High School in 1967. His mother died in 1962 when he was only twelve years old. The youngest of nine children, he continued to live in his mother's house built in 1947 on Parsons Street. He worked in maintenance at the Colored School to help support himself. For most of his life, from 1967 onward except for a few brief stints elsewhere, he worked for the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department; he retired as a Senior Equipment Operator. In his narrative, Mr. Burns spoke about living in Manor when Black people could patronize local restaurants but had to order at the back door. Still, he expressed love for Manor and thought it was a beautiful place to live.

Burn's extended family include the Gildens and Jacksons, some of whom lived in "the Post Oaks" [including the Hayden Springs area]. He recalled that Manor kids considered "the Post Oaks" as "country" – but not as an insult – among those who lived there were members of the Banks, Gilden, and Washington families, Bud aka "Bubby" and Bernadette Easley who lived not very far from East Metro Park. He said those families go way back in Manor history. Beau Clarence Gilden raised a garden and had hogs. Children there had the advantage of having good food to eat from their farms. Even in town, his mother had a big garden, fruit trees, chickens and hogs.

**Barbara Carothers Scott, interview at her home, September 21, 2022. [See more complete transcript of this interview on file at the Austin History Center].**

Ms. Scott's parents, Bobbie Lee Smith Carothers and Dalmason Carothers, grew up in Manor but her grandparents on her mother's side, Elton Smith and Evellar Lowe Smith, lived in "the Post Oaks" near Union Lee Baptist Church where she spent summers and holidays with them on their farm.

Ms. Scott talked about her family, living in Austin, and St. John's Association in summers, but she also talked about her grandparents' lives as sharecroppers on a 22-acre farm near Manor. They had cows, chickens and hogs. Her grandfather was well known as a doctor, especially for livestock; he knew how to use berries, leaves and barks from Oaks and would boil them in a big pot out in the yard. Even white doctors asked for his advice. Elton Smith built his own house and a separate kitchen. His mother was Georgia Banks [the Banks family was among the earliest settlers in Hayden Springs].

Ms. Scott also talked about her Native American heritage on her maternal grandmother's side – Evellar Lowe – of the family. Evellar's mother was Nancy Lowe who had to go to Muskogee, Oklahoma periodically to verify her association with a tribe – Blackfoot and possibly Seminole, from Florida.

**Willie Ruth Taylor Biscoe, interview at her home in Manor, September 11, 2022. [See more complete transcript of this interview on file at the Austin History Center].**

Ms. Biscoe grew up in the town of Manor and graduated in the first integrated class with Elbert Burns. Her parents were Maudesta Routt and Willie Chester Taylor. She spoke about the strong Black women in the town who influenced her, including Carrie Manor, Erma and Beulah Joyner, Beatrice Routt, and Maude Taylor. Her mother served on the Manor City Council for two decades. They lived on Eggleston Street alongside members of the Routt and Taylor families. She recalled that she didn't really experience racial prejudice in Manor, but Blacks had to place orders at the back door of restaurants. She was raised to help others and continues to be a community activist in Manor. Ms. Biscoe remembered the names of many Black families who lived in Manor during her childhood.

Even though she grew up in town, Ms. Biscoe helped her father who farmed on the Eppright's land on Blake Manor Road. He farmed cotton, corn, black eyed peas, hay, squash, potatoes, snap beans, and cucumbers. Where the Dollar Store is now, was all in agriculture – grew corn and grazed horses and cows. As a child, she chopped and picked cotton and chopped weeds.

She recalled families who lived in "the Post Oaks" – Leroy Green, Alvin Banks, and Babe and Toot Easley. Her family also had familial connections with people at Parks Springs Baptist Church [just north of Sandy Hayden's homestead]. Sam Green drove the school bus for Black kids out in the country. The Easleys raised a lot of pigs and [the children] would bring sausage cracklins, and sausage patties [to school].

**Lydia Ann Hayden West-Moore, interview at Preservation Central office, September 12, 2022. [See more complete transcript of this interview on file at the Austin History Center].**

Ms. Moore is a direct descendant of Sandy Hayden; her great-grandfather was Samuel Hayden, Sandy Hayden's oldest child with his wife, Eliza Hancock Hayden. Her father, Garnet Wanamacker Hayden, was the son of Samuel and his wife, Lydia, who raised their children in Waco, Texas where Samuel was a teacher and a minister.

Lydia Moore did not grow up in the rural country around Manor where Sandy Hayden settled in the 1870s, but she talked about the treatment of Blacks based on the color of their skin and how that has stayed with them despite Emancipation. She spoke about her family, mostly on her mother's side, the Van Zandts. She talked about her life as a child growing up on E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street in East Austin. She identified many Black businesses and churches in the area, as well as her neighbors on San Bernard Street.

Ms. Moore had a long career as an educator in Austin schools. She spoke about her own experiences with racial prejudice when Austin schools integrated, as well as the teachers and principals who influenced her. She expressed her belief that "Education is power."

**Eleanor Faye Davis Thompson, interview at her home, September 4, 2022. Though she grew up in East Austin, Ms. Thompson has deep roots in rural Travis County, both north and east of the city.**

Ms. Thompson's maternal great-grandfather Rubin Hancock [thought to have been the son or brother of John Hancock, a white judge, Unionist Texas legislator, and twice elected U.S. Congressman] bought a 100-acre farm around Waters Park, north of Austin, shortly after Emancipation. Rubin's daughter,

Martha Ann Hancock, married Crawford Walker, a wealthy widower who had a farm and vegetable canning business in eastern Travis County. Crawford Walker organized [or was one of the organizers] of Rock Quarry Church and the adjacent Black school in the Hornsby-Dunlap area.

Her paternal grandparents were Horace and Maggie Clayton Davis. Horace Davis organized Davis Chapel Baptist Church in southeastern Travis County, where Bergstrom Air Force base and the Austin Airport are now. The church name “moved” to the Howson Center, then to 14<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut Street in the 1940s. Finally, a new church was designed by noted Black architect, John Chase, built on MLK Blvd. about 1959 or 1960.

Education was important to her family; her mother graduated from Tillotson College, one of two early Black colleges established in Austin in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Ms. Thompson talked about Rev. Jacob Fontaine and the St. John’s Association encampments every summer.

She also spoke about her varied career as a director of early childhood education programs in England and Germany, and back in Texas at Bergstrom Air Force Base, as well as her current work and advocacy to reduce the incarceration of Black teens for minor crimes.

**Anonymous, interview at residence in Manor, September 20, 2022. The narrator spoke about families who lived in “the Post Oaks” and the area between Manor and “the Post Oaks.”**  
[Transcript not available].

People had large vegetable gardens, farmed cotton and corn, raised cows and chickens. They sold some and shared with others in the community. Some attended Parks Springs Church or Union Lee Church. They always looked forward to the St. John’s Association gatherings in July. The narrator spoke about service at Gilden Creek and Little Zion churches in Manor.

The narrator and other children picked cotton in fields around Manor, then they were on to Hutto, Pflugerville, and Rice Crossing in the 1950s and 1960s. A big truck would come through and pick them up. They worked in the fields in summer to make some money for new school clothes. Mothers would take all their children – the youngest didn’t pick; mothers sometimes laid cotton sacks under a trailer so the little kids could stay in the shade. The narrator said it was a hard life.

## **WORK PRODUCTS**

Work products include a narrative history of Sandy Hayden and the Hayden Springs Freedmen Community, an oral history manual for lay historians entitled “Oral History For the People!,” a packet of handouts and interview tips for participants in the oral history workshop, power point presentation used in the oral history workshop, eight taped oral histories and partial or indexed transcripts, an Excel spreadsheet with census data for the community, Texas State University student papers for a semester-long class assignment, historic photographs and maps, and maps created to illustrate the evolution of the community from historic maps. Work products are attached as appendices or are incorporated into this report. A bound volume of the oral history manual is submitted separately.

### **Appendices**

#### **Appendix A: Oral History Workshop Packet and Slide Presentation**

- Draft oral history manual
- Tips on basic oral histories
- Sample open-ended questions

- Release forms for tapes and transcripts as required for archiving at the Austin History Center
- Examples of Ex-Slave Narratives in Austin area: Henry Hence Smith; Photos of Emma Spence Bunton and John Crawford. Henry Hence Smith and John Crawford were born on plantations later occupied by the town of Manor
- Handout: “Hayden Springs Historical Investigations,” Flyer: “Oral History for the People!”

**Appendix B:** Oral History Manual, “Oral History For the People!” (also as separate bound volume)

**Appendix C:** Texas State University Student Research Papers

**Appendix D:** Historic and Overlay Maps

**Appendix E:** Voter Registration and Census Research

**Work products also include:**

Seven Oral History tapes and transcripts archived at the Austin History Center; one unavailable.

Narrative History of Sandy Hayden and Hayden Springs Community (incorporated into this report)

Historic photographs courtesy of Barbara Carothers Scott (in Narrative History)

One of the obstacles encountered by the consultants was finding narrators willing to be interviewed. In two instances, appointments were scheduled but when the interviewer arrived, the narrators declined to be interviewed. In another case, the interview took place, but the narrator later changed her mind and asked that it not be included in the project. These difficulties may be attributed to the narrators’ understandable hesitancy to share their personal stories with strangers, especially white outsiders with no ties to the rural community. Upon reflection, having a known and respected local person as a go-between for the interview may have mitigated some of these concerns. By now, more people in the Manor area have heard about the project and narrators may yet agree to interviews in the future.

As a result, the project yielded eight taped and partially transcribed interviews instead of the ten (10) proposed. The tapes and partial or indexed transcripts will be archived at the Austin History Center as per our agreement with staff. Other work products include a narrative history of Sandy Hayden, his immediate family, and the Hayden Springs community from primary and secondary research, and oral histories. Some narrators also allowed the consultants to copy their historic photographs for the narrative.

Preservation Central has prepared this completion report to describe the work program, field and research methods, level and extent of community engagement, volunteer contributions, and research findings including contributions from narrators whose ancestors settled in Hayden Springs in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

As an addendum, the Travis County Historical Commission will host a public presentation on the project and its findings. The TCHC will invite narrators, community members, and the students who researched some of the families who lived in Hayden Springs to attend and add their experiences with the project.

## **FUTURE GOALS**

***Interpretive Kiosk:*** An expected future outcome of the project is coordination and cooperation with the Travis County Parks Department to create an educational kiosk on the history of Hayden Springs as a Freedmen Community. It may be placed near the surviving frame building from Sandy Hayden’s homestead on East Metro Park. The purpose of the kiosk is the same as the project: to educate visitors about the Hayden Springs Freedmen Community that once stood on and around the present county park as recorded in the oral histories from those who lived in or grew up in the area now known as “the Post Oaks.”



**Figure 7: East Metro Park Kiosk**

Photo: Terri Myers, 2022

***Final Presentation:*** A final presentation is planned to let the public, especially the volunteers, teachers, students, and interviewees know what we have learned about Hayden Springs from archival research and oral histories. A slide presentation will describe the goals and results of the project. It will include historic photographs, maps, and other documentation found during the course of the project. The consultants and commission members will take questions and comments from the community and offer further opportunities to continue the work if they so desire.

***Oral History Workshop:*** The Travis County Historical Commission plans another oral history workshop along with a final presentation by the consultants.

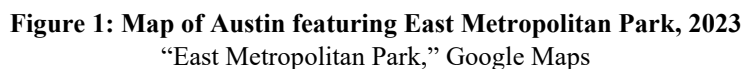
***Additional Oral Histories:*** The Commission may continue its work on Hayden Springs with additional oral histories from narrators who were not able to site for interviews within the official CLG timeframe.

## **NARRATIVE HISTORY: SANDY HAYDEN AND THE HAYDEN SPRINGS FREEDMEN COMMUNITY**

*The project director, Historian Terri Myers, and Associate Historian, Maria Priebe, collaborated on the following historic narrative for Sandy Hayden and the Hayden Springs Community. It includes a brief background of conditions for African Americans in Travis County after Emancipation. The narrative traces Sandy Hayden and his family from 1866 when Hayden bought his first properties in the town of Webberville through a period in which he bought more than 400 acres in the Buckman and Jennings Leagues between Manor and Webberville, to the break-up of his land at the turn of the twentieth century, to his death in 1908. It also follows the Banks, Isaac Brown, Robert H. Bacon, and other families in the community. Part of the narrative focuses on the establishment of Hayden Springs School in 1884 and its long 40-year history at the heart of the community, until it was closed in 1928. This narrative history may be used as a stand-alone document; therefore, the figures are numbered independent of the Project Report.*



Historians have studied and documented a handful of rural Freedmen communities that now lie within Austin’s present city limits; among the best known are Clarksville, Wheatville, and Robertson Hill, all of which emerged from former plantations on Austin’s periphery and were later absorbed by the city as it expanded into the surrounding countryside in the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Considerably less attention has been given to rural Freedmen communities further from the Texas capital, some of which remained relatively autonomous – and invisible – through much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>8</sup> Hayden Springs, a former Freedmen Community (aka “Freedom Colony”), located on and around present-day East Metro Park in northeastern Travis County (Figure 1), is one example.<sup>9</sup>



<sup>8</sup> The dearth of information on rural Freedmen communities in Travis County may be attributable to their isolation and limited relevance to Austin's historic social and political life, in general, and to their identification with African Americans, in particular.

32

community in an obscure, previously undeveloped part of Travis County.<sup>10</sup> The following narrative attempts to tell at least part of their story, celebrate their achievements, and make it publicly accessible to their descendants and future generations.

### **Freedom or Freedmen Communities**

In the years immediately following Emancipation, formerly enslaved African Americans were confronted with racial violence, poverty, and prejudice as they sought to establish new lives for themselves and their families as Freedmen. Among the choices facing rural Freedmen, in particular, was whether to stay on or near the farms or “plantations” where they had been enslaved, or move elsewhere. A litany of factors likely affected their decision: opportunities (or lack thereof) to support themselves and their families, ties to the land or their former enslavers, fear of racial violence, familial relationships, age and health, and the type and level of skills they had developed during bondage, among others.

From hundreds of interviews transcribed and compiled in the “Ex-Slave Narratives” of the 1930s,<sup>11</sup> we understand that many Freedmen initially remained on their former enslavers’ land; some stayed to bring in the first harvest after Emancipation, while others worked a few years as sharecroppers or tenant farmers before moving on. However, an estimated one-quarter of Freedmen immediately left their enslaver’s property. Mirroring a larger migration pattern among Freedmen throughout the South, many moved to nearby towns or cities to work for wages.<sup>12</sup> Austin’s relatively high Black population (estimated at 30% before the Civil War)<sup>13</sup> and designation as the headquarters of the Freedmen’s Bureau in Texas, made it an attractive destination for Freedmen hoping to establish new lives – even new identities – reunite with lost family members, and enjoy a semblance of safety under military protection.<sup>14</sup> As a result, Austin’s African American population surged in the 1860s, growing by as much as 57% over the previous census recorded in 1850.<sup>15</sup>

Some Freedmen lived on their own or with their employers, but many clustered together in Freedmen Communities that sprang up in towns and rural areas across the South, including Texas. The term “Freedmen Community” (aka “Freedom Colony”) applies to a range of experiences: all-Black towns, communities formed on the periphery of cities to take advantage of nearby resources and employment while simultaneously maintaining distance from potential conflict with whites, or more isolated and self-sustaining agricultural settlements. Such communities provided mutual aid and a higher degree of protection against white antagonists who preyed on, sometimes terrorized, and even killed, Freedmen who lived alone or in isolated households.

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<sup>10</sup> Texas Antiquities Committee, *Archaeological Investigations at Travis County’s Proposed East Metro Park; The Lawrence Tract, Travis County, Texas*, 2002. As reported in Travis County Historical Commission, “Hayden Springs School, East Metro Park,” Working Paper, May 2020.

<sup>11</sup> Ira Berlin, Marc Favreau, and Stephen E. Miller, editors, *Remembering Slavery: African Americans Talk About Their Personal Experiences of Slavery and Freedom*. New York: The New Press, 1998).

<sup>12</sup> Michelle M. Mears, *And Grace Will Lead Me Home: African American Freedmen Communities of Austin, Texas 1865-1928* (Lubbock: Texas Tech University Press, 2009), pages 7-8.

<sup>13</sup> Mears, 6.

<sup>14</sup> Mears, 25.

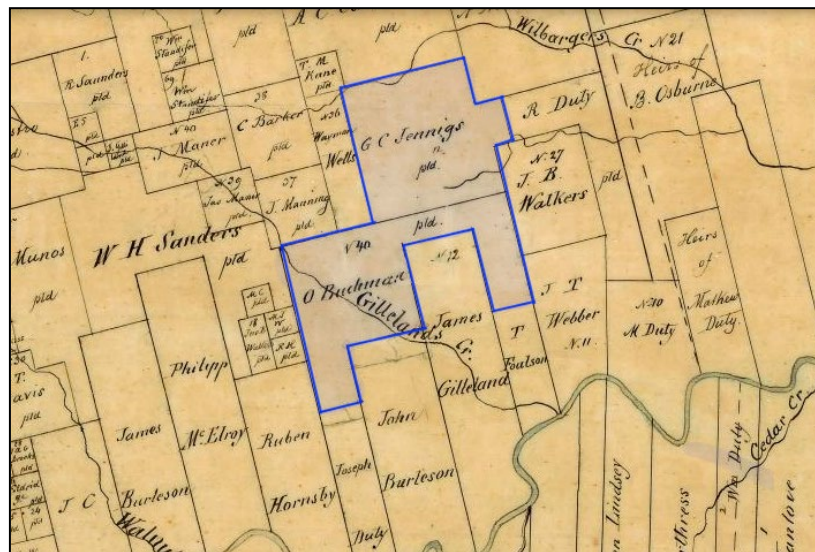
<sup>15</sup> David C. Humphrey, “Austin, TX (Travis County),” *Handbook of Texas Online*, Texas State Historical Association, 1976, Updated September 8, 2020, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/austin-tx-travis-county>.

According to historian Michelle M. Mears, Freedmen communities commonly formed around a centralized church or school – often in the same building – which fostered strong social structures based on the foundational importance of education and religious assembly in the post-Emancipation South.<sup>16</sup> While these settlements were often located in undesirable areas and lacked amenities available to most white communities, they served as sanctuaries where formerly enslaved African Americans might achieve a degree of social and economic stability, even mobility, in the uncertain world of the post-Emancipation South.<sup>17</sup>

While Freedmen enclaves in or at the edge of towns or cities provided greater access to conveniences and work opportunities, rural settlements offered the security and familiarity of an agricultural way of life for those who had been enslaved on farms or plantations. Rural settlements also accorded greater isolation from white society. Described by historians Thad Sitton and James Conrad as communities of “avoidance” and “self-segregation,” rural Freedmen settlements often represented places “where black people adapted to Jim Crow restrictions not by fighting back or moving north, but by withdrawing from whites and by maintaining ... a culture of dissemblance.”<sup>18</sup> It was in this context that the Hayden Springs Freedmen Community formed in rural northeastern Travis County shortly after Emancipation.

### Hayden Springs Freedmen Community

The core of the Hayden Springs Freedmen Community formed in mid-1870s, after Sandy Hayden, a formerly enslaved blacksmith, bought large tracts of previously unimproved land in the Oliver Buckman and Gordon C. Jennings surveys in northeastern Travis County (Figure 2).



**Figure 2: Buckman & Jennings Leagues**  
Map of Travis County, date unknown

<sup>16</sup> Hicks and Company, Elizabeth Porterfield, MSHP, *African-American Settlement Survey, Travis County, Texas*, For Travis County Historical Commission, October 2016, page 3.

<sup>17</sup> Mears, 3.

<sup>18</sup> Thad Sitton and James Conrad, *Freedom Colonies: Independent Black Texans in the Time of Jim Crow* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2005), page 13.





with high numbers of enslaved people living on their “plantations” (Table A).<sup>21</sup> These family names appear in post-Emancipation census records for Black families in the same area, i.e., northeast Travis County.

**Table A: White Land Ownership in Precinct 3, Webberville District (1860)**

	Improved Land	Unimproved Land	Cash Value of Farm	Number of Enslaved People	Houses of Enslaved People
John B Bacon	100 acres	750 acres	\$5,750	14	4
Gaston H Banks	210 acres	390 acres	\$8,000	30	8
John B Banks	400 acres	1,700 acres	\$18,000	31	8
Burgess C Brown	50 acres	125 acres	\$1,750	7	3
John Meeks	75 acres	420 acres	\$2,500	12	3

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, “Agricultural Schedule,” Travis County, Texas, 1860; U.S. Census Bureau, “Slave Schedule,” Travis County, Texas, 1860.*

In the 1870 census for the same area, a number of Black families appear with last names of Bacon, Banks, Brown, and Meeks, making it reasonable to assume that they had been enslaved on the plantations described in Table A.<sup>22</sup> At the same time, we cannot assume the converse that Black families with last names that differ from those of nearby plantation owners were new arrivals to the area. Following Emancipation, many Freedmen adopted new surnames rather than adopt their former enslavers’ names.

The 1867 Voter Registration rolls show that many of the Freedmen who settled in and around Hayden Springs, as well as their former enslavers, arrived in Texas between 1842-1860, although a few, including Sandy Hayden, had come earlier when much of the region was a veritable wilderness.<sup>23</sup> The period between 1842-1860 coincided with a cotton boom in Texas spurred, in part, by the forced removal of Indigenous peoples from the area. As new areas became available for cotton cultivation, Anglo-Americans from the Upper South, especially the states of Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina, migrated to Texas to engage in the profitable trade.<sup>24</sup> The forced migration of enslaved people that ensued was part of a larger phenomenon that had begun decades earlier, known as the “Second Middle Passage.”<sup>25</sup> Driven by the invention of the cotton gin, the end of legal slave trade in the United States, and Indian Removal from the Southeast, the cotton industry experienced unprecedented growth between the

<sup>21</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, “Agricultural Schedule,” Travis County, Texas, Webberville District, Precinct 3, 1860; U.S. Census Bureau, “Slave Schedule,” Travis County, Texas, Precinct 3, 1860.

<sup>22</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, “Population Schedule,” Travis County, Texas, Webberville, Precinct 1, 1870.

<sup>23</sup> Travis County, Texas, “Voter Registration Rolls,” 1867-1869, pages 99-103.

<sup>24</sup> Karen G. Britton, Fred C. Elliot, and E.A. Miller, “Cotton Culture,” *Handbook of Texas Online*, Texas State Historical Association, 1976, updated October 7, 2020, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/cotton-culture>.

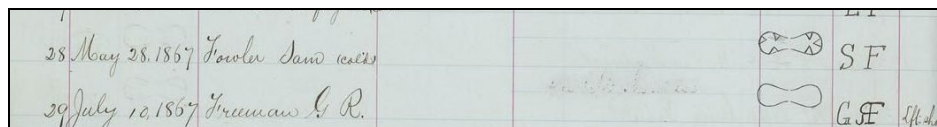
<sup>25</sup> “The Second Middle Passage,” New York Historical Society Museum & Library online, accessed Aug. 9, 2022, [https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as\\_sdt=0%2C44&q=second+middle+passage&btnG=](https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=0%2C44&q=second+middle+passage&btnG=).

ratification of the U.S. Constitution (1787) and the Civil War (1861).<sup>26</sup> During this period, an estimated one million enslaved people were forcibly relocated from the Upper South to the Lower South.<sup>27</sup>

The arrival of many eventual residents of Hayden Springs to Texas between 1842-1860, after President Lamar launched a campaign to expel Indigenous peoples from Texas and thereby open new land for cotton cultivation, was likely not a coincidence. Finally, many white Southerners relocated to Texas just before and during the Civil War to preserve their way of life which depended on slave labor. Of those interviewed for the WPA Ex-Slave Narratives project, some referred to their relocation to Texas just prior to and during the war as “being refugeeed,” or “refugeeing”; Austin area resident Mattie Williams recalled in her 1936 interview that, “We were refugeeed to Webberville.”<sup>28</sup>

After the Civil War, the Reconstruction government was responsible for selling or trading Texas’s public land to pay off the state’s war debts. Fearful that Freedmen who bought land would become “too independent,” the Federal government passed the Homestead Act of 1866, which accorded 160 acres of free land to thousands of would-be farmers, including immigrants who arrived in increasing numbers to America after the war, except for Blacks.<sup>29</sup> Like many other “Black Codes,” the Homestead Act, by excluding formerly enslaved Texans from obtaining free land, ensured their availability as a cheap labor force. The most immediate effect of the Act was in making it exceedingly difficult for Freedmen to obtain land after Emancipation. In fact, according to historian Michele Mears, only 1.8% of Black farmers in Texas owned land in 1870.<sup>30</sup>

Black land ownership in and around Hayden Springs in the first decade after the war seems, at first glance, to bear this out. The 1870 Agricultural Schedules list white farmers who own land in the area but only a few Black farmers of any type: renters, sharecroppers, or landowners. That could be due, in part, to the short amount of time that had passed since Emancipation when it was possible for Blacks to become landowners, but it could also be due to enumerator bias, at least in Hayden Springs. Deed records indicate that a number of Freedmen, including Sandy Hayden, Sam Fowler (Figure 4),<sup>31</sup> and Charles Easley, owned farms in the area by 1870, but their names weren’t recorded in the Agricultural schedules. But it is also true that most Freedmen in the area worked as tenant farmers or sharecroppers, at that time.



**Figure 4: Cattle Brand of Sam Fowler (col'd)**  
Travis County Register of Marks and Brands, 1840/1893, page 140

<sup>26</sup> Britton, Elliot, and Miller, 1976.

<sup>27</sup> Walter Johnson, *Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999), page 5.

<sup>28</sup> “Mattie Williams,” *Ex-Slave Narratives*, interview with Alfred Menn, 1936, page 371.

<sup>29</sup> Mears, 66.

<sup>30</sup> Mears, 67.

<sup>31</sup> Travis County Clerk’s Office, Register of Marks and Brands, 1840/1893, “Marks and Brands Record 1,” page 140. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph834158/m1/140/>. Sam Fowler was among the first freedmen in the Hayden Springs community to register a cattle brand (May 28, 1867). See notation (col’d) in Figure 4 signifying that he was “colored.”

In many ways, the sharecropping system recreated some of the worst aspects of slavery. Exploitative labor contracts, high interest rates, unpredictable harvests, and laws favoring landowners often trapped sharecroppers in cycles of debt and limited their ability to establish economic independence. While it appears from census and deed records that most Black farmers in Hayden Springs rented farms, likely as sharecroppers, in the 1870s, it is also evident from the same records that some were able to amass enough money to break loose from the sharecrop/tenant farming system and purchase their own land. Among those listed in the 1870 Agriculture Schedule were George Banks, Ruston Banks, Robert Bacon, Henry Brown, and Louis Meeks, who are represented in Table B.

**Table B: Early Black Farmers in Webberville Area Near Hayden Springs (1870)**

Name	Improved Land	Cash Value of Farm	Livestock	Value of Livestock	Produce
George Banks	45 acres	\$600	12 cattle, 10 milk cows, 8 horses, 12 oxen, no swine	\$400	450 bushels Indian corn
Ruston Banks	60 acres	\$750	12 cattle, 4 milk cows, 4 horses, 12 oxen, 20 swine	\$250	400 bushels Indian corn
Robt Bacon	45 acres	\$600	8 cattle, 4 milk cows, 6 horses, 10 oxen, 20 swine	\$350	200 bushels Indian corn
Henry Brown	40 acres	\$600	20 cattle, 8 milk cows, 6 horses, 12 oxen, 20 swine	\$500	200 bushels Indian corn
Louis Meeks	70 acres	\$800	18 cattle, 3 milk cows, 1 horse, 6 oxen, 16 swine	<i>Illegible</i> (~\$250)	500 bushels Indian corn

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "Agricultural Schedule," Travis County, Texas, Webberville District, Precinct 5, 1870; Voter Registration Rolls, 1867-1869, Travis County, Texas.*

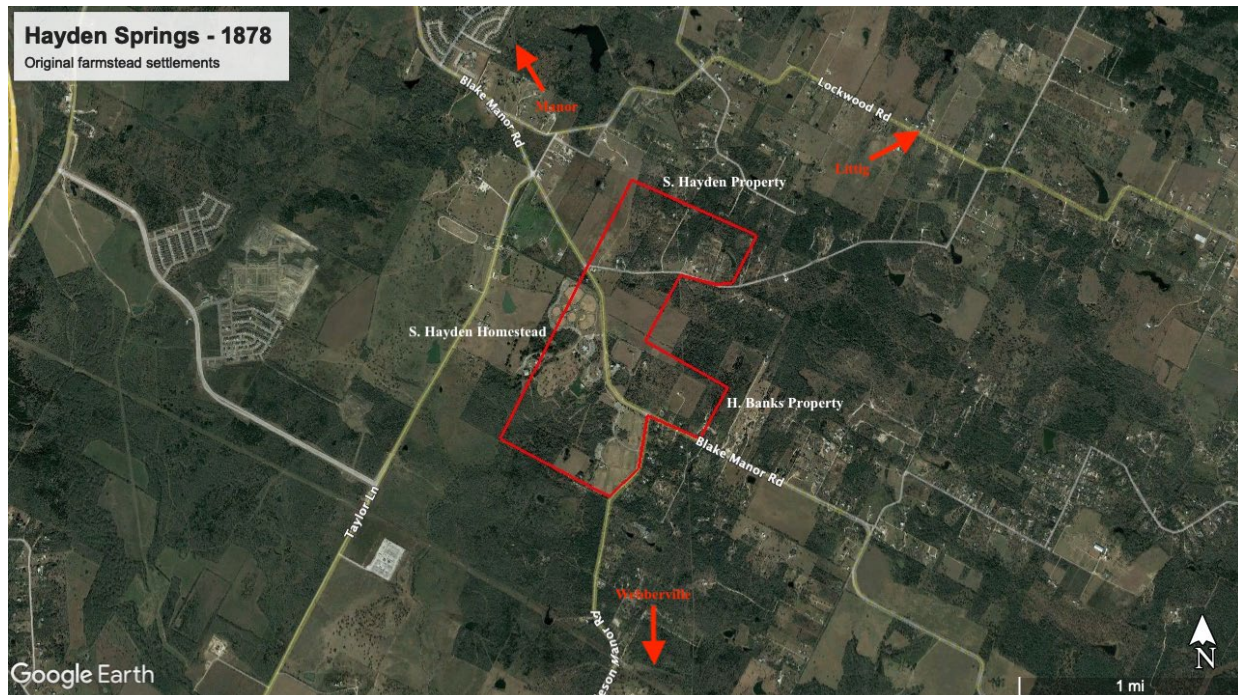
Other Freedmen had acquired essential skills while enslaved that may have allowed them to save enough money to buy farms. One such person was Sandy Hayden, a blacksmith by trade, who bought an entire block in the town of Webberville in January 1866, only seven months after Emancipation.<sup>32</sup> In 1870, he bought 300½ acres of land in what would become known as Hayden Springs, for \$1,000, a considerable sum for anyone living in Travis County at that time.<sup>33</sup> In the ensuing decades, Hayden continued to buy and sell land in northeastern Travis County. He sold several small, 25-50-acre parcels to fellow Freedmen, including Hinton Banks, who was one of the first to live in the community that became known as Hayden Springs.<sup>34</sup> Hayden established his own 22-acre homestead in the Gordon C. Jennings League

<sup>32</sup> Travis County Deed Records (TCDR), vol. T-17; TCDR, vol. 44:13.

<sup>33</sup> TCDR, vol. 72:48. Daniel Shelp was a pioneer settler who had come to northeastern Travis County in 1837 according to the 1867-1869 Voter Registration Rolls, page 102.

<sup>34</sup> TCDR, various transactions and dates.

next to that of Hinton Banks. Within a few years the community expanded outward from the original Hayden and Banks homesteads along the Manor and Webberville Road.<sup>35</sup>



**Figure 5: Origins of Hayden Springs in the Post Oaks, c. 1878**  
Matthew Medina, 2022

## Sandy Hayden

While many Freedmen in Hayden Springs almost certainly came to Texas with white enslavers bearing the same surname, no white Hayden (or Haden) men have been found in either Travis or Bastrop counties who might have been Sandy Hayden's enslaver. However, census records, including slave schedules, and other primary sources, as well as various genealogical reports, suggest that Sandy Hayden may have come to Bastrop County with Benjamin Michaux Clopton and his wife, Justina, about 1837.<sup>36</sup> The first clue to a connection between Sandy Hayden and Clopton, was the discovery that Justina Clopton's maiden name was Hayden (aka Haden). Clopton's wife was born Justina Augusta Hayden (aka Haden),<sup>37</sup> on her parents' plantation in North Carolina. Numerous public records show Sandy Hayden's birthplace as North

<sup>35</sup> Travis County Clerk Records, "Manor and Webberville Road," Road Book Precinct 1, 1898-1902, page 158, <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth787616/m1/168/zoom/?resolution=4&lat=5232.0392792597795&lon=3128.2178551092456>.

<sup>36</sup> Carlyn McCullar Bain and Suellen Clopton Blanton, "Sewing Bees and Duels at Dawn" regarding Anthony Clopton and his wife Rhonda Hoggatt on "Clover Bottom Farm," *The Clopton Chronicles*, <https://homepages.rootsweb.com/~clopton/sewing.htm>

<sup>37</sup> Texas State Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, "Death Certificate," Hoggatt Clopton, Bastrop County, 1916. Hoggatt Clopton is the son of Benjamin Michaux and Justina Clopton. His death certificate shows his mother's maiden name as "Hayden."



Carolina.<sup>38</sup> It may be that Sandy Hayden had been born on the Haden plantation about 1822, traveled to Texas with Clopton and the former Justina Haden in 1837, and adopted the Hayden surname, rather than Clopton's, upon Emancipation. The 1830 and 1840 Non-population (Slave) schedules for Rowan County, North Carolina confirm that Justina Haden's father, William D. Haden, enslaved two Black males of Sandy Hayden's age – eight years old – in 1830, but only one Black male of his age – 18 years old – in 1840, after his daughter had married Benjamin Clopton in Tennessee and moved with him to Texas.<sup>39</sup>

Further analysis of the research suggests that Clopton may have been Hayden's enslaver in Texas. Benjamin Clopton followed his younger brother, William, to Texas from their parents' "Clover Bottom" plantation in Davidson County, near Nashville, Tennessee, about 1838; Sandy Hayden arrived in Texas by at least 1842, according to the 1867 voter registration rolls stating that he had lived in Texas for 25 years. Hayden may have estimated the time, but so had Clopton, whose voter registration indicated that he had lived in Texas for 27 years, arriving in 1840, when he is known to have been in the state by 1838.<sup>40</sup>

Perhaps the most telling clue to their association is their lifelong occupation as blacksmiths. In 1839, shortly after Clopton arrived in the town of Bastrop, he bought a blacksmith shop for \$500.<sup>41</sup> Both men were listed as blacksmiths or farmers in various census records. In fact, both men were farmers *and* blacksmiths. Hayden may have learned the blacksmith trade from Clopton, but perhaps it was Sandy who shared *his* skills with Clopton.<sup>42</sup> A military voucher signed by Captain Eli Chandler on June 25, 1846, suggests the scope of Clopton's operation; he was paid for shoeing 20 horses for the Robertson Company volunteers while enroute to join General Zachary Taylor on the Rio Grande during the Mexican War.<sup>43</sup> The work may have been a two-person job, requiring the services of both Clopton and his enslaved assistant, possibly Sandy Hayden.

Yet another link between Hayden and Clopton is found in two of three different death certificates for Hayden's son, Jefferson "Jeff" D. Hayden, in which the maiden name of Jeff's mother was shown as "Ann Clopton." The informant for the death certificate was A. P. Hayden, who was identified as Jeff's brother on the record; however, their kinship could not be confirmed.<sup>44</sup> While the name "Ann Clopton"

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<sup>38</sup> Bain and Blanton; U.S. Census Bureau, "Population Schedules," Rowan County, North Carolina, 1820 and 1830.

<sup>39</sup> William D. Haden enslaved 25 people in Rowan County, North Carolina in 1820, according to Non-population census records, or Slave Schedules. In 1830, he enslaved 18 people, two of whom could have been Sandy by their age and sex. Ann Clopton, identified as the mother of Sandy Hayden's son Jefferson "Jeff" on his death certificate, may have been enslaved on the Clopton family's Tennessee plantation. Benjamin M. Clopton's father, Anthony, enslaved 8 people in 1820, and 16 people in 1830, according to the Non-population Slave Schedules for Davidson County, Tennessee. Several of the enslaved females listed could have been Ann, but this is only speculation.

<sup>40</sup> Bain, Caryln B. and Suellen Clopton Blanton. "Sewing Bees and Duels at Dawn." *The Clopton Chronicles*. Rootsweb, an Ancestry.com community. <https://homepages.rootsweb.com/~clopton/sewing.htm>

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>42</sup> Bastrop and Travis County census records, various. Clopton is shown as a blacksmith in the 1850 census, a farmer in the 1860 census, a blacksmith again in 1870, and a farmer in 1880, the last year in which he appears in the census; Sandy Hayden listed his occupation as a blacksmith in both the 1870 and 1880 Censuses, but as a farmer in 1900, the last year in which he appears in the census.

<sup>43</sup> Old Settler's Association of Bell County, "Sketch of John C. Reid, the First Clerk of Bell County," *Proceedings of the Sixth Annual Reunion of the Old Settler's Association of Bell County*, Belton, Texas, November 5, 1904: 26.

<sup>44</sup> Texas State Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, "Death Certificate," Jeff D. Hayden, July 28, 1929. There are actually three death certificates for Jeff D. Hayden; all give Sandy Hayden as his father but the first, dated July 29, 1929, shows "Clopton" as his mother's maiden name; the second, dated July 29, 1929, shows "Ann Clopton" as his mother's maiden name; but a third, typewritten certificate dated August 2, 1929, gives "Harris" as the mother's maiden name. All show July 28, 1929, as his date of death; all show A. P. Hayden of Littig (with an

did not come up elsewhere in the research, her surname on Jeff Hayden's death certificate strongly suggests an association between the Hayden and Clopton families.<sup>45</sup>

PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important.

Where Stillborn, in case of Death, file Birth Certificate. Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important.

TEXAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS  
Standard Certificate of Death.

1 PLACE OF DEATH  
State of Texas  
COUNTY OF Travis  
CITY OR PRECINCT Mary Texas R. R. R. R. No. one Street \_\_\_\_\_

2 FULL NAME OF DECEASED Jeff D. Hayden  
Length of residence in city where death occurred 30 yrs. \_\_\_\_\_ mos. \_\_\_\_\_ days \_\_\_\_\_

3 SEX male 4 COLOR OR RACE Black 5 SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED (Write the word) widower

6 DATE OF BIRTH (Month, day, and year) \_\_\_\_\_ Yrs. \_\_\_\_\_ Months \_\_\_\_\_ Days \_\_\_\_\_ If LESS than 1 day, \_\_\_\_\_ hrs. or \_\_\_\_\_ min.)

7 AGE \_\_\_\_\_ Yrs. \_\_\_\_\_ Months \_\_\_\_\_ Days \_\_\_\_\_ If LESS than 1 day, \_\_\_\_\_ hrs. or \_\_\_\_\_ min.)

8 OCCUPATION OF DECEASED  
(a) Trade, profession or particular kind of work Mechanic  
(b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer) Blacksmith

9 BIRTHPLACE (State or country) Texas

10 NAME OF FATHER Sandy Hayden  
11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or country) Mississippi  
12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Ann Clopton  
13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country) Mississippi

14 Signature of Informant A. P. Hayden  
Address Patton Texas  
15 FILED July 29 1929 Registrar W. M. Jones

16 DATE OF DEATH July 28, 1929, to July 28, 1929.  
I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from July 28, 1929, to July 28, 1929.  
that I last saw him alive on July 28, 1929.  
and that death occurred on the date stated above, at \_\_\_\_\_ m.  
The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows: Stomach & Bowel trouble  
(duration) \_\_\_\_\_ yrs. \_\_\_\_\_ mos. \_\_\_\_\_ ds.  
CONTRIBUTORY (Secondary) \_\_\_\_\_ (duration) \_\_\_\_\_ yrs. \_\_\_\_\_ mos. \_\_\_\_\_ ds.  
18 Where was disease contracted \_\_\_\_\_ (duration) \_\_\_\_\_ yrs. \_\_\_\_\_ mos. \_\_\_\_\_ ds.  
If not at place of death? \_\_\_\_\_  
Did an operation precede death? \_\_\_\_\_ Date of \_\_\_\_\_  
Was there an autopsy? no  
What test confirmed diagnosis? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signed) A. P. Hayden Smith, M. D.  
19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL Elgin Rural Route DATE OF BURIAL July 31, 1929  
20 UNDERTAKER Arthur Texas ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Form 51b—S1581-229-80M

Figure 6: Death Certificate of Jeff D. Hayden  
Texas State Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 1929

Clopton and Sandy Haden's relationship in the antebellum era is also borne out in the 1850 and 1860 slave schedules showing that Benjamin Clopton enslaved only one person: a Black male whose age closely parallels Hayden's age in both years, according to Hayden's own accounts that he was born in 1822.<sup>46</sup> The schedules also show that Clopton owned no "slave houses," which may indicate that Sandy

Elgin rural route address) as the informant, and the second shows that A. P. Hayden was Jeff Hayden's brother, though no other sources confirm this relationship. All give Jeff Hayden's occupation as "blacksmith." Several of Sandy Hayden's other children also give "Harris" or "Mariah Harris" as their mother's name on death certificates found via ancestry.com.

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>46</sup> The 1850 and the 1860 slave schedules for Bastrop County reinforce the inferred connection between Benjamin Clopton and Sandy Hayden. In the 1850 schedule, Benjamin Clopton is listed as the enslaver of one 25-year-old male. Based on his self-reported 1822 birth year, Hayden would have been 27-28 years old in 1850, close enough

Hayden lived in an outbuilding such as a barn or shed, or in the blacksmith shop, while enslaved by Clopton.<sup>47</sup> It is unlikely that he lived in the house with the Clopton family.

Another connection between Benjamin M. Clopton and Sandy Hayden comes from the Bastrop County Voter Registration rolls (July 16, 1867), in which Clopton testified that he had lived in Texas for 27 years, putting his arrival in 1840.<sup>48</sup> Clopton had actually come to Texas by 1839, possibly as early as 1837, but 27 years is very close to Sandy Hayden's assertion that he had lived in Texas for 25 years.<sup>49</sup> Both dates were probably estimates, but they are an indication that that Clopton and Hayden had come to Texas about the same time, during the period of the Texas Republic, when Bastrop County was still a wilderness. Their residency in Bastrop County is quite early when compared with most others who registered to vote in their precincts in 1867. Finally, Clopton's 400-acre farmstead lay in the southwest corner of the James Standifer Survey, part of which appears to have extended into Travis County. His farmstead lay close to the hamlet of Webberville, where Sandy Hayden bought town lots in 1866 and probably lived in the early years after Emancipation.

While enslaved, Hayden fathered at least six children, possibly with more than one woman.<sup>50</sup> Census records and the Texas State Vital Records Bureau were among the best sources for identifying the names and birthdates of his older children who were born into slavery: Margaret (Hayden) Piper Edmiston (1844), Thomas Hayden (1852), Rosa Etta (Hayden) Shackles (1858), James Calhoun Hayden (1860), Jefferson "Jeff" D. Hayden (1861), and John or Johnny Hayden (1864). None of the children or their mothers are listed in the 1850 or 1860 slave schedules for Benjamin Clopton, signaling that they were enslaved in different households or plantations. According to their death certificates, Margaret Hayden Piper and James Hayden's mother was likely a woman named Mariah or Maria Harris or Hayden, and Jeff D. Hayden's mother may have been a woman named Ann Clopton, yet another clue to Sandy Hayden's ties to the Clopton family. Rosa Hayden Shackles' death certificate shows "no record" of her mother. No death certificates could be found for John (aka Johnny) or Thomas Hayden. All census records for Hayden's older children list their mother's birthplace as Virginia, where the Clopton family once lived before moving to Tennessee.<sup>51</sup>

Census records for Sandy Hayden's household in 1870 and 1880 suggest that the mother(s) of his older children may have passed away sometime after John's birth in 1864, but before Hayden's marriage to Eliza Hancock in 1870, as the children would more likely be living with their mother after Emancipation, if she were still alive. In any event, Hayden's household in 1870 included his new, much younger wife, Eliza Hancock, daughter of his neighbor in Webberville, Samuel Hancock.<sup>52</sup> Also in the household were his children by previous partners, Thomas, Rosa, Jeff, James, and John (aka Johny). A man named William Hayden also lived in the household but his relationship to Sandy Hayden is unknown.

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for him to have been the enslaved man. Hayden's age correlates even more closely to the only enslaved person listed for Clopton in the 1860 slave schedules, a 37-year-old male, a match for Hayden's age of 37 or 38 in 1860.

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>48</sup> Bastrop County, Texas, "Voter Registration Rolls," 1867-1869.

<sup>49</sup> Travis County, Texas, "Voter Registration Rolls," 1867-1879.

<sup>50</sup> The 1870 census shows a William Hayden living in Sandy Hayden's household in addition to his known children Thomas, Rosa, Jeff, James, and John. His daughter, Margaret, had already married and was not living in his household. William's relationship to Sandy Hayden is unknown; he does not appear in other census records, deeds, or documents associated with Sandy Hayden.

<sup>51</sup> U. S. Bureau of the Census, various entries, 1870-1910.

<sup>52</sup> Travis County Clerk's Office. Travis County Marriage Records, 1837-1965, "Sandy Hayden and Eliza Hancock," No. 155, page 23, authorized May 26, 1870; Pinkney Harris, Minister, performed the rites of matrimony on June 1, 1870.

Unfortunately, no additional information has been found for either Ann Clopton or Mariah Hayden/Harris.

### **Sandy Hayden: Post-Emancipation**

In January 1866, only seven months after Emancipation, Sandy Hayden bought an entire city block containing 1 ½ acres in the town of Webberville.<sup>53</sup> In the deed, Hayden was described as “a freedman of the county of Travis,” a distinction often noted in deed records involving formerly enslaved persons in the early years after Emancipation.<sup>54</sup> The following month, Hayden bought property in a separate block containing “a lot and all improvements.”<sup>55</sup> Though it is not always the case, the notation “all improvements” sometimes indicates that a structure such as a house or barn already existed on the lot. In that deed, Hayden was described as “a free man of color.”<sup>56</sup> Hayden bought and sold other property in Webberville over the course of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>57</sup> Though it is not known for certain where Hayden and his family lived in the 1860s, it was likely in Webberville where they were enumerated as residents in the 1870 census.<sup>58</sup>

On July 18, 1867, Hayden’s citizenship was formalized when he signed the Travis County Voter Registration rolls for his precinct, which included the area in and around the town of Webberville.<sup>59</sup> Voter registration records provided several clues to Hayden’s early life; he had been born in North Carolina and had lived in Texas for 25 years.<sup>60</sup> The record also showed that he had lived in Travis County for at least 12 months – at least by July 1866 – and the precinct for at least 30 days prior to registration.<sup>61</sup> The rolls also revealed something about his former state of bondage in which it was illegal to teach enslaved people to read and write; he signed his name with an X - “*Sandy ‘His X Mark’ Hayden.*”<sup>62</sup> Further research found that many other men in the precinct who signed the rolls with an X were also Freedmen. It should not be presumed, however, that everyone who signed with an “X” had formerly been enslaved; illiteracy among white Texans at that time was not uncommon.

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<sup>53</sup> TCDR, vol. 44:13.

<sup>54</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>55</sup> TCDR, vol. T-17.

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>57</sup> Hayden bought a second town lot in Webberville with “all improvements” in 1869 from M.P. Hall on Lot 4, Block 35 “60’ on the northeast side of Water Street and 120’ back to an alley.” The transaction was recorded on July 23 or 28 or 1869 in volume S-249 of Travis County Deed Records. The sale was made on July 22, 1869.

<sup>58</sup> U. S. Bureau of the Census, “Population Schedule,” Travis County, Texas, Town of Webberville Precinct 1, 1870.

<sup>59</sup> Travis County, Texas, “Voter Registration Rolls,” 1867-1869.

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.* Research for the project suggests that Hayden actually arrived in Texas as early as 1837.

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.* The maximum time required to vote in the county was 12 months, and 30 days in the precinct; Hayden likely resided in the county and precinct earlier, since 1866, when he bought land in Webberville.

<sup>62</sup> U. S. Bureau of the Census, “Population Schedule, Travis County Texas, Town of Webberville, Precinct 1, 1870.



other formerly enslaved persons could not. To a large degree, he was an independent businessman, which set him apart from his peers, many of whom had been pressed into sharecropping or tenant farming arrangements that, in many cases, offered them a life that was little better than slavery. Hayden was also invested in his community. In 1868, he was a trustee of the “Colored Baptist Church,” in Webberville.<sup>63</sup> Later, in 1877, he was elected president of a “colored local option club,”<sup>64</sup> an organization opposed to alcohol for the betterment of families and society.

Several records from 1870 provided evidence of Hayden’s exceptional progress in the short five years since Emancipation. Among them is the 1870 census which reveals that his personal estate was valued at \$10,000, an extraordinary figure for anyone living in Travis County at that time, but especially for a formerly enslaved man in the post-Civil War era.<sup>65</sup> In the fall of 1870, Hayden bought his first large tract of land, a 301 ½ acre parcel out of the Oliver Buckman Survey northwest of Webberville, for \$1,000: \$500 cash in hand and \$500 to be paid within three years. Hayden purchased the property from an early pioneer settler in northeastern Travis County, Daniel C. Shelp, and his wife Lavica; the tract was sometimes called the Shelp or Hayden tract in later deed records.<sup>66</sup> The land transaction provides further evidence that Hayden had amassed something of a small fortune in only five years. The source of this affluence remains unknown and warrants further exploration.

By 1870, Hayden had also gained a measure of prestige within the Webberville community, where many Freedmen settled after the Civil War.<sup>67</sup> On September 23, 1870, he took the oath of office as Alderman for the town of Webberville.<sup>68</sup> It is not known whether he was elected or appointed to the position, but he must have enjoyed considerable status among his peers in the community as a consequence. By 1873, Hayden also served as an election official charged with confirming votes in his precinct. Several election returns in 1873 show his handwritten signature, an indication that he had learned to write his own name.<sup>69</sup> The 1900 census also shows that he learned to read and write.<sup>70</sup>

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<sup>63</sup> TCDR, Vol. R: 447-448, October 16, 1868.

<sup>64</sup> “Manor has a local option club . . . “ *Austin Weekly Statesman*, Austin, Texas, May 6, 1877: 3.

<sup>65</sup> Because the census had many errors, the researchers were skeptical that Hayden possessed such a large sum, but further investigations into Hayden’s real estate transactions in the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century showed that he had accumulated considerable wealth and credit by the early 1870s.

<sup>66</sup> TCDR, vol. 72:48.

<sup>67</sup> Col. John Banks, who platted the Webberville townsite, left Travis County for Galveston where he lived the rest of his life. Many freedmen bearing the Banks surname remained in Webberville and were among the founding families of the Hayden Springs community.

<sup>68</sup> U.S. Bonds and Oaths of Office, Travis County Bond and Oath Files, 1846-1920, “Sandy Hayden Oath of Office as Alderman of the Town of Webberville,” Sept. 23, 1870. Interestingly, Benjamin M. Clopton, who may have been Hayden’s enslaver, had been an alderman in Bastrop in 1845 (Kenneth Kesselus, *History of Bastrop County, Texas Before Statehood*, Bastrop, Texas: Wash Jones Press, 1999: 222).

<sup>69</sup> Travis County Clerk’s Office. Travis County Election Results. Precinct 12. December 2, 1873. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth864817/?q=%20Travis%20County%20Election%20Records%3A%20Election%20Returns%201873>

<sup>70</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, “Population Schedule,” Travis County, Texas, Webberville Precinct 1, Enumeration District No. 107, 1900.



...fully discharge and perform all duties incumbent  
on me as Alderman of the town of  
Webbville, according  
to the best of my skill and ability, and that I will sup-  
port the Constitution and Laws of the United States and  
of this State. And I do further swear, or affirm, that  
since the acceptance of this Constitution by the Con-  
gress of the United States, I, being a citizen of this  
State, have not fought a duel with deadly weapons, or  
committed an assault upon any person with deadly  
weapons, or sent or accepted a challenge to fight a duel  
with deadly weapons, or acted as second in fighting a  
duel, or knowingly aided or assisted any one thus offend-  
ing, either within this State or out of it; that I am  
not disqualified from holding office under the Fourteenth  
Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;  
(or, ~~as the case may be, my disability to hold office under~~  
~~the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the~~  
~~United States has been removed by Act of Congress,~~)  
and, further, that I am a qualified elector in this State."

Sandy Hayden  
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 23rd day of Sept 1870

**Figure 8: Sandy Hayden's Oath as Alderman of the town of Webbville, Sept. 23, 1870**  
Texas, U.S. Bonds and Oaths of Office, 1846-1920

FP  
61.6

### Return of an Election,

Held in accordance with the Procla-  
mation of the Governor, on the first Tuesday, being the second day of December, A.  
D. 1873, in Precinct No. 12, in Travis County, State of Texas,  
for election of Commissioner Gen'l Land Office.

Mr. <u>Ed Cross</u>	received	<u>177</u>	votes.
" <u>J. R. Rucker</u>	"	<u>64</u>	"
"	"	"	"
"	"	"	"
"	"	"	"
"	"	"	"
"	"	"	"
"	"	"	"
"	"	"	"
"	"	"	"
"	"	"	"
"	"	"	"

We, the undersigned, Managers of Election for Precinct No. 12, County of  
Travis do hereby certify that the above is a correct return of  
the election for Commissioner Gen'l Land Office, for Precinct No. 12, in the County  
of Travis held at Webbville in said County,  
on the 2d day of December, 1873.

J. B. McCall } Judges of Election.  
Sandy Hayden }  
L. D. Price }  
A. B. Holt } Clerks of Elect'n  
J. B. Bowing Presiding Officer of Election.

**Figure 9: Sandy Hayden as Election Official in 1873 Election Return**  
Travis County Election Records, December 2, 1873

The year 1870 was also pivotal in Hayden's personal life. On May 26, 1870, Sandy Hayden received authorization – tantamount to a license – to marry Eliza Hancock, daughter of his Webberville neighbor, Samuel Hancock.<sup>71</sup> The couple observed their “Holy Union of Matrimony” on June 1, 1870; the ceremony was officiated by white Baptist minister Pinkney Harris.<sup>72</sup> The groom was about 43 years old when he married his much younger bride, who was just 26 at the time. The couple remained married the rest of their lives and had at least ten children together.<sup>73</sup>

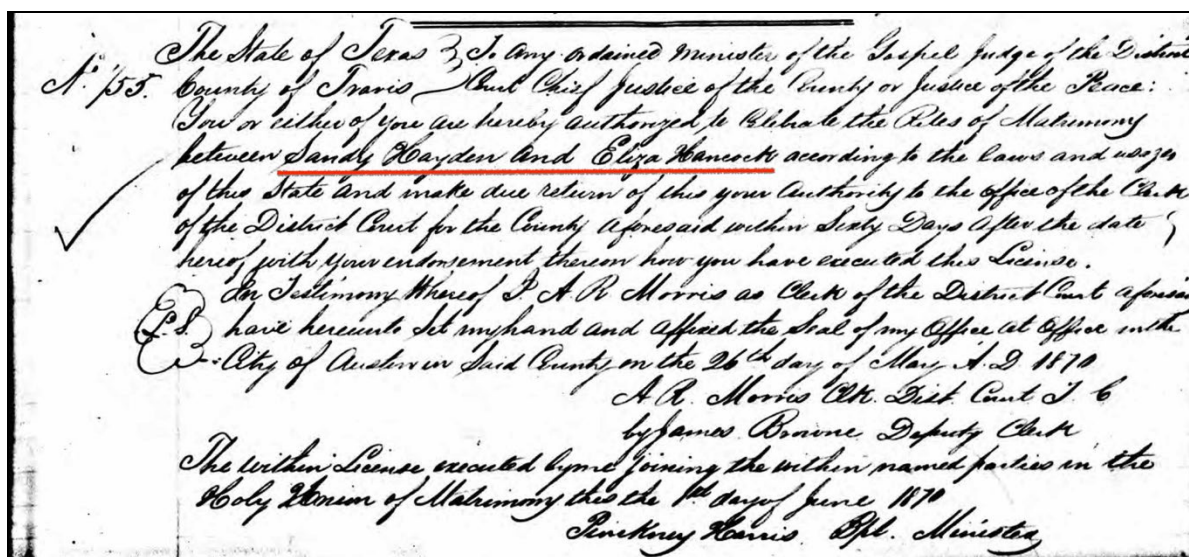


Figure 10: Holy Union of Matrimony between Sandy Hayden and Eliza Hancock  
Travis County Marriage Records, 1870

### Hayden Family in 1870

At first glance, Sandy Hayden does not appear in the 1870 U. S. census. However, further examination of the record reveals that he may have been listed as “Sander Ender,” as misspelled by the enumerator.<sup>74</sup> The enumerator made several additional errors in the family data but there is sufficient evidence, including Sandy Hayden’s known birthplace, occupations, and children’s ages to suggest that “Sander Ender” was, in fact, Sandy Hayden.<sup>75</sup> The census shows that Hayden lived with his wife, Eliza, and six other members

<sup>71</sup> Travis County Clerk’s Office, Travis County Marriage Records, 1837-1965, “Sandy Hayden and Eliza Hancock,” June 1, 1870.

<sup>72</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>73</sup> U. S. Census Bureau, “Population Schedule,” Travis County, Texas, Polling Place No. 2, Enumeration District 122, 1880; U.S. Census Bureau, “Population Schedule,” Travis County, Texas, Webberville Precinct 1, Enumeration District No. 107, 1900.

<sup>74</sup> U. S. Census Bureau, “Population Schedule,” Travis County, Texas, Town of Webberville Precinct 1, 1870. Ancestry.com lists the head of household on the 1870 census as “Sander Ender,” however, closer inspection of the document itself suggests that the name recorded was “Sandy” Ender.

<sup>75</sup> The entry for “Sander Ender” in the 1870 census corresponds generally to Sandy Hayden in terms of age, race, place of residence, occupation and family structure. Sander Ender is listed as a Black male born around 1830. Sandy Hayden appears in later census rolls as a Black male born between 1822-1825. Finally, the family structure of Sander Ender is roughly parallel to that of Sandy Hayden. Eliza Ender (29) likely represents Eliza Hancock (26). The names and ages of the other members of the household coincide approximately with those of Sandy’s children by previous partners. Finally, some of the discrepancies in the entry appear to be the result of the enumerator being one line off, most strongly indicated by known female members of the household being listed as males. If the data in

of the “Ender” family, all but one of whom were known to be his children from other records. Sandy Hayden would have been about 47 years old in 1870, although the enumerator listed his age as 40. The census correctly listed his occupation as “blacksmith.” Perhaps the most notable census entry is Hayden’s large personal estate of \$10,000.<sup>76</sup> This amount of money would have been extraordinary for anyone living in Travis County in 1870, let alone for someone who had been enslaved only five years earlier. The enumerator made many other errors, not only in Hayden’s data, but for other families in the census tract. He was careless in spelling names, listing correct ages and genders (he identified Eliza Hayden as a male occupied as a blacksmith), and entered some data on the wrong lines. Nevertheless, the information for “Sander Ender” and his household in the 1870 census appears to describe Sandy Hayden and his family.<sup>77</sup> The household included the following persons:

**Table C: Inferred Census Record for Sandy Hayden and Family, 1870**

Name in 1870	Age in 1870	Occupation	Birthplace	Age in 1880	Birthplace 1880	Mother’s Birthplace
Sandy Ender*	40	Blacksmith	Tennessee*	55	North Carolina	Virginia
Wm. Ender	19	Blacksmith	North Carolina*	NA	NA	NA
Thos. Ender	28	Blacksmith	Alabama*	28	Texas	Alabama*
Eliza Ender	29	Blacksmith*	Texas*	36	Alabama	Alabama
Rosa Ender	23	Keeping House	Texas	22	Texas	Virginia
Laney (James)	10		Texas	20	Texas	Virginia
Sell (Jeff)	9		Texas	18	Texas	Virginia
John	6		Texas	16	Texas	Virginia
Samuel	Not born		Texas	8	Texas	Alabama
Louis	Not born		Texas	6	Texas	Alabama
Robert	Not born		Texas	5	Texas	Alabama
Fanny	Not born		Texas	3	Texas	Alabama
Andrew	Not born		Texas	1	Texas	Alabama
Harris, Andrew	Not in household	Servant in 1880	Not in household	20	Texas	No data

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, Travis County, 1870 and 1880.

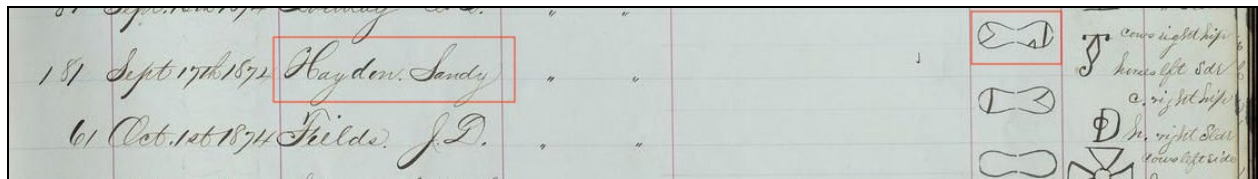
## Hayden Springs Community 1870s to 1880

this column is shifted up one unit, the sex of each member of the household is correct. Shifting the data up one unit in other columns creates obvious corrections in the record and reveals parallels between Sander Ender and Sandy Hayden. For instance, the birth places of Sander Ender and Sandy Hayden correspond when this action is taken.

<sup>76</sup> U. S. Census Bureau, “Population Schedule,” Travis County, Texas, Town of Webberville, Precinct 1, 1870.

<sup>77</sup> *Ibid.* A search for anyone named Sander Ender, in earlier and later census records yielded no results, another indication that the name was incorrect in the 1870 census.

Census records in 1870, 1880, and 1900 show the Hayden family in the Webberville district but the district may have extended to include Hayden's property in the Buckman and Jennings leagues, where a small community of Freedmen formed in the 1870s around Sandy Hayden's 301 ½ acre parcel in the Buckman League. In 1874, Hayden bought 50 acres of land in the Gordon C. Jennings League from R. C. Meeks for \$175. The tract lay adjacent to his Buckman Survey property.<sup>78</sup> Two years later, Hayden sold the parcel to another freedman, Hinton Banks, for \$375.<sup>79</sup> In 1878, T. M. Rector sold 25 acres in the Jennings League to Hayden for \$175.<sup>80</sup> It was on that tract that Hayden established his 22-acre homestead, though it is not known exactly when he moved his family to the property.<sup>81</sup> A blacksmith by trade, Hayden was also engaged in agriculture in the 1870s; he registered his horse and cattle brand in 1874 (Figure 10) and was growing crops on 50 acres of improved land and raising livestock on the farm by 1879 (Table D).<sup>82</sup> Though Hayden and his family were enumerated in the Webberville precinct in 1880, they were likely already living on their farmstead in the Jennings League. Sandy Hayden, Hinton Banks, and their families may have been the first to settle on the upper Manor-to-Webberville Road, the spine of the Hayden Springs community.<sup>83</sup>



**Figure 11: Sandy Hayden's Cattle Brand, 1874**  
Travis County Register of Marks and Brands, 1840/1893

Throughout the 1870s and early 1880s, Hayden continued to buy land in the Jennings League, most of it in 50-acre parcels. He ultimately accumulated 175-200 acres in the league, including his homestead and adjoining tracts.<sup>84</sup> According to oral accounts, Hayden's homestead contained "bubbling springs" near the property line; thus, the name, Hayden Springs.<sup>85</sup> By 1880, a number of other Freedmen farmers and their families had joined Banks and Hayden along the Manor-to-Webberville Road, now Blake Manor Road. Among them were Robert Bacon, James Banks, Henry Brown, Isaac Brown, and Samuel Hancock. The community of small 25 to 50-acre farms spread out from the Banks and Hayden homestead cluster, in a northwest to southeast swath between the new town of Manor, platted in 1872 on the Houston & Texas

<sup>78</sup> TCDR, vol. 32:6; TCDR, vol. 41:55.

<sup>79</sup> TCDR, vol. 32:6.

<sup>80</sup> TCDR, vol. 57:411.

<sup>81</sup> TCDR, vol. 430:546.

<sup>82</sup> Travis County Clerk's Office. Register of Marks and Brands, 1840/1893, "Marks and Brands Record 1," page 182, <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph834158/m1/182/>.

<sup>83</sup> The Parks (aka Parks Springs) community also emerged in the area in the 1870s; it probably formed near present Parks Springs Baptist Church and cemetery, closer to Manor and north/northwest of Hayden's homestead.

<sup>84</sup> Individual purchases included: 50 acres in Jennings League from R.C. and Rachel Meeks (TCDR Vol. 41: 55, 1874), 50 acres in Jennings League from R.C. Meeks (TCDR Vol. 32: 6, 1874), Lots 1 & 2 of Block 6 in Webberville from John D. and Mary Glasscock (TCDR Vol. 40: 258, 1875), 50 acres in Jennings League from Hinton and Mary Banks (TCDR Vol. 41: 58, 1878), Block 35 in Webberville from Hiram Duty (TCDR Vol. 40: 258, 1878), 25 acres in Jennings League from Thompson M. Rector (TCDR Vol. 57: 411, 1878), Property in Jennings League (acreage not given) from J.W. Darlington (Vol. 41: 465, 1878), and 50 acres in Jennings League from James Manor (TCDR Vol. 41: 608, 1878).

<sup>85</sup> Wayne Schneider, current owner of the tract, interview with Terri Myers, July 14, 2022. A number of springs still exist on Hayden's former property, now East Metro Park.

Central Railroad line, and Webberville, to the southeast. Nearby, north and east of Webberville, other Freedmen had established farms after Emancipation; among them were Ben Meeks, Louis Meeks Sr., and Louis Meeks, Jr. Their farms and farm products appear in the 1880 Agricultural schedules for Travis County. Their acreage and value of land, crops, and livestock are summarized in Table D.

**Table D: Black Farmers and Farm Values in the Hayden Springs Area in 1880**

	Own or rent for share of production	Improved Land	Unimproved Land	Value of Farm	Value of Products	Value of Livestock
Robert Bacon	Rent*	60 acres	-	\$1,200	\$700	\$200
Hinton Banks	Own	35 acres	15 acres	\$400	\$350	\$30
James Banks	Rent*	26 acres	-	\$400	\$600	\$50
Henry Brown	Own	20 acres	80 acres	\$500	\$60	\$100
Isaac Brown	Rent*	50 acres	-	\$1,000	\$500	\$150
Sandy Hayden	Rent*	50 acres	-	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$100
Samuel Hancock	Rent*	31 acres	-	\$400	\$700	\$65
Ben Meeks	Rent*	25 acres	-	\$400	\$800	\$100
Louis Meeks	Own	40 acres	60 acres	\$500	\$300	\$200
Louis Meeks	Rent*	80 acres	-	\$1,600	\$600	\$175

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "Agricultural Schedule," Travis County, Texas, Polling Place No. 2, Enumeration District No. 122, 1880.*

*\*Asterisks indicate renters but some, including Sandy Hayden, already owned their farms in 1880.*

Table D offers a glimpse of agricultural development by Black farmers in Hayden Springs since 1870, when none of them were listed in the Agricultural schedules. The amount of improved land in 1880 reflects years of toil and perseverance to break, plow, and plant the hard clay soil. The farmers had little means to buy more than rudimentary implements or equipment. Farmers shown as renting their farms in the "Own/Rent" column may have actually owned their farms, as did Sandy Hayden, but were misrepresented in the Agricultural schedule. Others listed in the table as renting, eventually bought farms according to deed and rural directory research. Tenant farmers, sharecroppers, and farm laborers also lived in the community.

Crop production among Black farmers in the Hayden Springs area was largely limited to cotton and Indian corn, according to the 1880 Agricultural schedules. While acreage devoted to these crops varied, farmers typically had between 10-30 acres planted in Indian corn and 15-30 acres for cotton the previous year, 1879. The number and type of livestock also fluctuated from farm to farm but most had at least one horse, with some as many as four, 1-3 mules to grub and break the previously unimproved soil, 1-2 milk





sixteen.<sup>87</sup> Eliza's father, Samuel Hancock, lived nearby and was listed next to Hayden's household in the 1880 census.<sup>88</sup>

Based on the absence of records for Mariah Harris/Hayden, and the fact that their inferred children lived in Sandy's household, it is likely that she passed away sometime between the birth of Johnny in 1864, and Sandy's marriage to Eliza in 1870. Eliza Hancock Hayden appears to have been accepted by her husband's older children as their surrogate mother; later, several death certificates signed by their children or other younger relatives who might not have known the truth, show Eliza as their mother, when Eliza's young age and Alabama birthplace contradict that relationship. The final member of Sandy Hayden's household in 1880 was 20 year-old Andrew Harris, whose relationship to Hayden was listed as "servant."<sup>89</sup> Even though Sandy Hayden's real estate holdings indicate that he was well-off by 1880, it is still noteworthy that an African American had enough wealth to employ a servant in that era. The young man's surname, "Harris," suggests that he may have been related to Mariah Harris, the reported mother of some of Hayden's older children; however, his history and role in the household remain unknown and he does not appear in the family's later census records.

While the 1880 Agricultural Schedules conveyed a somewhat false picture of Black land ownership in the community, the Population Schedules are a fairly good barometer of its growth since 1870, when land in that area was still unoccupied. Most households were composed of extended families headed by a young-to-middle-aged male, his wife, and children, ranging in age from newborns to unmarried men and women in their twenties, and often, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, mothers and/or fathers-in-law, siblings, and others who were usually related in some way. Nearly all Black heads of households in 1880 were farmers, with Sandy Hayden, a blacksmith, one of the few exceptions. The census did not show land ownership, though that information could have been known from the Agricultural Schedule, if they had been more accurate. Unlike 1870, the 1880 census shows that many Mexicans had migrated into the district in the decade; nearly all were identified as laborers or farm laborers, with very few listed as farmers, indicating they were not only landless, they would not gain from any farm production, either as sharecroppers or tenant farmers. In most cases, Mexicans appeared to be itinerant day laborers or farm laborers at that time.<sup>90</sup>

Several things stand out among families in the community and, in fact, all of Enumeration District 122, which included Webberville, Littig, and farms east of Manor, in the 1880 census. Few Black adults could read or write in 1880, but virtually all of their children between the ages of eight and sixteen attended school, even in the most isolated areas like Hayden Springs. A Parks "Colored" School was established close to Hayden's homestead as early as 1875, and possibly earlier. In fact, Sandy Hayden made repairs to the "public school house," and apparently taught there for three months – May, June, and July – in 1875.<sup>91</sup> From 1880 through 1884, husband and wife team, William M. and Sarah Nichols shared teaching duties at Parks school, though Thomas Banton taught there for a few months in that period. It is

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<sup>87</sup> The birthplace of Rosa, James, Jefferson, and Johnny's mother is listed as Virginia, whereas the birthplace of the younger children's mother is listed as Alabama: Eliza Hayden was born in Alabama. This divergence indicates that the older children had a different mother, later revealed in death certificates as Mariah Harris or Mariah Hayden, and, in Jeff Hayden's case, Ann Clopton, according to one of his three death certificates.

<sup>88</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, "Population Schedule, Travis County, Texas, Polling Place No. 2, Enumeration District No. 122, 1880.

<sup>89</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>90</sup> U. S. Census Bureau, "Population Schedule," Travis County, Texas, Polling Place No. 2, Enumeration District 122, pages 24-45.

<sup>91</sup> Travis County School Superintendent Records, "Treasurer's Book of Accounts," Box 27, on file Austin History Center.



noteworthy that William Nichols was paid more than his wife, Sarah. School trustees in 1881 were Frank Norris and Frank Marshall; thereafter, Green Parks, Frank Norris, and John Wadkins served as trustees for the school. Members of the Gilden family also appear to have lived in this area. These families lived in close proximity to present Parks Springs Baptist Church and Cemetery, adjacent to Sandy Hayden's property.<sup>92</sup>



**Figure 13: Park Springs Baptist Church**

Photo by Terri Myers, 2023

Hayden's children who were listed as "attending school" in the 1880 census, probably went to Parks school as it would have been their closest option – less than a mile – if, in fact, the family lived on their homestead in the Jennings Survey by then.<sup>93</sup> The fact that Hayden repaired the Parks school house and taught at the school for several months in 1875, suggests that the family did live near the school, i.e., on their homestead in Hayden Springs.

Another curious aspect of the 1880 census, is that many more African Americans were listed as "mulattos" in 1880 than in the 1870 census; in fact, some who were listed as Black in 1870, were classified as mulattos in 1880.<sup>94</sup> Enumerators in 1880 almost certainly based their determinations on skin

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<sup>92</sup> Travis County Clerk Records, "Manor and Webberville Road," Road Book Precinct 1, 1898-1902, page 158, <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph787616/m1/168/zoom/?resolution=4&lat=5232.0392792597795&lon=3128.2178551092456>.

<sup>93</sup> Parks School operated until 1884, when it was apparently replaced by Hayden Springs school. Hayden Springs School was established on August 30, 1884, by Judge Z. T. Fulmore, "as advised by patrons and trustees of school district No. 26." County schools had apparently been reorganized into fewer districts, some with multiple schools, between 1883 and 1884. District 26 included Charity, Shiloh, and Hayden Springs schools, all of which were "colored." Webberville schools were in District 27. (Travis County School Superintendent Records, "County Judge's School Records, 1884," Box 23, on file Austin History Center).

<sup>94</sup> The U. S. Census Act of 1879 required that enumerators be educated for accuracy for the first time.

color, even distinguishing Blacks from mulattos among children within the same family. Residents classified as mulattos in 1880 included Hayden's wife, Eliza, her father Samuel Hayden and Samuel's niece, also named Eliza, nearly all members of the various Meeks households who were not otherwise classified as white, Ottaway Banks, and George and James Parks.<sup>95</sup>

The 1880 census shows scores of African American farmers living between Manor and Littig, on the west and east, and Webberville, to the south. Founding families who remained in the area for twenty years or more after 1880 included those of Hinton Banks, Sandy Hayden, James Banks, Henry Brown, George Allen, Isaac Napoleon, Ottaway Banks, Isaac Brown, and Pat Piper, on the Manor-to-Webberville Road (now Blake Manor Road); George and James Parks, and the Butler, Moore and Johnson families all of whom lived just north of Sandy Hayden; Ben Meeks and Noah Owns, east of Hayden; and the Lee, Hill, Corn, and McArthur families east of Manor near Littig. Among others listed in the same enumeration district were Jackson Morrow, several Green and Burleson families, and the Castleman, Winn, Moore, and Gregg families, all of whom owned farms in the area between Manor and Littig, Manor and Webberville, and Littig and Webberville.<sup>96</sup>

### **Hayden Springs Community 1880-1900**

Common indicators of what constitutes a "community" usually describes a cluster of relatively close or related dwellings or farms, the presence of a school or church, one or more stores, and possibly a post office. In 1884, Hayden Springs, with several Freedmen farmsteads at its core, qualified as a community. In November 1883, the county paid Sandy Hayden \$63 to build a "school house," ostensibly in the Parks district,<sup>97</sup> but almost certainly on Hayden's land on the Manor-to-Webberville Road, as shown on the 1898-1902 County Roads maps and field notes. Evidence for this stems from public records: Travis County Index to Deeds which show that Hayden sold an acre of his land to the county for "School purposes," in 1884,<sup>98</sup> and the Judge's School Records for 1884 listing Hayden Springs School, but not Parks School, in District 26.<sup>99</sup> Sandy Hayden sold the one-acre school parcel to the county for \$25.00; it had been part of a 50-acre tract he had purchased from H. E. Lancaster for the same price - \$25.00 - in 1881.<sup>100</sup>

The size of the community is reflected in a newspaper account of student enrollment in the county's rural schools showing that Hayden Springs School had the largest enrollment in District 26 with 78 students. Other "colored" schools in the district were Union Lee, with 30 students, Shiloh, with 61 students, and Meeks, at 31 students. Hayden Springs was tied with the Webberville "colored" school, which also had 78 students enrolled.<sup>101</sup> Trustees for Hayden Springs School that year were also noted: Noah Johnson, H. Banks (likely Hinton Banks), and Peter Rector.<sup>102</sup>

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<sup>95</sup> U. S. Bureau of the Census, "Population Schedule," Travis County, Texas, Polling Place No. 2, Enumeration District 122, pages 24-45.

<sup>96</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>97</sup> Travis County School Superintendent Records, "Treasurer's School Account Register: 1883-1884," Box 27, on file at Austin History Center.

<sup>98</sup> TCDR, Direct Index to Deeds, 1842-1893, S-Z.

<sup>99</sup> Travis County School Superintendent Records, "County Judge School Records, 1884," Box 23, on file at Austin History Center.

<sup>100</sup> TCDR, vol. 51:410.

<sup>101</sup> "Athletic Meet Held by Negroes," *Austin Weekly Statesman*, March 19, 1917.

<sup>102</sup> *Ibid.*

In the following four decades, short articles mentioning Hayden Springs School appeared periodically in Austin newspapers. In 1889, for instance, another article showed that enrollment at the school had declined to 60 students from the previous year, but that may have been due to the establishment of a new school in the district, named “Wildbarger;” the new school may have siphoned off some of Hayden Springs’ children.<sup>103</sup> A second article that year noted that R. G. Percell (elsewhere Purcell), was the teacher at Hayden Springs School;<sup>104</sup> Purcell would go on to teach at many other “colored” schools in Travis County, as well as contribute to scholarship on methodologies for teaching Black students in rural schools.<sup>105</sup> It is likely that Hayden’s younger children attended Hayden Springs school, however, census records reveal that some of his older children – Jefferson, Johny, and Samuel – had attended school before Hayden Springs School was built.<sup>106</sup> The three older children may have attended the Parks school or possibly the Webberville Colored school.

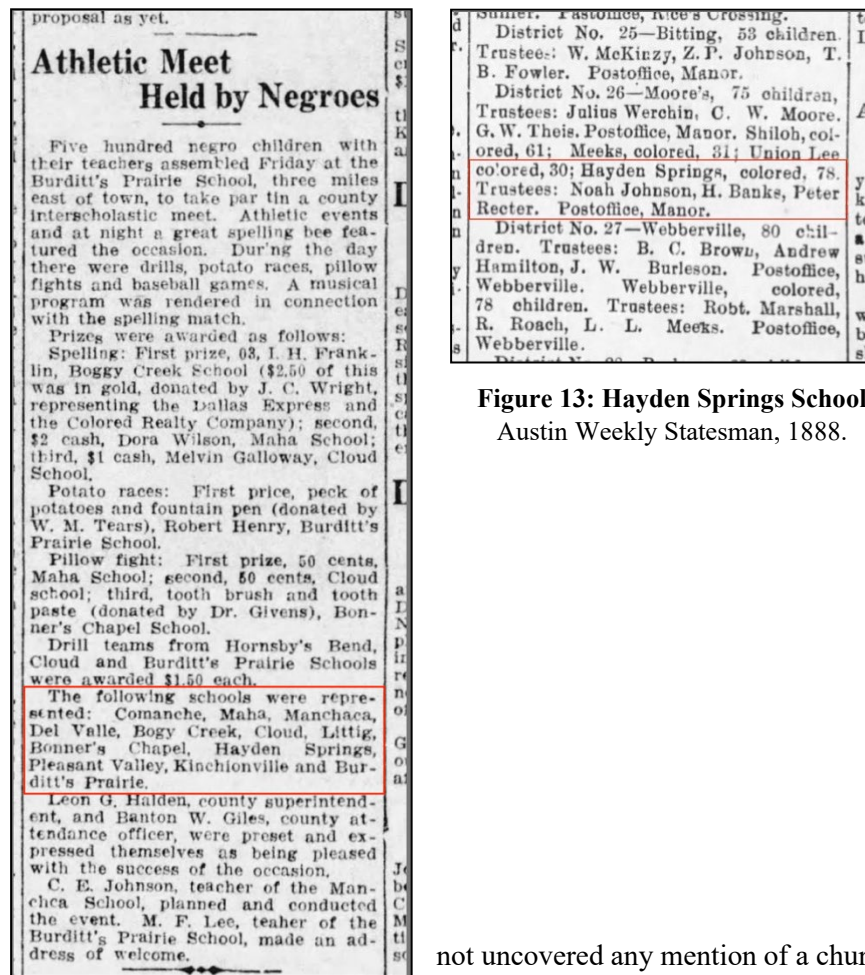


Figure 13: Hayden Springs School  
Austin Weekly Statesman, 1888.

Research has

not uncovered any mention of a church in the

<sup>103</sup> “School Trustees: Full List of Schools and Trustees in Travis County,” *Austin Weekly Statesman*, July 11, 1889.

<sup>104</sup> “Travis County Teachers: Colored Teachers,” *Austin American Statesman*, September 18, 1889; Purcell later married Bettye Hayden, daughter of A. P. Hayden, who settled a farm in the Littig area and was possibly related to Sandy Hayden.

<sup>105</sup> “Negro Teachers Interested,” *Austin American Statesman*, September 10, 1913, page 6.

<sup>106</sup> In the 1880 population schedule, Jefferson (18), Johny (16), and Samuel (8) Hayden are all listed as “attending school.”

Hayden Springs community, but several “Colored” Baptist churches were established near Hayden Springs in the late-19<sup>th</sup> century. Among them were Union Lee Baptist Church, south of Hayden Springs on present Blake Manor Road, and Parks Springs Baptist Church, which lies just west of Hayden’s property on present Lockwood Road, an extension of Parsons Street out of Manor. Union Lee Baptist Church organized and met for outdoor worship as early as 1874; a church building was erected on the site in 1884,<sup>107</sup> the same year Hayden Springs School was established. A Parks Springs Baptist congregation may have existed prior to 1887 when A. E. Lane sold an acre of land to its representatives for a church; a church building was probably erected on the site soon after the land purchase.<sup>108</sup>

The Parks Springs Church and 25-acre cemetery appear to abut Sandy Hayden’s property on the west, as depicted in the 1898-1902 County Roads maps and field notes. While the Union Lee and Parks Springs churches lay closer to Hayden Springs, residents may have also attended services at Gilden Creek First Baptist, Gilden Creek Third Baptist, or Little Zion Baptist churches in Manor, or even Ebenezer Baptist Church in Webberville. The Hayden family likely worshipped at Webberville’s Ebenezer Baptist Church in the late 1860s as Sandy served as a trustee for the church when Matthew Duty sold an acre of land for that purpose in 1868. He and his family may have remained part of the Webberville congregation after they moved to their homestead at Hayden Springs; another possibility is that they joined nearby Parks Springs Baptist Church. Hayden also served as a Deacon in St. John’s Missionary Baptist Association, a coalition of Baptist churches founded by Rev. Jacob Fontaine of Austin.<sup>109</sup>

Two other components of the Hayden Springs community that may have been built by the 1880s were J. Banks’ store, on the east side of present Blake Manor Road, and a shop on Sandy Hayden’s property, on the west side of the road.<sup>110</sup> J. Banks’ store probably stocked basic items that local farmers couldn’t produce for themselves, like sugar, coffee, and tobacco, and possibly nails and minor building materials to board up cracks in walls or a roof, mend fences, or make repairs. Building materials for framing, siding, and windows, would have been available at lumber stores in Manor or Austin, where they were shipped to the area by rail.

Though the surveyors did not identify the type of shop, the fact that it lay on Hayden’s property makes it probable that it was a blacksmith shop because Sandy Hayden and several of his sons consistently gave their occupation as “blacksmith” through the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.<sup>111</sup> Blacksmiths provided an essential service to rural farmers whose only transportation consisted of horses or mules and wagons, whether to haul their cotton to a gin, take their families to church, or go to market in town. It was not uncommon for blacksmiths to set up shops on rural roads where they had a “captive” clientele from travelers needing emergency wheel repair. Such a shop would have been a good source of cash for the Hayden family.

During the period from 1880 to 1890, Sandy Hayden continued to buy and sell land through an array of transactions. His acquisitions included another 50 acres in the Jennings League and 59 acres in the

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<sup>107</sup> “Union Lee Baptist Church,” Official Texas Historical Markers, <https://texashistoricalmarkers.weebly.com/union-lee-baptist-church.html>.

<sup>108</sup> “Parks Springs Church and Cemetery,” *Manor Texas, Past and Present, Parts and Pieces*, posted by Wayne Schneider, 2020, <https://manorstories.blogspot.com/2020>.

<sup>109</sup> “St. John’s People in Tented City,” *Austin American Statesman*, July 27, 1908. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/366290613/?terms=distinguished%20dead&match=1>

<sup>110</sup> Travis County Clerk Records, “Manor and Webberville Road,” Road Book Precinct 1, 1898-1902.

<sup>111</sup> U. S. Census Bureau, various for Sander Ender, Sandy Hayden, Jeff, James and Andrew Hayden, 1870, 1880, and 1900.

Richard Duty League, to the south.<sup>112</sup> In addition, he sold lots in the towns of Webberville and Manor.<sup>113</sup> In 1886, Sandy borrowed \$600 from R.L. Brown which resulted in a lien on 200 acres out of his 301.5-acre tract in the Buckman League.<sup>114</sup> Public records do not reveal the nature of the debt, but it may have had something to do with building the school or making improvements to his house in Hayden Springs. Hayden also sold land to Thomas M. Rector, A. J. Holt, and Jo Graham during this period.<sup>115</sup> His many real estate transactions shown in Travis County Deed Records demonstrate that Sandy Hayden played a prominent role in the development of the agricultural community in and around his homestead.

By 1890, Sandy Hayden would have been about 67 or 68 years old. His household had changed as older children married and moved out of his home to start their own families, a few in Manor but more in the Webberville area. Unfortunately, the exact structure of Sandy's household in 1890 remains unknown because census records for 1890 were destroyed in a warehouse fire. However, the 1900 census shows that Sandy and Eliza had another daughter, Delia Hayden, in 1890 or 1891.<sup>116</sup> She was the last child born to Eliza Hayden.<sup>117</sup>

Though the 1890 census was lost, the 1894-95 rural directory for Travis County contains a fair amount of data on Hayden Springs landowners and residents, even though the community was not distinguished as a separate entity but divided between the larger agricultural hubs of Manor, Webberville, and Littig. For instance, Sandy Hayden, Hinton Banks, Henderson Banks, Isom Brown, and Jerry Brown, are listed in the directory as residents of Manor. Those living further south on the Manor-to-Webberville Road, including Ike Brown, R. H. Bacon, Henry Brown, Noah Owens, and Isaac Napoleon, are listed as residents of Webberville. Three of Hayden's sons, Samuel, Jefferson D. and James Calhoun Hayden, were shown as living in Webberville, though they may have been living in the country *near* Webberville, south of Hayden Springs.<sup>118</sup>

The directory also provided the amount of acreage for each landowners. It showed that many African Americans in the area owned property at the turn of the century. At a total of 440 acres, Sandy Hayden was the largest African American landowner in the Manor, Littig, and Webberville areas. Other African Americans who owned large tracts of land in or near Hayden Springs were listed in the Manor sector; among them were A. Alexander, with 306 acres, Hinton Banks, with 75 acres, John Collins, with 100 acres, Jack Kelly, with 227 acres, C. H. Norris, with 68 acres, and John Wadkins, with 90 acres. In the Webberville sector, Ike Brown owned 141 acres, R. H. Bacon owned 50 acres, Henry Brown owned 100 acres, Austin Gregg owned 113 acres, Noah Johnson owned 140 acres, Isaac Napoleon owned 80 acres, and Noah Owens owned 110 acres; the largest landowners in the Webberville sector were Louis Meeks, Jr., with 210 acres, Ben Meeks, with 153 acres, Louis Meeks, Sr., with 224 acres, and Morris Mitchell, with 188 acres.<sup>119</sup>

The nearby community of Littig was founded by African Americans, some of whom were related to residents of Hayden Springs. African American landowners in the Littig sector included Jackson

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<sup>112</sup> TCDR, vol. 57:410; TCDR, vol. 61:398.

<sup>113</sup> TCDR, vol. 68:33; TCDR, vol. 96:499.

<sup>114</sup> TCDR, vol. 74:97.

<sup>115</sup> TCDR, various entries.

<sup>116</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, "Population Schedule," Travis County, Texas, Webberville Precinct 1, Enumeration District No. 107, 1900.

<sup>117</sup> The 1900 population schedule indicates that Eliza had given birth to 13 children, 10 of whom were still living when the census was taken.

<sup>118</sup> Travis County Directory, 1894-95, compiled and published by Albert Schutze, Austin, Texas.

<sup>119</sup> *Ibid.*

Morrow, who owned 147 acres, A.P. Hayden, who may have been related to Sandy Hayden owned 68 acres, J. B. Corn with 120 acres, Jesse Armstrong, with 100 acres, Isom McArthur, with 180 acres, and Preston Leigh, with 254 acres.<sup>120</sup> While not a thorough analysis of African American land ownership in Travis County, the number of Black property owners and the size of their farms in this segment of the county seems quite substantial, even exceptional, for the period.

The rural directories also identified businessmen and residents who played important roles in their communities. African Americans living in or near Hayden Springs, including Alex Alexander and Hinton Banks, were listed in the Manor sector as school trustees in 1894-95. In the Webberville sector, Sandy Hayden's son, Jeff D. Hayden, was also a school trustee, as were Isam or Isom Smith, Squire Carpenter, Noah Johnson, and Chas. Williams. Hayden's son, Samuel, was one of three schoolteachers in the Webberville sector. Samuel may, in fact, have been teaching at Hayden Springs School, but was merely listed in the Webberville section due to his proximity to the town as compared with Manor. The fact that two other Black teachers lived in Webberville in 1894-95 may support that supposition as the Webberville Colored School was a two-teacher school at the time. However, it is also true that African Americans outnumbered whites in Webberville, as reflected in the county directory, and more teachers may have been needed to accommodate them.<sup>121</sup>

### **Hayden Springs at the Turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

Despite dividing residents between the three main population hubs, evidence that Hayden Springs was a sizable community at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century is found in an 1895 Highway Map of Travis County which depicts houses, schools, churches, post offices, and other buildings and structures. The map shows that the Manor-to-Webberville Road through Hayden Springs was more densely developed than other, similar county roads in the region at that time. The county roads survey of 1898-1902 identified the names of those who lived and/or owned property along the road. Research on those names in the 1900 census, together with rural directories dating from 1894-95 to 1901, proves that the Hayden Springs community was comprised almost entirely of Black farmers, some of whom owned their farms free and clear, while others "rented" their farms, likely as tenant farmers or sharecroppers.<sup>122</sup>

Households in the core of the Hayden Springs community at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century included the families of Sandy Hayden, R.H. Bacon, J. Brown, I. Brown, H. Brown, Hinton and J. Banks, and several branches of the Easley family.<sup>123</sup> The land adjacent to Hayden's property on the west and north, around present Parks Springs Baptist Church and cemetery, may have also been considered part of the community as the Hayden Springs school would have been the closest for their children. Families near Parks Springs Baptist Church included the Hodges, Butler, John Wadkins, A. L. Johnson, A. Alexander, George Allen, and Jack Kelly families, all of whom were African Americans.<sup>124</sup> Together, the families from around Parks Springs Baptist Church continuing south along the Manor-to-Webberville road through Hayden Springs, reflected a large, extended community established by Freedmen in the early 1870s that persisted to the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (See Figure 14).

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<sup>120</sup> *Ibid.*

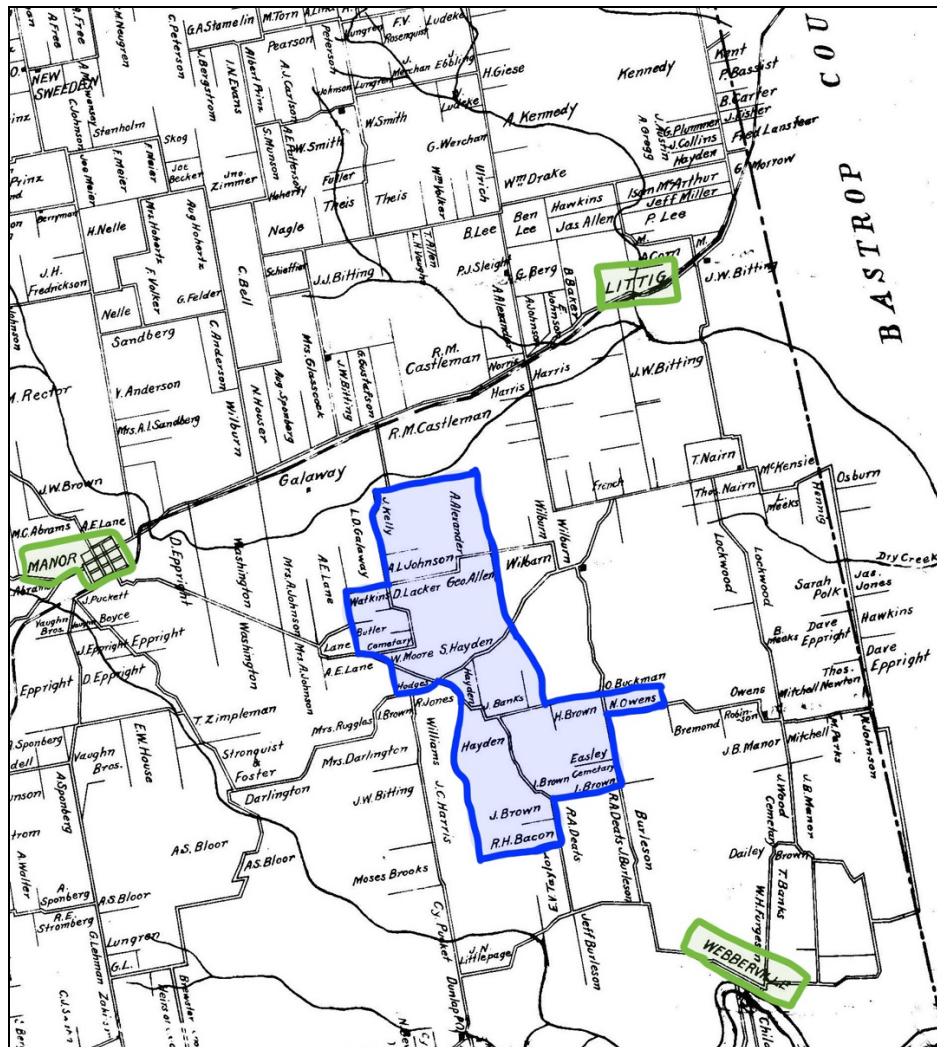
<sup>121</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>122</sup> U. S. Census Bureau, "Population Schedule," Travis County, Texas, Webberville Precinct 1, Enumeration District No. 107, 1900, sheets 11-15.

<sup>123</sup> By 1898, several Meeks households existed in an area adjacent to Hayden Springs on the east, northeast of Webberville.

<sup>124</sup> U. S. Census Bureau, "Population Schedule," 1900; Travis County Clerk Records, Road Book Precinct 1, 1898-1902, page 158.





**Figure 14: Hayden Springs at the Turn of the Century**  
Travis County Road Maintenance Map, 1898-1902

By the turn of the century, Sandy Hayden was 77 or 78 years old, an elderly man for his time. He and Eliza, and eight of their children - Louis (25), Andrew (21), Fannie (23), Charley (18), Sarah (16), Sussie (13), Leah (10), and Delia (9) – still lived on his homestead in Hayden Springs.<sup>125</sup> Some of the Haydens' older children who had married and moved from their parents' home still lived near the family.<sup>126</sup> James, Jeff, and Margaret (Piper) resided in the Webberville enumeration district, while Rosa (Shackles) lived in or near Manor.

<sup>125</sup> The family was enumerated in the Webberville postal district but are listed as residents of Manor in rural directories of the period, an indication that Hayden Springs was not considered a separate community but a rural settlement lying between the two population centers.

<sup>126</sup> Sandy Hayden's other children had moved from the Hayden Springs area by 1900. Samuel and Johny resided in Austin and Robert had moved to Illinois, where he became a Baptist minister. Samuel ultimately moved to Waco, where he, too, became a Baptist minister.



The 1900 census is the first in which Sandy Hayden is listed as a farmer, rather than a blacksmith. The change may simply reflect his status as the largest landowner in Hayden Springs, but it could be that his advanced age led him to retire from the trade, perhaps because he no longer had the physical strength or stamina required of blacksmiths. All of his children who were still living at home, except the youngest, Delia, are listed in the 1900 census as “farm laborers,” as opposed to being simply “at home” as in the 1880 census. Their status as farm laborers in 1900 may indicate that their father’s wealth had diminished, and the children needed to work to help sustain the family. Though noted as farm laborers, Sarah, Sussie, and Leah also attended school, almost certainly at Hayden Springs School. According to the 1900 census, all members of the Hayden household except the two youngest children could both read and write, including Sandy and Eliza.<sup>127</sup>

Despite his relatively advanced age, Sandy Hayden remained active in community and regional affairs. He served as a Deacon for the St. John’s Regular Baptist Association, a large organization composed of Baptist churches throughout Travis, Bastrop, and Williamson Counties. Texas State University students Berkley Kading and Matthew Medina’s research for this project uncovered a reference to his participation in the establishment of an orphanage for Black children. In 1900, he served as a Director of the Orphan Home of the St. John’s Association corporation and was a signatory, along with other members, including educator, L. L. Campbell, on a deed for 200 acres of land out of the James Wallace League, known as “the Compton Place” for the orphanage. The directors paid \$800 and signed 10 promissory notes for the remaining \$5,200 to be paid by 1907.<sup>128</sup>

Hayden Springs may have reached its peak as a community between 1885 and 1915 (Figure 16), when a fair number the early settlers still had children attending Hayden Springs School. At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the school had at least two rooms, and possibly a third, as seen on field maps for the 1898-1902 county roads survey (Figure 15). The map depicts “Sandy Hayden” school as an L-shaped footprint of one or two rooms, with what appears to be a one- room addition.<sup>129</sup> The multi-room school, along with newspaper articles on enrollment in Travis County’s rural schools, attest to the large size of the community and its school age population in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.<sup>130</sup>

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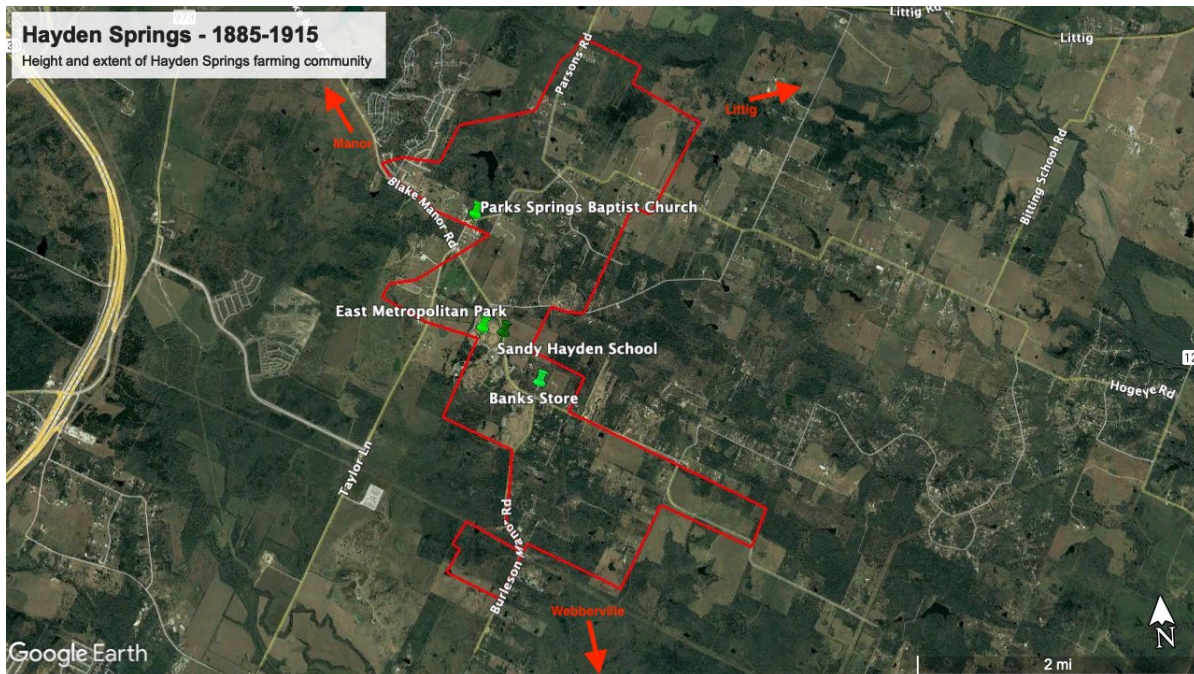
<sup>127</sup> U. S. Census Bureau, “Population Schedule,” Travis County, Texas, Webberville Precinct 1, Enumeration District No. 107, 1900.

<sup>128</sup> Berkley Kading and Matthew Medina, “Sandy Hayden – Property History,” for HIST: Introduction to Public History, Dr. Ruby Oram, History Department, Texas State University, May 2022, page 6; TCDR, Vol. 171: 191-193.

<sup>129</sup> Travis County Clerk Records, “Manor and Webberville Road,” Travis County Roads Book 1, 1898-1902, page 158. While some have wondered if the surviving two-room Cumberland plan board-and-batten building on Hayden’s former farmstead might have been the school, its form, plan type, roof form and pitch, design, materials, and workmanship strongly suggest that it was a domestic building, though its c. 1900 construction dates it to the 1885-1915 timeframe.

<sup>130</sup> In 1888, Hayden Springs school was the largest rural school for “colored” children with 78 students as compared with other schools in the same district, District 26: Shiloh, 61; Meeks 31, Union Lee, 30 (*Austin Weekly Statesman*, July 26, 1888). In 1889, Wilbarger School was added to the district, perhaps siphoning off some students but Hayden Springs remained the district’s largest rural school (*Austin Weekly Statesman*, July 11, 1889).





**Figure 15: Extent of Hayden Springs at its Height, 1885-1915<sup>131</sup>**  
Matthew Medina, 2022

Texas State University students conducted census and deed research and found that in 1900, Hinton Banks, and several members of the Brown and Bacon families who lived close to the school, owned their own farms “free of mortgage incumbrance”<sup>132</sup> In 1911, Hinton Banks apparently built a new house on his farm for \$1,000, which showed his commitment to the community.<sup>133</sup> But Hinton Banks’ son, Henderson, had moved to Austin with his wife, Josephine, by 1900, though he still owned a farm in Hayden Springs.<sup>134</sup> The 1900 census showed that some Black farmers in the vicinity of Hayden Springs were enumerated as part of Webberville; among them were the families of Lewis Meeks Sr. and Lewis Meeks Jr., and Ike Brown.<sup>135</sup> Some of these families had lived and farmed in the area since the 1870s or 1880s, and persisted into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. At the same time, other Black families joined them in the Hayden Springs community.

<sup>131</sup> The school community includes the Parks Springs area and stretches south along the Manor-Webberville Road toward Webberville.

<sup>132</sup> Kading and Medina, 7.

<sup>133</sup> Montana Copeland and Travis Laffell, “Hinton Banks – Family and Property History,” for HIST: Introduction to Public History, Dr. Ruby Oram, History Department, Texas State University, May 2022, page 12.

<sup>134</sup> *Ibid.*, 15.

<sup>135</sup> Alyssa Johnson and Chloe Johnson, “Lewis Meeks – Family History,” for HIST: Introduction to Public History, Dr. Ruby Oram, History Department, Texas State University, May 2022, page 20; Trinity Abels and Sophie Moore, “Ike Brown – Family History,” for HIST: Introduction to Public History, Dr. Ruby Oram, History Department, Texas State University, May 2022, page 38.





**Figure 16: Two-Room Building on Hayden's Property in East Metro Park**  
*Hayden may have built this small frame dwelling for family members or tenants c. 1900.*  
 Photo by Bob Ward, 2022

### Sandy Hayden's Last Years

Several years after the 1900 census was taken, Sandy Hayden began to experience financial and legal difficulties leading to the loss of much of his property. In 1905, a court decision against Hayden resulted in a foreclosure and a payment of \$575.65 to D.B. Gracy, an Austin-area real estate mogul who owned a land title company. Later that year, part of Hayden's land in the Gordon C. Jennings League and part of his holdings in the Oliver Buckman League were seized by the sheriff and granted to T.E. Thrasher for \$100.<sup>136</sup> The transaction included all property in the Jennings League and part of the tract known as "Shelp" or "Hayden," in the 301 ½-acre in the Oliver Buckman League parcel. Real estate transfers printed in the *Austin Daily Statesman* in 1906 reveal that Hayden sold a 58-acre tract out of the Buckman League to his son Charley for \$1.00, probably in an attempt to protect it from being seized.<sup>137</sup>

It is likely that other sales made by Hayden between 1902-1907 were also intended to protect his land from further seizure. In 1902, Hayden transferred 27 acres to his son Samuel, and another 20 acres to his son Charley.<sup>138</sup> In effect, Hayden tried to keep the land in the family by severing it from any debt or unpaid property taxes that he had incurred. In the same period, Hayden also sold lots 3,4, and 6 of block

<sup>136</sup> *Austin American Statesman*, July 8, 1905; "Sale of 12 7/10 Acres of Land Situated in the Buckman Survey from Sandy and Eliza Hayden to D.B. Gracy," *Austin Statesman*, July 21, 1902; "Sale of ----- [no figure given] acres of the Gordon C. Jennings League from Sandy Hayden et al. to Thomas E. Thrasher for \$192," *Austin Statesman*, Jan. 19, 1903. Previously, in 1902 and 1903, Sandy sold tracts of land to both D.B. Gracy and T.E. Thrasher. The connection between these land sales and later legal entanglements with their buyers remains unknown.

<sup>137</sup> 'Charles H. Horgan' may have been an error; it was likely Charles H. Hayden, or Charley Hayden, Sandy Hayden's son.

<sup>138</sup> "Sale of 27 7/10 Acres of Land Situated in Travis County from Sandy and Eliza Hayden to Samuel Hayden for \$500," *Austin Statesman*, July 28, 1902; "Sale of 20 Acres out of a Subdivision of the Gordon C. Jennings League from Sandy and Eliza Hayden to Charley Hayden for \$400," *Austin Statesman*, Feb. 24, 1902.

35, in Webberville; though not to family members. Those transactions may have been driven by threat of seizure, as well.<sup>139</sup> Ultimately, the reasons for these land sales and forfeitures remain unknown but they reveal a pattern of decline in Hayden's final years.

On April 28, 1908, Sandy Hayden passed away. His tombstone gives his age at death as 101 years old (Figure 17), while a Texas Death record listed his age as 106 at the time of death, the cause of which was "old age."<sup>140</sup> Neither the headstone or death record are correct; Hayden's birth year was consistently shown as 1822 in public records, starting with his Voter Registration. Hayden was probably about 85 or 86 years old when he died. Unfortunately, a detailed death certificate was not filed for him with the Texas Bureau of Vital Records. Hayden was buried in Ike Brown Cemetery, south of his homestead, alongside other members of his family, including several infant grandchildren. Ike Brown cemetery also contains the graves of other African American residents of Hayden Springs; among those buried there are members of the Brown, Banks, Piper, Lee, and Fowler families.<sup>141</sup> Ike Brown Cemetery lies next to the smaller Easley Cemetery, where members of the Easley family who also lived in the extended community, were laid to rest.<sup>142</sup>



**Figure 17: Sandy Hayden's Tombstone in Ike Brown Cemetery**  
Photo by Terri Myers, 2022

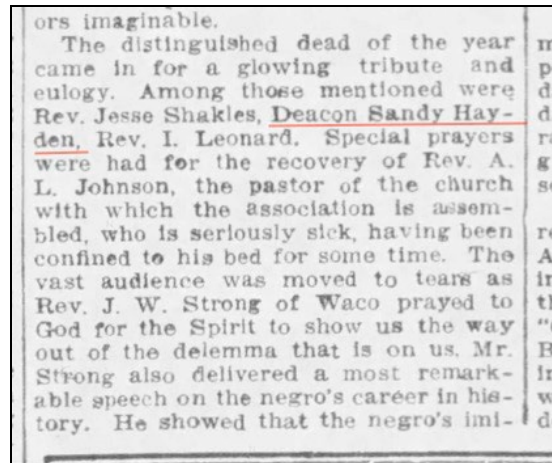
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<sup>139</sup> "Sale of Lot 6 of Block 35 of Webberville from Sandy and Eliza Hayden to Gerry Hunter for \$140," *Austin Statesman*, Feb. 10, 1906; "Sale of Lots 3 & 4 of Block 35 in Webberville from Sandy Hayden to J.D. Poe for \$32," *Austin Statesman*, May 22, 1907.

<sup>140</sup> Texas State Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, "Death Certificate," Sandy Hayden, July 28, 1929.

<sup>141</sup> Family names recorded on field visit to Ike Brown Cemetery on July 28, 2022.

<sup>142</sup> Field visit to Easley Cemetery on July 28, 2022.



**Figure 18: Sandy Hayden Eulogy**

“St. John’s People in Tented City,” *Austin American Statesman*, July 27, 1908

## Exodus from Hayden Springs

By the time Hayden died in 1908, many of his children had already left the community. Samuel, his oldest child with Eliza, had apparently moved to Austin for work by 1895. According to the Austin City Directory, Samuel boarded with Charles Mills, who worked at the “Colored” asylum, in 1895. Samuel was listed as a schoolteacher, perhaps at the asylum. In 1898, Samuel married Lydia Jane Hill in Travis County. However, he and his wife, and their infant daughter, Wilhelmina, appear to have moved back to the country where they lived close to Samuel’s younger brother, Robert, and both Henderson and Haywood Banks, in Webberville, as recorded in the 1900 census.

But in 1903, Samuel Hayden was again listed in the Austin City Directory, this time as a printer at *The Herald*, a weekly Black newspaper published by the Education Board of the General Baptist Convention of Texas from about 1891 through about 1917.<sup>143</sup> His work for the newspaper may have inspired his career choice, both as a teacher and a minister. At the time, he lived on E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street with his wife and two young children.<sup>144</sup> Soon afterwards, he moved his family to Waco where he gained prominence as a Baptist minister and taught at the public “Negro” school. Samuel’s younger brothers, Robert and Charles, also became Baptist ministers. Both ultimately moved out of the state, Robert to Illinois, and Charles to Colorado.<sup>145</sup>

By 1903, another of Sandy Hayden’s sons, James Calhoun Hayden, had also moved to Austin where he opened a blacksmith shop at 1107 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, an area with numerous Black-owned businesses at that time. His brother, Andrew, and son, John J. Hayden, worked with him. Another son, Frank S. Hayden, worked as a driver. All four lived together at 1003 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street.<sup>146</sup> By 1905, Andrew and James had started a business advertised as “Hayden Bros.,” blacksmiths and wheelwrights in the Austin City Directory. At the time, James lived at 1205 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street while Andrew and John J. lived elsewhere.<sup>147</sup> A year later, in 1906, James’ daughters, Dovie and Stella, joined their father in the house on E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street;

<sup>143</sup> “List of African-American Newspapers in Texas,” Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_African-American\\_newspapers\\_in\\_Texas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_African-American_newspapers_in_Texas).

<sup>144</sup> Austin City Directory, 1903, page 88.

<sup>145</sup> “Funeral Set for Preacher,” *Waco News-Tribune*, October 15, 1954.

<sup>146</sup> Austin City Directory, 1903, page 88.

<sup>147</sup> *Ibid.*



both women worked as laundresses.<sup>148</sup> By then, however, Andrew had left the blacksmith shop to work as a porter for the Walter Tips Company, where he remained for many years. James and his son, John J., continued to operate the blacksmith shop until James's unexpected death from heart failure in 1910; he was only 50 years old.<sup>149</sup>

Following her husband's death in 1908, Eliza Hayden lived briefly with her son, Charles, who had moved to Austin, and her daughter, Alice, at 1004 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street in Austin. However, by 1910, she returned to the country where she lived with her son and daughter, Louis, and Fannie, on or near the old Sandy Hayden homestead. Austin City directories showed that Charles and his wife, Anna, his sister, Alice, and another likely relative, Virginia Hayden, still lived at 1004 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street in 1909. Other members of the Hayden clan lived nearby: at 1002 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street. Andrew Hayden lived at 1104 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street with James and his children, Dovie, Frank F., John J., and Stella Hayden.<sup>150</sup> Though James died in 1910, members of his family, including his daughter Octavia, continued to move into Austin over the next few years. Most lived with one or more members of their family at various locations in East Austin, including 902 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street (1910), 1008 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street (1912), and 2003 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Street (1914).<sup>151</sup>

In 1916, Andrew and James' children, John J., Frank S., and Bertha Hayden all remained in Austin, but lived in different places. Andrew continued working as a driver for the Walter Tips Company; his nephew, Frank, also worked for the same company as a porter. John J. lived in West Austin in the Clarksville Freedmen Community where he served as a teacher. His sister, Bertha, who was then about 21, worked as a cook and boarded in a house on Curve Street, in East Austin, in 1916.<sup>152</sup>

Meanwhile, Samuel Hayden and his wife, Lydia, grew their family in Waco, where he served as a Baptist minister for several churches in the area. Samuel also worked in the public school system where he taught for more than 50 years. The couple had six children: Wilhelmina, Windell, Moody, Fannie May, Samuel A. Jr., Arden McCoy, and Garnet Wanemaker, born in 1916.<sup>153</sup> After his wife, Lydia, passed away in 1930, Samuel remained in their home in Waco. He never remarried but continued to work as a minister and teacher until his retirement (Figure 16). Samuel Hayden died at the age of 82 in 1954. Only four of his siblings were still alive then: his sister, Alice, in Fresno, California, and three brothers, Andrew J., in Austin, Rev. Charles Harvey Hayden in Denver, Colorado, and Rev. Robert A. Hayden, in Maywood, Illinois. All were children of Sandy Hayden and his wife, Eliza. None of Samuel's older half-brothers and half-sisters from his father's previous partners before Emancipation are believed to have been living at the time of Samuel's death in 1954.

## Funeral Set For Retired Preacher Here

Funeral services will be held at 4:30 p. m. Monday at Second Baptist Church for Rev. S. A. Hayden, 82, retired Baptist minister and teacher, who died at his home Wednesday. Rev. George J. Johnson will officiate, with burial in Greenwood Cemetery. Johnson Funeral Home is in charge.

Rev. Hayden held pastorates in several churches in McLennan County. The present church at Chapel Hill was erected during his service in that community. He served also as a public school

teacher for more than 50 years. His wife died in 1930.

Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. W. H. Hamilton, and Mrs. F. M. Gilbert of Waco; three sons, C. W. Hayden of San Antonio, McCoy Hayden of Waco, and G. W. Hayden of Fresno, Calif.; one sister,

<sup>148</sup> Austin City

<sup>149</sup> Texas State  
County, Texas

<sup>150</sup> Austin City

<sup>151</sup> Austin City

<sup>152</sup> Austin City

<sup>153</sup> Wannemak

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currently serves as a member of the Travis County  
dy Hayden, her great-grandfather, who was born into  
lderman and landowner, and founder of the Hayden

Mrs. Alice Thomas of Fresno, Calif.; three brothers, A. J. Hayden of Austin; Rev. C. H. Hayden of Denver, Colo.; and Rev. R. A. Hayden of Maywood, Ill.

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Buckingham Palace contains about 600 rooms.

**Figure 19: Samuel A. Hayden Obituary**

*Waco News-Tribune*, October 15, 1954 via Newspapers.com.

While most of Sandy Hayden's children had moved away from the Hayden Springs community by 1910, a few remained, either at the homestead, or in the nearby towns of Manor, Elgin, and Webberville. Jeff D. Hayden and his wife, Ann, were among those who remained in the area the rest of their lives. According to the 1920 census, Jeff Hayden was a blacksmith who owned his house and shop. He and his wife may have been living on the Hayden homestead where county roads surveyors had earlier noted the presence of a shop on the Manor-to-Webberville Road. But they may have been living in Webberville. According to lay historian David A. Williams's research, Jeff and Ann Hayden were prominent members of Webberville's Ebenezer Baptist Church; Jeff also served as a trustee for the Webberville Colored School which lay next to the church on the same site.<sup>154</sup> Ann Hayden died in 1925; Jeff followed in 1929. They were buried in Ike Brown cemetery near Sandy Hayden and several of their children who had died in infancy.

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<sup>154</sup> David A. Williams, compiler, transcripts of interviews with former members of Webberville Ebenezer Baptist Church, for *Historical Narrative for the Ebenezer Baptist Church at Webberville, Texas*, used in application for state historical marker, January 1993.



**Figure 20: Jeff D. Hayden's Tombstone<sup>155</sup>**  
Photo by Terri Myers, 2022

### **Disposition of Sandy Hayden's Homestead**

Beginning in the 1920s, oil and gas companies began buying land and obtaining mineral rights and leases from landowners in northeastern Travis County, including the Hayden Springs area. In 1925, the Plateau Oil Company bought the 50-acre tract Sandy Hayden originally sold to Hinton Banks.<sup>156</sup> The following year, the Gulf Production Company bought the 50-acre tract James Manor sold to Sandy Hayden in 1876. In 1927, the Mid-Kansas Oil and Gas Company acquired another 30 acres of land formerly owned by both Sandy Hayden and T.M. Rector. Others also began buying land in the community, including J. Houghton Brownlee, an attorney and rancher who bought 150 acres of Hayden's former land, possibly for ranching purposes.<sup>157</sup> Brownlee was later elected to the Texas Senate.

In 1928 and 1929, Austin lawyer, Henry Faulk, began buying up Sandy Hayden's 22-acre homestead in the Gordon C. Jennings League from Hayden's heirs.<sup>158</sup> Faulk had begun locating Hayden's surviving heirs to obtain clear title to the 22-acre tract out of the original 50-acre parcel Hayden had bought from T. M. Rector in 1878. By the late-1920s, Hayden's descendants had scattered across the country, from Illinois to California, with only a few left in Travis County. Two instruments filed by Faulk pre-dated 1928: Alice Hayden Jackson reportedly conveyed her interest in the property to her brother, Andrew, in 1917, and Margaret Hayden Piper apparently sold her interest directly to Faulk in 1923. The rest of the heirs signed off on the homestead in 1928. Faulk's payments to Hayden's many heirs were miniscule, ranging from only \$1.00 to \$120 to Andrew Hayden who appeared to have secured title from some of his

<sup>155</sup> Jeff D. Hayden's tombstone is found near that of his father's, Sandy Hayden, in Ike Brown Cemetery.

<sup>156</sup> Berkley and Medina, 8; TCDR, Vol. 383.

<sup>157</sup> Berkley and Medina, 8.

<sup>158</sup> Faulk was the father of folklorist, humorist and Civil Rights activist, John Henry Faulk.

deceased siblings. All of the deeds were recorded in the Travis County Clerk's Office on February 7, 1929.<sup>159</sup>

Faulk's transactions with the heirs cleared up some mysteries about their parentage, especially of Sandy Hayden's older children who had been born under slavery. Margaret (Margarette) Hayden Piper and Tom Hayden were both identified as children of Sandy Hayden and Maria Hayden (aka Maria or Mariah Harris). The records also confirmed that Eliza (Hancock) Hayden was the mother of Sandy Hayden's younger children, Andrew J. Hayden, Susie Hayden Collins, Alice Hayden Jackson, R. A. (Robert) Hayden, and H. C. [sic] (Charles Harvey) Hayden, born after her marriage to their father in 1870.

The mother of James Hayden, who had died in 1910, was not as clearly resolved. His children, S. F. (Sandy Frank) Hayden, Clarence Hayden, Olivia (Octavia), Bertha Hayden Lewis, and Dovie Hayden, were identified as the *grandchildren* of Sandy and *Eliza* Hayden, though Eliza, who was born in Alabama, was almost certainly not James' mother, who was born in Virginia according to census records.<sup>160</sup> Alberta Allen, daughter of Martha Moore (deceased), granddaughter of Tom Hayden, and great-granddaughter of Sandy Hayden and Maria Hayden, also signed off on her interest in the "old Sandy Hayden homestead" at the same time.<sup>161</sup> These transactions record the final disposition of the homestead, the last of Sandy Hayden's property in the area.

### Closure of Hayden Springs School

Even as Henry Faulk was acquiring Sandy Hayden's homestead in 1928-1929, Travis County School Superintendent, Mrs. George R. Felter, was considering a petition to close the school bearing his name (Figure 18).<sup>162</sup> No reason was given for closing the school, but it was known that the Rosenwald Foundation was funding new schools for Black students throughout Texas at the time, and the community may have asked to replace their 44-year old school with a new, well-lighted, ventilated, and better equipped building. In fact, that is exactly what occurred. In 1928, the foundation built a new "Littig Negro School No. 1," in the hamlet of Littig, northeast of Hayden Springs; it was the first of five Rosenwald schools built in Travis County in the late 1920s and early 1930s.<sup>163</sup> The following year, the foundation built a second school in the Littig district, which then included Hayden Springs. Denoted as "Littig Negro School No. 2," on a 1932 county highway map, it became better known as Gravel Hill School.<sup>164</sup>

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<sup>159</sup> TCDR, vol. 430:542-552.

<sup>160</sup> Early census records for the family clearly show that James' mother, like his father's other children born before Emancipation, was from Virginia; those same records show that Eliza, mother of Hayden's younger children born after 1870, was from Alabama. In addition, James' death certificate lists his mother's maiden name as "Harris," while Eliza's maiden name was "Hancock."

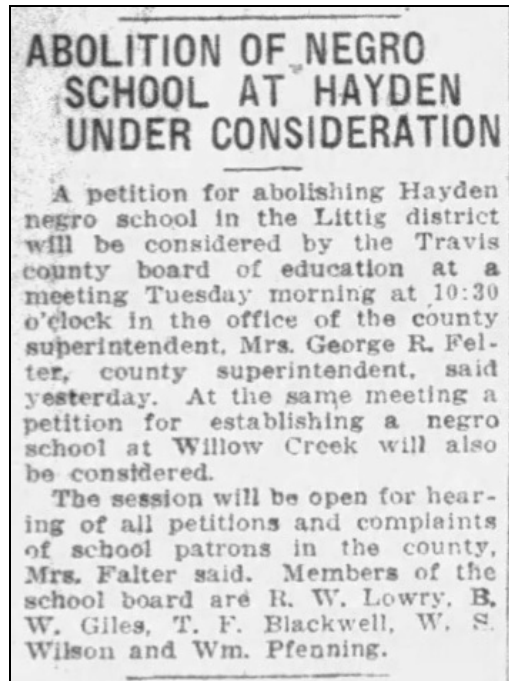
<sup>161</sup> TCDR, vol. 430:542-552.

<sup>162</sup> "Abolition of Negro School at Hayden Under Consideration," *The Austin American*, Feb. 28, 1925. The article didn't identify the petitioner(s) or a reason for it.

<sup>163</sup> "Austin Short Stories," *Austin American-Statesman*, July 27, 1927; Karen D. Riles, *Historic and Architectural Resources Associated with the Rosenwald School Building Program*, Texas Historical Commission, Multiple Property nomination, October 1998,

[https://www.thc.texas.gov/public/upload/preserve/national\\_register/final/Rosenwald%20MPS%20-%20TX.pdf](https://www.thc.texas.gov/public/upload/preserve/national_register/final/Rosenwald%20MPS%20-%20TX.pdf)

<sup>164</sup> "Build New School," *Austin American-Statesman*, November 4, 1929.



**Figure 21: Hayden Springs School Slated for Closure<sup>165</sup>**  
*The Austin American*, Feb. 28, 1925

Work commenced on the building in 1928 and Gravel Hill School opened for classes by November 1929.<sup>166</sup> The school occupied a two-acre site at the crossroads of the old Manor-to-Bastrop and Wilburn Springs-to-Webberville roads, east of the Manor-to-Webberville Road and the old Sandy Hayden homestead. Some students who began their educations at Hayden Springs almost certainly transferred to Gravel Hill School. Those living at the southern end of the old Hayden Springs boundaries probably attended the Webberville “colored” school, next to Ebenezer Baptist Church.<sup>167</sup> Those living at the northern end of the former Hayden Springs school territory, north of Parks Springs Baptist Church, likely transferred to the Manor Colored School, while those living further east may have gone to the new Littig Negro School No. 1. Thus, the Hayden Springs school population was probably divided into two or three groups depending on where students lived relative to the schools.

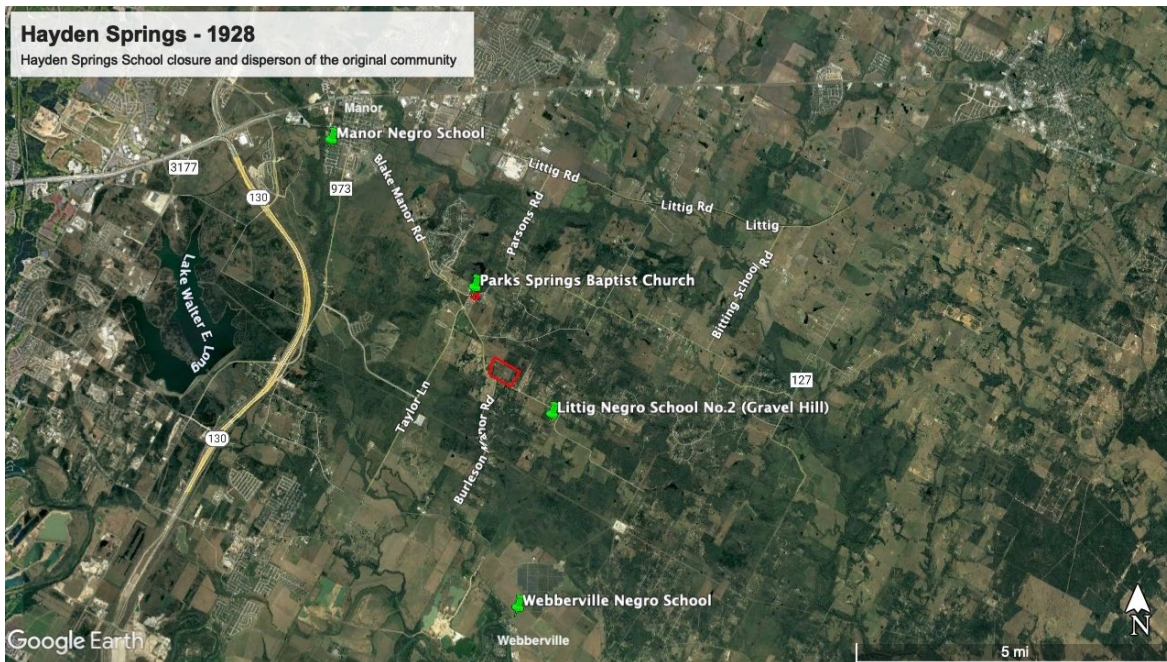
The concomitant closing of Hayden Springs School and sale of Sandy Hayden’s homestead ended the community’s identification and association with the Hayden name. No references to Hayden Springs have been found in the *Austin American-Statesman* newspaper after 1928. However, some of the founders’ descendants remained in the area, including members of the Banks, Brown, Bacon, and Easley families. Over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, other Black families moved into the still-rural area. Those who lived along the old Manor-to-Webberville and Wilburn Springs-to-Webberville (present Lockwood) roads, came to identify that area as “the Post Oaks” (aka Post Oakes), for its large numbers of Post Oak trees, especially around Parks Springs Cemetery.

<sup>165</sup> Article published three years prior to the official closure of Hayden Springs School in 1928.

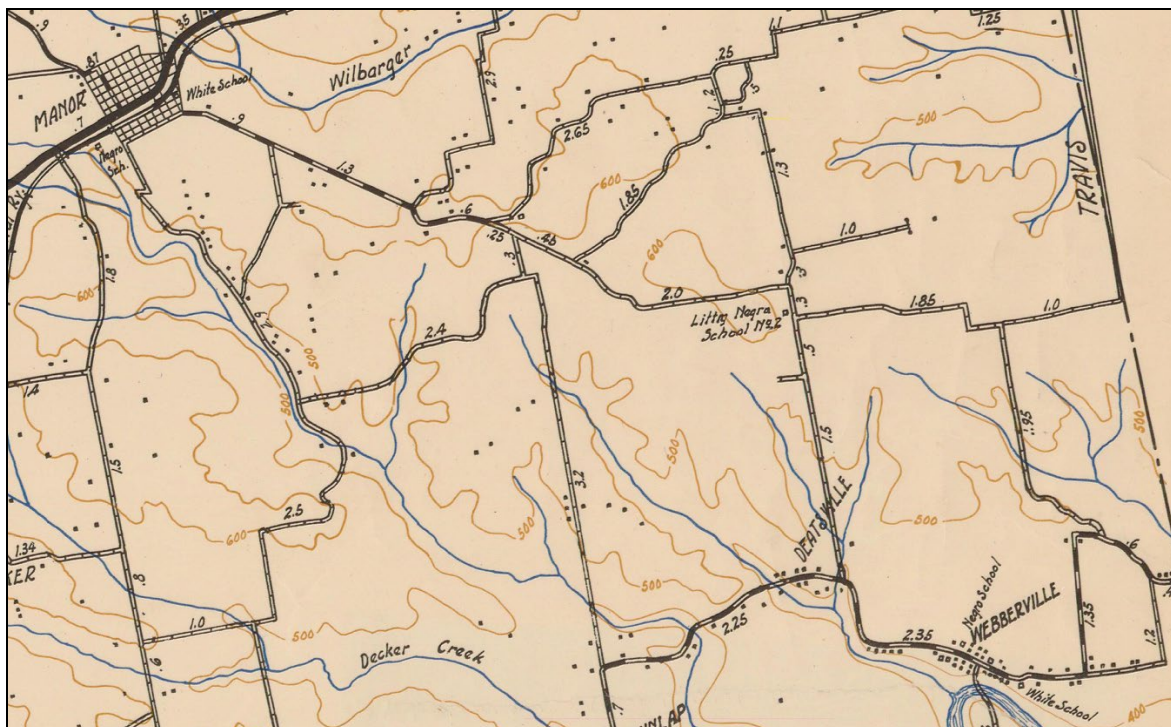
<sup>166</sup> “Build New School,” *Austin American-Statesman*, November 4, 1929.

<sup>167</sup> David A. Williams, 1996.





**Figure 22: Hayden Springs School Closure and Dispersion of the Original Community<sup>168</sup>**  
Matthew Medina, 2022



**Figure 23: Littig Negro School No. 2, Webberville Negro School, and Manor Negro School**  
Travis County Road Map, 1932

<sup>168</sup> The red square represents the remaining Hinton Banks farmstead.



In the 1920s and 1930s, Central Texas farmers suffered agricultural losses and economic hardships that drove many to abandon lands that had been in their families for generations. Farmers had largely done well during World War I, when military demand for cotton, food crops, and livestock yielded high prices. But when the war ended, so did military contracts, which spurred the so-called agricultural crisis of 1921 when farmers overproduced for a nonexistent market. In Central Texas, back-to-back boll weevil infestation in the mid-1920s resulted in widespread cotton failure, leaving farmers without the cash to buy seed or support themselves before the next harvest. Among those who managed to retain ownership of their farms in the Hayden Springs/Post Oaks area through the 1920s, were Ike Easley, Chester Owens, John Brown, W. T. Brown, and H. W. Banks. Others listed in the 1930 census as renting their farms included Dub Green, Wash Bunton, John Easley, Essex Earls, Rich Brown, and Berry Fowler.<sup>169</sup>

During the Great Depression, lenders called in farm mortgages and crop loans, leaving hundreds of farmers across Texas with few options; they couldn't sell their farms because there weren't any buyers. Some ended up sharecropping or tenant farming, but many quit farming altogether for the possibility of work in towns and cities. This scenario seems to have played out more often among Black farmers than whites in the Manor/Webberville area, where some families whose parents and grandparents owned their own farms, ended up "renting" them from a few white landowners who were able to buy and consolidate numerous small parcels into much larger, more profitable agricultural operations.

Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, longtime residents of Hayden Springs/Post Oaks gradually moved from the area to nearby towns like Manor and Elgin, or cities like Austin, as the Hayden children had earlier in the century. Many worked at low-income jobs as domestics, day laborers, janitors and drivers, but others became teachers, ministers, and business owners. Some young people left to attend Black colleges including Samuel Huston and Tillotson colleges, in Austin, or Prairie View A&M, in Waller County. Students from the country commonly boarded with family members or other trustworthy people who lived near campus.<sup>170</sup>

### **World War II and Early Postwar Era in Hayden Springs/Post Oaks**

For unskilled workers and low-income wage earners, the outbreak of World War II brought greater opportunities to learn skilled trades, especially in war-related industries or to fill jobs left by servicemen, including health care, construction, and mechanics. Some jobs took men far from the rural countryside of their childhood; they scattered across the country, even Mexico, to work in oil fields or at other essential tasks in support of the war effort. Of course, many enlisted or were drafted into the military where they received valuable training that would serve them well after their stints in the Army, Navy, or Army Air Corps.<sup>171</sup>

But other early families remained in the Hayden Springs/Post Oaks area through the 1940s and into the 1950s and 1960s, including descendants of the original Banks, Easley, Brown, Bacon, and Piper families who settled there in the 1870s and 1880s. There were also second and third generations of families who arrived by the turn of the century, including members of the Green, Fowler, Smith, Jones, Scott, Joyner, Taylor, and Earls families. Their descendants still lived in the Gravel Hill School district after the war, as reported in a 1946 *Austin American-Statesman* article on the Travis County Negro livestock and food show in Austin's Rosewood Park. Gravel Hill students taking part in the competition included the following 4-H Club prizewinners: Sam Green, First Place in the pork sausage competition; Frances

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<sup>169</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, "Population Schedule," Travis County, Texas, Precinct 1, Enumeration District No. 227-1, 1930.

<sup>170</sup> Adrian Fowler, interview with Terri Myers, July 26, 2022.

<sup>171</sup> *Ibid.*

Brown, First Place in the canned vegetables, pickled products, and, along with Mary Easley, canned fruit events; Bobbie Scott, Willie Harris, and Geneva Young, First Place in girls' clothing events; and Girtha Earls, Dora Earls, and Ruth Johnson, prizes in "other" clothing competitions.<sup>172</sup> Some students with rural route addresses likely lived in the area, as well; prizewinners included Robert Alexander, Reserve Champion calf; J. D. Piper, special Sears and Roebuck Foundation award; and N. B. Norris, all three First Place prizes for yeast breadmaking, and First Place in the "other" clothing competition.<sup>173</sup>

Although many of the younger residents ultimately moved to towns or cities, they returned to the Post Oaks to visit family and take part in special events, including Juneteenth celebrations at area churches.<sup>174</sup> Children often spent weekends or summers with their grandparents in the country. In interviews for this narrative, they recalled rural lifeways that still prevailed – not only in the country, but within the City of Manor – through the 1950s and 1960s. Parents and grandparents in Manor commonly lived on large lots in the "Negro" section near the "Colored School" and Black churches, including Gilden Creek First Baptist, Gilden Creek Third Baptist, and Little Zion Baptist Church – south of the railroad tracks. Many had fruit trees and large gardens where they grew their own vegetables. Some also raised chickens, a few hogs, and even a milk cow or two. Most of what they raised was not for sale, but for their own use and to share with neighbors and family.<sup>175</sup>

One woman reflected that Manor was "country-like" when she was small, in the 1950s, but that it had changed over time.<sup>176</sup> Dora and Luther Dunn lived within the Manor town limits, behind Gilden Creek Baptist Church, where they also had a big garden with fruit trees. The Dunns also raised hogs that they butchered and hung in a smokehouse on their lot.<sup>177</sup> Women and children picked cotton in the summer before school started in September throughout the 1950s and 1960s. It was a good way to get spending money for school clothes. Mothers and their children packed sack lunches to take with them to the cotton patch. A big truck would come through early in the morning, pick them up, and deliver them to the fields. Harry Eppright grew a lot of cotton around Manor; they would usually start there, then go on to Hutto, Pflugerville, Taylor, and Rice Crossing. It was hard work in the hot sun; some stood in the fields praying, "Lord, bring us some rain!" The ground was so hot, some pickers made pads to protect their knees from the heat. The youngest children didn't pick; their mothers laid down cotton sacks under the trailers so they could stay in the shade.<sup>178</sup>

Elbert Burns also recalled that Black people in Manor had gardens and fruit trees for fresh vegetables and fruit; pear trees his mother planted decades ago are still bearing fruit in the front yard. His mother, Mary Burns, had a frame bungalow built on a lot in Manor in 1947; Elbert Burns still lives in that house. Although they lived inside the city limits the Burns' had chickens and a chicken house, hogs and hog pens. In addition to home gardens, Burns remembered that many Black men who lived in Manor worked as sharecroppers or tenant farmers on the surrounding fields owned by white people; few owned their own farms.<sup>179</sup>

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<sup>172</sup> "Pflugerville Club Boy Wins Top Show Award," *Austin American-Statesman*, March 22, 1946.

<sup>173</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>174</sup> Barbara Carothers Scott, interview with Terri Myers, September 21, 2022.

<sup>175</sup> *Ibid.*

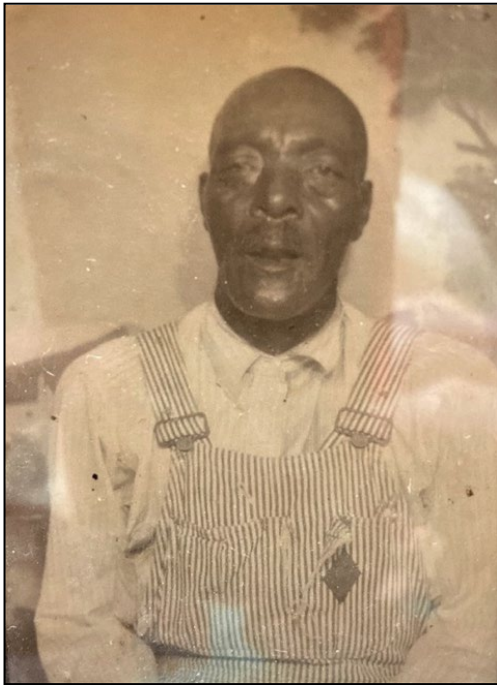
<sup>176</sup> Anonymous, interview with Terri Myers, September 20, 2022.

<sup>177</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>178</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>179</sup> Elbert Burns, interview with Terri Myers, July 22, 2022.

One of the most detailed accounts of rural life in northeastern Travis County came from Barbara Carothers Scott, who remembered spending time with her maternal grandparents, Elton and Evellar Lowe Smith, at their home by Union Lee Baptist Church, near the Post Oaks. Her description of their farmstead and lifestyle conveys a strong sense of how Black families likely lived in the Hayden Springs/Post Oaks area in the early- to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Elton Smith (Figure 19) was the son of Georgia Banks (Figure 20),<sup>180</sup> whose family name is associated with some of the founders of Hayden Springs.<sup>181</sup> She later married James McCarthen, a descendant of other early residents in the Littig and Manor areas. Elton grew up in the McCarthen household with many half-brothers (Figure 21) and sisters; he became a farmer like his stepfather. Evellar Lowe's father, James Madison Lowe, was born in Bastrop County in 1875 (Figure 22). Madison Lowe was the son of Freedmen Cicero and Mary Lowe; Cicero had been born in North Carolina and Mary in Arkansas. They must have come to Texas with their enslavers prior to Emancipation as their oldest child, also named Cicero, was born in Texas in 1864.<sup>182</sup> Both parents and all of their children were listed as "mu" for "mulatto" in the 1880 Bastrop County census.<sup>183</sup>



<sup>180</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>181</sup> John B. Banks and Gaston H. Banks, probably his brother, were white men with plantations in and around Webberville. Each claimed 30 enslaved persons in the 1860 census Non-population Slave Schedules. Several branches of African American Banks families settled around Webberville, in Bastrop County and in Hayden Springs after the Civil War, but it is almost impossible to trace so many individuals to specific nuclear families before Emancipation. We do know that Georgia Banks' father was Anderson Banks, who lived in Bastrop County in 1870, but we cannot place him with other known members of the Banks family. It is probable, though, that Anderson, who was born about 1847, was enslaved on one of the white Banks' plantations.

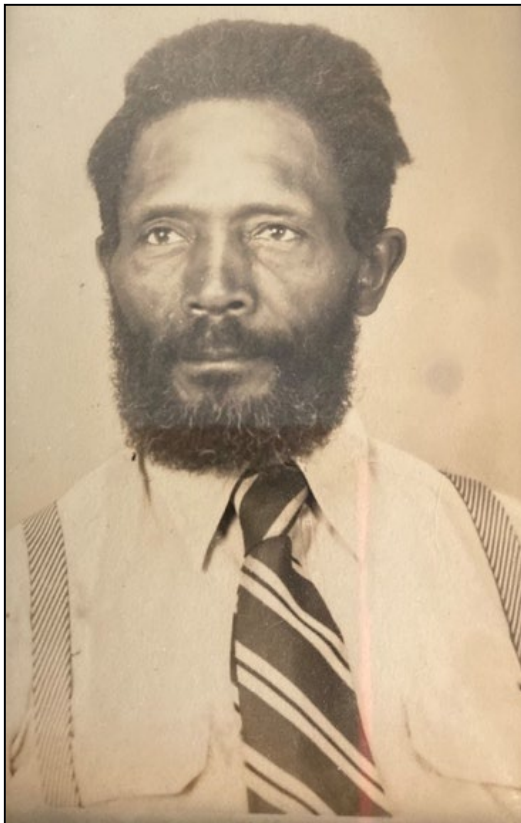
<sup>182</sup> This assertion is based on the age of their oldest son, also Cicero, who was born in Texas and was 16 in 1880, making his birth year 1864, as per the 1880 census.

<sup>183</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, "Population Schedule," Bastrop County, Texas, Enumeration District No. 13, 1880.

**Figure 23: Elton Smith, sharecropper in the Hayden Springs/Post Oaks area, c. 1935**

**Figure 24: Georgia Banks, mother of Elton Smith, c. 1935**

The Smiths lived on 22 acres in the Post Oaks they were sharecroppers. They had a big garden where they grew corn, snap beans, grapes, and other food crops; they also had fruit trees. Evellar Smith sold the preserves she made from mustang grapes, dewberries, peaches and pears. They also grew and sold watermelons. The couple raised hogs, cows, and chickens and smoked meats in their smokehouse; they sometimes sold some of the meat they butchered and smoked. In talking about her grandparents, Ms. Scott noted that Black people often couldn't afford to see a doctor, so they "doctored themselves." Her grandfather was well-known as a natural healer; he knew how to use berries and leaves, and bark from oaks, dewberries, hackberries, grapes, and mesquite, boiling them in a big pot out in the yard to make medicine. People in the country came to him for cures, especially for their mules and cattle, but white doctors also sought his advice. Her grandmother also cared for women as a mid-wife.<sup>184</sup>



**Figure 28: James Madison Lowe, father of Evellar Lowe Smith and farmer in the Hayden Springs/Post Oaks area, c. 1915**



**Figure 27: Albert "Buster" McCarthen, brother of Elton Smith, c. 1930**

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<sup>184</sup> Barbara Carothers Scott, interview with Terri Myers, September 21, 2022.

Elton Smith built everything on the property, including their house, smokehouse, barns, pens, and other outbuildings. Originally, they had a separate kitchen, but Smith later added a kitchen to the back of the house. He took old ice boxes and flattened them to side his house. The Smiths had electricity, but no plumbing. When grandchildren came to visit – for about two weeks – in the summer, they took baths in a big tub in the kitchen with water heated on a big wood stove. The Smiths had a stock tank on the side of their house and Elton would stock it so he and his grandchildren could fish. He took the boys hunting for raccoons, rabbits, and other wild game, with his double-barreled shotgun. Among his tools were hand axes, shovels, and a hand-held plow. He made or carved some of the tools and machinery he needed.<sup>185</sup>



The Smiths only occasionally went to town – Elgin or Manor – for sugar, butter, boxed cereal, canned milk, and ice cream. They called these trips “going trading.” They liked to go to Elgin as a family for sausage they called “hot guts.” But mainly, they stayed on their property, except to go to church. The

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<sup>185</sup> *Ibid.*

**Figure 26: Cleora Lowe Gilden, sister of Evellar Lowe Smith, resident in Hayden Springs/Post Oaks area, c. 1900**



family always ate dinner together; they talked during meals but most of the time, they talked on the front porch at nights when they could see the stars. The grandparents told stories about their families and where they had come from. They instilled the values that sustained their children and grandchildren: Trust in the Lord; Do right; Help others. Their granddaughter, Barbara, remembered those times as “precious memories.” She said she felt blessed to know as much as she did about her heritage, that it gave her joy to know, “I have a history!”<sup>186</sup>



**Figure 25: Jimmy and Ethel Smith’s house in Hayden Springs/Post Oaks area, c. 1920<sup>187</sup>**

Photos provided by Barbara Carothers Scott, 2022.

By the 1950s, some white families had moved into the Hayden Springs/Post Oaks area; among them were the Lawrence and Schneider families. The Lawrences bought much of Sandy Hayden’s former property, including the land now occupied by East Metro Park. The Schneiders owned land across the dirt road, now known as Blake Manor Road, where they built a house on or next to Sandy Hayden’s former homestead.<sup>188</sup> But several descendants of the original Black settlers remained in the area. Black families lived on three sides of the Schneider property: the Banks, Easley, and Rev. Aaron Taylor’s families.<sup>189</sup> Some of the Banks and Easley children had gone to Gravel Hill School, but by the 1950s, most in the Post Oaks attended Manor Colored School. Manor schools integrated in school year 1966-1967; among the first Black graduates in 1967 were Alvin Banks and narrators for this project, Ruth Taylor Biscoe and Elbert Burns.

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<sup>186</sup> Barbara Carothers Scott, interview with Terri Myers, 2022.

<sup>187</sup> Jimmy and Ethel Smith’s Folk Victorian house was built c. 1890. Sandy Hayden’s house may have been similar with a hipped roof and full-façade front porch, turned porch posts and “gingerbread” brackets.

<sup>188</sup> Wayne Schneider, interview with Terri Myers, 2022.

<sup>189</sup> *Ibid.*

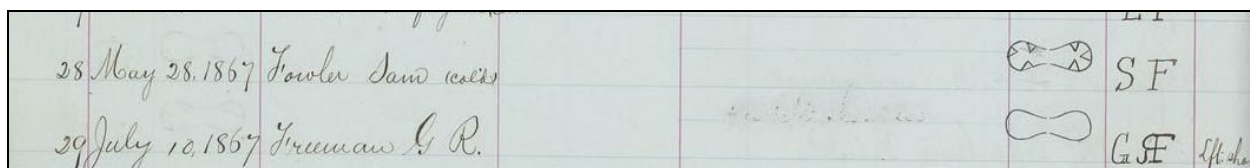


Elbert Burns, a lifelong resident of Manor, was asked if children from the Post Oaks were treated differently by those who grew up in town. He replied that they did consider them “country” but also envied them because they always had good food to eat, including sausage from their own hogs. He knew several families from the Post Oaks, including his cousins, the Gildens and Jacksons, as well as the Washingtons, Bud “Bubbie” Easley, and the Banks brothers, with whom he played basketball at Manor High School.<sup>190</sup>

Though Willie Ruth Taylor Biscoe grew up in a neighborhood on Eggleston Street in the 1950s and 1960s, she recalled that a lot of land in and around the City of Manor was still in agricultural use, particularly cotton and corn, in that period. In fact, a lot of Black families in her neighborhood had big vegetable gardens and fruit trees, including figs and peaches; Miss Elinora Habbits had plums. Her father lived in a trailer off of Blake Manor Road where he farmed cotton, corn, and hay for the white Eppright brothers. He had a large garden out there where he grew black-eyed peas, squash, potatoes – sweet potatoes, ice potatoes, and new potatoes – snap beans, okra, and cucumbers. He picked some to sell, but people could also pick their own vegetables out of his garden. He had hogs and chickens on the tract, as well. In addition, he hunted wild game, including rabbits, quail, and even armadillos.<sup>191</sup>

Ms. Biscoe knew classmates who lived further south on Blake Manor Road and elsewhere in the Post Oaks; among them were Babe Easley, Toot Easley, Alvin Banks, Rosalee Banks, and Leroy Green. Sam Green drove the school bus to bring children from the Post Oaks into Manor, first to the Manor Colored School, then, after 1966, to the city’s newly integrated schools. She remembered that the Easleys had a lot of hogs and their children brought homemade sausage, cracklins, and sausage patties to school for lunch. Because the Post Oaks had no stores or gas stations, people who lived out there had to come into town for many things.<sup>192</sup>

Adrian Fowler’s maternal grandparents, Dub Green and Sarah Hunter Green, lived in the Post Oaks in the early- to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. As a child, Adrian spent summers and weekends at their house. Her father’s Fowler grandparents lived off of Burleson-Manor Road. Some members of the Fowler family had maintained a presence in the Post Oaks since the 1860s when Sam Fowler registered his cattle brand in Travis County on May 28, 1867.<sup>193</sup> He was denoted as “col’d” for “colored.”



**Figure 29: Cattle Brand of Sam Fowler (col’d)**  
Travis County Marks and Brands Register, Book 1, page 140

According to several narrators, Black farmers, including R. L. Easley Sr., grew mostly corn but also some cotton. James Joyner had a small farm with cows and chickens, and a big garden where he grew corn and

<sup>190</sup> Elbert Burns, interview with Terri Myers, July 22, 2022.

<sup>191</sup> Willie Ruth Taylor Biscoe, interview with Terri Myers, September 11, 2022.

<sup>192</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>193</sup> Travis County Register of Marks and Brands.

other vegetables. Several narrators for the project remember picking cotton as children in the 1950s and 1960s to make spending money, usually for school clothes and shoes.

As time passed, many young African Americans moved away from their family homes and farms in the Post Oaks region of northeastern Travis County. Most left the country for greater opportunities in nearby towns and cities, especially Austin, Manor, and Elgin. But some who moved away in the 1950s and 1960s have now come back to the area, though most live in modern homes or apartments in subdivisions and residential enclaves that now extend into the country from Austin and Manor. Both those who have returned and those who never left, express an appreciation for the slower pace and tranquility, and greater sense of community, of small town or country life. Though few would return to the back-breaking labor and hardscrabble lives their grandparents and great-grandparents endured in rural northeastern Travis County, they recall their family and friends, and the values they were taught at home, school, and church with great fondness, even longing, for that long-ago time and place.

Today, numerous descendants of African Americans who settled areas served by Parks School, Union Lee School, Webberville Negro School, and Hayden Springs School as early as the 1870s, still live in the general vicinity of those rural Freedmen communities. They bear the family names of men and women who survived enslavement and, seemingly from nothing, built homes, farms, schools, and churches for themselves and their children in the first years after Emancipation. It is for them, and their descendants, that this history is written.

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“Hayden Springs – 1928, Hayden Springs School Closure and Dispersion of Original Community.” Matthew Medina, 2022.

### **Images**

“Albert ‘Buster’ McCarthen, c. 1930.” Provided by Barbara Carothers Scott, 2022.

“Elton Smith, c. 1935.” Provided by Barbara Carothers Scott, 2022.

“Evellar Lowe Smith, c. 1920s.” Provided by Barbara Carothers Scott, 2022.

“James Madison Lowe, c. 1915.” Provided by Barbara Carothers Scott, 2022.

“Jimmy and Ethel Smith’s House in Hayden Springs/Post Oaks Area, c. 1920” Provided by Barbara Carothers Scott, 2022.

“Georgia Banks, c. 1935.” Provided by Barbara Carothers Scott, 2022.

“Jeff D. Hayden’s Tombstone in Ike Brown Cemetery.” Terri Myers, 2022.

“Sandy Hayden’s Tombstone in Ike Brown Cemetery.” Terri Myers, 2022.

“Two-Room Building (Possible Tenant Dwelling) on Sandy Hayden’s Former Property.” Bob Ward, 2022

“Springs on Sandy Hayden Farm.” Terri Myers, 2022.

“Little Zion Baptist Church, Manor, Texas.” Terri Myers, 2022.

“Park Springs Baptist Church, Travis County, Texas.” Terri Myers, 2022.

“Union Lee Baptist Church, Travis County, Texas.” Terri Myers, 2022.

“Webberville Ebenezer Baptist Church, Travis County, Texas.” Terri Myers, 2022.

“Bob Ward at Black History Month Celebration.” Terri Myers, 2022.

“Park Springs Cemetery.” Terri Myers, 2022.

“TCHC Oral History Workshop.” Xade Biscoe, 2022.

“Recording and Transcribing Equipment Showcased at Workshop.” Terri Myers, 2022.

“East Metro Park Kiosk.” Terri Myers, 2022.

### **Texas State University Student Papers**

“The Hayden Springs Freedom Colony Project” For HIST 3368A: Introduction to Public History, Dr. Ruby Oram, History Department, Texas State University. May 2022. Student papers edited and compiled by Dr. Ruby Oram:

Renaldo Josue Funez Sanchez: Sandy Hayden – Family History

Berkley Kading and Matthew Medina: Sandy Hayden – Property History

Montana Copeland and Travis Leffall: Hinton Banks – Family History

Darrell Correia and Blakely McCullough: Henderson Banks – Family History

Darrell Correia and Blakely McCullough: Hinton and Henderson Banks – Property History

Alyssa Cradit and Chloe Johnson: Louis Meeks – Family History

Alyssa Cradit and Chloe Johnson: Louis Meeks – Property History

Elijah Williams Harms and Willow Shaw: Charley Morrow -- Family History

Elijah Williams Harms and Willow Shaw: Charley Morrow – Property History

Trinity Abels and Matthew Medina: Will Hill – Family History

Trinity Abels and Sophie Moore: Ike Brown – Family and Property History

Berkley Kading: Dock Merritt – Family History

Nkundimana Claude: Henry Brown – Family History

Zavier Cienfuegos: Joshua Pope – Family History

Zavier Cienfuegos and Renaldo Josue Funez Sanchez: Robert Bacon – Family History

Arthur Fairchild: James Smith – Family History

### **Ex-Slave Narratives**

“Mattie Williams.” *Ex-Slave Narratives*. Interview with Alfred Menn. Travis County, Texas: 1936. Transcript on file at Austin History Center.

“Clarissa Scales.” *Ex-Slave Narratives*. Interview with Alfred E. Menn. Travis County, Texas: March 3, 1937. Transcript on file at the Austin History Center, Austin, Texas.

“Henry Hence Smith.” *Ex-Slave Narratives*. Interview with Alfred E. Menn. Travis County, Texas: March 16, 1938. Transcript on file at the Austin History Center, Austin, Texas.

### **Interviews for Hayden Springs Project**

Anonymous. Interview with Terri Myers, September 20, 2022.

Adrian Rhae Fowler. Interview with Terri Myers, July 22, 2022.

Wayne Schneider, Interview with Terri Myers, July 14, 2022.

Elbert Randolph Burns. Interview with Terri Myers, July 22, 2022.

Barbara Carothers Scott. Interview with Terri Myers, September 21, 2022.

Willie Ruth Taylor Biscoe. Interview with Terri Myers, September 11, 2022.

Eleanor Faye Davis Thompson. Interview with Terri Myers, September 4, 2022.

Lydia Hayden West-Moore. Interview with Terri Myers, September 12, 2022.

## **Appendix A: Oral History Workshop Packet**





# The Hayden Springs Freedom Colony Project

Hayden Springs was a freedom colony established in northeastern Travis County after emancipation. Its namesake, Sandy Hayden, was an African American born in North Carolina who was likely an enslaved person in Travis County prior to the Civil War. The first known record of Hayden was his Travis County voter registration in 1867. Shortly after this time, Hayden became a property owner and sold tracts of land to other African Americans who were also likely freedmen. A small community formed and included a school known as Sandy Hayden School or Hayden Springs School. Little more is known about the community. The school closed in 1928 and the community disappeared.

The Travis County Historical Commission has received a grant to learn more about the Hayden Springs Freedom Colony from both written records and oral histories. Through this work, we hope to uncover, celebrate, and make accessible to the public the history of this early African American settlement.

- Share your personal knowledge about this community (first-hand accounts, family stories, etc.)
- Reach out to a friend, relative, or community member that might know about or have connections to this history
- Volunteer to conduct oral histories (we will have a workshop to prepare volunteers for this process)

Terri Myers  
Preservation Central, Inc.  
terrimyers@preservationcentral.com  
(512) 478-0898





# ORAL HISTORY FOR THE PEOPLE!

**Oral History  
Workshop –**



Learn the basics of taping simple but effective oral histories for your family, school reunions, church groups, and others!

**SATURDAY  
MAY  
21**

**MANOR CITY HALL,  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**



Workshop sponsored by  
the Travis County Historical  
Commission in partnership  
with the City of Manor.

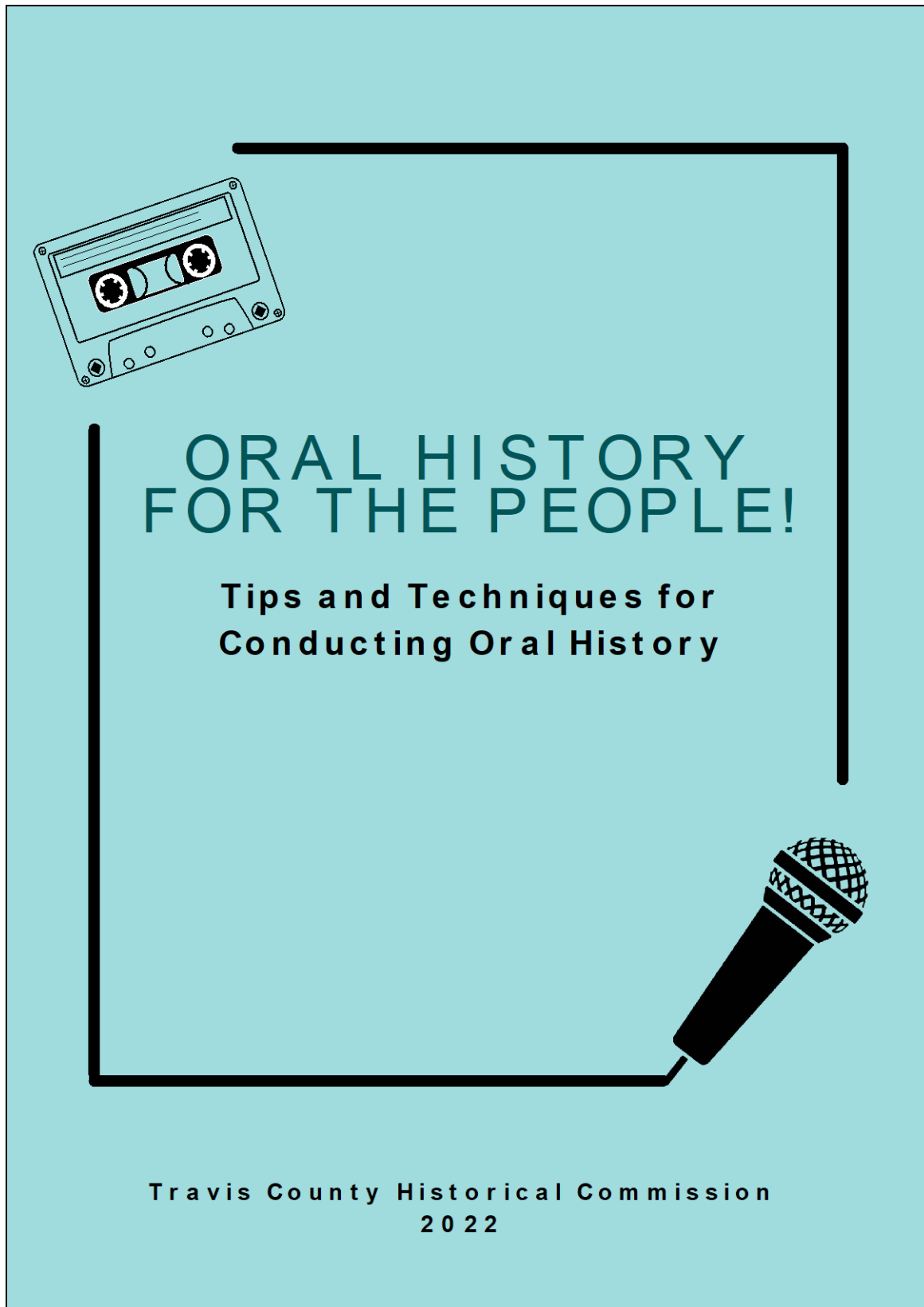
**EASY AND AFFORDABLE RECORDING  
EQUIPMENT  
HOW TO WRITE "OPEN-ENDED" QUESTIONS  
TO GET THE BEST RESULTS  
TRANSCRIPTS  
COMMON RELEASE FORMS FOR TAPES AND  
TRANSCRIPTS  
GENEALOGY**



Only remaining historic building on Hayden Farmstead

This project is part of a study to document a  
former African American Freedom Community  
in rural Travis County known as Hayden Springs.

For more information, contact Terri Myers (512) 478-0898 or Eleanor Thompson (512) 704-4767



## Oral History Workshop Packet: Agenda

**Meet and Greet:** Cookies, Coffee, Iced Tea, Name Tags

**Handouts:** African American Oral History Tips; Oral History Manual;

**Introduction to the Hayden Springs project:** Bob and Lydia for Travis County Historical Commission – 10-15 Minutes

**Genealogy for African Americans:** Cynthia Evans 15 Minutes

**Importance of Oral Histories:** African American Projects (Rubin Hancock): Eleanor Thompson 10-15 mins

**Basic Techniques for Taping Effective Interviews:** Terri Myers – 30 minutes

**Identify and Contact your narrator – do you need a go-between? Do they even want to do this? Are they physically or emotionally capable of sitting for an interview?**

**Setting up:** a comfortable place, limit distractions, check your equipment

**Define your goals:** is there a certain topic, or story, or theme you are interested in?

**Compose your questions:** Essential info, build confidence, ease into deeper topics

**Equipment:** Doesn't have to break the bank

**Traditional Tape Recorder – Cassette**

**Digital Recorder**

**Smart Phone**

**Walkman – the Pink**

**Taking Notes:** Essential Information (Names, Approximate Dates, Place, Subject)

**Start with questions they will know the answers to:** parents' names, grandparents', siblings? where they were from? When did they move here?

**Then go into more depth:** Writing and Asking Open-Ended Questions

**Demonstration**

**Role Playing with a Partner**

**Let your Narrator do the talking:** it's not a conversation

**Transcribing your interview**

**Technical Issues:** Find a Young Person!!

**Release Forms:** Narrator and Interviewer

**Student Projects:** Southwest Texas State Students – 10 minutes

**Questions and Answers:** 15 minutes



For the purposes of this workshop, we are going to call the person being interviewed, the narrator, because he or she is narrating or recounting his/her story to you, the interviewer.

Oral histories are important to filling in the gaps found in public records like census and deed records, they provide the human touch, the real experiences of everyday people who bore witness to history and remember it from their own point of view. Oral history is especially important in researching African American, Hispanic, and other ethnic or religious groups whose stories have been overlooked or considered unimportant to the history of the “larger” community – i.e, the community in power.

It has been said that war is written by the victors, not by those who lost. That same thing can be said about the history of a nation or a movement – the history is most often told by the “winners” – people who are considered great because they are powerful and wealthy. Scores of books have been written about the lives and accomplishments of men like John D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie, and will be written about men like Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos. We don’t have to worry about their stories being forgotten!

But what about the rest of us? The regular people who go to work, raise their children, love their families, and endure hardships that the rich and powerful do not? Do their lives not matter as much to the people who love them? Their family, friends, and colleagues? And are their accomplishments somehow less meaningful or less important to their communities than the rich or famous? I think the answer is no – their history is just as important – maybe more important – not only to those who know them but to our understanding of a people or an entire community. This is especially true for people who have been marginalized, for whom little or no history has been written.

That is where oral history comes in. Recorded interviews capture their stories – maybe just for their families and descendants but maybe also for future researchers. The best examples of oral history’s significance in my own experience are the so-called Ex-Slave Narratives that were recorded and transcribed in the 1930s by the WPA (Works Progress Administration) one of President Roosevelt’s New Deal programs to put unemployed writers to work during the Great Depression. It was an attempt to document the experiences of the last surviving African Americans witnesses to slavery in America. Young people – mostly young white men – equipped with tape recorders were sent throughout the former slave-holding states to record their memories. Many oral histories were recorded in Texas and Travis County is well-represented. One of your handouts is a transcript of an oral history taken with a man born in Manor – before the town of Manor existed.

**Note:** Most interviewers tried to capture the vernacular or colloquial language of the narrators in their transcripts: they seem to make the narrators somewhat childlike or uneducated – as indeed, many of them were, but they were meant only to try and capture their colloquial language before it passed out of existence.

**As an architectural historian, I have used oral histories in most of my projects to add the human touch to otherwise boring or unimaginative reports. My interviews don't always follow the guidelines for the academic uses of oral histories; they have their place in the study of history. The Baylor University oral history program is one of the premiere programs for that type of research.**

**But our purpose here is to capture the stories of our families, church members, civic leaders, and others who can shed light on how and when and why our grandparents came to Manor, or Littig, or Webberville, or Austin, how and when and why they did what they did, in a way that might have meaning on our present lives our community and on future generations.**

## Oral History Workshop Packet: Oral History Interview Tips

### TIPS ON CONDUCTING ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS

- Pick someone, if possible, that you'll have some point of contact with (family, shared interests, etc.)
- Do your homework (background research, basic info)
- Decide the most important things that you want to learn or record
- Prepare a list of about 20-25 potential questions, based on your background research
- Use mostly open-ended questions ("Tell me about..."; "Who, what, when were, why"; "Can you give me an example...")
- Schedule a mutually convenient time for your interview (1-2 hours), at a comfortable, quiet location
- Practice on the recording equipment you'll be using (microphone, 60-minute tapes)
- Start the interview tape with the interviewee's name, your name, the date, and the location of the interview (then play it back as a test)
- Be friendly and courteous, and be a good listener
- Let the interviewee do most of the talking
- Start with basic biographical questions
- Go from the general to the specific
- Don't hesitate to ask for clarification but don't get bogged down in details
- Look for colorful, personal experiences, the kind of information that isn't in history books
- Sometimes photographs will spark interesting stories
- Be flexible – follow up interesting stories, but don't get too dragged around
- Learn from your mistakes!
- Send a thank-you letter
- Consider transcribing or indexing the interview

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*Austin History Center – Austin Public Library*

## STARTING POINTS FOR INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

When and where were you born?  
Who were your parents and where did they come from?  
How did they make their living?  
What do you remember about your grandparents?  
What are your very earliest memories?  
How do you remember your early childhood?  
Tell me about the house you grew up in.  
What were your first school experiences?  
Tell me about a typical day at school.  
Tell me about your favorite teacher.  
What did you do after school?  
How did your family spend vacations or have fun?  
What did you usually eat for breakfast, lunch, dinner?  
What was your favorite food?  
Who was your best friend and what did you do together?  
How did world events (wars, depressions, etc.) affect you and your family?  
Did you experience any natural disasters while you were growing up?  
What did you and your friends do for fun? (sports, picnics, movies, fairs, etc.)  
What did you usually wear for everyday clothes?  
What would you usually get dressed up for and what did you wear then?  
What was Austin like when you were growing up?  
How did you make spending money as a young person?  
What was your favorite, most precious possession as a child?  
Did you have pets in your family and what were they?  
What happened when you (or brothers/sister) got into trouble?  
What did you (and your parents) do when you were sick?  
How did you meet your spouse?  
What did you do while you were courting?  
What were your favorite radio programs?  
How did you decide on your chosen career?  
What was your first job?  
Describe your first boss.  
Have you had any interesting experiences with famous people?  
What is your favorite holiday and what memories does it bring back?  
How did you spend your first Christmas (or other holiday) away from home?  
Describe your volunteer activities.  
What cities/countries have you traveled to?  
Of what are you the most proud in your life?  
Tell me about your children, who they are, and what they're doing.  
What hobbies have you had?  
What is the biggest change you've seen in your lifetime?  
Did your life turn out the way you thought it would?

## Oral History Workshop Packet: Question Writing Exercise

### **Exercise: “Yes” or “No” questions vs. “Open-ended” questions**

1: Write 5- 6 “yes”/“no” questions: “Were you born in Manor?” “Did you do chores as a child?”

2. Now turn those “yes” or “no” questions into “open-ended” questions: “Tell me about the place where you were born” or “What kinds of chores did you do as a child?”



## Oral History Workshop Packet: Interviewer Form



### City Of Austin Austin History Center Oral History Project

#### Interviewer Assignment of Copyright Ownership In Oral History Interview



This Agreement is made this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, between the City of Austin, Texas, (City) a Texas municipal corporation, acting through the Austin History Center, and \_\_\_\_\_ (Interviewer).

Whereas, Interviewer has created an original work of authorship relating to the oral history interviews with \_\_\_\_\_;  
[insert name of interviewees and project]

Whereas, Interviewer intended that the City would own all copyright ownership to the interviews that Interviewer prepared, as indicated above, by assignment.

Now, therefore, in consideration of the covenants and agreements contained herein, and other good and valuable consideration, the City and Interviewer agree as follows:

1. Interviewer assigns to City all of the Interviewer's right, title, interest and ownership in the above indicated interviews, including copyright ownership. Furthermore, the Interviewer assigns the right to secure renewals and extension of said copyright.
2. Interviewer agrees to execute, acknowledge, and deliver All applications, assignments, and other documents which the City may reasonable deem necessary in order to apply and obtain copyright protections so that the City has the full and exclusive benefit of the interview and copyright thereof.

The parties have executed this Agreement effective as of the date first written above.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If you are a City of Austin Employee)

## Oral History Workshop Packet: Interviewee Form



### City Of Austin Austin History Center Oral History Project

#### Oral History Interview



#### Deed of Gift & Consent (Interviewee)

Donor Section (Please print or type) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Oral History Project Interview Title and Description:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I consent to the taping and other recording of any conversations and interviews that I participate in for the above referenced oral history. The City of Austin has the right to use the results of these conversations and interview(s) for the Austin History Center Oral History Project.

I grant to the City of Austin for the Austin History Center Oral History Project the rights to use all or part of my statements, or any paraphrase; to describe and portray, in whole or part, me and any events or biographical information about me in the above described oral history project, and for the promotion of this oral history. I agree that I have no claim of any kind arising out of such use.

I donate and convey all right, title, and interest and ownership including copyright interest and the right to secure renewals and extensions thereof, that I have or may be deemed to have in the above referenced oral history interviews(s) to the City of Austin for the Austin History Center Oral History Project.

I understand that the location, retention, and preservation of the oral history interview materials, and other considerations relating to their use or disposition, will be made in accordance with the Austin History Center policies.

I agree to execute, acknowledge, and deliver all applications, assignments, and other documents which the City may reasonably deem necessary in order to apply and obtain copyright protection so that the City has the full and exclusive benefit of the interview and copyright thereof.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

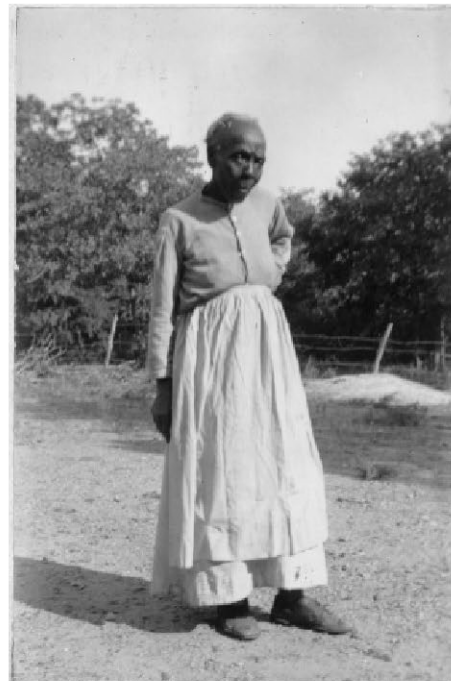
Donor Printed Name

**Ex-Slave Stories: Federal Writer's  
Project 1936-1938**

Texas narratives from the Library of  
Congress



**John Crawford, 81.** Born on Judge Rector's plantation at Manor, Texas. After Emancipation, he was a sharecropper in Travis County, where he lived all his life.



**Emma Spence Bunton, ~83.** Born on Bell plantation, Murfreesboro, TN. Sold to Joseph Spence who brought her to Texas where he established a farm east of Austin.

interviews from Texas  
and Austin

420276

EX-SLAVE STORIES  
(Texas)

Page One

212

JACK CAUTHERN, 85, was born near Austin, Texas. Dick Townes owned Jack and his parents. After they were freed, the family stayed on the plantation, but Jack went to San Angelo, because "times was too dull in Travis County."

"My master was Dick Townes and my folks come with him from Alabama. He woned a big plantation fifteen miles from Austin and worked lots of slaves. We had the best master in the whole county, and everybody called us 'Townes' free niggers," he was so good to us, and we worked hard for him, raisin' cotton and corn and wheat and oats.

"Most the slaves lived in two-room log cabins with dirt floors, over in the quarters, but I lived in master's yard. That's where I was born. There was a tall fence 'tween the yard and the quarters and the other nigger boys was so jealous of me they wouldn't let me cross that fence into the quarters. They told me I thinked I was white, jes' for livin' in master's yard.

"Me and young master had the good times. He was nigh my age and we'd steal chickens from Old Miss and go down in the orchard and barbecue 'em. One time she cotched us and sho' wore us out! She'd send us to pick peas, but few peas we picked!

"Old Miss was good to her cullud folks. When she'd hear a baby cryin' in the night she'd put on boots and take her lantern and go see about it. If we needed a doctor she'd send for old Dr. Rector and when I had the measles he give me some pills big as the end of my finger.

\*1\*

1950 - Thomas B. Rector M.D. 4340  
Bastrop TX 1850 Tenn  
wife Eliza 35 Ala

1860

Ex-slave Stories  
(Texas)

Page Two

213

"We went to church all the time. Young Miss come over Sunday mornin' and fetched all us chillen to the house and read the Bible to us. She was kind of a old maid and that was her pleasure. We had baptisin's, too. One old cullud man was a preacher. Lawd, Lawd, we had shoutin' at them camp meetin's!

"I guess we was glad to be free. Old master done die and Old Miss was managin' the plantation. She had the whole bunch in the yard and read the freedom paper. The old slaves knowed what it meant, but us young ones didn't. She told everybody they could stay and work on shares and most of 'em did, but some went back to they old homes in Alabama.

"I stayed a while and married, and came to San Angelo. The reason I come, times was dull in Travis County and I done hear so much talk 'bout this town I said I was comin' and see for myself. That was in 1900 and it was jes' a forest here then. I worked eighteen years in McCloskey's saloon, and he gave me ten dollars every Christmas 'sides my pay and a suit every year. I wish he was livin' now. My wife and I was togethe' fifty-two years and then she died. After a long time I married again, and my wife is out pickin' cotton now.

"It seem mighty hard to me now by side of old times, but I don't know if it was any better in slavery days. It seems mighty hard though, since I'm old and can't work.

\*\*\*

420260

*Images 264, 265 + 256**photo*EX-SLAVE STORIES  
(Texas)

Page One 257

JOHN CRAWFORD, 81, was born a slave on Judge Thompson Rector's plantation at Manor, Texas. After emancipation, John was a share-cropper. He has always lived in Travis County and is now cared for by a daughter at Austin.

"John Crawford am me. It am eighty-one years since I's borned and dat's on de old Rector plantation where Manor am now. It wasn't dere den. I knowed de man it was named after.

"Ma's name was Viney Rector and de old jedge brung her from Alabama. She milked all de cows two times a day and I had to turn out all de calves. Sometimes dey'd git purty rough and go right to dere mummies.

"Pap's name was Tom Townes, 'cause he 'longed on de Townes place. He was my step-pap and when I's growed I tooken my own pap's name, what was Crawford. I never seed him, though, and didn't know nothin' much 'bout him. He's sold away 'fore I's borned.

"Pap Townes could make most everythin'. He made turnin' plows and bosseshoe nails and a good lot of furniture. He was purty good to me, 'siderin' he wasn't my own pap. I didn't have no hard time, noway. I had plenty bacon and side-meat and 'lasses. "very Sunday mornin' de jedge give us our rations for de week. He wasn't short with den, neither.

"Many was de time Injuns come to Jedge Rector's place. Dem Injuns beg for somethin' and de jedge allus give dem somethin'. They wasn't mean Injuns, jes' allus beggin'.

-1-



Ex-slave Stories  
(Texas)

Page Two

258

"I can't read and write to this day. Nobody ever larnt me my A B C's and I didn't git no chance at school.

"On Christmas mornin' Massa Rector come out and give each man and woman a big, red pocket handkerchief and a bottle of liquor. He buyed dat liquor by de barrel and liked it hisself. Day why he allus had it on de place.

"One mornin' the jedge done send word down by de cook for nobody to go to de fields dat day. We all went up to de big house and de jedge git up to make de speech, but am too choke up to talk. He hated to lose de slaves, I reckon. So his son-in-law has to say, 'You folks am now free and can go where you wants to go. You can stay here and pick cotton and git fifty cents de hundred.' But only two families stayed. De rest pulled out.

"After freedom we rented land on de halves. Some niggers soon got ahead and rented on de third or fourth. When you rent that-a-way you git three bales and de boss git one. But you has to buy you own teams and seed and all on dat plan.

"Its a fac' we was told we'd git forty acres and a mule. Dat de talk den, but we never did git it.

"De Ku Klux made a lot of devilment round-about dat county. Day allus chasin' some nigger and beatin' him up. But some dem niggers sho' 'serve it. When dey gits free, dey gits wild. Dey won't work or do nothin' and thinks dey don't have to. We didn't have no trouble, 'cause we stays on de farm and works and don't have no truck with dem wild niggers.

Ex-slave Stories  
(Texas)

Page Three

259

"In 1877 I marries Fannie Black at de town of Sprinkle. It wasn't  
sech a town, jes' a li'l place. Me and her stayed married fifty-two years and  
four months. She died and left me eight year ago. We had seven chillen  
and they is all livin'. Four is here in Austin and two in California and one  
in Ohio.

"I gits a li'l pension, \$9.00 de month, and my gal, Susie, takes  
care of me. I ain't got long to go now 'fore de Lawd gwine call me.

\*\*\*\*\*

EX-SLAVE STORIES  
(Texas)

Page One

171

MARY ANNE PATTERSON, who now lives with her daughter, Elizabeth Lee, in Austin, Texas, was born in Louisiana, but she does not know exactly where. She is between 97 and 102 years old. Mary and her mother belonged to Col. Aaron Burleson of Rogers' Hill, Travis County, Texas.

"Way back yonder my name was Mary Anne Burleson and I's born in Louisiana somewhere. I knows I's told dey brung me and my mammy to Texas when I's eighteen months old, and dat Massa Turner what brung us, sold us to Col. Aaron Burleson. Massa Burleson buy both of us, 'cause he a good man and didn't 'lieve in separatin' a chile from de mammy. I do think dat man gone to Heaven.

"When I growed up it was my job to wet nuss Rufe Burleson, 'cause he mammy didn't have 'nough milk for him. Beside dat, I helped in de loom room and have to spin five cuts de day, but I's fast 'nough to make eight cuts.

"Durin' cotton pickin' time I larns to count a little, 'cause I picks de cotton, brung it to de wagon and listen to 'em countin' on dem scales. Purty soon I could of counted my own cotton.

"Massa Burleson good to we'uns and when a woman have a chile and no husband to take care of her, he make a man go out and chop wood for her, and dat slave had better act like he wants to. Massa so good to us he have lumber hauled clear from de Bastrop pineries and builds us good wood dwellin's. He have de plantation on Rogers' Hill what am east of Austin.

"Now, let me tell you 'bout de cooks. Massa Burleson have de cook for de big house and de cook for de slaves. Dere a kitchen in de big house for de white folks and dere a kitchen with a long table for de hands. We had purty good victuals and I 'member we have so much hawg meat we'd throw de hog's head and feet 'way. Massa raised he own hawks and everythin' he et, we had it, too. Sometimes we et deer meat and dere times we had bear meat and honey, 'cause Massa Burleson have he own bees, too.

"I 'member how at sweet 'tater time my mammy'd sneak out to de patch and scratch up some sweet 'taters. When Massa Burleson finds de 'taters gone, he jes' say, 'Now, I know nobody done dis but de Lawd!'

"I seed many a Injun and seed 'em in droves. Dem Injuns never bothered us. A old Injun call Placedo and he son come on down to massa's place and he give 'em plenty food. When de Injuns come near de cattle'd bellow and cut up, 'cause dey knowed it was Injuns 'round.

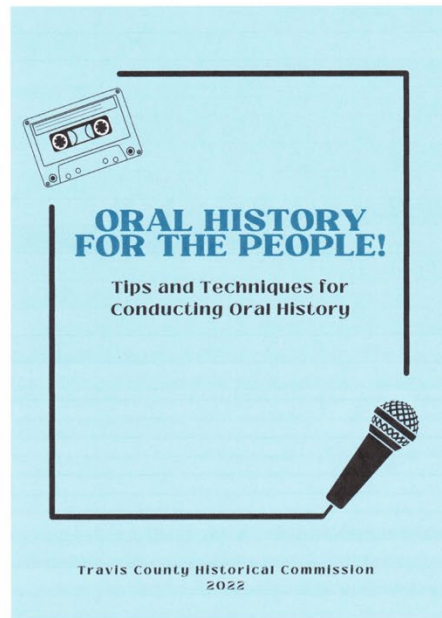
"When I's 'bout 20 years old I marries Alex Patterson and he was brung from Tennessee to Texas and owned by Massa Joshua Patterson. After freedom we rents land from Massa Patterson and lives dere and farms 'bout seven years.

"Me and Alex has 15 chillen and six of dem is still livin'. Dere is two here in Texas and two in California and one in Oklahoma and one in Kansas. My husband am dead now and I's alone.

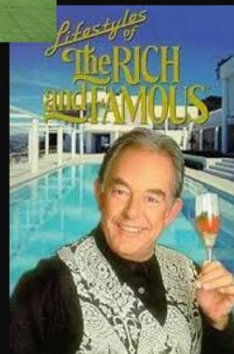
"I owns a little farm of 36 acres out near Rogers' Hill and I gits sixty dollars de year for de rentin' of dat land and now de folks wants me to sell it. But my husband bought dat place and I wants to keep it. I don't git no pension. I know dis much, I's worked harder since after freedom dan I ever worked befo' freedom.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Oral History Workshop Slide Presentation



## Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous



## Ex-Slave Stories

---

- John Crawford born a slave on Judge Thompson Rector's plantation, Manor, TX
  - WPA Project in the 1930s
  - Purpose: to capture experiences of last surviving witnesses to slavery
  - Those narratives are the most authentic records we have from those who actually endured slavery and Emancipation
  - Many interviews from Texas and Austin
- 



## Martha Spence Bunton Interview 1936, age 81

- Born on John Bell plantation in Murfreesboro Tennessee Jan. 1, 1856
- Sold with her mother and four sisters to Joseph Spence who brought them to Texas
- After Emancipation, her father bought a 12-acre farm east of Austin for \$25 an acre
- She went to school to read and write
- In 1880, she married Andy Bunton and had nine children; only three living in 1936
- She lived on the farm her father bought when she was interviewed



## Sarah and Ransom Williams Farmstead Project 2014

- Archaeologists Maria Franklin and Doug Boyd, Corrine Williams Harris, a descendant of the Williams and Bunton families, and historian Terri Myers
- Mrs. Harris granted us an interview about her grandfather, son of Sarah and Ransom Williams, who settled a 45-acre farm near Manchaca after Emancipation
- See Texas Beyond History for more



Define your purpose –  
family history, event,  
place, theme?

## Steps in the Oral History Process

1

### 1) Prepare for the interview

- Identify potential narrator
- Background research
- Compose questions
- Set a time and place

2

### 2) Conduct the interview

- Set up equipment limit distractions
- Take notes!
- Start with easy questions
- Go on to open-ended questions

3

### 3) Follow up - post-interview

- Copy the interview
- Listen to it and fill in notes
- Thank You note

## Identify potential narrators

- If you want to do family history, you may already know who you want to interview. You likely won't need an intermediary or go-between.
- If your project is about an event, place, or theme, ask people for recommendations and perhaps introduce you to them.
- Ask members of a congregation to identify good oral history candidates and ask them to be your go-between.
- If on a subject, like the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, contact an associated organization like the local chapter of the NAACP.
- If it's about a historic place, person, or event, contact the Travis County Historical Commission for ideas and assistance.
- Put an ad in a related newsletter

## Background Research

- If your narrator is a family member, jot down what you already know about your family history and identify gaps in your knowledge.
- Ask another family member for more information.
- If your project is about a specific event or theme, do some basic research on the era, people, and results – online or at the library.
- Example: for Hayden Springs, we searched old newspapers for articles about the community and found several on the school in the 1920s.
- Check with the staff at the Austin History Center – they are a font of information on Travis County and Central Texas and will help you find relevant files, photos, and other background materials on hand.

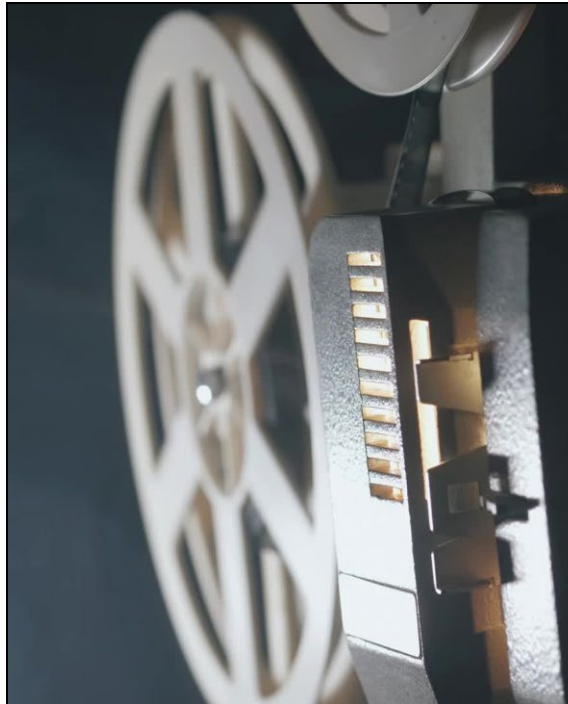
Set a time and place that is most comfortable for your narrator

- 
- A public place like the library, church, or school
  - At the home of a go-between
  - In the narrator's home
  - Mrs. Woods (at right) felt most comfortable in her living room
- 



## Compose Questions – Don't just “wing it”

- Essential Information: Name, Date, Place, Subject, Interviewer
- Start with questions your narrator can easily answer
  - Parents' and Grandparents' full names; siblings, spouse, etc.
  - Where were they from and when did they move here
- More detailed, open-ended questions – we'll go into that later
- Reflection
  - How would you like to be remembered?
  - Do you have any advice for your children or grandchildren?



## Equipment

- Doesn't have to Break the Bank!
- Choose something you're comfortable with that is within your budget
- Three main types of recorders
  - Digital
  - Tape Recorder
  - Smart Phone
- What about video?

## Digital Zoom H1n “Handy Recorder” on Tripod

- Compact and lightweight
- Includes 16 GB SD card & AAA batteries
- Tripod sold separately
- Pricier than tape recorders: \$131.99 from Amazon; others as low as \$39.99
- USB port for downloading to computer
- Transcription software available online
- Used by Austin History Center
- Find a Young Person!



## Professional Recorder Marantz PMD222

- **Benefits:**
- Heavy duty steel case & high quality voice
- Sound and speed monitors & controls
- Built-in mic or lapel mic; 3 “D” batteries or AC adaptor (not included)
- Industry standard for field journalists
- **Drawbacks:**
- Heavier than many portable recorders
- Expensive to buy and maintain





## Old-fashioned Walkman-type Recorder/Player

**Byron Statics \$14.95 from Amazon**  
**Comes in pink, baby blue, & black**



**Compact, affordable, uses standard cassette tapes and two AA batteries**



## More Durable Tape Recorder/Player Tyler TCP-01

**Comes with AC adaptor, built-in and external mics; standard cassette tapes**



**Portable, easy to use, good sound quality \$39.95 from Amazon**





## Your Smart Phone!

- You may already have one so there is no extra cost
- It's highly portable
- Doesn't require tapes
- Not intimidating
- Internal mic
- Lower quality sound
- Downloads to computer
- Might have to Find a Young Person!



## Check Equipment Limit Distractions!

- Bring an extension cord and extra batteries**
- Interview a single narrator – not a group**
- Have narrator tell friends and family what they're doing to limit interruptions**
- Use a quiet room with a table**
- Turn off the TV!**
- Set up recorder so mic is close to narrator**
- Or attach lapel mic**
- Test your recorder**
- Tape a sample and play it back**





## Just the Facts Ma'am

- Allow about 5 seconds after the tape starts
- State your name
- Your narrator's name
- Date of the interview
- Place of the interview
- Name of go-between if any
- Subject (family history, place, event, theme)

## Build narrator confidence with easy questions

- Full name, (repeat back) and spell, any nicknames?
- Birth date and place
- Parents' names
- Grandparents' names
- Where were they originally from
- How long have they lived here?
- Spouse, children, siblings
- Transition to more detailed questions

# The Electric Chair

*An Unnatural  
American History*

Craig Brandon



By now, you both should be relaxed!

- It's not an interrogation
- It's not a conversation
- Let your narrator speak
- Don't be afraid of silences
- Don't try to answer for your narrator
- Don't ask yes or no questions
- Ask open-ended questions
- Ask follow-up questions

## Finally! Open-Ended Questions

### Yes/No questions

- Did you like growing up in Manor?
- Were there other children to play with in the area?
- Were your parents strict?
- Did you have a happy childhood?
- Did you play any sports?

### Open-ended questions

- What was it like growing up in Manor?
- Who did you play with?
- What kinds of rules did you have to follow?
- How would you describe your childhood?
- What sports or games did you play?

## Follow-Up and Reflect

- Tell me more about that . . .
- How did you feel about that at the time?
- Please explain that , , ,
- Tell me more . . .
- What would you like your grandchildren to know about your life?
- How would you like to be remembered?
- What kind of advice can you give to younger generations?
- What beliefs or values helped you through your life?



## Post Interview

- At the time . . .
- Thank your narrator!
- Tell your narrator what your next steps are
- Give your narrator your contact info
- When you get home . . .
- Send a handwritten Thank You note
- Copy the recording to your computer
- Listen to the interview and fill in any gaps in your notes



## Transcribe or Not? Consider its Uses

Time-consuming: 5-6 hours for every hour of tape

- Hard copies can be printed and shared easily – larger audience
- Extremely useful for researchers
- Meaningful to the narrator and his/her family
- Greater longevity
- What about a partial transcript?
- Typed notes?

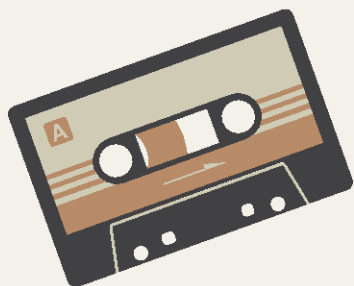
## Signing Release Forms!

- Gives permission for the interview to take place
- Required by the AHC
- Recordings and transcripts become part of AHC collection
- Narrator may restrict public access and reproduction
- Narrator may rescind approval
- Narrator may transfer work to the public domain, to the AHC or retain copyright



## **Appendix B: Oral History Manual**





# ORAL HISTORY FOR THE PEOPLE!

Tips and Techniques for  
Conducting Oral History



Travis County Historical Commission  
2022

# An Introduction to Oral History

## WHAT IS ORAL HISTORY?

Oral history is a way of gathering, interpreting, and preserving information about the past through recorded interviews that explore a narrator's experiences, opinions, and life history.

## WHAT IS A NARRATOR?

The person being interviewed is sometimes called a "narrator" because they walk us through, or "narrate," their life. A narrator could be anyone - a friend, relative, someone you know from church or work, or someone who may have special knowledge about your family or community. The idea is that their experiences are valuable and deserve to be preserved and shared.

## WHERE DOES THIS RESEARCH METHOD COME FROM?

Oral history comes from a long tradition of passing down stories from generation to generation through word of mouth. Oral historians build on this tradition by recording those stories and making them available to future generations. What does this look like? Instead of just having a casual conversation with your grandma about her childhood, you would plan an interview, record it, and preserve it.



# An Introduction to Oral History

## WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF ORAL HISTORY?

- **Oral history helps us learn about our families, our communities, and ourselves:** Oral history creates conversations and introduces us to stories and connections we might have never found otherwise.
- **Oral history allows us to tell our own story:** Oral history captures a version of the past that you aren't likely to find in history textbooks.
- **Oral history preserves our voices:** Not only does oral history allow us to make our voice heard, it allows us to make sure our voice is heard for generations to come.

## WHO IS THIS MANUAL MADE FOR?

You do not need to be a trained historian to conduct oral histories. This research method is used by all kinds of people ranging from students to journalists to family historians. With this in mind, this manual was created for anyone interested in learning more about their family or community.



# Guidelines for all Projects

This section of the manual is a guide for projects of all shapes and sizes. Whether you are interviewing your grandma or your graduating class, these guidelines were made for you. However, if you are planning to make your project accessible to the community (ex. in library, archive, or other repository), don't miss the additional information included in the next section, "Guidelines for Public Use," starting on page 16.



## Planning a Project

This section of the manual is a guide for projects of all shapes and sizes. Whether you are interviewing your grandma or your graduating class, these guidelines were made for you. However, if you are planning to make your project accessible to the community (ex. in library, archive, or other repository), don't miss the additional information included in the next section, "Guidelines for Public Use," starting on page 16.

### WHY DO I NEED TO DO AN ORAL HISTORY?

- Determine what information you are seeking.
- Make sure that an oral history project is the best way to get this information. If you believe some person or group has firsthand knowledge about something that hasn't been written down, you are on the right track.

### WHAT ARE MY GOALS AND PRIORITIES?

- Determine what information you are seeking.
- Make sure that an oral history project is the best way to get this information. If you believe some person or group has firsthand knowledge about something that hasn't been written down, you are on the right track.

### WHO IS MY AUDIENCE?

- Who are you creating this for? Yourself? Your family? Your community? Current and future researchers? If the answer is anyone more than yourself or your family, check out the second section of this manual, "Guidelines for Public Use," on page 16.

### WHICH EQUIPMENT WILL I USE?

- Figure out which equipment you will use based on your project goals and budget.
- Decide whether you will collect video recordings in addition to audio recordings.

### HOW LONG WILL THIS TAKE?

- It depends. The more interviews you conduct, the longer your project will take. The more help you have, the more quickly the work can get done. Regardless, be aware that oral history takes time!
- Be realistic with how many interviews you plan to conduct.
- Set deadlines for yourself to move the project along.

### HOW MUCH WILL THIS ALL COST?

- Once again, it depends. Are you starting from scratch? Do you need to buy a recording device?
- Oral history doesn't have to be expensive. You don't need to break your budget to get equipment that will get the job done.
- Research any funds, grants, or donations that might help offset the cost of your project.
- Develop a budget for equipment, travel, and any other expenses you might have.



## Choosing Equipment

### EQUIPMENT FOR RECORDING

As a general rule, you should look for the most sturdy, dependable recorder that is within your budget. Depending on what you are comfortable with, you might choose a digital or analog recorder, or even your smartphone. If you are unsure which is the best fit for you, consider the pros and cons listed on the next page.



	Digital	Analog	Smart Phone
Equipment	Not bulky. Easy to transport.	Bulkier and more difficult to store and transport.	Not bulky. If you already have one, it's likely always on you.
Cost	Prices vary. Can be less expensive because it relies more on software than physical equipment.	Prices vary. If you want to transcribe, you will also need to purchase or borrow a transcription machine as well.	If you already have a smartphone, no cost. You might choose to purchase add-ons such as a microphone or phone stand.
Sound	Cleaner sound. Less background noise.	More natural sound.	Lower quality sound. Can be improved with external microphone.
Transcribing	Transcription software is available to make the transcription process easier.	Requires a transcription machine and pedal.	Transcription software is available to make the transcription process easier.
Access	Audio files are more accessible - they can be stored and listened to on multiple devices and shared via the internet.	Audio files are less accessible - the listener needs access to the tape and a tape player.	Audio files are more accessible - they can be stored and listened to on multiple devices and shared via the internet.



## EQUIPMENT FOR RECORDING

If you decide to use a recorder, there are many devices to choose between. Feel free to do your own exploring, but here are two good options:



**Zoom H1 Digital Recorder:** Recorder recommended by oral historians and available on Amazon. This is a great option, but there are also plenty of less expensive recorders that will do the job.

**Tyler TCP-01 Analog Recorder:** Durable, affordable, and easy-to-use with a built-in microphone.



If you use a smartphone, check out the guide at <https://oralhistorycentre.ca/mobile/>. It includes pointers about smartphone recording set-up, settings, power, storage, and file transfer. In addition, you can find a list of suggestions for recording applications, external microphones, and other add-ons.

If you are creating your project for public use, a smartphone might not be your best option because repositories usually want higher quality audio formats. Check with your repository before choosing equipment. More on this in the “Guidelines for Public Use” section on page 16.

## EQUIPMENT FOR PRESERVING DIGITAL AUDIO FILES

The goal of oral history is to preserve and share people's stories. So, it is important to be intentional about how your interviews are stored and secured. Let's start with the basics:

1. Audio files should be stored in several separate places.
2. Audio files should be stored in several media formats.

Now, let's get to the nitty gritty.

- First, transfer the audio files from your recorder to your computer as soon as possible after the interview. Make sure this hard drive is backed up regularly and has enough space.
- Consider the following as options for additional places to store these files:



**Remote hard drives:** You might save your files to an additional computer hard drive that is located in a different place (different room, building, city, etc.) than the computer to which you originally transferred the files.

**External hard drives:** Solid-state drives (SSD) are a great choice for long-term digital storage. They are faster and sturdier than traditional hard-disk drives (HDD).

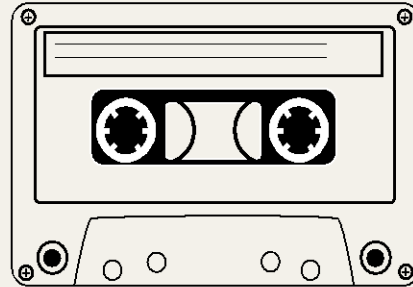


**Cloud services:** This refers to services that store files in the online "cloud" rather than a physical hard drive. Google Drive is a popular example that is free up to a certain amount of storage space.

## EQUIPMENT FOR PRESERVING PHYSICAL AUDIO FILES

If you choose to use an analog recorder, you will be working with tapes. Take the following steps to ensure they are well-preserved:

- Make a copy in case anything happens to the original tape.
- Store your tapes in a safe environment - avoid direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, high humidity, and contact with water.
- Label your tape with information from the interview (ex. name, date, and project).



## AUDIO VS. VIDEO

Some oral historians use video to record their interviews. If your narrator has something to show or demonstrate that can't be captured with audio (ex. painting, dance, quilting, etc.), you might consider this option. However, there are also some possible drawbacks you should consider first. Would your narrator feel comfortable being recorded? Will they be less likely to open up and share if a camera is trained on them? If you're not sure, ask your narrator how they feel. Sticking with audio is fine if they will feel more comfortable that way! You might also take a photo of the narrator in the interview setting - an option they may feel more at ease with.

## FINAL WORDS OF ADVICE ON EQUIPMENT

1. **Buy the best equipment for you:** There are tons of options out there for equipment. Choose whatever works best for you, your budget, and your project.
2. **Be kind to your wallet:** Check with community organizations, colleges, libraries, and schools to see if they have oral history equipment available for loan.
3. **Get to know your equipment:** Before interviews, practice with your equipment to get the hang of it and ensure everything is in working order.

# 3

## Background Research

### PURPOSE OF BACKGROUND RESEARCH

In order to plan a good interview, you first need to find out what is *already* known about your topic. This way, you can plan an interview that uncovers *new information*.

Background research also helps oral historians:

- Understand the historical background of their topic
- Learn more about the narrator
- Determine themes to focus on during the interview
- Keep the story on track during the interview

### FOCUSING YOUR TOPIC

It might be helpful to decide the focus of your interview before diving into background research and interviews. For instance, your interview might fit into one of the following focuses:

Topical Focus	Biographical Focus	Oral Tradition
Zooms in on a specific topic such as an event, era, issue, or place. You might reach out to a few different people for their perspectives.	Looks at the life experiences of an individual from their point of view as well as others who know or knew them.	Asks about legends, folklore, and family stories passed down from generation to generation. You might talk to different members of the family or community who share a tradition.

## PURPOSE OF BACKGROUND RESEARCH

Once you have defined and focused your topic, it is time to start learning about it. Potential places to find information include:

- Libraries and archives (online and in-person)
  - Look at both primary sources (photographs, letters, newspapers, etc.) and secondary sources (articles, books, etc.)
  - Make sure to check out Austin History Center. Their archivists and finding aids will help you research just about any topic related to Central Texas history.
- Local historical groups
- Public records (censuses, deeds, military records, etc.)
- Organizations that your narrator is a part of (schools, churches, etc.)
- Pre-interview visit with your narrator to ask if they know of any places, people, and/or resources you might check out



## Finding & Contacting Narrators

### LOCATING NARRATORS

Depending on the nature of your project, you might already have several narrators in mind. If not, do not fret! There are a number of ways to locate narrators who have had first-hand experience related to your project. You might find narrators through:

- Background research
- Word-of-mouth
- Notices in local news media
- Public events related to your topic
- Social media announcements
- Organizations related to your topic
- "Snowball effect." One narrator recommends another



10

## CONTACTING NARRATORS

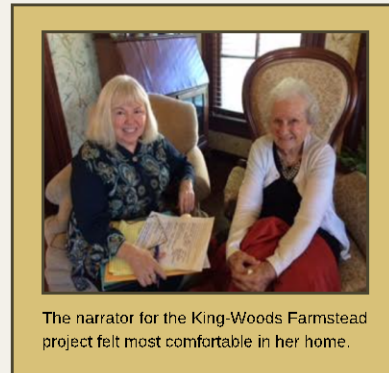
How you contact your narrator will depend on your relationship to them. If your narrator is a family member or close friend, you might just reach out directly to tell them about your project and ask for their participation. If your narrator is someone you are less familiar with, you might reach out by email and make a follow up call. Here are some suggestions for writing the email:

- Briefly describe your project and why you are interested in speaking with them.
- Invite the potential narrator to participate in an oral history interview because you feel their experiences and point of view are important.
- Ask them if it's okay to follow up with a phone call to answer any questions and discuss the interview process.

## 5 Setting Up Interviews

Once someone has agreed to participate in your oral history, the next step is to set up a date, place, and time for their interview. If you do not know the narrator very well, it might make them feel more comfortable if the person who referred them to you is part of this process. Finally, keep in mind that you may need time to prepare for the interview depending on how well you know the narrator and your topic.

When setting up the interview, think about how you can make it as easy and comfortable for the narrator as possible. For instance, do they have a car? What kind of space would they feel most comfortable in? What time of day not only works with their schedule, but do they prefer? In addition, make sure that the location you choose is as quiet and private as possible. It is a good idea to have an alternate location in mind in case something unexpected happens.



The narrator for the King-Woods Farmstead project felt most comfortable in her home.

Finally, keep in mind that it is best to interview one person at a time. This way, you won't end up with a recording full of voices talking over one another.

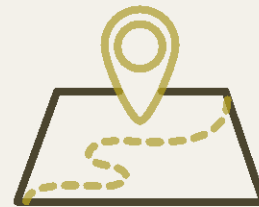


## 6

# Preparing for the Interview

## CREATING AN INTERVIEW OUTLINE

Instead of writing a list of questions, create a list of keywords, topics, and phrases that will act as a road map for the information you want to explore during the interview. This way, the interview will be more like a conversation.



For the outline, draw on your background research and what you already know about the narrator. You might also share the outline with your narrator before the interview in order to stimulate their memories and help them feel prepared and comfortable.

## PRACTICING WITH EQUIPMENT

In the weeks leading up to the interview, get familiar with your equipment. The best way to do this? A practice run. Make a short recording and check the audio quality so you can make adjustments if needed. The less attention you have to give to your equipment, the more attention you can give to the narrator during their interview.

## 7

# Conducting the Interview

## SETTING UP THE INTERVIEW

- Arrive on time and allow time for small talk and questions before the interview.
- Bring an extension cord or extra batteries depending on your equipment.
- Arrange the interview space.
  - Find a spot that is as quiet as possible. Is there anything nearby that might interfere with the audio quality (ex. loud air conditioner, TV, chiming clock)? If so, ask permission to make changes that would reduce this background noise.
  - Set up the microphone and recorder between you and the narrator. Make sure the recorder is positioned so that you are able to see the recording levels.
  - Make sure the space is comfortable for your narrator.
- Make a short test recording. Listen and make adjustments as necessary.

## OPENING THE INTERVIEW

If using an analog recorder, wait a few seconds after starting the recorder to speak so nothing gets cut off. Begin with a recorded introduction that describes the who, where, and what of the interview. You might use the following example:

"This is (your full name). Today is (month/day/year). I am interviewing (full name of narrator and spelling) for the (name of project). This is our (first, second, etc.) interview. It is taking place at (description of location)."



## ASKING QUESTIONS

First, some general words of advice to guide your questioning:

- Take notes: As you listen to your narrator, jot down important people, events, and dates.
- Be patient: Allow your narrator time to think and reflect. Silence is okay!
- Be clear and concise: Ask one question at a time.
- Be flexible: It is likely that the interview will get off topic. Don't panic, just gently guide the interview back on course. Also, consider that some diversions might provide meaningful information that you just hadn't thought to ask about.
- Be appreciative: Express your gratitude at the end of the interview.

Now, let's talk about the questions themselves. Good questions begin with the basics, encourage elaboration, and ensure the interviewer's understanding. In addition, they are open-ended and not leading or loaded. Check out what this means (plus some examples) on the next page.

<b>Begins with the basics</b>	Start with questions that your narrator will be at ease answering.	Where were you born? If you don't mind, when were you born? What were your parents' names? And your grandparents?
<b>Open-ended</b>	Ask questions that require more than a simple "yes" or "no" response.	Tell me about... Why/why not? How...? What are the differences/similarities...? Describe... Explain...
<b>Encourages elaboration</b>	Ask follow up questions that probe for details and stimulate their memory.	Tell me more about... What/who else...? What other reasons...? Why do you think?
<b>Not leading or loaded</b>	Avoid questions that make assumptions about the narrator or lead them to a specific response.	No: As a native Austinite, I imagine you are upset by how rapidly the neighborhood is changing, right?
<b>Ensures your understanding</b>	Make sure you are on same page with your narrator. Restate or summarize their responses, ask for definitions and clarifications, etc.	You said... Let me make sure I understand... Tell me what...means. I know what...means but future generations might not...

# 8

## Post-Interview Tasks

### POST-INTERVIEW CHECKLIST

**Interview information:** Write down the time, place, name of the narrator, and perhaps a brief description of the information covered in the interview. You also might take a photo of the narrator in the interview setting (with permission).



**Protect and preserve recordings:** Download your recordings as soon as possible and create backups. Use consistent and easily recognizable file and folder names.

**Thank you letter:** Write the narrator a letter or email expressing your gratitude - handwritten is best - for their participation and reminding them of the importance of their account to the project..



**Process the interview:** If you are interested in transcribing the interview, find detailed information about this process in the "Projects for Public Use" section on page 16.

# Guidelines for Public Use

This section of the manual includes additional information and topics related to projects intended for public use. If you are hoping to make your project accessible to the community in a library, archive, or other repository, you are in the right place.

## 1 Pre-Interview Steps

### FOLLOWING ACCEPTED PRACTICES

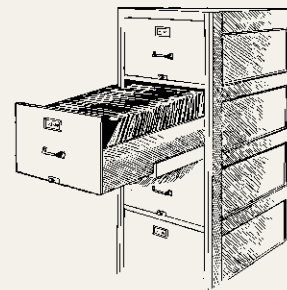
- If you have a larger audience, you should obtain permission from the narrators to share their interviews with others. There are simple **release forms** that will guide this process - more on this soon.
- If you are creating a project that you hope will be used by researchers, reach out to **local repositories** (libraries, museums, etc.) and ask which guidelines they follow.
- Get to know the general **principles and best practices** of the Oral History Association. How will you implement these in your own project?

### CHOOSING A REPOSITORY

If you want to make your project accessible in a repository, consider different options - libraries, archives, museums, and other historical organizations.

As you weigh your options, you might ask some of the following questions:

- How does this repository maintain oral histories and make them accessible to researchers as well as the public? Does this match my project goals?
- Will this repository take all of my project materials?
- Do they have a release form already prepared that will allow others to access these materials? Or will I need to create one?
- What other requirements or guidelines do they have for the use of these materials?



Once you make a decision, contact your chosen repository as soon as possible.

## CREATING A RELEASE FORM

If you intend to make your project accessible to the public - maybe in a library or other repository - keep in mind that interviews are subject to copyright law. Basically, this means that you need to get your narrator to agree to doing the interview and sharing it because they own their words. To do this, you will create a **release form** for narrators to sign that addresses the following:

**Donor Agreement:** Narrator agrees to donate their interview to the interviewer, the interviewer's sponsoring organization, or the specified depository. This step ensures that the public can access the interview.

**Copyright Assignment:** Narrator agrees to transfer copyright ownership to the individual or organization sponsoring the project. This does NOT mean that the narrator loses the rights to their interview or transcripts. Again, it is important for public access.



**Future Use:** Narrators have a right to know how their words will be used in the future. So, the release form needs to address how the interview will be published and distributed. Narrators also may restrict the future use of their interview (ex. to a certain time period or audience). If this is the case, add that information to the release form. Include a date for when the restriction period ends.

*This may sound intimidating but the good news is that it is a requirement for many oral history projects so there are a ton of examples out there!*



## ESTABLISHING ETHICAL RELATIONSHIPS

A meaningful oral history interview is built on mutual respect and trust. There is no formula for developing this kind of relationship, however, paying close attention to the following matters is a good place to start:



<b>Transparency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Make sure narrators know their rights and interests.</li><li>• Explain the project purpose, goals, and process to the narrator.</li><li>• Discuss how your narrator's interview might be used in the future.</li></ul>
<b>Relationship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Get to know the narrator prior to the interview.</li><li>• Tell them a bit about yourself.</li></ul>
<b>Long-Range Outlook</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Make the highest quality interviews possible and preserve them in a space where they are accessible to both the community and researchers.</li><li>• Consider how your project will benefit your narrators and their communities.</li></ul>
<b>Sociocultural Awareness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be aware and considerate of differences between you and your narrator (age, gender, race, class, etc.).</li><li>• Respect the privacy of your narrators and their communities.</li></ul>
<b>Correct Representation of Meaning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ask open-ended questions that encourage your narrator to tell their story as freely as possible.</li><li>• Give narrators the chance to review transcripts and offer corrections.</li></ul>

## 2

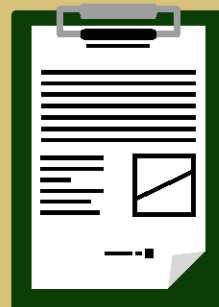
## Post-Interview Steps

### PROCESSING

Processing refers to the tasks associated with preparing your project for public use and/or deposit in a repository. These tasks include creating a synopsis, timecoding, and transcribing. Which tasks you choose to undertake depend on your project vision, your schedule and budget, and the requirements of the repository you have chosen.

#### #1: WRITING A SYNOPSIS

A synopsis is a short summary of the interview that describes the main topics, people, places, and events discussed. It should also include the name of the narrator and interview as well as the date/place of the interview. While a repository may or may not require a synopsis, it will make your project more accessible to the public.



#### #2: TRANSCRIBING

A transcript is the word-for-word written record of an oral history. While transcribing is a time-consuming process if you choose to do it yourself (it takes about 4-8 hours to transcribe one recorded hour) and expensive if you choose to hire a transcription service, it can be a worthwhile endeavor depending on your project goals



## WHY TRANSCRIBE?

- **Ensuring Quality:** Writing a transcript opens the opportunity for narrators to provide corrections and clarify information that might have been misunderstood. In the process, a more accurate account is created.
- **Access:** Transcripts make your interview more accessible to researchers as well as the public. Rather than listen to an entire interview, they can search through a written transcript for specific information they need.
- **Getting Your Work Out There:** In written form, the information in your interview becomes more easily adaptable for use in media presentations, exhibits, and research publications.
- **Shelf Life:** Recording and playback technology changes constantly, creating potential issues of access for researchers in the future. On the other hand, a written record has a much longer shelf life and will guarantee that your project remains accessible for years to come.

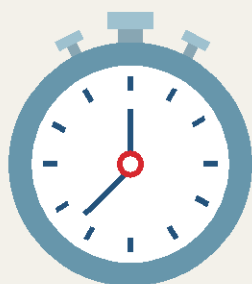
## SO, HOW DO I TRANSCRIBE?

1. **Download transcribing software:** *Express Scribe* is a good option.
2. **Purchase or rent equipment:** Foot pedals with a USB connection will help control playback. Find a good pair of headphones if you do not already have some.
3. **Choose a standard format:** *Chicago Manual of Style* is recommended.
4. **Review style guidelines:** Use a guide such as Baylor University Institute for Oral History's *Oral History Transcribing Style Guide*.
5. **Create transcript:** As you transcribe, remember to change as little as possible. Maintain your narrator's exact word choice, speech patterns, and grammar.
6. **Send transcript draft to narrator:** After creating a transcript draft, send it to your narrator for corrections. This is not a chance for the narrator to revise what they said during the interview, but rather, to point out mistakes such as the spelling of places and names.
7. **Revise the transcript:** Make changes according to the narrator's corrections.
8. **Save and distribute the final copy:** Save the transcript on a secure hard drive and create backups. Present your narrator with a final, corrected draft.



### #3: TIME-SUBJECT INDEX

If you don't choose to transcribe, there are other ways to process your interview. For instance, you can create a time-subject index. To do this, break up the interview into chunks, according to either subject or time (every five minutes or less). The more details included, the better. This a great alternative for those who may not have the time to do a full transcription OR it can be a helpful additional resource to include alongside the transcription.



### #4: TIMECODING

Time coding is a process that makes information on recorded interviews accessible by subject. Basically, it is a digital time-subject index. Using digital playback software, you can add track marks with annotations into audio files. These track marks can then be embedded in the time-subject index and/or transcript. As a result, a person reading the time-subject index and/or transcript can link to corresponding sections in the audio files.

### DEPOSITING YOUR PROJECT IN A REPOSITORY

Organize your interviews and all supplementary materials according to the requirements of the repository you chose at the onset of your project. Once everything is in order and you have plenty of copies, deposit your project with your depository. Nice work!

## PUBLICITY

You're done! Well... kind of. You could stop here but you also have the option to shift your focus to public outreach. In other words, how can you package your project in ways that might reach wider audiences and leave a greater impact? Consider the following possibilities and brainstorm your own:

- Presentations (video/audio productions, PowerPoint, etc.) that incorporate your recordings, collected artifacts, etc.
- Events, workshops, and other gatherings that provide a space to share you work with the community
- Incorporating your work into lesson plans and other resources for primary and secondary education
- Connecting with local newspapers
- Connecting with magazines and/or journals focused on oral history and/or your topic of interest
- Appearances on radio shows or podcasts
- Creating a website that makes your project accessible and engaging
- Tours of sites relevant to your work
- Museum exhibits
- Art based on oral history stories - plays, monologues, musical compositions, etc.



## Papers



# **The Hayden Springs Freedom Colony Project**

## **Family and Property Histories of Hayden Springs Community Members**

**Research by**

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**Edited and Compiled by Dr. Ruby Oram**

**Department of History | Texas State University**

**May 2022**

**The following research was conducted by undergraduate students between January and May 2022 during HIST 3368A: Introduction to Public History taught by Dr. Ruby Oram in the History Department at Texas State University.**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Sandy Hayden – Family History</b>	<b>1-2</b>
<b>Sandy Hayden – Property History</b>	<b>3-9</b>
<b>Hinton Banks – Family History</b>	<b>10-12</b>
<b>Henderson Banks – Family History</b>	<b>12-15</b>
<b>Hinton and Henderson Banks – Property History</b>	<b>16 – 19</b>
<b>Louis Meeks – Family History</b>	<b>20 – 23</b>
<b>Louis Meeks – Property History</b>	<b>24- 28</b>
<b>Charlie Morrow – Family History</b>	<b>29 – 33</b>
<b>Charlie Morrow – Property History</b>	<b>34 – 38</b>
<b>William Hill – Family History</b>	<b>39 – 42</b>
<b>Ike Brown – Family and Property History</b>	<b>43 – 45</b>
<b>Dock Merritt – Family History</b>	<b>46-49</b>
<b>Henry Brown – Family History</b>	<b>50 – 51</b>
<b>Joshua Pope – Family History</b>	<b>51-52</b>
<b>Robert Bacon – Family History</b>	<b>53-55</b>
<b>James Smith – Family History</b>	<b>56</b>

### **Sandy Hayden – Family History**

By Reynaldo Josue Funcz Sanchez

Sandy Hayden was born in North Carolina around 1825 and was the head of household according to the 1880 Census. He was married to Elizabeth Hayden who at the time of the 1880s Census was 36 years old and her occupation as listed on the Census as keeping house. Sandy Hayden's occupation was listed as a blacksmith.

According to the 1880 Census, Sandy Hayden has seven sons and two daughters. His eldest son being James Hayden 20 years old, Jefferson Hayden 18 years old, Johnny Hayden 16 years old, Samuel Hayden 8 years old, Louis Hayden 6 years old and Andrews Hayden who was just a year old during the 1880s census. The two daughters listed in the 1880 Census were Rosa Hayden who was 22 years old at the time and the youngest Fanny Hayden who was just 3 years old.

In the 1900 Census, Sandy Hayden was recorded as being 77 years old and lives in Webberville, Texas with his wife Eliza(beth) Hayden. By this time, they have been married for 30 years and Sandy Hayden was still listed as the head of household. The Census also indicates that Sandy Hayden can write and that he is mortgage free, owning his own farm. His oldest son James Hayden and oldest daughter Rosa Hayden no longer live with Sandy Hayden, most likely because they are both married by this time. The children that still live under his roof are Louis Hayden who is now 25 years old, Andrew Hayden who is now 21 years old and Charlie Hayden who is now 18 years old. His daughters also still live at home in 1900, starting with Fannie Hayden who is 23 years old, Sarah Hayden who is 16 years old, Sussie Hayden 13 years old, Leah Hayden 10 years old and finally Delia Hayden who is only 9 years old. Unfortunately I was unable to find any more direct information about Sandy Hayden past the 1900 census.

According to the 1900 Census James A Hayden, Sandy Hayden's son, was 40 years old and living in Webberville, Texas. He was the head of household and married to Leah Hayden. On the census it is listed that he can read and write however he does not own a farm, just a house, and his occupation was not listed. It is listed that he has 3 sons and 4 daughters. His oldest son John J Hayden 18 years old, Sandy F Hayden 16 years old and Obedia Hayden at 5 and a half years old. James A Hayden's oldest daughter at this time is Stella Hayden 13 years old, Dovie Hayden 11 years old, Octavia Hayden 6 years old and Bertha Hayden who was only 4 years old.

There was no information about any of Sandy Hayden's other children past the 1920 census. However, one of Sandy Hayden's grandchildren, a son of Johnny Hayden, was born between the 1930 and 1940 Census and may still be a living descendent of the family.

#### Sources

Year: 1880; Census Place: Travis, Texas; Roll: 1329; Page: 40A; Enumeration District: 122

Year: 1900; Census Place: Webberville, Travis, Texas; Roll: 1673; Page: 12; Enumeration District: 0108; FHL microfilm: 1241673

Year: 1900; Census Place: Webberville, Travis, Texas; Roll: 1673; Page: 17; Enumeration District: 0108; FHL microfilm: 1241673

### **Sandy Hayden – Property History**

By Berkley Kading and Matthew Medina

The earliest newspaper mention of Sandy Hayden is on October 25, 1883, when he purchased 25 acres of land from T.M. Rector. This is the first time his name appears in the *Austin Statesman*. Property Deed Records from the Travis County Clerk's office also details the sale of 79 acres from Sandy Hayden to Hinton Banks, in September of 1878, earlier that month Hayden purchased the land from a J. W. Darlington. On September 18, 1884, Sandy Hayden is mentioned again with the sale of 50 acres to W.M. Mackenzie for \$400. This land was quite expensive, considering other land purchases of similar size were selling for less than \$100. It was another five years before Hayden is mentioned again in the paper, this time for his purchase of lots 7 and 9 on block 18 in Manor, TX from W.M. Luedeck in October of 1889.

That Sandy Hayden purchased land from T.M. Rector is notable. The identity of T.M. Rector was revealed in an oral history of John Crawford, interviewed in 1938 as part of the WPA Slave Narrative Project for Texas. Crawford states that he was from Manor area in his oral history and was enslaved on Judge Thomson Mason Rectors' plantation. This was known as the Rector plantation in what was Manor, Texas before its official founding. Crawford accounts the day all the enslaved workers on the Rector plantation were made aware of their emancipation, explaining that they were given the option to become sharecroppers, however only two families stayed and worked the land, Crawford among them. The Rector family is one of the founding families of Manor, Texas, settling in 1853 long before the towns official creation. T.M. Rector Sr. owned a block of the city and the plantation, even creating a private cemetery named "Rector Cemetery" where most of the family is buried. It is possible that Sandy Hayden was a former slave on the Rector plantation. It is likely that T.M. Rector sold off large portions of his



Plantation to Sandy Hayden.

Dealing in Manor once more, November of 1895, Sandy sold lot 10 on block 4 to Caroline Williams. I searched the Sanborn Maps for both lot 10 and block 4 but found neither. Also mentioned in the November 21st issue of the Austin Statesman was the sale of 30 acres by Sandy Hayden and his wife (Eliza/Elizabeth) to Henry Williams. There isn't another mention of Sandy Hayden until 1902, when he's mentioned three times throughout the year. First in February when he and Eliza sold 20 acres to their son, Charley Hayden. Next in July when they bought 40 acres from D.B. Gracy, and later in July when they sell another 7-10 acres back to D.B. Gracy.

Mentioned in these articles is the Gordon C. Jennings league along with the Oliver Buckman survey, both of which are mentioned numerous times throughout the papers and deed records. In our research, one group member found a house listing the Gordon C. Jennings league in its information. The address is 9200 Lockwood Springs Road in Manor, TX which is located off Blake Manor Road and lies almost perfectly in the center of Manor, Webberville, and Littig. Not only that, but the house is also just down the road of East Metro Park and presumably the location of the Sandy Hayden School. If this house listing is correct, it's safe to assume the Gordon C. Jennings League is the entire area that lies between Manor, Webberville, and Littig. And if that is true, then based on descriptions given in the deed records, the Oliver Buckman survey land is just south of Gordon C. Jennings, including the town of Webberville. Notably, the 1900 Census lists that Hayden indicated "F" for the question "Farm or House" According to the 1900 Census guide for enumerators, this is a specific indication for Farmers who own their farm, free of "mortgage incumbrance", but who reside off of the farm in a "town or village."

In Census Records, Hinton Banks, both in the 1880 and 1900 Census, has the same indication "F" regarding the ownership of his farm, and house. Also in the 1880 census record, "Sam and Lyddia Hayden" are listed on the same Census sheet, suggesting close proximity, Samuel being Sandy Hayden's son, and Lyddia Hayden being the daughter of William Hill, another notable landowner in the Hayden Springs area. Another very interesting find is that "Bacon" and "Brown" families are shown as Black landowners on this sheet as well, which is significant because those are names of large landowners in the Hayden Springs area as well listed on the Rural Directory from 1894. The Family history on William Hill notes that Lyddia Hill she was married to a "S. A. Hayden". All of this information suggests a thriving freedom colony in the area and displaying the economic, and personal interactions between these founding families. The clear parallels between the census records of Sandy Hayden and Hinton Banks indicate a close-knit community

Sandy Hayden appears in the press again in 1905. On March 12, 1905, D.B. Gracy filed a suit with the 53rd district court against Sandy Hayden for a note of \$325 and the foreclosure of his property. Later that same year in July, Sandy and Elizabeth are mentioned again when they are forced by sheriff to give 1-3 acres of land to T.E. Thrasher. The following year in 1906 he is yet again mentioned multiple times. Once for the transfer of 58 acres to their son Charley Hayden, another for the sale of 50 acres to Pinton Banks and the last was the sale of lot 6 on block 35 in Webberville to Gerry Hunter. Then in 1907 Sandy and Eliza Hayden sold lots 3 and 4 on block 35 in Webberville to J.D. Poe. In another interesting turn, Sandy Hayden is then mentioned as a deacon for the St. Johns Church Association in 1908.

The earliest record of Sandy Hayden found in available Property Deed Records was his sale to Ambrose O. on February 26, 1866. Two years later Sandy would sell another piece of

land to J.B. Banks, then to M.P. Hall in 1869. In 1870 he again sold a piece of land to, what's listed as, Rector and son and in 1874 to R.C. Meeks. His 1878 transactions are interesting because Sandy Hayden not only sold 79 acres of land to Hinton Banks but also bought land from James Manor. Both pieces of land are mentioned numerous times throughout the rest of the deed records. The last deed entry, before the entries become more detailed, is on August 14, 1884, when Sandy sold land to Travis County. On the same page in the deed records, Travis County School Purposes is listed as the grantee of some land from J.T. Pruitt in 1877.

Sandy and Elizabeth Hayden sold lot 10 block 4 in Webberville to Caroline Williams. From 1889-1902 that's the only mention of Sandy or Elizabeth available. In 1907 however, there are two tangible pieces of evidence. First, in the deed record book 218, page 359, it states that on May 20, 1907, Sandy and Eliza sold lots 3 and 4 on block 35 in Webberville. Not only that, but the lots are also described in detail, backing up to the Colorado river off Water Street, which itself is off Webberville Rd. Water Street is still very much there in the town of Webberville. Next in 1907 comes from the deed record book 232, pages 249-250, where it states that Sandy and Eliza(beth) Hayden sold all their land north of their home on Manor-Webberville Road to their son Charley Hayden. Even further, an address is provided, house no. 814 E. 12th Street.

The 1907 sale appears to be the last time Sandy or Eliza Hayden purchased or sold any land themselves. Deed record book 286 has two vastly different entries mentioning Sandy Hayden. First being on page 175 when J.P. Lockwood, J.N. Littlepage, and J.C. Giles file a notion that 50 acres of land, claimed to be owned by Sandy Hayden, actually belonged to the 176 acres owned by W.W. Green. Sandy Hayden is again mentioned on page 624 in a deed from Travis County, June 14, 1915, for the St. Johns Baptists Association Orphanage. Again, I tried to follow this up but could only find stories of an orphanage burning down in the area. These are

two leads worth following up.

W.H.C. Lovett bought 25 acres of what used to be Sandy Hayden's land in 1917. This is the first entry where the tract of land, formerly referred to as the Sandy Hayden tract, is referred to as the Thomas Puckett tract.

In 1925, deed record book 383 is the first time we see an oil and gas company purchase land that was formerly owned by Sandy Hayden. In 1925 the Plateau Oil Company bought the 50 acres previously sold to Hinton Banks by Sandy Hayden. That's the only time Plateau Oil Company is mentioned, however, in January of 1926 the Gulf Production Company bought another 50 acres of land that was once sold by the James Manor to Sandy Hayden in 1876. After this, in 1927, the Mid-Kansas Oil and Gas Company buys another 30 acres of land formerly owned by both Sandy Hayden and T.M. Rector. Also in 1927, A.S. Walker sold 150 acres to Houghton Brownlee, that 150 acres was also sold to Sandy Hayden by James Manor in 1876. A.S. Walker was also listed as the receiver of the Farmers National Bank of Manor.

From here on out the rest of the mentions for Sandy Hayden are of his children and grandchildren collecting payments from a man named Henry Faulk. Throughout 1929, Mr. Faulk made payments to multiple different Hayden descendants ranging anywhere from \$1-\$20. Presumably for rent on the Hayden Homestead, but this has not been confirmed. He paid some amount to Frank who was now in Ohio, R.A. Hayden now in Illinois, and Clarence and Olivia Hayden, daughters of Tom Hayden, in California. Also in California are Bertha Hayden Lewis and Dovie Hayden Dennis to whom Mr. Faulk also made payments. Along with Charley Hayden, the final person Mr. Faulk paid was a woman named Alberta Allen, daughter of Martha Moore who was the daughter of Tom Hayden.

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### **Hinton Banks – Family History**

By Montana Copeland and Travis Leffall

According to the 1880 United States Census, Hinton Banks was born around 1840 in the state of Tennessee. According to the record, Hinton Banks also could not read or write, was married to Mary Banks, with whom he had eight children. Mary was born around 1843, also in Tennessee. His occupation is “Farmer” and hers is listed as “Keeping House,” which suggests their class level. Mary is listed as “Black” in 1880 but listed as “Mulatto” on later Census records. Of their children, Henderson Banks was the oldest at 20 years old, followed by Margaret Banks at 13 years old, Haywood Banks at 9 years old, James Banks at 7 years old, Willie Banks at 6 years old, Hinton Banks (Jr. I am assuming) at 4 years old, Holly Ann Banks at 2 years old, and lastly Burrell Banks at just two months old in 1880.<sup>1</sup>

In 1910 the Census tells us that Hinton Banks continued to live in rural Travis County and owned his own farm. The only discrepancy found between the 1880 and 1910 Census was that the 1910s census places Hinton Banks’s birthday in 1838. By this time all the kids that he had were no longer living with whom they were living with one another in different parts of the states. Where did these children go?<sup>2</sup>

Ten years early, in 1900, the Census lists Hinton’s son Hinton Banks Jr. (born in 1876). In 1900 Hinton Jr. (misspelled “Henton”) lives in Webberville with possible younger siblings or children. The first is (another) Mary Banks at 19 years old; Lizzie Bacon at 15 years old; Henry Bacon at 13 years old; Eugene Bacon at 12 years old; and lastly Emanuel Bacon at 10 years old.

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<sup>1</sup> Year: 1880; Census Place: Travis, Texas; Roll: 1329; Page: 50A; Enumeration District: 12

<sup>2</sup> Year: 1910; Census Place: Justice Precinct 1, Travis, Texas; Roll: T624\_1594; Page: 7B; Enumeration District: 0057; FHL microfilm: 1375607 ; Year: 1910; Census Place: Austin Ward 5, Travis, Texas; Roll: T624\_1595; Page: 16B; Enumeration District: 0078; FHL microfilm: 1375608



It should be noted that another family with the last name “Bacon” is known to live near the Banks in the Hayden Spring area. His brother, Henderson Banks, also lived in Webberville by 1900.<sup>3</sup>

In 1920, Hinton Banks Sr. lived with his daughter Hollie Meeks, who was born in 1879. Hollie is likely the same “Holly Ann Banks,” his daughter listed in the 1880 Census. Hollie married Edward Meeks, born around 1877. Hollie’s husband, Edward Meeks, was in the same job occupation as her father being a farmer. He was educated (could read and write) and owned the house that they lived in Austin and was paying mortgage on it. As of 1920 they had five children: 2 daughters and 3 sons. Their daughter Bertha Meeks was born around 1900; Henry Meeks born around 1902; Rena Meeks born in 1904; Willie G Meeks born 1911; and lastly Leon Meeks born in 1917. All their children could read and write according to the Census record. The family lived in Austin, on Street W 10, suggesting the Banks family left the Hayden Springs area for Austin between 1910 and 1920. Hollie was a washwoman on wage salary as she cared for her children and elderly parents.<sup>4</sup>

Bertha Meeks – daughter of Hollie Meeks, granddaughter of Hinton Banks Sr – may have moved to Brooklyn, New York on Block G house number 515 street address Tompkins Ave in 1930. She married a John Riley born in Alabama, who worked as a dentist while she cared for the family at home. This “Bertha Riley” in the 1930 Census is likely the former Bertha Meeks, born in Austin in 1900. In 1930 Brooklyn, Bertha is listed as housing her mother “Hollie Meeks” and father-in-law “Edward Meeks” of Texas. Living with her is also her younger brother Leon

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<sup>3</sup> Year: 1900; Census Place: Webberville, Travis, Texas; Roll: 1673; Page: 13; Enumeration District: 0108; FHL microfilm: 1241673; Year: 1900; Census Place: Webberville, Travis, Texas; Roll: 1673; Page: 14; Enumeration District: 0108; FHL microfilm: 1241673

<sup>4</sup> Year: 1920; Census Place: Austin Ward 2, Travis, Texas; Roll: T625\_1852; Page: 12A; Enumeration District: 96

Meeks and sister-in-law Marion Shepard. Edward Meeks worked as an elevator operator in an apartment building and brother Leon Meeks was in school. Interestingly, and probably due to Census error, Bertha is listed as “white” while the other residents are listed as Black.<sup>5</sup>

Burrell Banks, the youngest son of Hinton Banks Sr., moved up north to Toledo, Ohio by 1920 during the first Great Migration. Like his mother, Burrell is listed as “Mulatto” in Census records and lived in Ward 11 on Avondale Ave. He worked in the woodman's industry and was married to a Minnie Banks. Notably, she was self-employed with her own business as a seamstress. They most likely met in Texas (born in Texas) and moved up north together.<sup>6</sup>

### **Henderson Banks – Family History**

By Darrell Correia and Blakley McCullough

Henderson Banks first appears in the 1880 Census, born in 1860 in Mississippi. Henderson is listed as living at home with his father, Hinton Banks (see previous essay). Henderson was the only member of his household born in Mississippi according to the 1880 Census. The rest of his family was born in either Tennessee or Texas. His younger sister, Margaret Banks, was born in 1867 in Tennessee and brother James born in 1873 in Tennessee. His youngest sibling, Willie, was the first of the siblings to be born in Texas around 1874, suggesting the family relocated that year to the Hayden Springs area. In total, Hinton and Mary Banks had 8 children according to the 1880 Census. They had 6 sons and 2 daughters, ranging in age from 20 years old to two months old. Henderson was the oldest of all of the children in the

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<sup>5</sup> Year: 1930; Census Place: Brooklyn, Kings, New York; Page: 13A; Enumeration District: 0657; FHL microfilm: 2341262

<sup>6</sup> Year: 1920; Census Place: Toledo Ward 11, Lucas, Ohio; Roll: T625\_1410; Page: 17B; Enumeration District: 124

household.<sup>7</sup>

According to the 1900 census records, Henderson Bands (misspelled “Danks”) married his wife, Josie Banks, in 1882, only two years after the last time we saw him in the 1880 records where he was still living with his parents. In 1900, the couple had no children together. However, their niece and nephew, Maggie and Joe Banks, were living with them. Maggie was 12 years old in 1900. Her father was born in Tennessee and her mother was born in Mississippi. We know that none of Henderson’s siblings were born in Mississippi, so Maggie’s father must be one of Henderson’s brothers. By process of elimination, I believe Haywood Banks (Henderson’s brother) is her father. He was born in Tennessee, and would have been 16 or 17 when Maggie was born. Haywood was the next oldest son of the Banks siblings, so it is the most logical that he be her father.<sup>8</sup>

In the 1900 census Henderson is following in his father’s footsteps and has become a farmer. It does not look like Josie had a job, perhaps she was unable to work. Both Joe and Maggie, however, did have jobs. Joe was a farm laborer, probably working for his uncle, assuming they had their own farm. Maggie was a day laborer, picking up odd jobs from day to day.

Henderson’s occupation changed by the 1910 Census. I am weary in claiming the Henderson Banks in the 1910 census as the same Henderson Banks we have been looking into, as there are small details that do not fit into the Henderson Banks from the 1880 and 1900 census. In the 1910 census, it says that his mother was born in Mississippi, but we know his mother was born in Tennessee. It also says that he cannot write, however, in the previous census

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<sup>7</sup> Year: 1880; Census Place: Travis, Texas; Roll: 1329; Page: 50A; Enumeration District: 122

<sup>8</sup> Year: 1900; Census Place: Webberville, Travis, Texas; Roll: 1673; Page: 13; Enumeration District: 0108; FHL microfilm: 1241673

it is listed that he can write. What has convinced me that it is indeed the same Henderson Banks is that his wife's name is Josie, and he was born in Mississippi. It looks as though Joe and Maggie have moved out, and there is a change of address indicating Henderson and Josie moved to Austin between 1900 and 1910. Henderson is no longer a farmer, but rather a wagon driver. Interestingly, the couple has a 5-year-old named Leon Banks living with them and is listed as a "lodger." I wonder if it is another one of their nephews, as they share the same last name.<sup>9</sup>

By looking at the Directory of Austin, we learn exactly where Henderson and Josephine lived, 1503 Hackberry St.<sup>10</sup> When living in a rural area, it is hard to pinpoint an exact address, so we may not know exactly where Henderson was living while in Hayden Springs. However, now that he has moved to a large city with actual street addresses, we can see where Henderson and Josephine lived. Turning to Sanborn Maps, we can get a sense of their community and lifestyle. Religion was an important part of any American's life at this time, however it seems more valued by black Americans. When looking for a new place to live, it is important to consider whether or not you will be attending church. Henderson and Josephine chose to move right next to a colored Church of Christ.<sup>11</sup> Because of this choice in living next to a church, we can understand how important religion was to Henderson and Josephine. The couple also lived relatively close to a colored public school. By looking at census records, we know that Henderson and Josephine did not have any kids of their own, but they were housing a 5-year-old boy, Leon Banks.<sup>12</sup> They did not have any kids of their own, but they took care of the one living

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<sup>9</sup> Year: 1910; Census Place: Austin Ward 5, Travis, Texas; Roll: T624\_1595; Page: 16B; Enumeration District: 0078; FHL microfilm: 1375608

<sup>10</sup> 1906-7 City Directory of Austin With Street Directory of Residents, book, 1907; Austin, Texas. (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/mctaph46836/>; accessed May 5, 2022), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu/>; crediting Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.

<sup>11</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Austin, Texas, 1921, Sheet 82.

<sup>12</sup> Henderson Banks, Year: 1910; Census Place: Austin Ward 5, Travis, Texas; Roll: T624\_1595; Page: 16B; Enumeration District: 0078; FHL microfilm: 1375608

with them, making sure he had access to church as well as an education. Because they are so close to not only a colored church but a colored public school as well, we can assume that they were living in a predominantly black community.

The 1920 Census showed that Henderson (misspelled Helison) Banks is still married to Josie (now “Josephine”). They do not have children but more young lodgers listed as niece and nephew: Mattie Moore, 17 and Leon Lunt, 15. Henderson Banks worked as a “Teamster” in Austin (which, I believe, in modern times usually means a driver of commercial vehicles) as well as being labeled an “Express Mger”- keeping consistent with the 1910 record. It is interesting to note that in the 1920 Census, the race of every member of the Banks household was listed as “Mulatto” as opposed to Black on the previous records. Tier Austin address in 1920 is 1300 E 14th Street. I find the pattern of young household members that are not listed as descendants to be extremely intriguing. Why were they housing so many different youths over the decades? Why were they always listed as niece and nephew? <sup>13</sup>

An “H Banks” born in 1860 Mississippi is listed in the 1940 Census. However, H Banks was not married to Josie or Josephine Banks - his wife is listed as Minerva Banks, born around 1881. Realizing I had not even stopped to check what year Josie was born, I went back to 1930 and saw that Josie was listed as being born around 1860, so if this was in fact, *the* Henderson Banks, he now had a different wife. The only other information listed from the 1940 Census record is an Austin address: 1400 Bob Harrison Street. It is unclear whether this is the same H Banks from the previous records.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Year: 1920; Census Place: Austin Ward 5, Travis, Texas; Roll: T625\_1852; Page: 11A; Enumeration District: 112; Year: 1930; Census Place: Austin, Travis, Texas; Page: 19B; Enumeration District: 0022; FHL microfilm: 2342136

<sup>14</sup> Year: 1940; Census Place: Austin, Travis, Texas; Roll: m-#0627-04149; Page: 9B; Enumeration District: 227-39

### Hinton and Henderson Banks – Property History

By Darrell Correia and Blakley McCullough

Searching Travis County Deed records for “Hinton Banks” we found a Direct Index to Deeds Transcript covering 1842-1893. Travis County Deed Record 234, on page 517 describes a tract of land with “as conveyed and described by deed from Sandy Hayden to Hinton Banks dated July 1, 1878.” Hinton Banks, thus, purchased his land from Sandy Hayden in 1878 when he relocated to Travis County.

We found in Travis County Deed Record 244 a sale of land from Hinton and Mary Banks to an H.A. Thurmond, dated 1911 with a description that reads “50 acres of land, more or less, apart of the Gordon C. Jennings Headright League.” In 1911 there were 3 “mechanics liens” notes, all set at \$333.33, totaling to over one thousand dollars, that would be paid to H.A. Thurman. It would take years to pay this off, as the note was written on January 12, 1911, and they would continue to make payments in the years 1913, 1915, and 1916.<sup>15</sup> The notes do not specify what they were getting paid to do, but we can assume it was a big project. Hinton had about 50 acres at this time, so perhaps he was adding onto his family’s house, or even building a house to go on the property, as their family was big and they still had younger children to take care of.

Of Hinton and Mary’s children, Henderson Banks was the oldest. When they migrated to Texas, Henderson would have probably been 18 years old. He lived with his parents for a few years, as he is listed as living in Hinton’s household in the 1880 census record.<sup>16</sup> While still

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<sup>15</sup> Travis County (Tex.). Clerk’s Office. Travis County Deed Records: Deed Record 254, book, 1912-12/1913-01; (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1110896/>; accessed May 5, 2022). University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu/>; crediting Travis County Clerk’s Office.

<sup>16</sup> Henderson Banks, Year: 1880; Census Place: Travis, Texas; Roll: 1329; Page: 50A; Enumeration District: 122

living with his parents, it seems as though Hinton and Henderson bought land together, and received the deed on January 28, 1890. They bought the property from a man listed as J.W.<sup>17</sup> It is interesting that they are buying land together, as census records indicate that Henderson married his wife, Josephine in 1882<sup>18</sup>. Perhaps they bought it together so that Henderson could finally get a place of his own for him and his wife, and Hinton, being the loving dad, he seems to be, wants to help his son and daughter-in-law out in buying their first home.

Like his father, Henderson wanted to make some home improvements. W.A. Brooks was the man they hired to do the renovations on their house. He was also in charge of helping to furnish their home. The job would cost Henderson and Josephine \$830. The payment plan is laid out plainly. They would begin making payments on November 7, 1929, and would continue to make payments on the 7<sup>th</sup> of every month. They would make payments of \$20. There was an 8% interest rate on the mechanic lien that they would pay off semi-annually.<sup>19</sup> It is also stated that, if something were to happen to W.A. Brooks, the payments would then go to his heirs. It must not have been a big project, as it is also stated that W.A. Brooks would finish the renovations and construction approximately 30 days after the mechanics lien note was issued.<sup>20</sup>

We searched up H.A. Thurman in the 1920 census, after the date of the deed book sale. H.A. Thurman was a white male farmer living in Justice Precinct 2 in Travis County. H.A. and

<sup>17</sup> Travis County (Tex.). Clerk's Office. Travis County Deed Records: Direct Index to Deeds 1842-1893 A-D (transcript), book, 1842/1893; (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth975514/>; accessed May 5, 2022), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu/>; crediting Travis County Clerk's Office.

<sup>18</sup> Henderson Banks, Year: 1900; Census Place: *Webberville, Travis, Texas*; Roll: 1673; Page: 13; Enumeration District: 0108; FHL microfilm: 1241673

<sup>19</sup> Travis County (Tex.). Clerk's Office. Travis County Deed Records: Deed Record 432 - Mechanics Liens, book, 1929-03/1930-01; (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth1318834/>; accessed May 5, 2022), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu/>; crediting Travis County Clerk's Office.

<sup>20</sup> Travis County (Tex.). Clerk's Office. Travis County Deed Records: Deed Record 432 - Mechanics Liens, book, 1929-03/1930-01; (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth1318834/>; accessed May 5, 2022), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu/>; crediting Travis County Clerk's Office.



Maud had three children listed in 1920: Edgar (17), Grady (15), Jody (8). Jodie Thurman is listed in the 1940 Census, married to a Kathrine living in Travis County. Grady Thurman is also listed, living in Travis County, and with one son: Gerald Thurman, aged at just one years old.

In a 1958 Travis County Rural Directory, Grady Thurman lived at 1387 RD 58BE and Jody Thurman, living at 2224 RD 14BN, along with his wife, Katherine. This address likely corresponds with the former Hinton Banks property purchased from Hayden in 1878. Additional research on the names found in the 1958 Travis County Rural Directory could follow a trail of deed transactions that ultimately uncover the actual plots of land within the freedom colony during its existence.

Were any descendants of Hinton Banks listed in the 1958 Travis County Rural directory? The surname Banks and came across four entries: Algic Banks, Effie Banks, Mrs H Hood Banks, and Mary Banks. In the 1940 Census, Algic Banks was 29 years old and living at home with his parents, Haywood and Mary Banks in Travis County. Moving backwards, to 1880, is listed at age 9, living at home with his parents, Hinton and Mary Banks in Travis County. Thus: Algic Banks is likely the grandson of Hinton Banks, you bought land from Sandy Hayden in 1878.

Algic Banks, listed in the 1958 Travis County Rural Directory, lived at 72AE (with no house number, only the road is listed- perhaps the first or most prominent property on that route). The Mary Banks listed in 1958 is described as “retired” and living at 2121 72AE, the same road as Algic, whose mother was named Mary. This could mean that Algic and his mother lived near each other in 1958. The locations of the roads listed for the Thurmans and the Banks seem to generally align in the same road cluster, southeast of Manor proper. The areas around RD 58BE, 14BN, and 72AE is very likely to be the location of the tract of land sold from Sandy Hayden to Hinton Banks in 1878.

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### **Louis Meeks – Family History**

By Alyssa Cradit and Chloe Johnson

In the process of identifying Lewis/Louis Meeks of Hayden Springs, there are three likely candidates in the Census: Lewis Meeks of Mississippi (Age 69 at 1870), Louis Meeks of Mississippi (Age 44 at 1880), and Louis Meeks of Kentucky (Age 54 at 1870). The first Meeks is the least likely candidate.

Lewis Meeks of Mississippi resided in Precinct 1 of Travis County, near Webberville, TX. Meeks was a farmer and resided in his home with Rachel Meeks — a 25-year-old white woman from Texas — and her three inferred children: Worth, Walter, and Emma. Lewis Meeks does not appear further in Travis County within the census record, though Rachel does appear in 1880 married to a Randolph Meeks with whom she had multiple children. Thus the relationship between Rachel and this Lewis Meeks unknown. Why a 45-year-old Black man stayed in the same household as a 25-year-old white woman, both bearing the same last name, and with Rachel already bearing three children with no identified father, is currently restricted to the realm of speculation. While it is highly unlikely that Lewis Meeks of Mississippi is the subject of the Hayden Springs investigation, further resources should be dedicated to identifying the relationship between Lewis and Rachel, as it presents a strong possibility of expanding the historical understanding of race relationships within Travis County during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>21</sup>

The two more likely candidates are Lewis Meeks of Mississippi and Louis Meeks of Kentucky. To begin, Lewis Meeks born in 1836 in Mississippi. In 1880, this Lewis Meeks resided in rural Travis, Texas. He was married to Mary J. Meeks, with both persons being labelled as “Mulatto” by the Census bureau. They had ten children at the time of the census

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<sup>21</sup> Year: 1870; Census Place: Precinct 1, Travis, Texas; Roll: M593\_1606; Page: 156B <https://bit.ly/379qF9O>

recording: Ellen, Thomas, Sarena, Sandy, Mary J., Louisa, Julia, Henry, Edmond, and Carrie. Other names affiliated with Hayden Springs appear on the same Census sheet as this Lewis Meeks including William Hill and Ben Meeks, which suggests this is likely the Lewis Meeks in question.<sup>22</sup>

Of the nine children listed in the 1880 census, only one – Sandy Meeks – could be determined as still living in the Travis County area after 1880. In 1900, a Sandy Meeks was listed as a boarder in the home of Marian Jones, living with his wife Eliza (married in 1892) and working as a farm laborer. At some point between 1900 and 1920 Eliza dies – as Sandy is listed as a widower in a 1920 Census. By 1920 Sandy Meeks is listed as living at on Angelina Street in Austin, Ward 5, Travis, Texas. While his wife may have passed, he did produce three adult children between 1900 and 1920: Timmie, Ray, and Lewis Meeks (named presumably for this father). Unfortunately, none of his children re-appear in the Census records, making the lineage of Sandy Meeks inconclusive. There is a Sandy Meek in 1930, but he is listed as “married” with a son – 16-year-old Lewis Meek. Both his marital status, and the fact that Lewis Meeks would be around 26 years old in 1930, renders Sandy Meek a different person than Sandy Meeks.<sup>23</sup>

Louis Meeks of Kentucky is a possible candidate for the “Louis Meeks” of Hayden Springs. In 1880, this Louis Meeks was a 54-year-old “mulatto” farmer married to Mary Meeks, also living in rural Travis County, Texas. They had 7 children at the time: Oran, Caroline, Janie, William, Ross, Bell, and Celia. Louis was listed as from Kentucky, and Mary from Arkansas.<sup>24</sup> In 1900, the Kentucky-born Louis Meeks moved to Webberville in Travis County, TX, adding

<sup>22</sup> Year: 1880; Census Place: Travis, Texas; Roll: 1329; Page: 40B; Enumeration District: 122 <https://bit.ly/3HYFvNa>

<sup>23</sup> Year: 1900; Census Place: Sprinkle, Travis, Texas; Roll: 1673; Page: 6; Enumeration District: 0109; FHL microfilm: 1241673 <https://bit.ly/3KoHjR3> ; Year: 1920; Census Place: Austin Ward 5, Travis, Texas; Roll: T625\_1852; Page: 12B; Enumeration District: 112 <https://bit.ly/3CEQiv4>

<sup>24</sup> Year: 1880; Census Place: Travis, Texas; Roll: 1329; Page: 47D; Enumeration District: 122 <https://bit.ly/3I6zjCG>

their granddaughter Bertha and their grandsons, Louis Meeks, and Henry Edmonson, to their household.<sup>25</sup> Oran, meanwhile, moved to Littig with his family, renting a farm within Travis County. Oren was married to Bettie Meeks (married in 1884), with six children: Effie (13), Birdy (10), Jeff (8), Willie (6), Lennie (4), and an unnamed “Baby” (1 month). It is likely that “Oren” is the same person as “Oran,” as his mother is listed as from Arkansas, the same as Mary Meeks, and the age of Oren matches with the potential age of Oran in 1900.<sup>26</sup>

A Louis Meeks Jr owned a home in Webberville in 1900.<sup>27</sup> His birth year would have been around 1835 in Missouri, he could not read nor write, and his occupation was farmer. He was married to a Nancy C. J. Meeks, born in Texas in 1862, she was marked as “colored” and could read and write. They had 2 children together and 3 stepdaughters from what seems to be Nancy’s first marriage. Louis Jr. also did live next to a John Marshall, whom was marked as colored and a farmer. This may be the same John Marshall from the 1894-95 Rural Directory lived as owning 10 acres of land.<sup>28</sup>

By 1910, Louis Meeks had died, as Mary Meeks is now the widowed head of the Meeks household.<sup>29</sup> They hired hand on their farm — Blake Hunter, a 20-year-old Black man whose listed profession is “odd jobs.” This indicates a degree of wealth, as a widow has enough capital to hire on an additional farmhand to increase labor output. By 1920, Mary Meeks resided with Bell and Bill Meeks, with Bill as the head of the household in Justice Precinct 1 of Travis

<sup>25</sup> Year: 1900; Census Place: Webberville, Travis, Texas; Roll: 1673; Page: 13; Enumeration District: 0108; FHL microfilm: 1241673 <https://bit.ly/314H6kC>

<sup>26</sup> Year: 1900; Census Place: Littig, Travis, Texas; Roll: 1673; Page: 22; Enumeration District: 0108; FHL microfilm: 1241673 <https://bit.ly/35J6lex>

<sup>27</sup> Year: 1900; Census Place: Webberville, Travis, Texas; Roll: 1673; Page: 20; Enumeration District: 0108; FHL microfilm: 1241673

<sup>28</sup> Year: 1900; Census Place: Webberville, Travis, Texas; Roll: 1673; Page: 20; Enumeration District: 0108; FHL microfilm: 1241673

<sup>29</sup> Year: 1910; Census Place: Justice Precinct 1, Travis, Texas; Roll: T624\_1594; Page: 3B; Enumeration District: 0057; FHL microfilm: 1375607 <https://bit.ly/31UJyLE>

County. At this point, the rest of the children disappear from the record of Travis County – except for Oran.<sup>30</sup>

In 1930, Oron Meeks is 73 years old, living with Bettie Meeks and his daughter, Ruth Meeks, on 2 Travis Avenue, Fort Worth, TX.<sup>31</sup> The property is a cotton farm, which Oron owns and operates. Most importantly, Oron's grandson, Stanley Scott, lives with the Meeks family, aged six years old.<sup>32</sup> Unfortunately, no substantial evidence of Stanley Scott exists in the 1940 Census records, preventing further investigation as to whether he produced children or was still alive in 1940. Potentially, Stanley Scott is still alive today, or he had children that would be within five generations to Louis Meeks. At any rate, with the specific location of the home and a child young enough to be under 100 years old in present, Stanley Scott should be a subject of further investigation.

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<sup>30</sup> Year: 1910; Census Place: Justice Precinct 1, Travis, Texas; Roll: T624\_1594; Page: 3B; Enumeration District: 0057; FHL microfilm: 1375607 <https://bit.ly/3MIQea8> ; Year: 1920; Census Place: Justice Precinct 1, Travis, Texas; Roll: T625\_1852; Page: 7A; Enumeration District: 86 <https://bit.ly/3MK2izW>

<sup>31</sup> Year: 1930; Census Place: Precinct 2, Travis, Texas; Page: 4B; Enumeration District: 0006; FHL microfilm: 2342135 <https://bit.ly/36euUkH>

<sup>32</sup> Year: 1930; Census Place: Precinct 2, Travis, Texas; Page: 4B; Enumeration District: 0006; FHL microfilm: 2342135 <https://bit.ly/36euUkH>

### Louis Meeks – Property History

By Alyssa Cradit and Chloe Johnson

On 19 December 1887, Lewis Meeks Sr. and Lewis Meeks Jr. sold 148 acres of land to Ben Meeks in Travis County for six-hundred dollars.<sup>33</sup> Of the three previously identified potential candidates for the register's "Louis Meeks," Lewis Meeks of Kentucky is the only candidate with a known descendant to share the same name<sup>34</sup> -- however, his grandson "Louis" was only nine in 1900, making him unlikely to be the landholder named within this transaction.<sup>35</sup> Therefore, it is unlikely that the land seller was the Louis Meeks of Hayden Springs, but it is highly probable that the Ben Meeks of this property deed document is the historical Ben Meeks from the Hayden Springs area.

To begin, there are a number of difficulties in attempting to identify the "Ben Meeks" within this property exchange. The initial document lists Ben Meeks' wife as "Texanna Meeks," with corresponding property deeds corroborating her name<sup>36</sup>. However, of the 3 Ben Meeks listed in the Census Records in the State of Texas, none of them have a spouse by the name of Texanna. One, the most likely, is Ben Meeks of Texas (25 in 1880)<sup>37</sup> married to one Millie Meeks of Tennessee (23 in 1880) with a ten-month old baby named Orange Meeks and their niece, Hattie Meeks.<sup>38</sup> In 1900, Ben and Millie still lived in Travis County, adding John Meeks

<sup>33</sup> Pg. 672, Travis County (Tex.). Clerk's Office, Travis County Deed Records: Deed Record 231, book, 1907-10/1909-02; (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth1110914/>; accessed May 5, 2022), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Travis County Clerk's Office.

<sup>34</sup> Year: 1880; Census Place: Travis, Texas; Roll: 1329; Page: 47D; Enumeration District: 122 <https://bit.ly/35VptGK>

<sup>35</sup> Year: 1900; Census Place: Webberville, Travis, Texas; Roll: 1673; Page: 13; Enumeration District: 0108; FHL microfilm: 1241673 <https://bit.ly/314H6kC>

<sup>36</sup> Referring to Travis County Deed Records: Deed Record 383 and Travis County Deed Records: Deed Record 377. For full citation, see endnotes *xiv* and *x*

<sup>37</sup> Year: 1880; Census Place: Travis, Texas; Roll: 1329; Page: 41C; Enumeration District: 122 <https://bit.ly/3vKrsrl>

<sup>38</sup> Year: 1880; Census Place: Travis, Texas; Roll: 1329; Page: 41C; Enumeration District: 122 <https://bit.ly/3scxhMb>



(18), Willie Meeks (16), Ross Meeks (13), Caroline Meeks (10), and Athelena Meeks (9) to their family.<sup>39</sup> Interestingly, they're listed as living with one William Coleman as the "father-in-law" (83). It is this Ben Meeks that is the most likely to be the purchaser of this land, as a July 1925 application for oil and gas leasing on the land lists Ben Meeks' children as Orange, Will, Ross, Caroline (and her husband Milton Nobles), and Ethel Meeks (and her husband Robert Collins) all of which match the names of the children listed in the 1900 census.<sup>40</sup> As to why "Millie" became "Texanna" in the record – in 1910, Ben Meeks is listed as *widowed*, meaning that he remarried after 1910 to Texanna Meeks.<sup>41</sup>

The land itself is listed as the "Richard Duty Headright," which according to Deed Record 231, is a swath of land encompassing around 296 acres, with Meeks only possessing 148 acres. A headright refers to a land grant issued to settlers within Texas, with the Richard Duty headright qualifying as a first-class headright, as it was established prior to the 1836 Texas Declaration of Independence. The age of the headright can be ascertained from a 4 September 1847 issue of the *Texas Democrat*, wherein the State of Texas compelled the heirs of Richard Duty to appear before Noah M. Smithwick and Thurza Smithwick for claim to the league that comprises the Richard Duty headright.<sup>42</sup> The article establishes the estate as being granted in 1835 – a year before the Declaration of Independence. Unfortunately, the location of the land is unknown, as all references to the land refer to physical characteristics and not its presence in

<sup>39</sup> Year: 1900; Census Place: Webberville, Travis, Texas; Roll: 1673; Page: 21; Enumeration District: 0108; FHL microfilm: 1241673 <https://bit.ly/3LQYvdF>

<sup>40</sup> Pg. 24 – 26 Travis County (Tex.). Clerk's Office. Travis County Deed Records: Deed Record 377, book, 1925-06/1925-10; (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/mctaph1300768/>; accessed May 5, 2022), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Travis County Clerk's Office.

<sup>41</sup> Year: 1910; Census Place: Justice Precinct 1, Travis, Texas; Roll: T624\_1594; Page: 3B; Enumeration District: 0057; FHL microfilm: 1375607 <https://bit.ly/3P5xLhk>

<sup>42</sup> The Texas Democrat (Austin, Tex.), Vol. 2, No. 34, Ed. 1, Saturday, September 4, 1847, newspaper, September 4, 1847; Austin, Texas. (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/mctaph148362/>; accessed May 5, 2022), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History.

relation to other landmarks.

Additionally, Ben Meeks acquired an additional portion of the Richard Duty Headright from one W. C. Brown on 6 March 1907, costing three-hundred dollars to the Meeks family.<sup>43</sup> To reiterate, Ben Meeks spent nine-hundred dollars in 1887 and 1907 cumulatively, indicating a great degree of wealth to purchase such large swaths of land for such a hefty sum of money. In 1887, Ben Meeks would have been 32 years old, and in 1907, Meeks would have been around 52 years old. Ben Meeks was a man of substantial wealth without any present indication of where that money came from. In further investigations for the Hayden Springs Project, the origin of Ben Meeks' wealth should be in order to understand how such wealth was able to accumulate in the hands of a Texas-born Black man, formerly enslaved, after 1850.

However, here is what is known about the land: the headright has a substantial oil and gas deposit, as indicated by the oil and gas leasing document found in Deed Record 377. The document describes how the family was awarded \$193 in 1925 for the leasing of land for the construction of oil and gas pipelines. An additional document in Deed Record 383 describes a sale of 1/56<sup>th</sup> of all oil, gas, and mineral deposits on the land to one B. F. Carroll and Joe L. Foster.<sup>44</sup> Therefore, the land is surmised to encompass around 296 acres, is a first-class headright granted prior to the establishment of the Independent State of Texas, and had large enough oil and gas deposits present to lead to the creation of pipelines and mining materials on the land.

Identifying what happened to this piece of land will clarify where the Meeks family when in the historical record. There is an Orange Meeks alive in 1910 whose age fifty-three

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<sup>43</sup> Pg. 676, Travis County (Tex.). Clerk's Office. Travis County Deed Records: Deed Record 231, book, 1907-10/1909-02; (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth1110914/>; accessed May 5, 2022), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Travis County Clerk's Office.

<sup>44</sup> Pg. 563, Travis County (Tex.). Clerk's Office. Travis County Deed Records: Deed Record 383, book, 1925-11/1926-04; (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth1300774/>; accessed May 5, 2022), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Travis County Clerk's Office.

matches the probable age of Ben Meeks child who was born around 1880, and he has a family with a newborn child.<sup>45</sup> Ross Meeks, also of a similar age to his 1900 profile, is also alive with a newborn and family as well.<sup>46</sup> However, there are no re-occurrences of these Meeks after 1910. Ethel Meeks appears in the 1920 census as Ethel Collins, with her husband Robert Collins, but I am unable to confirm where she went after this point.<sup>47</sup> It is possible that Ethel divorced Robert after 1930, re-appearing as a lodger in Kendall, Texas in 1940, but that cannot be confirmed without the annulment papers to confirm her prior marriage to Robert Collins.<sup>48</sup>

Reviewing the evidence, it is probable that Ben Meeks of Texas is: a) the Ben Meeks of the 1887 purchase of a portion of the Richard Duty headright and b) the Ben Meeks of Hayden Springs. His degree of wealth in the purchasing of such a large amount of land and familial relationships after the death of his wife all indicate as such.

Two other property deed records offer relevant information. Deed Record 274 references the exchange of land between an Ida Bell Doxey and Van Buren Doxy to John C. Lockwood. This land exchange was described as the Louis Meeks Homestead Tract. It was recorded that Ida Bell and Van Buren were the children of Spencer and Mary Doxey. In the Rural Directory for 1894-95, a Spencer Doxey Jr. is listed with 50 acres in Webberville. Family history research on the Meeks family suggests that Mary Doxey was the daughter of Louis Meeks. This exchange took place in Austin on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1914, with the witnesses being W.F. Smith and Jno. A.

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<sup>45</sup> Year: 1910; Census Place: Justice Precinct 2, Travis, Texas; Roll: T624\_1594; Page: 32A; Enumeration District: 0059; FHL microfilm: 1375607 <https://bit.ly/3PdSb7V>

<sup>46</sup> Year: 1910; Census Place: Justice Precinct 1, Travis, Texas; Roll: T624\_1594; Page: 3B; Enumeration District: 0057; FHL microfilm: 1375607 <https://bit.ly/3LP5Ujm>

<sup>47</sup> Year: 1920; Census Place: Justice Precinct 1, Travis, Texas; Roll: T625\_1852; Page: 7A; Enumeration District: 86 <https://bit.ly/3KNrofa>

<sup>48</sup> Year: 1940; Census Place: Kendall, Texas; Roll: m-t0627-04086; Page: 8A; Enumeration District: 130-5A <https://bit.ly/3KOMiuc>

Gracy.<sup>49</sup>

Lastly, we recognized some of the names from Deed Record 245. This references an exchange of property to an Isaac Washington on November 25th, 1904. It seems that Isaac paid \$87.50 to Louis Meeks and his wife Eliza, Charlie and Louisa Norris, Ed and Julia Jackson and a few other Meeks. He paid for what was described as “a fractional part of a block known and added upon a plat of the town of Webberville as block No. 39.” It was also described that, the land was on the north east side of Washington St. and extended to the League Line. Also being the same land conveyed by I.B. Banks to Lewis Meeks on October 15<sup>th</sup> 1868. The Rural Directory lists a C.H. Norris around Littig in 1920, which may be the Charles Norris mentioned.<sup>50</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> Travis County (Tex.). Clerk's Office. Travis County Deed Records: Deed Record 274, book, 1915-02/1915-05;(<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1151141/>; accessed May 5, 2022),University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Travis County Clerk's Office.

<sup>50</sup> Travis County (Tex.). Clerk's Office. Travis County Deed Records: Deed Record 245, book, 1911-02/1911-06;(<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1110898/>; accessed May 5, 2022),University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Travis County Clerk's Office.

### **Charlie Morrow – Family History**

By Elijah Harms and Willow Shaw

“Charley” Morrow appeared in the U.S. Census records during the surveys of 1880 and 1900 along with his wife, Anna Morrow. Charley Morrow, according to the U.S. Census record of 1880, lived in Travis County, Texas and was the head of his household of three, which consisted of him, his wife Anna Morrow, and his young son, William Morrow. Charley's occupation was that of a farmer. The same Census sheet lists an African American man of age fifty-five named Sandy Haden. I suspect this to be a misspelling of Sandy Hayden, the man who founded the Hayden Springs Freedom Colony. The Census lists Haden as a blacksmith married to Elizabeth Haden with two daughters Rosa and Fanny Haden, and his seven sons, James, Jefferson, Johny, Samuel, Louis, Robert, and Andrew Haden. James, Samuel and Andrew Haden are also neighbors of interest as they could possibly be names affiliated with the people found on the “1894-95 Travis Rural Directory” within the Littig and Webberville areas. Other neighbors of interest from the 1880 Census page include Dannel Bell who also has a name that could possibly be linked to people listed on the “1894-95 Travis County Rural Directory” in the Webberville and Manor areas.

In the 1880 census, it is stated that Charley was twenty-four years of age and was born in Texas around the year of 1856. His wife, Anna Morrow, was stated to be twenty years of age and born in Texas around the year of 1860 and his son, William Morrow is stated to have been born in Texas sometime within the year of 1879 and was eight months of age by the time that this U.S. Census was being taken, and though neither of Charley's parents names are listed, it is stated that his mother was born in Virginia.

Variations in the Census record exist after 1880. This Census of 1900 lists him as living

in Littig with a birth year of February of 1858 instead of 1856. The names of both his wife and son also show some changes, as Anna Morrow is now listed as Annie Morrow, born in July 1859 instead of 1860, and William's name is changed to Willie Morrow, born in August of 1878 instead of 1879. Another difference is that it now lists both of his parents as originating from Mississippi which contrasts the 1880 statement, that his mother originated from Virginia. These are minor changes that suggest the same family living in rural Travis County in 1900. Neighbors of interest from the 1900 Census in Littig include "Willie Meek, Lula Meek, and Baby Meek" of the Meeks family.

The 1900 Census states that Charley and Annie Morrow have six more children in addition to Willie Morrow. Four daughters, Louya, Lena, Cassie, and Mattie, and two more sons, Doughtey, and Jessie Morrow. Willie Morrow was twenty one years of age at the time of the 1900 census and unmarried, Louya was age at 18, Lena was twelve, Cassie was nine, Mattie was six, Doughtey was four, and Jessie was two. In the cases of Louya Morrow, Cassie Morrow, and Mattie Morrow, I was only able find them in the 1900 Census, after which they all just seem to vanish from the US Census records.

A Will Morrow appears in the 1930 census record in Dallas, Texas living with a half-sister by the name of Pheobe Davis. I think her original name was Pheobe Dyer as her full blooded brother lives with her as well, under the name of Percy Dyer. While I am still not completely certain that this Will Morrow is the same as William Morrow from 1880 or Willie Morrow from 1900, he is stated to be an African American male, fifty years of age and born around 1880 in the state of Texas. It is also stated that his parents were both born in Texas too, and that he was originally married at the age of twenty one. So, he possibly married sometime shortly after the census of 1900, however it is also stated that he was widowed in the 1930

census. Perhaps his wife's name might appear in the Travis county marriage records?

Doughtey Morrow also proves to be rather difficult to find after the 1900 Census record. However, while I am still not certain that it is him, there was a promising African American individual recorded on sheet number 6B of the 1920 US Census. Aged to be twenty three at the time, he went by the name Doughty Morrow, had an occupation as a chauffeur, and lived in Austin Ward 3, Travis, Texas, W 14th Street specifically. His birthdate varies by about two years from Doughtey Morrow in the 1900 census and it is also stated that he was the brother to the head of the house, John J. Tobin. Despite these differences, I believe that he is still worth looking into more in the future. Sadly, I could not find any other US census records mentioning him after 1920.

As for the other two children of Charley and Annie Morrow, I believe that I was able to track down Jessie and Lena Morrow to the 1920 Census Record where a Jesse Morrow is stated to be living with a sister by the name of Lenia, who is married to the head of the house, a man by the name of Benjamin Gregg. I believe that they are the same Lena and Jessie from 1900 because their birthdates remain roughly around the same time as stated in the 1900 census and the age gap between the siblings has not changed from the 1900 Census Record either, and both are stated to be African Americans living Manor, Texas. Much to my disappointment, it seems that neither Jesse Morrow nor Lenia Gregg make an appearance on the US Census records after 1920.

Benjamin Gregg might be the son of another one of the possible residents of the Hayden Springs Freedom Colony listed in the "1894-95 Travis County Rural Directory" - Austin Gregg. In another sheet off of the 1900 Census record, specifically sheet number ten, I found a seventeen year old man by the name of Ben Gregg who is stated to be the third eldest son of a man by the name of Austin Gregg and his wife Elisa Gregg, living in Justice Precinct 1, Travis,



Texas. While there are some differences in birthdates between the 1900 Census and the 1920 census records, the variations in age are minimal.

In the 1920 Census Benjamin Gregg is stated as living in Manor Texas and a farmer and an employer living in a rented house. It is also stated that Benjamin and Lenia Gregg had one son by the name of E.J. Gregg around the year 1916, and while I cannot find any other records with his name after 1920, it is stated that E. J. Gregg was four years of age at the time of the census and an only child. He is quite possibly the grandson of Charley Morrow as well as the grandson of Austin Gregg. Ten years later in 1930, they were placed in Travis County Precinct 2 on Manor Elgin Road. This is likely a different place because their neighbors were totally different. They were still living in Travis County in 1940, still living with their son E J Gregg. By the 1940 Census E J Gregg had apparently been married and divorced at the age of 24.

Other possible relations to Charley Morrow that appeared on the 1894-95 Travis County Rural Directory included a Jack and Sam Morrow. While I could not find any mention of Jack or Sam in the US Census Records, I did find a rather interesting general entry article regarding the history of Littig, Texas and the a man by the name of Jackson Morrow. According to the "Texas State Historical Association, Handbook of Texas," the land that the town of Littig was laid out and built on was owned by a man called Jackson Morrow, who was stated to have been formerly enslaved. He is said to have donated the land in 1883 in order for the town to be built there. The article also mentions that the town of Littig is one of the oldest black communities within the state of Texas.

## Sources

Charley Morrow. Year: 1880; Census Place: Travis, Texas; Roll: 1329; Page: 40A; Enumeration District: 122

Charley Morrow. Year: 1900; Census Place: Littig, Travis, Texas; Roll: 1673; Page: 23; Enumeration District: 0108; FHL microfilm: 1241673

William Morrow. Year: 1880; Census Place: Travis, Texas; Roll: 1329; Page: 40A; Enumeration District: 122

Willie Morrow. Year: 1900; Census Place: Littig, Travis, Texas; Roll: 1673; Page: 23; Enumeration District: 0108; FHL microfilm: 1241673

Will Morrow. Year: 1930; Census Place: Dallas, Texas; Page: 19B; Enumeration District: 0011; FHL microfilm: 2342047

Doughty Morrow. Year: 1920; Census Place: Austin Ward 3, Travis, Texas; Roll: T625\_1852; Page: 6B; Enumeration District: 102

Jessie Morrow. Year: 1900; Census Place: Littig, Travis, Texas; Roll: 1673; Page: 23; Enumeration District: 0108; FHL microfilm: 1241673

Jesse Morrow. Year: 1920; Census Place: Manor, Travis, Texas; Roll: T625\_1852; Page: 28B; Enumeration District: 88

Louya Morrow. Year: 1900; Census Place: Littig, Travis, Texas; Roll: 1673; Page: 23; Enumeration District: 0108; FHL microfilm: 1241673

Lena Morrow. Year: 1900; Census Place: Littig, Travis, Texas; Roll: 1673; Page: 23; Enumeration District: 0108; FHL microfilm: 1241673

Lenia Gregg. Year: 1920; Census Place: Manor, Travis, Texas; Roll: T625\_1852; Page: 28B; Enumeration District: 88

Cassie Morrow. Year: 1900; Census Place: Littig, Travis, Texas; Roll: 1673; Page: 23; Enumeration District: 0108; FHL microfilm: 1241673

Mattie Morrow. Year: 1900; Census Place: Littig, Travis, Texas; Roll: 1673; Page: 23; Enumeration District: 0108; FHL microfilm: 1241673

Ben Gregg. Year: 1900; Census Place: Justice Precinct 1, Travis, Texas; Roll: 1673; Page: 10; Enumeration District: 0104; FHL microfilm: 1241673

Benjamin Gregg. Year: 1920; Census Place: Manor, Travis, Texas; Roll: T625\_1852; Page: 28B; Enumeration District: 88

Austin Gregg. Year: 1880; Census Place: Travis, Texas; Roll: 1329; Page: 46B; Enumeration District: 122

Austin Gregg. Year: 1900; Census Place: Justice Precinct 1, Travis, Texas; Roll: 1673; Page: 10; Enumeration District: 0104; FHL microfilm: 1241673

F J Gregg. Year: 1920; Census Place: Manor, Travis, Texas; Roll: T625\_1852; Page: 28B; Enumeration District: 88

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### **Charlie Morrow – Property History**

By Elijah Harms and Willow Shaw

As mentioned in our previous essay concerning the Morrow family, Charlie (or Charley) Morrow and Annie Morrow were last recorded in the Federal Census in the year of 1900 with their four daughters and three sons: Louya, Willie, Mattie, Lena, Doughtey, Cassie, and Jessie Morrow. Upon looking through the Travis County Deed Records, a specific document from the deed record 301 on page 521 through 523 references one of the Morrow children, Louise (Louya) Morrow, now married to F.M. Henson. Lousie Morrow sold her one-eighth portion of Charley Morrow's property to her brother-in-law, Ben Gregg, who was married to her sister, Lenia (Lena) Morrow.

There were four parcels of land listed to be inherited by Louise (Louya) Morrow Henson and were sold to Ben Gregg on the 23rd of October 1917 under the Notary Public, C. W. Webb. All of them had the names of the people who had originally sold these plots of land to Charlie Morrow and the various Travis County deed record volumes in which they were recorded. In the order of which they were listed within the Deed records 301, the first plot of land was recorded to be measured at sixteen and one-sixth acres and was sold to Charlie Morrow by a J. W. Bitting on March third of 1890. The second plot was measured to be seventy-four and one-half acres of land that was originally sold to Charlie Morrow by a Mary A. Bush on December 9th of 1880. Finally, in the case of the third and fourth plots of land sold to Ben Gregg, there was actually no listing of a measured amount of acreage for these plots in the 301 Deed records. It is stated however, that the third plot was sold to Charlie Morrow by a Geo. W. Walling Jr. on the 27th of June in 1891 and the fourth plot was sold by two other founding Hayden Springs residents, Ben Meeks and Minne Meeks, on the 22nd of December, in the year of 1894.

The deed records of Morrow's original property offer similar description of the four lots, referencing earlier deed records that contain more detailed information about the properties. The first plot of land is clearly somewhere south of Littig. With the faded looping handwriting and the references to specific trees, it is hard to figure out exactly where this plot is, references to Willow Creek and Dry Creek are clear, which come near each other just south of what is now Littig Road. The second description<sup>6</sup> is similarly difficult to parse, but seems to mention a "Wilbargers? Creek." The deed describing the third plot references the railroad and a mention of the "Amos Alexander League." The final deed describing a property sold to Morrow mentions the same "Amos Alexander League," and mentions the presumably same railroad. It specifically mentions the property's proximity to the Littig Railway Station. The Railroad runs through the town from east to west. If this plot is connected to the others, it would probably be south of the railroad because the above-mentioned creeks are south of the railroad. We have listed them in the works cited as a means for keener eyes to be able to decipher that script with more accuracy.

In another deed record, F. M. Henson, his brother J.C. Henson, and his widowed mother, Mrs. Maggie Henson, gave up any claim to their father's property in the city of Austin, Texas and conveyed it to their mother instead.

According to the 301 Deed Records, all of the land sold by Louise Morrow Henson and her husband to Ben Gregg was listed to be within an area called the Amos Alexander League of Travis County, Texas. This area of land is mentioned again in the 474 Travis County Deed records on pages 256, 257, and 258, and addresses that the Amos Alexander League is located within the city of Elgin, Texas and that Ben and Lenia Gregg were paying land mortgage dues to a Mrs. Lucy J. Rivers and her heirs, W. H. Rivers, Jr. and W. C. Rivers, upon her death, during the decade of the 1930s and through to the early 1940s. In the 1930 Census, Ben Gregg was

listed as a cotton farmer and that he outright owned his own land and had the street address of "Manor Elgin Road." Ben Gregg also had two nephews listed as household members under the names of, Hammond and Roy Humphrey, aged eight and six at the time of the 1930 census.

The 301 volume of the Travis Deed Records also mentions another child of Charlie and Annie Morrow who did not appear in our Census research. Her name was Viola Morrow and, upon the death of Charlie and Annie Morrow, she too received a portion of the land as inheritance according to the 301 Records. Census records from 1910 and another from 1920 state that Viola Morrow was born in either 1900 or 1901, which provides an explanation as to why Viola Morrow does not appear in the 1900 census records where the rest of the family is listed. In the case of Viola, by 1920 it appears that she moved away from her inherited property and took to becoming a teacher in the city of Bastrop, Texas. The census also states that she took up residence in the house of a man by the name of William Hill and his family. Perhaps this William Hill is the same as the one mentioned in the 1894-95 Travis County Rural Directory. To further strengthen my argument that Viola Morrow spent her time in Bastrop serving as a teacher and perhaps getting an extended education for herself, I found that the Texas Travis County Probate Records: Probate Minutes 43, page 531 makes mentions of Lena Gregg paying disbursement fees regarding the boarding and schooling tuition of Viola Morrow, possibly referring to her education or stay with the Hill family as a teacher in the city of Bastrop. The only documentation that I was able to find regarding Viola after the 1920 census is a "Final Report and Application of Discharge" for both Cassie and Viola Morrow that was closed and signed off by the Notary Public, C.W. Webb, and filed on the fifth of November in the year of 1920.

From the Texas County Probate Records, Probate Minutes 45, on page 62 and page 63, it is stated that Viola and Cassie Morrow were still considered minors under the guardianship of

the their older sister, Lena Gregg. This particular document refers to how both of the younger sisters are being discharged from the guardianship of Lena Gregg, Viola through marriage and Cassie though unstated means, perhaps coming of age? The document states that Viola Morrow married a man by the name of Hammond Humphries in the city of Gary, in the state of Indiana. However, I am unsure as to whether or not she gave up her portion of inherited land to Ben and Lena Gregg upon her marriage to Hammond Humphries. Hammond Humphrey and Roy Humphrey, who are stated to be the nephews of Ben Gregg and members of the Gregg household as of the 1930 census, are probably the children of Hammond and Viola Morrow Humphries.

Lastly: When searching for the location of the Littig Railway Station, one of our group members found a historical marker dedication for the Littig Cemetery from Travis County. This dedication says, "The town of Littig was laid out in 1883 along the route of Houston and Texas Central Railway on land donated by former slave Jackson Morrow... In 1891, Thomas B. and Mary E. Fowler sold two acres to trustees George Morrow, Alex Alexander and Andrew J. Campbell for the establishment of a cemetery at this location. The earliest marked burial is that of Abba Moore, who died in 1895. Many former enslaved workers, including Jackson Morrow and members of his family are buried at this site." Google Maps also revealed a Morrow Road just north of the town, which is likely to refer to Jackson Morrow. Could there be a connection between the founder of Littig, Jackson Morrow, and this Morrow family? Jackson Morrow is listed in Census records, living in Travis County, in 1880 and 1910. I think it is possible that he could be Charley's father. Jackson was 52 in 1880 when Charley was 24.

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### **William Hill – Family History**

By Trinity Abels and Matthew Medina

William Hill Sr. was a Black landowner who owned 189 acres in the Manor area in 1894. William Hill Sr. has his first record found in the 1880 record. William Hill Sr. and both of his parents were born in Alabama. In 1880 he is 27 years old (born 1853) and married to Jennie Hill with a daughter and two sons, Benjamin Hill and William Hill Jr, and a daughter Lyddia Hill. At this time, they are living in Travis, Texas. Jennie Hill's occupation is listed as "Keeping House", which was a sign of wealth at the time, as his wife did not have to work, she was relegated to household duties, and the record indicates William Sr. owned the land he farmed.

Almost all Hill's neighbors on the 1880 Census sheet are listed as "Black", with a couple exceptions listed as "Mulatto", and one white family, meaning that Mr. Hill did not have many white neighbors. The neighbors are for the most part also listed as farmers, with wives listed as "Keeping House." One of Mr. Hill's Black neighbors, Jasper Jones, had a white German laborer, and a Black 80-year-old servant working for him, which is also a signifier of wealth. The most interesting find in this page of the Census records are two names, Louis Meeks, and Ben Meeks, whom both appear on the 1894 rural directory.

William Hill Sr. is next listed in the 1900 Census living in Bastrop, Texas. We can tell it is the same William Hill because of his marital status to Jennie Hill, as well as his two sons from the 1880 record, Benjamin and William Jr., who are both still living in his house at this time. In 1900 the daughter is no longer in the house, it can be expected that she may have married during the 20-year period between the two Census records. They live in a rented house on a farm. In the twenty years since the last census, Mr. Hill added four sons and four daughters to the household: Samuel Hill (Age 16), Gerome Hill (Age 9), James Hill (Age 14), David Hill (Age 1), Callie Hill (Age 18), Fannie Hill (Age 12), Millie Hill (Age 6), and Werlena Hill (Age 3). The two eldest sons,

Benjamin and William Hill Jr. both still live in the household and are both listed as “Farm Laborers.” Also notable is that William, Jennie, and all children received an education indicated by their ability to read and write. The demographics of Mr. Hill’s neighbors had not drastically changed from being mostly black Farmers, however now all the black farmers around him are listed as “renting” or “laborers”, meaning that they did not own the land they worked on. There are no families that followed the Hill’s to Bastrop, and all their neighbors have changed from the 1880 Census.

William Sr. is last found in the 1910 Census at the age of 58. This record is where the first difference in William Sr.’s birthplace is seen as in this record it is listed as Tennessee rather than Alabama. However, this William is the correct age, he is still living in Bastrop, married to Jennie Hill. In 1910, William Sr. has only two sons, Samuel (Age 25) and Jerome (Age 19), still living in the household, and able to work the farm. Samuel is listed as “Helper”, meaning that either he is the person on payroll for William, or Samuel has an official stake in the Farm. This also means that William Hill has six children living away from the home, some of whom I was able to find in later census records, and other official documents. Thus William Sr.’s birthplace may be Tennessee or Alabama. No Census record of William Hill Sr. is available after 1910. He may have passed.

Two other possible leads on William Hill Sr. First, an 1860 Federal Slave Record Census lists a William Hill of Travis, Texas who owned six enslaved workers, one of which is a 6-year-old boy. It’s possible that this enslaved child both to a white William Hill is the William Hill Sr. of Hayden Springs. Second, an 1880 record of “Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent” persons lists a 70-year-old, white, male named William Hill, originally from Tennessee in Travis, Texas. Could this be the enslaver William Hill who owned a six-year-old slave of the same name, who is our William Hill Sr.?

William Hill Sr.'s son Benjamin Hill was born around 1877 in Travis, Texas. Benjamin still lives with his father in the 1900 Census. By the 1910 Census, Benjamin Hill has moved out of his father's house and married Julia Hill, possibly around 1903-4, but he stayed in the Bastrop area. In this 1910 record, there is once again a change in the location where his father was born, here it says that his father was born in Tennessee, but it is back to Alabama in the 1920s record. The last Census record of Benjamin is in 1930, where he listed as a widower. Benjamin Hill is listed working in a grocery store and having an elementary school level education.

I possibly found Benjamin Hill in the 1940 Census but cannot confirm. It is possible he lived in Austin, Texas in 1940 and was remarried to a Hattie Hill. I think this could still be him however because it has his residence in 1935 listed in Bastrop, the correct birth year of 1877, and his father's birthplace is listed as Alabama. This Benjamin Hill has a son listed as Whalen/Wayland Hill born around 1915. By 1940 Whalen lived in Austin, Texas.

William Hill Jr., the second son of William Hill Sr., was born in 1879. Similar to his brother Benjamin, in the 1900 Census he is listed as living in Bastrop in his father's home but by the 1910 census, he is moved out on his own and married a woman named Etta Hill around 1908. He lived in Bastrop close to the rest of the family. Benjamin Hill is listed as a neighbor on the same Census sheet. The Hills have a daughter in 1910, although the gender might be a mistake because the child's listed name is Henry Hill. They rent a farm and Hill Jr. is listed as a self-employed farmer like his father. In 1930 he and Etta Hill have three daughters and two sons living in the household and address as 1910.

The most notable change for William Hill Jr comes in the 1940 census where his address changes to 1104 Chison St, Austin, Texas. William Hill Jr. and Etta Hill lived at this address up to William Jr's death in 1950 as listed on his Death Certificate. He is still married to Etta Hill, and has son Almis Hill (Age 26), grandson Ratta Tomley (Age 9), and Kathyrne Hill (Age 13), all

living at home. His occupation is listed as laborer and he rents his house. The 1940 Census shows hard times as he is listed with 71 days of unemployment, with 0 income, and 0 weeks worked in 1939. This is indicative of the Great Depression and Dust Bowl context. Almis Hill is the only family member employed in 1940. Ratta Tomley seems to be the closest link to William Hill that may still be alive, which would put him around 91 years old in 2022.

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 Year: 1920; Census Place: *Justice Precinct 3, Bastrop, Texas*; Roll: T625\_1774; Page: 10A; Enumeration District: 23  
 Year: 1930; Census Place: *Precinct 3, Bastrop, Texas*; Page: 9B; Enumeration District: 0008; FHL microfilm: 2342024  
 Year: 1940; Census Place: *Austin, Travis, Texas*; Roll: m-10627-04149; Page: 65A; Enumeration District: 227-41

#### **William Hill Sr.**

Year: 1880; Census Place: *Travis, Texas*; Roll: 1329; Page: 41C; Enumeration District: 122  
 Year: 1900; Census Place: *Justice Precinct 4, Bastrop, Texas*; Roll: 1609; Page: 18; Enumeration District: 0009; FHL microfilm: 1241609  
 Year: 1910; Census Place: *Justice Precinct 3, Bastrop, Texas*; Roll: T624\_1529; Page: 6B; Enumeration District: 0006; FHL microfilm: 1375542

#### **William Hill Jr.**

Year: 1880; Census Place: *Travis, Texas*; Roll: 1329; Page: 41C; Enumeration District: 122  
 Year: 1900; Census Place: *Justice Precinct 4, Bastrop, Texas*; Roll: 1609; Page: 18; Enumeration District: 0009; FHL microfilm: 1241609  
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 Year: 1920; Census Place: *Justice Precinct 3, Bastrop, Texas*; Roll: T625\_1774; Page: 10A; Enumeration District: 23  
 Year: 1930; Census Place: *Precinct 3, Bastrop, Texas*; Page: 9A; Enumeration District: 0008; FHL microfilm: 2342024  
 Year: 1940; Census Place: *Austin, Travis, Texas*; Roll: m-10627-04149; Page: 10A; Enumeration District: 227-41

#### **Kathryne Hill and Ratta Tomley**

Year: 1940; Census Place: *Austin, Travis, Texas*; Roll: m-10627-04149; Page: 10B; Enumeration District: 227-41

#### **Whalen Hill**

Year: 1940; Census Place: *Austin, Travis, Texas*; Roll: m-10627-04149; Page: 64B; Enumeration District: 227-37  
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### **Ike Brown – Family and Property History**

By Trinity Abels and Sophie Moore

Ike Brown's Census records were very sparse. We were only able to find two records that we assume belong to Brown, however we found more for his sons, John and Richard Brown. Ike has a 1900 Census record. He is listed as living with his two sons John and Richard, and married to Sallie Brown, and living in Webberville. The interesting thing about this record is that one of his neighbors is listed as Paul M Deates, a white man. This is significant because Deates is found in Property Deed Record 257 buying land next to Brown, as they used his land to help define Deates' property boundary.

Ike Brown bought 138 acres of land in 1884 from a couple named L. B. and Lucy Harris according to Property Deed Records 446. We were, unfortunately, unable to find information on the Harris', but we think that the land was formerly a part of something called the Jeff Burleson Homestead Tract or it is right next to it. In later records there is a woman named Lizzie Burleson who is listed as a neighbor to the Browns in later Census records.

Ike Brown's son, Richard Brown, is listed as 20 years old in the 1900 Census and born in Texas in April 1880. Ike Brown is listed as 60 years old, and Ike's wife, Richards listed mother, Sallie, is only 35. There are also two other people in the house, another son, John Brown, who is 26 years old, and Mary Winson, an 8-year-old labeled as a Stepdaughter (likely the daughter of Sallie). Richard Brown likely died between the 1930 and 1940 Census records. We were not able to find a census record for him in 1930, but there is a property deed record of him and his wife Ellen acquiring some of Ike Brown's land in the early 1930s. Another piece of evidence to support this was that we were able to find Ellen Browns' 1940 Census record where she was a widowed property owner and a neighbor to John Brown, Richard's older brother. Seeing Ellen's 1940 record,

there may be chance to track down some decedents as she was living with two grandchildren, Willie Hunter, 18, and Dobbie Scott, 9.

Ike's son, John Brown, was surprisingly easy to follow in the record given how common his name is. He has the most complete record of the three Brown men. His first record, like his father and brother, is found in the 1900 Census record. He is listed as 26 years old, single, and living with the rest of the family at the farm in Webberville. In 1920, he is listed as married to Rosey Brown, with two daughters and a son, 4 years old Conery Brown. This is continued in the 1930 record, with the addition of two more sons, Johnie, 10, and Andrew, 6. The most up-to-date records are the 1940 Census records, where he is listed as still married to Rosey, living with his youngest son Andrew, now 16, and therefore a potential lead to track a few more decedents, as well as another daughter, who is 18. There is a cemetery record that lists John Brown as being buried in Ike Brown Cemetery with Ike Brown and Sandy Hayden in 1942, so even if more records were available, this would likely be the end of the census records for John. We are making the assumption that Richard Brown died before this due to Ellen's widowed status and his lack of census records, however, I think it is interesting that he is not listed as buried here in the Ike Brown Cemetery with the rest of his family.

The cemetery record lists Ike Brown as dying in 1922, but we are not sure that is accurate. Deed 425 has a record of Ike's land in 1929 and is the first to mention the property in regard to his death in its concern to his children and heirs, which includes a few names that are new. It appears in this record that they are selling the main Ike Brown property as well as some pieces in Webberville proper, but it looks like they are selling it to Ellen Brown, who is Richard's wife, per the census records. However, the record then goes on to discuss how they are paying Ellen \$700.00 plus interest for it rather than the other way around. This is then further complicated from Deed record 446 again because, at the end of 1929, Richard and Ellen Brown bought Ike Brown's former

property from a public auction for \$50.00. The best part of these two documents together is that it tells how much land Ike Brown had and for some parts of the property, it tells how many acres he bought from different people. There is still the problem of locating exactly where all this land was, many of the referenced markers were just local landmarks, and the most dependable would probably have been Cottonwood Creek.

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Year: 1920; Census Place: *Justice Precinct 1, Travis, Texas*; Roll: T625\_1852; Page: 1B; Enumeration District: 86 – *Richard Brown*

Year: 1940; Census Place: *Travis, Texas*; Roll: m-0627-04148; Page: 3A; Enumeration District: 227-1

Year: 1930; Census Place: *Precinct 1, Travis, Texas*; Page: 4B; Enumeration District: 0001; FHL microfilm: 2342135 – *John Brown*

Year: 1940; Census Place: *Travis, Texas*; Roll: m-0627-04148; Page: 3A; Enumeration District: 227-1

Year: 1880; Census Place: *Travis, Texas*; Roll: 1329; Page: 45C; Enumeration District: 122 – *Jeff Burleson*

Year: 1900; Census Place: *Webberville, Travis, Texas*; Roll: 1673; Page: 19; Enumeration District: 0108; FHL microfilm: 1241673 --- *Lizzie Burleson*

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### **Dock Merritt – Family History**

By Berkley Kading

Dock Merritt first appears in the 1880 census. It's interesting because this is the only census where his name is spelt Dock Marritt with an A instead of the E. He's twenty-eight years old and the head of the household while his wife Elizabeth, twenty-three, is listed as keeping house. They have one son, Frank, age 9, and four daughters, Callie, Adaline, Julian, and Augusta aged 7, 5, 3, and 1. Dock is listed as a farmer. The Rural Directory of Travis County states that Dock Merritt owned 100 acres, but I couldn't find any record of this to confirm for myself. Sandy Hayden is listed on the same Census sheet, suggesting they lived in the same community, as well as Louis Meeks. I did find it interesting that even in 1880 they lived in an interracial farming community as many of their neighbors were white.

In 1900 Dock Merritt was 46, he had his name spelt correctly, Dock Merritt, and they were still living in Travis County. Even more specifically they were in Littig, Texas. I'm guessing this is where he owned the 100-acre farm, perhaps it's the same farm as 1880 farm, but I couldn't confirm this. The census did have his farm listed as mortgaged. He is still married to Elizabeth; however, her name is now listed as Lizzie Merritt. On top of this they now have a total of 10 living children, 3 deceased, but only 9 of their kids are listed. Callie, Julian, and Augusta all daughters of theirs are no where to be found in any census records that I looked at. I think it's safe to assume that sadly two of them passed away and one of the three got married and I just lost them in the census. Frank and Adaline are still living with them and working on the farm, Frank is now 29 and Adaline is 25. They have another daughter, Ellen, who is apparently 21 and helped as farm labor as well, but she wasn't listed in the 1880 census. New additions to the family include Ira 17, Brady 15, Oda 13, Scr/Sie/Salassic 9, Dimple 7, and Milton the youngest at 4. This is interesting because Ira, Brady

and Oda are all attending school at this time. I also saw a few familiar names skimming through their list of neighbors on the Census sheet including Louis Scott, 98 acres, and Charley Morrow who owned a whopping 166 acres.

Moving on to the census of 1910, unfortunately for our research into Hayden Springs, the Merritts moved to Muskogee, Oklahoma some time between 1900 and 1910. It also appears that they moved on from the family farming business as Dock was now a laborer for the railroad industry. Dock can also both read and write now, at least it's listed that he can now. They are renting house number 1114 on south 3<sup>rd</sup> street but again I couldn't find any actual records of them renting this place. I was even able to find a couple Sanborn maps of Muskogee from the time, but I couldn't locate a house or dwelling numbered 1114. Much like Littig, this new community was an interracial farming and railroad community, although it appears that Muskogee was mostly Black.

Another interesting discovery on this 1910 Census page is now they have him listed as 10 years older than he was previously. The census now states that Dock is 64 years old (he should be 54 if previous census records were correct) and born in 1846. Him and Elizabeth are still married, although they have her name listed differently again: Elizziebeth. This also marks the first time that Elizabeth is labeled as "Mulatto" and the first time she is listed with a job outside of keeping house. She's working as a "washerwoman" for a private family along with her daughters Sirlessie, now 19, and Ellen, now 28. Brady (24) is still with the family working as a porter for a dry goods store, and both Dimple (17) and Milton (14) are attending school at this time. I lost track of both Frank and Adaline at this point in my search, I checked both Texas and Oklahoma extensively and couldn't find a single trace of either. I may have found their daughter Oda, who would be 23 at this point, married to a man named Orang Moore. Beyond that I wasn't able to find much more on Oda. Ellen was also married at this point. Her name is now Ellen Proutt and she had two children, Dock S. Proutt (7) and Almetrice Proutt (1?), all of which are living with Dock and Elizabeth. I couldn't

confirm her husband, but if I had to guess it was Albert Proutt who was also listed as married in Muskogee, OK, but was living with his three sisters. Ira Merritt, their son was also married and living in Muskogee. He was 26 and working as a street laborer, his wife Cassie Merritt (Jones) was listed as keeping house and they lived with Cassie's family the Jones'. On top of this the Jones were neighbors with Albert Proutt and his three sisters.

Unfortunately, Dock Merritt was no where to be found in the 1920 census, which leads me to believe that he passed away some time between 1910 and 1920. Elizabeth Merritt, now 58, is still around and living with Ira and his Wife Cassie. They live somewhere on Rutherford Street but I couldn't find much else on their living situation. Ira is now working as a foreman for a yard crew in one of the railroad shops (it wasn't specified) and nothing was listed for Cassie. Elizabeth also wasn't listed with a job which leads me to believe that she stayed at home and watched after the kids. Ira and Cassie now have a daughter named Lois (2) and Almetrice Proutt, now 10, is also staying with the family. I thought this was interesting because along with Almetrice staying with them I couldn't find any records of any of the other Proutts. Ellen, Dock S., and Albert, even all of Alberts sisters, all disappeared after the 1910 census. Along with the Proutts, this is where I lost track of Brady and Milton Merritt, they may have gone to fight in World War I, but I couldn't find any records. I also lost track of both Dimple and Sirlessie, they could have just gotten married and I lost them but again I searched the census extensively and couldn't find anything.

In the 1930 census I was only able to find a few remaining relatives of Dock Merritt: his son Ira and Ira's daughter Loise. Ira is now 45 and his job is only listed as farm labor. It still has him listed as married, not widowed, but I couldn't find any sign of Cassie or a new wife. Loise Merritt, now 12, is now attending school at this time. They're living on McCloud Street with Cassie's family, the Jones', though it appears her mom remarried as they are listed as the Scotts. In

1940, I lost track of Loise as well, however, I was able to find Ira. He was still in Muskogee, living by himself on Rutherford Street and he was working as a carpenter. Unfortunately, this was the last little bit of information I could find on the Merritt family.

#### Sources

Year: 1880; Census Place: Travis, Texas; Roll: 1329; Page: 48A; Enumeration District: 122

Year: 1880; Census Place: Precinct 1, Waller, Texas; Roll: 1331; Page: 383C; Enumeration District: 158

Year: 1900; Census Place: Littig, Travis, Texas; Roll: 1673; Page: 22; Enumeration District: 0108; FHL microfilm: 1241673

Year: 1910; Census Place: Muskogee Ward 3, Muskogee, Oklahoma; Roll: T624\_1264; Page: 3A; Enumeration District: 0116; FHL microfilm: 1375277

Year: 1910; Census Place: Muskogee Ward 3, Muskogee, Oklahoma; Roll: T624\_1264; Page: 4B; Enumeration District: 0116; FHL microfilm: 1375277

Year: 1910; Census Place: Muskogee Ward 3, Muskogee, Oklahoma; Roll: T624\_1264; Page: 4B; Enumeration District: 0116; FHL microfilm: 1375277

Year: 1910; Census Place: Dallas Ward 8, Dallas, Texas; Roll: T624\_1544; Page: 2B; Enumeration District: 0063; FHL microfilm: 1375557

Year: 1920; Census Place: Muskogee Ward 2, Muskogee, Oklahoma; Roll: T625\_1477; Page: 19A; Enumeration District: 82

Year: 1920; Census Place: Muskogee Ward 2, Muskogee, Oklahoma; Roll: T625\_1477; Page: 19A; Enumeration District: 82

Year: 1930; Census Place: Muskogee, Muskogee, Oklahoma; Page: 25B; Enumeration District: 0033; FHL microfilm: 2341650

Year: 1940; Census Place: Muskogee, Muskogee, Oklahoma; Roll: m-t0627-03314; Page: 14A; Enumeration District: 51-39

## Henry Brown – Family History

By Nkundimana Claude

There were 4 Henry Browns in that 1870 census of Travis County. Two are promising candidate. In 1870, the first Henry Brown had no recorded spouse and he would have been 21 years of age at the time of the Census. He was born in Texas and was a field laborer. There were no recorded children or spouse. But there was another individual associated with him that I decided to look into, his name was Samuel Warford who would have been 19 years of age at the time.<sup>51</sup> This finding was very peculiar because these two young men did not share a name but were both Black and lived together as field laborers. When I looked up these two individuals in subsequent censuses, I could not find anything. But I was still confident that they could not be the man I am looking for because of their age. I even broadened the radius for the names nationally and could not find them. So, I moved on.

A second Black Henry Brown lived in Travis County in 1870 married to a woman by the name of Frances Brown.<sup>52</sup> The Census lists his birthplace as Maryland and he was 38 at the time of the Census. His occupation, according to the census would have been “Day Laborer.” It also says that he had two children: Howard Brown, 7 years old at the time, and Mary Brown, 4 years old at the time.

I found this Henry Brown again in the 1880, both in Maryland, in Travis County. Henry Brown is listed as 50 years in 1870.<sup>53</sup> By 1880 he and his wife (Frances Brown) now have more children (6). Another difference is that his occupation has now changed from Day Laborer (1870) to Farm Laborer (1880) and as mentioned before. He lived in precinct 6, Travis Texas USA.

I couldn't find anything on Henry or Frances Brown in the 1900 Census. But I did find

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<sup>51</sup> Year: 1870; Census Place: Travis, Texas; Roll: M593\_1606; Page: 250A

<sup>52</sup> Year: 1870; Census Place: Austin, Travis, Texas; Roll: M593\_1606; Page: 299A

<sup>53</sup> Year: 1880; Census Place: Precinct 6, Travis, Texas; Roll: 1329; Page: 157D; Enumeration District: 128

Howard Brown, one of their children.<sup>54</sup> He was 26 years old and could read and write in 1900. He still lived in Precinct 6, Travis County, Texas. He also had a wife named Belle Brown and 2 children. Furthermore, very interestingly, he resided with his brother, George Brown in a residence they rented. After not having found his sisters in the same census year, I am assuming they got married and changed their names. In the 1910 Census, Howard Brown he had gotten divorced, still living in Precinct. His occupation is listed as “Farmer”.<sup>55</sup> He was also patterned with the head of the household in which he lived.

### **Joshua Pope – Family History**

By Xavier Cienfuegos

My research goal was to find more information on my assigned individual, Joshua Pope, who was believed to have owned around 135 acres of land. I had done research on one individual who may have possibly been the Joshua Pope who lived in or around the surrounding area of the Hayden Springs colony. To begin, a census record from 1860 documented a man named J.H. Pope. Pope was 33 years old and was born in the State of Georgia. In addition, he lived in Austin, Travis, Texas and his post office was labeled in the city of Austin; his dwelling and family number were labeled 461. Furthermore, his occupation consisted of farming. He had a real estate value of about \$13,000, a personal estate value of \$34,100, and he lived in a household with two other members named M.F. Pope and L.C. Pope. Although I was able to discover this information, my attempt to ascertain if he was Black was unsuccessful as no records indicated whether he was of Black or white.<sup>56</sup>

Next, it was documented that the individuals in his household were his wife, M.F. Pope,

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<sup>54</sup> Year: 1900; Census Place: Justice Precinct 6, Travis, Texas; Roll: 1673; Page: 8; Enumeration District: 0115; FHL microfilm: 1241673

<sup>55</sup> Year: 1910; Census Place: Justice Precinct 6, Travis, Texas; Roll: T624\_1594; Page: 12B; Enumeration District: 0088; FHL microfilm: 1375607

<sup>56</sup> Joshua Pope, Year: 1860; Census Place: Austin, Travis, Texas; Roll: M653\_1306; Page: 269; Family History Library Film: 805306

and his daughter, L.C. Pope. M.F. Pope was a female who was 23 years old and was born in the state of Texas in about 1837. Her occupation was labeled as a house wife. Lastly, Pope's daughter, L.C. Pope, was a one-year-old female at the time of the 1860 census and was born in the state of Texas in the year 1859. I continued to dig deeper in an attempt to find the records of a J.H. Pope in the record census between the years of 1870-1940, however, I was unable to locate J.H. Pope between these years. Additionally, I began to search for any records of his wife but ultimately reached a dead-end. His daughter was not able to be found in any other census records as well. I also searched to see if J.H. Pope had any neighbors who may have been Black, self-sufficient farmers, however, the records did not convey whether J.H. Pope's neighbors were white or Black.

To conclude, I believe J.H. Pope may be the Joshua Pope we are looking for as he had a personal estate value of \$34,100 and a real estate value of about \$13,000. These numbers are indicative that he may have owned a lot of land in the surrounding areas of Travis County.

Unfortunately, I cannot be too certain that this is the correct Joshua Pope; this is a census record from 1860 and does not entirely align with the time period of the Hayden Springs freedom colony. Furthermore, at the time of the census record, J.H. Pope had a total estate value that exceeded one-million U.S. dollars in today's money. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that J.H. Pope was a Black man but instead was a wealthy white man who owned a lot of the land that would later be a part of Hayden Springs.

### **Robert Bacon – Family History**

By Xavier Cienfuegos and Reynaldo Josue Funez Sanchez

In 1870 Robert Bacon (spelled “Robt”) was 48 years old, married to Mary Bacon who was 45 years old at this time. He was born in Tennessee in 1822. His occupation was listed as a land laborer at this particular time and he had two sons Andrew and Sam Bacon whose ages were not listed. His home address was listed as Precinct One, Travis Texas with a post office in Webberville. While reading the 1870 census sheet, I found that the neighbors of the Bacon family were all Black farmers. This may prove that Robt Bacon and his family lived in a community that consisted of Black, self-sufficient farmers.

Interestingly, I found a document that was titled: ‘U.S., Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880’. This document had an enumeration date of June 17, 1880. This document included various miscellaneous agricultural records that listed records such as wages, acres of land owned, fences built, labor, etc. In this record, I discovered that Robert Bacon owned 60 acres of land, had a total farm value of 1,430 U.S. dollars, and he had an estimated value of all farm production worth 700 dollars.

Robert Bacon lived in a household with other members named Mary Bacon, Andrew Bacon, Samuel Bacon, Leah Bacon, Walker Bacon, and Molly Bacon. His eldest son, Andrew Bacon, was born in 1857 and was aged 13 at the time of the 1870 census. Unfortunately, after searching assiduously, I was unable to find any census records and the trail went cold. Next, Samuel Bacon was the youngest son of Robt Bacon, however, his information failed to provide any other records and I hit a dead-end with him. Afterwards, I began to search for any records of his youngest daughter, Molly, but to no avail. Records regarding his eldest daughter, Leah, 9,



were unable to be found as well. Lastly, I began to search for Robt's middle daughter, Walker, aged 6, but was left with yet another dead-end.

I discovered slightly different information about Robert Bacon in the 1880 Census. His place of birth was also listed differently, he went from being born in Tennessee to being born in Virginia in the 1880 census. Now I don't know if this was just human error from back in the day or maybe they did not know for sure his original place of birth. I assumed that just like they took a guess on an individual's date of birth they also guess their place of birth. All other information however seemed to match the 1870s census: he had two sons Robert Bacon Jr age 19 and Andrew Bacon age 21. Both of his sons lived at home and he was still married to Mary Bacon whose occupation was listed as keeping house in both Census sheets. In a census record from the year 1880, 'Robert Bacon' was 65 years old and Mary Bacon was 62 years of age. She born in the year 1818. They are listed as living with two sons, Andrew Bacon and Robert Bacon.

In the 1900 Census, Robert Bacon (spelled "Robt Bacon" again) was 74 years old and he lives in Webberville. It would also appear that his wife Mary Bacon passed away because he is listed as being single or maybe they got divorced. Despite being 74 years old, Robert Bacon Sr is listed as being a farm laborer however he is no longer the head of household. That role now belongs to his son Robert Bacon Jr. His oldest son Andrew Bacon is no longer living at the house.

Unfortunately, after the 1900s census there are no written records of Robert Bacon Sr, so I decided to follow the records of his son Robert Bacon Jr. In the 1900 census Robert Bacon Jr is 39 years of age and is now head of household. He is listed as being a farmer with 3 sons and no wife, his marital status was listed as widowed. His oldest son is Noah Bacon age 12, his middle child is Marion Bacon age 8 and his youngest son is James Bacon age 6. Ten years later in the

1910 census I was able to find Robert Bacon Jr but he was now listed as Bob Bacon, age 49. His address remained the same, Webberville. Robert Bacon Sr is no longer listed which I'm assuming means that he passed away.

Bob Bacon's occupation is still listed as a farmer in 1910 but he now works on a "general farm". He only rents the home unlike on previous census sheets. His three sons are still listed as living with him during this time. Noah Bacon is now 22 years old, James Bacon is 16 years old and Marion (now Nelson?) Bacon is 18 years old. Robert Bacon Jr.'s oldest son Noah had a son in 1910. The name of Noah's son is listed as Robert Bacon age 0 because he was born that year which in reality would make him Robert Bacon the third, the grandson of Robert Bacon Jr (aka Bob Bacon).

I was able to track down James Bacon, Robert Bacon Jr's son, in the 1920s census. James Bacon was 24 years old in the 1920s. He was the head of household at this time. He was married to Ethel Bacon whose occupation was listed as being a nurse during this time and James Bacon was listed as being a farm laborer. I could not find any record of the Bacon family after 1920.

### Sources

Robt Bacon, Year: 1870; Census Place: Precinct 1, Travis, Texas; Roll: M593\_1606; Page: 156A

Robert Bacon, Year: 1880; Census Place: Travis, Texas; Roll: 1329; Page: 38B; Enumeration District: 122

Robert Bacon, Census Year: 1880; Census Place: Polling Place 2, Travis, Texas; Archive Collection Number: T1134; Roll: 40; Page: 13; Line: 8; Schedule Type: Agriculture

Robt Bacon, Year: 1900; Census Place: Webberville, Travis, Texas; Roll: 1673; Page: 20; Enumeration District: 0108; FHL microfilm: 1241673

Bob Baon, Year: 1910; Census Place: Justice Precinct 1, Travis, Texas; Roll: T624\_1594; Page: 6B; Enumeration District: 0057; FHL microfilm: 1375607

### James Smith – Family History

By Arthur Fairchild

James W. Smith was likely a formally enslaved man. The last name Smith is an Anglo-Saxon name and likely the name passed down by the slave-owning family that he was bought and owned by. James W. Smith was likely in his twenties or thirties at the time of the American Civil War and had his first child James Smith Jr. about two years before Emancipation. According to Census data, he might have been married to a woman named Martha Smith. The information on Martha is shaky but according to the 1880 Census she would have been about thirty-six, a similar age to her husband James when they moved to the Hayden Springs Freedom Colony.

According to the 1880 census: James Smith was born in Mississippi. Martha Smith was born in Texas and the two probably met in Texas, before Emancipation, and had their first child. Emma Smith, Frank Smith, and James Smith III could have possibly been siblings of James Smith Jr. (children of James W. Smith). These names do not appear on any other federal census data before or after 1880. Census data indicates that James Smith Jr. was illiterate and seventeen years old, perhaps suggesting he and his parents did not get a formal education under slavery. James Smith Jr. was also a farmer. There is no record of James Smith Sr or Jr after 1880, which opens more areas of speculation to try and understand what happened to this family. Did the family move out of the County or the State? <sup>57</sup>

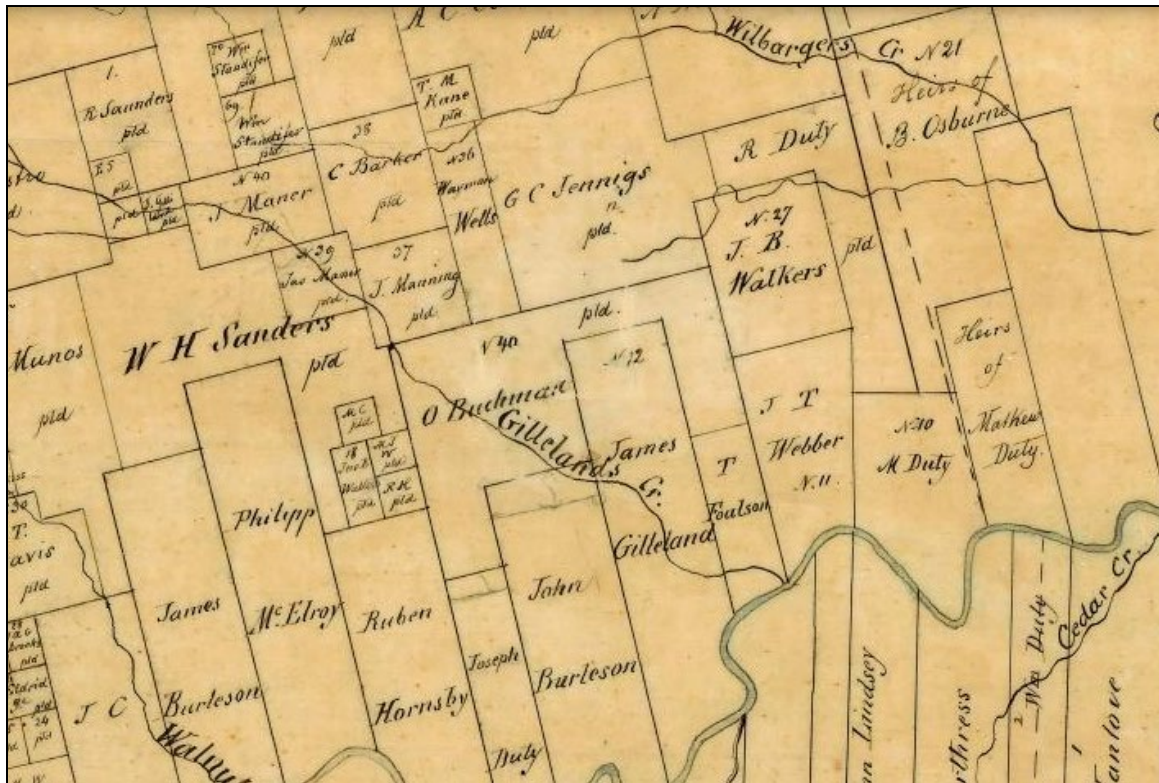
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<sup>1</sup> Year: 1880; Census Place: Precinct 6, Travis, Texas; Roll: 1329; Page: 157D; Enumeration District: 12

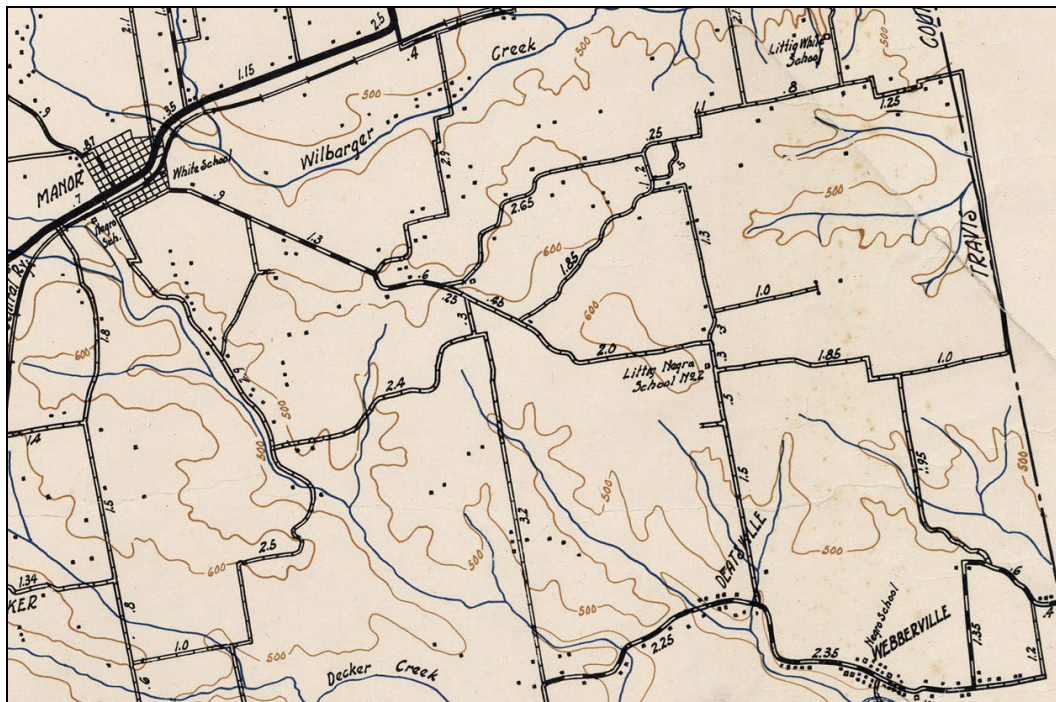
## **Appendix D: Historic and Current Overlay Maps**

## Historic Maps

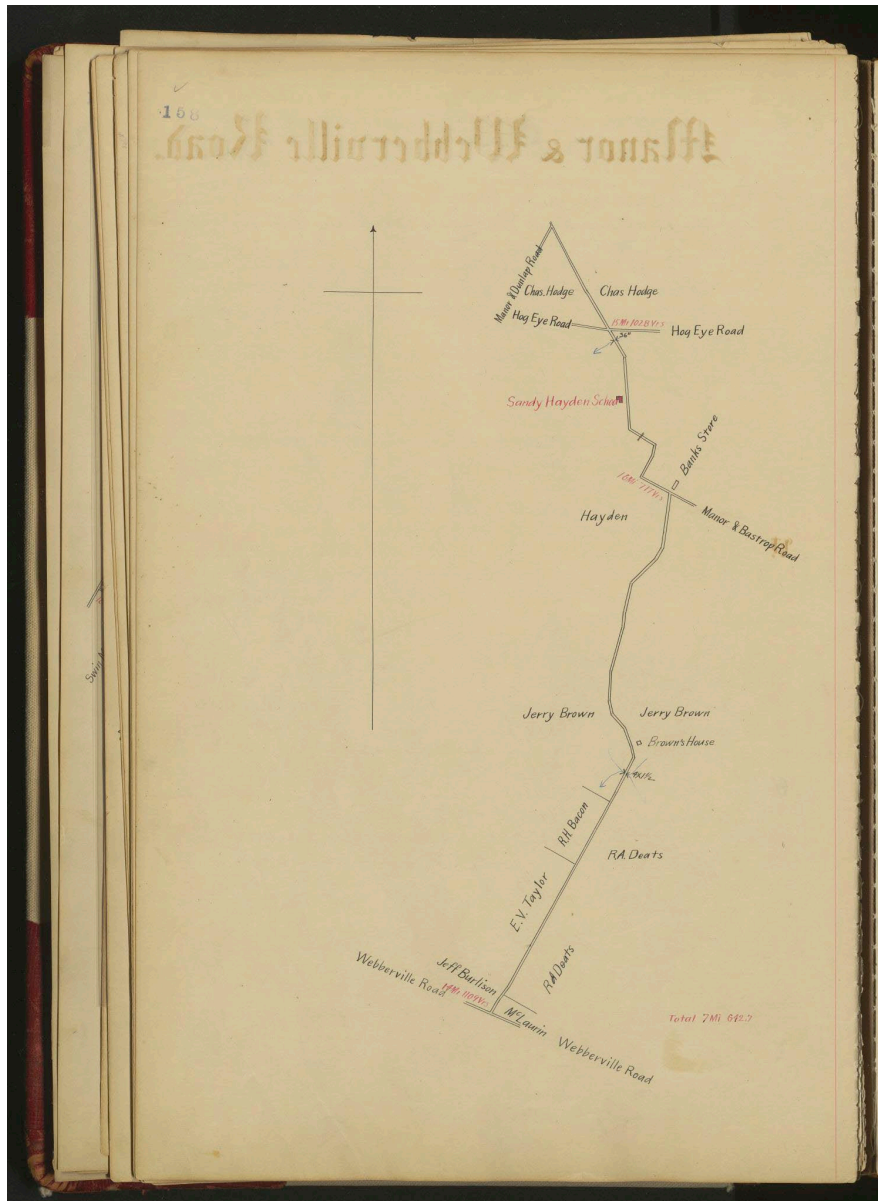
Map of Travis County, n.d.



Travis County Road Map, 1932



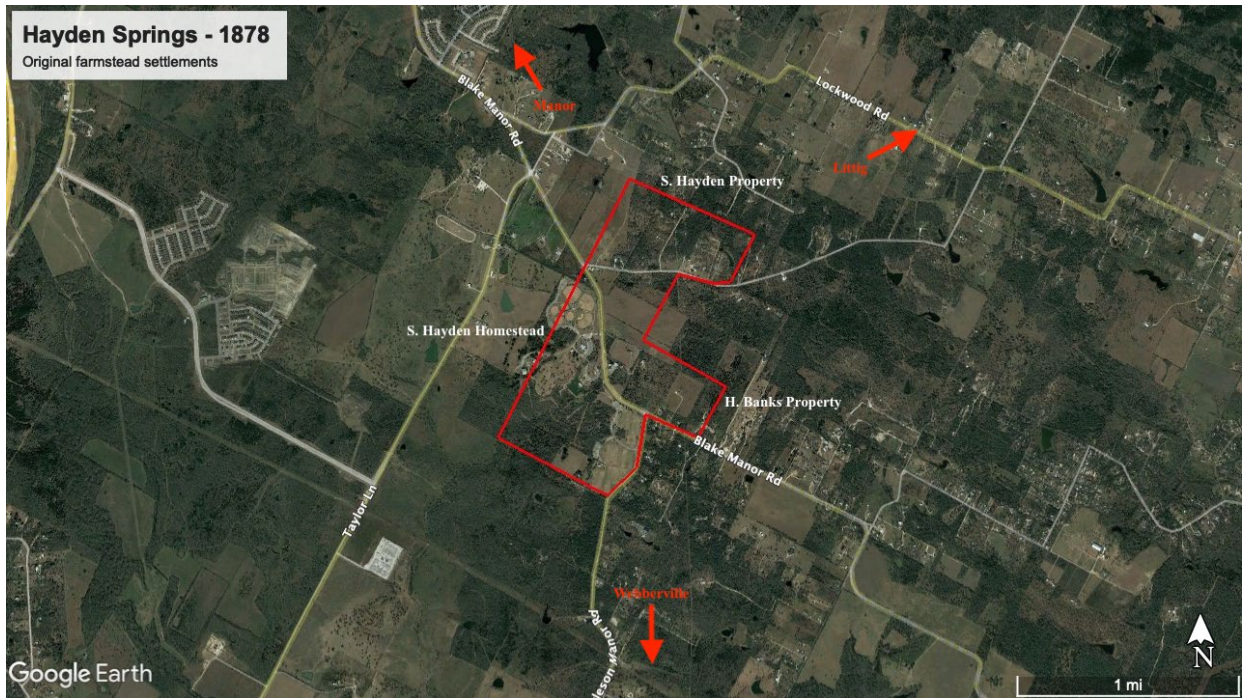
**Manor and Webberville Road Field Map, 1898-1902, showing landowners in Hayden Springs area, including Sandy Hayden, and location of Sandy Hayden School**





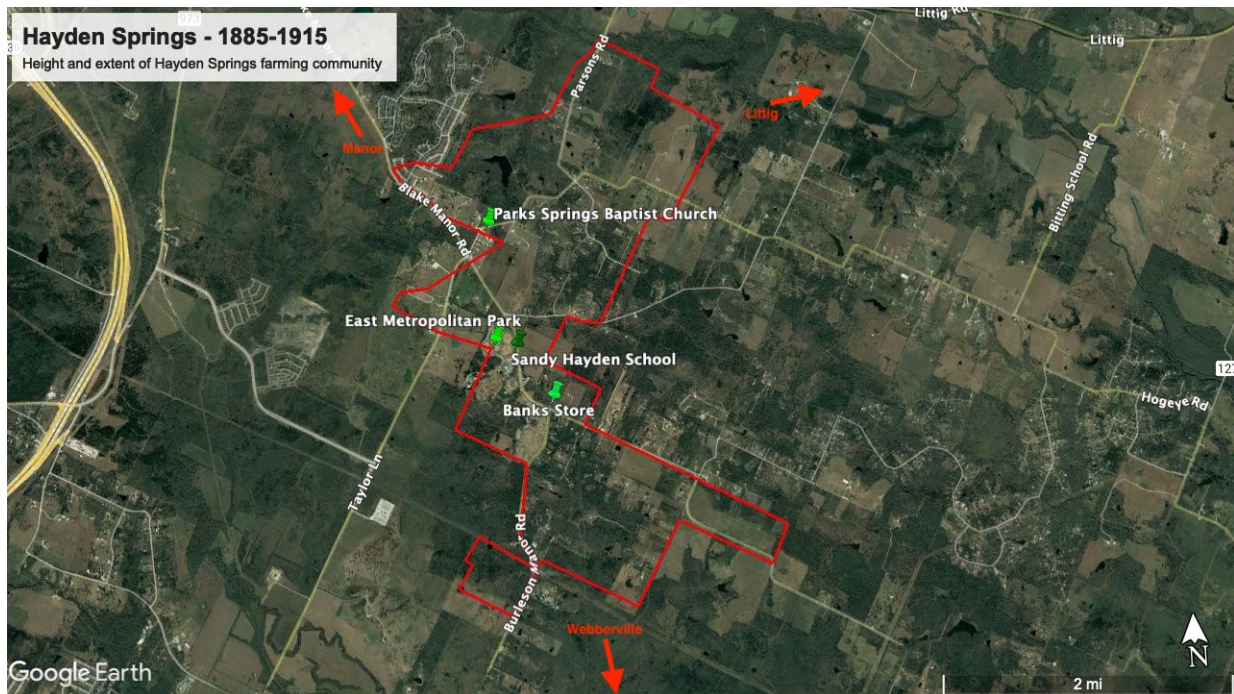


## Current Overlay Maps

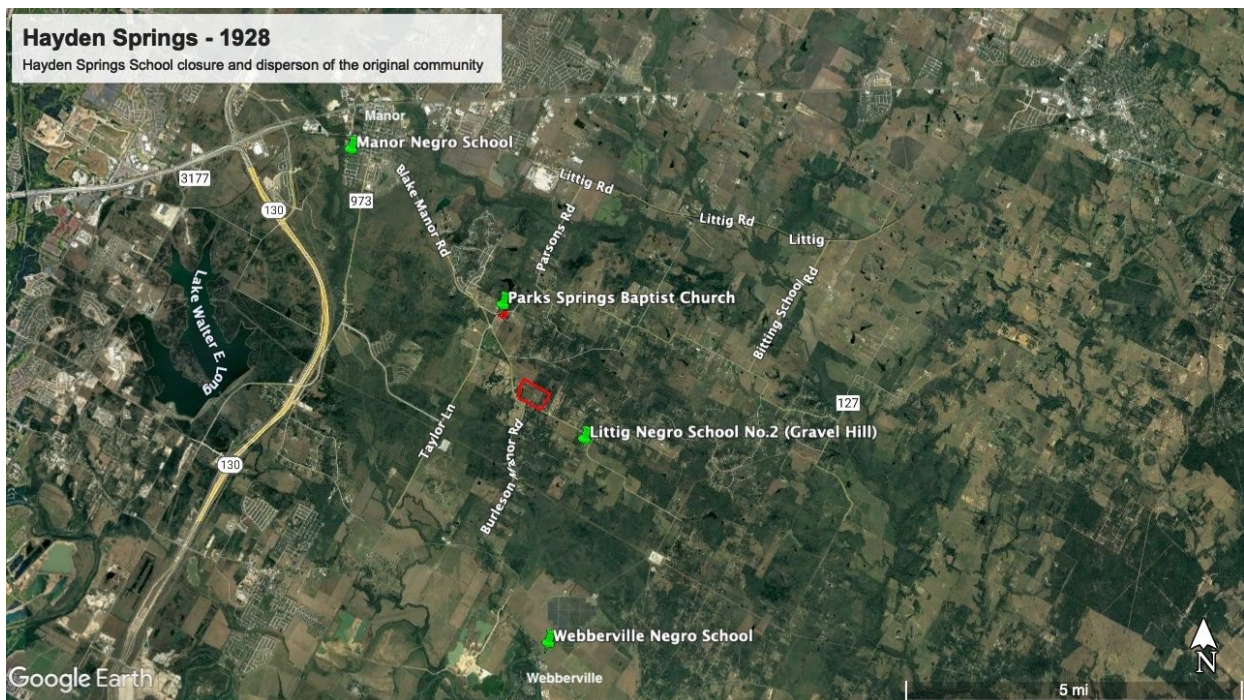


Origins of Hayden Springs in the Post Oaks, c. 1878 (map by Matthew Medina)





Extent of Hayden Springs at its Height, c. 1885-1915 (map by Matthew Medina)



Hayden Springs School Closure and Banks Farm, 1928 (map by Matthew Medina)

## **Appendix E: Voter Registration (1867-1869) and Census Research**

**1867-1869 Voter Registration List in Webberville and Vicinity**

Name	Precinct	In State	Native	Signature	Proximity to SH
Charles Burleson	1	21 years	Mississippi	X	p. 32
Thomas Brown	1	4 years	Kentucky	X	p. 34
Robert I. (?) Bacon	1	8 years	Georgia	Signed	p. 34
James W. Hancock	1	25 years	Texas	Signed	p. 34
Patrick Piper	1	20 years	Florida	X	p. 40
Henry Burleson	1	17 years	Tennessee	X	p. 42
Samuel Burleson	1	21 years	Tennessee	X	p. 42
Jefferson W. Burleson	2	25 years	Texas	Signed	p. 44
Robert Brown	2	20 years	S. Carolina	X	p. 44
Robert Bacon	2	15 years	Virginia	X	p. 44
Henry Brown	2	12 years	Virginia	X	p. 44
Willie Bacon	2	16 years	Kentucky	X	p. 44
Charles B. Meeks	2	18 years	Missouri	Signed	p. 46
Thomas B. Banks	2	15 years	Tennessee	Signed	p. 46
Randolph C. Meeks	2	18 years	Missouri	Signed	p. 46
Sandy Hayden	2	25 years	North Carolina	X	p. 48
Daniel Shelp	2	40 years	New York	Signed	3 people apart
Isaac Meeks	2	16 years	Arkansas	X	1 person apart
Louis Meeks	2	16 years	Mississippi	X	Adjacent
Louis Meeks	2	17 years	Kentucky	X	Adjacent
Henry Banks	2	16 years	Mississippi	X	5 people apart
Thomas Banks	2	27 years (?)	Texas	X	10 people apart
James Banks	2	15 years	Tennessee	X	12 people apart
David Banks	2	15 years	N. Carolina	X	14 people apart
Anderson Banks	2	15 years	Tennessee	X	p. 50
Bursel (?) Banks	2	16 years	N. Carolina	X	p. 50
Samuel Hancock	2	12 years	Virginia	X	p. 50
Moses Brooks	3	14 years	Virginia	X	p. 54
Henry Brown	3	14 years	Alabama	X	p. 54
Joseph H. Hancock	4	14 years	Tennessee	X	p. 56
Robert Nichols	1	27 years	Tennessee	X	p. 60
James L Brown	1	21 years	Missouri	Signed	p. 62
John P Bacon	1	21 years	Tennessee	Signed	p. 62
Thomas Hancock	1	24 years	Alabama	X	p. 64
James L Nichols	1	16 years	N. Carolina	Signed	p. 66
William L Hancock	1	28 years	Texas	Signed	p. 66

## 1870 Census



Name	Listed Name	Race	Gender	Age	Birth Year	Birthplace	Home in 1870	Attended School	Cannot Read	Cannot Write	Occupation	Household Members
Robt Bacon (Sr.)	Robt Bacon	B	M	48	Abt 1822	TN	Precinct 1				Farm Laborer	Mary Bacon (B; 48 yo) Andrew Bacon (B; 13 yo) Samuel Bacon (B; 9 yo) Leah Bacon (B; 9 yo) Leah Bacon (B; 9 yo) Walker Bacon (B; 6 yo) Molly Bacon (B; 2 yo)
Hinton Banks	H Banks	B	M	31	Abt 1839	TN	Maury, TN		Y	Y	Farmer	M Banks (B; 27 yo) E Banks (B; n/a) B Henly (B; 5 yo)
James Banks	James Banks	B	M	19	Abt 1851	TX	Precinct 1				Farm Laborer	Willis Banks (B; 48 yo) Cather Banks (B; 46 yo) John Banks (B; 22 yo) Harry Banks (B; 17 yo) Molly Banks (B; 15 yo) Cinthia Banks (B; 13 yo) Jane Banks (B; 10 yo) Frances Banks (B; 52 yo)
Caroline Black	Carline Williams	M	F	16	Abt 1854	TX	Williamson	Y				Edward Snyder Mahala Snyder Ellen Snyder Winnie Williams Roda Wells Bet Wells Mary Wells Arminta Wells Elizabeth Plowman
Moses Brooks	Moses Brooks	B	M	40	abt 1830	AL	Travis		Y	Y	Field Laborer	Cornelia Brooks (B; 35 yo) (b. AL) John Brooks (B; 18 yo) (b. AL) Emmeline (B; 13 yo) (b. TX) William Brooks (B; 5 yo) (b. TX) Moses Brooks (B; 4 yo) (b. TX)
Henry Brown	Harry Brown	B	M	25	Abt 1845	AL	Precinct 1				Farmer	Savickas Brown
Sandy Hayden	Sander Ender	B	M	40	abt 1830	TN	Webberville				Blacksmith	Wm Ender (B; 19 yo) (b. N. Carolina) Thos Ender (B; 28 yo) (b. AL) Eliza Ender (B; 29 yo) (b. TX) Rosa Ender (B; 23 yo) (b. TX) Laney Ender (B; 10 yo) (b. TX) Sell Ender (B; 9 yo) (b. TX) John Ender (B; 6 yo) (b. TX)
Benjamin Meeks	Benjamin Meeks	B	M	14	Abt 1856	TX	Precinct 1				Farm Laborer	Louis Meeks (B; 45 yo) May Meeks (B; 30 yo) Freddy Meeks (B; 10 yo)
Louis Meeks	Louis Meeks	M	M	45	Abt 1825	MS	Precinct 1				Farmer	May (30 yo) Louisa (17 yo) Benjamin (14 yo) Freddy (13 yo)
Louis Meeks	Loura Meeks	M	M	30	Abt 1840	MI	Webberville		Y	Y	Farmer	Jena Scoggin (W; 48 yo) Jeff Davis (B; 9 yo) Rachel Pukett (B; 30 yo) Lizzie Henry (B; 4 yo) Laura J Henry (B; 9 yo) Sarah Henry (B; 2 yo) Barbara Burke (B; 25 yo) Emma Coleman (B; 16 yo) Bude Banks (B; 70 yo) Louis Meeks (M; 11 yo) Ellen Meeks (M; 8 yo) John Meeks (M; 17 yo) Rose Meeks (M; 6 yo)

## 1880 Census

Name	Listed Name	Race	Gender	Age	Birth Year	Birthplace	Home in 1870	Attended School	Cannot Read	Cannot Write	Occupation	Household Members
Robt Bacon (Sr.)	Robt Bacon	B	M	48	Abt 1822	TN	Precinct 1	Null	Null	Null	Farm Laborer	Mary Bacon (B; 48 yo) Andrew Bacon (B; 13 yo) Samuel Bacon (B; 9 yo) Leah Bacon (B; 9 yo) Leah Bacon (B; 9 yo) Walker Bacon (B; 6 yo) Molly Bacon (B; 2 yo)
Hinton Banks	H Banks	B	M	31	Abt 1839	TN	Maury, TN	Null	Y	Y	Farmer	M Banks (B; 27 yo) E Banks (B; n/a) B Henly (B; 5 yo)
James Banks	James Banks	B	M	19	Abt 1851	TX	Precinct 1	Null	Null	Null	Farm Laborer	Willis Banks (B; 48 yo) Cather Banks (B; 46 yo) John Banks (B; 22 yo) Harry Banks (B; 17 yo) Molly Banks (B; 15 yo) Cinthia Banks (B; 13 yo) Jane Banks (B; 10 yo) Frances Banks (B; 52 yo)
Caroline Black	Carline Williams	M	F	16	Abt 1854	TX	Williamson	Y				Edward Snyder Mahala Snyder Ellen Snyder Winnie Williams Roda Wells Bet Wells Mary Wells Arminta Wells Elizabeth Plowman
Moses Brooks	Moses Brooks	B	M	40	abt 1830	AL	Travis	Null	Y	Y	Field Laborer	Cornelia Brooks (B; 35 yo) (b. AL) John Brooks (B; 18 yo) (b. AL) Emmeline (B; 13 yo) (b. TX) William Brooks (B; 5 yo) (b. TX) Moses Brooks (B; 4 yo) (b. TX)
Henry Brown	Harry Brown	B	M	25	Abt 1845	AL	Precinct 1	Null	Null	Null	Farmer	Savickas Brown
Sandy Hayden	Sander Ender	B	M	40	abt 1830	TN	Webberville	Null	Null	Null	Blacksmith	Wm Ender (B; 19 yo) (b. N. Carolina) Thos Ender (B; 28 yo) (b. AL) Eliza Ender (B; 29 yo) (b. TX) Rosa Ender (B; 23 yo) (b. TX) Laney Ender (B; 10 yo) (b. TX) Sell Ender (B; 9 yo) (b. TX) John Ender (B; 6 yo) (b. TX)
Benjamin Meeks	Benjamin Meeks	B	M	14	Abt 1856	TX	Precinct 1	Null	Null	Null	Farm Laborer	Louis Meeks (B; 45 yo) May Meeks (B; 30 yo) Freddy Meeks (B; 10 yo)
Louis Meeks	Louis Meeks	M	M	45	Abt 1825	MS	Precinct 1	Null	Null	Null	Farmer	May (30 yo) Louisa (17 yo) Benjamin (14 yo) Freddy (13 yo)
Louis Meeks	Loura Meeks	M	M	30	Abt 1840	MI	Webberville	Null	Y	Y	Farmer	Jena Scoggin (W; 48 yo) Jeff Davis (B; 9 yo) Rachel Pukett (B; 30 yo) Lizzie Henry (B; 4 yo) Laura J Henry (B; 9 yo) Sarah Henry (B; 2 yo) Barbara Burke (B; 25 yo) Emma Coleman (B; 16 yo) Bude Banks (B; 70 yo) Louis Meeks (M; 11 yo) Ellen Meeks (M; 8 yo) John Meeks (M; 17 yo) Rose Meeks (M; 6 yo)

## 1900 Census

Name	Listed Name	Race	Gender	Marital Status	Years Married	Age	Birth Year	Birthplace	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace	Home in 1900	Owned or Rented
Robt Bacon (Jr.)	Robt Bacon	B	M	Widowed	N/A	39	May 1861	TX	VA	TN	Webberville	Rent
Robt Bacon (Sr.)	Robt Bacon Sr.	B	M	Single	N/A	74	Jan 1826	VA	VA	VA	Webberville	N/A
Hinton Banks	Henton Banks	B	M	Married	41	70	Jan 1830	MI	MI	MI	Webberville	Own
James Banks	James Banks	B	M	Married	23	53	Jan 1847	TN	SC	SC	Webberville	Rent
Henry Brown	Henry Brown	B	M	Married	14	61	Jan 1839	VA	VA	VA	Webberville	Own
Ike Brown	Ike Brown	B	M	Married	2	60	Jan 1840	VA	VA	VA	Webberville	Own
Eliza Hayden	Elizabeth Hayden	B	F	Married	30	46	Sep 1853	AL	AL	AL	Webberville	
James Hayden	James A Hayden	B	M	Married	19	40	Jul 1859	TX	NC	AL	Webberville	
Jeff Hayden	Jeff D Hayden	B	M	Married	7	38	Oct 1861	TX	NC	NC	Webberville	Rent
Louis Hayden	Louis Hayden	B	M	Single	N/A	25	Jul 1874	TX	NC	AL	Webberville	
Rosa Hayden	Rosa Shookles	B	F	Married	19	42	Oct 1857	TX	NC	VA	Manor	
Samuel Hayden	Sam Hadyen	B	M	Married	1	28	Jan 1872	TX	NC	AL	Webberville	Rent
Sandy Hayden	Sandy Hayden (Landy Hayden)	B	M	Married	30	77	Nov 1822	NC	NC	NC	Webberville	Own
Thos Hayden	Thos Hayden	B	M	Married	17	48	Jan 1852	TX	NC	AL	Webberville	Rent
Benjamin Meeks	Ben Meeks	B	M	Married	23	46	Feb 1854	TX	MO	MO	Webberville	Own
A Robt Shookles (husband of Rosa Hayden)	A Robt Shookles	B	M	Married	19	39	Sep 1860	TX	AL	AL	Manor	Rent

House Owned Free or Mortgage	Farm or House	Attended School	Can Read	Can Write	Occupation	Household Members	Children Born	Children Living	Relationship to Head of Household
	F		Y	Y	Farmer	Ida Bacon (B; daughter; 16 yo) Milly Bacon (B; son; 13 yo) Marion Bacon (B; son; 12 yo) Mary Bacon (B; daughter; 8 yo) Marion Bacon (B; son; 8 yo) Rovina Bacon (B; daughter; 4 yo) Robt Bacon Sr (B; father; 74 yo)	N/A	N/A	Head
			N	N	Farm Laborer	Robert Bacon (B; head; 39 yo) Ida Bacon (B; daughter; 16 yo) Milly Bacon (B; son; 13 yo) Marion Bacon (B; son; 12 yo) Mary Bacon (B; daughter; 8 yo) Marion Bacon (B; son; 8 yo) Rovina Bacon (B; daughter; 4 yo)	N/A	N/A	Father
Free	F		N	N	Farmer	Mary Banks (B; wife; 59 yo) Henton Banks (B; son; 24 yo) Mary Banks (B; granddaughter; 19 yo) Lizzie Bacon (B; granddaughter; 15 yo) Henry Bacon (B; grandson; 13 yo) Eugene Bacon (B; grandson; 12 yo) Emanuel Bacon (B; grandson; 10 yo)	Mary: 17	Mary: 10	Head
	F		N	N	Farmer	Georgana Banks (B; wife; 46 yo) Lucindy Hubbard (B; mother-in-law; 77 yo)	Georgana: 1	Georgana: 1	Head
Free	F		N	N	Farmer	Sarah Brown (B; wife; 70 yo) Avarilla Ownes (B; granddaughter; 8 yo) Mary Johnson (B; granddaughter; 4 yo)	Sarah: 13	Sarah: 6	Head
Free	F		N	N	Farmer	Sallie Brown (B; wife; 35 yo) John Brown (B; son; 26 yo) Richard Brown (B; son; 20 yo) Mary Winson (B; step daughter; 8 yo)	Sallie: 4	Sallie: 3	Head
			Y	Y		See above	13	10	Wife
	H		Y	Y	Blacksmith	Leah Hayden (B; wife; 36 yo) John J Hayden (B; son; 18 yo) Sandy F Hayden (B; son; 16 yo) Stella Hayden (B; daughter; 13 yo) Dovie Hayden (B; daughter; 11 yo) Octavia Hayden (B; daughter; 4 yo) Obedia Hayden (B; son; 5/12 yo)	Leah: 10	Leah: 7	Head
	F		Y	Y	Farmer	Ann Hayden (B; wife; 40 yo) Ellie Hayden (B; daughter; 15 yo)	Ann: 4	Ann: 2	Head
			Y	Y	Farm Laborer	Sandy Hadyen (B; head; 77 yo) Eliza Hayden (B; wife; 46 yo) Andrew Hayden (B; son; 21 yo) Fannie Hayden (B; daughter; 23 yo) Charley Hayden (B; son; 18 yo) Sarah Hayden (B; daughter; 6 yo) Sussie Hayden (B; daughter; 13 yo) Leah Hayden (B; daughter; 10 yo) Delia Hayden (B; daughter; 9 yo)	N/A	N/A	Son
			Y	Y	Laundress	A Robt Shookles (B; husband; 39 yo) Mary Shookles (B; daughter; 18 yo) Jessie Shookles (B; son 17 yo) Hayden Shookles (B; son; 15 yo) John Shookles (B; son; 13 yo) Tomy Shookles (B; son; 11 yo)	5	5	Wife
	H		Y	Y	Farm Laborer	Lydia J Hayden (wife; 25 yo) Willie Hayden (daughter; 10/12 yo)	Lydia: 1	Lydia: 1	Head
Free	F		Y	Y	Farmer	Eliza Hayden (wife; 46 yo) Louis Hayden (son; 25 yo) Andrew Hayden (son; 21 yo) Fannie Hayden (daughter; 23 yo) Charley Hadyen (son; 18 yo) Sarah Hayden (daughter; 16 yo) Sussie Hayden (daughter; 13 yo) Delia Hayden (daughter; 9 yo)	Eliza: 13	Eliza: 10	Head
	H		Y	Y	Blacksmith	Emly Hayden (B; wife; 31 yo) Maria Hayden (B; daughter; 8 yo) Martha Hayden (B; daughter; 6 yo) Jim Hayden (B; son; 2 yo)	Emly: 2	Emly: 2	Head
Free	F		N	N	Farmer	Milly Meeks (B; wife; 42 yo) Orange Meeks (B; son; 20 yo) John Meeks (B; son; 18 yo) Willie Meeks (B; son; 16 yo) Ross Meeks (B; son; 13 yo) Caroline Meeks (B; daughter; 10 yo) Athalena Meeks (B; daughter; 9 yo) William Colman (B; father-in-law; 83 yo)	Milly: 11	Milly: 6	Head
	H		Y	Y	Preparer	Rosa Shookles (B; wife; 42 yo) Mary Shookles (B; daughter; 18 yo) Jessie Shookles (B; son 17 yo) Hayden Shookles (B; son; 15 yo) John Shookles (B; son; 13 yo) Tomy Shookles (B; son; 11 yo)	Rosa: 5	Rosa: 5	Head



## 1910 Census

Name	Listed Name	Race	Gender	Marital Status	Years Married	Age	Birth Year	Birthplace	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace	Home in 1910	Owned or Rented
Robt Bacon	Bob Bacon	B	M	Widowed	N/A	49	1861	TX	VA	VA	Precinct 1	Rent
Hinton Banks	Hinton Banks	B	M	Married	50	72	1838	TN	NC	NC	Justice Precinct 1	Own
Ike Brown	Ike Brown	M	M								Austin Ward 5	
Andrew Hayden	Andrew Hayden	B	M	Married	4	30	1880	TX	NC	NC (TX)	1003 1/2 E 12th St Austin Ward 5	Rent
Jeff Hayden	Jefferson D. Hayden	B	M	Married	18	48	1862	TX	NC	AL	Justice Precinct 1	Own
Louis Hayden	Louis R Hayden	B	M	Single		36	1874	TX	NC	Null	Justice Precinct 1	Own
Rosa Hayden	Rosie Shackles (Married)	B	F	Married	29	50	1860	TX	NC	VA	North 7th Street Waco Ward 1	Rent
Samuel Hayden	Samuel A Hayden	B	M	Married		38	1872	Texas	Null	TX	1101 S 10th Street Waco Ward 3	Own
Ben Meeks	Ben Meeks	B	M	Widowed		50	1860	Texas	KT	AK	Precinct 1	Own
Archie Shackles (husband of Rosa Hayden)	Archie Shackles	B	M	Married	29	47	1863	TX	AL	AL	North 7th Street Waco Ward 1	Rent
Caroline Williams	Cardine Black	M	F	Widowed	Null	55	1855	Texas	USA	VA	2103 Cast Ave Austin Ward 5	Own

House Owned Free or Mortgage	Farm or House	Attended School	Can Read	Can Write	Occupation	Household Members	Children Born	Children Living	Relationship to Head of Household
	Farm		Y	Y	Farmer	Mille Bacon (M; daughter; 24 yo) Nelson Bacon (M; son; 18 yo) Mary Bacon (M; daughter; 18 yo) Rena Bacon (M; daughter; 14 yo) Noah Bacon (M; son; 22 yo) Mary Bacon (B; daughter-in-law; 18 yo) Robert Bacon (B; grandson; 0 yo) James Bacon (M; son; 16 yo)			Head
Free	Farm or House		N	N	Farmer	Mary Banks (B; wife; 69 yo)	Mary: 16	Mary: 10	Head
					Inmate				
	House		Y	Y	Porter	Minnie Hayden (wife; 24 yo)	0	0	Head
Free	House		Y	Y	Blacksmith	Annie Hayden (B; wife; 49 yo)	Annie: 4	Annie: 1	Head
Free	Farm		Y	Y	Farmer	Fannie E Hayden (B; sister; 57 yo) Eliza E Hayden (B; mother; 33 yo) *Eliza's age must be incorrect here			Head
	House	N	Y	Y	Laundress	Archie Shackles (B; husband; 47 yo) Jesse Shackles (B; son; 25 yo) Hayden Shackles (B; son; 24 yo) Johnnie Shackles (B; son; 22 yo) Tommie Shackles (B; son; 21 yo) Naomi Shackles (B; granddaughter; 2 yo)			Wife
Free	House		Y	Y	Teacher	Leydis Hayden (wife; 35 yo) Wheliman Hayden (daughter; 10 yo) Windell Hayden (son; 7 yo) Moody Hadyen (son; 5 yo) Fannie May Hayden (daughter; 3 yo) Samuel A Hayden Jr (son; 0 yo)	5	5	Head
Free	Farm		N	N	Farmer	Carolina Meeks (B; daughter; 21 yo) Ethel Meeks (B; daughter; 19 yo) Dan Rusk (B; hired hand; 43 yo)			Head
	House	N	Y	Y	Minister	Rosie Shackles (B; wife; 50 yo) Jesse Shackles (B; son; 25 yo) Hayden Shackles (B; son; 24 yo) Johnnie Shackles (B; son; 22 yo) Tommie Shackles (B; son; 21 yo) Naomi Shackles (B; granddaughter; 2 yo)			Head
Free	House		N	N	Own Income	Celestine Black (daughter; 21 yo) Ethel Black (daughter; 18 yo) Claude Black (son; 15 yo) Jacob C Curtis (son-in-law; 35 yo) Beulah Curtis (daughter; 28 yo) Artful Curtis (5; grandson) William Curtis (grandson; 3 yo) Vera Curtis (granddaughter; 2 yo) Jacob C Curtis Jr. (grandson; 1 yo)	10	9	Head

## 1920 Census

Name	Listed Name	Race	Gender	Marital Status	Age	Birth Year	Birthplace	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace	Home in 1870	Owned or Rented
Hinton Banks	Hinton Banks	B	M	Married	80	abt 1840	TN	NC	NC	Austin Ward 2	
Caroline Black	Caroline Black	B	F	Widowed	66	abt 1854	Texas	AL	VA	2106 East Ave Austin Ward 5	Own
Ike Brown	Ike Brown	B	M	Married	79	abt 1841	VA	VA	VA	Justice Precinct 1	Own
Andrew Hayden	Andrew Hayden	B	M	Married	40	abt 1880	Texas	TN	AL	2003 E 11th Austin Ward 5 (listed as 17th street in <a href="#">City Directory</a> )	Own
Jeff Hayden	Jeff Hayden	B	M	Married	58	abt 1862	TX	NC	AL	Justice Precinct 1	
Rosa Hayden	Rosa Shackles	B	F	Widowed	60	abt 1860	TX	TX	TX	Cedar Lane Dallas Precinct 24	Rent
Samuel Hayden	Samuel A Hayden	B	M	Married	Null	abt 1872	Texas	AL	MI	208 North Falls St Mart, McLennan	Rent

House Owned Free or Mortgage	Attended School	Can Read	Can Write	Occupation	Household Members	Relationship to Head of Household
			N		Edward Meeks (B; head; 43 yo) Hollie Meeks (M; 41; wife) Bertha Meeks (M; 20; daughter) Henry Meeks (M; son; 18 yo) Rena Meeks (M; daughter; 16 yo) Willie G Meeks (M; son; 9 yo) Leon Meeks (M; son; 3 yo) Mary Banks (B; mother-in-law; 81 yo)	Father-in-law
Mortgage		N	N		Ethel Black (daughter; 29 yo) Art Curtis (grandson; 15 yo) William Curtis (grandson; 13 yo) Vera Curtis (granddaughter; 11 yo)	Head
Free		N	N	Farmer	Sallie Brown (B; wife; 65 yo) Mary Brown (B; granddaughter; 10 yo) Robby Brown (B; granddaughter; 8 yo)	Head
Mortgage		Y	Y	Poster	Minnie Hayden (wife; 39 yo) Silas Smith (father-in-law; 70 yo)	Head
		Y	Y	Blacksmith Own shop	Ann Hayden (B; wife; 60 yo) Almira Rodgers (B; granddaughter; 13 yo)	Head
		Y	Y		C Haden Shackles (B; head; 36 yo) Eula Shackles (B; wife; 39 yo) Haden Shackles (B; son; 0 yo) Rosie Shackles (B; mother; 60 yo) Johnnie Shackles (B; brother; 33 yo)	Mother
		Y	Y	Minister	Lydie Jane Hayden (wife; 45 yo) Willhilmina Hadyen (daughter; 21 yo) Windell Hayden (son; 17 yo) Hannie May Hadyen (daughter; 13 yo) Arden Mccoy Hayden (son; 7 yo) Warremaken Hayden (son; 4 yo)	Head

## 1930 Census

Name	Listed Name	Race	Gender	Marital Status	Age at 1st Marriage	Age	Birth Year	Birthplace	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace	Home in 1870	Owned or Rented
Caroline Black	Caroline Block	B	F	Widowed	19	74	abt 1856	TX	TX	VA	2106 East Ave Austin	
Andrew Hayden	Andrew J Hayden	B	M	Widowed	28	48	abt 1882	TX	TX	TX	1610 Grayord Austin	
Robert Hayden	Robert A Hayden	B	M	Married	50	55	abt 1875	TX	NC	VA	Joliet, IL	Rent
Rosa Hayden	R A Shoekles	B	F	Widowed		59	abt 1871	TX	NC	AL	311 Pace Honds San Antonio	Own

Home Value	Attended School	Can Read	Can Write	Occupation	Household Members	Relationship to Head of Household
	N	N	N	None	Marcus L Cooper (head; 48 yo) Celestine Cooper (wife; 42 yo) Marcus L Cooper (son; 12 yo) William L Cooper (son; 11 yo) Corrie B Cooper (daughter; 8 yo) Dorrie N Cooper (daughter; 3 yo)	Mother-in-law
	N	Y	Y	Auto Mechanic	John Thomas (head; 52 yo) Alice Thomas (wife; 39 yo) Catherine Jones (daughter; 19 yo) Thurnos D Jones (grandchild; 0 yo)	Brother-in-law
	N	Y	Y	Clergyman	Lucille Hayden (B; wife; 34 yo) Gloria Hayden (B; daughter; 3 yo) Deborah G Hayden (B; daughter; 2 yo) Mary Hayden (B; daughter; 0 yo) Mary Rhodes (B; mother-in-law; 69 yo)	Head
\$2,000	N	Y	Y		Mary E Black (B; head; 47 yo) Beulah Black (B; daughter; 19 yo) Lloyd Black (B; son; 17 yo) Rawlston Black (B; son; 15 yo) Vea Lee Black (B; daughter; 12 yo) Rosetta Black (B; daughter; 8 yo) Carrie Black (B; daughter; 8 yo)	Mother

## 1870 Non-population Agricultural Schedule (Black Land Ownership)

Name	Row	Location	Improved Land	Unimproved Land	Cash Value of Farm	Value of Farming Implements and Machinery	Livestock	Value of Livestock	Produce
George Banks	15	Webberville	45 acres		\$600		8 horses, 10 milch cows, 12 oxen, 12 other cattle	\$400	400 bushels Indian corn
James Banks	12	Webberville	100 acres		\$1,100		6 horses, 10 milch cows, 10 oxen, 20 other cattle, 10 swine	\$250	700 bushels Indian corn
Robt Bacon	23	Webberville	44 acres		\$600		6 horses, 4 milch cows, 10 working oxen, 8 other cattle, 20 swine	\$350	200 bushels Indian corn
Henry Brown	24	Webberville	40 acres		\$600		6 horses, 8 milch cows, 12 working oxen, 20 other cattle, 20 swine	\$500	200 bushels Indian corn
Louis Meeks	5	Webberville (Precinct 5)	75 acres		\$800		1 horse, 3 milch cows, 4 working oxen, 10 other cattle, 10 swine	Smudged	500 bushels Indian corn

## 1880 Non-population Agricultural Schedule (Black Land Ownership)

Name	Location	Ownership	Improved Land	Unimproved Land	Farm Value	Livestock	Value of Livestock	Produce	Estimated Value of Production
Robert Bacon	Polling Place 2	Rents for share of products	60 acres		\$1,200	4 horses, 3 mules, 2 milch cows, 3 other cattle, 10 swine, poultry	\$200	71 acres Indian corn (800 bushels) 24 acres cotton (15 bales)	\$700
Hinton Banks	Polling Place 2	Owner	35 acres	15 acres	\$400	2 mules, 1 milch cow, 1 other cattle, 3 swine	\$30	10 acres Indian corn (100 bushels) 30 acres cotton (7 bales)	\$350
James Banks	Polling Place 2	Rents for share of products	26 acres		\$400	2 horses, 1 swine, poultry	\$50	8 acres Indian corn (150 bushels) 25 acres cotton (10 bales)	\$600
Henry Brown	Polling Place 2	Owner	20 acres	80(?) acres	\$500	1 horse, 2 working oxen, 2 milch cows, 4 other, 6 swine, poultry	\$100	4 acres Indian corn (20 bushels) 16 acres cotton (7 bales)	\$60
Isaac Brown	Polling Place 2	Rents for share of products	50 acres		\$1,000	1 horse, 1 mule, 1 milch cow, 1 other cattle, poultry	\$150	10 acres Indian corn (200 bushels) 22 acres cotton (10 bales)	\$500
Sandy Haden	Polling Place 2	Rents for share of products	50 acres		\$1,500	2(?) horses, 2(?) mules, 4 oxen, 1 cow, 5 other cattle, 2(?) swine, poultry	\$100	16 acres Indian corn (150 bushels) 4 acres wheat 16 acres cotton (10 bales)	\$1,000
Samuel Hancock	Polling Place 2	Rents for share of products	31 (?) acres		\$400	2(?) horses, 2(?) mules, 2 cows, 1 other cattle, 2(?) swine, poultry	\$65	20 acres Indian corn (200 bushels) 30 acres cotton (12 bales)	\$700
Ben Meeks	Polling Place 2	Rents for share of products	25 acres		\$400	2 horses, 2 milch cows, 2 other cattle, poultry	\$100	12 acres Indian corn (150 bushels) 1 acre oats (40 bushels) 10 acres cotton (7 bales)	\$800(?)
Louis Meeks	Polling Place 2	Owner	40 acres	60 acres	\$500	5(?) horses, 2 working oxen, 4 milch cows, 11 other cattle, poultry	\$200	30 acres Indian corn (240 bushels) 20 acres cotton (6 bales)	\$300
Louis Meeks	Polling Place 2	Rents for share of products	80 acres		\$1,600	4 horses, 1 mule, 2 oxen, 2 cows, 4 other cattle, 7 swine, poultry	\$175	30 acres Indian corn (150 bushels) 40 acres cotton (10 bales)	\$600

## 1860 Non-population Slave Schedule

Name	Location	Number of Enslaved People	Age	Gender	Race	Slave Houses
John B Bacon	Precinct 3	14	36	M	B	4
			36	F	M	
			34	M	B	
			34	F	M	
			17	M	M	
			15	F	M	
			12	M	B	
			10	F	M	
			8	F	M	
			5	F	M	
			3	F	M	
			4/12	M	B	
			6/12	F	B	
			3/12	F	M	
Geo Bacon	Precinct 3	1	12	F	B	1
John B Banks	Precinct 3	31	45	F	B	8
			45	M	B	
			35	F	B	
			30	F	B	
			30	F	B	
			30	M	M	
			25	M	M	
			25	M	M	
			24	M	B	
			18	F	B	
			14	M	M	
			12	M	M	
			11	F	B	
			10	F	B	
			10	M	B	
			9	F	B	
			8	F	M	
			8	F	B	
			8	M	B	
			7	F	B	
			7	F	B	
			7	F	B	
			6	F	M	
			5	M	B	
			4	M	B	
			3	M	B	

Gaston H Banks	Precinct 3	30	60	M	B	8
			60	F	B	
			55	F	B	
			45	M	M	
			45	M	B	
			40	F	B	
			35	M	B	
			34	M	B	
			30	M	B	
			23	F	M	
			23	F	M	
			22	F	M	
			22	F	M	
			17	F	M	
			13	M	M	
			12	M	M	
			12	M	B	
			12	M	B	
			10	F	B	
			10	F	B	
			10	M	B	
			8	F	B	
			8	F	B	
			8	F	B	
			6	M	M	
			10/12	M	B	
			8/12	F	B	
			6/12	F	B	
			4/12	M	M	
				F	B	
S.P. Brown	Precinct 3	4	42	M	M	5
			44	F	B	
			7	F	B	
			5	M	B	
			4	M	B	
			3	M	B	
			2	F	M	
			2	F	M	
			1	F	M	
			1	M	B	
Burgess C. Brown	Precinct 3	7	23	F	M	3
			22	M	B	
			19	M	M	
			16	F	B	
			6	F	M	
			4	F	M	
I.R. Brown	Precinct 2	5	1	F	M	2
			30	F	B	
			12	M	B	
			10	M	B	
			7	F	B	
			5	F	B	

John Meeks	Precinct 3	12	25	M	M	3
			24	F	B	
			22	F	B	
			20	F	M	
			7	F	B	
			5	M	M	
			4	M	B	
			4	F	B	
			2	M	B	
			2	M	M	
			3/12	F	M	
			5/12	F	B	
Nancy Scoggin	Precinct 3	12	45	M	B	3
			40	M	B	
			35	M	B	
			22	M	M	
			19	M	B	
			16	F	B	
			14	F	B	
			12	M	B	
			12	M	B	
			7	F	B	
			5	F	M	
			4	M	B	



